

CREDIT CONTROL

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KANO 2007



PEOPLE'S CHOICE

USMAN SULE RIRUWAI

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(21 - 25 March)

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Nigeria's goalkeeper Vincent Enyeama, left, being consoled by Ivory Coast's captain and goal scorer Didier Drogba after their African Nations Cup semi final match in Alexandria, Egypt... yesterday.

NATIONS CUP

Nigeria crashes out

By Ismaila Umaru Lere, Assistant Editor

The Super Eagles yesterday crashed out of the 25th Africa Cup of Nations after losing 1-0 to their Ivorian counterpart in a very dour semi final match in Alexandria, Egypt.

A 47th minute strike by the Ivorian captain, Didier Drogba, steered Ivory Coast over a hapless Eagles, who struggled to find their rhythm and composure.

Drogba beat the offside trap to run on to a deep pass from Kolo Toure two minutes into the second half and hit the ball through the legs of Eagles goalkeeper, Vincent Enyeama.

It was the third goal of the tournament for the Chelsea striker in a match of limited opportunities for both teams

and inflicted a third semi-final defeat on the Eagles in successive tournaments.

Christian Koffi Ndri threatened early with a shot on the Nigerian goal in the opening two minutes and Drogba had a free kick well-stopped by Enyeama six minutes later.

Joseph Yobo's header from a corner was the closest Nigeria came to their opponent's goal in a tedious first half when he climbed above Drogba but missed the target.

At the other end, the Everton defender did well to keep the Chelsea attacker under wraps in the first 45 minutes.

Eagles handler, Austin Eguavoen, brought in Jay-Jay Okocha after conceding the goal to revitalise the team's midfield. It was the Eagles captain's first appearance.

Cont. on Pg. 2

3rd term campaign moves to North

As the Governors Forum meets in Abuja today, the second time in the new year, reportedly to take a final stand on constitutional amendment with tenure extension top on the agenda, the presidency is said to have focused attention on Northern governors whose support is said to be crucial in the matter.

Governors of the South-West, weekend endorsed a third term for President Obasanjo.

Governor Chimaroke Nnamani of Enugu state equally gave his endorsement and a source told *Daily Trust* that even though he was the

By Emmanuel Bello, Political Editor

only one from the South-East to do that, his support is considered important.

The North, according to the source, will be the next hurdle to surmount if the third

term train should run smoothly.

To this end, according to sources, the president hurriedly met with prominent politicians from the North with two governors in attendance.

The meeting, which held in the presidential villa, Monday night, was convened to perfect strategies to neutralize the resistance from the North. The two governors in attendance were said to have been given the mandate to get the support of the federal legislators and traditional rulers in the North.

The plan also is to infiltrate youth groups through monetary inducements in order to engage their members in the third term crusade.

Cont. on Pg. 2

Atiku not on trial - PDP

The ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), yesterday said that the Vice President, Alhaji Atiku Abubakar is not on trial and will not appear before the disciplinary committee.

Chairman of the disciplinary panel, Barrister Ibrahim

Shema, told *Daily Trust* that Atiku, contrary to media reports, is not on the list of those charged with allegedly engaging in anti-party activities and therefore will not be invited for questioning.

Also addressing the press in Abuja, Barrister Shema

enumerated the offences for which his committee is prosecuting members of the party. These according to him, include, breach of the party constitution, utterances inimical to party interest, disobedience of orders, dishonest

Cont. on Pg. 2

NATIONAL POPULATION COMMISSION PUBLIC NOTICE

QUALITY CHECK OF CENSUS 2006 ENUMERATOR AREAS NATIONWIDE: INVITATION FOR COMPLAINTS FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC

The Enumeration Area Demarcation (EAD) for the 2006 population and housing census has been completed. The EAD involves division of the entire country into small land areas that can be conveniently covered by a pair of enumerators during the census period.

The Commission is currently checking these areas for quality and correctness. Members of the public are requested to cooperate with the Quality Control Officers.

The general public is also requested to report to the Commission's State/CT offices if either their houses have not been numbered or visited during the demarcation period (September, 2004 to December, 2005).

The reports, which are expected not later than 9th February 2006, should be forwarded through any of the following:

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News

3rd term *Cont. from pg. 1*

The governors were allegedly told to find ways of convincing the state Houses of Assemblies to accept the constitutional amendment plans and to ensure favourable response during the public hearing billed to start sometimes this month.

According to the source, the president is enjoying the support of a governor from one of the Northern states who reportedly provided the sum of N500 million to bribe members of the House of representatives. He said that some members have collected the N1 million bribe money to sign up for constitutional amendment. A group in the House is said to be the veritable vehicle used by the governor to neutralize the stance of the Northern Members Forum, led by Hon. Victor Lar, who are opposed to constitutional amendments.

Furthermore, the source revealed that northern governors in support of the third term may be rooting for it because they are likely beneficiaries.

According to him, the president has promised that a northern governor will replace the Vice President, Alhaji Atiku Abubakar in the event of his (Atiku) removal from office.

Governor Abdulkadir Kure of Niger State recently cautioned that he cannot trust some northern governors on the issue of third term. Governor Kure was absent at the Northern Governors Forum meeting held penultimate week at the Arewa House, Kaduna.

Also at the expanded meeting of the Governors Forum held in Abuja last Monday, some governors left midway into the meeting, an action many interpreted as a protest.

Atiku *Cont. from pg. 1*

practices, absecutism from meetings, unauthorised publicity and belonging to other political groups.

The vice president is not however standing trial for any of the listed offence.

Barr. Shema said that the panel, which is one of the committees empowered by Article 16 of the party's constitution, is not instituting any legal action against Atiku.

However, inside sources told *Daily Trust* that the committee is grappling with inability to garner adequate and relevant evidence against the vice president whom the party suspects is involved with the MRDD.

An aide to Atiku said that the PDP has not been able to verify the VP's involvement with the group, especially in producing documents to show that he is the group's financier.

He said that some of the PDP panel members also have developed cold feet and are unwilling to become tools in the hands of some presidency officials in their alleged dispute with the vice president.

He added that investigations are still being carried out by the presidency with the goal of "unearthing spurious evidences to nail the vice president."

Daily Trust independent

Northern governors who left the meeting held at the Hilton were: Governor Boni Haruna, Adamawa State and Governor George Akume, Benue State.

Others absent at the meeting were Governor Joshua Dariye of Plateau State, Alhaji Abubakar Bafarawa, Sokoto State and Governor Abdulkadir Kure, Niger State.

The Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF), also at a meeting last week, warned against the constitutional amendments and cautioned against the alleged plan by President Obasanjo to extend his tenure. Speaking at the meeting, chairman of the Forum and the *Aro of Mopa*, Chief Sunday Awoniyi, enjoined Northern leaders to close ranks and resist attempts to scuttle the nation's democracy.

But sources close to the presidency said that Northern governors may be arm-twisted into succumbing. The new strategy, according to sources, is to use prominent leaders such as traditional rulers and leaders of thought to prevail on recalcitrant governors.

The public hearings also will be tailored to express support for tenure extension in order to provide soft landing for opposing governors who would "throw in the towel" in deference to the wishes of the Nigerian people.

The president is said to be convinced of support from the south.

As such, a top ranking national officer of the PDP was asked to monitor governors from the south and ensure total compliance from the traditional rulers and federal legislators. The source said that the president hopes that today's meeting will put to rest the resistance of his alleged ambition from the states of the federation.

investigations shows that the PDP is presently divided between supporters of the president and Alhaji Atiku. While it is not clear what the leadership of the party plans to do next, the vice president is said to be making discrete preparations to run on the ticket of the newly registered party, the ACD. The problem, according to sources, is the reluctance of the vice president's supporters within the PDP to leave the party for a fledgling political organisation. "There are Atiku's supporters who in spite of what they feel for the vice president, can't leave the PDP for any group and this is a huge challenge to Atiku," he said, adding that the VP's best bet is to remain in the PDP irrespective of the difficulties he is said to be experiencing.

Nigeria *Cont. from pg. 1*

ance in the tournament.

Okocha had two opportunities from free kicks, the first saved by Jean-Jacques Tizie. A long range effort also went narrowly wide in the 63rd minute.

But the Bolton player could not find any decisive passes for the Nigerian attack, comprising Obafemi Martins,

Kano assembly burns Danish, Norwegian flags

Following recent satirical publications by both a Danish and Norwegian newspapers and magazines, the Kano State House of Assembly has in a unanimous decision, set ablaze both countries flags in the premises of the House, demonstrating its anger over the publications.

The decision was taken after a motion sponsored by the House's Chief Whip, Hon. Alhassan Uba Idris, who described the publication as an effort to ridicule the Islamic religion.

The State House of Assembly had earlier adopted a six point resolution banning the importation, selling and consumption of any Danish or Norwegian product with a view to express the state's Muslims anger over the writings.

Announcing the resolution, the Speaker, Kano State House of Assembly, Hon. Balarabe Saidu Gani, also called on the state government to cancel negotiations going on between the state and Denmark over importa-

Plot to break ANPP thickens

Some aggrieved leaders of the All Nigeria People's Party (ANPP), are plotting to breakaway from the party and form a new structure under the party's old name, All People's Party (APP).

The group, according to reliable sources, wants to sack the Chief Don Etiebet-led national leadership and establish a caretaker committee under the chairmanship of retired General Jeremiah Useni.

Barring any last-minute changes in the group's scheme, a new national leadership will be announced for the splinter group as APP with Useni as chairman.

Etiebet's tenure runs out later this year, but the chairman is said to be warming up for a second term.

Disenchanted ANPP members, according to reliable sources, wanted to get the chairman out before the election.

They are said to be working on two options: either to sack Etiebet or break the party.

Details of the plot were sketchy as at the time of going to press but a source confirmed to *Daily Trust* that a meeting on the scheme was scheduled for last night at Useni's Abuja residence.

Julius Aghahowa and Stephen Makinwa, who were generally starved of balls and found the Ivorian centre back pairing of Toure and Abdoulaye Meite hard to penetrate.

The Eagles will play the Teranga Lions of Senegal in tomorrow's third place play-off match in Cairo.

From Ahmed Abubakar,
Correspondent (Kano)

tion of commuter buses that will ease transportation problems in the state.

Balarabe Saidu also announced the resolution of the House to urge the government, to as a matter of urgency, terminate the pro-

posed contract the government is entering into for the establishment of an independent power supply scheme in the state.

The House also called on the people of the state to boycott all products from either Denmark and Norway together with invoking the wrath of God on the publishers of

that newspaper and magazine.

The State's House of Assembly further resolved to call on the federal government to draw the attention of the United Nations to adopt the provisions of the 1945 UN charter that guarantees the respect of religion and punishing of the culprits.

3rd term: CNPP, others tell Obasanjo to emulate Mbeki

By Emmanuel Bello &
Habeeb I. Pindiga

The Conference of Nigerian Political Parties (CNPP) and some politicians, have advised President Olusegun Obasanjo to emulate his South African counterpart, Mr. Thabo Mbeki, by vacating office at the end of his second term in 2007.

Mbeki, re-elected for a second term of five years in 2004, yesterday dispelled speculations of a third term ambition, saying he would not overstay his welcome.

His declaration came in the wake of Obasanjo's alleged ambition to go for a third term.

In a statement in Abuja by its publicity scribe, Osita Okechukwu, CNPP hailed Mbeki for "resisting the infamous deadly disease of African leaders who decide to extend their tenure by hook or crook."

The umbrella group of opposition parties urged Obasanjo to take his cue from the South African leader by resisting "sycophants around him" who are bent on cajoling him towards a third term.

CNPP also asked Mbeki to wade in and appeal to the Nigerian president to stop what the group said could plunge the nation into chaos. Hinting that the third term agenda was real, the group said it was concerned by the "reckless and irresponsible endorsement of the 3rd term agenda by the PDP governors of the Southwest".

Re-echoing CNPP, Second Republic Minister of Mines and Power, Alhaji Mohammed Ibrahim Hassan, said Mbeki is a model for all potential sit-tight rulers.

"The South African president has provided a

model for the rest of African leaders to follow. I call on the Nigerian president to copy his example and do likewise. He should make a public declaration of not running in 2007 and tell his followers to stop sounding the way they are doing", he said.

According to Hassan, it is only when the president speaks and proponents of third term stop their campaigns that the nation will believe that Obasanjo would leave in 2007.

"They should be asked to stop. Then we would know he is serious about not nursing a third term ambition. Mbeki has provided a leadership lesson." The former minister said.

One of the founders of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Alhaji Ishyaku Ibarhim, also called on Obasanjo to "come out openly and deny his third term ambition. He should tell the country the truth about this matter because his silence is not helping matters. Like Mbeki, he should silence those campaigning for third term.... Those urging the president are just deceiving him."

General Muhammadu Buhari's media aide, Ya'u Darazo, described Mbeki as a statesman, in contrast with "Obasanjo who simply reaped where others sow".

Don't clampdown on policemen, NLC warns IG

By Abdullahi M. Gulloma,
Reporter

The Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), yesterday warned the Inspector General of Police, Mr. Sunday Ehindero, not to clampdown on policemen who are threatening to embark on a nationwide strike to protest poor welfare conditions.

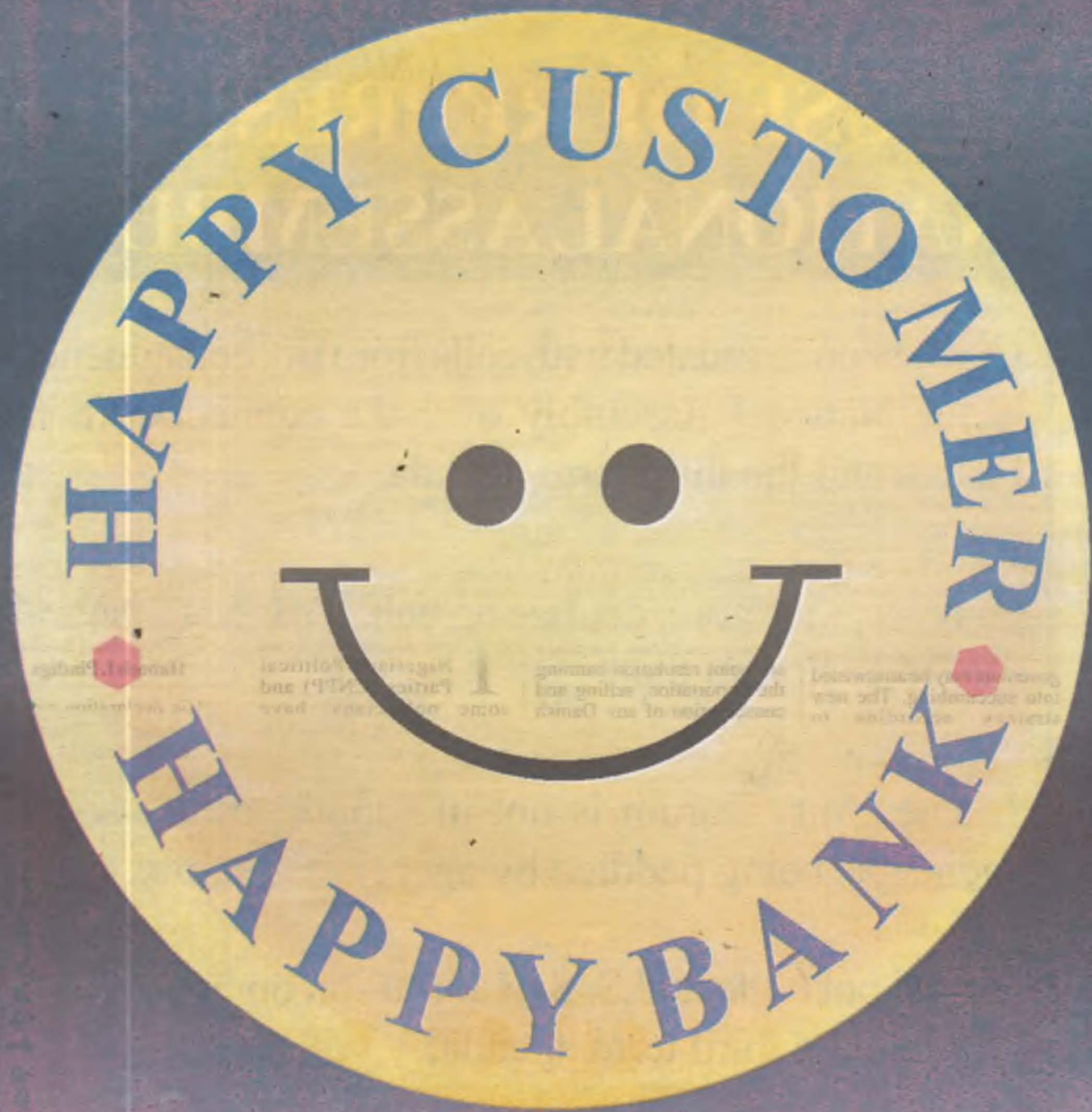
Rather, the NLC said Ehindero should put in motion the appropriate machinery to address the grievances of the officers and improve their welfare.

In a letter addressed to the inspector-general dated February 7, 2006 signed by the President of the Congress, Comrade Adams Aliyu Oshiomhole, the NLC said "the nation cannot expect, nor does it deserve a disciplined, committed or civil police force if it does not invest resources in welfare."

According to the con-

gress, it remains "a scandal that the nation can arm a Mobile Police Constable with a sophisticated weapons and pay him N10,000 per month, while expecting him to risk his life to protect all of us," adding that "nothing can justify a situation in which a senior sergeant earns N14,000 per month after spending about a quarter of a century in the police."

The NLC said everything must be done by the federal government and the police authorities to ensure that the threatened strike action scheduled for February 20, 2006, is averted by demonstrating the ability to deal with the challenge of improving police welfare.



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UNITY FORUM, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ABUJA.



I have been inundated with calls from my constituency and colleagues in the National Assembly over the connection between the Unity Forum and the third term agenda.

I wish to, therefore, declare on behalf of the Honourable members of the Unity Forum that:

1. The Unity Forum is not in support of the so-called third term agenda as being peddled by agents of disunity;
2. I did not collect U.S. \$ 21.0 million on behalf of my colleagues to promote the third term agenda;
3. I did not instruct Alhaji Njidda Gella to collect names of Honourable members ostensibly to support the third term agenda, nor 'am I aware that he is collecting any such names on the promise that they will be given N100.00 million each, a plot of land in Asokoro and automatic ticket to return to the House in 2007.
4. The Forum is not aware of the N3.0 billion allegedly collected from Governor of Jigawa State by Honourable Njidda Gella on behalf of the Forum as gratification for its members.
5. We call on Nigerians to ignore those parading themselves in the name of the Forum and as agents of the third term agenda.
6. This is to reassure all Nigerians and Honourable members that the Unity Forum is committed to the preservation of national unity, the entrenchment of democracy in Nigeria and the integrity of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Signed:

Chairman

Unity Forum

House of Representatives, Abuja

News

FG to establish African Investment Bank

The federal government has begun moves to establish a multilateral lending institution to be known as the African Investment Bank (AIB), with the inauguration of a technical committee for its establishment.

Speaking before inaugurating the committee in Abuja yesterday, Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Prof. Charles Soludo, who doubles as the chairman of the committee, said the bank is designed to be a highly capitalized development bank that would be able to finance key projects of infrastructure and industry both in Nigeria and in Africa.

He said the bank will begin from Nigeria but would later engage other African countries so that it would grow to become a regional finance power house.

"Africa has so many economic problems that tend to impede its development but finance remains the major problem to infrastructure development, hence the need for an institution like this", Soludo said.

The CBN governor said the bank would not be a substitute for other multilateral institutions in the continent like the African Development Bank (ADB) and the African Export-Import Bank (AFREXIM Bank), adding that the idea is to have a bank that would complement the activities of these other banks.

"The president's vision

By Anas A. Galadima,
Asst. Business Editor

of having the African Investment Bank is to have an institution well capitalized so that it can jumpstart infrastructural development"

He said although the other multilateral institutions in the continent were established to respond to the same demands, "but that the deficits in available finance and infrastructural development are growing by the day".

He said without a reliable source of funding, success in economic policies like the NEEDS programme would be difficult to achieve and stressed the need for African economies to be export oriented.

The technical committee is made up of 12 members drawn from both the public and private sectors of the economy. They include Soludo as chairman, Mr. Tunde Lemo, CBN Deputy Governor, Financial Sector Surveillance as alternate chairman and Dr. Shamsudeen Usman, CBN Deputy Governor, Operations.

Others are Prof. Sylvester Monye, representing the federal ministry of finance, Mr. Chris Edordu, former president of AFREXIM, Dr. Seyyid Abdulai, former director general OPEC Fund and Oba (Dr.) O. Fajana, ex-World Bank economist and former head of governance in ADB.

The rest are Alhaji Aliko Dangote, a representative of the organized private sector,

Tony Elumelu, Group Managing Director, UBA, Mr. Tayo Aderinokun, MD Guarantee Trust Bank, Mr. Aigboje Aig-Imokhue, MD Access

Bank and Mr. Chidozie Emenuga, special adviser to the governor of the CBN.

The committee's terms of reference, according to

Soludo, includes, "defining a niche for the bank, determining the structure, determining the scope and capital base and determining who

should contribute what.

"It is our expectation that between this year and mid next year, the new bank will come into existence"



The chairman, education committee of the Catholic Bishop Conference of Nigeria (CBCN), His Grace, Most Rev. Anthony Obinna, Apostolic Nuncio, Most Rev. Renzo Frantini, the representative of president Olusegun Obasanjo, Chief Kanu Agabi and president, CBCN, His Grace, Most Rev. (Dr) John Olorunfemi Onaiyekan at the Catholic Education Summit held in Abuja...yesterday. Pix: Kennedy Egbonodje.

2007: I'm not fronting for IBB - Kontagora

Former minister of the federal capital territory (FCT) General Mamman Kontagora (rtd), has denied insinuations that he is fronting for former military president, General Ibrahim Babangida (rtd).

Kontagora made this clarification at the weekend in Kotagora town during his endorsement for the presidential race by the executives of the Kudu ward of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

From Aideloje Ojo
Correspondent, Lagos

Kontagora was also presented to the Kontagora local government PDP executives as the presidential aspirant on the platform of the party from Niger state.

Kontagora said it was imperative for him to use the occasion to debunk insinuations that he is acting the script of General Babangida, explaining that he would never be an errand boy for the former military president.

Kontagora said he is eligible to contest the presidency and that he is qualified to aspire for the post like any other citizen of the country.

The former minister insisted that he has the goodwill of the people and the experience to rule the country.

Kontagora had recently publicly declared his intention to contest the 2007 presidential election, to the discomfort and surprise of supporters of Gen. Babangida.

The former minister insisted that he would not abandon the race in order to please another person, adding that, "I will not go back on my decision to contest the elections," adding that he will soon kick off his campaigns. Presenting the presidential aspirant to the Kontagora PDP chairman, Abdullahi Babaye, the Kudu ward chairman of PDP, Yusuf Halilu, explained that Kontagora was a competent contestant from the area.

Nigeria's first vet doctor, Bukar Shuaibu, dies at 79

One time agriculture minister during the General Buhari administration, Dr Bukar Shuaibu, has died in Maiduguri after a protracted illness.

Dr. Bukar Shuaibu, died at the age of 79. His funeral which was held in Maiduguri on Sunday, was attended by prominent Borno elders including the Shehu of Borno, Dr. Mustapha Umar El-Kanemi, Dr Shettima Ali Monguno, Emeritus Professor, Umaru Shehu, former Borno state governor, Alhaji Asheik Jarma; Brigadier General Abba Kyari as well as General Mamman Shuwa and retired Justice Kaumi Kolo, among others.

Also among the early callers to the residence of the late Dr. Bukar Shuaibu were the Borno state governor Alhaji Ali Modu Sherif, his Yobe state counterpart, Alhaji Bukar Abba Ibrahim and the Bauchi state governor Alhaji Ahmad Adamu Mu'azu, Alhaji Dauda Birma and Maiduguri businessman, Alhaji Ali Kotoko, among others.

The deceased was born in 1927 and was the first

From Abdullahi Bego,
Assistant Editor Maiduguri

Nigeria's veterinary doctor Dr. Shuaibu was also minister of water resources in the defunct Northern Region and was permanent secretary in the ministry of agriculture during the Gowon administration, where he played a key role to establish Nigeria's River Basin Development Authorities and was also a security adviser during the Shagari administration and was a consultant to the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

He was described by many prominent people who attended his funeral as a rare Nigerian who served his fatherland honestly and with integrity.

His contributions to the setting up and development of the country's River Basin Authorities has been hailed as a significant contribution to agriculture and food security in the country.

The deceased is survived by his wife, brothers, sisters and an uncle. Among his brothers is Alhaji Lawan Ajid, village head of Jabbaman in Maiduguri Metropolitan area.

Obasanjo accuses NASS of stalling reforms

President Olusegun Obasanjo yesterday asked the National Assembly to hasten work on 24 executive bills crucial to government's reform programmes.

He said in two separate letters to the Senate and the House of Representatives that the tardiness of work on the bills was retarding the reforms.

The letter, dated January 30, presented on the floors of the two chambers yesterday, urged the lawmakers to accord priority attention to the 24 bills.

A copy of the letter to the upper chamber as presented by President of the Senate, Chief Ken Nnamani, reads in part: "I wish to draw the attention of distinguished Senators to the outstanding bills and legislations with the Senate.

"Distinguished Senators may wish to note that the bulk of these pending bills are bills that are not only cardinal to this administration's on going economic and fiscal reforms but, indeed, have far reaching implications on those reforms which are

By Habeeb I. Pindiga,
Assistant Political Editor

aimed at re-engineering the Nigerian system in general."

Besides domestic importance, Obasanjo said the bills "are considered highly crucial to the success of the reform and of immense interest and relevance to the outside world.

"Having regards to the foregoing, the purpose of this letter is to passionately appeal to the Senate to accord priority to these pending bills and ensure their early passage into law in order to facilitate the implementation of the ongoing reforms", he said.

Some of the bills listed in the president's letter include the nine Tax Reform Bills, Fiscal Responsibility Bill, Public Procurement Bill, Nigeria Extractive Transparency Initiative Bill, Advance Fee Fraud Bill, Nigeria Finance Intelligence Unit Bill, Niger-Delta Development Commission Act (amendment) Bill, Independent Corrupt Practices and other related offences Commission (establishment) Bill, Privatisation and

Commercialisation Bill, and Geological Survey Agency Bill.

Others are Bitumen Development Authority Bill, Agriculture Credit Guarantee Scheme Fund Bill, National

Centre for Agriculture Mechanisation Bill, Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation Bill, pre-shipment Inspection of Imports Bill and Federal Competition Commission Bill.

FCT disburses N 1.5m to indigenes

In furtherance of its commitment to address the plight of the less privileged in the FCT, the Secretary, Social Development Secretariat, Ms. Bolanle Onagoruwa, recently disbursed N1.5million cash donation to 14 indigenes of the territory to meet their medical needs.

A press release from the secretariat signed by the press secretary, Zakari Aliyu, stated that among the beneficiaries were five visually impaired staff of the School for the Visually Impaired, Zuba.

The donation is a demonstration of the concern of the Social Development Secretary for the plight of persons with disabilities in general and the staff of the school

By Nasir Imam,
Editor Abuja Property

for the blind, Zuba, the statement said. The Secretary paid a working visit to the school in Zuba late last year during which she came face to face with the conditions of the school and staff with disabilities.

In her remarks during the presentation ceremony, Ms. Onagoruwa who was represented at the occasion by the Assistant Director, Social Welfare, Mrs. Nita Laubakta, implored the beneficiaries to use the money judiciously for the purpose it was meant for. The FCTA, she noted, will not rest on its oars to provide succor to the needy within its limited resources.

News

CARTOON CONTROVERSY

Kano coy severs ties with Danish partners

A Kano based Automobile Company Buoshishi Auto Ventures Ltd, has severed all business transactions with its Danish partners, Bukkehave, and all other companies in Denmark to protest the blasphemy on the holy prophet of Islam, Muhammad (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) in a cartoon by Jyllands-Posten Newspaper.

The company's resolution which was made public yesterday in a press statement signed by its Executive Chairman, Alhaji Yahaya Muhammad and made available to *Daily Trust* in Kaduna said, "our company has resolved to sever, with immediate effect, all business ties and partnership with all Danish Companies, particularly Bukkehave, which is our major partner. We have also stopped further importation of all vehicles from Denmark. Instead, we shall and will henceforth, commence importation of our vehicles from countries like Japan or China."

The statement which described the cartoon that depicted the Holy Prophet of Islam in an unfortunate, uncivilized and indescribable form, as a deliberate attempt to incite or foment unnecessary bitterness, hatred and enmity between global Muslims and their fellow non-Muslims who, history have shown that co-existed peacefully even during the life time of the Prophet (SAWA) in Medina with both of them respecting the sentiments and religious beliefs of one another.

The Buoshishi Auto Ventures Ltd also called on other Muslim businessmen and

From Waziri Isa Gwantu, Correspondent (Zaria)

countries of the world transacting business with Denmark to boycott all Danish products and relationships as demanded and demonstrated by some Muslim leaders, business men and countries to serve as a deterrent to others.

The company regretted why a country like Denmark which has interacted for long and benefited tremendously from different Muslim nation states all over the world, would choose to rubbish its name or allow it to be isolated and regarded as a new found and admitted foe of the World's over two billion Muslims and their faith.

"Infact, the cartoon was deliberately intended to ridicule our faith, abuse and attack our Holy Prophet. As men of faith therefore, we must register our annoyance and show the Danish government and its allies in the crime that we are prepared to lose anything in this mundane world in the defence of our Prophet", the statement noted.

The statement which descended heavily on the Danish authorities for their non-challant attitude in taking concrete and stringent measures to punish those behind the blasphemy, and for failing to apologize sincerely and repeatedly to the world's Muslims, strongly condemned the governments of France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Spain for reprinting the same offensive cartoon in some newspapers in their various countries.

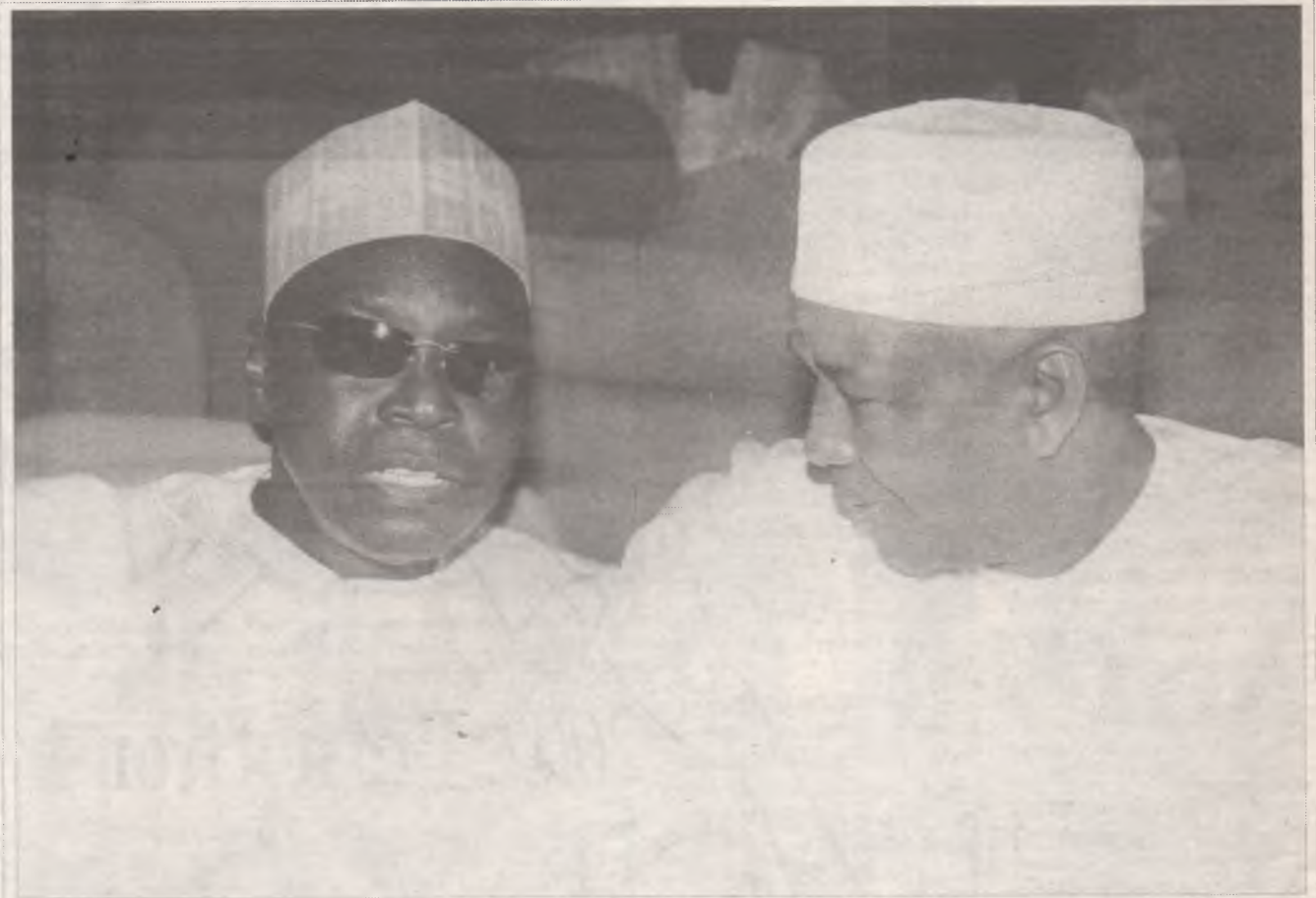
The statement however commended Nigerian Mus-

lims for coming out to join global Muslims through writing, preaching and peacefully demonstrating to express their misgivings and anger over the blasphemy which it described as wicked, evil, sa-

tanic and capable of setting the Muslim world dangerously and permanently against Denmark and other countries that not only supported her but reproduced the crime.

It called on Nigerian Muslims and Christians to draw a lesson from what the Danish newspaper has done or caused its country. "We must learn to live with one

another with respect and avoid anything that would set us against one another and truncate or undermine the hard-earned and prevailing peace in our country which is prone to ethno-religious upheavals."



Alhaji Isa Samaila Funtua, right, discussing with Prof Idris Mohammed, at the Arewa Consultative Forum, General Assembly meeting, held in Kaduna ...recently. Pix: Shehu K. Goro.

N28.8m scam: Registrar, 2 others know fate Feb 27

Ruling on the alleged N28.8million theft and conspiracy against the Chief Registrar of the FCT high court, Wuse-Abuja, Hajiya Aisha Abubakar Ibrahim and two others has been fixed for Monday, February 27, 2006.

Delivering the pronoun-

cement at the Federal high court sitting in Kaduna yesterday, the presiding Judge, Hon. (Justice) Abdullahi M. Liman, said this will enable him study critically the submissions made by the prosecution and defense counsels with a view to rule on the case without fear or favour to the parties concerned.

Prosecution counsel led by Barrister Chile Okoroma, had in reply to a no case submission made by the three accused persons' counsels, alleged that the documents and receipts tendered in court by the accused were made and backdated to cover the crime they committed.

He alleged that the N28.8 million in question was not used to acquire the property

at Jabi, Abuja, as there was no tenancy agreement to that effect. He accused the three persons standing trail of acting dishonestly to their employers and thereby committing an offense of criminal breach of trust and conspiracy.

He averred that the vouchers and alleged receipts tendered in court were all related to the property at Asokoro and not Jabi and queried what they did with the said missing money.

Responding, the leader of the defense counsel, Mr Joseph Daudu, (SAN), argued that the prosecution needed at this stage of the matter to go further to produce essential ingredients in the case instead of picking and choosing which of their evidences should be used by the court at this point.

He said for the fact that there were receipts tendered in respect of payments made to Abecon Grants Ltd, that acquired the said property, shows that there was no money missing. The Senior Advocate emphatically argued that since the prosecution insists that the alleged missing money was not used to acquire the property at Jabi, they should show which money was used for it and therefore pleaded that the accused persons be discharged and

acquitted and their confiscated property returned to them.

This argument was corroborated by Barr. Yahaya Mahmood's submission, counsel to the second accused, Alhaji Lamido Yusuf Zaria, who stated that his client's making of an additional statement does not mean that it was confessional in nature but making additional facts to buttress the matter on ground.

He maintained that the no case submission made was as a result of the inconsistencies in the evidence of the prosecution and the missing of substantial facts or essential ingredients as manifested by the evidence given by Supol Sunday Ukoha, leader of the EFCC investigation team in the case.

The Chief Registrar of the FCT high court, Abuja, Hajiya Aisha Abubakar Ibrahim, the court's Director of Finance and Supply, Alhaji Lamido Yusuf Zaria and the Secretary of the court's tenders board, Alhaji Garba Mohammed Gumi, are standing trial at the Federal High Court, Kaduna, over an alleged misappropriation of N28.8million and conspiracy following a petition written to the EFCC by a dismissed staff of the court, Alhaji Bala Haruna.

Youths set ablaze suspected ritualists in Zaria

An unidentified suspected ritualist has been set ablaze by aggrieved youths for allegedly attempting to kidnap a boy in the ancient city of Zaria, Kaduna State.

The Deputy Commissioner of Police in charge of Zaria division, DCP Umar Shehu, told the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), Hausa service, monitored in Abuja, yesterday that the incident happened when the suspect and his gang attempted to kidnap a boy.

He said, "We received information that some youths here in Zaria took laws into their hands by burning a man suspected to be among a four gang of ritualists that came in a car and attempted to kidnap a boy."

He added that 'the suspect was said to have dragged the boy to the car claiming to be his relation. The youths became suspicious when the boy denied him. Then they pursued him

By Abubakar Haruna, Reporter

and set him ablaze while the other suspects escaped in their car."

He explained that the suspect could not be identified due to the gravity of the burns. According to him, police are still investigating the matter to identify the suspect

and trace his gang, assuring that they will do their best to fish out the violators to serve as a deterrent to the public who are in the habit of taking laws into their hands.

He further called on the public to be law abiding citizens and desist from engaging in any act that could disrupt peace in the area.

2005: Fire kills 19 in Jigawa

Nineteen people perished in a fire inferno across Jigawa state in 2005 while 93 others were rescued according to an annual release issued to *Daily Trust* by the Directorate of Fire Service.

The statement revealed that during the year under review, 75 cases of fire out brakes engulfed parts of the state resulting in the death of 19 people while 93 were rescued and properties worth N31.452m was lost.

The state's Director of Fire Service, Alhaji Aliyu

From Hassan A. Karofi, Correspondent (Dutse)

Ahmed Gumel, said 22 rescue calls were received leading to the rescue efforts engineered by the directorate.

He disclosed that property worth N59.470m were saved through rescue efforts across the 27 local government areas of the state.

This, according to him, was a reduction from last year by about 30%, stressing that the achievement was as a result of government's commitment to fight and prevent fire outbreaks.

Gumel also commended the state government for her continued support through the provision of fire fighting equipments that include a model complete fire fighting vehicle worth millions of Naira.

"I want to commend Governor Ibrahim Turaki for providing our department with adequate facilities to fight emergency situations," he said.

Gumel however called for improved provision of facilities in order to make fire fighting more effective.

News



Vice President Atiku Abubakar (right) receiving a souvenir from John Oluwabemiga, the Festival Director Zuma Film Festival 2006, during their courtesy visit to his office at State House Abuja yesterday.

APRM offers another chance for good governance -Ekaette

By Micheal William, Intern

The African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), has presented yet another opportunity for good governance in Nigeria.

The Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), Chief Ufot Ekaette, disclosed this at a media sensitisation workshop on the APRM in Abuja.

Ekaette gave some measures taken by the country to address such problems to include an emplacement of a broad-based national coordination structure comprising a national focal point and a national working group.

Other measures, according to Ekaette, included meeting the enormous costs of running the APR process by government only.

Other measures are an adoption of APRM Strategic Action Plan (SAP) a document that would guide the implementation of the activities of the programme.

Ekaette noted that although a lot of grounds has been covered to ensure the success of the programme in Nigeria, more has to be done to conclude the APRM base review.

He said a diligent prosecution of the APR process portends to add appreciable value to the prosecution of the on-going economic and political reform agenda as enunciated by the NEEDS document.

Ekaette said the media constitutes the most apt agent to inform, educate, broaden and deepen stakeholders participation in the country's self assessment process.

Earlier, the SGF had inaugurated an Interim Management Committee of the

National Hospital, Abuja.

Ekaette at the ceremony, charged the members to always avoid issues that would create problems between the committee, the Hospital and the office of the SGF.

Analysing some of the issues, Ekaette urged members to regard themselves as part-time appointees, noting that they should not assume full-time executive functions.

He called on the committee members to familiarise themselves with and abide by the public service rules, financial regulations and extant circulars.

Ekaette said the Chief Executive of the hospital was the approved channel of communication between the committee and the hospital.

He said recruitment, promotion and disciplinary matters should be treated in accordance with the law setting up the hospital and administration guidelines.

Responding on behalf of the committee members, its chairman, Prof Nimi Briggs, praised President Olusegun Obasanjo for choosing the hospital for his recent medical check-up.

He said this action by the president has raised the confidence of the management of the hospital, adding that it was an example that should be emulated by other Nigerians seeking treatment abroad and pledged the committees dedication to duty, adding that they will abide by all instructions guiding the committee and the hospital.

ACD for launch Saturday -Jimeta in charge

Newly registered Advanced Congress of Democrats (ACD), has scheduled its formal launching into the league of Nigeria's political parties at the Eagle Square in Abuja on Saturday, barring any changes.

A timetable of the party's activities obtained exclusively by *Daily Trust* in Abuja yesterday, indicated that ACD has lined up series of events that would lead to its national convention on March 25.

ACD is believed to be sponsored by Vice-President Atiku Abubakar.

According to the timetable, the party is to begin registration of members in all the wards across the country from today while the formal launching is slated for Saturday.

The launching, according to a reliable source in ACD, would feature a world news conference to introduce the party's leading members, constitution, manifesto and symbols.

After the launching, congresses and convention to elect ward, local, state and national leaders will follow. The election, another top source said, would be by option A4.

The timetable shows that the ward congress has been scheduled for February 25, local government congress for March 4, state congress for March 11 and national convention for March 25.

Also, the party has set up 10 committees that would formulate its programs...

By Habeeb I. Pindiga, Assistant Political Editor

The committees are on congress and convention, launching, finance, contact and mobilisation, constitution and manifesto, strategy and planning, media and publicity, harmonisation, implementation and technical.

A source close to the ACD told *Daily Trust* yesterday that the 10 committees have already started work.

One of the panels, the 14-man congresses and convention has at least two members from each of the six zones.

They include former Foreign Affairs Minister, Tom Ikimi, former Minister of State for Foreign affairs, Dubem Onyia, former Mines and Power Minister, Alhaji Mohammed Hassan, Senator Joseph Waku, Senator Tony Adefuye, Alhaji Farouk Abdulazeez and Senator Paul Ukpo.

The implementation committee is headed by former national chairman of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), Chief Audu Ogbeh.

Contrary to media reports that Ogbeh is heading the ACD, a dependable source yesterday confirmed that former Inspector General of Police, Alhaji Muhammadu Gambo Jimeta is in charge.

Though, ACD was registered December 7, 2005 with Chief Anicob as chairman.

Restoration and Defence of Democracy (MRDD).

A leader in the party told *Daily Trust* on condition of anonymity that MRDD is a "redsherring used by pro-democracy elements to register ACD. We know government will not allow us to be registered if we come out openly. No we have our own party and by God's grace, we shall dislodge the PDP and give Nigerians some good leadership."

The source debunked a reported rift in the party. "We have not yet begun talking about who will become chairman. Ours is not going to be by affirmation. We are going to open the field for election by option A4," the source said.

ACD has a 28-page manifesto and a 49-page constitution.

Mantu's c-tee members move to change hearing venues

Some members of the National Assembly Joint Constitution Review Committee are plotting to persuade the panel to change venues of the public hearings of the review exercise.

The hearings, initially scheduled to hold last month but shifted indefinitely, are to be conducted in six venues across the six geo-political zones.

They are Lafia (North-central), Kaduna (Northwest), Bauchi (Northeast), Enugu (Southeast), Ibadan (Southwest) and Port Harcourt (South-south).

Public criticisms has trailed the citing of the venues because the places are regarded as "safe centres" for President Olusegun Obasanjo's alleged third term bid.

Reliable sources told *Daily Trust* yesterday that some members of the Ibrahim Mantu-led constitution review committee...

By Habeeb I. Pindiga, Assistant Political Editor

change of the venues. The plot, sources said, was concluded yesterday and it would be launched during the committee's meeting today.

The meeting is scheduled for 3pm at the Senate Hearing Room One.

According to a source, the plan is for a House member from one of the North central states to move a motion that the venues be changed because of public skepticism, while a senator from the South-south is to second the motion.

Debate is to follow with mainly opposition lawmakers arguing for the motion. Opposition legislators last week successfully launched a move against the third term agenda.

Recommended constitution amendments in the sub-committees' reports...

Youth group seeks constitution review

A coalition of Nigerian youth leaders yesterday called for an urgent review of the 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria with the sole determination of using the review to establish the continuation of the policies and institutions of President Olusegun Obasanjo's reform agenda.

Addressing a press conference in Abuja, focal person of the coalition and Special Assistant to the President on Youth and Student Matters, Mr. Kolade Victor Akinjo, expressed the coalition's desire that the National Assembly should not delay any further, the commencement of the process of amending the constitution "that is reform-driven, people-centred and development-oriented".

According to the coalition, "we have watched closely the call by many groups that the 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria be reviewed and be properly amended to address the ever-increasing challenges of our democracy."

"It is the position of the teeming youths of this country that the 1999 constitution requires urgent review and amendments to make it more amenable to democracy and development. In this persuasion, we hereby call for the urgent review and amendment of the 1999 constitution."

The youth leaders said that the task of constitution review...

They said they would continue to work for the betterment of the country...

Sufuyan Ojeifo (Special Correspondent)

good governance and development.

"We hereby call on the National Assembly and the 36 state Houses of Assembly to, as a mater of national duty, put the task of reviewing the 1999 constitution on the front burner of their legislative agenda for early 2006."

"We also call on all national stakeholders to join hands with all our lawmakers in the discharge of their statutory responsibility of constitution review at this important juncture of our national history", they stated.

They praised President Obasanjo's reform agenda and achievements in office since stepping into the saddle in 1999 and particularly commended him on his foresight in organizing the 2005 National Political Reform Conference.

"To the youth in Nigeria, this reform conference was a watershed in the history of our great country. The major achievements of this conference, in our opinion, centres on its recommendations that clearly prove the desire of different ethnic nationalities to exist harmoniously under the umbrella of a strong and virile federal republic where the rule of law and human dignity are sacrosanct watchwords."

"At this moment, we, the youths of Nigeria, in consonance with the spirit of the 2005 Political Reform Conference...

Opinion

Goodluck deal for Bayelsans

When on assumption of office, Dr Goodluck Jonathan promised to "move Bayelsa State forward" and "remove shame from the face of Bayelsans," most people probably thought it was cheap political talk. However, his gradual but steady and sure-footed steps in the right direction are beginning to convince even cynical observers of Bayelsa politics.

Goodluck, by introducing robust and ground-breaking development projects, has shown that he is not intimidated by the much-vaunted developmental challenges and environmental problems of Bayelsa State. While past administrators chose to lament the difficult geographical terrain (swamps, coastal erosion and perennial floods), he prefers to take action to surmount them. He has started doing the simple and small things that contribute to sustainable development knowing that "the journey of a thousand miles starts with one step."

His well-thought-out budget of "Restoration and Wealth Creation" gives the impression of a pragmatic leader who combines realism with a generous dose of idealism. His priority areas are

By Femi Ajayi

wealth-creation and employment-generation; provision of qualitative and relevant education and skills enhancement; and the construction of infrastructures (especially roads, electricity and potable water). A largely rural and developing state like Bayelsa could not have had any other scale of preference in terms of development goals and targets.

Dr Jonathan's missionary zeal is unmistakable. He is obviously passionate about the development needs and aspirations of Bayelsans. He said: "I will rather fail myself as Goodluck Jonathan rather than disappointing Bayelsans." I interpret this to mean that he would always subjugate his personal interest to the overall interest of the majority of Bayelsans. He is going to work for the greatest good of the greatest number of Bayelsans.

Goodluck is a visionary leader with great dreams for the young but highly resourceful Bayelsa State. He said he wants to make Bayelsa State competitive in the professions, arts, sciences, humanities and the world of work. Knowing that all-round education is a pre-

requisite for sustainable human development, he has prioritised the provision of functional and qualitative education to all willing Bayelsans. He wants to develop the brain and brawn and train the heads and hands of indigenes of Bayelsa so that they can hold their own in the highly competitive Nigerian federation. Little wonder then that his first executive function as governor was signing the Universal Basic Education (UBE) Bill into law. If the next steps of constituting a Bayelsa UBE Board and setting aside a UBE counterpart fund are taken, then Bayelsa can start accessing the UBE funds set aside by the federal government.

In his budget speech, Dr Jonathan, as expected of a seasoned ecologist, gave indications of his commitment to generational justice; saying, "We will leave the comfort zone to make sacrifices for the sake of future generations." This is an assurance that in providing the needs of present generation of Bayelsans, the needs of future generations would not be jeopardised.

With his operationalisation of the Bayelsa State Economic Empowerment and De-

velopment Strategy (BY-SEEDS), he has demonstrated his readiness to adopt programmes initiated by the federal government. His efforts to mainstream the private sector and engage the civil society in Bayelsa's development process are evidence of his commitment to the national economic reform agenda. The foot-dragging over replication and implementation of laudable FG-initiated programmes is hopefully a thing of the past in Bayelsa.

Goodluck's rapprochement with the FG also indicates the end of an era of unhealthy rivalry with the PDP-led government at the centre which had not earned Bayelsa any positive dividends. Though PDP is the ruling party in Bayelsa State, the fact that Bayelsa is not linked to the national grid is one of the bitter fruits of Alamiyeseigha's policy of running Bayelsa State as an opposition to the federal government. Rather than change his confrontational style and befriend the PDP government at the centre, Alamiyeseigha kept on lamenting that the FG had not "poured a single bucket of sand in Bayelsa State."

Given Alamiyeseigha's bellicose posture and antagonistic stance towards the fed-

eral government, it was not surprising that he was unable to attract any notable FG funds into the state despite being a member of the ruling party, the People's Democratic Party. With so much resources in the hands of the FG (over 45 per cent), it smacks of political naivety and economic *hara-kiri* for a state governor carrying the flag of the same party as the president to choose to personify the opposition.

Goodluck's policy of constructive engagement with the FG, rather than Alamiyeseigha's policy of antagonism, would yield Bayelsa the sweet fruits of friendship with the govern-

ment at the centre. Bayelsa, both as a developing state and a frontline resource base of the nation, certainly deserves more federal presence and support than it got under the adversarial regime of Alamiyeseigha.

Under Alamiyeseigha, there was so much motion (in a circle) without any giant stride forward. The good luck of having a humble, diplomatic, dedicated and pragmatic leader like Dr Goodluck Ebele Jonathan is already rubbing off on the affairs of Bayelsa State. If this gentle and humble but gutsy giant gets the support he deserves from Bayelsans, not even the sky can limit the progress of Bayelsa State in the years ahead.

Femi Ajayi is an Abuja-based development analyst.

"Goodluck's policy of constructive engagement with the FG, rather than Alamiyeseigha's policy of antagonism, would yield Bayelsa the sweet fruits of friendship with the government at the centre. Bayelsa, both as a developing state and a frontline resource base of the nation, certainly deserves more federal presence and support than it got under the adversarial regime of Alamiyeseigha."

The main essence of setting up the Board of Internal Revenue across the country by various governments is primarily to generate internal revenue for the government to cater for the needs of the people. Therefore, for any revenue board to successfully generate substantial amount, it must have an accomplished and well-tutored professional revenue officer who knows the nitty-gritty of how revenue would be generated.

Adamawa State is quite lucky to have a very upright professional revenue generator that has cut his teeth in the board since his graduation from the university about

X-raying Adamawa's revenue board

By Usman Garba Santuraki

erto not being paid are now being paid e.g. ground rate tax, liquor fee.

All these were made possible because of the firm belief of the chairman that for any tangible thing to happen for the people, they must have to show their bargain as there is no need for the people to solidly wait for the government to do anything to them. Alhaji Abubakar is of the firm conviction that for any meaningful success to be made especially in a place that is aimed to generate income for the government, there ought to be a platform for peaceful co-existence between the people and "the agency so that it would be easier for the board to carry out its duties.

Towards this end, he established a unit to liaise with the people to fully understand the importance of paying their taxes as and when due without the compulsion by the board and also the unit in conjunction with the media outfits embarking on an extensive campaign to sensitise the people on the importance of paying tax.

Also, he makes it a point of duty to liaise with the staff of the board to know their problems first-hand because of his belief that for any meaningful thing to happen in any

organisation, dialogue and mutual interaction between the leader and the staff need to be put in place.

Another wonderful thing that this dynamic person has done in the board since his appointment in the last six years is the emphasis he placed on the training of staff of the board; as during his tenure, he sent some staff on in-service training to broaden their scope of knowledge in tax administration. Some of them have acquired additional qualification of degree, diploma and even master's respectively.

Under the stewardship of Alhaji Abubakar, a befitting office complex was constructed and well-furnished to enable the staff to carry out their functions successfully. He also refurbished broken-down vehicles of the board to enable the board function more effectively and all the area offices of the board were rehabilitated with all the necessary equipment put in place for them to be efficient in their day-to-day activities.

This gentleman has quite proved to be a real professional tax personnel who is ever ready to leave behind enduring legacies for those coming behind him to see and at the same time carry on from where he stopped.

Adamawa State Board of Internal Revenue would be incomplete without mentioning Alhaji Abubakar Abdullahi as the man that has taken the board to greater heights. More importantly, he is going to be accorded a place whenever the history of the board would be written sooner or later. He believes that revenue generation is one of the functions a government performs anywhere in the world; as such, he makes sure that the revenue due to the government is collected so as to be used in the provision of goods and services to the people.

In the discharge of his official duties, he does not allow personal interest to override his official responsibilities and in order to save the good image of the government and the board; he puts it across to the executive council of the state to put in place the right people with the right training and sense of duty. His proposal has sailed through because government approved for him to host a number of seminar and workshops for the staff of the board on the nitty-gritty of their work.

The primary aims and objectives of this erudite tax man is to meet up with the yearnings and aspirations of the government towards having a substantial revenue that the

government can use to provide the basic necessities of life, so that the people could feel the impact of the government. I am writing this piece believing that other people who find themselves occupying a position of responsibility can copy the zeal and commitment of Alhaji Abubakar who is assiduously working round the clock to see that all revenues that need to accrue to the government go into the coffers of the government to enable it provide essential services that could better their lot.

Abubakar's principle brought honesty, discipline and sanity into the Adamawa State Board of Internal Revenue. And today, the governor of Adamawa State, Boni Haruna, who appointed him, is raising his head high for making the right decision by appointing him as the chairman of the board since the inception of the present administration in 1999 to be precise.

It has been the trademark of Abubakar not to have time for frivolities when engaging in official engagement, but to obtain the desired result.

Usman Garba Santuraki, writes from No. 74, Tafida Street, P.O. Box 747, Jimeta-Yola. usbluraki@yahoo.com

"Another wonderful thing that this dynamic person has done in the board since his appointment in the last six years is the emphasis he placed on the training of staff of the board; as during his tenure, he sent some staff on in-service training to broaden their scope of knowledge in tax administration. Some of them have acquired additional qualification of degree, diploma and even master's respectively."



KUKAN KURCIYA

With Bilya Bala
bilyabala@hotmail.com

Random News: Read by Kounta Kinti

This is The Notorious Television Authority (NTA); your station for deception. We are the first television station on the continent to lose all our imaginary thirty million viewers in record six years time. Thirty million imaginary viewers can't therefore be wrong.

Good evening our remaining helpless viewers, my name is Kounta Kinti, and reading with me tonight, if she can make it to the station, is Ms Ashanti. Before our random news however, we shall play the National Anthem in this times of common grief.

- Me I like my country*
- I like the land not leaders*
- Our leaders like deception*
- Dem like am pass de nation*
- Of recent we saw example*
- Of a leader heating the nation*
- To try and extend the ration*
- Of regime smeared in corruption*
- From left, right and the centre*
- By leaders who bought a time*
- From people that have a price*
- Which the leader pays to thrive*

At every turn and motion
The leader craves attention...

Make we join haands
To bring our leaders to justiceeeeeeee...!!!

Fellow country men and women too, here is the news in full, beginning with the home news.

The fear of his imperial majesty, our eternal king, they say is the beginning of wisdom. This age long imperial dictate was tested recently when one of the imperial representatives of the king in one of kingdom's district disregarded the saying and challenged the king. This station gathered that by

the time His imperial majesty finished with the district officer he was last seen kneeling down in front of the king's hunt-dog ruing his unwise challenge to the powers of our eternal ruler.

A disrespectful Okada rider has today been arraigned before a city court charged with obstruction of king Oki on his way to jamboree. Narrating his ordeal in the hands of the nation's top security operatives who made the arrest, Mr. Obi Bawan Allah told judge Allah Magani how he was taken to the security headquarters and detained for several months in order to first of all determine his political status.

Responding to a question from Judge Allah Magani, Obi recounted how he had timelessly been harangued by a particular officer urging him to confess that the opposition was using him to stop king Obi from attending one of the most randy and uninhibited carnivals ever witnessed in Rio de Janeiro, where presidential beaches had already been ear marked for all the kings attending the satanic gathering.

Defending his approach to the method of interrogating persons suspected to be working against the ruling party, the officer confirmed that what he did in the case of Obi Bawan Allah was a standard operating procedure (SOP). According to the officer, Obi put the life of the nation in danger by almost stopping king Oki from attending the carnival. The officer believed that king Oki would have preferred the kingdom to break rather than to be stopped from traveling abroad, especially by an intractable Okada rider. The prosecution cited examples where a spite of some

tests by all well-meaning citizens to stop Oki from junketing to foreign capitals and stay to work and salyage the nation from its economic and political woes, he turned a deaf ear until the kingmakers threatened to cut his balls. Judge Allah Magani has deferred ruling until next month when he would hear from the defense.

In another development, an indigent thief has been pleading with his prosecutors to allow him enter a plea bargain but the prosecuting office swore that could only happen over his dead body. The indigent thief who was accused of stealing his neighbor's chicken would have his left hand severed if found guilty.

The prosecuting office, in a chart with our judicial correspondent said that plea bargain was not for the poor. Criminals like Mallam Dogo, who terrorize their neighbors and steal their chickens, must not be shown any mercy. In an after thought, the prosecutor said he found it difficult to believe that such people could not go and rob on the highway, kill a celebrity or even swindle an ex-governor, military officer or breach a trust like all other criminals do. No, instead they would steal a neighbor's chicken.

When asked why the police showed no mercy on small time crooks such as Mallam Dogo, the prosecutor smiled and asked "what has a small timer got to make it worth our while? It is better to expend all the energy of the state judicial machinery on small timers so that when a big thief, like onetime Oki's head of dogarai, steals from the state we will not have the energy to ensure that real justice is done. Instead of wasting the court's

time and ours we allow him to plea bargain, part with some of his ill-gotten wealth and slap him on the wrist; quoting the bible and telling him "Go and steal no more!" In that way everybody will be satisfied. Oki can claim victory in his imaginary war against big time thieves in his palace and some of us would smile all the way to you know where.

The conference of the vice chancellors of backstreet American, Australian and Fijian Islands' universities has today issued a warning that, unless something drastic is done by the Federal Government to reduce the clamor for their honorary Doctorate degrees by the Nigerian Governors, ministers, businessmen and local government chairmen, they would be forced to adopt a federal character as a means of ensuring a fair deal in the distribution of the commodity. "This commodity is scarce and we shall do everything to preserve it for the young coming generation of that degree impoverished nation" said one vice chancellor from Fiji Island who pleaded anonymity.

Here at home the government, through its former Aladura-priest spokesman, condemned the backstreet colleges for their insensitivity to the yearnings and aspiration of Nigerian politicians to be addressed as doctors at a function. "How could any politician worth his salt allow himself to be addressed with his bare name?" The priest asked rhetorically! "This thing is our money. We spend half of what we steal from the public coffers to be recognized; and having Dr Prefix by your name would never be beaten by anyone. It is all those useless professors that had too

work and study for many decades before they earned a Doctorate degree, who are envious of our overnight achievement." Said one local government chairman who just managed to finish Standard Six and never went further.

On the home front, the various tiers of government sent their congratulatory messages to this year's Amirul-Hajj for a job that brought out the best out of the Muslim inmates of this nation. Never in the history of Hajj in this country had Muslims suffered in the legitimate performance of their religion like the last Hajj. When contacted as to why this year was different, the spokes person attributed it to the desire of the Hajj leader to make sure every Muslim got a triple reward as opposed to one and the only way to achieve that was to make going to Mecca as unbearable as possible. "Nothing of worth comes cheap" he was quoted saying. And another bonus that came with the inability of many to perform the Hajj was that it also saved the country's foreign exchange, which could now be effectively maneuvered out of the nation's vaults in to personal accounts abroad.

In a twist akin to Machiavellian prince, the grand vizier was arraigned before a kangaroo committee charged with too much loyalty to the kingdom instead of to the king. King Oki accused the grand vizier of sabotaging the king's desire (this time around) to rule forever. Calling some regional leaders as

witnesses, the king intended to prove that his desire to rule forever was not for him alone. He would for now agree to the same extension being given to the regional leaders. However, Notorious Television Authority can confirm that it was all a ploy to get the necessary support to deal with the grand vizier. The king had confirmed to some members of his kitchen cabinet that the moment the regional leaders agreed and he ascended the throne; he would impeach them and then try them for money laundering, stealing and other related offences. All we can say from here ladies and gentlemen is that a word is enough for the wise.

The grand vizier on the other hand has garnered a lot of support from those not willing to live under the permanent torture of the king. One newspaper even cast the vizier as the tortoise of the folklore who stole his in-laws food and was tied down and beaten by the in-laws, egged on by neighbors, but only for the neighbors to turn around to accuse the in-laws of over flogging their own son in-law.

For now fellow country men and women too, we await the outcome of the orderly room trial of the grand vizier. We shall bring the outcome to you as soon as our reporters at the venue have something to report.

Good night and remember to leave your doors open in case armed robbers desire to pay you a visit. It will anger them the more if they have to break your door to get access to you and your helpless family.

May we survive this day and hope for tomorrow. If tomorrow comes!

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

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Soliloquy

WITH
A. B. Ahmed
dahmedia@canada.com

Opinion

Speculation: Rumours as news

It is difficult for me to put my thoughts into words this morning, primarily because the target of my grouse also happens to be the one constant constituency to which I have dedicated my entire adult life, these past thirty years and more. I speak,

news, in yesterday's (7/2/2006) edition of *Daily Trust*, a newspaper for which I write this weekly column and of whose editorial board I am a member! It is enough to make a self-respecting writer commit suicide and to make past editors of what used to be

summoned all ministers and special advisers of President Olusegun Obasanjo to a strategy meeting believed to be in connection with the controversial third term agenda." I can continue to point out hundreds of similar so-called news stories in virtually all our newspapers over a period of, say, two weeks. They are all full of words like "reportedly," "believed to be," and "suspected to be not unconnected to the secret agenda of..."

But what need is there for me to continue when we all know this new cancer which is eating so insidiously and destructively into the very life of Nigerian print journalism? Almost without exception, our reporters and editors have become thoroughly infected with the equivocation and speculation disease of our political leaders, and only God knows now where ordinary citizens can turn to for simple, honest and reliable news of what is actually going on in their country.

Perhaps, it is because I am growing older and more conservative in my tastes; but so God help me, I feel much more comfortable with simple authoritative news upon which I can confidently base the editorial comments and weekly columns from which I have earned my livelihood all these decades, than I do with this modern fashion of packaging lies and speculation as hard, dependable news. And I know for sure that no amount of meaningless and deceitful chaff like "our sources report that it may not be unconnected with," "our sources report that it may not be unconnected with," and many other such duplicitous words, which allow or permit media practitioners to lie without blushing, and to escape punishment for spreading rumours as hard news without standing the least risk of sanctions or prosecution. Unfortunately for all of us, no newspaper publishing house in Nigeria can thump its chest and claim to be immune to this creeping pandemic of dishonesty and talking with a forked tongue. Let me give you one or two examples of what is driving me crazy.

"Today's meeting may also recommend punitive measures against the Vice President, Alhaji Atiku Abubakar, believed to be on the committee's list of high profile members engaged in alleged anti-party activities." This is news, front page lead

Nigeria's most authoritative newspaper, the *New Nigerian* go apoplectic with rage!

Or take another example from the second lead story of the same edition of *Daily Trust*, which starts like this: "State governors will meet in Abuja tomorrow, reportedly to take a final stand on the constitutional amendment, especially the contentious issue of tenure extension."

Now, I just deliberately decided to take these first two examples from *Daily Trust*, with which the public knows that I am strongly associated. But the paper is by no means the only one to even the most notable for this new brand of speculation pretending to be news. The pestilential malady erupted first among the publications of the Lagos-Ibadan axis, and then rapidly spread to every nook and cranny of the nation's print media confraternity.

In its edition of the same date under discussion, for example, *THE PUNCH* carries a front page story which says that the ruling PDP "has

"But what need is there for me to continue when we all know this new cancer which is eating so insidiously and destructively into the very life of Nigerian print journalism? Almost without exception, our reporters and editors have become thoroughly infected with the equivocation and speculation disease of our political leaders, and only God knows now where ordinary citizens can turn to for simple, honest and reliable news of what is actually going on in their country."

The role of the youth in national development

Protocol

I find the topic I have been requested to address of great significance because of two concepts that are very critical to the development of any society. These two concepts are: Attitude and Youth. May I therefore commend the organisers for the choice of time and forum, which I consider not only apt but also appropriate. To appreciate the critical role of attitude in national development, it may be necessary to take you down memory lane.

When Gold Meir, a former Prime Minister of Israel said: "All my country has is spirit. We don't have petroleum dollars. We don't have mines of great wealth in the ground. We don't have the support of a worldwide public opinion that looks favourably on us. All Israel has is the spirit of its people. And if the people lose their spirits, even the United States of America cannot save us," she was simply stressing the critical role of positive attitude to the survival and prosperity of Israel in the face of great challenges. When John F. Kennedy, a former president of America, challenged his compatriots to: *think of what they could do for America and not what America could do for them*, he was underscoring the significance of manifesting the right attitude to ensure America attains greatness.

When, in the face of mass exodus of Nigerians in search of greater pastures, General Muhammadu Buhari, the then head of state asserted: *"We have no other country but Nigeria; we must stay here and salvage it."* It was a clarion call on Nigerians to have faith in Nigeria and manifest positive attitude even in the face of the ugliest, the most unpalatable, the most gruesome and the most trying times.

When Chief Obafemi Awolowo said that: *"It is not how long you live that matters, but how well,"* he was particularly concerned about the positive attitude one manifests and how that is brought to bear on one's environment.

This principle could not have been better expressed than in the words of President Olusegun Obasanjo who, in the face of unbridled corruption and seeming national hopelessness, insisted on assumption of office that: *"It is no longer business as usual."*

The recurrent decimal in all of these statements is the recognition of attitude as a human attribute, which is the primary force that determines the extent to which we succeed in the pursuit of our set goals either as individuals, institutions or as a nation. Further still, the point is stressed that whereas an individual might be gifted, whereas a nation may be richly endowed with natural resources, men of aptitude and talent, much more than these is required to achieve individual or national greatness. Men of character are required. Positive attitude is

By Idi Faruk

therefore a vital and necessary ingredient. Put differently, a talented team could lose a match on account of the attitude of the players. Attitude therefore assumes a central position in our drive towards individual or national greatness.

It was Thomas Jefferson, one-time president of America who remarked that: *"Nothing can stop the man with the right mental attitude from achieving his goal; nothing on earth can help the man with the wrong mental attitude."* Subscribing to this, one Charles Swindoll confessed thus, *"The longer I live, the more I realise the impact of attitude on life... it is more important than education, than money, than success... it will make or break a company... a church... a home."*

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, attitudes are the blocks with which a country's prosperity is built. Little wonder, therefore, that a one-time famous American Civil Rights activist, Martin Luther King (Jnr), stressed that: *"The prosperity of a country depends not on the abundance of its revenue, nor on the strength of its fortification, nor on the beauty of its public buildings, but it consists on the number of its cultivated citizens, its men of character."*

Like attitude, youths are equally a critical factor in national development. Often, they are described as the 'engine room,' the 'creative force' and the 'propelling power' of the society. They constitute the critical segment of any society. If their energy, dynamism, ingenuity and immense intellectuality are mobilised, accurately guided, harnessed

"Like attitude, youths are equally a critical factor in national development. Often, they are described as the 'engine room,' the 'creative force' and the 'propelling power' of the society. They constitute the critical segment of any society. If their energy, dynamism, ingenuity and immense intellectuality are mobilised, accurately guided, harnessed and positively channelled, they could become a veritable agent of positive change and development."

and positively channelled, they could become a veritable agent of positive change and development. In fact, in any society, the youth have always been the vanguard or arrowhead of development. The challenge before the Nigerian youth has, therefore, been the challenge of national development. It is a challenge that confronts the Nigerian youth today and it requires that they rise to the occasion today and now.

Postponement could be a more costly option. This invariably imposes on the youth the responsibility of leadership today and not tomorrow, for tomorrow be-

longs to the aged and the feeble. How prepared are the youth to play this leadership role, to turn around the fortunes of our dear country? What kind of attitude does the Nigerian youth manifest? Is it an attitude of hard work, honesty and integrity or an attitude of laziness, dishonesty and dishonour? Is it an attitude of transparency, accountability and respect for constituted authority, or an attitude of greed, corruption and disrespect for constituted authority? Is it a youth that is steeped in moral decadence and intellectual atrophy or is it a youth that is morally sound and intellectually inquisitive and alert?

To be able to rise to the challenge of today, the Nigerian youth must make conscious and concerted effort to remain focused. He must break away from the shackles of mediocrity, materialism, personal parochial values of the moment, and embrace the wider national and patriotic values of the nation. It is imperative for the youth to internalise the culture of responsible leadership and patriotism even while in school. In place of secret cults, students should form themselves into social clubs with noble ideals. They must be ready at all times to fight against cultism and gangsterism, examination malpractices and other vices not only by refusing to be active participants, but by also exposing perpetrators of such vices to the appropriate authorities.

The challenge of national development may be enormous; it is however not insurmountable by the Nigerian youths, once the right attitude is manifested. In many parts of the world, the youths have positively influenced

the political direction and destiny of their nations. For example, at 18 years, Alexander, the Great started his military career to conquer the world. He was 22 years old when he defeated the Persians. At 23, he conquered Egypt. By the time he was 29, he had fought his way from Macedonia to as far as India and created a vast empire. If he could do it, why not you?

Being an address delivered by Alhaji Idi Faruk, Director-General, National Orientation Agency (NOA), at a seminar organised by the Progressive Movement for Better Society, University of Abuja chapter, Abuja.



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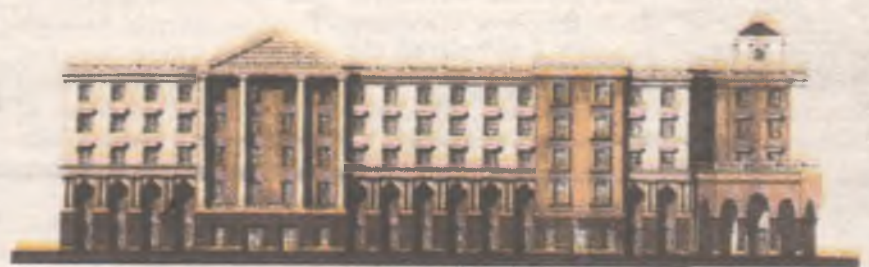
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Trust International

Analysis

The West's 'knowledgeable ignorance' and clash of civilizations

By Abdullahi Bego,
Assistant Editor

Since the publication of offensive cartoons about the Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) in Danish and other European newspapers, there have been reactions and comment from what has now narrowed down to essentially two ideological and cultural divides; both of whom, it seems, would continue to engage one another towards what some people called the 'great clash' of the future.

The offensive publications are offensive in every sense of the word. They are barbaric in their warped analogies; they are insensitive in their brazenness; they are vulgar in their content; they are stupid in their conception, and they are calculated in their intent. Freedom of speech is certainly no freedom to incite hatred or to spread lies through irresponsible publications since even in Europe itself, the right to freedom of expression is not considered unlimited, and restrictions were often employed to protect the rights and reputations of others.

It is clear that the newspapers, which published the cartoons, knew they would generate widespread Muslim reaction. The scale of the reactions may have astounded many in the non-Muslim World, but all these clearly show that despite the pride it takes in its scientific and material progress, as well as its heritage in scholarship, a significant part of Europe is unfortunately mired in 'knowledgeable ignorance' about Islam. Knowledgeable ignorance is defined as a condition of 'knowing something for what it is not, and cannot possibly be, and holding on to those notions even though

the means exists to know differently'.

Europe and the West know, for instance, that it is essentially not in the character of Islam to promote violence or hatred. Being a religion revealed for the guidance and salvation of humanity, Islam spreads a message of peace as well as spiritual and material progress, in which the whole of humanity is covered by sublime moral values which protects the weak and guarantees the rights of the strong.

It is when this clear message is obliterated and obfuscated because of the fringe behaviour of certain followers of Islam, who might have been pushed to the wall by injustices committed against them, or when newspapers and the media unjustly engage in iconoclasm against cherished beliefs of nearly one and a half billion followers of the Islamic faith, and Europe defended it as freedom of speech, that Muslims get justifiably incited; because it touches on their collective sensibilities.

We have seen that since the offensive and satanic publications in question, Muslims have rose in protest in all almost all parts of the world, since the countries where those publications emanated have continued to refuse to offer unreserved apology for the irresponsible and confrontational behaviour of their mass media.

It is true that relations between Islam and the West have never been a model of harmony since *Charlemagne*, and have continued to worsen since the crusades, the

barbaric 'ethnic cleansing' in Bosnia in the 1990's, the continuing injustices against Palestinians and, recently, the neo-conservative 'war on terror'.

Now the 'fault lines' between Islam and the West are at even perilously dangerous levels, as incitement and hypocrisy continue to define much of the manner in which the West engages the Islamic and Muslim World.

Take the case of 'ethnic cleansing' in Bosnia about eleven years ago, for example. Following the disintegration of the former Yugoslavia, Muslims in the Balkans got an historic opportunity to reclaim their religious identity. Not many people around the world really knew that so many Muslims were living in the heart of Europe especially in Bosnia-Herzegovina at the time.

That historic opportunity, not only to reclaim lost identity and religious freedom but also to establish an independent Muslim state in Europe, was however thwarted by what had passed as one of the most brazen conspiracies in recent history.

We may recall, for instance, that while the Bosnian war was going full-scale and the Serbian aggressors were being armed with modern weaponry by their collaborators and cohorts in crime in Belgrade and elsewhere, the United Nations slammed a controversial arms embargo ostensibly to stop the war from spreading. But the embargo turned out to be just what the Serbs needed to carry out their ethnic cleansing against the hapless Muslim population.

There is no doubt that the so-called international community was complicit in denying Muslim Bosnians the right to defend themselves by placing a ban on weapons

sale; and now the world lives in shame over the killings in that country, especially the Srebrenica massacre of 1995 when, in the full glare of United Nations Peacekeeping Forces, the Serbian army committed some of the most barbaric crimes ever in living memory.

It came as a surprise to many that those crimes were committed in 'civilized Europe' in the 21st century, where the Serbs split open the stomach of pregnant Muslim mothers to 'see how their babies were doing', and then kill both mothers and what were in their wombs because of the religion they follow.

With the injustices against the Bosnian Muslims, and those against Palestinians by Israel, yet to be satisfactorily redressed, the Muslim World is yet to be convinced that the West is really committed to those ideological but actually empty slogans about the protection of human rights, freedom, democracy etc, which are only applicable in certain cases and not others.

We have seen that the West, for instance, believes in the spread of democracy as the best form of human governance and even spends billions of dollars annually to do so through means fair and foul but when people, especially Muslims in Algeria and Palestine, decide on the governments they want, they were denied the right to freely do so because their choices would not serve the imperialistic interests of the West.

The victory of the Palestinian Liberation Movement Hamas in parliamentary election and the recalcitrance of the 'international community', whatever that means to accept the Hamas victory and the free choice of the Palestinian people, would go down in history as one of the most mind boggling ironies of the sloganeering on democracy.

This is because regardless of Hamas' precedents, which were built in gallant armed resistance against illegitimate occupation, its decision to tread the democracy path makes it a valid player, and a legitimate leader, when the electorate gives it the mandate ahead of its rivals.

Now Hamas would form a government whether the 'international community' recognizes it or not and the Palestinian people, for being punished for exercising their democratic freedom, would continue to be pained by the double standards of the 'international community' which seems united in



King Abdullahi of Saudi Arabia

frustrating their aspiration to defeat the illegal Israeli occupation of their homeland.

In his much maligned thesis, titled 'clash of civilizations' published in the summer of 1993 in *Foreign Affairs*, Samuel Huntington has predicted a 'clash' between the world's major civilizations with a lot of emphasis on the West and the Muslim World, arguing that the fundamental source of conflict in the new world will not be primarily ideological or primarily economic but cultural and that the 'fault lines between civilizations will be the battle lines of the future'.

Are all these tensions in the West-Muslim World relationship a signification of this clash? Are we already in the era of the clash of civilizations?

We clearly seem to be. The demise of the Soviet Union as an ideological rival to Western capitalism has left the West with no 'challenger' to continue to test the theories of its experts and the 'strengths' of its self-assumptions. A rival must therefore be created and mystified in order to continue to legitimate the libertarian and consumerist philosophies of western capitalism, and there was none currently more potent than Islam and the Muslim World.

As I have noted earlier, relationship between Islam and the West have never been a model of harmony. The demise of communism has

therefore provided the opportunity to revisit the 'siege of Vienna', and gave people like President Bush the license to engage almost everyone in a 'crusades' called 'war on terror' that makes little sense even to most Americans.

These tensions are likely to deepen and continue. Muslim people everywhere on this planet earth would continue to defend their religion and the personality of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) against intentional attacks and mockery. Those who allowed unlimited freedom of expression would have to make do with Muslims' own freedom to express dissent whenever they were attacked or incited. And the circle goes on...to the 'great clash' of the future.

It is however my considered opinion that a way out of the current crises lies much with the West than with anyone else. The West is currently at the vanguard of international politics and economics. Although a peaceful world benefits everyone, the West has more to lose in a world fractured by instability and tension. The onus therefore lies on it to take the lead, by first ensuring justice wherever it is denied, especially in Palestine, and by drawing the line between freedom of expression and the protection of others' integrity from unwarranted and unjustifiable attacks. These are tasks that are better accomplished, sooner rather than later.

"Now Hamas would form a government whether the 'international community' recognizes it or not and the Palestinian people, for being punished for exercising their democratic freedom, would continue to be pained by the double standards of the 'international community' which seems united in frustrating their aspiration to defeat the illegal Israeli occupation of their homeland."

Trust International

Africa



Joseph Kabila succeeded his father in 2001

Kabila to contest DR Congo poll

Democratic Republic of Congo President Joseph Kabila has secured the governing party's candidacy in presidential elections expected later this year.

He was nominated unanimously at the end of the People for Reconstruction and Democracy Party congress in Kinshasa.

Mr Kabila has been president since the assassination of his father, Laurent Kabila, in 2001.

The first round of the presidential poll are due to take place on 29 April, with a possible run-off on 2 June.

The parliamentary vote is also due on 29 April, in what will be DR Congo's first national multi-party elections for four decades.

Presidential adviser Kikaya Bin Karubi said that Mr Kabila had been an easy choice for the PRDP as there was no other suitable candidate in the party.

"Mr Kabila is the best qualified man for the Democratic Republic of Congo to move forward," he told the BBC's Network Africa programme.

"He's been able to prove what he's capable of doing; he's brought peace, he's stabilised the economy; he's reunited the country, so it's for him to reconstruct the country."

Some 4,000 people attended the three-day congress. The BBC's Arnaud Zajtman in Kinshasa said delegates spent little time debating and most of the time dancing and singing praises of the president.

Some students told our reporter they had been promised \$5 to attend the gathering.

DR Congo is currently run by a power-sharing government, including ex-rebels,

which took office in terms of a peace deal signed in 2002, ending a three-year civil war.

Other presidential contenders are former rebel leaders Azarias Ruberwa of the former Rwandan-supported RCD and John Pierre Bemba of the former Ugandan-backed MLC - both of whom of vice-presidents in the interim

administration.

Veteran opposition politician Etienne Tshisekedi is also in the running.

Rebel groups that did not participate in the peace process remain active in the east of the country.

Some 17,000 UN peacekeepers are in DR Congo to oversee the polls.

Ivorian militant snubs sanctions

The leaders of youth groups loyal to Ivory Coast President Laurent Gbagbo have dismissed the threat of UN sanctions against them.

A travel ban and a freeze on any foreign assets might be imposed by the UN Security Council on Tuesday.

Charles Ble Goude and Eugene Djue are being held responsible for days of anti-UN riots last month. A northern rebel leader is also to be targeted.

Some 7,000 UN peacekeepers are in Ivory Coast to oversee the peace process.

Elections are due this year to reunify Ivory Coast, which has been divided since rebels seized the north in 2002.

"These sanctions don't intimidate me at all or lessen my fervour for protests," Mr Ble Goude told Reuters news agency.

He and Mr Djue said they did not have any foreign assets and were not concerned by the prospect of a travel ban.

Last week, Mr Ble Goude threatened more street protests unless the rebels were ordered to disarm.

Reuters also reports there was a small demonstration in

the outside a UN base in the rebel headquarters of Bouake because of the possibility of sanctions against local rebel commander Fofie Kouakou, who is accused of human rights abuses.

Some UN civilian staff have left Ivory Coast for fear in renewed anti-UN protests.

Many Gbagbo supporters are upset at what they see as foreign interference in their internal affairs by the UN and former colonial power France.

They want the UN troops and a further 4,000 French soldiers to leave Ivory Coast.

Some 2,000 members of Mr Ble Goude's Young Patriots group blockaded the UN base in the main city, Abidjan, and others cities in the loyalist south for several days last month - until he told them to return home.

UN bases became the target of anger after foreign mediators seeking an end to the civil war recommended suspending parliament.

The call to dissolve parliament was seen as a way of preventing pro-Gbagbo MPs from holding up the peace process and boosting the authority of transitional Prime Minister Charles Konan Banny.

Koreans express confidence on leader

By Aisha Umar, Reporter, Foreign Desk

The Northern Korean Army and people have reiterated their confidence and determination to build a socialist nation despite the hostility and confrontation the country is facing from the United States of America.

This was contained in a press statement made available to *Daily Trust* by the Korean embassy in Nigeria, adding that they keep an absolute trust in their leader, Kim Jong Il.

According to "as long as General Kim Jong Il is with us, we will win without fail, and are determined to build a country most powerful in politics, military, economic and cultural aspects."

It further explained that Kim Jong Il is a renowned state leader who is noble and great in ideology, seasoned in politics, superb in guiding the masses of the people. He also makes sure that the army plays the leading role of the nations pillar and the main driving force of the Songun revolution by constant inspection of peoples Army units.

It added that we are in the

era when a nation's rise or fall is decided by armed forces and unity. Even if a nation has economic assets and favou-

rable natural and geographical condition, it can neither protect itself from the imperialist hard-line and arbitrary outrages and the interest of its own people and achieve progress and prosperity," it added further.

Annan to use prize money for Africa foundation

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan announced he was establishing a foundation for agriculture and women's education in his home continent of Africa as he received a 500,000-dollar environment prize.

"I plan to use the award as seed money for a foundation I will establish to work in Africa for agriculture and girls' education," the UN chief said at the awards ceremony in Dubai.

"Agriculture, because Africa's people need a green revolution. And girls' education, because there is no more effective tool for development," he said.

The bi-annual Zayed Prize for Global Environmental Leadership is awarded to people who have contributed to highlight issues related to the environment.

The jury said it was rewarding Annan for his "personal leadership" in environmental issues.

The one-million-dollar prize was established by Dubai's ruler Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum, to acknowledge the environmental commitment of late president and UAE founder Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al-Nahayan.

Some 1,360 environmental experts from Annan's brainchild organisation, the Malaysia-based Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, won the 300,000-dollar prize for scientific research.

Former Indonesian environment minister Emil Salim and Angela Cropper, a senator from Trinidad and Tobago where she co-chairs an environment foundation, shared the 200,000-dollar prize for non-government organisations.



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LUTHERAN CHURCH OF CHRIST IN NIGERIA IN THE MATTER OF AN APPLICATION TO CHANGE THE REGISTERED TRUSTEES OF THE CHURCH.

Sequel to a publication made by a dissentient group claiming to be the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria in a National Daily Newspaper (*The Daily Trust* of Wednesday, 11th January, 2006 at page 38), the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria under its able Trustees hereby wishes to assure its teaming membership and the public at large to discountenance and disregard the said publication.

The said publication was an act of desperation by such minority dissentient group to further scuttle the concerted efforts made by concerned citizens of this country and the Church towards reconciliation of the Church members.

At no point in time did the General Church Council resolve and applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for the change of its registered Trustees with any of the names listed in the alleged application as contained in the said publication of the *Daily Trust*.

Meanwhile, the Church had validly raised an objection to the said registration through its Solicitors (Messrs Emmanuel Toro & Company) at the Corporate Affairs Commission as required by-law.

The general public and the Church members in particular are hereby advised to remain calm, trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ as the overall Head of His Church to bring the situation under His sovereign and perfect will. Thank you.

Signed

Panyi Amaya Esqr.
Legal Adviser

Trust International

World Report



Mules have been recruited to help the election effort

Four US marines killed in Iraq bombings

Four US Marines died in a pair of roadside bombings in western Iraq's volatile Anbar province, the military said Tuesday. Another explosion killed two Iraqi civilians south of Baghdad. Also Tuesday, two bombs exploded minutes apart near

a square in central Baghdad, killing at least seven people and wounding about 20, police and hospital officials said.

The first bomb was in a plastic bag placed near a CD vendor's stand close to Tahrir Square by a man who fled

seconds before the explosion at 9:55 a.m., said Capt. Mohammed Abdel Ghani.

The blasts highlight the constant danger posed by homemade bombs across Iraq, which have become the deadliest weapon used by mainly Sunni Arab insurgents against the US-led military presence in the country.

Three Marines were killed by a bomb blast Monday in Hit, 85 miles west of Baghdad, according to a statement.

The victims were assigned to the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit that has operated in Anbar province since mid-December with an Iraqi army battalion.

Another Marine, attached to the 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, died from wounds caused by a bomb blast Sunday in an unspecified location within Anbar, which includes the cities of Fallujah and Ramadi.

The latest deaths take the number of US military personnel killed to at least 2,257 since the Iraq war began in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

Early Tuesday, a roadside bomb struck a pickup truck south of Baghdad and killed two Iraqi civilians, while gunmen shot dead a supporter of fiery anti-US cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, police said.

US presidents expected at king funeral

President Bush ordered flags flown at half-staff on Tuesday in memory of Coretta Scott King, whose funeral was expected to draw up to 10,000 people, including four US presidents.

King, who carried on her husband's dream of equality for nearly 40 years after the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s death, died Jan. 30 at the age of 78 after battling ovarian cancer and the effects of a stroke.

The president and first lady Laura Bush planned to attend the funeral along with former presidents Bush, Clinton and Carter and 14 US senators. Maya Angelou, a personal friend of King, was scheduled to speak, and Stevie Wonder and gospel singer Bebe Winans planned to perform.

Delivering the eulogy will be the Kings' youngest child, Bernice, who was 5 when her father was assassinated in 1968 and is perhaps best remembered for the photographs of her lying in her black-veiled mother's lap during her father's funeral.

Bernice is a minister at the funeral site, New Birth Missionary Baptist Church, a 10,000-seat suburban megachurch about 15 miles east of Atlanta.

A three-hour public viewing of King's open casket was set to proceed the funeral at the church.

Long lines were expected despite wet, cold weather, the

viewing's early morning hours, and two previous public viewings in three days. Those viewings had attracted more than 157,000 mourners, including one at the Georgia Capitol, where King became the first woman and the first black person to lie in honor there.

The funeral followed a day at Martin Luther King Jr.'s old church where Gladys Knight and other performers sang musical tributes to King's widow and where television talk-show host Oprah Winfrey, former Atlanta mayor and King lieutenant Andrew Young and others shared memories of the "first lady of the civil rights movement."

A look at US military deaths in Iraq

As of Monday, Feb. 6, 2006, at least 2,253 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. The figure includes six military civilians. At least 1,766 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The AP count is two fewer than the Defense Department's tally, last updated Monday at 10 a.m. EST.

The British military has reported 100 deaths; Italy, 27; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Slovakia, three; Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Netherlands, Thai-

and, two each; Hungary, Kazakhstan, Latvia, one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 2,114 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 1,657 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

Amy Spc. William S. Hayes III, 23, St. Tammany, La.; died Sunday in Baghdad of a non-combat related injury; assigned to the 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

Haiti set for landmark elections

The people of Haiti are preparing to vote in the country's first elections since former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide was ousted in February 2004.

UN troops will watch over the election process, which has been delayed several times because of widespread unrest.

The US and UN have urged Haitians to vote, saying the election offers the poverty-stricken country a chance to escape from chronic instability.

Voters will pick a new president as well as a 129-member parliament.

The front-runners are an ally of Mr Aristide, Rene Preval, and a businessman, Charles Henry Baker.

The country has been run by an interim administration since 2004.

Some of Haiti's 3.5 million registered voters live some way from a polling station and have been urged by radio broadcasts to "wake up early and walk".

The roads and transport are so poor in some areas that ballot slips and boxes have been delivered by helicopters - and in some areas by mules.

Polls are scheduled to open at 0600 (1100 GMT) and close at 1600 (2100 GMT). Official results are expected on Friday.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan sent a message to Haitians ahead of Tuesday's poll, saying: "These elections offer an opportunity for your country to move away from violence and uncertainty towards a future of peace and stability."

But the BBC's Claire Marshall in Haiti says there are fears that the voting could be chaotic, and UN officials acknowledge they will prob-

ably be in Haiti for years to come.

Despite the presence of peacekeepers, the country has continued to be blighted by political and criminal violence and instability.

Former President Preval, 63, is a long-time ally of Mr Aristide who is popular with the poor.

Mr Baker and former President Leslie Manigat are considered his closest rivals.

If none achieves a majority first time round, the two best-placed candidates will compete in a run-off.

In Bel-Air, a slum of the capital Port-au-Prince, our

correspondent found many people hoping that Mr Preval would win and prove to be loyal to their memory of Mr Aristide.

"Aristide and Preval, they are twins," said one man.

Mr Aristide was first elected in 1990, but within the year he was overthrown, and replaced by a succession of military governments.

The US, backed by the UN, intervened in 1994 to restore order.

In the elections that followed Mr Aristide was barred from standing, but Mr Preval, his close ally, took nearly 90% of the vote.

Tensions rise in Denmark-Iran row

Denmark says it holds Iran responsible for its Tehran embassy was attacked by hundreds of people protesting about cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad.

Several hundred angry Iranians hurled stones and fire bombs and were forced back by police with tear gas.

The attacks came as Iran said it was cutting all trade ties with Denmark.

The anti-Danish protests have been repeated across the Muslim world, and have led to at least five deaths in Afghanistan and one in Somalia.

Many Muslims are angry at the publishing of cartoons of Muhammad in a Danish paper.

Islamic tradition explicitly prohibits images of Allah and the Prophet Muhammad.

The cartoons published in Denmark's Jyllands-Posten, and since reprinted in Norway and other European countries, included an image portraying Muhammad with a bomb in his turban.

Hundreds of Muslims

gather on Tuesday in Cotabato, the southern Philippines, demanding Denmark punish Jyllands-Posten

Norway demands compensation from Syria after its embassy in Damascus was set on fire on Saturday

The Turkish and Spanish prime ministers make a joint plea for respect and calm in an article in the International Herald Tribune

In Indonesia, protesters target the Danish and US consulates in Surabaya, the country's second-largest city. Protests are also held in the capital, Jakarta

Shops and businesses across Indian-administered Kashmir close after a general strike is called in protest at the drawings.

On Monday evening a crowd of about 400 demonstrators bore down on the Danish embassy in Tehran, which Denmark had closed the day before.

They burned Danish flags and chanted "Death to Denmark".

The embassy gate and two trees caught fire, before Iranian police intervened, forcing the protesters back with tear gas.

At least nine protesters were hurt, police said.

Denmark's foreign minister, Per Stig Moeller, told a Danish radio station that he would hold Iran responsible for any damage to the embassy, and was asking for security guarantees for its citizens still in the country.

But Mr Moeller said he could do little about the trade embargo, under which Iran has banned all Danish imports as well as any other business dealings.

Iran currently imports \$280m (£160m) worth of goods from Denmark each year. That works out at about 0.3% of Denmark's total exports.

Some 200 protesters took to the streets in the Afghan capital Kabul

Denmark's embassies in Damascus, Syria, and Beirut, Lebanon were set on fire by protesters at the weekend.

Earlier on Monday protesters attacked the Austrian embassy in Tehran, breaking windows and starting small fires. Austria is the current president of the European



US and British protesters showed their anger at Denmark's cartoon of the Prophet Muhammad

Denmark's embassies in Damascus, Syria, and Beirut, Lebanon were set on fire by protesters at the weekend

Trust International

Middle East

13 killed, 11 hurt in Afghanistan bombing

A suspected suicide bomber blew up a guard post outside police headquarters in the southern Afghan city of Kandahar, killing 13 people and wounded 11, officials said.

Purported Taliban spokesman Qari Mohammed Yousaf claimed responsibility for the bombing on behalf of the hard-line militia, and threatened more attacks.

Ten of the dead and five of the wounded were police who were standing guard when the assault occurred, said Mamoon Khan, a doctor at Kandahar city's Mirwaise Hospital, which was treating the injured. The rest of the victims were civilians.

A senior police officer at the site of the blast, Jan Mohammed, said the bomb destroyed a guard post outside the police headquarters.

The attacker drove a "motorbike straight into the guard post and then there was an enormous explosion," he said.

A reporter for The Associated Press saw three bodies lying on the ground covered in blood and several wounded people being carried away.

The site of the blast is up against a concrete wall that surrounds the heavily guarded police headquarters. Several cars and motorbikes in the area were destroyed, but the wall and the buildings inside the police compound were not damaged.

Afghan and Canadian troops cordoned off the area.

Yousaf said the bomber was a Taliban member from Kandahar province.

"The Taliban did this suicide attack. We will pursue these kind of attacks against government or coalition forces," he told The Associated Press in a phone call from an undisclosed location about an hour after the bombing.

Yousaf's claim of responsibility couldn't be independently verified. He has claimed previous attacks on behalf of the Taliban but his exact ties to the militia's leadership are unclear.

The attack is the latest in a string of bombings in Kandahar, a former Taliban stronghold. The violence has raised fears for this country's nascent

democracy four years after the Taliban were ousted for hosting Osama bin Laden.

There have been more than 20 suicide attacks across Afghanistan in the past four months,

suggesting that militants may be copying methods of violence used by insurgents in Iraq.

China editor 'died after beating'

A Chinese editor has died as a result of a police beating he received for his paper's reporting on corruption, journalists and rights groups say.

Wu Xianghu had been in hospital since the attack in October, suffering from an existing liver problem made worse by the beating, earlier reports said.

Wu was reportedly attacked by some 50 policemen after his paper accused them of charging illegal bicycle fees.

China's media have reported a string of torture and coercion cases by police.

Wu died of liver and kidney failure on Thursday, according to Lu Weibo, a reporter with the Taizhou Evening News, who wrote the article believed to have provoked the beating.

The article accused the local police of charging illegal fees for registering electric bicycles.

Local media reported widely on the beating, but have been silent on Wu's death, possibly reflecting its sensitivity.

Senior traffic police officer

Li Xiaoguo was sacked for his role in the incident, Xinhua state news agency reported at the time.

Wu's death "is a cruel reminder of the new dangers faced by Chinese journalists," said the executive director of the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists, Ann Cooper, in a press release.

"The government must ensure the safety of the working press. This begins by bringing to justice the attackers of Wu Xianghu," she said.

Militant killed by Israeli troops

A Palestinian militant has been killed in an Israeli operation in the West Bank, Palestinian sources say.

The man was a local commander of the Islamic Jihad group, a spokesman for the movement said.

Two Israeli soldiers were also wounded in the raid, in the city of Nablus, an army spokesman said.

Residents said they were ordered to leave their building, which was surrounded by about 10 Israeli jeeps, before

a gunfight erupted.

The troops apparently were shot at from inside the building, and returned fire, the residents said.

The name of the militant killed in the shoot-out was Ahmed Radad, a senior official in Islamic Jihad, a member of the group told the Associated Press.

The raid came a day after Israel killed two militants belonging to the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, in an air strike in Gaza.

Also, five Palestinian militants were killed in Israeli air strikes over the weekend.

A missile strike on Sunday killed two militants, one said to be a bomb-maker for Islamic Jihad.

Overnight on Saturday, three militants were killed in Israel's first air strike on the Gaza Strip since Hamas' victory in parliamentary elections last month.

Saturday's violence came after four Israelis were injured in a rocket attack near the Gaza Strip on Friday.

Iran halts snap nuclear checks

Iran has formally told the UN nuclear watchdog to end snap inspections of its nuclear sites by mid-February.

The International Atomic Energy Agency was also ordered to remove surveillance cameras, according to a letter from the Tehran government released by the IAEA.

Iran also indicated it would end its freeze on full uranium enrichment.

The move follows a decision by the IAEA on Saturday to report Iran to the UN Security Council amid fears Tehran is trying to develop nuclear weapons.

"All Agency containment and surveillance measures which were in place beyond the agency's normal safeguards measures should be removed by mid-February 2006," a senior official within Iran's Atomic Energy Organization wrote in a letter to the IAEA.

The letter, dated 5 February, said Iran would sharply reduce the number of agency inspections and ban intrusive, short-notice visits by inspectors to its nuclear sites.

The letter also said Teheran would resume measures that it had voluntarily suspended - a reference, diplomats say, to uranium-enrichment.

Uranium enrichment is a process that creates fuel for nuclear reactors and, potentially, for a nuclear bomb.

Iran denies it has been concealing efforts to develop nuclear weapons, maintaining

its programme is only for producing energy and does not have a military aim.

The move to report Tehran to the UN Security Council was agreed by 27 of the 35 states of the IAEA.

Russia and China agreed to support the resolution on condition it did not contain any immediate threat of sanctions against Iran.

Only Venezuela, Cuba and Syria voted against it.

India voted in favour of the motion in spite of the government coming under intense domestic pressure to stand by Iran.

The vote came weeks after Iran said it was resuming suspended research on uranium enrichment.



President Ahmedinejad of Iran

SALE OF GENERATORS

The under-listed set of generators are being offered for sale to individuals and corporate organizations:

GENERATOR DESCRIPTION	MAKE
25 KVA Sound Proof	DEUTS
17KVA	DEUTS
202 KVA	DEUTS
202 KVA	DEUTS
525 KVA	DEUTS
10 KVA	DEUTS
GPU -115/25	DEUTS

Any interested persons/organizations should

please call the following GSM numbers:

0803 - 716 3492 or 0803 - 450 8787



EU in a meeting to address President Ahmedinejad of Iran ...recently

Trust International

Maritime

Squirrels, cows, kebabs top odd British insurance claims

British motorists made claims last year for everything from a frozen squirrel crashing through a car windshield to a cow jumping on a quad bike, an insurance company said.

Freak accidents involving animals topped the list of odd excuses for motor insurance claims with food-related mishaps in second place.

In one unfortunate incident, a driver claimed he was unable to slow down because a potato was wedged under the brake, while another blamed a flying, frozen kebab for damage.

"We see a lot of strange claims but we were surprised at how many involved animals and food, of all things," said Sally Leeman of Norwich Union, one of the country's

biggest insurance providers.

"We can hardly tell drivers to beware of flying kebabs and frozen squirrels when they're on the roads but this shows how important it is to be aware of what's going on around you at all times."

"A frozen squirrel fell out of a tree and crashed through the windscreen onto the passenger seat." "The car was parked when a reindeer fell on the bonnet of my car."

"As I was driving round a bend, one of the doors opened and a frozen kebab flew out, hitting and damaging a passing car."

"A herd of cows licked my car and caused damage to the paintwork." "A zebra collided with my car when I was at a safari park." "While I was waiting at traffic lights, a wasp went down my trouser leg which made me hit the accelerator and prang the car in front." "I couldn't brake because a potato was lodged behind the brake."

"My parked car was hit by a bull which had escaped from an agricultural show." "A cow jumped on my quad bike."

"As I came over the hill, I hit a cow in the middle of the road, which then hit the bonnet and shattered the windscreen with its rear end."



A squirrel runs across a golf green. British motorists made claims last year for everything from a frozen squirrel crashing through a car windshield to a cow jumping on a quad bike, an insurance company said.

Calling in sick..

More British workers call in "sick" than any other country, many using excuses by text message or phoning in with an excuse or splutter, research reveals Monday.

Widespread dissatisfaction with holiday allowances combined with a post-Christmas comedown will contribute to thousands of Britons who work some of the longest hours in Europe, staying at home to recharge their batteries.

Early February is a very popular time for taking a "sickie", the first bank holiday still seems a long way off, the days are gloomy and many people are still feeling the post-Christmas blues," said Cary Cooper, a professor of organizational psychology and health at Lancaster University, who headed the study.

Over 4,000 workers took part in a poll by digital channel Sky Travel which showed 77 percent of respondents were reluctant to use their holiday allowances to carry out their professional duties.

The survey also found that 60 percent of respondents were reluctant to use their holiday allowances to carry out their professional duties.

Researcher Cary Cooper said the survey was the largest ever carried out in the UK and was the first to use a digital channel.

Human chain pulls hunter from crocodile

A human chain of villagers pulled a hunter from the jaws of a man-eating crocodile in northeastern Zimbabwe, state media reported Monday.

Letikuku Sidumbu, 32 was attacked by the crocodile while trying to cross the swollen Mubvizi river in the Goromonzi district, about 25 miles east of Harare, during an early morning hunting expedition with his uncle.

As the crocodile clutched its jaws on his right arm, a human chain of villagers suggested him that its grip in a struggle that also left him

with a broken leg and chest and stomach injuries. Sidumbu told the state Herald newspaper from his hospital bed in Harare.

Crocodiles are the most dangerous animal to man in Zimbabwe. In recorded cases last year, they dragged away and ate 13 people - including children - according to the Communal Areas Management Program, a conservation group.

"I called out to my uncle to hit the crocodile with an axe," The Herald quoted Sidumbu saying.

But, he said, companions by the two men's hunting dogs surprised the crocodile. They heard the voices of the hunters and barked when they saw the crocodile.

Kangaroo has lip surgery after bite

Fred the kangaroo has had lip surgery after being bitten by a crocodile.

The kangaroo was rescued after being bitten by a crocodile in a river in Zimbabwe.

The kangaroo was rescued after being bitten by a crocodile in a river in Zimbabwe.

The kangaroo was rescued after being bitten by a crocodile in a river in Zimbabwe.

Potato danger: you want collision with that?

Frozen squirrels, angry wasps and obstructive potatoes were among some of the reasons given by motorists to support their insurance claims, Norwich Union said Monday.

Freak incidents involving animals top the list when it comes to bizarre claims, closely followed by those involving food.

The squirrel motorist said the frozen animal had fallen out of a tree and crashed through the windshield while another driver blamed a wasp stinging on the leg for a sudden

surge in acceleration and a bump with the car in front.

One driver even blamed a potato stuck behind the brake pedal for the inability to stop.

"We see a lot of strange things but we were surprised at how many involved animals and food of all things," said a Norwich Union

spokeswoman.

One claim in particular stood out.

"As I was driving around a bend, one of the doors opened and a frozen kebab flew out, hitting and damaging a passing car," it read.

All the cited claims were legitimate and had been paid out, the spokeswoman said.

Birds can distinguish languages - Researchers

Pet birds can not only imitate sounds, they can distinguish between languages, potentially offering new clues on how the brain recognizes speech, Japanese researchers say.

It has already been confirmed that monkeys, mice and other mammals can recognize different languages, but this is the first time that birds have been found to possess the ability, the Mizohata Shimbun newspaper reported Monday.

Students of two well-known Japanese novels, "The Tale of Genji" and Natsume Soseki's "A Cat."

A bird sitting on a perch first listened to the English version and was only allowed to eat afterward. Then the researchers played English and Chinese recordings randomly and only allowed the bird to eat after hopping onto the perch with the English.

The birds correctly recognized the English recording 100 percent of the time. The researchers also found that

were permitted to eat only when Chinese was played.

"Humans are able to distinguish between languages, even ones they don't know, from the intonation and pronunciation, and it seems that paddy birds have the same ability," said Keio University experimental psychology professor Shigeru Watanabe, who led the research.

"If we study common traits in brain structure, this may shed light on the mechanisms of speech recognition," Watanabe was quoted as saying by the Mainichi Shimbun.



A pet bird sits on a perch in Hong Kong in 2006. Pet birds can distinguish between languages, potentially offering new clues on how the brain recognizes speech, researchers say.



**FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON PRIVATISATION
Secretariat: Bureau of Public Enterprises**

**INVITATION FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST IN THE MANAGEMENT OF
THE TRANSMISSION COMPANY OF NIGERIA (TCN) PLC: A COMPANY
CREATED OUT OF THE POWER HOLDING COMPANY OF NIGERIA (PHCN)**

Background

The Nigeria Electricity Industry has been unbundled into Generation, Distribution and a single Transmission Company (TCN) with the view of encouraging private participation and attracting foreign and local investment into the Nigerian Power Sector to ensure economic and reliable electricity supply to the people of Nigeria. The Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) now wishes to enter into a contract for the management of the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) Plc, which is 100% owned by the Federal Government.

Proposed Transaction

The FGN invites prospective management contractors/companies with expertise in power transmission to express their interest in entering into a management contract with the FGN to operate the Transmission Company, for a minimum period of 3 years. The Transmission Company currently incorporates the functions of Transmission Services Provider (TSP), the Market Operator (MO) and the System Operator (SO).

Key Operational Highlights

- < The company headquarters is in Abuja, the Federal Capital;
- < Six regional offices, each with a number of satellite work centres;
- < A national control centre at Oshogbo;
- < A supplementary national control centre at Shiroro;
- < Supplies 5000MW of load with a potential demand of 8000MW;
- < By 2007/8, it is expected that TCN's transmission network will comprise:
 - * 21 x 330/132kV substations;
 - * 91 x 132/33/11kV substations;
 - * 330kV transformer capacity of 6000 MVA;
 - * 132kV transformer capacity of 8000 MVA;
 - * 7750 route-km of 330kV overhead lines (this includes 3350 route-km of 330kV double circuit overhead line); and
 - * 6000 route-km of 132 overhead lines length (this includes 900 route-km of 132kV double circuit overhead line).

Criteria for Short Listing

Interested contractors must be power transmission companies with a proven track record and established experience of working and interfacing with an electricity regulator. The successful contractor must provide evidence of at least 5 years experience in the following activities:

- < System operation
- < Market operation
- < Management of transmission company
- < Connection and scheduling of independent generators

In addition to the above, the contractor must demonstrate capability and experience to:

- < Manage an expanding transmission system including the enhancement of stakeholder value;
- < Improve transmission system performance and operational efficiency on year to year basis;
- < Transfer expertise and knowledge

- < Provide excellent stewardship of the assets within an extensive transmission system;
- < Control the finance of a transmission company including investment planning and improvement in profitability;
- < Raise finance for business operation under a management contract;
- < Manage Transmission tariff; and
- < Manage the health, safety and environmental issues to international standards.

It is a prerequisite that the successful contractor must demonstrate that sufficient management resources will be available during the contractual period.

Further Information

Interested contractors may obtain further information from the address below from 9.00 am to 5.00pm Monday – Friday (except on public holidays).

Proposed Timetable

Short listed contractors will be contacted within two (2) weeks from the closing date for expressions of interest; provided with an information memorandum; and be invited for due diligence.

Form of Expression of Interest

- Interested contractors should indicate their interest by providing the following:
- < Full name and nationality (the country of registration) of the company and contact person, postal address, telephone and fax numbers as well as e-mail address;
 - < Details of ownership structure of the company;
 - < Full details of any partners or subcontractors who will form part of the bid;
 - < Audited financial statement for the last five years for any company involved in the bid;
 - < Examples of similar contracts completed; and
 - < Evidence of compliance with the Criteria for Short Listing.

Expressions of Interest must be submitted in six (6) copies (one original and five copies) in a sealed envelope clearly marked "Expression of Interest: Management Of The Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) Plc" and delivered not later than 1700 hours Nigerian time (1600 GMT) on Monday, March 20, 2006 to the address below.

Mrs. Irene N. Chigbue

Director General, Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE)
Hamza Zayyad House, 1, Osun Crescent, Off IBB Way
Maitama, Abuja – Nigeria, at Room 131
Tel: 234-9-4134670, 4134656, 4134636 – 46
Fax: 234-9-4134671 – 2
E-mail: ichigbue@bpeng.org

Attention: Chudi Nelson Ojukwu - Project Manager (EPSRT)

Tel/Fax: +234-9-4134664
E-mail: cojukwu@bpeng.org
Web Site: <http://www.bpeng.org>

Submissions made by e-mail / late submission will be rejected

Please note that only short listed firms will be contacted

Business Trust

Currencies

West African

Unit of Account

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

Parallel Market

	Average
Dollar	144 145
Pounds	261 175

Contractors' low performance affects Zamfara economy

The Zamfara State government has officially complained to the federal government about non performance of contractors on some federal road projects in the state, saying this affects the state's economy.

The complaint was conveyed in a letter to the federal ministry of works signed by the state commissioner of works and transport, Alhaji Mohammed Dahiru.

According to the letter, a copy of which was made available to newsmen yesterday in Abuja, the road projects include the Gusau-Talata Mafara and Kaura Namoda-Shinkafi roads.

Others are the Mayanchi-Anka-Tawa, Sokoto border road and Anka-KM6 roads.

It said that these federal roads needed to be urgently rehabilitated to open up the affected areas and also boost economic and agricultural activities in the state.

According to the letter, the affected contractors have abandoned their project sites.



Ahmad Sani, Zamfara Gov



Representatives of SEC, CBN and CAC at the court ordered meeting of shareholders of Bank of the North in Abuja...recently.

World Bank to check corruption in developing countries

World Bank President, Paul Wolfowitz has sworn to crack down on corruption by governments and officials in developing world nations where the bank operates.

He has also promised to examine any irregularities within the bank itself, vowing to tackle "difficult issues".

BBC News reports that speaking to employees worldwide, Mr Wolfowitz said the bank had to move "more decisively and energetically".

He said the bank was withholding loans worth \$250m (\$143m) to Kenya, which is embroiled in a high-level scandal.

In the 90-minute staff meeting, he also defended the recent appointments of some senior managers and advisers who have come in for criticism from the workforce.

He also said staff members should be praised when they raised concerns about corruption in projects.

By Austine Odo, Business Editor, with agency report

"There has to be a lot of teething problems to go from a world where for 50 years the word corruption wasn't uttered in this institution to actually doing something about it. It doesn't happen by snapping your fingers," he said.

"I must say I think it was horribly overdue."

He said there were only a "handful" of cases of alleged corruption or fraud involving bank employees.

The major difficulties were in the nations that the bank lends to, he said. For that reason one loan had been approved to help Kenya tackle corruption.

"The fact that we're moving with one [loan] and holding up on five is a very strong message to the Kenyan government," he said.

The former deputy US defence secretary said the Washington-based bank's

anti-corruption unit should have a core role and not be regarded as an "outside watchdog".

He also told the employee Staff Association that some

recent high-profile appointments were all taken in line with procedures, including the post of anti-corruption chief taken by Suzanne Rich Folsom.

Mr Wolfowitz also said there was nothing unusual in bringing in advisers Kevin Kellems, a former adviser to US Vice President Dick Cheney, and Robin Cleveland, a former White House official.

Nigeria saves N160bn through due process

The budget monitoring and price intelligent unit (BMPI) has said that it has so far saved a total sum of N160 billion since its inception.

The unit which stated this in Lagos through its official, Mr. Orji Orgi on the occasion of a workshop for journalists organised by media Rights Agenda and the World Bank Institute stated that its effort has enhanced the issue of budget implementation in the country.

It stressed that BMPI has directly added to the improvement of due process IN contract awards and accountability, saying that the passing of its bill now

From Bright Ewulu, Deputy Business Editor

before the National Assembly will add impetus to its work.

According to Orji, the unit saved a total sum of N11

billion on NITEL GSM bid and the Abuja National Stadium, saying while N4 billion was saved from the former while N7 billion was saved from the later.

Foreign Exchange Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Dollar	131.86	132.86
Pounds	239.27	241.09
EUR	161.42	165.66
YEN	1.20	1.21
WAUA	193.58	195.04
RIVAL	35.15	35.42
CFA	0.240	0.250
Rand	20.54	21.55
S/Dollar	8.00	9.52
Yuan	16.00	17.00

Maritime

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INSIDE Stock market report

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Africa's progress may be slow from G8 in 2006

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Business Trust

Maritime

NAGAFF president warns on port reforms

The National President of the National Association of Government Approved Freight Forwarders (NAGAFF) Sanusi S. Usman has warned that the on-going port reforms of the government may be visionless and an exercise in futility if the bill to establish a council for the regulation of freight forwarding in Nigeria is not fast-tracked.

He stated this in a letter dated January 30, 2006 sent to the speaker of the House of Representatives, Alhaji Bello Masari, the Bill had been passed over a year ago by the House of Representatives but it has not been taken to the Senate for concurrence.

The NAGAFF president explained that as Freight Forwarding Practitioners and Stakeholders in the freight business in Nigeria, members of the association are greatly worried about this development.

"We sincerely appeal to the Hon. Speaker and the chairman House Committee on Marine Transport to use your good offices to ensure that the Bill gets to the Senate in good time for concurrence.

"Our concern for an early passage of the Bill is due to the fact that 2007 (the elections year) is just by the corner end campaign may

start shortly. This obviously means that the attention of members may be more tilted towards campaigns and elections," the NAGAFF president said.

He further expressed worries that unless freight forwarding practice is regulated in line with global practices, the ports industry and indeed the on-going port reforms of the government may be visionless and an exercise in futility.

He commanded the House of Representatives for the role played in ensuring the passage of the bill meant to regulate the practice of freight forwarding in Nigeria.

Others that were copied the letter include the Hon. Transport Minister Dr Abiye Precious Sekibo, executive secretary Nigeria shippers' council Capt Adamu Bi'u and the senate president.



Customs Area Comptroller, Seme area command, Musa Tahir, with Mr. Emmanuel Adebayo, Lagos State commissioner of police who visited him in his office...recently

Police nab 14 stowaways

No fewer than fourteen (14) suspects who allegedly attempted to travel in a ship, MT TORTEX without paying fares from the Tin Can Island port in Lagos last week have been nabbed by the police and dragged to court.

The suspects are Jakun Nbanuga (18), Christopher Nnaka (29) Elvis Aduwa (24),

Vincent Basil (29) Henry Anaba (24), Abiodun Ademola (17) and Omotayo Oyetola (18).

The rest are 22 year old Ifeanyo Ogukoko, Tochukwu Ezenwa (26), George Eze (27), Friday Nwemugu (24), Adeyeye Olaoluwa, Obinna Udeze (22) and 21 year-old Segun Ojulari.

According to

prosecuting police officer ASP Okoronkwo Okorie, the accused persons criminally conspired together 7th January 2006 at the Tin Can Island Port Lagos to effect the unlawful purpose to wit:

Stowing away in ship MT TORTEX contrary to section 518 (b) CCC vol II.

According to section 501 (S) of the criminal code, any person who travels or attempts to travel in the ship

without first paying his fare and with intent to avoid payment is liable to a fine of (10) ten naira but that liability shall not prejudice the recovery of any fare payable by him.

Customs agents release election guidelines

The Association of Nigerian Licenced Customs Agents (ANLCA) has released guidelines on its elections saying that the time table for the elections would soon be out. Prince Olanrewaju Shittu, chairman ANLCA's electoral committee who disclosed this said that the guidelines became necessary so as to put square pegs in square hole. He said that the committee would oversee the association's chapter elections adding that the team has commenced ground work to see to the success of

From Adelanwa Bamgboye
Correspondent in Lagos

the election.

He said that any candidate who meets the requirement to contest the election does not need to bribe as the association is trying to move away from money politics.

Business Trust gathered that already the verification of voters register which would be a continuous exercise has been begun in the chapters located in the Western zone.


According to the guidelines, screening of

candidates have commence from Tuesday February 1, 2006 and thereafter the post screening audit would start at the end of which qualified candidates would be declared.

The chairman electoral committee said that the chapter elections is expected to take place between February 13th and 28th.

He noted that non-member of the association can not hold ANLCA office adding that the constitution of the association empowers the committee to set a non-refundable fee.





CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA

TENDER NOTICE

NIGERIAN TREASURY BILLS

Notice is hereby given by the Central Bank of Nigeria that 91-day Federal Government of Nigeria Treasury Bills amounting to N11,489,830,000 will be issued by an auction-based system on Thursday, 16/02/2006.

Interested Authorized Dealers (Banks, Discount Houses and Brokers) are invited to submit tenders to reach the Issues Office, Central Bank of Nigeria, Lagos, not later than 1.30pm on Tuesday, 14/02/2006.

Each tender must be in multiple of N1, 000 subject to a minimum of N10, 000 per tender. Authorized Dealers are allowed to submit multiple bids and quote multiple rates. A tender may be for own account of Authorized Dealers or made on behalf of interested members of the public, who are advised to apply through any of the authorized dealers.

Tenders for the Bills should be submitted on the prescribed printed forms in duplicate and in sealed envelopes clearly marked "TENDER FOR BILLS". The result of the tender will be announced before the close of business on Wednesday, 15/02/2006. The Bank reserves the right to reject any tender in part or in full.

Allotment letters will be issued for successful bid on Thursday, 16/02/2006. Payment in full for the amount of the accepted tenders must be made to the Central Bank of Nigeria not later than 1.30pm on the issue date 16/02/2006. This will normally be effected by direct debit to the accounts of the affected Authorized Dealers which should ensure that their accounts with the Bank are adequately funded for this purpose.

ISSUES OFFICE
CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA
TINUBU SQUARE

BUSINESS TRUST

Will G8 deliver on Africa's promises in 2006?

In 2005 the rich world's governments made expansive promises about fostering development in sub-Saharan Africa. In 2006 they will be expected to start delivering. Will they?

The G8 summit in July 2005 promised 100% debt relief to an initial group of 14

Pratibha Thaker
countries in sub-Saharan Africa (in addition, Nigeria has secured a special deal). All 14 have satisfied the donors' conditions under the IMF/World Bank Heavily Indebted Poor Countries initiative, meaning that they have un-

dertaken significant reforms and could be considered as the region's "rising stars". Another group of nine countries will become eligible in 12-18 months' time, although it is not clear precisely what conditions they will have to fulfill. A final group of eight states,

most of them emerging from civil conflict, will be considered for inclusion later. The remainder-mainly oil producers or those considered "too rich" to qualify for formal debt relief (although in many cases the majority of their people live on less than \$1 a day), or those making steady enough

progress anyway-are apparently excluded from debt relief altogether.

In fact, the first two groups are somewhat fluid, since the G8 package may be amended to meet the IMP'S demand that countries at a similar stage of development should receive equal treatment. This could mean the inclusion of more countries among the first group receiving debt relief, but could also lead to delays. Thus, donors' ability to deliver 100% debt relief in 2006 and beyond is far from guaranteed.

However, the debt-relief package was not the biggest prize to emerge from the G8 summit, as it will not bring about a significant transfer of resources. The pledge to ramp up aid flows is far more important. The summit talked of an extra \$25 billion annually for Africa by 2010, about double the current level.

Most aid is now conditional on good governance and structural reform. Although many sub-Saharan governments are strong on rhetoric, the actual pace of change has been disappointingly slow. Unless firmer action is taken against corruption, additional aid may be siphoned off; and unless there are improvements in the management of public spending, it risks being wasted.

In 2006 political turmoil will continue to blight prospects in Cote d'Ivoire (where fighting could resume if elections fail to take place at some point in the year) and Zimbabwe (where Robert Mugabe shows no sign of stepping down). These are both formerly strong economies wrecked by political feuding, a common problem in the region. Mauritania's coup in 2005 is also a reminder that military takeovers remain a real risk and are, regrettably, legitimised fairly quickly.

Uganda and Zambia face elections in 2006, and although they may be peaceful they will generate some uncertainty. Other polls-including those planned in Chad, Comoros, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Gambia-could be accompanied by violence. The death of long-standing leaders could lead to power vacuums; countries to watch here are Cameroon, Gabon, Guinea and Senegal.

Despite these worries, and a lack of clarity over the GS'S plans, economic growth in sub-Saharan Africa could again be 4-5% in 2006, making 2004-06 the best three consecutive years for more than a generation. The prices of some key commodities-such as coffee, sugar and a number of minerals-should remain healthy in 2006. The strength of world oil prices will be a mixed blessing. The region's oil producers will benefit hugely, but most of its states' are oil importers and will suffer accordingly. Although growth has picked up it remains well below the 7%+ needed to meet the UN'S Millennium Development Goal of halving poverty by 2015.

For a large number of African governments a priority should be the development of freer trade (including elimination of the hefty EU farm subsidies). The region's share of global trade has fallen from 6% in the early 1980s to only 2% today. Increasing this by one percentage point would provide sub-Saharan Africa with an additional \$70 billion in export receipts-far more than is promised through increased aid and debt write-offs. It is here that the rich world could do most to help Africa. Yet it is here that reforms will be hardest of all.

Culled from The Economist.



The Executive Vice Chairman, Consolidated Risk Insurers, Mr. Eddie Efekoha (middle) with the Group Head, Planning and Controls, Mr. Gboyega Adetoki (left) and Company Secretary/Legal Adviser, Mr Omo Omorodion during a function in Lagos...recently

Groups confirms Nigeria's BB- rating by Fitch

The favorable BB- rating given Nigeria last week by Fitch ratings has been confirmed by another leading international rating agency, Standard & Poor's (S&P). The agency also assigned a BB long term rating to the naira, confirming the stability in the value of the local currency.

A statement from the ministry of finance, signed by Paul C Nwabuikwu, Special Assistant to the Minister of Finance said this is due to the strength of the economy un-

der the on-going reforms. S&P also gave a short term rating of B to the country.

The statement said S&P was invited by the Minister of Finance, Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala on behalf of the Federal Government to assess the status of the nation's economy within the context of the on-going economic reform programme, just like Fitch was invited.

The statement quoted Dr. Iweala as saying "It shows that the Fitch rating was not

a fluke. S&P, like Fitch, is a respected name and it worked independently to produce its report so we are very pleased that the favourable assessment of the performance of our economy in the short and medium term has been confirmed".

"It shows we are doing the right things and that there is cause for optimism but we cannot afford to rest on our oars just yet. There is still a lot of more work to be done to ensure that the economy continues to improve, jobs

created and poverty declines significantly", the minister added.

The BB- (BB minus) rating announced by Fitch last week puts the Nigerian economy in the same category as those of Brazil, Indonesia, the Philippines, Turkey, Ukraine and Venezuela.

S&P which monitors the economic prospects of 110 sovereign governments worldwide described the outlook on Nigeria as "stable" and noted "the government's improving fiscal management and outturns", said Nwabuikwu

The report by S&P which was released at 1pm Nigerian time yesterday, February 6, 2006 in London also identified the Paris Club debt deal, the movement toward an oil price-based fiscal rule and significant programme of expenditure reform as factors which are freeing up resources for investment in the country's economic development in areas like infrastructure.

The statement quoted S&P saying that "These reforms, aided by higher oil prices, have seen the government's consolidated balance shift from repeated deficit pre-2004, to a surplus of more than 10% of GDP in 2005, expected to rise to 16% and 17% in 2006 and 2007, respectively."

Makuju urges confederation of professional bodies

The Managing Director of the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN), Engr. Joseph Makuju has advocated for a strong collaboration among professional bodies in Nigeria.

The PHCN boss who made this call at a forum held in Lagos recently stressed that the collaboration became necessary to give room for these groups to speak with one voice to influence public policy economic reforms of the federal government.

"I do not argue for such a confederacy of professional bodies to be constituted by

From Mohammed Shosanya,
Correspondent (Lagos)

law like the Nigerian Labour Congress, rather I suggest that the focus should be based on building up legitimacy over a period of time for such a force as it becomes recognised as an independent, knowledgeable and patriotic pressure group."

Makuju further explained that such confederacy being advocated for should be a third wave whose views on public issues were respected by the policy makers and political class.

According to him, the need for such intervention is grounded on frequent occurrence where public policy decisions are taken alienating the professional bodies.

Makuju who tasked professional to live up to their billings in repositioning the country said "we have for too long spoken with divergent voices and watched helplessly as unchallenged, poorly conceived public policy decisions continue to retard progress and deny us of our aspirations to see this industrialised country status."

NMA partners banks for increased capacity

The apex maritime regulatory organ in the country the National Maritime Authority (NMA) has begun partnering with some of the consolidated banks in a bid to increase indigenous capacity in the maritime industry.

Director General (DG) NMA Engr. Festus Ugwu disclosed this recently at his quarterly press briefing held in Lagos.

He said that no fewer than five (5) of such banks have already established maritime desk. "They have put in place the desk where maritime activities would be discussed" Engr. Ugwu said.

He said that the NMA would continue with the enforcement of the cabotage regime in this quarter adding that plans have been put in place to ensure the success of the cabotage.

He noted that the cabotage Act was made in a hurry for obvious reasons but

From Adelanwa Bamgboye,
Correspondent (Lagos)

added that officers in the cabotage department would undergo training next month as they would have liaison with officials of the NNPC.

The NMA boss said that the procession of waiver applications has since been decentralised adding that there are areas where waivers must be granted.

This according to him include ship building. "If we say that we must build ships today in Nigeria, we are not being fair to ourselves," he said.

On the controversy whether or not fishing ought not to come under the cabotage, the DG stressed that "anything that moves in coastal waters must come under cabotage."

His words: "if you are fishing in the high seas you come under cabotage, once you come within the coastal waters of Nigeria,

Business Trust

RMAFC denies endorsing new pay for public officials

The Revenue Mobilization Allocation and Fiscal Commission said yesterday that it has not endorsed new remuneration packages for political office holders in the country.

Reacting to media reports on the issue, yesterday in Abuja, the Commission said it was alarmed by a recent insinuation in the media (not *Daily Trust*) that it had increased the salaries of political office holders in the country.

"The inaccurate report and distorted figures being circulated around, as the new salaries for the President, governors etc, are erroneous and misrepresentation of facts" the commission's

By Anas A. Galadima, Asst. Business Editor

spokesman, Yushau Shuaib, the commission's spokesman said.

He observed that "while the Commission is empowered by 1999 Constitution to determine the remunerations for political office holders at all tiers and arms of government, it discharges such responsibilities with due regard to equity, fairness and justice. Its recent nationwide consultative tour to states, is just a preliminary stage on the review exercise which will later include consultations with the political office holders at the federal level (ie the executive, legislative and judicial arms of government)" he observed.

He said other factors that would determine the remuneration of public officials are "economic consideration, realities on ground, comparative

analysis, and in-depth studies" which he said would be undertaken before the Commission makes its final decision

"It is therefore too early

to speculate the outcome of an ongoing exercise at its preliminary levels".

According to him, the Monetisation policy which was introduced by the

Commission to reduce wastage of public fund and its other constitutional assignments require periodic reviews which are statutorily guaranteed, Shuaibu said.

Masari urges investors to look beyond oil

The Speaker of the House of Representatives, Aminu, Bello Masari has enjoined prospective investors in Nigeria to look beyond the oil and gas sector as the country has other abundant mineral resources.

Honourable Aminu Masara who made the call while receiving in audience, the Foreign Affairs Minister of the Czech Republic, Mr. Cyril Svoboda who paid him

a courtesy visit in his office, said Nigeria "has a lot of potentials in Agriculture, and Solid Minerals which are even more than oil and gas."

He assured that the National Assembly will do everything within its legislative powers to ensure that necessary and conducive atmosphere is created in both the polity and the economy for investors to have smooth operations.

The speaker who noted

that the reform programmes of the federal government had gone a long way to improve the Nation's economy, and expand its areas of trade, urged investors in the Czech Republic and other European countries to take advantage of Nigeria's numerous gestures to prospective investors. He also enjoined them to extend their trade missions to the country.

Honourable Masari while

describing Czech Republic as an important country in Europe said "we are looking forward to benefiting from your influence in the European community."

Speaking earlier, the Czech Republic's Foreign Affairs minister, Mr. Cyril Svoboda told the speaker that his country saw Nigeria as a dynamic country which played important role, not only in Africa but in the world.

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BUSINESS TRUST

International

Coca-Cola reports drop in Profit

The Coca-Cola Co., the world's largest beverage maker, reported yesterday a 28 percent drop in fourth-quarter profit, but beat Wall Street expectations when certain one-time items are excluded.

The Atlanta-based company said it earned \$864 million, or 36 cents a share, for the three months ending Dec. 31, compared to a profit of \$1.20 billion, or 50 cents a share, in the same period a year ago when Coke benefited from an insurance settlement and other matters.

Excluding one-time items — an accrual for taxes related to the repatriation of foreign earnings and charges incurred by an equity investee — Coca-Cola said it earned \$1.08 billion, or 46 cents a share, in the quarter.

Analysts surveyed by Thomson Financial were expecting earnings of 45 cents a share.

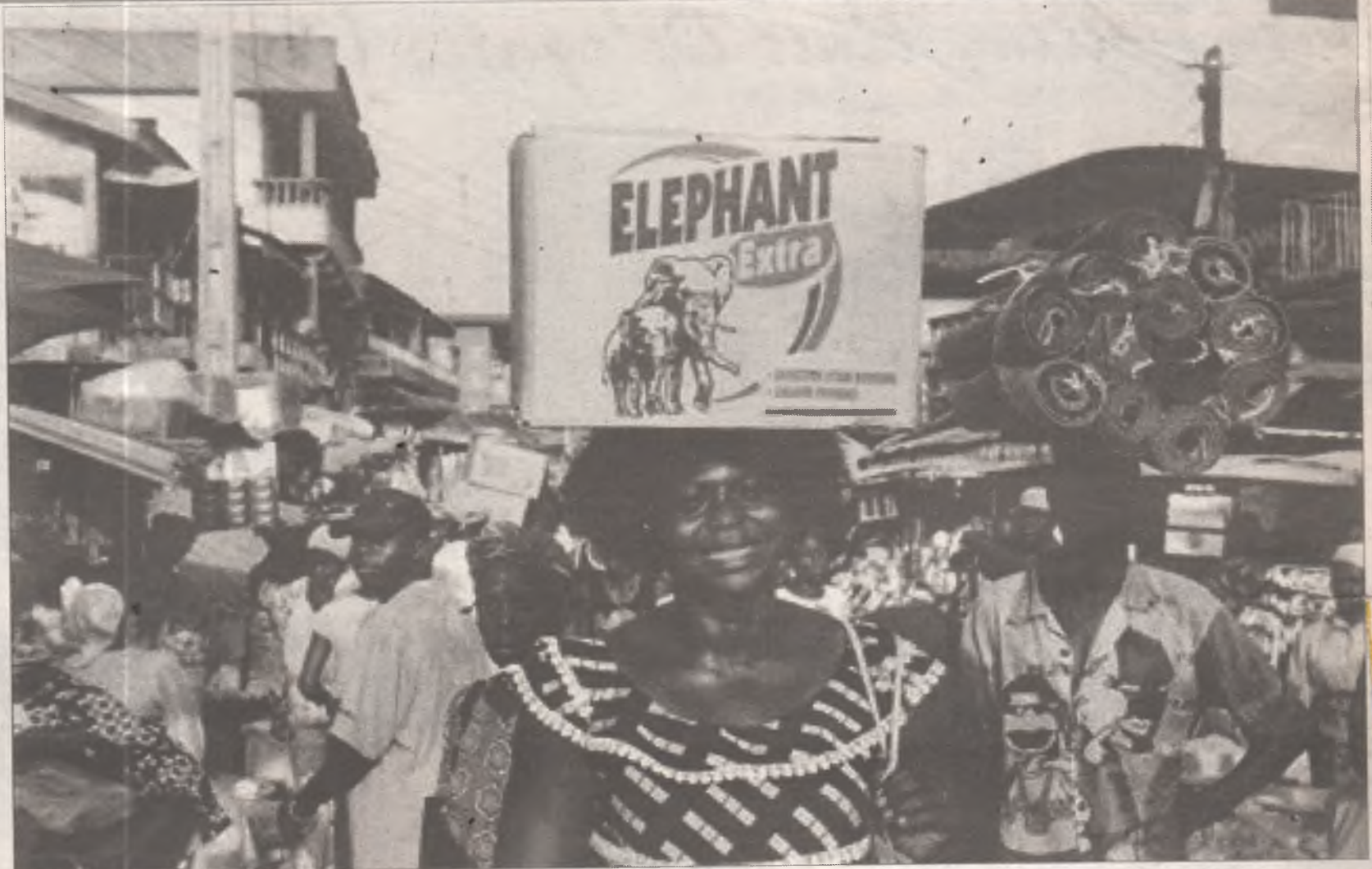
Revenue in the three-month period rose 7 percent to \$5.55 billion, compared to \$5.20 billion in the same period a year ago.

Total unit case volume increased 4 percent in the fourth quarter, led by gains in China, Russia, Brazil, Turkey, Germany and North America. But the company saw volume declines in the quarter in the Philippines, India and north-west Europe.

"This quarter we made further progress toward achieving consistent top-line growth in our business," said Neville Isdell, chairman and chief executive officer. "It completes a transition year in which the company delivered solid unit case volume growth that was well balanced between carbonated soft drinks and noncarbonated beverages."

For all of 2005, Coke said it earned \$4.87 billion, or \$2.04 a share, compared to a profit of \$4.85 billion, or \$2 a share, for all of 2004. Twelve-month revenue rose 6 percent to \$23.10 billion, compared to \$21.74 billion recorded in 2004.

In addition to its flagship brand and its diet and flavored alternatives, Coca-Cola also markets numerous other soft-drink, water, juice, tea and coffee brands, including Sprite, Fanta, Mello Yello, Minute Maid and Dasani.



A woman carries a case of PZ Cussons' Elephant Extra washing detergent through a busy market in Lagos

Nigeria sales boost PZ Cussons

Consumer goods maker PZ Cussons has reported an 18 percent rise in first-half pretax profit, helped by a strong performance in Nigeria and withdrawal from struggling eastern European operations.

The owner of the Imperial Leather and Carex brands said on Tuesday pretax profit reached 28.9 million pounds for the six months to November 30, compared with 24.5 million a year ago, on turnover of 258.3 million

Cussons, which started life as a West African trading post in 1879, said its Nigerian operations had been key to the company's improved performance as sales there of "white goods" such as fridges and freezers in partnership with China's Haier Electronics Group Co. Ltd. doubled to over 20 million pounds.

"Nigeria is a very strong business for us and becoming stronger," Deputy Chairman Graham Calder told Reuters. "You can achieve

considerable growth and profitable growth there."

Powdered milk sales in the West African country were in line with expectations at 6 million pounds.

Calder said Cussons was planning to further expand its operations in Nigeria. "We are looking particularly at other nutritional areas (as well as milk)," he said.

"Our strategy is to concentrate on specific markets and develop a strong distri-

bution business, which enables us to almost sell anything, particularly in the developing markets."

The company also said it had stemmed losses in eastern Europe after ending its direct presence in the Russian market and closing its liquids and creams factory in Warsaw.

"The positive signs experienced in the first half should continue for the remainder of the year, although trading in

some territories remains challenging due to pressure on both selling prices and costs," the company said in a statement.

By pushing key brands such as its Charles Worthington hair products range, Cussons says it will see steady growth in its other key market, the UK.

"It's (Charles Worthington) exclusive to Roots (ROOTI: Quote Profile, Research) at the moment, but from the summer onwards

we will be selling in the main supermarkets," Calder said.

The company added that the closure of its Nottingham factory in central England would be completed ahead of schedule, with soap production expected to be switched to Thailand by the end of the financial year.

PZ Cussons shares were quoted at 13.78 pounds, compared with Monday's close of 13.60 pounds, valuing the company around 587 million pounds.

China poses threat to UK economy

The British people see China and India as the biggest challenges to the UK economy over the next five years, a Deloitte/YouGov survey has found.

In a study of public attitudes to global economic competition, 79% of 2,704 people identified fast-growing China as the largest threat to the UK.

India was seen as the main challenge to the UK by 45%

of those surveyed.

A separate Deloitte report said the UK could fall from sixth to the 12th most competitive global economy by 2010.

China is seen as the biggest threat to the UK as its manufacturing sector continues to boom, while India now houses a number of call centres for UK firms.

The Deloitte/You Gov survey found that 64% of re-

spondents expressed a negative reaction to such off-shoring, and a quarter also held the opinion that existing off-shoring programmes should be reversed.

Just 6% said they supported their continuation.

"The survey results clearly show the uncertainty that exists among the UK population when it comes to the growing prowess of India and China," said Deloitte's head of consulting, David Owen.

Mr Owen added that there "needed to be a great understanding among the public that the transfer of certain jobs to other locations is a trend that is likely to continue and brings with it opportunities as well as threats".

"UK located companies should benefit from, rather than be threatened by the increasingly global nature of the product and services markets," he said.

To help boost UK competitiveness, 75% of the survey's respondents said there

should be greater investment in education and training.

A further 60% said there should be more support for small business start-ups.

"One possible way for government to raise skills is for tax credits to be awarded to businesses for training spend, similar to the incentives used to raise UK levels of innovation," added Owen.

Deloitte's separate Trading Places report on the world's most competitive countries, put the US in first place, followed by Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Germany, and the UK.

By 2010 it estimates that while the US, Sweden, Finland and Denmark will keep their positions, South Korea will overtake Germany; and the UK will drop from sixth to 12th as it is overtaken by the likes of Canada, Japan, Switzerland and Austria.

Accountancy giant Deloitte called for more innovation, enterprise and investment to help prevent this decline.

Cartoons: Iran cuts trade ties with Denmark

Iran has cut all trade ties with Denmark in protest at the cartoons satirising the Prophet Muhammad that first appeared in a Danish newspaper.

Iran's Commerce Minister Masoud Mir-Kazemi said the ban covered all Danish imports as well as any other business dealings.

On Monday evening a crowd of about 400 demonstrators threw petrol bombs and stones at the Danish embassy in Tehran.

Protests against the cartoons have taken place across the Muslim world.

Reporters at the scene outside the Danish embassy in a residential district of northern Tehran, said the crowd was chanting: "Death to Denmark."

Iranian police subsequently drove protestors back with tear gas and some were arrested.

The Danish embassy had earlier in the day asked Iranian authorities to provide

more security outside the building, although no diplomatic staff are inside.

Denmark's embassies in Damascus, Syria, and Beirut, Lebanon were set on fire by protestors at the weekend.

Iran currently imports \$280m (£160m) worth of goods from Denmark each year. That works out at about 0.3% of Denmark's total exports.

The trade ban comes after hardline Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad

strongly attacked the offending pictures.

Tehran has already recalled its ambassador to Denmark and has also summoned the ambassadors of Denmark, Norway and Austria to express its anger.

The offending cartoons first appeared in a Danish newspaper last September.

Last week the row escalated after a number of European newspapers republished the pictures, saying they were defending freedom of expression

Governor Ibrahim Saminu Turaki Meeting With Polling Unit Delegates ('YANGOMA)



Governor Ibrahim Saminu Turaki delivering a speech at the occasion



Governor Ibrahim Saminu Turaki arriving at the occasion



Gov. Ibrahim Saminu Turaki Speaker, Mustapha Mahama Dep. Speaker, Yuhssa u Kanya Majority Leader, Adamu Atmos Sarawa



Alh. Mustapha Yanduse Commissioner Salary/Pension & Gov. Saminu Turaki



Senator Bello Maitama Yusuf & Gov. Saminu Turaki having a Tete-a-tete



Gov. Saminu Turaki Dept. Speaker, Majority Leader having a Handshake with Chairmen Polling Unit Delegates



Governor Ibrahim Saminu Turaki & Wife Hajiya Zahra u Turaki



Chairman ANPP Jigawa Alh. Muhammadu Daguro Kirikasamma



Anyo L.G: Polling Unit Presenting Certificate to Gov. Saminu Turaki for Inaugurating the polling unit



Kaugama Polling Unit Chairman addressing the Governor



Alh. Ibrahim Baba Chaichai Member Fed. House Of Reps. Dussel Kiyawa Constituency Alh. Bashir Jamba Member Fed. House Of Reps. Kazare, Emirate Constituency



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A crowd of people at the occasion



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1ST-TIER SECURITIES

THE NIGERIAN STOCK EXCHANGE

REPORT AS AT TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2006

Company Name	No of Deals	Quotation(N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares
ADSWITCH PLC.	1	1.36	5,000	6,800.00
Sector Totals	1		5,000	6,800.00
AGRICULTURE/AGRO-ALLIED				
LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC.	1	1.56	69	107.64
OKITIPUPA OIL PALM PLC.	1	0.90	2,000	1,800.00
THE OKOMU OIL PALM COMPANY PLC	10	17.00	98,890	1,682,395.00
PRESCO PLC.	14	10.50	213,350	2,281,812.50
Sector Totals	26		314,309	3,966,115.14
AUTOMOBILE & TYRE				
DUNLOP NIGERIA PLC.	16	2.58	444,897	1,135,351.81
R. T. BRISCOAE PLC.	11	5.69	46,664	263,033.84
Sector Totals	27		491,561	1,398,385.65
BANKING				
ACCESS BANK PLC	166	2.73	7,188,524	19,723,008.38
AFRIBANK NIGERIA PLC.	21	9.10	2,170,484	19,751,404.40
COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT BANK PLC.	2	1.12	13,550	15,176.00
DIAMOND BANK PLC	3	7.75	20,001,200	155,009,300.00
EIB INTERNATIONAL BANK PLC.	2	2.26	77,000	174,020.00
FIRST CITY MONUMENT BANK PLC	4	5.11	6,833	34,916.63
FIDELITY BANK PLC	3	2.93	222,000	650,460.00
FIRST BANK OF NIGERIA PLC.	595	33.48	3,497,635	116,962,929.00
GTBANK PLC.	302	13.32	3,866,963	51,417,153.09
INVESTMENT BANKING	11	4.57	258,500	1,181,345.00
INTERNATIONAL MERCHANT BANK PLC.	3	0.84	124,861	104,883.24
INTERCONTINENTAL BANK PLC.	180	9.35	4,352,921	40,748,962.86
NAL BANK PLC.	2	2.80	64,786	181,400.80
OCEANIC BANK PLC	59	5.80	2,231,382	13,039,871.40
PLATINUM BANK PLC	1	2.60	20,000	52,000.00
UNITED BANK FOR AFRICA PLC.	120	12.20	802,679	9,792,538.67
UNION BANK NIGERIA PLC.	112	25.48	72,797,094	1,854,869,955.12
UNIVERSAL TRUST BANK PLC	2	0.60	35,000	21,000.00
WFMA BANK PLC.	13	3.74	174,598	652,996.52
ZENITH BANK PLC	18	19.64	147,213	2,891,263.32
Sector Totals	1,619		118,053,223	2,287,274,584.43
BREWERIES				
GUINNESS NIGERIA PLC.	84	99.50	112,266	11,193,596.56
NIGERIAN BREWERIES PLC.	312	36.11	820,272	29,921,162.05
Sector Totals	396		932,538	41,114,758.61
BUILDING MATERIALS				
SHAKA CEMENT PLC.	68	33.71	256,267	8,668,021.15
BENUCE CEMENT COMPANY PLC.	16	6.50	160,000	1,040,000.00
CEMENT COMPANY OF NORTHERN NIG. PLC	6	7.20	6,450	46,190.00
NIGERIAN ROPES PLC	2	1.62	15,000	24,300.00
WEST AFRICAN PORTLAND CEMENT CO. PLC.	135	18.20	1,802,974	32,478,722.74
Sector Totals	227		2,240,691	42,257,233.89
CHEMICAL & PAINTS				
BERGER PAINTS PLC.	9	3.75	41,864	157,090.00
CAP PLC.	11	8.80	49,968	406,772.76
D. N. MEYER PLC.	6	3.23	18,272	59,018.56
NIGERIA-GERMAN CHEMICALS PLC.	2	4.20	992	4,166.40
Sector Totals	28		111,096	627,047.72
COMPUTER & OFFICE EQUIPMENT				
TRIPPLE GEE AND COMPANY PLC.	4	0.40	4,998	1,999.20
Sector Totals	4		4,998	1,999.20
CONGLOMERATES				
A. G. LEVENTIS NIGERIA PLC.	3	1.20	15,000	18,000.00
C F A O NIGERIA PLC.	8	3.57	30,353	107,368.38
JOHN HOLT PLC.	4	1.50	81,768	122,652.00
P. Z. INDUSTRIES PLC.	43	16.20	336,306	5,448,157.20
U. A. C. NIGERIA PLC.	87	16.40	565,095	9,257,321.63
UNILEVER NIGERIA PLC	180	19.87	1,061,543	21,253,157.70
U.T.C. NIGERIA PLC.	3	0.76	10,000	7,600.00
Sector Totals	328		2,100,065	36,214,256.91
CONSTRUCTION				
JULIUS BERGER NIGERIA PLC.	5	23.00	11,784	261,693.60
Sector Totals	5		11,784	261,693.60
FOOD/BEVERAGES & TOBACCO				
7-UP BOTTLING COMPANY PLC	20	27.00	213,144	5,789,327.78
CADBURY NIGERIA PLC.	123	65.00	443,886	29,072,860.33
FLOUR MILLS NIGERIA PLC.	86	25.16	377,731	9,439,135.34
NIGERIA BOTTLING COMPANY PLC.	60	62.30	167,121	10,433,159.12
NESTLE FOODS NIGERIA PLC.	64	193.20	125,571	24,132,026.80
NORTHERN NIGERIA FLOUR MILLS PLC.	1	16.05	1,480	23,754.00
Sector Totals	354		1,328,933	78,890,263.17
FOOTWEAR				
FOOTWEAR & ACCESSORIES MAN. PLC.	1	0.29	207	60.03
LENNARDS (NIGERIA) PLC.	1	0.63	10,000	6,300.00
Sector Totals	2		10,207	6,360.03
HEALTHCARE				
EVANS MEDICAL PLC	7	2.68	65,876	176,412.88
GLAXOSMITHKLINE CONSUMER NIGERIA PLC	25	10.25	227,987	2,325,422.65
MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC	1	5.36	3,200	17,152.00
MORISON INDUSTRIES PLC.	1	0.84	10,000	8,400.00
Sector Totals	34		204,165	2,519,391.60
INDUSTRIAL/DOMESTIC PRODUCTS				
ALUMACO PLC.	2	1.03	15,000	15,450.00
B.O.C. GASES PLC	2	2.90	21,400	62,060.00
NIGERIA ENAMELWARE COMPANY PLC.	3	3.63	21,500	78,045.00
FIRST ALUMINIUM NIGERIA PLC.	2	0.67	49,956	33,470.52
VITAFORM NIGERIA PLC.	59	4.90	561,958	2,706,131.47
VONO PRODUCTS PLC.	5	1.14	65,000	74,100.00
Sector Totals	73		734,814	2,969,256.99
INSURANCE				
ACEN INSURANCE COMPANY PLC	1	0.72	500	360.00
AIICO INSURANCE PLC.	1	2.39	2,000	4,780.00
CORNERSTONE INSURANCE CO. PLC.	18	1.45	504,933	714,656.20
CRUSADER INSURANCE PLC.	3	1.60	8,876	15,059.20
LASACO ASSURANCE PLC.	2	0.67	25,300	16,951.00
LAW UNION AND ROCK INSURANCE PLC.	2	0.97	100,000	97,000.00
NIGER INSURANCE CO. PLC.	14	2.63	95,410	254,439.86
PRESTIGE ASSURANCE PLC.	3	2.41	8,400	20,244.00
ROYAL EXCHANGE ASSURANCE PLC.	13	2.95	131,064	385,059.83
STANDARD ALLIANCE INSURANCE	4	1.23	32,500	39,975.00
UNIC INSURANCE PLC.	16	1.24	803,525	1,010,926.50
WEST AFRICAN PROV. INS. COY. PLC.	4	3.22	55,000	179,462.88
Sector Totals	81		1,767,508	2,738,914.47
MACHINERY(MARKETING)				
BLACKWOOD HODGE (NIGERIA) PLC	1	0.56	35,013	19,607.28
Sector Totals	1		35,013	19,607.28
MANAGED FUNDS				
C & I LEASING PLC	4	1.19	23,345	27,780.55
Sector Totals	4		23,345	27,780.55
MARITIME				
APPAUL OIL & MARITIME SERVICES PLC	4	1.80	25,000	45,000.00
Sector Totals	4		25,000	45,000.00
PACKAGING				
NAMPAK NIGERIA PLC	2	1.38	15,200	20,976.00
Sector Totals	2		15,200	20,976.00
PETROLEUM(MARKETING)				
AFRICAN PETROLEUM PLC.	81	42.61	266,155	11,346,167.09
CONOIL PLC	63	88.90	92,210	8,151,543.14
ETERNA OIL & GAS PLC.	10	2.45	20,498	50,660.16
MOBIL OIL NIGERIA PLC.	33	156.23	35,030	5,495,609.45
OANDO PLC	154	90.10	134,879	12,165,959.46
TEXACO (NIGERIA) PLC.	33	110.01	22,083	2,433,866.66
TOTAL NIGERIA PLC	26	188.98	48,789	9,043,362.70
Sector Totals	400		619,644	48,687,168.66
PRINTING & PUBLISHING				
ACADEMY PRESS PLC.	1	1.50	2,000	3,000.00
LONGMAN NIGERIA PLC.	1	3.18	1,500	4,770.00
UNIVERSITY PRESS PLC.	1	1.64	950	1,558.00
Sector Totals	3		4,450	9,328.00
REAL ESTATE				
UACN PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT PLC.	35	9.00	514,991	4,752,795.37
Sector Totals	35		514,991	4,752,795.37
TEXTILES				
UNITED NIGERIA TEXTILES PLC.	11	2.09	75,252	157,776.68
Sector Totals	11		75,252	157,776.68
Overall Totals	3,665		129,723,787	2,553,967,493.95

TOP 10 TRADES AS AT YESTERDAY

SYMBOL	VOLUME	VALUE	TRADES
UNILEVER	1,062,743.00	21,277,001.70	181
WAPCO	1,814,474.00	32,687,997.74	138
AFRIBANK	2,170,484.00	19,751,404.40	21
OCEANIC	2,719,200.00	15,869,215.80	60
FIRSTBANK	3,527,754.00	117,971,656.26	607
GUARANTY	4,137,248.00	55,019,407.84	309
INTERCONT	4,352,921.00	40,748,962.86	180
ACCESS	7,188,524.00	19,723,008.38	166
DIAMONDBNK	20,001,200.00	155,009,300.00	3
UBN	72,798,294.00	1,854,900,531.12	113

TOP 10 GAINERS

SYMBOL	LASTCLOSE	YESTERDAY'SCLOSE	CHANGE
NESTLE	190.02	193.50	+3.48
TOTAL	182.00	183.05	+1.05
TUP	26.15	27.01	+0.86
JBERGER	22.15	23.00	+0.85
OKOMUOIL	16.80	17.38	+0.58
FIRSTBANK	33.00	33.55	+0.55
UACN	16.00	16.49	+0.49
GUINNESS	99.05	99.50	+0.45
WAPCO	17.80	18.19	+0.39
CAP	8.50	8.80	+0.30

TOP 10 LOSERS

SYMBOL	LASTCLOSE	YESTERDAY'SCLOSE	CHANGE
MOBIL	158.01	156.00	-2.01
CONOIL	90.00	89.00	-1.00
AP	43.50	42.61	-0.89
NB	37.00	36.14	-0.86
CADBURY	66.06	65.20	-0.86
PRESCO	11.05	10.50	-0.55
OANDO	90.50	90.10	-0.40
UNILEVER	20.25	19.90	-0.35
ASHAKACEM	34.00	33.70	-0.30
UAC-PROP	9.30	9.01	-0.29

Oil price drops below \$65

Crude-oil prices declined yesterday as traders' fears eased over possible disruptions to the Iranian oil supply because of its nuclear ambitions.

U.S. inventory figures are also expected to send a bearish tone to the market, analysts said.

Light, sweet crude for March delivery fell 45 cents to \$64.60 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange by midday in Europe. March Brent crude fell 44 cents to \$62.89 a barrel on London's ICE Futures exchange.

Nymex heating oil lost less than half a cent to \$1.7587 a gallon, while gasoline declined a cent to \$1.6342 a gallon. Natural gas fell more than 17 cents to \$7.820 per 1,000 cubic feet.

Analysts said prices fell because the market had already factored in the risk to supply posed by Iran's nuclear standoff with the U.S. and other countries, and because of a milder-than-usual winter in the United States.

The International Atomic Energy Agency board of governors voted Saturday to report Iran to the U.N. Security Council, which can impose sanctions, over its nuclear program. Tehran responded by saying it would start full-scale uranium enrichment and bar surprise inspections of its facilities.

"Between now and when the U.N. Security Council actually takes up the issue there will be some saber-rattling, but in the near term traders know there won't be any disruption to supply from it," said energy analyst Victor Shum of Purvin & Gertz in Singapore.

Iran insists it only wants to generate electricity, but the United States and some of its allies contend Tehran is trying to build a weapon.

The head of the IAEA, Mohamed ElBaradei, said that Iran — the second-largest oil producer in the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries — also announced a sharp reduction in the number and kind of IAEA inspections, effective immediately.

Shum said the Iranian nuclear dispute would likely keep crude futures above the \$64-a-barrel mark, but other factors such as above-normal temperatures in the U.S. would weigh on prices as heating oil supply is ample and demand isn't high.

"The winter season, especially in the U.S., has been mild, so we have a well supplied market," Shum said. "OPEC has said it won't cut production targets in the second quarter. The fundamentals are quite bearish."

PVM Oil Associates in Vienna said Tuesday that U.S. inventory data this week is expected to show that gasoline supplies are up by 1

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

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Corps members during their passing out parade...recently.

Pix: Felix Onigbinde.

Robbers attack corps members

Youth corps members serving at Beeri High school in Khana local government area of Rivers state were attacked by armed robbers, a few days to their passing out ceremony.

Daily Trust gathered that the armed robbers attacked their quarters and took their valuables at gun point.

The police in Port Harcourt said that the corps members lost various personal effects in the incident, although they did not indicate how many corps members were robbed.

The Police Public Relations officer of the force in the state, DSP Ireju Barasua, said in a statement that some of the items stolen by the robbers have been recovered following the arrest of two of the suspects at Nyogor-Beeri in Khana local government area.

Recovered from the suspects, according to the police, are one locally made pistol and one live cartridge.

The suspects, who have made useful statement

From Ikenna Emeka Okpani, Bureau Chief, Port Harcourt

that would lead to the arrest of the other suspects now at large. In a related development, a medical doctor at Khana, Dr Biira Kpoka, was said to have been attacked and killed by some youths of

the area. The 32-year-old doctor was allegedly accused by the youths of supporting their opponent from Khana community in the forthcoming councillorship elections.

The police said the youths who attacked the medical doctor inflicted several machete cuts on his body.

As a result of this, he lost consciousness and was rushed to hospital where he died.

His corpse has already been deposited at the Bori General Hospital mortuary for an autopsy.

The police said the youths also attacked the

victim's clinic, which they badly damaged.

The police said they had arrested one Lepee Ngbo of Khana 11 and that they were intensifying efforts to arrest others involved in the act. The state's Criminal Investigation Department is investigating the matter.

Two arrested for alleged attempt to defraud company of N1.2m

Two dealers working for Jamil Motors, Port Harcourt have been detained by the police for allegedly defrauding the company of N1.2m being money paid in for the purchase of a car by a client.

The two, whose names were given as Livingstone Nyarko and Maaji Chibok, the police said in Port Harcourt, withdrew the money from a bank, but reported that the money was stolen from them at gun point at the UTC junction in Port Harcourt.

The Police Public Relations Officer in the state, DSP

Ireju Barasua, said in a statement that the police were investigating the case.

The suspects however have insisted that they were victims of an armed robbery attack and that the money was taken from them in the process. The state's Criminal Investigation department is handling the investigations.

In a related development, seven students of Rivers State University of science and technology, Nkpolu, Port Harcourt have been arrested for cult related activities.

The police in Port

Harcourt said a team of policemen attached to the state's anti robbery squad (SARS), while on patrol along East-West road, Choba, received a distress call from UNIPORT campus that there was a clash between the students and suspected members of a cult group Eiyee confraternity.

The police swung into action and moved to the scene where about seven students were arrested. The students (names withheld) were one level five student of medicine, a level four student of petroleum engineer-

ing, a level three student of electrical engineering, a level two student of geology, a level two student of education, a level two student of marketing, and a part two student of management sciences," the police said.

Apart from this, the police are also investigating one Enyidia Chinyere who was arrested at the university while "parading" in full cult regalia to mark his graduation from the university. Cult members in universities, we gathered, use to parade round the campus to mark their graduation from the university.

CRIME & PUNISHMENT

Robbers attack Trust staff

By Benjamin Auta, Reporter

A staff of *Daily Trust*, Mallam Abdullahi Rogo, narrowly escaped two armed robbery attacks in one night while travelling along Zaria, Kawo expressway weekend. But he and his co-travellers were not lucky because they got caught up in the third attack.

Narrating his ordeal to *Daily Trust*, Mallam Rogo stated that he left Abuja late in the evening with the intention of spending the night at a colleague's house in Kaduna before proceeding to Kano the next day to attend to family matters.

On getting to Kaduna, he said he found out that his friend had also traveled out, so he continued with his journey to Kano at night.

vehicles that there was trouble ahead.

He said despite the u-turn they made, they were still not out of danger. "We just saw another car pulled up at the other lane of the expressway and some people I can't describe in large number hurriedly crossed to our lane, flashing torchlights flagging down our vehicle but we were apprehensive," Mallam Rogo said.

He said that they thought that those people were police officers because they were wearing black attires and brandishing guns in the air.

He also said that they decided to stop at a point and ran into the bush to save their lives. Mallam Rogo said that they stayed in the bush for more than an hour until they saw lights from vehicles moving from both lanes, indicating that the road was free.

He gave an inventory of what was stolen from him to include Media Trust staff identify card, receipt of his car plate number, original certificate of training by Heldensery on how to operate pre-press machine and the original certificate of workshop on fire safety prevention and control organized by Media Trust Limited in conjunction with the NNPC.

The matter has already been reported to the police who have promised to take actions immediately as at the time of this report.

"At about 12:06 am when we left Kano motor park a gang of armed men wielding dangerous weapons blocked both sides of the express way, some few kilometres to the toll gate in Makarfi," he said.

He said on sighting the mob who were already advancing towards them, the driver reversed the vehicle and headed for Zaria.

Shortly after he continued, they came across a 911 Mercedes Benz truck packed with some people they thought were its passengers lying on the ground as some people they suspected to be armed robbers searched their truck.

Mallam Rogo stated that they were lucky to pass the scene safely as their driver continued to alert oncoming

Three in court for damaging computer

By Ruby Rabiu Senior Reporter

Three staff of compulelectro system have been dragged before an Abuja Magistrate for allegedly destroying a computer given to them for repairs.

The three accused persons, Jewel Alex, Ola Shedrah and Emmanuel Ebong Gabriel are being charged with mischief to which they pleaded not guilty.

The police report made available to *Daily Trust* revealed that Mr David Imeh Sunday, the complainant in the matter had told the police that he gave his IMB computer to Jewel Alex for servicing and that they charged him N500 for registration.

He added that the two suspects who are staff of compulelectro system located at sky memorial complex Wuse zone 5 had worked on the said computer but damaged it in the process.

He also alleged that they removed some components inside the computer thereby rendering it useless.

Counsel to the accused persons, Mr. Udech had made an oral application for the bail,

of the accused.

He urged the court to take into cognisance the provision in the constitution that presumes an accused innocent until proven otherwise by a competent court adding that his clients all had reasonable sureties in court who were ready to take the accused on bail.

He asked the court to exercise its discretion in favour of his clients. The prosecution in the case, Mr Edet Emmanuel did not oppose the application for bail.

Giving his ruling, Magistrate Abdul Dogo said 'having regard to the application for bail made on behalf of the three accused persons by the counsel and in view of the fact that the prosecution did not oppose the application'. 'I hereby grant the three accused persons bail in the sum of N60,000 and one surety in like sum. The sureties must be reasonable and also resident in the federal capital territory', he said. Magistrate Dogo adjourned the case to February 16 2006.



24 armed robbery suspects paraded by the police in Abuja during an Inspector-General's press briefing...recently.

Man, 30, in court for stealing computer accessories

A 30-year-old man, Ogarya Magnus has been arraigned before on Igbobere Chief Magistrate Court in Lagos for allegedly stealing computer accessories of Chevron Nigeria Limited worth \$10,884.00.

The accused, believed to be an employee of the multinational oil giant and others at large were said to have conspired to steal the computer accessories.

The prosecution said the offence contravenes section 390 (9) of the criminal code, Cap 32, Vol I. The accused in the statement to the court said he was not guilty as charged and has since been admitted to bail in the sum of N200,000 further mention on the matter was fixed for March 15.

Also an employee of Jide Taiwo and company, Estate Surveyors and value has been arraigned before the court for allegedly forging the receipt booklets of the company with intent to steal.

Specifically, the accused person, Rasheed Badejo, 25 was said to have stolen the sum of five million, for hundred and fifty thousand, nine hundred naira (N5,456,900.00) property of the company.

The offence ran contrary to section 390(6) of the criminal code, cap 31 Vol II laws of Lagos, the prosecution said.

The accused said he was guilty of the offence.

From Mohammed Shosanya, in Lagos

ferred against him. He was admitted to a bail in the sum of N500,000 with few sureties in like sum. Hearing has been

fixed for March 17.

A 22 years old man, Oteyi Jidonu has been arraigned before an Igbobere chief magistrate court over an alleged kidnapping.

According to the charge, the accused on January 24 at Oro buss stop Ira Lagbasa attempted to kidnap two children, Omotola Adebayo (f) aged 12 and Taiwo Babatunde (f) 14. He was also alleged to have on the same date and place assaulted one Wasiu Nojim, he pleaded not guilty.

Pirates wreak havoc on Bayelsa waterways

Sea pirates at the week end wrecked at the havoc on the Okodi axis of the Ogbia waterways in Bayelsa, robbing several; commercial and private boats of goods and property worth millions of naira. A witness

told the *News Agency of Nigeria (NAN)* in Yenagoa that the pirates, operating in a speed boat and armed with sophisticated weapons, held the private and commercial boats hostage at the early hours of the day. A former

commissioner for information and culture in the state, Mr. Benson Agadaga, who was a victim, told NAN that the pirates had earlier attacked his farm in his hometown, Ologhei, where they took away a 15-horse-power Yamaha engine.



Pistols recovered from an armed manufacturer by the police...recently.

CRIME & PUNISHMENT



Two secondary school students (names withheld) arrested in Benin City for alleged cultism activities

Alamiyeseigha's illness stalls trial

A Federal High Court in Lagos Monday adjourned to February 16 ruling on the application of former governor of Bayelsa State, Chief Diepreye Alamiyeseigha seeking stay of proceedings of his money laundering trial.

From Muhammed Shoshanya, Lagos

The ruling was adjourned due to the ill-health of the former governor who alongside seven companies are being tried on a 40 count charge of money laundering.

When the matter was called yesterday, prosecution counsel Rotimi Jacob told the court that he was informed by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) that Alamiyeseigha had serious tummy complication and has since been referred to a private hospital in Victoria Island, Lagos for medical

attention.

Jacob sought for a short adjournment to allow him (Alamiyeseigha) recuperate and participate in the trial.

Alamiyeseigha Counsel Professor Alfred Kasumu (SAN), Chief Ike Ozekhome and Mike Okoye did not object the prosecution counsel's prayer for the short adjournment.

The presiding judge, Justice Mohammed then fixed the ruling to Feb. 16.

The former governor two weeks ago filed an application for a stay of proceedings pending the hearing and determination of the suit before an appellate court which is challenging the ruling of the lower court's decision of December 2005 that it had jurisdiction to prosecute the case.

Robbers cart away computers in Lagos

The Management of Allied Computers have lost three lap top computers valued at N300,000.00 and N386,270.00 cash to a gang of robbers who broke into the company premises and catered away the items.

Already, the police have effected the arrest of a man, suspected to have been involved in the incident and has since been charged for theft at the Yobe Chief magistrate court.

Adangara Abduliar aged 36 according to the police had sometimes in December last year at Idupeju area in Lagos conspired with others to commit a felony and stealing contrary to section 516 of the

criminal code.

The accused person was alleged to have broken and entered into Allied Computer Building situated at No 227 Ikorodu Road Lagos at about 2 am on December 12, 2005.

It was further alleged that during the incident, three lap top computers valued N100,000 and N386,270 and cash of N686,270.00 property of Allied Computers were stolen.

According to the police prosecutor, ASPOkoronkwo Okorie, the offence is punished under section 310 of the Criminal code, which provides that "any person who steals anything capable of being stolen is guilty of felony and is liable to be imprisoned for three years.

Armed robbers meet their Waterloo

Four members of a notorious Armed robbery gang who have been given residents of Badagry Express way and Okokomaiko sleepless nights have been apprehended by the police.

The four suspects are Peter Pius aged 23, Kingsley Obarakpo 29, Francis Okorocho 22 and John Ashiru 27.

According to the police, the suspects who were dragged before the Yaba Chief Magistrate court with others now at large on September 4, 2005 had conspired to commit armed robbery.

The alleged offence is contrary to section 5 (b) and punishable under section 1 (2) (a) of the Robbery and firearms special provision Act Cap 398 Vol. XXII laws of the federation.

According to the police, the accused persons and other members of their gang who are still at large while armed with locally made single barrel shot gun, cutlasses, knives and other dangerous weapons robbed innocent citizens of valuables such as handsets, jewellery and cash valued at N540,000.

In a related development, two armed robbery suspects, Jimoh Agbeforo aged 27 and Adewale adeosun 29 and others still on the run on November 19, 2005 at 2:30 am went to Conoil filling station Abule and robbed the place, making away with huge sums of money.

The duo were further alleged to have killed one Mohammed Harune during the robbery incident.

All the accused person were ordered by the court to be remanded at the Kirikiri Maximum prison.

Bolingo Hotel cashier detained over missing \$23,000

The general cashier of Bolingo Hotel, Abuja, Miss Nneka Ogbuah, has been detained by the police in Abuja in connection with the missing foreign currency notes deposited by customers in the hotel.

The arrest of Ogbuah followed a petition written to the FCT commissioner of police by a management staff of the hotel, Dr. (Mrs.) Becky Igweh, accusing Ogbuah of stealing the money.

Dr. Igweh alleged in the petition that Miss Ogbuah handed over the sums of 22,765 dollars and 220 Euro to a successor before proceeding on leave, but that she came around and stole the money.

Dr. Igweh also alleged that the money was stolen from a

By Shehu Abubakar, Reporter

safe in Miss Ogbuah's office. She said she was not in doubt that Ogbuah who was supposed to be on her annual leave did not explain how the money got missing.

Ogbuah on her part denied the accusation, saying she handed over the money to her successor before proceeding on leave.

Ogbuah also claimed that she has copies of the handing over notes testifying to that.

Briefing newsmen in his office, FCT Commissioner of Police, Mr. Lawrence Alobi said the investigation unit of the command is handling the matter.

He said investigation is

almost completed and that Nneka Ogbuah may soon be charge to court for theft.

He said the suspect has a

case to answer because the police have unearthed evidence capable of securing a conviction.

Police recover 60 firearms

The FCT Police Command recovered 21 firearms from suspected armed robbers in January this year.

The command's Commissioner, Mr. Lawrence Alobi, told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) yesterday in Abuja, that 39 ammunition was also recovered from the suspects.

He said that out of the 21 firearms recovered, 19 were locally made pistols, while two were pump action in addition to 16 cartridges.

Alobi said that two laptops, 13 bags of Indian hemp, two international passports, one digital camera and seven handsets were also recovered.

KANO TRUST

NCCE tasks KNSG on power outage at colleges

The National Commission of Colleges of Education (NCCE) has raised alarm on the lingering electricity scarcity pervading the three colleges of education in Kano, even as it enjoined Governor Ibrahim Shekarau to make extensive move towards addressing the problem.

The chairman of the NCCE Accreditation Team, Professor Honti Nduka, who made the call: when he led members of the team to a college in Kano, he observed that poor power supply to the institutions has thwarted the students' effective studies.

Prof. Nduka emphasized that government should adopt drastic measures to overcome the problem once and for all, so that students could have conducive atmosphere for their studies.

While commenting on the accreditation of the three colleges of education, Professor Nduka said it was interesting that students studying science education in the institutions are much better compared to those in other states.

The chairman of the accreditation team observed that this exemplary develop-

By Mustapha Isah Kwaru, Correspondent (Kano)

ment made Kano to be the fore runner in the area of producing science teachers.

He, however, commended the government for its timely initiatives for the general overhaul of education which could be among the best states who are committed to the improvement of the sector.

Responding, Governor Shekarau enjoined NCCE to ensure a conducive environment for the colleges of education.

He opined that the colleges of education are avenues for providing conducive environment for learning, saying they are secondary to the provision of qualitative teachers.

Malam Shekarau, who exonerated the state from any blame on the poor power supply to the institutions, argued that the state is receiving only 40 to 50 megawatt capacity of electricity as against the 300 it is demanding to effectively meet the need of the people.

As proactive devise to improve education, the governor declared that no fewer than 2,500 teachers were employed for various levels of education.



The newly built lecture theatre at the Aminu Kano College of Islamic and Legal Studies, Kano

Pornography : Censors board shuts video centre

The Kano State Censorship Board has revoked the license of Sahara Soccer Viewing Cen-

tre located at Kofar Wambai quarters in the metropolis for showing phonographic films.

It would be recalled that a mobile court has recently filed the proprietor of the centre, Alhaji Habibu Ibrahim, the sum of N30,000 for showing phonographic movies.

A press statement signed by the board's Public Relations Officer, Yahaya Umar and issued to pressmen indicated that the move was part of the ongoing crusade to sanitize viewing centres on the need to desist from phonographic and other non-Islamic movies in the

state. The statement expressed dismay that a Muslim could turn his viewing centre into avenue of nudity display, which is capable of promoting adultery and other social vices in the society.

The board emphasized that it is not intended to witch-hunt or intimidate anybody, rather to ensure that viewing centres adhere to the ethics and principles of Shari'ah in the course of their operations.

The statement noted that viewing phonographic movies by such centres undermine the effort of the government for combating crime

and Shari'ah implementation which should be resisted.

The board however, warned that it would not condone any act that would thwart the good habits of the people or dent the image of the state.

"The worst part of the situation was that most viewers of the phonographic movies in the viewing centers are children, which signified that they may be lured into adultery," it said.

The board cautioned the centres to shun the ugly trend, as it would not hesitate to prosecute the culprits.

Motorists send SOS to govt on Sheka Road

Motorists plying Sheka road in Kano metropolis have expressed displeasure over non completion of road construction work that had earlier begun on Tudun Maliki Sheka road late last year.

Residents of Sheka area also expressed worry over the abandoned work which has caused untold hardship to people in the area.

The road work which begun earlier was abandoned by the construction firm handling the project due to reasons not known to residents as according to them no explanation was given.

Kano Trust investigations revealed that the road construction was awarded to Standard Construction Limited which was expected to build the road and construct formidable drainages along the road with a view to addressing perennial flooding that result in collapse of build-

By Ahmed Abubakar, Correspondent, Kano

ings in the area. Malam Usman Yahuza, who is a bus driver, told Kano Trust that, "the construction of the road which was begun last year has brought joy and hope to everyone using the road, but look at the road now, after excavating the former tar on the road, work has stopped thereby subjecting everyone using the road into an untold hardship."

Malam Yahuza, who was bitter with the situation, also explained that motorists union have made several pleas to the state government in the past to intervene so that normal activities could continue in the area as commercial motorists prefer to ply other routes.

Also Ahmed Mustapha, a resident of the area, called on the state government to resolve the crisis between them and the construction firm which he said is not in the

best interest of the people of the area.

He said that since the road plays vital role as the only route connecting the area and the main city, its present situation is not helping matters as commercial activity in the area has fallen, advising that government should as a matter of urgency expedite action in completing the road.

Shekarau tasks NPC on accurate census figures

The National Population Commission (NPC) has been charged to unmask effective and viable modalities to come up with more accurate and acceptable population figures, in the forthcoming National Population Census. Kano State Governor Malam Ibrahim Shekarau made the plea.

Governor Shekarau, who spoke when he received the newly posted state's NPC Federal Commissioner, Dr.

Duro Fajana, observed that the mandate of the commission was not only to execute the exercise, but also to ensure that accurate figures of each community are collated.

He pointed out that there was urgent need for the NPC to imbibe the principles of sincerity, transparency and fair play in the discharge of its assignment so that each section of the country would be treated equally.

The governor emphasized that population census is one

of the strategies for rapid socio-economic development of a nation, saying NPC should shun any act that would thwart its hitch-free and successful execution.

The state's chief executive canvassed for collective support of the public and stakeholders towards the success of the exercise, just as he declared that government has evolved effective measures to ensure the success of the programme.

In his remarks, the NPC Commissioner, Dr. Fajana,

said extensive logistics plans have been made as a proactive devise to ensure the success of the exercise.

He pledged that NPC would not hesitate to do away and prosecute any of its officials found to have been sabotaging the collating of accurate census figures.

The commissioner however acknowledged the support offered to the NPC by the government, even as he enjoined other stakeholders to emulate the exemplary gesture.

EKO TRUST

Nations Cup: Man dies celebrating Super Eagles victory

A mechanic, Hassan Onikoyi, last Saturday slumped and died while celebrating Super Eagles' victory over the Nigerian team in the keenly-contested quarterfinal match of

Stories by Olumide Bajulaiye, Correspondent, Lagos

the ongoing African Nations Cup in Egypt.

Onikoyi, 43, our corre-

spondent gathered, died while celebrating at a beer parlor beside his workshop, located opposite PHCN office along Ayobo Road, Ipaja.

According to an acquaintance of the deceased,

Festus Adeniyi, Onikoyi was hitting the table with both hands, celebrating Eagles victory. "The next thing we saw was that he just slumped on the chair in an awkward position. Immediately, we rushed

him to a nearby medical centre, Kunalade Hospital, Ipaja.

However, he was certified dead on arrival. An all night prayer session was also organized in the hope that he would be revived, but it failed."

The deceased, a motor mechanic, was married to three wives with about nine children and was twice the chairperson of the Lagos State Motor Mechanic Association, Ipaja Ayobo chapter.

He was reported to have suffered from high blood pressure, a condition made worse by his love for herbal and whisky. When our correspondent visited his residence at 242, Ayobo Road, Opeki Bus Stop, Ipaja, an atmosphere of gloom pervaded

the area. A neighbour said the deceased had been taken to his hometown at Igbese, Ogun State for burial.

At his workshop along Ayobo Road, some of his colleagues were seen discussing the tragedy.

A cousin to the deceased, Muftau Salau, said the deceased would be missed for his charismatic character by his colleagues.

He described him as a nice and easygoing man. In a related development, another resident of Ipaja was also reportedly hit by a passing vehicle when he dashed across the road in celebration of the Super Eagles' victory. He however, survived as he is presently recuperating in an unknown hospital in the area.

Tinubu inaugurates panel on Ajah crisis

Lagos State Governor, Bola Tinubu on Monday inaugurated the Judicial Panels of Enquiry on the Ajah land crises and the Kosoko chieftaincy family dispute to be headed by Mr. Justice Moronkeji Onalaja (Rtd) and Mr. Justice Akin Holloway (Rtd) respectively with a charge to both panels to get to the root of problems.

Tinubu, who spoke at the Alausa seat of government, added that the state government was very painstaking in arriving at the choice of members of the panels and was optimistic they would do a good job.

The governor said it was regrettable that the implementation of the various court rulings on the Ajah land crisis have resulted in deaths, and in the breakdown of law and order in the area with each side claiming its justice.

He identified the quest for control of the vast resources and investment in the Kosoko area as one of the reasons for

the fierce battle for the headship of the Kosoko family, revealing that the present government has done a lot for the family, which include returning some of the investment, which the former administration had taken over.

Governor Tinubu charged the panel on Ajah crises to among other things probe into the real ownership of the land in Ajah and also determine those responsible for the crisis, and proffer any solution that may ensure an amicable resolution of the problem.

On the other land, Tinubu also directed the panel on the headship of Kosoko family to identify those responsible for the clashes and determine the extent of damage suffered by the victims. The panel, which has 30 days to sit according to Governor Tinubu, is expected to inquire the number of houses and chieftaincy families that are eligible to produce the head of the family as well as determine which is next to produce the head of

the family.

He called on members of the public to come forward with memorandum to enable the two panels arrive at a definitive decision, and directed all parties to maintain the peace while the panels sit over the problems.

Responding, the Chairman of the panel on the Ajah land dispute, Mr. Justice Moronkeji Onalaja, commended the governor for

setting up the panel and assured that the panel would discharge its duties without fear or favour, a view echoed by Justice Akin Holloway of the Kosoko Family Dispute Panel.

Other members of the Ajah Land Crises Panel are Prof. I. O. Smith, Mr. E. I. Alaba, the Editor of the *Guardian*, Mr. Debo Adesina, and Mrs. Nike Nedum (nee Ransome Kuti).



AIG Alhaji Bello Labaran (left) discussing with Governor Tinubu during an appeal to junior police officers not to go on strike.

Pix: Oladipupo Odunewu

Five injured in area boys, Keke NAPEP operators clash

At least five persons were battered on Monday when area boys clashed at Ikeja with operators of Keke NAPEP.

The street urchins engaged the Keke NAPEP operators, Ikeja/Ogba union in a free for all fight over the collection of tolls.

Two tri-cycles (Keke NAPEP) were destroyed during the fracas while some amount of money belonging to Chinenye Nwankwo was stolen. A police officer who came from Ikeja Division to broker peace was also injured.

Etim Edem, an executive of the Keke NAPEP operators, Ikeja/Ogba unit, alleged that the touts numbering about 10 came to attack them at the earlier hours of Monday.

He also alleged that the touts were acting under the instruction of the commuter bus drivers who are laying claim to the park. Etim said, "the 'agberos' came early this morning, attacked and brutal-

Charles Obaikhedo.

One of the 'agberos' who was identified as Ige, was alleged to have used a bench to injure one of the Keke NAPEP operators. "The touts are acting on the instruction of the bus drivers who are fighting us over the park."

It was gathered that the touts had threatened to unleash terror on the Keke operators if they do not succumb to their demands by paying a stipulated amount to the touts, which the operators refused.

Reports also has it that the Keke operators and the drivers have been scheduled to meet at the palace of the Oba of Ikeja as part of efforts to broker peace.

They had met last week, but the meeting ended in a deadlock. The injured investigation police officer (IPO), who spoke with this reporter at Ikeja Police Division, said the police are making frantic efforts to broker peace.

He also said that the area boys, who are based in the area, are making frantic efforts to broker peace.

Five feared dead in Obalende bus accident

No fewer than five persons are feared dead on Monday when an 18-passenger bus somersaulted along Adekunle axis of the Obalende-Oworonsoki expressway on its way to Lagos Island.

Other passengers in the bus, with registration number XW 927 KJA suffered serious injuries and are presently hospitalized at the Lagos General Hospital for treatment.

Eyewitness account informed that the commercial bus full to capacity which was

to the somersaulting of the vehicle.

It was gathered that the driver of the bus, two passengers who sat in front seat and two others at one of the back seat died on the spot.

Also, several others sustained injuries, while three out of the injured victims are said to be on danger list at the Lagos General Hospital where medical experts are battling to safe their lives.

It took the officials of the Lagos State Emergency Ambulance Service over one hour to rescue the victims and

carry the remains of the dead victims to the mortuary.

Management Authority (LASTMA) several minutes to decongest the traffic chaos that was associated with the accident along the expressway.

Similarly, three persons have been reportedly dead during the persistent clash of social miscreants known as area boys in Lagos Island.

It was gathered that a renewed clash erupted on Sunday morning when some thugs from Obadina area went to invade the popular Oluwole area to avenge the alleged attack of their colleague during a social engagement at Alimosho area last

week. The clash resulted in the death of three persons when our correspondent

visited the scene of the incident, it was discovered that schoolchildren from Zumuratul Islamiya Primary School and another school in the area were sent back home and the gates under lock and keys.

In addition, traders at Martins Balogun Nnamdi Azikwe and other adjacent streets have to close their shops on Monday morning and run for their dear lives, as group of the miscreants were seen carrying dangerous weapons such as machetes and dispossessing innocent people of their belongings.

Anti-riot police were later deployed to the area to arrest the rioters.

Inside Politics

Jigawa and the brewing political crisis

As the march towards 2007 continue to rear its head and the growing fear of possible extension of the present administration's tenure dominates the political scene, emerging threat of violence continue to take over the landscape of Jigawa politics. Specifically, the political relationship between Governor Turaki and his erstwhile political and childhood friends continue to cause serious security threats that had already consumed lives and properties in the state.

The collapsed political marriage that brought former foreign affairs minister Alhaji Sule Lamido and Governor Turaki together, the forging alliance in the newly registered ACD and the fierce intra party squabbles between ANPP followers themselves is already heating the political landscape of the state to inflammable political atmosphere.

Last week during a rally organized as a prelude to resting the political base of the state government, about 6 local government chairmen escaped being lynched while another prominent politician lost his life.

Severally, the brewing political volcano in the state roaring between the tri-cycle factions of Governor Turaki, State Lamido and Farooq Adamu Aliyu has led to several clashes including attacking an entire court of law in session.

It was during a legal case instituted by the state government against some 7 students who were accused of publishing a libelous article and distributing them across the state. At that time a former state attorney general backed by honourable Farooq Aliyu stood for the accused students and that led to a clash that equally led to the holding of the entire court and its magistrate into hostage situation.

That action which was led by the state ANPP party chairman, Alhaji Muhammadu Dageure nearly cost him his tenure until the state government intervened and a court of law was held to clear the matter. The court found the students guilty and the attorney general was held liable for the actions of his lawyer. The court also found the state government liable for the actions of its lawyer.

The political crisis in Jigawa is not new. It has been brewing since the inception of the state government. The political crisis is not new. It has been brewing since the inception of the state government. The political crisis is not new. It has been brewing since the inception of the state government.

From Hassan A. Karofi, Correspondent (Dutse)

Turaki until he fulfill certain conditions. Although the conditions are not spell out by the Lamido camp it was believed accusation of attempt to outsmart each other at the higher level brought the just celebrated allies into battle field again.

Daily Trust investigations revealed that the Lamido camp had accused Governor Turaki of forwarding to the National headquarters of the PDP names of his loyalist as the elected leaders of the party during the recently conducted local and state PDP party election, this alleged action was said to have inflamed their relationship.

This reported alliance was equally echoed by the factional ANPP leaders under Shehu Mustapha when announcing their reasons to expel Governor Turaki from the ANPP. At present the state All Nigeria Peoples Party, the ANPP, is led by two different leaderships, one led by Alhaji Muhammadu Dageure a fanatical loyalist of Governor Turaki and the other led by Alhaji Hadi Mustapha a close friend of the governor and now one of his fierce opposition.

The crisis of the political battle began some few years ago after a group of elected House of representative members led by Honourable Farooq Adamu Aliyu formed a coalition of 11 lawmakers and began a vicious campaign against the government of the state.

Using the alleged misappropriation of local government funds, frivolous foreign trips, outrageous contract issuance, political threats and general absence of developmental activities as a basis, the group was later reduced to just 2 members after a counter campaign saw the return of the remaining house members behind Governor Turaki. Ever since then the state has been witnessing growing political crisis that is the removal of the state ANPP chairman by the state government and the removal of the state ANPP chairman by the state government.

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focus it ahead of the forthcoming election in 2007.

The faction also announced the expulsion of all elected state house of assembly members in the state, all commissioners, special advisers and all special assistance to Governor Turaki.

"We want to announced



Governor Saminu Turaki

the immediate expulsion of Governor Turaki from the ANPP as his activities in the last few years indicate he has left for the people's democratic party. In that press conference both honourable Farooq Adamu Aliyu, barrister Sani Garun Gabas and acting state chairman Shehu Mustapha all disclosed the setting up of a committee that will work ahead of putting the ANPP into a stronger and more focused party.

Immediately after that announcement, the state government through party officials at the state ANPP headquarters, dissolved the state ANPP and the state ANPP chairman.

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Turaki had decamped to the PDP as frivolous and a lie.

Publishing the PDP registration booklet were the Farooq Adamu side claimed Turaki had registered as member 148, the state ANPP secretariat said the allegation was just a handy work of enemies of the state who are out to

bring over 100,000 ANPP supporters to the state capital. Unfortunately however, internal political differences within the Turaki group brought about skirmishes that led to several local government chairmen nearly escaping being lynched, while another political leader from Gwaram local government was killed.

Immediately after that rally the Honourable Farooq Adamu faction organized another political rally in Birnin-Kudu after they have gone to Gwaram to condole the families of the late politician who lost his life during the state rally.

At Birnin-Kudu the factional ANPP acting chairman, Alhaji Shehu Mustapha said the opposition to what he called inept government of Governor Turaki was to save the people of the state and ensure justice.

He said they cannot allow a government that has taken it people for granted by going into another party to again still claim being in another party.

"We have evidence that will soon be made public that governor Turaki had really registered with the PDP and that is why we expelled him from the party," he said.

In his own speech to the people of Birnin-Kudu Honourable Farooq Adamu Aliyu accused the state government of ordering their attack wherever they visit, challenging however, anybody who dares to try attacking them.

"I want to say however, that we will not attack anyone and who ever among our people attack anybody we will be resisted as I promised that whoever attack us we will burn his house down," he warned.

While the threats of violence continue to hover over the state capital scene, the growing clausal legitimacy over the state has been growing already. Many people are already starting to feel the effects of the political crisis.

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week were thousands of loyal political followers of Governor Turaki attended.

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some politicians last week during the political rally organized by the state government is equally presently creating another concern.

Investigations at the police headquarters indicate that 8 people alleged to have participated in the killings and attacks on some local government chairmen were currently being interrogated and it is believed any outcome of that investigation may inflame the already tense situation.

Although no finger is currently being pointed towards any suspect, Daily Trust findings revealed the action has set up a precedence that may in the near future change the nature of politics in the state.

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Already the factional leadership under Shehu Mustapha had accused the ANPP National chairman, Chief Don Etiebet of aiding anti-party activities of the Jigawa state government, according to it his earlier decision that was later changed from the hosting of the National Executive meeting NEC of the ANPP in Jigawa state was just a way of thanking Governor Turaki for a job well done.

At present no one can say categorically how the growing political enmity between these factions will affect the peaceful co-existence in the state as already lives have begun to be lost with fear among non-partisan residents heightened especially as both camps begin to send warnings of threats to each other.

A recent deployment of some local government secretaries was seen by many as another way of strategizing the formation of a more radical challenge that will soon end to perceive un-challenged political activities in the Birnin-Kudu area and the state capital where the political crisis is brewing.

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Inside Politics



L-R: The Deputy Governor of Zamfara State, Alhaji Mahmaud Aliyu Shinkafi, Yobe State Deputy Governor, Alhaji Saleh Bagari and Deputy-Governor of Taraba, Alhaji Armaya'u Abubakar, at the 19 Northern governors meeting, held in Kaduna... recently. Pic Shehu K. Goro.

IBB, not party to Edo impeachment scare

Acting National Publicity Secretary of The Nigerian Project (TNP), an organisation campaigning for General Ibrahim Babangida's presidency in 2007, Mr. E.J. Agbonayinma has joined issues with former Director-General of the defunct Centre for Democratic Studies, Professor Omo Omoruyi over Babangida's alleged role in the alarm he (Omoruyi) raised on the plot to impeach Edo State Governor, Chief Lucky Igbinedion.

Reports had indicated the claim by Omoruyi that Babangida sent him to Benin to warn the relevant leaders against the plot to impeach the governor, an action which he further claimed the former military President said could destabilise the state.

But Agbonayinma, who was a member of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) December 10, 2005 National Convention Planning Committee, said at the weekend from the US that after making necessary contacts, he discovered that Babangida did not send Omoruyi to Benin to raise the alarm.

According to him, "Information that reached me said that Babangida never sent Omoruyi to Benin. Omoruyi was just seeking political relevance in Edo State by dropping the name of Babangida. He is not a politician and his action, which is capable of discrediting Babangida should be condemned by all lovers of Babangida."

"The leadership of the PDP in Edo State is in the hands of Chief Tony Anenih, Dr. Samuel Osaigbovo Ogbemudia and others. Chief Igbinedion is the governor and there was no impeach-

ment plot against him as alleged by Omoruyi". He said that Anenih and Ogbemudia have been trying to bring Edo people together and warned that nobody would be allowed to break up the state.

He stated that Omoruyi was trying to cause confusion in Edo State politics, as according to him "It has now been confirmed that Babangida never sent Omoruyi to Edo State. I had a telephone conference with Babangida's Chief of Staff, Col. Habibu Shuaibu and the leader of PDP in Edo South Senatorial zone, Chief Sunny Uyiwe where this matter was discussed and put to rest."

"The Chief of Staff also confirmed to Chief Uyiwe that Omoruyi was acting on his own; that he was not sent by Babangida. I hasten to say that those using Babangida's name to improve their ratings in their constituencies should forthwith desist from that pastime. I want to state categorically that Omoruyi's reference to Babangida in the impeachment scare was dubious and in bad taste."

"I can tell you on a good authority that Babangida was not party to the impeachment alarm raised by Omoruyi. Babangida believes in leadership of inclusion, unity and total respect for constituted authority, due process and the rule of law."

"He is very busy fine tuning his vision and mission of empowering all Nigerians under his presidency in 2007 and thus has no time to engage in the kind of local wrangling concocted by Omoruyi. The Babangida campaign train would soon stop over at Edo State to sound the trumpet of unity"

... Omoruyi offers clarification

Former director-general of the defunct Centre for Democratic Studies (CDS), Professor Omo Omoruyi in an interview with *Daily Trust* said he did not say that he was sent by Babangida to make the Edo impeachment alert, but that he acted on the basis of the concern raised by Babangida on reports from the state in the direction of a plot to impeach Governor Lucky Igbinedion.

He referred to the text of his press release on the object of his visit to Edo State, to wit: "I came to the State on the advice of General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida who expressed concern about what he heard about the state. What did he hear about the state? He heard that there were plans by some elements within the PDP opposed to the government of the state headed by Governor Lucky Igbinedion to cause disorder in the state with the view of causing or bringing about an unconstitutional change in the state"

But shedding more light on the impeachment scare, he said he raised the alarm because "Lucky Igbinedion is a lame duck governor on his way out and therefore whatever crimes he has committed by way of miscarriages here and there, he is on his way out. The party should put in place machinery for getting a successor."

"It does not make sense to me because it happened in Oyo it should be done also in Edo. One of them told me we also have twelve out of twenty-four and Oyo has eighteen out of thirty-two... So they think that

if eighteen did the magic in Oyo, twelve could also do the magic in Edo".

He said he went to Benin and called on some of the leaders and warned them against making themselves object of ridicule and disgrace, adding that "after all, what is the hurry for to remove Igbinedion? If Oghiadome gets in there, he could have an agenda, you do not know. So all the plans that Edo Central would produce governor in 2007 would become another fight and the people lose."

"Some people said that Babangida sent me there. Babangida did not send me there. He created some states that are today referred to as Babangida states and Edo is one of them. Babangida is their founding father and therefore anytime he sees anybody from the states, he usually asks, how is my state?"

"So, it was not unusual when we met and he said, 'Ha Omo, what are we hearing is going on in Edo State? I do not want trouble there o! Those people should go and put their home in order'. It is because he loves Edo and not because I should go there and explain to anybody."

Omoruyi noted that he observed a similarity in the methodology being adopted in Oyo and Edo, saying that Akala isolated Rasheed Ladoja in Oyo for two or three weeks, just the same way the Edo State Deputy Governor has strategically traveled out of the country now, keeping away from Governor Igbinedion.

Niger-Delta students seek 25% oil derivation

Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Chief Tony Anenih has extracted a promise from National Association of Niger-Delta/Oil Producing States' Students (NANDOPSS) to support the on-going constitution review process.

The leadership of NANDOPSS pledged last

Stories by Sufuyan Ojeifo
(Special Correspondent)

Thursday in Abuja to fully participate in the forthcoming public hearings on the amendments, saying that the association would be canvassing for an increment in derivation from 13 per cent to 25 per cent.

Anenih had also wanted to know from the association its

position on the recent hostage taking of four foreigner workers of Shell by militant youths in the Niger-Delta, a development which the association led by Mr. Bassey Etuk Williams condemned.

NANDOPSS leadership was in Abuja to present to Anenih a letter of commendation in recognition of the "unparalleled roles" he has played since assuming

office as Chairman of the PDP Board of Trustees.

In the letter of commendation dated January 23, 2006 and signed by Williams, the association listed the specific areas in which Anenih has played leadership roles to include, among others, his unalloyed support for the course of the Niger-Delta and her citizens, his peaceful intervention strategy in providing a lasting peace in the area, his fatherly disposition to youth and students in the area.

Speaking at the presentation of the letter of commendation to the Board of Trustees Chairman and former Works and Housing Minister, Williams said that the association planned to set up a committee to work with States Governments in the area to check their excesses so that there would be no repeat of the saga of former Bayelsa State Governor, D.S.P. Alamiyeseigha.

He said that the over 601 million students of Niger Delta were pledging their loyalty to Anenih and had invited him to help in solving the problem of violence in the area.

Williams used the occasion to congratulate Anenih on the conferment on him of the Honorary Doctorate of Agriculture by the University of Agriculture, Abeokuta and he expressed the appreciation of the association to the authorities of the institution for recognising his contributions in the area of agriculture and for giving honour to whom it was due.

In a related development, the Inspector General of Police, Mr. Sunday Ehindero has congratulated Anenih on the honorary doctorate awarded him by UNAAB, describing it as "a worthy honour to a great achiever".

According to Ehindero, "The officers and men of the Nigeria Police are enthused with the accolades and achievements that informed the award. We feel very proud to have you as our icon and role model. It is a worthy honour to a great achiever".

Obaseki advises Ribadu on IBB

A U.S.-based Nigerian businessman and associate of former military president, General Ibrahim Babangida, Mr. Ted Obaseki has admonished Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Mallam Nuhu Ribadu not to use the commission to "rabble rouse and witch-hunt perceived and identified political foes".

Obaseki, in a telephone interview with our correspondent from Houston, Texas, said he read the position expressed by Ribadu at the 3rd Annual Trust Dialogue on January 19, this year, and felt offended at his conclusion that corruption was the guiding principle of the administrations of Alhaji Shehu Shagari, Babangida and General Abdulsalami Abubakar.

According to Obaseki, "It is disheartening that Ribadu, who is heading an important commission that should conduct its affairs with at least a modicum of secrecy, has violated that ethos and turned his assignment into a public dance, announcing to the world even when he has not got conclusive evidence, that some people are guilty of corruption."

"He has taken it upon himself to continuously attempt

to denigrate in particular the person of General Babangida in a manner that suggests that there is an objective that he is working at. I read the media reports of your Trust Dialogue on the net and I felt I should advise Ribadu, who is a young man, to tread softly in the way he handles his job and talks about Nigeria's former leaders in the public sphere.

"His verbal attacks on some of our respected former leaders at your Trust Dialogue to say the least was simply uncouth. He should do his work to the gallery in a manner that portrays him as a hired gun to kill the presidential ambition of Babangida."

Obaseki said that Ribadu had early last year picked on Babangida, at a forum in South Africa, alleging that his administration was corrupt, but stated that his (Ribadu's) investigation had not proved conclusive that he had cases of corruption to answer.

"You can see that Ribadu has betrayed himself as someone who is out to nail Babangida, but it is gratifying that he has seen the futility of the exercise. I make bold to say that Babangida's administration was not corrupt. Ribadu should work very hard, if he so wishes,

to see how he can impeach Babangida's character.

"But I assure him that he would not succeed. He is to work and not to make political comments or criticise people's characters. I am not saying it is out of place to question the integrity of leaders both former and present, but before going public, he should have got his facts correct and ready to act on them", he stated.

Obaseki reviewed the Babangida's eight-year rule (from 1985-1993) and concluded that "IBB's government was a good government because I followed it step by step; I gave recommendations to the government on certain issues, which it adopted. IBB did a great job and I assure you that he is coming to do a greater job."

"Nigerians have the right to live a better life. Under President Olusegun Obasanjo's administration, Nigerians are having it good, but Babangida will make Nigeria better. He will improve on what Obasanjo is doing. He has the ability to make the current system perfect. I pray that Nigerians would give Babangida a chance to prove that experience would indeed guide his leadership in the task of leading the nation to the Promised Land".

ABUJA PROPERTY

Abuja's 30th anniversary: The history

Nasir Imam, Editor,
Abuja Property

When General Murtala Muhammad made the historical broadcast of February 3, 1976, exactly ten days before he was assassinated, announcing government's acceptance of the Justice Akinola Agudale panel's recommendation to move Nigeria's capital from Lagos to Abuja, few Nigerians understood the implication of that broadcast.

Characteristic of that government, 48 hours after the national broadcast, on February 5, 1976, Decree No. 6 establishing the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA) was promulgated.

The decree charged the FCDA with the responsibilities of planning, designing and developing the FCT and went ahead to vest the, ownership, control, and governance of the territory in the hands of the government.

From that period, construction of Abuja began and every successive administration has done its best to advance the construction work. Of particular note was the Shehu Shagari administration (1979-83).

However, the luck of being the first Nigerian head of state to move into Abuja was to fall on General Ibrahim Babangida in the course of his eight year tenure. On December 12, 1991, he formally moved the seat of government from Lagos to Abuja in a colourful ceremony.

The land now called Abuja was originally the south western part of the ancient Habe (Hausa) kingdom of Zazzau (Zaria). It was populated for centuries by several semi-independent tribes. The largest of those tribes was the Gbaya (Gwari), followed by the Koro and a few other similar tribes.

In the early 1800s, when Zaria fell to Fulani invaders, Muhammadu Makau fled

succeeded Makau in 1825.

The full name of the king was Abubakar; Abu was his nickname. By some accounts his fair complexion earned him the nickname "Ja" which

means "red" or "fair-skinned" in Hausa. He became known as "Abuj-Ja" meaning "Abu the red" or "Abubakar the fair one." Other sources say that

the "Ja" is a shortened form of Ishaku Jatau, his father's name. King Abubakar founded the kingdom of Abuja.

Abuja became a major

commercial centre from which goods were exchanged by long distance traders. The inhabitants successfully fought off the Fulani and were not conquered as the surrounding lands were.

In 1902, Abuja was occupied by the British colonial army. The British reorganised the kingdoms and called them "emirates" which means "kingdoms" in Arabic. Until 1975, it remained the relatively quiet emirate of Abuja.

The criteria used for the selection of Abuja, from among 33 possible sites, as the new capital, include: centrality, health, climate, land availability and use, water supply, multi-access possibilities, security, existence of resources, drainage, good soil, physical planning convenience and ethnic accord.

The Emir of Abuja at that time, Alhaji Suleiman Barau, was asked to meet with his Emirate Council to approve contributing four of the five districts of Abuja to become the new capital. The council was divided as some districts considered it too much of a sacrifice; but at the end, they approved the request from the Federal Government.

Thus, the Abuja Emirate in Niger State contributed 80% of the land of the territory, Plateau State (now Nassarawa State) contributed 16% of the South-east territory and Kwara State (now Kogi State) contributed about four percent of the South-west territory.

The Emirate was then asked to give up the name Abuja for the FCT. Again the council was divided. In the end, they agreed believing that the name of the emirate would become famous throughout the world.

The previous town of Abuja was renamed Suleja after the then Emir Suleiman Barau and "Ja" the last syllable of the first emir's name.

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ABUJA PROPERTY

Buildings everywhere, but not for the poor

The United Nation UN global shelter strategy for the country is that by the year 2000, every Nigerian Citizen would have been properly sheltered. But, almost six years after the declaration, which Nigerian government orchestrated then, the country still remains several miles away from the realization of these housing objectives. Sunday Ejike Benjamin, Asst. Head, Abuja Property takes a look at the housing problem of Nigerian masses.

Shelter is an essential part of our heritage, not only in Nigeria but in the world over. It goes along way to enhancing human dignity. It is more than having a roof over one's head. Shelter in all totality involves the environment, employment, health and educational opportunities.

These were words of an indefatigable Major general Mamman Kotongora, a one time minister for works and Housing of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on the occasion of the World Habitat Day Celebration held eight years ago. These statements are typical of what now constitutes the familiar slogan of many administrations in the country through the years. It is a topic well talked about; and so little is being done about it.

Shelter, an exhausted word preempts an immediate mind's picture of a roof laid over the head within an enclosed space. What could be more crucial to man in the hierarchy of his needs, if not food? From the beginning of time, shelter has taken quickly on the heels of food- as the greatest need of mankind. A man's home is his fortress. Home as the reasoning goes, conceives shelter as the metaphor of survival. A place to come to is the home. For man, it is the greatest testimony for having arrived, the closet he can get having come to his own. A man without a home is like the wind, a vagabond in every sense of the world. In this traditional society of ours in which parents measure the success of their children by the number of houses they have as their own.

The importance of shelter was not less on the early man. Even in his crude naivety, he realized that what separated him from the baboon he was said to have evolved (or those who truly believe in the evolution theory) was a lifted abode to which he retired at the end of his day's search for what to eat and drink. At the very beginning, man find such homes on tree tops. Man later found out that he could afford to live in huts rudely constructed of bamboo sticks and leaves. Rudimentary as

these structures were, they served a functional purpose to man, no matter how simple. He was able to protect himself from the threat of wild animals and to some extent, hazards of the elements.

The events relayed above draw us back to several thousands of years. Now, except in a few undocumented cases, more likened to Tarzan-styled movies than real, man no longer find abode on tree tops, nor in caves. This assertion is not intended to play down the endemic problems of shelter in today's contexts.

Millions of Nigerians are still without shelter, some living in ramshackle huts that give up at the least unkindly waft of the wind that is rampant in this part of the world. This is even evidenced in recent rains in some parts of the country. Needless to talk of the millions of beleaguered souls scattered over ghettos of Mabuchi, in Jabi District, Nyanya, Karu in Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC) of Abuja, just to mention but a few of the places where living is still quite a nightmare in the Federal Capital Territory.

Others find their abode on or under the bridges, some in parks, while so many others live in uncompleted buildings. The list is by no means exhaustive. To these people for who live is lived daily, good shelter is not just a conceived luxury, it is a wonder of the modern world.

The United Nation Development Programme (UNDP) considers those ones living on a daily income of less than a dollar as being, "poor". To such people, it does not concern them to know what the consortium of Abuja. Investment and Property Development Company (AIPDC), Federal Housing Authority, Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA), construction companies and real estate developers have turned and are still turning the Capital city into "made in Heaven living estate". Tell them that AIPDC or the FHA are now developing a low-income housing estate, like the "face-me-I-face-you" buildings in Nyanya and Karu in Abuja, they will consider it as another

"419" move by government, to be specific, the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA). Some may consider it as government's *turenchi*. It is not their business if the entire Abuja is choking in the steam of real estate development or that the moneyed developers of Abuja are vociferously hewing the stubborn rocks of the Federal Capital Territory into choice living homes.

They are less concerned or no concerned at all because they know that such housing schemes were not designed for them and none truly is. At best, they might have the rare privilege of living in such magnificent houses as house helps, guards, gardener and the likes. No developer is building with them in mind. An estate developer. Mr. Obafemi Peter Ilori of Solid Base properties say was because every developer wants to rake in profit on his investment. According to him, such low-income houses will not serve the purpose of real-estate developers. The question therefore is, when the urban poor in the country will have their own type of housing scheme? The government or its agencies that should have the interest of this category of people at hearth seems to be less concern to their plight.

In fairness to private developers and banks- they are businessmen and women, trying hard to eke out living for themselves and their families. They have borrowed money at prohibited rates of interest and cannot to be "father Christ-mass" to some people they do not know. The banks, no doubt owe obligations to their owners and staff alike, which they must keep. As such, they cannot afford to embark on such needless social responsibilities-after all, they pay taxes as corporate citizens, as the oil companies do to government.

This then leaves out government-at all levels to take the blame for the appalling housing situation in the country. Before now, the constant refrain of government on housing was that by the year 2000, in line with United Nation's global shelter strategy,



2 bedroom flats financed with National Housing Fund (NHF) but built by Aso Savings and Loans Ltd in Lugbe, Airport road, FCT.

every Nigerian Citizen would have been housed. Six years after the missed date, we are still several miles away from realizing the housing objectives.

The Federal Housing Authority (FHA) used to be known for its dynamism in urban housing delivery, culminating in 1977, the birth of FESTAC town, a residential estate, largest of its type in Africa then, meant for a target population of 55,000 people. Though the once glorified estate is now a shadow of its former self, it remains one of the monumental achievements of the Gown administration. The initiative, no doubt dealt a severe blow on urban housing problem and in spite of its present shortcomings, Festac town remains a sweet balm on a festering housing sore in the country at that time. The civilian government of Shagari also went headlong in solving housing problems in the country then. He initiated several housing schemes which today are housing several low income earners all over the country.

The present administration should as a matter of urgency begin to look into housing problems in Abuja, which is now in a worse state in view of the demolition of illegal settlements and structures by the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA)

In trying to devise an easy way out of the problem, government has created more complex problems. The issue of retrieving mortgage loan

from allottees of government housing unit is a simple management problem over which government ought to fare better. With the condition for the purchase of government houses by civil servants, many prospective buyers (civil servants) find it difficult to meet; those who met the requirements did that without ease.

Another point worthy of note and which ironic is that the room and parlor, one bedroom, which remain the least expensive alternatives that

the poor man could have hoped to get, do not form an attractive option in the investment portfolio of the AIPDC. This is a government agency that ought to build cheaper houses for people.

Government of the day can be said not to be building for the poor as they are profit-driven in pursuit of their housing programmes and they do not see a felt social need and responsibility. It is a high time they do something to get us out of the housing quagmire in the country.

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ABUJA PROPERTY NEWS



Right to Left - Works Minister, Senator Adeseye Ogunlewe, Director Federal Highways, Engr. David Jime and President Olusegun Obasanjo being briefed during his inspection of Otta - Abeokuta dualisation project recently

Speaker seeks FERMA assistance over East-West road maintenance

The deputy speaker, House of Representatives, Austin Okpara has appealed to the Federal Road Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to assist in filling up some of the pot-holes in Lagos-Benin, Benin-Port Harcourt and Port Harcourt-Enugu roads.

The deputy speaker made this appeal in his office while receiving members of the agency accompanied by the board chairman, Engr. Emmanuel Iwauanyanwu in his office recently.

According to him, filling the pot-holes on these roads has become necessary in order to bring to the door steps of Nigerians the dividends of democracy by keeping the roads free of pot-holes.

Mrs. Maryam M. Sanusi, said in a statement that the deputy speaker explained that the roads will boost the economic activities of the people living in that part of the country as well as ameliorate the present hardship being faced by commuters plying the road.

Okpara disclosed that, "before 1999, our roads were death traps, but for FERMA conception, our roads would have remained the same, prior to the establishment of the agency, there were no deliberate and institutional arrangements for maintenance in spite of the huge government investments in the road construction. But with the level of improvement on our roads, they deserve commendation"

Earlier, the chairman, House committee on works, Yahya Yinusa said the committee and the agency will soon

commence a nationwide tour to assess the administration on road projects and assured that the house will soon pass the FERMA amendment bill.

Commenting on funds, Yahya Yinusa said his committee would make concerted efforts at the legislative level to ensure that more funds are voted for the agency in this year's budget and issues on road maintenance are seriously tackled.

He added that without funds there will be no improvement on quality and quantity of jobs that the agency needs to cover and it shall be pursued up to the presidential level because increased appropriation for the agency will assist Nigerians, who are yearning endlessly for good roads.

Earlier in his remark, the board chairman, Engr. Emmanuel Iwauanyanwu highlighted the challenges of the agency which include poor funding and regretted the billions being spent on roads which hitherto collapsed and deteriorated due to lack of maintenance. He lamented that less attention was paid to maintenance even when billions have been expended on road construction across federal roads in the immediate past.

While calling for sustainable road maintenance culture in all facets of our national life, the board chairman said that the enormity of the problems in the road sector has made FERMA ask for more funds and recalled that the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) had roads as a major manifesto during its political campaigns.

FG awards Nasarawa-Loko-Alushi loop road

The Federal Executive Council (FEC) has approved the award of contract for the rehabilitation of Nasarawa-Loko-Alushi loop road in Nasarawa State to Gitto Construction (Nig) Limited.

A statement made available to Daily Trust by the Chief Press Secretary to the minister of works, Mr.

Stories by Mustafa Abubakar, Abuja.

Lawrence Ojabo pointed out that the council also advertised the construction of a bridge over River Benue to link Toto and Oweto in Nasarawa and Benue States respectively. The project, the statement added will be carried out under the new Build, Operate and Transfer

(BOT) through the new Public - Private Partnership arrangement.

The minister of Works, Senator Adeseye Ogunlewe, the statement said disclosed this while receiving a delegation from the Idoma-speaking area of Benue state that paid him a courtesy visit in his Mabuchi office.

Senator Ogunlewe said

that the government was fully aware and committed to its responsibility of providing good roads all over the country in order to accelerate economic development and poverty alleviation.

He added that in doing so, the Ministry has worked out an arrangement in which all stakeholders, including members of the National Assembly collaborate in equitable allocation of funds appropriated for road construction and rehabilitation among the six geo-political zones, which he said is intended to eliminate marginalization by any section of the country.

In his remark during the visit to the minister, Major General Geoffrey Ejiga (rtd.) who spoke on behalf of the group said, the essence of the visit was to acknowledge the good work the present administration is doing in the area of roads repairs and construction.

He said the people of Benue South-East Senatorial District are disturbed by the deplorable state of the Oweto - Loko road and the bridge and has requested them to present same to the minister for quick action. He however made a case for the Makurdi - Otukpo - Enugu road, which accounted for substantial part of agricultural and other goods freighted between the Middle Belt and the South-East and the South-South.

... considers increasing scope of Otta-Abeokuta dualisation project

The Federal Ministry of Works is considering the increase of the scope of work on the dualisation of the on-going Otta-Abeokuta road, to extend work to Ikeja in Lagos by providing additional lane on both sides of the carriageways.

A statement from the ministry of works, said that the project, will include two flyover bridges and carriageways will be constructed on the express way along Sango-Otta, with a roundabout under the flyover to improve the circulation of traffic and reduce congestion.

The minister of works, Senator Ogunlewe, the statement said announced the addendum to the subsisting contract at Itori Berger Camp site while briefing the President Olusegun Obasanjo on the progress of work on the on-going dualisation of Otta-

Abeokuta road, one of the several projects inspected by the President during his official visit to Ogun State last week.

"A single carriageway road measuring 6 kilometres, taking off from the Otta-Abeokuta dual carriageway and to link Adigbe in Abeokuta will also be constructed to provide another access road to Abeokuta. The additional work is estimated to cost N2.1 billion. With the revised costs, the overall contract for the project will amount to approximately N14.086 billion. The variation order also covers the cost of variation in prices of basic construction materials, labour fluctuation over the extended contract duration of five years" the minister added.

According to him, "Work on the original contract has attained about 96% completions, including the dualisation of the existing

road from Otta to Abeokuta in Ogun State. A new carriageway was constructed from the former PHCN office at Otta, and ran parallel to the existing road. The existing carriageway from Otta to Abeokuta, a total length of 60.1 kms will be repaired as required. In addition, bridges, pipe, box culverts and other ancillary works have been constructed."

Responding, President Olusegun Obasanjo expressed satisfaction with the quality of work on the project, the proposed addendum and other Federal road projects, which include the dualisation of Abeokuta - Kobape - Siun - Sagamu road constructed by the Ogun State Road Maintenance Agency on behalf of the Federal Government at a total cost of N1.9 billion, out of which the sum of N600 million has already been released by the Federal Government.

REDAN to hold two day national workshop

The Real Estate Developers Association of Nigeria-REDAN with the support of the Kaduna State Government will hold a two day national workshop and launching of the North-West Chapter of the association.

A statement signed by the chairman organizing committee of the event, Mallam Sulaiman Abubakar expressed that the event will be paraded with an array of dignitaries from Nigerian Housing Industry. The theme of the workshop is "Mass Housing Delivery-A Veritable Tool for Local Empowerment-which Way Forward? Crucial subjects on finance, like funding the developers for mass housing delivery and empowering buyers of mass houses will be discussed at

the workshop.

The event will take place at the Banquets Hall of the Hassan Usman Katsfna House, Ali Akilu road Kaduna between Thursday 9th to 10th Friday 2006.

The statement further stated that discussants such as the senior assistant to the presidents on millennium development goals, Hajia Amina Ibrahim, Managing Director, Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria, Mallam Tanimu, Director Jigawa Savings and Loans Limited, Mallam Ali Dagashi will deliver papers during the workshop. The Governor of Kaduna state, Alhaji Muhammad Maikarfi is the Chief host of the occasion while other six Northern Governors will serve as co-hos.

Abuja Property

Buying: pitfalls to avoid

...continued from last week

N Yasir Imam, Abuja Property Editor brings you the concluding parts of what to put into consideration in order to ensure that property buying dream does not end into nightmare.

21. GOING ON HOLIDAY AND BUYING WHILE YOU'RE THERE

This is never a good idea, unless you know the area really well. Committing to buying overseas takes a lot of thought and research, and must never be entered into lightly.

22. BELIEVING THE HYPE ABOUT RENTAL RETURNS

Ask to see accounts from previous owners if possible, and ask around among existing owners to see how they feel the market is going. A five to six per cent return is good in most areas.

23. BELIEVING THE HYPE ABOUT CAPITAL GROWTH

Agents and developers often bandy around capital growth figures of 20 per cent or more - sometimes on the flimsiest of evidence. Ask to see hard data, and also remember that past performance is no guarantee for the future.

24. RELYING ON INSPECTION TRIPS

It stands to reason that if an agent or developer pays for you to view properties, they're looking for a return at the end of it. Organise your

own viewings, with a range of agents.

25. ASSUMING VALUES ONLY GO UP

If you're tying up money in overseas property, look carefully at what's happening in the particular market, and consider worst-case scenarios.

26. FAILING TO HAVE A SURVEY DONE

Especially in France, surveys are considered superfluous, but there's really no substitute for a full structural survey when you're trying to weigh up a property's true value - especially if it needs lots of work doing.

27. AGREEING TOO SIMPLISTIC A CONTRACT

It's vital to have negotiated escape clauses into the contract before you hand over any money, and they must be specific enough to protect your interests. For example, saying you'll buy subject to securing a mortgage means just that - the seller could insist on you taking a loan with a punitive interest rate.

28. IGNORING THE EXCHANGE RATE

Even relatively small fluctuations in exchange rates can have a huge effect on what you can afford. Between June 2001 and December 2004, fluctuations were such that in the US the house-buying power of a £200,000 budget would have ranged from \$280,000 to

\$390,000. Buying currency in advance can help you take advantage of favourable currency trends.

29. FORGETTING ABOUT FEES AND TAXES

Estate agents are very good at convincing you properties are affordable, but don't forget all the fees and taxes when you're working out the real costs. Allow ten to 15 per cent on top of the purchase price; if possible, have a quarter of the total cost available in cash.

30. ASSUMING LEASEBACK DEALS ARE SAFE

Leasebacks are often sold as a hassle-free way of investing in overseas property and in many cases they are; but the devil is in the detail and you'll need a good lawyer to check out the management company and lease renewal options.

31. IGNORING PLANNING PERMISSION

Forget the cliches about Mediterranean people flouting rules and the authorities turning a blind eye. You must follow the right procedures when doing major, and in some cases minor, builds or renovations; otherwise expect to have to have the work you've done pulled down.

32. IGNORING YOUR NEIGHBOURS

Make friends with the locals, and remember that if you buy in an agricultural area, neighbouring farmers

may have a right to first refusal on any land you buy; by law you must give them the chance to exercise this right.

33. BEING OVERCHARGED BY THE AGENT

Especially in heavily hyped investment hot spots like Bulgaria, there have been cases of estate

agents ripping off both buyer and seller, charging inflated prices to foreigners without the sellers' consent, so as to pocket the difference. To avoid this, always insist that the actual price you're paying be inserted on the title deed.

34. BEING OVERCHARGED BY THE SELLER

It's important that you feel the price you're paying accurately reflects the property's value. Sellers may not be queuing up to rip off Johnny Foreigner, but a minority could see you as the route to a fast buck. Be particularly wary of private sales, and protect yourself by employing an army of lawyers and surveyors, who should be able to spot the crooks a mile off.

35. NOT SPENDING ENOUGH ON MARKETING YOUR PROPERTY

There are plenty of useless marketing tools out there; get yourself a good website and pay to have it well promoted.

36. BEING UNCOMPETITIVE

Letting out a holiday home

is a commercial venture. If you want to attract the most tourists and at the highest prices, make sure your property is better than the competition.

37. RUSHING INTO THINGS

Be clear about why you want a property abroad for an investment, for your personal use, or for retirement - before you even begin to look for one. Otherwise you could end up buying somewhere that doesn't suit your needs at all.

38. THE SPORTING LIFE

Easy access to sporting facilities, such as sailing and skiing, and especially the ever-popular golf courses, can make a huge difference to your property's rental appeal. So bear them in mind,

especially if you're buying to let.

39. OVER-ESTIMATING HOW GOOD YOU ARE AT LANGUAGES

Ordering in a restaurant is one thing. Understanding the contents of a legal document quite another. If you know any native speakers willing to translate, great; otherwise, use a bilingual lawyer and/or reputable translators.

40. THINKING THE SUN ALWAYS SHINES

Just because the weather is glorious in the summer, don't assume your property will be a suntrap all year round. Areas as far south as Turkey can have surprisingly sharp winters, so if climate is important to you, do your homework.



Newly completed 3-Bedroom bungalows at the Prince and Princess Estate, Durumi, Abuja. Over 90 percent of the houses have been sold.

Investing in hall, space hiring in Abuja

Gradually, opportunities and new avenue of making lots of money to boost sustainable income keeps unfolding from the property sector of the Federal Capital Territory economy. In recent times, one of the emerging ones is hosting of events and parties.

Many earn more income particularly on weekends by providing opportunities for people to have stress free receptions for parties, seminars, launching, town meetings, religious, social or diverse socio-cultural, religious and political activities. By investing in building a hall, opportunities are bound through which facilities can be leased out to users at good rates. It can be attractive rates to the would-be users.

Gradually, beautiful building can be erected specially as hall for all events. In addition, further complimentary income can be earned by alleviating logistic problems arising from hosting such events, or even more by making available consumables foods and drinks. As an entrepreneur searching for a worthwhile and sustainable good business you can invest in, this is an opportunity you can not afford to miss.

The attractions to this potential are patronage, low risk level and the assured long life span. The income for this business comes continuously throughout the year. For instance, what a three bedroom flat will likely attract per annum is what a good hall will attract per day.

Like a property business will attract all over the world, investment in hall business improves its earning year upon year.

In the past, securing befitting hall to host parties, receptions, social event etc was never asking as now because of

By **Muhammad Abubakar, Abuja**

increasing population as well as the corresponding increase in the social status of people. As the population of Nigerians increases from about 80 million in the 80's and now about 130 million, the number of days in a year remains the same. Consequently, day after day, as the population of people keeps increasing in the city, so are the numbers of activities such as Annual General Meetings of firms and corporations, seminars, ceremonies, religious programmes, exhibitions, musical concerts etc. All competing for the 365 days in a year. What an opportunity to make money.

Since area of land and space needed for the variety of activities of man is fixed, only the wise ones can pragmatically manipulate its use for more special benefit and earn income. There are so many uses for which a particular land area can be used to make money, depending on socio-economical power and the information at ones disposal.

By implication one can invest money to acquire land for the sole purpose of making it easy and stress free for people to hold activities, while you smile. Open space like schools' football pitches, community playgrounds and even major streets and avenues have become activities centres for people who could not get convenient indoor halls for social activities and still, this is not enough.

Halls in Abuja go for between 100,000-500,000 Naira for four to five hours a day. Some are expensive, particularly in big hotels which are always over-booked and strategically sited. You can be sure that using a

parcel of land for operation of a hall, what is accruable in a month or more might be more than what the same land can fetch in a year if developed for residential purpose.

For instance, two plots of land developed into 8 flats of 3 bedrooms each will fetch about 2 million naira in a year at 250,000 each per year in a developed area, yet the cost of developing the property is enormous.

The same land if used to build a sizeable hall with parking space in the same environment will fetch 2 million in less than 3 months, together with cost of development which is very low.

A particular open space half a plot in the central area of Abuja, with only the fence well decorated and the floor well concretized, small room toilet and changing room for male female, enough chairs, canopies and stand-by generator, with efficient service delivery, this hall is always booked every weekend and even during the week for a flat rate of 180,000 Naira per use. Thus when multiple by the number of weekend in a year, one make 9.9 million naira in a year.

In the semi urban centres and villages. In the villages, people also get married and other activities that bring big people from big cities. In the absent of events the locals can patronize the halls to stage and watch dramas, films as well as recreational activities, which you as an investor can conceptualize.

Investment process of this nature can be from scratch by acquiring land through outright purchase or securing long lease from the owner in our identified area of choice, which could be determined by the following factors that could influence your choice.

Location must be easily

accessibly to vehicles and pedestrians, so as to attract good patronage.

The issue of security safety of guests and their belongings should also be paramount if to enjoy the patronage of elites within the middle class and above who can pay good money renting the hall as well as be able to pay for any other complementary services you make available.

Landscaping which improves profit margin. The better use one can put the land, the better the profit. One of the things that attract people to any area is good landscaping of an environment. Any terrain that has good combination trees and flowers, in well laid out lawn complemented with water bodies-may be a flowing stream, river, lake, or even an artificial swimming pool or artificial fountain will definitely attract good patronage and better income.

The Financial implication of a standard hall could mean by investing in a new neighborhood where price of land is modest enough for your pocket. In Abuja, places in the outskirts were plots of land can be gotten for 300,000-400,000 Naira. Purchase of two plots including administrative charges could gulp about one million Naira. With about three to four million Naira, you can start with a modest bungalow, well finished with good complementary landscaping and provision of ample parking facility. Depending on your choice of location and packaging, you can recoup your investment in a year or two and seat back to enjoy perpetual returns.

For Low starters one can start by acquiring an open space and making it conducive and attractive. You can do this by investing in natural good canopies like trees with wide foliage or artificial canopies. You will need to provide good garden

and if possible, stock the facility with recreational facilities such as lawn tennis, Chess, Fives, Golf, basket ball, scrabble etc which will quickly popularize the space and income generated can gradually be invested in building halls later.

One of the major problems is the saying "I have no start-up capital". Not having money to buy land for the above purpose does not stop investing in this opportunity. You can actually explore the possibility of providing one or more of the complementary services and enter into an agreement on a ratio-sharing basis with the owner of an existing hall or reception center. If the negotiation is right and you have your way, you will be helping in making the facilities built attractive and when adequately patronized, shall give you the opportunity to make your own money.

As an unemployed who need a job, you can benefit for hall business by offering yourself as consultant to help in putting in place or hire element that make a good party such as master of ceremony(MC), security etc. You can also be allowed to manage traffic or see to the management of vehicle if you genuinely offer yourself. You will definitely go home richer at end of every activity because apart from emolument that is sure, tips from owner of vehicle are bound to increase your earnings. In the same way job opportunities like general cleaning of the surroundings and immediate washing of used plates and cutleries, cleaning, arranging and re-arranging of chairs, tables, decoration, canopies etc. before and after are certainties at the end of the day, as there is always a way for the serious one in making away to invest in this investment.

Tips on hall and space opportunities

- v Provision of open space or halls of all classes for reception.
- v Provision of chairs and tables for rent.
- v Provision of canopies.
- v Provision of mobile truck(s) or smaller containers or drums for cold drinks.
- v Provision for internal decoration elements or tools.
- v Provision of stand-by generator or solar powered energy system as power back-up.
- v Sound system and other multimedia devices like large screen, telephone services and internet services etc.
- v Mobile toilets and bathrooms with open spaces.
- v Mobile or stationary kitchens for cooking and warming of food when necessary.
- v Plates, cutleries, towels, napkins, etc.
- v Supermarket or mini shopping malls to display and sell groceries and gift items.
- v Vehicle parking and security services.
- v Guest room for lodging where possible.
- v Back-up personnel like security men to maintain peace and tranquility and protect lives and property.
- v Cleaners, electricians, plumbers etc.
- v Open air and indoor reception like swimming pool, table tennis or lawn tennis courts, playground etc for children and youth events.
- v Discotheque, cinema halls etc.

ABUJA PROPERTY

How to individualize your bedroom

The bedroom has become more than a sleeping place, it is taking on more complex qualities and that is the reason we need to individualize it so that it can better serve its purpose. Individualizing your bedroom, simply put is to furnish it with those items and pieces that create style and distinction between one person and another. In order to do this well, you need to clarify a few things for yourself:

By Nasir Imam,
Abuja Trust Editor



1) What does this room mean to you? A transit sleep point? A sanctuary? Your escape from the daytime hustle and bustle of the city? A mere room with a bed where you retreat to every night? Or much more?

2) Who do you want to be reminded of when you step into this room, yourself, your spouse, your sister etc?

3) What effect do you desire to create or achieve in this room. We do this all the time in our dressing/appearance, so why not our bedrooms! Is it peace, happiness, or energy? We once had a client whose single brief was, 'I don't ever want to be unhappy in this room'

situate a man in a dominantly hot-pink room except he is so in love with you that he wouldn't notice or mind.

Once you have all your answers, please write them down so that you don't get

take and we'll consider a few of them in this article. Most of them are very obvious.

1) You may start by

important furniture in the room- the bed and its accompaniment: dressing mirror, chest of drawers, low

(Remember the questions you answered at the beginning?).

Every thing about this room suggests that the focal furniture is the bed thus every other thing should be supplementary/complimentary to this singular item. It is important to acquire the best bed that you can afford with a firm mattress to avoid unnecessary body aches. Many times people have been robbed of their beauty sleep solely because of the state of their beds (sagging mattress, weak flooring, lumpy pillows etc). A good bed/mattress/pillow is a great investment (in the right direction) any day if you desire sound and qualitative sleep. So, go ahead and invest in a good bed. It is my personal belief that every room has a soul, i.e the point where cross ventilation takes place and beds should be placed at this point leaving enough room to enable someone walk around and make-up the bed. If the room is small, do not put a king size bed just because, the smaller the bed [compared to the room] the cosier it is and that is the bottom line in all of this, isn't it?

5) Finally, let us think

lighting for your bedroom and I'm not talking of the four light points your 'landlord' or architect fixed in the room, rather, I'm suggesting lighting that works for you as an individual. Lighting is best done when every other thing is in place and from a night point of view. Luckily, there are several experts whose sole business is to give light effects; their services can be employed to achieve that fantasy of your dream for you and your partner.

As a cardinal rule, the bedroom must not be stuffy and it is definitely not the place to dump all your old furniture. Space is good and what other place should we spend most of our time, sleep, pray, recreate, procreate, work out, etc.

The state of your bedroom has a direct bearing on the quality of your nightly rest. A good night's sleep in a tastefully appointed room is, arguably, more important than it was in the past. If you can personalize or individualize the bedroom with your fave colours and fabrics at the same time, you will be better for it, who knows, you may even discover a thing or two worth sharing with others.

"The state of your bedroom has a direct bearing on the quality of your nightly rest. A good night's sleep in a tastefully appointed room is, arguably, more important than it was in the past. If you can personalize or individualize the bedroom with your fave colours and fabrics at the same time, you will be better for it, who knows, you may even discover a thing or two worth sharing with others."

so, we found out all that makes him happy and created his happiness room for him, but I digress.

Answers to these questions determine how to go about furnishing your bedroom. Nobody gets invited to an important occasion and goes to a roadside tailor to sew his/her clothes! Answers to the above questions will also reveal whether you are a natural, romantic, classic, contemporary, etc kind of person. Ladies, please, since this room is most likely going to be shared with the man in your life, consideration should be given to him & his

carried away by flash in the face of items when you go shopping. These attractive things may not help in creating the look/mood/feel that you desire.

Your bedroom is a personal place and so must reflect you. It's okay to copy Mrs. A's sitting room style as yours [most times we do up our sitting room to show off anyway, that's another story for another time], but your bedroom must reflect your individuality! Won't it be just cool if your bedroom was furnished to remind you of you and the things that truly make you happy. There are so many approaches you can

painting or repainting the room in your choice colours. Thank heavens there are a variety of good paints available in the market and in diverse hues too! In choosing colours, however, you've got to pick those that are vibrant in the daytime to energize and encourage you to wake up and face the day ahead and are cool enough to allow you sleep peacefully at night. Here is a guiding principle, do not buy cheap paints! You may react to the chemicals and rob yourself of the sleep you were aiming at.

2) Next, tackle the issue of flooring. In the event that you wish to rug, the rule about rugs is that it should be two tones darker than the colour of the wall. Alternatively, you may decide to tile or install wood based laminate flooring depending on your budget. Whatever your preference, think beyond the cost of installation to cost of maintenance. It is maintenance only that will keep your floor looking good and inviting for the long stretch.

3) Window treatments are next. Here you may decide to take your furnishing cue from an existing element in the room; for a dramatic window with a view, you may decide to put in a window seat so that you can enjoy the early morning late evening view and have a 'drama-full' vista that is enchanting again & again. Your window treatment could combine any of the following: Voile and Venetian blinds. Voile alone, Drapes & voile, etc. Pick an option that compliments all other items in the room, let in sunlight in the day or shut it out when you desire.

4) Now you can go shopping for the single most

chairs, etc. Will your bed be traditional or contemporary? Careful consideration should be given to this vis-a-vis the end decor so that you don't end up with a traditional bed in a contemporary setting.

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News

Anti graft war: Not personal battle -ICPC

The chairman of the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), Justice Emmanuel Olayinka Ayoola, asked Nigerians not to perceive the current war against corruption as the personal battle of President Olusegun Obasanjo, but as a collective battle of every Nigerian.

According to a release signed by Mike Sowe, head, Public Enlightenment Department, Justice Ayoola made this appeal while receiving the handing-over notes from his predecessor, Justice Mustapha Akanbi, at the headquarters of the commission. He stated emphatically that in the course of his duties in the anti-graft commission he would uphold the rule of law.

At the brief handing-over ceremony held at the boardroom of the commission, Justice Ayoola said, "I'm not looking for anybody's support. I'm looking for partnership. If I fight the anti-corruption campaign, I am not supporting President Obasanjo, because it is not President Obasanjo's battle."

"If you are fighting the anti-corruption war, you are not supporting Justice Ayoola. It is not Justice Ayoola's battle. We are going to be together because corruption is not the enemy of an individual nor is it the enemy of a particular person. It is the enemy of everybody in this country."

"If you are supporting the anti-corruption campaign, we are supporting each other. This is the philosophy that is going to guide us. If you put effort in the success of ICPC, you are not doing this because of the chairman; you are doing it because you believe

in the mission and values which the organisation stands for. This is where I am going to challenge every member of staff and Nigerians to be faithful to this perspective.

According to him, "The main objective, the main value which we shall endeavour to preserve is the value of rule of law. All my life, I have been a defence counsel, all his life, Justice Akanbi has been preserving and protecting the rule of law and he has left that imprint of protection of the rule of law in the activities of ICPC.

"I intend to continue to do that, if we are going to fight corruption and we must destroy the rule of law in the process, I will not be a part of that campaign. In anything we do, the value which we must preserve is the value and protection of the rule of law."

To Justice Ayoola, in spite of criticism that ICPC is not active, despite the criticism that ICPC is weak, despite the criticism that the commission has not been projecting itself sufficiently, we who know, we who cherish certain values, we appreciate the foundation which Justice Akanbi has laid and it is on that foundation which is noble value that I intend to build on."



President Obasanjo

2007: Group woos Makarfi for presidency

The governor of Kaduna State, Alhaji Ahmed Mohammed Makarfi, has been called upon to contest the 2007 presidential seat. The call was made by the Petroleum Tanker Drivers Association, Kaduna Unit.

The chairman, Comrade Nuhu Moha-mmed, in a press statement made available to *Daily Trust* in Abuja yesterday stated that Governor Makarfi's performance in the



Gov. Makarfi of Kaduna State

By Micheal William, Intern

past six and half years qualifies him for this number one seat in the country.

He said, "Makarfi's grass root programme is very enviable and goes to show his interest and love for the masses. If he wins Nigerians will surely enjoy the dividends of democracy."

Nuhu added that his performance during the various crises in Kaduna State shows that he is a detribalised Nigerian who can really carry out the affairs of the nation diligently without fear on favour. Comrade Nuhu, who is also the Marafian Nasarawa the commended the governor for his support to traditional rulers in the state.

He also commended governor for awarding contracts for over seven new roads in the rural areas the year to assist farmers in bringing their farm produce to the urban areas.



Arch Bishop of Jos, His Grace Rev. (Dr.) Ignatius Ayau Kaigama, and chairman, Inter Religious Council of Plateau State, welcoming Governor Joshua Dariye to Bishops' Court during the governor's visit on him...recently.

CVJA, NUJ forge closer ties

Cape Verde Journalists Association (CVJA) has expressed optimism that an accelerated mutual cooperation between it and the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) shall enhance bilateral relations between the two countries.

President, Associacao dos Jornalistas de Cabo Verde (Cape Verde Journalists Association), Paulo Jorge Lima, who gave the view in Praia, San Tiago, recently, stressed that high-level cooperation between the two professional bodies would further strengthen the needed international cooperation between the two West African nations.

Speaking while welcoming the NUJ Deputy National Secretary, Mr. Olu Akinboyewa, to the CVJA Secretariat, Lima said information development and exchange visits between the NUJ and CVJA would assist Nigeria's effort towards making Africa the centre-piece of her foreign policy.

Lima disclosed that the CVJA has held talks with her Liberian, Sierra Leonian, Guinean and Senegalese counterparts with the assistance of the UNESCO and American Embassy in Cape Verde, to meet the challenges and prospects of promoting Journalism internationally as well as entrenching Africa's political, social and economic cooperation.

The CVJA president recalled Nigeria's aviation and educational cooperation with Cape Verde under ex-president Ibrahim Babangida

and expressed his association's preparedness to foster closer ties with Journalists in Africa to kickstart active sovereign collaboration between the governments and peoples.

Lima disclosed that the association, established shortly after the Cape Verdean Independence in 1975, has a registered membership of over 2,000 out of which one-third are females and 11 media houses.

Ten Islands on the Atlantic Ocean-San Tiago, Fogo,

Brava, Maio, Boavista, St. Vincente, St. Nicolau, SAL, St. Luzia and St. Antao make the Cape Verde Islands.

Responding, the NUJ Deputy National Secretary, Mr. Olu Akinboyewa, expressed the union's collaboration with Journalists Associations in Africa and beyond to enhance professionalism and bilateral cooperation among nations.

He disclosed that the union has a working relationship with the West African Journalists Association

(WAJA), International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), International Organisation of Journalists (IOJ), Chinese and Cuban Journalists Associations.

The NUJ deputy national secretary, while presenting a copy of the NUJ Golden Jubilee Magazine, "The Press" and copies of some Nigerian newspapers to the CVJA president on behalf of the union, said the union with membership strength of about 25,000, was founded in Lagos on March 15, 1955.

Census: NURTW begins nationwide tour

As part of efforts towards a successful census, the National Executive Council of the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) is to begin a nationwide tour to mobilise members to participate.

NURTW President Gidado Hamman told News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Abuja that the union would address a rally in a selected motor park in each of the 36 state capitals, including the FCT.

"The aim is to sensitise our over 10 million members to fully participate in the census," he said.

He said that the success of the exercise was more challenging to the union because all its state chairmen were members of the state committees of the exercise scheduled for March.

"Since government has recognised us (NURTW) as a tool for mobilising people, it is incumbent on us to ensure we succeed especially since a good census is sure to boost national growth," he declared.

Gidado spoke against violence by his members and advised them to report to the police any highway blockage rather than take the law into their hands.

He said that the union's exco was organising periodic seminars to enlighten its members on what society was expecting from the core stakeholders in the national economy.

To help passengers on highways, Gidado said that the union had made a provision making manifest a compulsory aspect of every journey.

On projects for the year, Gidado said that the N240 mil-

lion four-storey headquarters would be completed before the end of the fiscal year.

"We have finished the first phase and hope to round off everything this year," he said.

Gidado said that he was also working on a plan that would ensure that every state had a befitting secretariat, noting that such would help the easy coordination of the union's activities.

He said that there were also efforts to expand the union's cooperative scheme to ensure the welfare of members. Gidado lauded the cooperative scheme in Ondo State where members hospitalised would receive N250,000 as support.

"The central cooperative body is being fashioned along that of the Ondo State and it hoped that all shall benefit and feel secured," he stated.

News



Chief Lanre Badmus of the Poultry Association of Nigeria and Admiral Murtala Nyako of the Practising Farmer Association of Nigeria during the stakeholder's meeting on agriculture held at the State House, Abuja... yesterday.

Pic: Joe Oroye.

NAPEP charges community on poverty eradication

The secretary of the National Poverty Eradication Programme, NAPEP, Alhaji Abdul-Ganiyu Obatoyinbo, has charged community development associations in the country to embark on poverty eradication projects with a view to empowering the people to fight poverty and hunger.

Obatoyinbo gave the charge at the end of a two-day working visit to Ijebu-Ode, Ogun State where he inspected poverty eradication projects embarked upon by Ijebu-Ode Development Board on Poverty Reduction.

The secretary, who commended the Ijebu-Ode Development Board on Poverty Reduction for embarking on programmes not only aimed at empowering the people but also aimed at creating job opportunities and wealth, urged other community development associations in Nigeria to replicate the Ijebu-Ode success story, pointing out that it is only by so doing that poverty can be eradicated in Nigeria.

Describing poverty as a herculean task that cannot be fought by government alone, Obatoyinbo reiterated the federal government's commitment to fighting poverty and hunger in line with the NEEDS' document with a view to creating more jobs and wealth which will in turn help eradicate poverty.

The secretary, who expressed satisfaction at the structure put in place by the Ijebu-Ode board, gave assurances that NAPEP will continue to support the Ijebu-Ode initiatives and all stakeholders in the task of poverty eradication.

He further hinted that NAPEP would look into the possibility of reducing the interest rate on loans granted to the board, as well as embark on impact assessment analyses of all poverty eradication projects in the country.

Conducting the secretary and his team round the various projects, the chairman of Ijebu-Ode Development Board on Poverty Reduction, Chief Adedotun Kayode Degun, said the project started with N10m contributed by the community

following a socio-economic study of Ijebu-Ode, which highlighted the basic problems of poverty in the area.

Chief Degun commended NAPEP for coming to the aid of the board at a very critical period in her history. According to him, 'the success recorded by the board is due largely to the loan granted the board by NAPEP', and therefore called for continued support by way of additional loans, grants, capacity building and impact assessment analysis.

The chairman stated that the board has given out #26m as revolving loans to different beneficiaries and that the board's loan recovery rate is ninety-nine per cent.

Other achievements recorded

by the board include capacity training for about 2680 people, bees keeping, pineapple farming, fish farming, youth information centre, revolving loan scheme and provision of infrastructure, among others.

Chief Degun attributed the success so far recorded by the board to dedication, commitment, effective monitoring and supervision of the projects by the entire board members, as well as the moral and financial support of His Royal Highness, the Awujale of Ijebu Land, Oba Sikiru Adetona.

Some of the project sites visited include the fish farm and hatchery, pineapple farm, bees keeping farm, youth information and capacity building centres, among others.

Muazu unveils plan for judiciary

The Bauchi State government has unveiled plans for the judiciary as the state Governor, Ahmadu Adamu Mu'azu, revealed that a new salary package now awaits judicial officers in addition to the construction of an ultra-model judiciary complex that would house both magistrates and high court judges in Bauchi, the state capital.

Bauchi State magistrates and Sharia court judges last year embarked on an industrial action alleging that they were least paid among judicial officers in the North East sub-region, in addition to poor working environment. The industrial action was the first of its kind in the annals of judiciary in the country.

Although the governor did not state the new salary package for judicial officers, however he said that he is a friend of the judiciary; and to demonstrate the act of friendliness, the governor donated the sum of N500, 000.00 to the junior workers at the state's High Court complex, a million naira to senior staff and three million naira to the judges as personal gifts.

Also, the governor had or-

dered the immediate renovation of the High Court complex and the Chief Judge's chambers, saying that the government would negotiate with property owners near the High Court complex to sell their property to the government for the building of the ultra-model court complex.

The idea he said was to have an easy administration of justice as the new court complex would house both High courts, Magistrates and the Sharia courts, adding that the government would computerise the judiciary as it would link both the bench and the bar to new happenings in the adjudication of justices across the globe.

Already, he said that the state government had completed the computerisation of the office of the Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice chambers, revealing that his office is fully equipped with internet facilities, and all the senior officers in the ministry had gone for a mandatory training in information technology.

FG begins eviction of illegal occupants in Games Village

The Presidential Committee on the Sale of Games Village Houses has commenced the eviction of illegal occupants in the houses.

The secretary of the committee, Alhaji Mohammed Baba-Dadi, who confirmed this to a correspondent of the *News Agency of Nigeria* (NAN) yesterday in Abuja, said that the eviction was as a result of a verification exercise the committee carried out.

"We discovered that in some of the 150 houses which people bid for, but have not finished the payment, they went ahead to put their relations in them," he said.

He said that it was not allowed as long as they had not finished paying, adding: "They are still owing and have no right to move in or put their relations in the houses."

The secretary said it was also discovered that some of the relations of the bidders rented out rooms in the estate without the knowledge of the owners who won the bids but had not completed payment.

Baba-Dadi said the eviction became necessary in order to get rid of the occupants who now constituted themselves into a nuisance.

"They have defaced the walls in the houses because you see some even cooking in the sitting rooms while the windows and doors are broken," he added.

He said that the committee would keep a close watch on the property through security operatives, to secure the village by keeping away illegal occupants and their collaborators.

"After this exercise, we shall carry out another verification to get rid of all the illegal occu-

pants," he said.

The secretary, however, did not mention when the exercise would commence.

NAN learnt that a syndicate operating in the estate collected as much as N300, 000 as rent for six months from desperate people searching for accommodation.

A journalist, who did not want his name mentioned, told NAN that when he was transferred to Abuja, he was approached by a member of the syndicate and told to bring N140,000 for a three-bedroom apartment for six months.

"I almost fell a victim but for the quick intervention of my brother who alerted me of their

operation and I refused the offer."

He said that the syndicate after collecting such an amount would not issue receipts and they would insist on the payment of only six months rent.

Another victim, Miss Bilkisu Attah, said that she enjoyed the first six months after paying N120, 000 without any harassment.

She added that it was after paying for the second time that the original owner of the house evicted her.

"I cannot even recognise the person who gave me the keys to the house as there was no receipt, so I lost out both ways," she added.

Libel: Yerima Network sues

Desert Herald

By Nasir Dambatta,
Assistant Editor

A Non-Governmental Organisation, Yerima Network, said it has concluded plans to take a Kaduna based newspaper, the *Desert Herald*, to court for allegedly libeling the Zamfara State governor, Alhaji Ahmed Yerima.

The newspaper, on January 6th, alleged in its report that the governor, who is also a presidential aspirant, spent 'over N50m on a Saturday party' and offered car gifts to musicians.

A letter to the solicitors of Yerima Network, dated February 1 and signed by the national Coordinator of the group, Alhaji Abdullahi Tsafe, asked the Messrs. Sadau Garba

and Co Chambers to file libel suit against the newspaper. Alhaji Abdullahi, in the letter alleged that the newspaper deliberately ignored the need to balance its report by reflecting the governor's side in the story, describing the act as a ploy to tarnish the image and reputation of "our presidential candidate."

Speaking to *Daily Trust* on phone yesterday, Abdullahi maintained that the resolve of the Yerima Network to proceed to court is to "forestall any further attempt by political rivals of our candidate to dent his image through the use of newspapers that disregard the professional ethics of fairness and objectivity."

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Plot 2382, Juba St. Wuse, Zone 6, Abuja. Tel: 09-5238714-5, Fax: 09-5238817
- Ibro Hotels**
Plot 1960, Micheal Okpara Street, Zone 5, Wuse, Abuja.
Tel: 09-5233200-209, Fax: 09-5231263
- Kubwa Guest Inn**
Plot 16A, 311 Road, C Close, Abuja.
- Nicon Hilton Hotel**
Aguitronsi Way, Maitama District, P.M.B. 200, Abuja.
- Tel: 09-4131811-40, Fax: 4134178
- Nigerlinks Hotels**
Plot 243, Malenje St., Zone 4, Wuse, P.O. Box 3570, Garki, Abuja.
Tel: 09-5235291-3, Fax: 09-5235292
- Ogeokun Valley Pride Hotel**
Plot 1373, Borno Street, Area 10, Garki, Abuja.
Tel: 09-2342401, Fax: 09-2342406
- Optima Hotel**
Plot 2005, Owo Close, Area 10, Garki, Abuja.
Tel: 09-2346848-9
- Omegah Hotels**
Plot 1981, Lome St. Wuse, Zone 7, P.M.B. 5011, Wuse, Abuja.
Tel: 09-5236770-3, Fax: 09-5236774
- Peniel Apartments**
Plot 137, IBB Way, Wuse II, Abuja.
Tel: 09-4130861
- Prime Resorts**
Plot 696, Ogbomoshosho Street, Area 8, Garki, P.O. Box 3543, Abuja.
Tel: 09-2343557, 2343697, 2346026-7
- Rock View Hotel**
Plot 789, Cad. Zone A8, Wuse II, P.O. Box 5879, Garki, Abuja.
Tel: 09-5236722-28, Fax: 5236768
- Rocunio Hotels Limited**
Plot 1392, Ahidjan Street, Zone 3, Wuse, Abuja.
Tel: 09-5234570 Fax: 09-5233656
- Royalton Hotels Limited**
Plot 1907, Gongola Street, Area 2, Section I, Garki, Abuja.
Tel: 09-2344914-17, 23408050 Fax: 2344913
- Salem Guest Inn**
Plot 845, Yedseram Street, Cad. Zone A61.G. Road, Maitama, Abuja. Tel: 09-5235999
Fax: 5236666
- Sanfil International Hotel**
Plot 337, Off Aminu Kano Crescent, Wuse II, P.O. Box 591, Garki, Abuja. Tel: 09-5234551, 5234552
- Savannah Suites & Restaurant**
Faskari Street, Area 3, Garki, Abuja, Tel: 09-2342025, Fax: 09-2341520

1. Finance/Admin Manager: Qualification: B.Sc., HND Chartered, 30 years of age with 6 years experience.
2. Head Sales/Marketers: Qualification: HND, B.Sc with 5 years experience.
3. Inventory/Storekeeper: Qualification: HND, B.Sc. with knowledge of IT and Computer, 4 years experience.
4. Manager (Yola Branch): Qualification: HND, B.Sc., 5 years experience with Computer knowledge.
5. Editorial Manager: Qualification: HND, B.Sc. Mass Communication, with 7 years experience.
6. Administration Officer/PA: Qualification: HND, B.Sc. in Admin with Computer knowledge, 5 years experience.
7. Marker/PRO: Qualification: HND, B.Sc. in Social Sciences.
8. Female Secretary 1: Qualification: HND, B.Sc. in Secretarial Administration.
9. Cook, Waiter and Cleaner.

Contact: Jenif Agel International School. Plot 80, Yaounde Street, Wuse Zone 6, After Amos Hotel, Tel: 08027366297.

PRICES OF FOOD ITEMS

Items	Quantity	Prices
Gari	One Measure	N40.00
Beans	-do-	N120.00
Rice	-do-	N200.00
Yam	Five Pieces	N600.00
Semovita	One bag	N900.00
Sweet Potatoes	One basket	N400.00

ELECTRONICS

Items	Quantity	Prices
Television (14")	One Unit	N18,000.00
Fan	-do-	N1,500.00
Fridge	-do-	N10,000.00
Radio CD Player	-do-	N35,000.00
Electric Pressing Iron	-do-	N1,500.00
Vedio CD	-do-	N6,000.00

CELL PHONES

NOKIA		Quantity	Prices
1.	1100	One Unit	N7,620.00
2.	1110 - New	-do-	N8,900.00
3.	1600 - New	-do-	N10,760.00
4.	2300	-do-	N10,725.00
5.	2600	-do-	N10,150.00
6.	2650	-do-	N12,200.00
7.	3220 - New	-do-	N17,700.00
8.	3230 - New	-do-	N39,900.00
9.	6030 - New	-do-	N14,700.00
10.	6060 - New	-do-	N15,860.00
11.	6111	-do-	N46,250.00
12.	6170	-do-	N28,450.00
13.	6230	-do-	N33,200.00
14.	02301	-do-	N39,870.00
15.	6270	-do-	N62,500.00
16.	6680 - New	-do-	N38,650.00
17.	6680 - New	-do-	N56,000.00
18.	7260	-do-	N29,250.00
19.	7270	-do-	N36,000.00
20.	N70 - New	-do-	N73,500.00
21.	N90 - New	-do-	N81,150.00
22.	N91 - New	-do-	N128,500.00
23.	9500	-do-	N56,000.00
24.	9500	-do-	N88,550.00

SAMSUNG		Quantity	Prices
1.	C101	One Unit	N13,500.00
2.	C231 - New	-do-	N13,800.00
3.	D500 - New	-do-	N45,000.00
4.	D600 - New	-do-	N51,250.00
5.	E530	-do-	N38,750.00
6.	X480	-do-	N15,000.00
7.	X640	-do-	N19,000.00

SONY ERICSSON		Quantity	Prices
1.	K300 - New	One Unit	N18,700.00
2.	K700	-do-	N26,000.00
3.	K750	-do-	N50,000.00
4.	J210i	-do-	N10,450.00
5.	P910i	-do-	N68,750.00
6.	T290	-do-	N9,200.00
7.	Z520i - New	-do-	N30,000.00

MOTOROLA		Quantity	Prices
1.	C115	One Unit	N6,000.00
2.	C116	-do-	N6,000.00
3.	C117	-do-	N6,000.00
4.	VS (Black)	-do-	N33,800.00

SAGEM		Quantity	Prices
1.	MY x 1	One Unit	N5,700.00
2.	MY x 5	-do-	N9,500.00
3.	MY x 5-2	-do-	N12,000.00
4.	MY x 5-2 V- New	-do-	N13,500.00

SIEMENS		Quantity	Prices
1.	540	One Unit	N5,000.00

VACANCIES

1. Finance Manager - 5 years experience, HND or B.Sc.
2. Manager, Yola Branch - 2 years experience, HND or B.Sc.
3. Adv Officer/PA - 2 years experience, HND or B.Sc.
4. Inventory Store Officer - 2 years experience with IT experience HND or B.Sc.
5. Editorial Manager - 7 years experience, HND/B.Sc. in Mass Communication.
6. Marketing/PRO - HND or B.Sc. in Social Sciences.
7. Writers/Proof Readers - NCE, HND, B.Sc. in English or Mass Communication.

Interested applicants should apply in person to: Matko International Venture, OR Plot 80, Yaounde Street, Suite 30, Area 7, Garki Shopping Complex, Tel: 08053437525 Opposite Garki Primary School. Tel: 08029140064

WANTED URGENTLY:

1. 3 Sales Boys
2. 3 Sales Girls
3. 2 Sales Drivers

Interested persons can call: 08035961935, 08023055058

- (1) Accountant - 3 B.Sc, HND/OND with a minimum of 3 years experience in the use of Computer.
- (2) Marketing Officers (female) - B.Sc., HND, OND in Marketing or any other Business discipline with 2 years experience.
- (3) Customer Relations Officer (female) - Customer Relations Officer (female) Business & Marketing discipline.
- (4) Industrial/Electrician - OND/SSCE with minimum of 3 years Experience.
- (5) Foundry Technician - SSCE with 3 years experience.
- (6) Waiter/Waitress - SSCE with 1 year experience.
- (7) Cooks - OND in Catering.
- (8) Factory Workers - SSCE, NECO, GCE.
- (9) Computer Operators - OND, SSCE, should be proficient in CorelDraw and good typing.
- (10) Security Supervisors - SSCE

Interested persons should submit their applications to Retnael Global Concept, First Floor, Agricultural, Co-operative and Rural Development Bank, By Wuse Market. OR Call: 08033835800, 08036210518

Teaching Vacancy:

On - Mathematics, Economics, English Language, CRS, Literature and Geography.
At - Skill Touch Institute, Tutorial Centre and Computer School, 3rd Floor, Wema Bank Building, 3B Herbert Macaulay Way, Wuse Zone 5 Bus Stop, Tel: 09-6712751, 08027083275, 08037220023

URGENTLY NEEDED:

Marketers: Female and Male - Good looking is of advantage. Apply with CV. Qualification: OND/HND in Marketing
Send to: The Manager, Fonaham Property Development Company Nigeria Ltd., Agnes Place, Plot 570H, Suite 8, Adetokumbo Ademola Crescent, Wuse II, Abuja. Beside Amigo Super Market.

THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS ARE NEEDED:

1ST ADO BAYERO ANNUAL LECTURE SERIES

TOPIC: NIGERIA, THE CHALLENGES OF NATION BUILDING & EXTERNAL RELATIONS.

CHAIRMAN

*His Excellency,
Ambassador Braimah Deinde
Fernandez of Dudley
(Garsan Falanin Kano)
(Chairman, Arewa Horse Racing
Association).*

SPECIAL GUEST OF HONOUR

*His Excellency,
Malam Ibrahim Shekarau,
Executive Governor, Kano State
Government of Nigeria.*

GUEST OF HONOUR

*His Excellency,
Alh. (Dr.) Ado Bayero, CFR, LLD, JP
The Emir of Kano
(Grand patron, Arewa Horse Racing
Association).*

GUEST SPEAKER

*Professor Ibrahim Agboola Gambari
Under Secretary General & Political
Adviser to the United Nations, United
Nations H.Q., New York, U.S.A.*

HOST

*Alh. Mamuda Sani Madaki, Executive
Chairman, Dala Local Government,
Kano State*

VENUE: *Centre of Democratic Research &
Training, Mambayya House,
Gwammaja, Kano.*

DATE: *Thursday 9th February, 2006.*

TIME: *10.00am prompt*

R.S.V.P

Ahmed Shuaibu, Gawa (Executive Secretary)

Inna Lillahi Wa'inna Ilaihir Raji'un



The Board, Management and Staff of the
Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board
regret to announce the death of
Mr. Tajudeen Olanrewaju Hassan,
who, until his death, was the Board's Chief Public Relations Officer.



**Late Tajudeen Olanrewaju Hassan
(1963-2006)**

He has since been buried according to Islamic rites.

He is survived by his parents and:

Mrs. Amudat Hassan	-	Wife
Musadeeq Hassan	-	Son
Fatima Hassan	-	Daughter
Ridwan Hassan	-	Son

May his soul rest in peace. (Ameen)

Signed:

Management

Sports

EGYPT 2006 AFRICAN NATIONS CUP

Taribo blasts Eagles



Zaki steers Egypt into Cup final

Egypt substitute Amr Zaki headed a superb late winner to give the hosts a 2-1 victory over Senegal yesterday to clinch an African Nations Cup final showdown with Ivory Coast.

Egypt captain Ahmed Hassan converted a 37th minute penalty, Senegal striker Mamadou Niang headed a 52nd minute equaliser but Zaki got the 81st minute winner soon after replacing striker Mido, who had a shouting session with his coach Hassan Shehata over his substitution.

Striker Didier Drogba scored the only goal in Alexandria to give the Ivorians a 1-0 victory over Nigeria, who will now meet Senegal in tomorrow's third-place playoff in Cairo.

Former Super Eagles' defender, Taribo West has criticised the national team for their lack lustre showing against the Elephants of Ivory Coast which cost them a place in the final of the 25th edition of the Cup of Nations going on in Egypt.

The Nigerian team was eliminated from the competition 1-0 in the semifinal clash against Ivory Coast.

Taribo who expressed shock over the knock out of the Nigerian team in an interview with *KickOff* in Lagos said that he was "dumfounded that the Eagles could show a very poor attitude and lack of commitment in their match against their West African rivals."

He lamented to our man, "For the first time since this competition started, I saw Eagles that lacked aggression and bite in a game."

"They played as if there was nothing at stake. I really do not know what their problem was. I need to find out what went wrong with the team. These were not the boys that showed so much class and aggression in their games throughout the competition until this very game."

The former Inter Milan player is however happy

that "some young talents emerged from the competition who can make this country proud in the future."

Taribo said Nigeria would have been in the position,

"to win this Cup of Nations which they have lost the chance because there was this malaise to do away with experienced players in the team."

"It is sad that Nigerians

hardly have patience for those that serve their country for long and this is the price we are paying. I hope we will learn from this costly mistake."



Ivory Coast's striker Didier Drogba, left, celebrates his goal against Nigeria during the African Cup of Nations semi finals match in Alexandria, Egypt... yesterday.

Okocha: No going back on retirement

Following Nigeria's fuster from the African Nations Cup yesterday Super Eagles captain Austin Jay-Jay Okocha declared that there

By Ismaila Umaru Lere, Assistant Editor, with Agency Reports

was no going back on his decision to quit international football.

The 32-year-old midfielder said he was sticking to his pre-tournament decision to bring an end to his long-standing international career.

"That is it, it's over for me," Okocha told Reuters after Nigeria's 1-0 semi-final defeat by Ivory Coast. "There is no going back."

Okocha, who won his 73rd

cap yesterday, played just a cameo role at the tournament in Egypt after picking up a thigh injury on the eve of the competition.

The Bolton Wanderers player came on as substitute early in the second half against Ivory Coast but was unable to engineer a comeback.

Okocha, who played at three World Cups and five Nations Cup tournaments, said Nigeria had been outplayed by a tougher Ivorian outfit. "We just couldn't get in the game. We were very tired."

"I think they (Ivory Coast) deserved to win today, they were a lot better than us. They were more organised. Today our lack of experience

showed but we have done well to get this far," he added.

Okocha missed Nigeria's first four matches at the tournament, first through injury and then losing his playmaking midfield role to talented teenager John Obi Mikel.

He said he was not sure whether he would play in Thursday's third place playoff match in Cairo, which would mark his last international.

Okocha was named as the best player at the African Nations Cup finals in Tunisia and also earned the distinction of scoring the 1,000th goal in the tournament's history. He made his international debut against the World Cup qualifier in 1993.

Kalou hopes Ivorian win can bring peace

Ivory Coast striker Bonaventure Kalou says he hopes that his team's progress to the African Nations Cup final will bring peace to the embattled west African country.

Kalou, who featured in yesterday's 1-0 semi-final win over Nigeria, said he and his team had a sense of responsibility to help ease

the plight of the Ivorian people.

"I can't tell you how important it is," he said of the victory, which puts the Ivorians into their first Nations Cup final since 1992.

"This is something that can bring, even if just for one week, peace in my country."

"We won today so

everybody in the Ivory Coast is happy. This victory, to win today will bring peace in my country and that was most important," he told Reuters.

The country has been embroiled in a bitter civil war, which has divided the country into a government-controlled southern region and rebel-held north.

The Ivorian side is made

up of players from the Christian south and Muslim-dominated north, many of whom have previously expressed their concern over the political and social situation.

Around 7,000 U.N. peacekeepers and some 4,000 French troops maintain a fragile ceasefire but have been paralysed in some areas by recent demonstrations.

Sports

Mickelson in upbeat mood for Pebble Beach defence

Twice winner Phil Mickelson has high hopes for his Pebble Beach National Pro-Am title defence this week on California's picturesque Monterey Peninsula.

Despite not feeling totally comfortable with his putting, the U.S. PGA champion has produced top-eight finishes in his first three PGA Tour starts of the year.

"I go to Pebble with a lot of confidence, although it's a tough tournament to play well at because there are a lot of factors that you can't control," Mickelson said after tying for seventh at the Phoenix Open in Scottsdale, Arizona on Sunday.

"You can't control how the ball bounces on the greens, you can't control some of the weather conditions and some of the pace-of-play issues and you just have to kind of accept it and hope you get some good breaks."

Although he finished last week's tournament in style with a five-under-par 66 that featured five birdies in the last six holes, Mickelson needs to improve the consistency of his putting.

"I made a couple of putts coming in but I didn't putt well," the American world number four said after ending up eight strokes behind Phoenix Open winner J.B. Holmes.

"I started to key in on a couple things where I started ball on line, and that's going to be important at Pebble."

"I'd like to try to defend one of my titles, and of course I came up short this week, but it was still a very fun week for us," added Mickelson, who won his first Pebble Beach National Pro-Am crown in 1998.

"To be in contention here coming down those last three, four, five holes is really a wonderful feeling."

Left-hander Mickelson, who claimed consecutive PGA Tour titles for the first time in his career with a four-stroke victory at last year's Pebble Beach National Pro-Am, faces a strong field on

his defence.

Three other members of the world's top eight are playing this week — second-ranked Vijay Singh who won the 2004 title, Jim Furyk (seven) and Chris DiMarco (eight).

Traditionally, the Pebble

Beach tournament has been dominated by the bigger hitters.

Over the last eight years, Mickelson (twice), Tiger Woods (twice), Davis Love III (twice) and Singh have all triumphed by muscling their

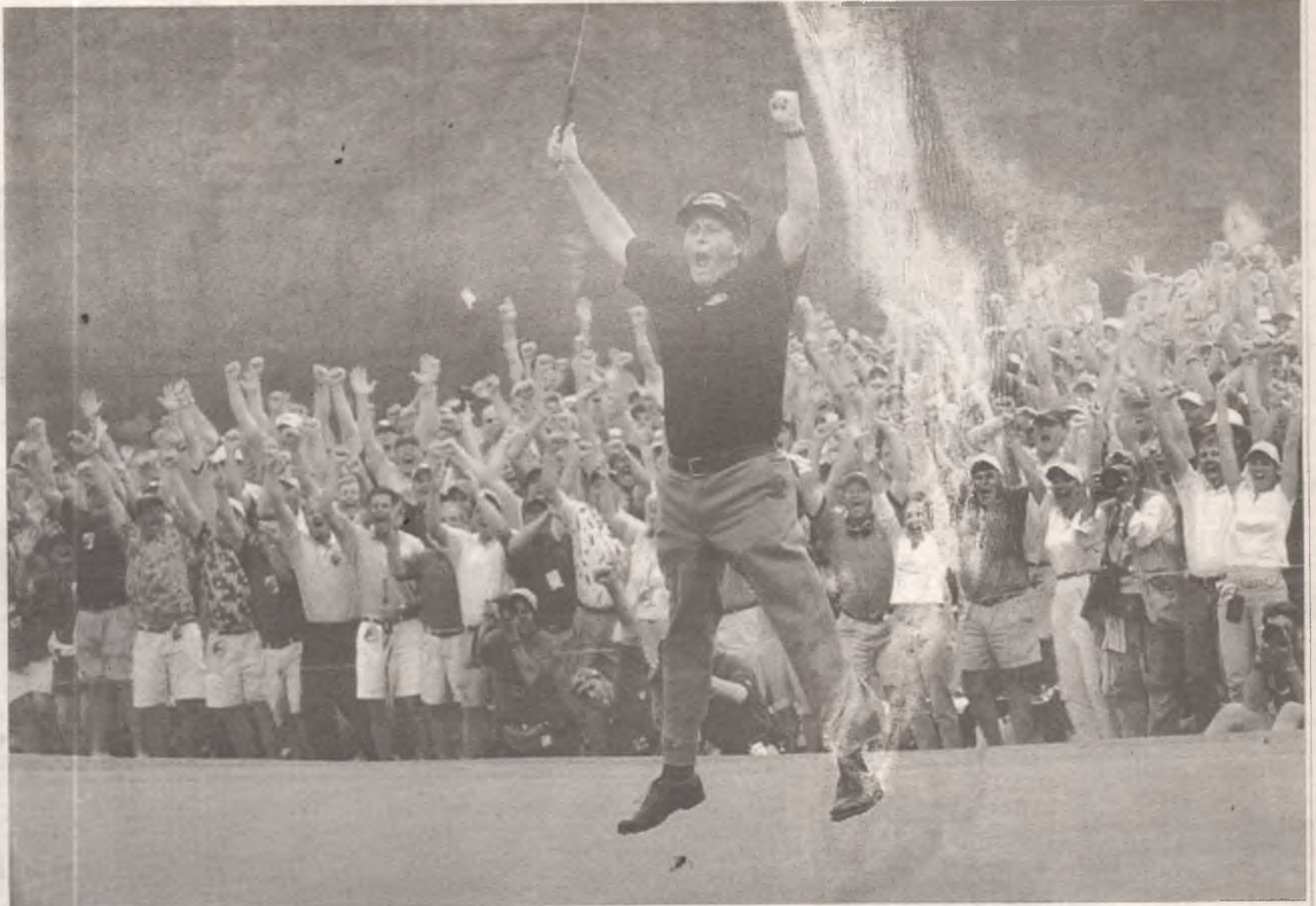
way round the hosting Pebble Beach Golf Links and its sister venues Spyglass Hill and Poppy Hills.

This week is likely to be no different with emerging PGA Tour talents such as fellow Americans J.B. Holmes and

Bubba Watson and Colombia's Camilo Villegas, who tied for second at the Phoenix Open on Sunday, well worth monitoring.

Another player who always seems to shine at Pebble Beach is 2003 U.S. Masters champion Mike Weir of Canada.

Although the left-hander has missed two cuts in his first three starts of the year, he has finished eighth or better in five of his last six appearances at Pebble Beach. Among those, he came second last year, fourth in 2004 and third in 2003.



Mickelson ... the USA PGA champion has high hopes for his Pebble Beach National Pro-Am title defence this week despite not feeling totally comfortable with his putting.

Sixers miss 19 straight shots in defeat

Jeff Van Gundy has an easy time explaining Houston's recent success.

"When we have Yao (Ming) and Tracy (McGrady), we're a good team. It's pretty simple," Van Gundy said.

Houston's coach might want to add a stubborn defense to go along with that 1-2 scoring punch, also.

Houston held Philadelphia without a field goal for more than a 15-minute span when the Sixers missed 19 straight shots in the second half of the Rockets' 87-81 victory Monday night.

"That was probably part defense and probably partly them missing shots they can make," Van Gundy said.

Only free throws kept the

Sixers in this one after an incredible stretch of offensive ineptness. They did not score from 4:41 in the third to 1:05 in the fourth — 15:36 overall — and nearly became the second team in the last week to go without a field goal in the fourth quarter after the Kings went 0-for-20 against Utah.

The Sixers also committed

24 turnovers and shot 33 percent from the floor.

"We couldn't put the ball in the basket," said Allen Iverson.

What an understatement.

The Sixers missed 14 straight shots in the fourth quarter before Iverson finally scored on a three-point play. Andre Iguodala followed with a 3 that made it 85-79, and Iverson added another basket, giving the Sixers three baskets — three! — in the quarter, but it was too late.

"We got stops when we needed them," said Rafer Alston, who scored 19 points. "It wasn't always pretty, but we'll take it for sure."

Yao scored 27 points and grabbed 13 rebounds, and McGrady had 13 for the Rockets, who won their fourth straight game. Yao's 27 are the most points he has scored since returning five games ago after a 21-game layoff following toe surgery, but it was on an 9-for-21 effort.

No team gives the Sixers fits like Houston and it was no different this time. The Rockets beat Philadelphia for the seventh straight time, 11 out of 13 in Philadelphia, and 22 of 26 overall.

Iverson scored 32 points and went 20-for-24 from the line for the Sixers. Chris Webber had 18 points and 15 rebounds, and Samuel Dalembert grabbed 17 rebounds. The Sixers went 32-for-37 on free throws; the Rockets 17-for-23.

"I can't see that happening again," Webber said of the scoring drought. "The turnovers killed us, too. That's really not us. It was really out of character offensively tonight (Monday). That, we know, won't stay the same."

Because of all the fouls, Houston had trouble pulling away in this one, even with eight more field goals overall and five more 3-pointers.

Nadal feared injury would force him out

World number two Rafael Nadal feared a persistent foot injury would force him to quit tennis at the age of 19.

"You think of everything, including that at the very worst you won't be able to return to play tennis again," the Spaniard told sports daily Mundo Deportivo on Tuesday.

"I have cried many times at home, especially when I saw that I couldn't play and the pain wouldn't go away."

"I would leave it a few days and try again but the pain

would come back. It was a really bad time."

Nadal injured his left foot while preparing for the Masters Cup in Shanghai in November, and has not played a competitive match since winning the Madrid Masters in October.

The French Open champion played an exhibition match in Tarbes, France, on Sunday where he beat Fabrice Santoro 6-2 1-6

10-3, the third set being a super tiebreak format.

He will miss Spain's Davis Cup tie against Belarus this weekend and is scheduled to begin his season at the ATP event in Marseille starting on Feb. 13.

"I am pleased that we have located the problem and have now taken measures to solve it," Nadal said.

"They have made new soles for my shoes and

changed the supports for my foot and that seems to be working because I don't have the same kind of pain as before.

"I am still a little worried but that is only normal. That won't disappear until I have played a few tournaments."

When asked about whether he would change his aggressive, hard-running style Nadal said: "I will try to be more economical with my effort when playing but everyone has their own style and you can't change that."

TRUST CLASSIFIED

THE CITY OF TRUTH AND POWER MINISTRY

The general public is hereby informed that the above named Ministry has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 1990.

The Trustees are:

- 1. Pastor Iwu Maurice Ogbu - General Overseer
- 2. Pastor Lucy Williams - Trustee
- 3. Pastor Samuel Eye - Trustee
- 4. Jones Iheanaetu - Trustee
- 5. Patron Umukoro - Secretary

Aims and Objectives:

- 1. To preach the gospel of our lord Jesus Christ
 - 2. To evangelize the word of God
 - 3. To bring up the members base on Christian principles
 - 4. To assist the less privilege in our society
 - 5. To preach Christians harmony and tolerant among human race.
- Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar - General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 565, Ndola Square, Wuse Zone 5, P.M.B. 189, Abuja, within twenty-eight (28) days of this publication.

SIGNED:
ASHIKEM BEATRICE,
Suite 522 Ruseel Centre,
Wuse Abuja.

AFRICANS IN AMERICA FOUNDATION - NIGERIA

The general public is hereby informed that the above named organization has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for Registration under part "C" of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990.

The Trustees are:

- 1) Mr. Bonaventure Ezekwenna
- 2) Mrs. Dorathy Okigbo

The Aims and Objectives:

- 1) Providing Community Awareness on human trafficking, self empowerment for the economically disadvantage communities in Nigeria, to address social economic and healthcare matters for the improvement of humanity.
- 2) To provide social services aimed at eradicating maltreatment and abuse, slavery and poverty.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 565, Ndola Square, Wuse Zone 5, P.M.B. 189 Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

SIGNED:
IKECHUKWU OKOROAFOR & ASSOCIATES
2, Sawhaj Close, Wuse Zone 1, Abuja.

LOSS OF DOCUMENTS

This is to inform the general public that the Original Receipts No. 620410 and No. 621342 obtained from MFCT Abuja in respect of Land application forms are declared missing. All effort to trace the missing documents proved abortive. Please if found contact the nearest Police Station.

Signed:
Mr. Ibrahim Umar Ahmed .M.
Plot 2249 Addis Ababa Crescent
Wuse Zone 4, Abuja.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public that the original document of offer of Right of Occupancy with file No. FCT/ABU/KN/2989 of Plot No. 260B3 size 860.58 M² at Wuye District, Abuja got missing together with Motorola handset of Simpact No. 08036205153. All belonging to Mallam Adamu of Tower Builders Ltd. No. 48 3rd Avenue Gwarinpa. If found please return it to the owner or the nearest Police Station.

LOSS OF DOCUMENTS

This is to inform the general public and the authorities of the FCT/AGIS in particular that the original Certificate of Occupancy No. FCT/ABU/SO.32 covering Plot 640 within Cadastral Zone A2, Wuse 1 District in the name of Alhaji Aliyu Ibrahim Dogondaji now donated to Usman Shettima is missing and all efforts made to trace same had proved abortive. If found please return to:

Mr. Usman Shettima
Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF)
Port-Harcourt Crescent
Area 11 Garki
Abuja.

LOSS OF DOCUMENTS

REGISTERED DEED OF ASSIGNMENT/CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY

This is to inform the general public that the original Registered Deed of Assignment covered by Certificate of Occupancy No. NE 969 of 14th May, 1975 and registered as No. 704 at page 704 volume 13 (MISC) of Lands Registry in the office at Maiduguri, measuring approximately 5,726.28sqm with beacon nos B3800, B3799, B3664, B3663 and layout survey plan No. NE/888 belonging to Abba Baba Gana is missing. All effort to trace the said documents proved abortive. If found please contact;

The Solicitors
2nd Floor
Fidelity Bank Plc Building
Plot 267, Tafawa Balewa Way
Central Business District, Abuja.
Tel: 09- 2342909.

CHANGE OF NAMES

I, formerly known as WREFORD HYELLADADATI DUNAH, now wish to be known as TASHIKALMAH HYELLADADATI HALLAH (MRS). All former documents remain valid. Unimaid and public to take note.

Formerly known as MRS. OLAIDE AISHATU SAADINA DANTATA, now wish to be known as MRS. OLAIDE AISHATU O. OSUNSANI. All documents remain valid.

I, formerly known as EKPE JUDITH IFEANYICHUKWU, now known as MRS. ADENIHADEWALE JUDITH. Former documents remain valid. NYSC, Council of Legal Education and general public to note.

I, formerly called OLIVER UCHENNA MAMAH, now wish to be called OLIVER UCHENNA EZE. All former documents remain valid. The general public to please note.

I, formerly known as ZAINAB MOHD IDRIS, now wish to be known as MRS. ZAINAB IDRIS BADARU. All former documents remain valid. UDU Sokoto, Nig. Law Sch., NYSC and general public take note.

I, formerly ABDULLAHI SHARA IBRAHIM, now wish to be known as ABDULHAMID YAHAYA IBRAHIM. All former documents remain valid. General public to note.

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WEEKLY TRUST**

PRAYER THEATRE MINISTRIES

The general public is hereby informed that the above named Ministry has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 1990.

The Trustees are:

- 1. Genesis John Paul
- 2. Acheneje Odeh
- 3. Dorcas Igono
- 4. Ene Onoja
- 5. Gideon Paul

Aims and Objectives:

- 1. To propagate the principles and teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ
- 2. To preach and spread the good news (gospel) according to our Lord Jesus Christ, throughout the country in particular and the world in general.
- 3. To establish and maintain churches in Nigeria and Foreign lands in order to spread the gospel.
- 4. To embark on evangelism with the sole aim of winning more souls to the kingdom of God.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar - General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 565, Ndola Square, Wuse Zone 5, P.M.B. 189, Abuja, within twenty-eight (28) days of this publication.

SIGNED:
PRESENTER,
Barr. Kate Otumu,
08036677402.

MOTORCYCLE AND SPARE PARTS DEALERS ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA. Notice is hereby given that "MAINLAND MOTORCYCLE SPARE PARTS DEALERS ASSOCIATION, LAGOS" has changed its name to: MOTORCYCLE AND SPARE PARTS DEALERS ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA, and has amended its constitution to reflect the new name.

The association has elected new set of trustees:-

- 1. Chief Romanus Ugochukwu Ezemedolu - Chairman
- 2. Mr. Lawrence Njoku - Secretary
- 3. Chief Festus C. Ekekwe - Executive member
- 4. Chief Dickson Eruchalu
- 5. H.R.H. Eze Bernard Orijika
- 6. Mr. Nicholas Ihedioha
- 7. Mr. Gabriel Ome
- 8. Chief (Dr.) Ositadimma Ibe
- 9. Mr. Patrick Osita Onyekwelu
- 10. Mr. Robert Okafor Nebolisa
- 11. Mr. Cleophas Ucheagwu
- 12. Mr. Emeka Ikebuotu

Removed

- 1. Arthur Odunukwe
- 2. Peter Obot

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar - General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 565, Ndola Square, Wuse Zone 5, P.M.B. 189, Abuja, within twenty-eight (28) days of this publication.

SIGNED:
Mike Enendu & Co.
Legal Practitioner
No. 4 Balogun Square (3rd floor) Lagos Island, Lagos.

CENTRE FOR HUMAN PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT

The general public is hereby informed that the above named association has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 1990.

The Trustees are:

- 1. Barrister Judith Ashby
- 2. Mrs. Nnenna Ogeri Adaeze Ude
- 3. Mrs. Florence Nneoma Chigbu
- 4. Pastor Wilson Onyekachi Alamba

Aims and Objectives:

- 1. To promote the human rights of Nigerians
- 2. To promote human dignity through the vehicle of civil education and civil rights

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar - General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 565, Ndola Square, Wuse Zone 5, P.M.B. 189, Abuja, within twenty-eight (28) days of this publication.

SIGNED:
Godfrey Ekuma, Esq.
Solicitor.

AHALI AZAMTI FOUNDATION

The general public is hereby informed that the above named Foundation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 1990.

The Trustees are:

- 1. Shiekh Muhammed Jamii Buhari (RTS) - Spiritual President
- 2. Shiekh Ibrahim Buhari Sufi - Spiritual Khadim
- 3. Khalifa Muhammed Buhari
- 4. Sayyadi Muhammed Amin Abdullahi - Solicitor Protem Sec.
- 5. Imam Yusuf Abduraheem
- 6. Mugaddam Abdurahman Abdullahi
- 7. Sayyadi Abdulkareem Madasir

Aims and Objectives:

- 1. To propagate the Religion of Islam within the tenets and truths of al Qur'an al kareem and the traditions of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAW).
- 2. To promote the acquisition and practice of all branches and levels of knowledge as taught by our Holy Prophet (SAW) and acquired and transmitted down the ages by the companions.
- 3. To facilitate such acquisition and transmission of general and special knowledge and wisdom through the establishment and operation of Zawiyats.
- 4. To promote religious and social harmony, peace and security in the country and among Muslim of whatever creed both in Nigeria and abroad.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar - General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 565, Ndola Square, Wuse Zone 5, P.M.B. 189, Abuja, within twenty-eight (28) days of this publication.

SIGNED:
Sheikh M.A. Abdullahi, Esq.
Solicitor/Protem Secretary

FAMILY ALTAR MISSION (FAM)

The general public is hereby informed that the above named Organisation with headquarters in Kaduna State of Nigeria has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 1990.

The Trustees are:

- 1. Rev. (Dr.) Samuel K. Kujiyat - General Overseer
- 2. Pastor (Mrs.) Hassana Hope Kujiyat - Executive Director
- 3. Rev. (Mrs.) Ifeoma Nwafor - Asst. Director/Secretary
- 4. Mr. Godwin Nwafor - P.R.O
- 5. Engr. Gambo Ato - Financial Secretary
- 6. Mrs. Laraba Millicent Ato - Treasurer

Aims and Objectives:

- 1. To focus on evangelistic Outreach Ministry.
- 2. To empower women as wives and mothers with functional education, so that they can play positive roles in their Families and the Nation.
- 3. To enhance and promote the welfare of women and children, realizing that the women's and children's wellbeing depends on the happiness of the home and the strength of the society.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar - General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 565, Ndola Square, Wuse Zone 5, P.M.B. 189, Abuja, within twenty-eight (28) days of this publication.

SIGNED:
ASHI E. APPAH (MRS.)
ASHI AKAINJO & CO

BZAKPE CHAMBERS, SUITE 1 FIRST FLOOR
LEVENTIS BUILDING, SAHMADU BELLO WAY
KADUNA-NIGERIA

BEREAN CENTRE FOR CHRISTIAN LEADERS

The general public is hereby informed that the above named body has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 1990.

The Trustees are:

- 1. Dr. Adekunle Alao - President
- 2. Engr. (Pastor) Moses Abarshi
- 3. Barr. (Mrs.) Ann Asabe Ishaku - Legal Adviser
- 4. Air Cmdr. Tanko Ato
- 5. Dr. Inusa Samaila - Secretary

Aims and Objectives:

- 1. To offer training for the development of effective Christian Leaders.
 - 2. To bring about a transformation in the leader advancing his/her skills as to understanding of the purpose of Leadership in Evangelism.
 - 3. To cover various aspect of communicating the gospel by word and example.
- Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar - General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 565, Ndola Square, Wuse Zone 5, P.M.B. 189, Abuja, within twenty-eight (28) days of this publication.

SIGNED:
Abachini Akumbo.

Sports

Kwara spends N18m on sign-on fees ... for 15 players

Kwara State Government is to spend about N18m as sign-on fees on fifteen players in a renewed effort to repackage the state-owned soccer club, Kwara United.

The Special Adviser Assistant to the governor on Sports, Alhaji Zakari Mohammed disclosed this at a press briefing in Ilorin.

Alhaji Zakari, who is now the acting, chairman of the

From Abdulrazaq Adebayo, Correspondent Ilorin

Kwara United, following the sacking of Dr. Ayo Bello led management, said the club would be repositioned to achieve the desired impact on the national and international football scene.

The special assistant reiterated the commitment of the state government in

football which, he said, has earned it international recognition by CAF.

Speaking on activities of the club for the next season, the acting chairman said four matches of the club would be played at Offa due to the on-

going regressing of the state mini-stadium complex in Ilorin.

He said stakeholders including football fans and club supporters were being consulted on the way forward and need to make the

season a trouble-free one to make the club perform well at home and away.

Alhaji Zakari said the commitment of the government morally and financially must be justified by the club management,

hence the need to rally round government and support its good intention.

The Dr. Ayo Bello-led board, was sent packing following governor Bukola Saraki's order appointing Alhaji Zakari as the acting chairman of the management.

The sacked board, *Trustsports* learnt, was hit by internal division into two camps with adverse effect on the performance of the club, as it lost focus and sense of direction.

Rivers to transform civic centre to sports complex

From Ikenna Okpani, Bureau Chief, Port Harcourt

Rivers state government says it was partnering with a foreign firm to convert the Civic Center Complex into a centre for excellence in sports.

Already preparatory arrangements have been made with the partners to see how facilities would be deployed toward training the young ones with tremendous talent to excel in their various chosen field of sports.

Governor Peter Odili, who stated this in Port Harcourt, said the collaborative arrangement would build an institute that would be second to none in the country as the project would be encompassing.

Dr Odili stated that the expansion of the stadium will also increase the capacity to 15,000 from the present 3,000. He added that by the time the project is completed, the city of Port Harcourt will have two standard pitches before the end of the year.

He explained that work has been completed on the two synthetic training pitches, while that of the main pitch at the Liberation stadium has reached advanced stage. He said the pitch will be the first of its kind in the country when completed.

On the future of Dolphin and Sharks football clubs, the governor said "they have their charge already this year, to bring back the trophies that were taken away in the last season, and we are ready to back up that charge with all the support that they need."

The governor said that despite the silver won by dolphin at the international level there was need for the team to come home and regain its lost glory.

He observed that this year's recruitment exercise into the two teams was more stringent than that of the previous year and would therefore expect that the result would be better.

Commenting on the progress of work at the Liberation stadium, the site engineer, Mr. Mick Butler said the synthetic turf being laid at the stadium is the first of its kind in the country, durable and meets FIFA's requirement. He said under the contract arrangement the company would train the Rivers state people to maintain the turf before handing off completely.



Egypt coach Hassan Shehata, second right, screams at Egypt's Mido, second left, after Mido complained at his being substituted during their African Nations Cup semi final match against Senegal in Cairo, Egypt.

Chelsea still in race to sign Adu

Chelsea are still in the hunt to sign £5m-rated American teenager Freddy Adu.

The 16-year-old, who plays for DC United and who made his international debut

in January, is a prime target for Europe's top clubs.

BBC Sport understands Chelsea continue to monitor his situation closely and hope to clinch a deal, although a move is not

imminent, as has been reported.

Manchester United also want to sign the Ghanaian-

born prodigy but Chelsea are hopeful of beating off all opposition.

Chelsea would have to

agree a deal with both Adu and Major League Soccer in the United States but the club's financial firepower means this is unlikely to present a problem.

One of Adu's agents Dan Segal, said: "All I would like to say at this stage is that Freddy has obviously attracted a lot of interest internationally.

"We are mindful of the fact that he will turn 17 in the summer. At this stage nothing has truly been decided."

Chelsea's management team met him for the first time during a pre-season tour of the US in July 2004 and invited him and his mother to their game against AC Milan in New York.

LuaLua devastated by son's death

Portsmouth striker Lomana LuaLua is mourning his 18-month-old son who died while he was away in Egypt playing for Democratic Republic of Congo in the African Nations Cup.

In a statement on the Premier League club's website, the former Newcastle United player said: "I am devastated by the tragic loss. I am grateful and appreciative for the kind wishes and support I have received from everybody.

"As I am sure everyone will understand, I just wish to be with my family and be allowed to grieve privately. I appreciate everyone respecting my wishes."

African Super Cup set for Feb. 24

Egypt's Al Ahli will play Morocco's Royal Armed Forces in the African Super Cup in Cairo on Feb. 24, the Confederation of African Football said on Wednesday.

The match will be played at the Cairo International stadium, venue for the final of the African Nations Cup on Friday.

Al Ahli won the African Champions League in November while Royal Armed Force were victors in the African Confederation Cup the same month.

The Egyptian side previously won the Super Cup in 2002 while the Moroccan military club play in the one-off game for the first time.

Sports

Basketball: Nigeria has unbelievable talents

He filled his suitcase with more than 50 packages of peanut butter crackers, because Travis Steele doubted he could stomach food from such a foreign place. In fact, during four days in this chaotic city of about 15 million, Steele felt wary of almost everything: drivers who sped recklessly down roads without traffic lights; mosquitoes suspected of carrying malaria; street vendors desperate to sell anything.

Few forces could have pulled Steele so far from his comfort zone, a soft chair and a high-speed computer in the men's basketball office at Wabash Valley College in Mount Carmel, Illinois. He'd been lured here, though, by a promise well worth two eight-hour flights and more than \$3,000 in travel expenses.

In Nigeria, friends promised, Steele would find dozens of talented, 7-foot basketball players — all of whom equated places like Mount Carmel to paradise.

Officially, Steele came to Lagos with a group of U.S. junior college coaches, four NBA scouts, an NBA agent and representatives of a handful of scouting services to help run an elite basketball camp designed to teach Nigerians the game's fundamentals. Unofficially, Steele's motives extended beyond the camp. He hoped to find at least one player, maybe two, worth bringing back to Wabash Valley, where they could help the school win a junior college national championship and help Steele fortify his coaching reputation.

Because the camp was held during a period when NCAA Division I coaches are not allowed to contact recruits, no big-time U.S. college coach had traveled to Lagos. Steele felt confident, then, that he could pick and choose players without fear of rejection. "I need a shot blocker and a rebounder," said Steele, the assistant coach at Wabash Valley. "I need a guy that can take us to the next level. This is basically a tryout."

Scouts and coaches believe Nigeria is entering a basketball golden age that will make it the preeminent source for international talent. In the last 30 years, the number of Nigerians playing basketball has grown from about

500 to more than 30,000, local coaches said. Each time a player leaves with a scholarship for the United States, hundreds of Nigerians intensify their pursuit of that same endpoint. In a country where the average annual wage is less than \$400, dreams of scholarships and NBA riches easily become all consuming.

Players lucky enough to be invited by the local coaches who selected the Top 50 Nigeria Camp field flocked to Lagos from across Nigeria, hoping they would leave three days later a little bit closer to an American education or a career in the NBA. Coaches and scouts came from across the world, hoping they would leave Lagos closer to procuring a hidden talent.

"Coaches and players both come here with high hopes," said Nigerian basketball coach Sam Ahmedu, one of the camp organizers. "They can make a con-

nection they have dreamed about."

To Steele, though, the National Stadium in Lagos hardly looked like a place where dreams could be fulfilled. When he walked into the building on the first day of camp, 24 lights hung above the court. Five of them worked. The sun, filtered through dusty plastic windows, splashed dimly over a few corners of the hardwood floor to create the feel of a constant twilight.

Outside, the temperature neared 85 degrees. With no air conditioning or fans, the National Stadium didn't so much deflect the heat as capture it. The building reeked like a musty barn.

Steele sat down in one of the white plastic chairs that constituted the team benches and surveyed the gym. Across the court, 56 players stretched out and stared back at Steele. Blond-

-American scouts

haired, clean-cut and decked out in logoed basketball gear, Steele would become the most popular man at camp.

Only 23, Steele had ascended to his position because of a reputation as a keen talent evaluator. But, in Nigeria, his initial appraisal hardly required expertise. He made his assessment seconds after the camp's opening whistle, having watched the players stand up and run to center court.

"They're huge!" Steele said. "This is unbelievable — even better than I thought. I've never seen this many big kids in one room in my whole life."

Thirty of the players stood at least 6 feet 9, and a half dozen

eclipsed 7 feet. Many of them, all ages 14 through 18, would grow taller still. When they ran through layup drills, several players slapped their hands against the backboard without needing to jump.

About 10 Nigerians have played in the NBA, although only Hakeem Olajuwon became a star, winning two NBA titles with the Houston Rockets. This season, at least 46 Nigerians play college basketball in the United States. Thousands of others actively pursue basketball scholarships and U.S. visas, convinced the sport provides opportunities unavailable in their country.

"Everything has to be put

into surviving if you live in Nigeria, and people see basketball as a welfare opportunity," said Oliver B. Johnson, a coach who grew up in Washington, then moved to Nigeria more than 30 years ago after a stint in the Peace Corps. "People here used to see sports as a distraction. Now they look at basketball as a way out. It's like survival instinct, and it makes basketball more important than anything."

Said Amadou Gallo Fall, director of scouting for the Dallas Mavericks and a coach at the camp: "If they weren't playing basketball here, it would be a waste. This country might have the best natural talent for basketball of anywhere in the world."

Bada assures on C'wealth Games

Technical and performance director of the Athletic Federation of Nigeria, policeman Sunday Bada, has expressed hope that the Commonwealth trials will be a successful one.

He assured that only the country's best athletes who prove themselves at the national track and field championship would be picked to

represent the country in Australia. "We are looking forward to having a successful championship, the athletes have been in camp and we are training for a better performance, the best athletes we have are the ones we will present in Melbourne," he told brilafm.net

The ex-international stated that the issue of dop-

ing is seriously being looked at.

According to him, machinery is already in place to conduct random test on athletics in and out of competition. "As regarding doping, we are leaving no stone unturned"

On the reported dropping star athlete Enefiok Udo-Obong, the Kogi state-born

revealed that Ennefiok will be competing in the trials and would be selected if he meets the set standard.

Meanwhile, one of the boxers that will be donning the green white colors of Nigeria at next month's Commonwealth games in Melbourne, Australia, Emmanuel Izorintei has declared that his ambition is to

wrap up his amateur career with a Commonwealth medal before turning pro.

The heavy weight puncher boasted that he is sure of himself and will definitely achieve his aim at the Games stating that he knows most of the boxers that will be coming to the Commonwealth and has no iota of doubt that he will do well.

Contrary to speculation in some quarters that he has not been fighting for some time, Emmanuel Izorintei said he has been very busy with his amateur club in London and that was why he has no difficulty picking a place in the Commonwealth games team.

...Nine shooters make pick ticket

Nine shooters survived excruciating trials conducted by the Nigeria Shooting Federation to make the list of contingent to the Commonwealth Games, scheduled for Melbourne, Australia next month.

The shooters, who were moved from the Asaba camp where they had been in training ahead of the games over the weekend, were subjected to series of trials before a

By Patrick Andrew, Asst. Head Sports Desk

mock championship was organized for the selection of the final list at the National Stadium, Abuja.

Trustsports learnt that five males and four females eventually made the standard required out of 13 shooters who had survived several trial sessions since the camp resumed last year.

Those who made the mark and thus qualified to represent the country I

Melbourne are Sesan Abolarin, Samuel Effiong, Esugo Okposo, Jonny Hanakim and Adoyi Eleochi for the males and Yetunde Olabode, Caroline Utho, Flo-

rence Ogbogbo, and Evelyn Esugo for the females.

Nigeria is registering in nine of the 17 events which are to be competed for at the Games.

All set for Mobil trials

The stage looks set for this year's National track and field athletics championship billed to commence tomorrow in Abuja.

According to the scribe of the Athletic Federation of Nigeria-AFN Maria Wophil over 500 athletes are expected to be part of the three-day event, which will be used to select athletes that will represent the country at next month's Commonwealth games in Melbourne, Australia.

There is N1 million Jackpot prize money that will go

to the overall best athlete, aside that any athlete who comes top in every event will get N50,000, N30,000 for the second position and N20,000 for the 3rd. About 42 events will be competed for.

Meanwhile, National athletic coach Amelia Edet left Lagos Monday morning for Abuja alongside some technical officials ahead for the event.

Cycling for pre-festival tourney

The cycling federation of Nigeria is fully prepared to make the pre-National Sports Festival cycling competition coming up in Ogun state from the 25th-27th of this month a big success.

Scribe of the federation, Francis Gbiri told brilafm.net "all logistics have been put in place to make the competition a success"

Cyclists from the 36 states of the federation are expected to arrive on the 25th and departure has been fixed

for the 27th. Gbiri also disclosed that the federation's board meeting would precede the competition on the 25th.

Meanwhile, all states have been directed to the championship with at least 1 or 2 commissioners.

According to Gbiri, the commissioners will have their knowledge updated and this will help their teams during the National Sports Festival



The Annual Mobil Track and Field Athletic Championship commence tomorrow at the National Stadium in Abuja

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EDITORIAL

The Danish cartoon controversy

Once again, insensitivity to other people's beliefs and cultures is causing such huge public disquiet in relations between the West and Muslims across the world. This time, the fire was ignited by some cartoons depicting Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) in what Muslims consider very bad light. The offensive cartoons portrayed the revered Prophet as a terrorist and in other ways that Muslims consider not only indecent but blasphemous.

The cartoons were first published in a Danish newspaper in September 2005. Other newspapers in other European countries like France and Norway also reprinted the cartoons claiming to be defending their freedom of expression and further inflaming the feelings of Muslims. So far, there have been demonstrations in many Muslim countries or those with substantial number of Muslims such as Afghanistan, Gaza, Lebanon, Syria, Somalia, India Indonesia, and Thailand. Danish Embassy buildings were targeted in Lebanon and Syria. Much earlier, Libya and Saudi Arabia had closed their embassies in Copenhagen and withdrawn their ambassadors respectively.

Here in Nigeria, there have been peaceful demonstrations in Kano and the umbrella Muslim organisation, the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs, has condemned the cartoons saying that "the Muslim world has been ridiculed by the yellow journalism of a misguided cartoonist hiding under the freedom of expression." Similarly, an official of Nigeria's Christian Association of Nigeria also condemned the cartoons as unacceptable.

So far, at least four people have died in clashes related to the offensive cartoons. Three of the four died in Afghanistan on Monday when a police station was targeted. One person each is thought to have died in related incidents in Somalia and Lebanon.

In spite of all the fire they ignited, editors at the Danish newspaper, *Jylland-Postens* which caused the entire furore still maintain that they have no regrets. The culture editor of the newspaper who commissioned the 12 cartoons is quoted as saying, "I do not regret having commissioned those cartoons." The Danish Prime Minister, Anders Fogh Rasmussen, is however feeling the pinch of not just the demonstrations which have led to the burning of some Danish embassies, but also the boycott of Danish products, especially in Arab countries. The Prime Minister says he is distressed by the drawings which have caused Muslims so much pain because of the way it defamed Muslims and Islam.

It appears, however, that more than the demonstrations, what seems to be hitting the Danes hard is the boycott of Danish products, especially in affluent Arab societies. A Danish company, Arla Foods, one of the largest manufacturers of dairy products in Europe is talking of zero sale in many Arab countries and is already considering laying off some of its workers. It is not clear if the boycott calls that were passed through text messages here in Nigeria are having any impact.

Whatever the case, it appears that more than even demonstrations as a means of showing displeasure, Muslims and Third World societies should think more in terms of economic boycott of European or Western products to make them understand the need to respect other people's feelings and beliefs. *Daily Trust* believes that there should be mutual respect and understanding between Western culture and Islam. It is not enough to think that because of freedom of expression, one is free to do something that could cause offence to other parties. Similarly, it is better to understand that what may be innocuous and inoffensive in one culture could inflame tempers in others.

Relations between the two cultures are not helped when one culture draws all its conclusions about the other from its own point of view alone. We believe it is such kind of approach which leads to the rupture in relations as happened in the Danish cartoons. It is sad to observe that no lesson has been learnt from the case, over a decade ago, of Salman Rushdie's book, *The Satanic Verses* which Muslims considered blasphemous. As the two cases demonstrate, relations between the two cultures are better served by showing sensitivity to the other's point of view than the nebulous pursuit of freedom of expression that hurts the other's belief and pride.

DAILY TRUST

WEDNESDAY COLUMN

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Malu at ACF: Life-imitating fiction?

By Mohammed Haruna

I don't know if Lieutenant-General Victor Malu, former Chief of Army Staff (COAS), has read *Anthills of the Savannah*, Chinua Achebe's fifth novel published in 1987. If he has, I suspect he must be wondering at the similarity between his current predicament and that of Ikem Osodi, one of the three principal characters in the novel. I am, of course, talking about the furore that his speech at the last general assembly of the Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF) held on January 30 2006 in Kaduna, has generated.

In his speech, Malu was characteristically blunt in his denunciation of the Obasanjo regime for what he said were its transgressions against Nigerians and Nigeria since 1999. These, he said, included the regime's criminal neglect of the military as a fighting force and its use of the security forces, including the military, to terrorise the political opposition and



Lt-General Victor Malu, former Chief of Army Staff

tyrannise Nigerians. He also mentioned the decision to put the army under American supervision under the guise of enhancing its peace-keeping capabilities.

In that speech, Malu was equally unsparing of his hosts, the ACF. For too long, he said, it has spoken out against the transgressions of the Obasanjo administration only when they affected certain sections of the North and not others. The ACF, for example, has not, he said, spoken out loudly against the federal government for putting the Plateau State government under siege, and specifically for freezing its financial accounts. Nor has the organisation spoken out loudly enough against what seems to be the politically-motivated trial, in the last six years, of Lt-General Ishaya Bamaayi, his predecessor as army chief, and several others, for attempted murder.

Of all the things he said, however, the one some sections of the media chose to focus on were his remarks about how he resisted the temptation, as army chief, to overthrow the Obasanjo administration. These sections of the media quoted him as saying he regretted not doing so.

Predictably, the federal authorities and many a pundit have come down hard on Malu like a ton of bricks. Indeed, the *Nigerian Tribune* of February 3 reported that the ruling party has become "jittery over Malu's outburst on coup," and has scheduled a meeting to do something about its worry. "The party," said *Tribune* quoting an official, "has to meet with a view to taking a prompt decision on this matter because if anything happens, the party will be held responsible, but we won't wait for that time." Already, there are heavy hints that Malu may be hauled before the courts for treason.

At least two questions arise from this sensational interpretation of Malu's remarks about coups. First, did he say so? Second, should the authorities use the remarks as an excuse to silence him as one of its leading critics?

Chief Sunday Awoniyi, the Chairman of ACF's executive committee, has since issued a statement rejecting the media's

interpretation of Malu's remarks. "It is," he said, "wrong and even mischievous to cast headlines suggesting that Lt-General Victor Malu said he regretted not having overthrown Obasanjo. He did not say so."

I was at the venue of the event and, like Chief Awoniyi, I did not get the impression that he regretted not overthrowing Obasanjo. On the contrary, I was of the distinct impression that he was glad he did not do so. I do not remember his exact words but he definitely said, with great humour, that he was glad he was sacked as army chief before he might have contemplated a coup against the authorities because of the big mess they had made of the country's politics and economy.

To me, the most sensible, if not the only, way to interpret this remark is to regard it as a sign of Malu's loyalty to constituted authority. A sack is a calamity and you see a calamity as a good thing in retrospect only when you believe it had saved you from yourself or from something worse. And Malu categorically said his sack stopped him from contemplating something foolish.

When Malu spoke at the ACF assembly, he might as well have been playing the role of Ikem in Achebe's *Anthills of the Savannah*. *Anthills* is a story about how power corrupts ideals and damages longstanding relationships.

To rephrase the blurb of the novel, two years after a military coup swept a brilliant young Sandhurst-trained army officer, Sam, into power, in a fictional Republic of Kangan, the failure of a referendum to make him President-for-Life left him embittered especially against his two childhood friends, Chris, the Minister of Information, and Ikem, the brilliant poet who took over from Chris as editor of the *National Gazette*, the country's national newspaper. Sam personally blamed Chris and Ikem for not doing enough to ensure that the referendum succeeded. The three of them had grown up together as kids and had gone to the same schools, with Ikem as the intellectual, Sam as the socialite and Chris as something in between.

In a telling dialogue with his girlfriend, Beatrice, Chris said he was worried that the president had become paranoid. One day, he decided to confront the president over the deterioration in their friendship following the failure of the President-for-Life referendum.

"I reminded him," Chris said to Beatrice, "that he never really wanted to be Life President. That made him truly hopping mad. I didn't, he said, and you know I didn't, but the moment it was decided upon you had a clear responsibility; you and Ikem, to see it succeed. I never before heard so much bitter emotion in his voice."

Ikem and not Sam, however, was the one that eventually committed the greater *faux pass* in the eyes of the president's security outfits. Following a series of editorials and stories in the *Gazette* that were critical of the government, Ikem was first suspended as editor, and then sacked.

It was while he was on suspension that he accepted an invitation to give a lecture in the country's university. That lecture turned out as the most decisive turning point in the relationship of the trio.

As lectures go, Ikem's was characteristically controversial, but what made it fateful was his answer to a question after the lecture about a persistent rumour that the Central Bank of Kangan was completing plans to put the president's image on the nation's currency.

"Yes," Ikem had answered with a bit of dark humour. "I heard of it like everybody else. Whether there is such a plan or not, I don't know. All I can say is I hope the rumour is unfounded. My position is quite straightforward especially now that I don't have to worry about being editor of the *Gazette*. My view is that any serving president foolish enough to lay his head on a coin should know he is inciting people to take it off; the head I mean."

The following day, the *Gazette* carried the story with the boldest and most sensational headline. "EX-EDITOR ADVOCATES REGICIDE!" The newspaper exclaimed.

This clearly mischievous interpretation of Ikem's remarks provided the security forces with an excuse they had been looking for to deal with Ikem; they declared him a wanted person, a declaration which forced him to run for his dear life and his friend Chris to join him in the race in disgust at the corrupting influence of power on Sam. While they were on the run, the very security forces that Sam had increasingly relied upon to stay in power overthrew him and quickly executed him.

Achebe wrote his novel over 18 years ago when coups were still in vogue. However, certain similarities it has with today's Nigeria makes it a compelling read and re-reading for the lessons those similarities hold for all of us - politicians, soldiers, journalists, and ordinary Nigerians alike.

One can only hope that all of us, but more especially those in power, will learn from those lessons and allow our new democracy to grow so that Nigeria will begin to realise its great potential as the largest nation in Africa and the black race.