NIGERIAN TIDE

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WARNING

₦25million unclaimed goods will be auctioned if ... —MAGORO

by a staff reporter

UNCLAIMED goods estimated at about ₦25 million now lying at the Port Harcourt wharf are to be sold by public auction if they are not removed by their owners in time.

The order was given by the Federal Commissioner for Transport, Colonel Mohammed Magoro, during his visit to the ports complex among other places in Port Harcourt, at the weekend.

The commissioner expressed dissatisfaction over the way and manner imported goods were being abandoned at the wharf and noted that it was hampering the efforts of the Federal Government in decongesting the ports.

He blamed officials of the Authority in Port Harcourt for their "inefficiency" which, he said, was responsible for the situation at the wharf.

SANITATION

Colonel Magoro also ordered officials of the Nigerian Produce Marketing Company in Port Harcourt to ensure that empty produce sacks littered all around the wharf were removed immediately.

On the sanitation of the ports, the commissioner directed the port manager, Mr F. B. Agoro, to devise measures by which subcontracts would be awarded for the regular cleaning of the wharf.

Colonel Magoro said it was very regrettable to note the poor sanitary condition of the wharf, and added that henceforth the pieces of all imported goods that were either destroyed or spoilt should always be cleared.

As one of the measures to decongest the wharf, the commissioner suggested that officials at the port should always advertise the arrival and departure of every vessel berthed at the quay.

This, he said, would ensure strict compliance with the Authority's traffic regulations and facilitate the movement of ships.



● Col Mohammed Magoro

A

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PORT HARCOURT.

Pilfering: Strict devices planned

TOUGHER measures directed at checking pilfering at the ports are to be designed by the Federal Military Government.

Col Mohammed Magoro, Federal Commissioner for Transport, told journalists at the Port Harcourt Airport that under the new measures, administrative blocks would be built outside the quays of all ports in the country.

The commissioner added that this had become necessary in order to check the increasing rate of stealing at the wharves.

The Federal Military Government, he said, was getting worried by the activities of touts at the ports, which had resulted in considerable loss of public funds. Measures to check these would be devised.

Questioned on top management appointments in the Authority, the commissioner said that any qualified Nigerian could be appointed to any top post irrespective of his state of origin.

On the development of more ports in the country, the commissioner said that the lack of development of some existing ports in the country should not be regarded as an act of neglect.

Col Magoro further stated that what the government had done was to give priority to some ports based on the limited resources available for development.

The commissioner said that it was impossible for the Federal Military Government to carry out the development of all the ports at the same time.

SMUGGLING DRAINS NATION'S ECONOMY

THE Commander of the Eastern Naval Command of the Nigerian Navy, Captain P. S. Koshoni, has spoken of the disastrous effects of smuggling on the economy of the nation.

Captain Koshoni who was speaking at the end-of-year party organized by his command in Calabar described smuggling as "economic sabotage" and appealed to everyone to co-operate in the crusade against it.

He commended the command for making the year a success by effectively guarding its territorial waters from through vigilant patrols.

In his speech, the state military governor, Colonel Ufuoma Omu stressed the need for greater understanding and better interaction between civilians and the Armed Forces in the country by effective publicity of their activities.

Colonel Omu said the special and distinct roles of these bodies had been grossly misunderstood by the civilian population and as such there was serious need more than ever before, for them to carry out massive public enlightenment campaigns through the mass media.

Increase in boarding fees explained

THE recent increase in boarding fee in post-primary schools in the Cross River State has been explained by the state government.

Each student boarder will now pay N60 as against the N20 paid before while the tuition fee for each post-primary student still stands at N10.

Following the increase extra fees totalling N58 per annum has also been introduced in the schools.

A break down of the extra fees shows the re-introduction of games and sports fees which stand at N12 per annum per student or at N4 per term per student.

Equipment fee is now N12 per annum per student or N4 per term per child, transport fee N8 per annum per student or N2 per child per term and Library fee of N9 per child per annum or N3 per child per term.

Other fees comprise domestic charges payable by boarders only, which stand at N9 per child per annum or N3 per child per term and overcharges fee of N10 payable in full and refundable at the end of the course if no breakages were incurred by the students.

Giving details at a press briefing in Calabar, the state military governor, Colonel Ufuoma Omu explained that games and sports fees would be used in purchasing sports equipment including maintenance and running costs of school vans, while equipment fees would be used in equipping science laboratories and technical workshops.

Library fees and domestic charges would be utilized in improving school libraries and cooking facilities respectively, he added.

On the recently announced restoration of previous names to post-primary schools in the state, Colonel Omu said the exercise was a result of persistent demands and petitions received from parents and organizations throughout the state.

He however warned that the restoration of the former names did not mean the handing over of such schools back to their former proprietors.

New chief receives certificate

Nineteen eminent Nigerians including six women received the honourable chieftaincy titles in mark the fourth anniversary of Obong's coronation in Calabar.

Here, one of the recipients, Chief Mrs Rose I. Offiong receives her certificate of recognition from the Obong of Calabar, Professor Eyamba Bassey Obo V.



Abdullahi decorates 3 citizens

THE Bendel State military governor, Commodore Husaini Abdullahi recently presented national honours: O. O. N Award to three deserving citizens, in Benin City.

Pictured is Commodore Abdullahi (right) decorating Mr Igbinosa Izobo senior driver-mechanic Grade 1, with the O. O. N. honour.

Hall proposed for destitutes

THE Chief Social Development Officer in Oyo State, Mr M. I. Okunola has assured the inmates of the Relief Camp for destitutes in Ibadan that a hall would be provided to cater for their social activities.

He said arrangements were underway whereby the inmates would learn petty trades to make them useful citizens in the future.

Mr Okunola disclosed this while presenting Christmas gifts on behalf of Mrs Comfort Jemibewon, wife of the Oyo State military governor to 39 handicapped persons at the relief camp for destitute persons at Old Ife road.

OFN COMMITTEE LAUNCHED IN ANAMBRA LGA

THE Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources in Anambra State has established an agro service centre at Nkwelle Ezunaka to help farmers in the local government area.

The ministry had also, in collaboration with the local government council, formed village co-operative societies to encourage large-scale farming in the area.

The principal agricultural superintendent in-charge of the Anambra local government area, Mr E. O. Ifeobu, disclosed this at Otucha during the launching of Anambra local government area Committee on Operation Feed the Nation.

Mr Ifeobu stressed the need for the committee on O.F.N. He enumerated several resources available to the committee for achieving its goal of mass food production, such as the tractor hire scheme, the projected farm mechanisation scheme and the proposed feed mill at Onitsha.

He assured them of the services of the extension staff of the Ministry of Agriculture.

In his own speech, the chairman of the committee, Mr Gabriel Madubonwu, assured the government of the people's willingness to achieve success of the scheme and requested for tools to implement it.



EDITORIAL

Aboyade's mystery principles

THE Aboyade Technical Committee on Revenue Allocation has recommended to the Federal Military Government to reject outright all existing principles of sharing money between the Federal and other layers of government. These include the principles of derivation, population and equality of states. With all these established formulae out of consideration, it remains to be seen what the scholarly savant of the University of Ife and his equally learned colleagues have in mind for the people. The point has always been stressed that the exercise should be conducted with the highest sense of detachment, and we expect nothing short of this from the committee.

THE nation has been warned that the world price of crude oil is declining in a situation of over-supply. So what? What is strange about that? Supposing there was no oil at all? Would this country have perished in penury?

THE fact, however, remains that for now and many years ahead oil will continue to command a dominating height in the Nigerian economy. In any case, the "declining rate of growth of allocable resources" cannot be a case against an equitable system of revenue allocation as an instrument of evolving national unity. This question of national unity is the anvil on which the committee was expected to base its recommendations, and it is hoped that this was very much at the back of the mind of the panel during the exercise.

OBVIOUSLY, an equitable system is one that is aimed at ensuring even and balanced development throughout the country, bearing in mind that some areas of the country are years and years ahead of others in this respect. These are areas where the Federal Military Government has made substantial investments. And paradoxically enough, most of the neglected spots in the federation can be found in the existing revenue producing states.

WHILST the Aboyade mystery formula is still being considered, it is timely to alert the Federal Military Government to the fact that any revenue allocation formula that does not take into consideration the present imbalances will only succeed in making a mockery of our desire for unity, peace and progress.

THE present administration is in a unique position to build equity into our system of revenue allocation. It should strive to do this before leaving the government to politicians. The reason for this need is simple. Politicians can be expected to manipulate the issue to suit their partisan interests. Such manipulation will, of course, create the usual confusion and distraction, much to the detriment of national integration.

Don't fail to register for the 1979 general elections. it is your opportunity to elect leaders of your choice.

PUBLIC OPINION FORUM

ARMED ROBBERY: SURE WAY OUT

Certain arguments against the enshrinement of press freedom in our constitution are not only embarrassing but also show that we as a people, hate the truth.

For, how can we expect to operate an American type of constitution successfully without fundamental provision which makes it successful in that country — press freedom?

Our press has done a lot in defending the truth and the rights of the individual in general to deserve the freedom it now seeks. It should no longer be open to intimidation and embarrassment for publishing what is true.

I think the Constituent Assembly should not only display knowledge but wisdom as well. That way, the question of granting press freedom would be conclusively and rightly answered.

GOODNEWS A. KJPOYE
Port Harcourt.

PRESS FREEDOM SHOULD BE GRANTED

Every Nigerian is no doubt menaced by the daily fear created by apprehension of possible armed robbers' attack. In fact armed robbery has become a national problem which must be solved before the army hands over power to a civilian government.

The main cause of armed robbery has been attributed to the problem of unemployment. Since we have not been able to get gainful employment for most of the employable people, this puts the ball in our court.

I will suggest that while drawing up strategies at getting to a stage of full employment, the Federal Government should establish a national insurance scheme that will provide income for our unemployed, at least to enable them survive.

The government could in the meantime expand the scope of the "Operation Feed the Nation" programme to employ more of those who roam the streets, unemployed. In that way there will also be more food for our ever-increasing population.

EBI EVINSON
Sagbama.

Control this

IT is high time the Port Harcourt Town Council started controlling the dumping of refuse along our streets. It has been noticed that some people dump refuse anywhere they like, not minding the after-effects.

Apart from the health hazard brought about by indiscriminate dumping of refuse, is the point that these heaps of dirt on our roads cause accidents. There was for instance a serious one which occurred near the heap of refuse in front of 25 Harold Wilson Drive be ever.

ANAWELECHI NJOKU
Port Harcourt

Complete our hospital

Construction work on the Opuama Health Centre started sometime in 1975 but up till now we are yet to get completed structures.

This worries the people because the beginning of the project raised their hopes. The anticipation was that in no time the problems they encountered with regard to health would be over.

Opuama is situated in the Yenagoa Local Government area. As at now, patients have to travel the long journey to Yenagoa for treament. Obviously if the new health centre is opened it would solve a lot of problems.

My appeal to the Rivers State Ministry of Health is that it should ensure that work on this project is completed fast and the health centre comes into operation.

GOLDEN S. IDEINYEBO
Opuama

RSG, DEVELOP MORE TOWNSHIPS

The Rivers State Government should realise the importance of creating more townships in the state in order to suit present developments. I think it is even shameful that the state has only Port Harcourt as a township whereas some other states like Imo State has more than eight.

Obviously we have many towns in the state which could be developed to add to our desire to spread our modern amenities to a large majority of our people.

Towns like Eleme for example has a lot of potentialities that could best be exploited if the town is developed into a modern township, if not a city. It could be remembered that the town has the Nigeria's economic wealth today.

I think the government should tackle this issue fast.

EJII OF OLAKA
Eleme

Not quite true

We refer to four news story titled "Rumpus over Secret Box" published in the Nigerian Tide of December 31, 1977.

The true facts of what took place on December 26, 1977 are as follows:

(a) There was no clash at the main arena of the display, Ikugba Square, throughout both the entire display both in the morning and in the afternoon.

(b) At 5 p.m. when the display had to shift traditionally to the market square, some 500 metres away, two groups clashed because one refused to give way to the other, an event which is not unusual on such occasions.

(c) The Uke-Mkpa Society immediately intervened but not before a few participants on both sides, numbering only five, sustained minor injuries.

(d) It is absolutely false to state that "victims of the incident were refused medical attention at the General Hospital in Bonny. In point of fact, the victims received prompt treatment from the resident doctors in Bonny, assisted by Dr O. R. Long-John, Head of Department of Surgery, General Hospital. The so-called victims were treated and discharged.

Those who are familiar will the geography of Bonny Town will attest to the fact tha Ikugba Square and the adjoining Ada-Polo Square cannot accommodate 15,000 people, yet, your

E. F. N. HART
Publicity Secretary,
Uke-Mkpa Society,
Bonny

Help us

THE people of Amini Owuru Abua Odual in Ahoada Local Government area of the Rivers State have been doing their best to develop the area.

The villages have been able to build a maternity home/health centre a five kilometre road, one bridge, two town halls and a school hall and are now preparing for a secondary school. But the primary school buildings are only two separate blocks and the children have so increased in number that these buildings cannot accommodate them any longer. The villagers have been setting up temporary structures for the pupils.

The government is called upon to come to our aid by building more classroom blocks for the teeming population of the school.

NELSON W. IAMUNO
OHIO



COMMUNITY IMPRESSES A GOVERNOR

THE community development spirit among the Isoko people in the Isoko local government area of Bendel State has been highly commended by the states military governor, Commodore Husaini Abdullahi.

The governor commended the people while commissioning the ₦40,000 Ada-Itri water supply scheme built by communal effort by the Ada-Itri people.

He remarked that in Isoko local government area, the people did not ask for what the government could do for them, or in other words, they did not look upon the government as Father Christmas, dolling out gifts.

On the contrary said the governor, they had always girded their loins, made the Sacrifice it required in terms of money, materials and men to provide for themselves what in other parts of the state would be subject of petitions to the government.

Commodore Abdullahi therefore appealed to other communities in the state which had not become self-development conscious to emulate the self-help spirit which inspired the project he was commissioning that day.

The governor did not agree with the people's request that they be paid compensation for the project.

He however saw with them on need for the government take-over of the project.

He would instruct the state's water boad to enter discussion with them about immediate take-over of the project.

The governor also agreed on the need to extend electricity to their town and said the rural electricity board would be urged to quickly examine the possibility of being included in a proposed electricity scheme at Avara in the same local government area.

Report on revenue submitted

THE Technical Committee on Revenue Allocation has submitted its final report to the Federal Military Government.

The chairman of the Committee, Professor Aboyade Ikoe, presents the report to the Chief of Staff, Supreme Headquarters, Brigadier Shehu Yar'Adua at Dodan Barracks.

The report is believed to have contained new formula for sharing the national cake among states.

School of nursing shines in tests

FIFTY five (55) students of the University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital school of Nursing were successful in the September 1977 nursing council qualifying examinations.

For the first time, the school sent in two classes of students 67.

Only two failed the examinations.

The school of Nursing has maintained enviable record of successes in the Nursing council qualifying examination since its inception seven years ago, reports from Enugu claimed.

Meanwhile the list of candidates invited for interview into the school for the 1978 intake is now on display at the hospital premises.

A statement from the public relations officer of the University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital Mr D C Egere said the interviews and selections starts today January 10 1978 at 8 a.m. at the school of nursing hall.

Hospital board inaugurated

THE Imo State Health Management Board (H.M.B.) has been inaugurated.

In his speech at the inauguration ceremony, the State Commissioner for Health, Dr Rowland Asobie, said government was fully conscious of the fact that the administration of government hospitals and health centres in the State and throughout the Federation need improvement.

The inauguration, he stated was in keeping with the approved recommendation of the Federal Government to establish a Health Management Board in each State of the Federation.

Dr Asobie said the edict under which the board was set up would be published shortly.

Field day opened

RIGHT, Commodore Husaini Abdullahi launches the Shell-BP Field Day at Agbarho in the Ughelli Local Government Area. He also inspected the Quality Control Centre of the Shell-BP at Ughelli.



BREAKDOWN OF CRAFTS, MISUSE OF LAND, LOSS OF REVENUE ALLEGED

Workers demand probe on NPA

THE Federal Military Government has been called upon to look into the poor conditions under which the Nigerian Ports complex in the Rivers State had been left, with a view to remedying the situation.

The call was made by the Nigerian Maritime Workers Union, Rivers State district.

In a press release signed by the assistant general secretary of the union, Mr F. A. Stanla, the union pointed out that, since 1960 there had been no development in the Rivers ports.

The result is that whereas Port Harcourt is the nation's second largest port, it has only nine berths.

The Bulk Oil Plants built by the colonial masters had never been improved. The union also alleged that land made available to the NPA was now being freely utilised by private companies.

According to the union, the land situates along the Wharf from the Magcobar jetty to the Witt and Butt's jetty.

Government, declared the union, should institute a full scale investigation on the Magcobar jetty, because the revenue that should have gone to the coffers of the NPA now goes into the coffer of an expertriate company.

According to the union the Rivers Port complex earns revenue of about ₦2 million every month, part of which was being used in the development of other ports in the country.

On the condition of crafts being used in the ports complex, the union said that, of the twenty eight crafts in the Rivers ports, only seven were now in operation.

The result, said the union is that such duties as water supply and pilotage were being performed by private companies.

The union stated that the 'Ikwerre' boat which is a fire fighting vessel had been out of use since two years now, so that "in case of any fire outbreak on The sea Gate is nothing the authority could do".

Mogho sets up planning body

Twelve officers have been elected by the Mogho Planning Committee in the Bori local government area (BOLGA) to run the affairs of the committee in the next business year.

In a meeting held at Mogho town hall, the people of Mogho dissolved the old committee, and voted Chief E. N. Kpea as a new president, Mr L. T. Domkpe, chairman, Mr C. K. Tonii, vice-chairman, Mr G. S. Naduaba, scribe and Mr P. N. Dere, assistant secretary.

Others elected were E. N. Vitaa, treasurer. Mr C. A. Kpogio returned unopposed as publicity secretary. Mr A. S. Biraghara financial secretary and Chief A. K. Adoma, Chief A. A. Aator, Mr J. G. Opbe, Mr J. K. Baddey, Mr R. Doba and Mr Ben Lebara ex-officio members.

₦60,000 light scheme for Opuama

AN ELECTRIFICATION scheme built at a cost of ₦60,000 by the Opuama community in the Yenagoa local government area of the Rivers State has been commissioned.

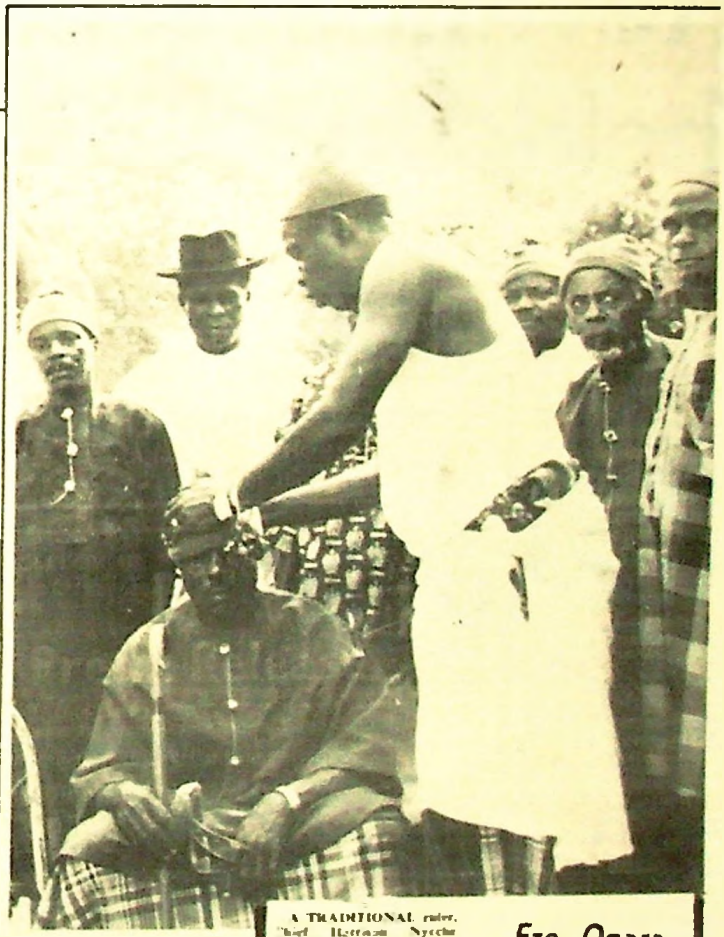
The commissioning was performed at a colourful ceremony. The chairman was Chief B. A. Odeke.

Also commissioned at the occasion was a jetty constructed at a cost of ₦15,000, which would facilitating transportation in the area.

Speaking at the ceremony, Chief Odeke applauded the spirit and self-effort of the community in executing the projects within a record time.

He also paid tribute to the Rivers State Government for its assistance towards the projects.

Chief Odeke noted that the jetty would serve a useful purpose in the economic life of the people while the electrification scheme would in no small measure create a sense of comfort for the rural population.



A TRADITIONAL ruler, Chief Harrison Nyeche Chukwu was at the weekend installed the "Eze — Opara Anwunwo of Ngbo (omiri Orualwa, Rumuolumeni.

The installation ceremony was performed by Chief O.N. Soriim, the Apiti of Rumuolumeni.

Chief Harrison Chukwu succeeds late Chief Benson Ejekwu Chukwu at whose death, the stool became vacant 20 years ago.

The occasion which featured many colourful tra-

Eze Opara Anwunwo enthroned

ditional ceremonies was witnessed by the Onelsor Iriebe and paramountcy from the area.

Here, Chief Soriim cuts the new ruler.

₦12,000 realised from tax drive

AN intensive tax drive aimed at collecting arrears of taxes from 1970/71 to 1977/78 has been mounted in Ogba/Egbema district of the Ahoada local government authority area.

To this end a village to village tax drive and unmounting of road blocks which started at mid-night, months ago has been intensified by officials of the tax division of the Ministry of Finance Ahoada.

Speaking to the Nigerian Tide in his office, the district tax assessment authority, Mr A. O. Ozim warned tax defaulters and tax evaders to come forward to pay their taxes which he said was the civic duty of every individual.

According to reports, more than ₦12,000 has so far been collected as arrears by the tax team.

The officer appealed to all persons travelling through the district to carry with them, all tax and rate receipts for 1970-77 period, or face the consequences of being prosecuted.

The tax drive will end on March 31, 1978.



THE fourth anniversary celebrations of the coronation of the Obong of Calabar, Edidem Etien Ekpe Oku V have just ended in Calabar. In the picture taken during the celebration, an 'Ekpe' masquerade is seen greeting the Obong in the traditional manner.

Revenue collection held up

REVENUE collection in Imo State is being interrupted following a shortage of revenue receipts, it has been reported.

According to the report, a number of government departments and agencies in the state has been lacking in essential revenue forms and receipts, as a result revenue coming to the government treasury could not be received.

Up to the time of going to press, many offices in the state capital are yet to receive their supply of revenue receipts from the government press.

Most affected by the revenue receipts shortage are the ministries of Works and Housing education, justice, the treasury and government agencies, including the board of internal revenue.

A reliable source said the shortage which was noticed a couple of months ago, came in the wake of the mass swearing in of affidavits by public servants denouncing membership of secret cults, as well as declaration of age by students admitted into colleges last year.

Frantic efforts it was understood were being made to provide revenue forms and receipt books.

In another development, the director of internal revenue in the state Mr J. U. Igwe announced measures to curb the financial ills of Imo state.

In a nine-point remedy suggested to a combined meeting of tax assessment authorities and tax collectors in the state held at Umuahia recently, Mr Igwe enumerated a number of factors militating against revenue collection in the state and stressed the need for optimum utilization of all resources available to improve government finance.

Assessment authorities and tax collectors he directed must "open their eyes and ears to what they see and hear."

SHORTAGE OF RECEIPTS

2 killed in 2 road mishap

TWO ghastly motor accidents occurred within the same area near Omata village about 18 kilometers from Warri along Warri Sapele road and within two days, killing three men including a driver, three women and a baby.

Nine people including men, women and a boy are now receiving treatment at the Warri Specialist Hospital.

The first accident claimed the lives of a woman and her child when the driver of a Datsun car collided with a trailer. The car was crushed to bits.

The second accident involving two Peugeot taxi cabs occurred within the range of the first accident in the morning of January 4, 1978.

Eyewitnesses at the scene of the accident said that one of the taxis was travelling to Warri while the other was carrying passengers mostly women to Lagos.

Police were seen removing bodies of the victims to the public mortuary of the General Hospital.

BUSH BURNING: OBA PLEADS

FARMERS in Ondo State have been urged to co-operate with the state government in making the recent ban on bush burning a success.

The call was made by the Olowa of Igbaro-Oke in Idanre Hemore local government area of the state, Oba Aderibigbe during an interview with the Nigerian Tide in his palace.

Oba Aderibigbe said that the ban on the burning of bush was in the best interest of the farmers whose crops will be saved from destruction.

He recalled with regret the destruction of farm crops in recent years through indiscriminate burning of bush.

Oba Aderibigbe reminded hunters in the area of the plight of the farmers by refering from setting fire on bushes.

On the forthcoming registration of voters for the 1979 elections, the Oba appealed to his subjects to make the registrations exercise a success.

He urged them to register as voters since it was the civil duty of every citizen to select the government of their choice when the Army hands over power in 1979.

'Lost and found'

PROPERTY worth about N10,000 have been recovered by the Cross River State Police criminal investigation department (CID) in Calabar following a vigorous raid of many criminal hideouts at the weekend.

The property include two television sets, stereo musical equipment with loudspeakers, tape-recorders, and transistor radios.

An official statement issued by the police in Calabar said four persons have so far been arrested and would appear in court soon in connection with the discovered goods.

The police appealed to members of the public to call at the department with valid purchase documents to identify their stolen goods.

The suspected items are still with the police in Port Harcourt.



Return to the village, doctors told

MEDICAL practitioners in Nigeria have been told to take hard look at the suffering of their fellow citizens in the rural areas, and return to the villages to serve.

Making the call at Nimo in Njikoka local government area of Anambra State, the medical superintendent of "Mater Infirmorum" a newly completed private medical institution, Dr Eusebius Chidume said, that local communities had suffered for too long now because of medical care in the rural areas.

Dr Chidume, said this is an address to the Anambra State Commissioner for Health, during the opening of the hospital. He said that life in the village was not as difficult as some of his colleagues might think.

He suggested group practice every doctor to go into for every doctor to go into the government. He also urged nurses, midwives, laboratory technicians and even doctors to serve in private clinics that can provide necessary accommodation.

Replying to the address the commissioner said that the basic health scheme initiated by the Federal Military Government is being executed by the state governments.

THE WORLD

Future of the Palestinians

Shah goes Egypt, Saudi Arabia

THE Shah of Iran will have talks in Egypt today and Saudi Arabia tomorrow aimed — according to observers in Teheran at making King Hussein of Jordan the architect of a Palestinian solution.

The Shah would urge upon Egyptian President Anwar Sadat at Aswan the advantages of a solution based on the creation of a Palestinian autonomous region within the Jordanian borders, observers said.

According to Arab diplomatic sources, King Hussein — in whose kingdom many Palestinians live would also attend the Egyptian talks.

The Shah would meet King Khaled of Saudi Arabia in Riyadh on Tuesday, officials confirmed.

The Shah had discussed the Middle East at length last weekend with King Hussein and American President Jimmy Carter. Unconfirmed reports said he earlier met Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan.

Proposals such as those as unofficially circulated in Teheran would give Iran —powerful, conservative, Islamic and faithful to Arab ideas but not an Arab state — a remarkable entry on the Middle East scene, immediately after a diplomatic thrust in the Horn of Africa.

Details of Iranian proposals were not known on Sunday, particularly those involving military precautions Israel could take, and the status of Jerusalem.

"But the key idea," observers said, clearly seemed to be to help King Hussein achieve in the Jordanian context a settlement which the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), led by Yasser Arafat did not appear in a position to bring about.

According to the Iranian press the solution, which could ease the current Egyptian-Israeli talks, would be cautiously advocated by the Shah, under a step-by-step process.

It could imply a revision of historic decisions at an Arab summit in Rabat, in 1974, when the PLO was recognised as the sole representative of the Palestinian movement.

But it was also in the direct line of the ideas of the Shah, who is close to King Hussein and, through fear of "subversion," opposes the birth of a new "revolutionary" state in a part of the world which in Iranian eyes already has three — Iraq, South Yemen and Ethiopia.



• PRESIDENT SADAT



• SHAH of IRAN



• PRESIDENT NETO

CABINET RESHUFFLE IN ANGOLA

ANGOLAN President Agostinho Neto announced a minor government reshuffle at the weekend involving nine. The new appointments are Agriculture Minister — Manuel Pedro Pacavira (former Transport Minister), Deputy Minister — Germano Gomes.

Transport — Fernando Faustino Muteka (former provincial commissioner of Bie).

Industry and Energy — Major Alberto Bento Ribeiro (formerly Secretary of State for Communications). Deputy Minister — Emilio Guerra.

Fishing — Antonio Da Costa Lopes Da Camara (formerly provincial commissioner for Mocamedes); Internal Trade: Paulino Pinto Joao; External Trade: Roberto Antonio De Almeida — Secretary of State for Communications: Isidio Tome Alves Macahdo.

Outgoing ministers are Carlos Fernandes (Agriculture Minister), Jose Carlos Victor De Carvalho (Fishing) and Augusto Lopes Teixeira (Industry and Energy).

Mr De Carvalho was appointed Governor of the Bank of Angola.

2 whites, 21 others killed in blast

TWO white workers were killed and 21 others, both white and black, were injured in an explosion that ripped through the world's largest dynamite factory at Modderfontein, near Johannesburg.

Rescue workers toiled throughout Saturday amid the debris caused by the blast which involved two and a half tons of nitro glycerine, used in the initial stages of manufacturing cartridges for rock-blasting in gold and uranium mines.

Journalists were barred from the scene under South Africa's secrets act Legislation.

Some of the injured were reported burned by acid thrown up by the explosion.

Officials at the factory, owned by the Anglo-American corporation have refused to speculate on the causes of the blast, but pointed out that there have been a series of accidents at the plant which sprawls over several thousand hectares, north of Johannesburg.

Briefs

Peshwar

A British tourist staged an impromptu striptease outside his hotel here after the management refused to bend Pakistan's prohibition laws and serve him liquor.

Police said the tourist, a Mr McBinnock, danced around naked in front of hundreds of people. After a few hours in police custody Mr McBinnock was released fully clothed.

Jakarta

The Indonesian Government is planning to initiate compulsory elementary education during the next five year development plan starting in 1979.

This project, disclosed by President Suharto when presenting the 1978/79 fiscal year budget to the parliament, will involve 85 per cent of the 23 million Indonesian children ranging from seven to 12 years.

New Orleans

A MAJOR air and sea search was under way for survivors from a launch in collision with an oil tanker 75 miles (120 kms) off the coast here on Saturday night.

The launch, the Candy Bar, was shuttling personnel to oil search platforms in the Gulf of Mexico when it was in collision with the Liberian — registered Stolt Viking, 7, 900 tons.

Salisbury

WHITE woman and her 15-year-old daughter were killed on Saturday by nationalist forces at a farm less than 28 kms (18 miles) from here, a government spokesman said.

The spokesman said another daughter of Mrs Sheila Cummings was injured in her arms and legs, but her situation is said to be "not serious".

Khartoum

EGYPTIAN Foreign Minister Mohammed Ibrahim Kamal has denied here that Egypt and Israel are about to reach a separate peace agreement.

He said President Sadat had stressed that in his speech to the Israeli parliament and the Egyptian position had been confirmed many times since.

Peking

THOUSANDS of Chinese poured into Tiananmen Square in the heart of the capital on Sunday to pay homage to the late Prime Minister Chou EN Lai, on the second anniversary of his death.

Despite bitter cold, hundreds of soldiers and civilians crowded round the numerous wall posters to copy the poems and writings dedicated to Mr Chou into their notebooks.

Most of the poems commemorate January 8 and swear fidelity to the memory.

Cairo

YASSER Arafat, head of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), is prepared to accept an emergency security force in Gaza and the West Bank made up of troops from the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, according to the Al Ahram daily.

Jerusalem

ISRAELI police made several arrests after a hand grenade exploded at a bus stop here, injuring a number of Arab workers waiting to go to their work in Nablus.

Tel Aviv

MORE than one million Israelis, over a third of the country's population, are now suffering from influenza. Professor Ezekiel Dan of the Medical Faculty of Tel Aviv University said on Sunday.

The epidemic is now at its height, and although there are complications the country's leading doctors recommend that the victims stay in bed for three to five days.

There is no other specific medicine for the virus that is expected to bring down fever.

NUJ RUMPUS

Facts we

THE alleged involvement of the government whether Federal or State in the most controversial issue of the time, the crisis in the Nigerian Union of Journalists (NUJ), is, to say the least, most unfortunate and mean.

One fact remains in the face of truth and justice that there is no leadership crisis in the Nigerian Union of Journalists rather what should be described in a very plain language as another attempt to disorganise what is likely to emerge as the strongest, most powerful and most vocal trade union block in the country is right on its way.

It then appears to me that nothing very unusual is currently happening in the union. But one fact remains certain that neither the citizens of this country nor the government will escape from the consequences of what is now happening in the NUJ.

If facts are what decent and honest people could go by, then one is compelled to state that the so called honest and decent citizens and even leaders of this country are merely keeping blind eyes to facts and at the same time nipping justice in the bud.

I will, however, for the purpose of common understanding, believe that the true picture of the ugly developments in the union has not been brought to the knowledge of the highest authority.

The Nigerian Union of Journalists before now, was a kind of social organisation aimed at bringing all practising journalists in the country together. This organisation which has been in existence for many years back has all while been accepted as the only voice of journalists like in other professions, but never as a trade union body.

It then became obvious that when the decree by the Federal Military Government dissolving all trade union bodies in the country was promulgated, the Nigerian Union of Journalists was not in any way affected, hence the non inclusion of the union in the trade union probe exercise.

There again, it is on record that the NUJ had a formidable leadership which hitherto had catered for member journalists although it had often waded through storms occasioned by the over zealousness of some journalists in Lagos and environ whose main ambition had been to lead the union perpetually.

During the last convention of the NUJ in Enugu last year, it was very obvious that the Federal Military Government was a party to its success. The historic address sent to the convention by the Chief of Staff, Supreme Headquarters, Brigadier Shehu Yar'dua, in which he threw a bombshell as to the effectiveness of the present day Nigerian journalists went a long way to support the claim that the Federal Military Government was quite aware of the existence of this union.

It is not a mere fallacy to state that most state governments donated towards that historic convention which has gone into the books of the union as the first national convention ever where the first NUJ peace treaty was signed and where for the first time, Chief Michael Asaju openly apologised to the national President, Malam Sidi Ali Sirajo for his misconduct and promised to remain ever loyal to the unanimously elected national president.



by Chris Eluemunoh

And to be specific, the Anambra State Military Government, Col. John Atom Kpera, had the single honour of addressing the convention at which he also made a financial contribution on behalf of his state government. So many other state governments either donated through their various state councils of unions or direct to the national body.

The big question that now rocks the minds of all responsible citizens of this country is whether the Federal authorities in spite of all these were still not aware that NUJ had a national secretariat which could competently handle matters affecting the members of the union.

Can it be properly defended before posterity that the National Executive Council of the NUJ, elected at a convention attended by 19 states of the Federation barely six months ago, was no longer a thing to reckon with; hence the decision by the Trade Union Administrator, to deal direct with an individual instead of the executive council of the union?

Can the administrator himself explain how all the documents meant for the Union got into the hands of Michael Asaju and his partners, Jola Ogunlusi, thereby leaving all the state councils of the union at the whims and caprices of two individuals?

And to make matters worse, the only communication with the Anambra State Council of the Union was a letter from Chief Asaju, informing it that he was interested in the leadership of the union and that he could concede the post of treasurer to Anambra. What an insult!

How then can whoever summoned the union's meeting at Benin justify the fact that no correspondence officially from the Federal Authorities got to the secretariat of the union based in Kaduna before the childish drinks party at Benin in the name of a general meeting!

Can whoever summoned that Benin meeting justify why it was during the absence of the duly elected President of the NUJ, Malam Sidi Ali Sirajo, who was away to Cuba to represent the union officially that the so-called general meeting attended by only six states out of the nineteen states of the Federation was held? What a shame!

Can the Federal authorities justify why a man



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STUDENTS APPRECIATE GOVT

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The National Union of Rivers State Students (NURSS), has ended its 11th annual convention in Port Harcourt, the Rivers State capital with the adoption of many far-reaching resolutions.

The resolutions signed on behalf of the union by its president-general, Mr Peri Ockiya and Mr Ekpein Appah, chairman of the Resolutions Committee, both of the 1978 /77 session and released by the union's public relations officer for 1977/78, Mr Ebiye Zibaba among other things, commended the Rivers State Government for its avowed stand on the existing secondary schools structure in the state.

Below is the text of the NURSS resolutions.

The image of students in this state, as some people would want it accepted, is that of pampered children who abuse the well intended indulgence of their loving and generous parents. We have therefore had to cope with unwarranted and unexpected hostility from some quarters, much to our detriment.

This situation would be to the contrary. If students would be given more credit than being looked upon as juveniles who lack a sense of responsibility and direction. Our criticisms of the government's policies and activities have been objective and constructive. Our demands from the government have also been far from frivolous.

We are not too young or immature to realize the difficulty government has in fulfilling some of our demands, nor would we find it impossible to understand why certain seemingly unfeasible policies are made if only the government will reckon with us as future servants of the people and take us into confidence.

Being true to our present occupation as students, we are always willing to learn the right thing from the government. It is therefore disheartening to see our intentions given different interpretations.

We sincerely feel that a sincere effort at mutual understanding will not only solve our problems with the government, but will also lead us to achieving our much desired objective of being accepted by the government as partners in progress.

EDUCATION

Schools Calendar:

We consider it pertinent to call on the Rivers State Government to appeal to the Federal Government to re-instate the former schools calendar by which post-primary institutions were still in session when post-secondary ones were on their long vacation. This used to and can still serve the useful purpose of enabling undergraduates to teach in the post-primary institutions.

While this arrangement will provide vacation employment for many undergraduates, it will help minimize the dearth of teachers. The government stands to gain from it all because high-level manpower will be mobilized at a modest expense. We are sure that the post-primary students will also benefit immensely from it.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND ALLOWANCES:

The introduction of the automatic scholarship awards was with the best of intentions and very much in the interest of the masses. We are, therefore, inclined to believe that its cancellation and the continued disregard for the call by well-meaning citizens of this state for its re-instatement is to say the least, a calculated attempt to frustrate the Riversman.

We strongly suggest that even if government wants to expunge the word 'automatic' in her scholarship policy it should not be deaf to the repeated calls on the governments to consider the introduction of a supplementary scholarship award scheme, which will put a stop to the protracted sufferings of many students of the state who gain admission into institutions of higher learning without scholarships. May we draw the attention of the government to the fact that the supplementary award system operates in other parts of the federation.

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Some students at the NURSS 11th Annual Convention

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h : from left in this group photograph of heads of delegation to the convention: Malam Ali nilmously elected president is seventh from left in the photograph. On mallam Ali Sirajo's laede then Federal Commissioner of Information who was also present at the convention.

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when things are stupidly getting out of proportion that "you should remove the hands of the monkey from the soup because it has the resemblance of that of a man." Who ever has eyes should now read the hand writing on the wall.

It beats me hollow when I stay, watch and see people who should help to build, turn round to destroy instead. If therefore, there is any substance in the rumour that the Federal Military Government wants to recognise the Michael Asaju's clique, then one has to think again if this government is actually trying to unite the journalists or to sustain them in groups.

It does not actually matter much to me which of the groups the Federal Military Government recognises, but what matters most is the group that commands the popular support of more member sates.

If democracy is anything to go by in this country, then whoever is behind this childish game, should better be reminded that Nigerians are so matured to fight for their rights and to know what they want.

If after all said and done, the Federal Military Government succeeds in imposing Michael Asaju on the union, then, the government have succeeded in creating permanent disunity in the NUJ, which in any case will only last with the present military regime.

But it will remain a shame to whoever condones such injustice and it would be better for him to stay outside this country when the NUJ must have at least been united, than to suffer the consequences of his misdeeds.

If the Federal authorities can not develop the moral justification to nullify the Benin meeting which took place when President Malam Sidi Ali Sirajo was out of the country on official trip, for a fresh one which should be summoned through the National Executive Council of the Union, then, one would be so much in doubt, as to where we are heading to.

"If the Federal authorities cannot develop the moral justification to nullify the Benin meeting which took place when President Malam Sidi Ali Sirajo was out of the country on official trip, for a fresh one which should be summoned through the National Executive Council of the Union, then, one would be so much in doubt, as to where we are heading."

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awards have not been published. The delay in releasing these results has frustraiod so many students who might have gained admission into the universities.

May we suggest that the government should ensure that scholarship awards to students are always released before the end of October each year, so that students who might need statements of financial worthiness for their universities could present them. We hope these delays will not degenerate into a perenial order of the Board, for if it does, it will be seriously frowned at.

POSTING OF FORM ONE STUDENTS:

While we register our profound support for and recognise the need for social interaction and consequent interation of the youths of the state through the fonum of schools; we would like to suggest that the state government make adequate provision for transport for these young boys and girls.

The situation where students of nine and twelve years are exposed to the severe hazards of uncomfortable 'voyage' in the riverine areas cannot be tolerated.

(Continued on page 10)

NBC PROGRAMME

05.40	Drum Signal	RSP/TAPE
05.44	National Anthem and Pledge	"
05.45	Programme Summary	RSP/LIVE
05.50	Morning Prayers:	RSP/TAPE
06.00	News At Dawn	NP
06.03	Moment for Thought	"
06.05	From The Nigerian Editorials	"
06.10	Morning Glee (Comm)	RSP/CGR
06.30	State News Summary In English	RSP/LIVE
06.35	OFN Jingle	RSP/TAPE
06.37	Personal Paid Announcement (Comm)	RSP/LIVE
06.57	Moment For Thought	NP
07.00	The News	"
07.10	News Talk	"
07.15	Your Government And You/Next Step	"
07.20	Mid Week Treat	RSP/LIVE
08.00	News On The Hour	NP
08.03	News Summaries In Edo, Efik, Fulfulde and Hausa	"
08.15	A Date With 8.15	RSP/CGR
08.45	National Programme/Educational Service	NP
09.00	News Summaries In Igbo, Ijaw, Kanuri, Tiv and Yoruba	"
09.15	Melody Tide (Comm)	RSP/CGR
10.00	The News	NP
10.10	Network Programme Promotion Feature	"
10.15	National Programme/Educational Service	"
10.30	National Programme/Educational Service	"
10.45	National Programme/Educational Service	"
11.00	News On The Hour	"
11.03	National Programme/Educational Service	"
11.18	National Programme/ Educational Service	"
11.33	National Programme/Educational Service	"
11.48	National Programme/Educational Service	"
12.00	News On The Hour	"
12.03	National Programme/Educational Service	"
12.18	National Programme/Educational Service	"
12.30	Kwegem Siri Kalabari Mag. Programme) Kirike Chiri (Okrika Mag. Programme)	RSP/TAPE
13.00	The News	NP
13.10	From The Nigerian Editorials	"
13.15	Announcer's Choice	"
13.30	Joke Box	"
14.00	News on the hour	"
14.03	Music at Launch Time (Comm)	RSP/CGR
14.30	Iron Orn Ibe	"
15.00	News on the hour	NP
15.03	Music at Launch Time Comm)	RSP/CGR
15.30	State News in English, Ibwerre and Kalabari	RSP/LIVE
16.00	The News	NP
16.10	News Talk (Rep. 1919)	"
16.15	For Children	"
16.30	Educational Service	"
16.45	News in Edo, Efik and Fulfulde	"
17.00	State News in Khana and Kokokuma	RSP/LIVE
17.20	Personal Paid Announcement (Comm)	"
17.30	Women Magazine Programme	RSP/LIVE
18.00	News in Hausa, Igbo and Ijaw	NP
18.15	Your Government and You	"
18.20	Let's go farming	"
18.25	KPANEM	"
18.40	Looking Ahead	RSP/LIVE
18.45	Tal (In the Languages)	RSP/TAPE
19.00	News Panorama	NP
19.30	Agric Quarter Hour	RSP/TAPE
19.45	News in Kanuri, Tiv and Yoruba	NP
20.00	State News In English	RSP/LIVE
20.10	State News summary in Ibwerre, Kalabari Khana and Kokokuma	RSP/LIVE
20.30	Atuke Taru (Mag. Programme in Ibwerre)	RSP/TAPE
		RSP/TAPE
21.00	News on the hour	NP
21.03	Moment for Thought	"
21.05	Health is Wealth? from the legal stand point	"
21.20	A book I cherish	"
21.15	Sports Main Points	"
21.25	Interlude	"
21.30	Drama (Play of the week)	"
21.00	The News	"
22.10	News Stalk	"
22.15	Educational Service	"
22.30	Late night request	RSP/TAPE
23.00	News On The Hour	NP
23.03	Announcer's choice	RSP/LIVE
23.13	Evening Worship (Edo)	NP
23.25	Just For You	RSP/LIVE
00.00	News At Midnight	NP
00.05	Close Down — Pledge and National Anthem	RSP/TAPE

NTV CHANNEL 10 PH

TUESDAY

7.00	Your Doctor
7.30	World News
7.45	Papers Today
8.05	Our Culture
8.30	Our Town
9.00	Network News
9.30	Crown Court
10.00	Pictorial Report
10.30	The FBI

LUNATIC RANGE

FOR about five months now, an able bodied man, simply taken for a lunatic, has occupied the area of Port Harcourt from immediately after the temporary General Post Office by the right (railway land) to the first city-round-about fountain which divides the old motor park and the old market, and covering the start of Bernard Carr, Potts Johnson streets and hospital, Club roads — an area better known since after the last civil war as the "Lunatic Range" in Port Harcourt.

As I was saying, alleged Mr Madman has occupied this area and is in full control. What he does with his "property" varies from mid-evening daily. Road blockades to operation "keep the area clean." Whoever passed this way (all city dwellers, including the police, the city council and the social welfare officials do pass this way) had ignored the ingenuity or otherwise mess, of this so-called mad man.

Now he has progressed to bush-burning and farming (sometimes logically responding to operation farm everywhere).

If nothing else, an impending danger lies in the burning. As giant oil producers (which makes us thick) we have come to live with fire and burning as a way of life.

Like the first girl to come my way in 1978 asked, after reading the "Fire at the Lagos GPO report": Have we lavished out oil on everything on the surface of our land? Why this fire, fire, burning, burning? — That was a good one to start the year with no doubt.

So, as I was saying, Mr Madman is setting everything on his property on fire and one day, sooner than later, through his efforts, the fire fighters will sound their alarm and come to our rescue.

Right now, what he does is nobody's business. Not even that of the city council, not the police, not the social welfare or even the Railways who own the land.

No doubt, this lunatic has got the ability and is very scientific in farming. He has tilled the burnt land into ridges reminiscent of what you see at agricultural research centres.

Or you could mistake the entire area from opposite the Nigerian Bank for Commerce and Industry to opposite the Red Cross Centre (temporarily serving as a magistrate court) for cemetry, taking the rigor for graves.

Some body who has [illegible] the mandate should [illegible] this man, mad or not [illegible] stop it.

MATTERS ARISING WITH BERESELE DAVIES



Students and problems

(Continued from page 9)

We urge the Ministry of Education to provide bigger and safer means of water transport to convey these tender teenagers to their environments; the "water-bikes" launches are preferable.

For unity to be achieved both citizens and government have to make sacrifices. After all, the Federal Government which the state government is emulating makes necessary provision for transportation of students from wherever they are in the country to the places their schools are located.

NCE STUDENTS:

From the facts before us, it is apparent that the College of Education is still a bonafide property of the Rivers State Government. If this is so, then it is still our contention that the cancellation of salaries for students of the College of Education, seen from the perspective of our dire need for qualified teachers, is regrettable.

The payment of salaries to students of that institution did attract many persons who otherwise would not have accepted their offers of admission into the institution.

We believe that the cancellation of payments of salaries to these students is trash to back-fire, as we are witnessing, thus creating the very conditions we are striving to improve.

This is why we unreservedly condemn the abolition of payment of salaries to students of the College of Education, and call for its re-instatement now.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION:

It is very disheartening to realise that while the Federal Military Government is doing all in its power to encourage technical education, the state government is taking actions that are most back in trust-able technical education.

We, therefore, urge that all schools be fully enrolled, because we would no longer tolerate the cases of technical schools being closed down on the grounds of lack of equipment and students being sent out to schools that are already congested.

INCREASE IN SCHOOL FEES

The Federal Government long ago ordered the reducing of school fees in secondary schools to a maximum of ₦20 per session for borders and ₦30 per session for day students. Not long after, it gave authority to the state to increase fees to suit their convenience. We strongly condemn this reactionary action of the Federal Military Government.

We therefore, strongly suggest that ₦90.00 should remain the maximum fees throughout the Federation until a more favourable fee structure is adopted.

We, however, commend the Rivers State Government for its avowed stand on the existing secondary schools fee structure in the state.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT:

The revelation of the Honourable Commissioner for Rural Development and Social Welfare in a recent television interview about government plans for the development of the rural areas of our state, leaves one happy with the government's appreciation of rural development. We however, wish to observe that there seems to be undue delay in the implementation of these policies.

The development of these rural areas will no doubt check the influx of the rural population into Port Harcourt which is about the only urban area this state can boast of. Furthermore, a distribution of government projects to other parts of the state other than the capital, will provide the much desired incentive of making people take jobs in the rural areas and thereby help to decongest our capital.

Basic amenities such as good roads, water and electricity should be given utmost priority as a matter of urgency as these amenities would be instrumental to the speedy socio-economic growth of the state.

WATER SHORTAGE:

We are aware of the mammoth efforts of the government to provide adequate water supply for Port Harcourt by undertaking the construction of more water tanks. We, however, urge that work on the project should be expedited.

REVENUE ALLOCATION:

It is on record that we have severally and individually made our views known on the issue of Revenue Allocation.

Opponents of the principles of derivation, who are paradoxically its proponents before the oil boom, have adduced pretentiously quixotic and even ridiculously frivolous arguments to buttress their stand.

They have argued that oil is not an agricultural product; that its occurrence at a place is purely accidental; it thus belongs to all Nigerians and proceeds from it must therefore be divided on unrealistic population principle.

The population principle in revenue allocation is unrealistic because this country's population has never been correctly estimated. And if the occurrence of oil at Okoloba is accidental, then the fact that cocoa grows at Ondo or Dale palm at Sokoto and not at Owerri is equally an accident of nature.

Oil exploration and production is causing the people in oil producing areas untold hardships. But this hardships, unlike the proceed from the oil, is not shared by all Nigerians.

Farmlands are laid waste while fishing ponds are destroyed and devastated by oil spillage, periwinkles no longer grow while rivers would not develop. And these form the main stay of the poor people. What we want in this country is fairness and that is why the principle of derivation must retain supremacy in Revenue Allocation.

ABANDONED PROPERTY

It is very shameful that indigenes of this state have been collaborating with others to cheat their own kith and kin after the Federal Government has taken steps to correct long standing injustices to people of this State.

We solemnly advise such traitors to reconsider their nefarious transactions and warn that if they do not desist from such unpatriotic and ignoble acts, they would face the inevitable wrath of their kith and kin.

TRANSPORT CORPORATION

We condemn the practice whereby the corporation hires out the few available water-line buses to firms for their exclusive use at the expense of the majority who are non-employees of these firms. We therefore suggest that if the above practice is to be continued by the corporation, additional buses should be provided to neutralise the undesirable effects arising from hiring these buses to the firms.

The transport Corporation should not restrict its services to the State alone but should aim at providing buses that would ply routes leading to other states of the Federation.

DEMOLITION OF ILLEGAL STRUCTURES ON CREEK ROAD AND ENUGU WATERSIDES:

We are very much distressed about the government's envisaged plan to demolish the illegal structures along Enugu and Creek Road watersides. Much as we appreciate the government's plan to make the place of abode of its citizenry sanitary and healthy, we believe that the inhabitants of these shanties are people without alternative places of abode.

We hereby suggest that the government should construct more low-cost houses to alleviate the perennial housing problems facing Port Harcourt in particular and the Rivers State in general before embarking on the demolition of the structures.

BOSTING OF SOLDIERS TO SCHOOLS

The high degree of indiscipline in our society has generated a lot of debates as to how to wipe out indiscipline.

(to be continued)

Blowing my own trumpet

Who am I not to blo[w] my own trumpet when (i[t] by coincidence) t[he] Head of State of Nige[ria] In his New Year Messa[ge] to the Nation, shared [his] views on "what consti[tu]tion posture" Nigeria should adopt for 1978 [and] wards?

By this coincidence, urged you to take it f[rom] here in this Newspaper, [to] mean business and th[at] you have to count on o[ur] analysis, predictions a[nd] cautions.

Closing up my 197[7] commentaries under [the] column, I cautioned (Ma[t]ters Arising with Bereze[le] Davies, 28/12/77: INSA[T]ABLE PEOPLE,, INSAT[I]BLE NATION, page 10)

"As we run into Janua[ry] 1978, let no Nigerian [de]ceive himself about mak[ing] New Year Resolutions [as] has to do with consum[er] acquisitions because [item] on the long list he is abo[ut] drawing up for purchas[e] in 1978 are hardly ava[il]able. Why ? —Nigeria h[as] created a world Record [in] Consumption Demand."

Humourously of cour[se] I pointed out: "Come beer, we beat all wo[rld] drinkers put together. L[ux]ury cars, lace, gold [and] jewelries, we are on t[op] (and we need more a[nd] more)."

Our insatiable demand having projected Nigeria an insatiable Nation, in [the] same humourous tone [of] that time of marry-mas[s] I could'nt afford to "dry"), I urged all Nigeri[ans] to soberly "think", bef[ore] I went into other matt[ers].

Exactly four days la[ter] I found that our Head [of] State has the same ad[vice] for us all. This column w[as] not instrumental to his m[es]sage. The point is "parallel."

COREN

COUNCIL OF REGISTERED ENGINEERS OF NIGERIA

NOTICE

To Registered Engineers

SUPERVISION OF ENGINEERING TRAINING OF THE NYSC MEMBER

COREN, working jointly with the Directorate of the NYSC, will assume responsibilities for the management and supervision of the training of the Corps member in the engineering profession, commencing from the 1978/79 programme of the Corps.

The responsibilities of COREN will cover both the assignments of the university graduate engineer and, the higher diploma holder from the Polytechnics and Colleges of Technology.

Training Inspectors will be appointed from amongst Registered Engineers in the Private and Public Sectors, including the Universities and Polytechnics, for the close supervision training of each Corps member, wherever he may be assigned.

All expenses of supervision and Council visitations will be borne by COREN.

An Engineering Coordinator to be appointed by the Directorate, upon recommendation of COREN, will coordinate the COREN specified programme of training and supervision under the direction of the Director, NYSC.

Registered Engineers are invited to indicate their willingness to participate in this all-important joint programme of COREN and the Directorate of the NYSC, for the purpose of improving the development of the engineering profession in Nigeria.

COREN will recognise the proposed supervised training of the NYSC member for the purposes of Decree No. 55 of 1970 and, for the purposes of similar provisions to be made for the future registration of the Technician.

Please complete and return the form below.

Engr A A Bodede
Registrar, COREN
45 Awolowo Road
S.W. Ikoyi
P.O. Box 5892
LAGOS

The Registrar,
COREN
Lagos

Please furnish me with further details on the engineering training of NYSC members.

Full Name.....

Mailing Address.....

.....

.....

HOW SHIP ESCAPED..

REVENUE COURT CALLS FOR EXPLANATION

THE Federal Revenue Court presided over by Mr Justice S. A. Tolowono has ordered all the officials concerned with the custody of a detained vessel Polar MC which later disappeared from the Port Harcourt wharf to be brought before the court.

They are to explain why necessary actions should not be taken against them, for the escape of the vessel.

Those concerned are the chief docks superintendent, the chief pilot and the chief collector of customs in Port Harcourt.

The court had ordered that the ship be detained following an application by a plaintiff who wanted a guarantee equivalent to damages claimed against the ship.

The plaintiff had alleged that the ship damaged his consignment of fish and made the application for the ship's detention.

The revenue court upheld the application and fixed hearing of the main claims to a later date.

But before the case was due to be heard, the ship escaped from the wharf.

HARMATTAN CAUSES DEATH OF 40 SHEEP

A CO-OPERATIVE society in Ogba/Egbema has lost over forty heads of sheep within the last 'three' weeks as a result of the harmattan.

Chief H. O. Nwanlehia, president of the Etieta Multipurpose Co-operative society in the district told the Nigerian Tide that his society had lost most of its sheep because of the harmattan.

He appealed to the veterinary department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources to come to their aid.

The society maintains a farm of about 1,000 sheep. The population is now dwindling and sales have been stopped by the society as an interim measure to preserve stock.

Police step up recruitment

THE Anambra State Police Command has in this new year, intensified drive for the recruitment of Police men into the Nigeria Police force.

Apart from those recruited for general duty, the command is also looking for trade and crafts-men in various vocations.

In its bid to ensure a good number of recruits into the force, it adopted a crash programme by which 268 First School Leaving certificate holders (standard 6) were selected.

According to a police bulletin issued in Enugu, 120 of the number had already commenced training at the Police training school, Enugu.

The remaining 68 were expected to resume training at the end of the current course of the first recruits.

Hitherto, various recruitment exercises had not yielded the required results, especially when school leavers with school certificates and government class four certificates were needed for recruitment.

Mr Banobola Akinsanya the police public relations officer in Anambra State told the Nigerian Tide that a 1,000 recruits target required by the command during its previous recruitment exercises was not achieved.

Although he did not give the number which showed up for enlistment or how many of those recruited possessed the West African School Certificate, it is gathered that the Police conditions of service had been very unattractive and pace of advancement very very slow.

Meanwhile, an announcement from the police public relations department further invited more applicants to report for enlistment into the force, at the police headquarters, Enugu.

The announcement gave secondary class four as the requisite qualification for enlistment, coupled with physical fitness.

The announcement urged applicants to report at the venue, today Tuesday, January 10 with originals of their credentials and four copies of a recent passport photographs.

According to another announcement, the command had created four zones which would be toured in the procurement of drivers mechanics, and sign writers.

According to the announcement, applicants should possess the first School Leaving Certificate (Standard 6) in addition to valid driving licences of the professional level and should have not less than two years driving experience.

Mechanics, apart from the possession of the first school leaving certificate should also be in possession of government Trade Test Certificate Grade III.

It added that recruitment officer would tour Onitsha/Nnewi, Awka/Amaku, Abakaliki and Nsukka/Isuzu/Igboeze centres, during the recruitment drive which also commences today, January 10.

The tour ends on January 18.

CINEMA TONIGHT

PLAZA CINEMA

Presents to-night at 8pm

Special show in aid of the Nigerian Legion Appeal Fund

"THE LONGEST DAY"

The greatest war spectacular drama. An explosive and action pack film. Starring 42 international star. See it during the anniversary of D-Day. Never so timely! Never so great!!

Classified Adverts

Chang of Name

OMEKWE—I, formerly known, called and addressed as Mrs Abaiola Omekwe wish to be known and addressed as Miss Abaiola Ide. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. Rivers State Ministry of Education, Teaching Service Commission and the general public should please take note—Miss Abaiola Ide.

BARALAIYE — I, formerly known and addressed as Miss Cecilia Baralaiye, now wish to be known and addressed as Mrs Cecilia Ebiebiere Awiya. Documents bearing my former name remain valid. Rivers State Ministry of Education, Teaching Service Commission, Schools Management Board and the general public please take note, Mrs Cecilia Ebiebiere Awiya.

SAKA—I formerly known and addressed as Loveday Saka now wish to be known and addressed as Wilson Sigita. All previous documents bearing my former name remain valid. The Principal, Staff and students of Okrika Grammar School, Okrika, the Ministry of Education and the general public should please take note Wilson Sigita.

CHIDI—I formerly called and addressed as Nathaniel Chidi Amaize now wish to be called and addressed as Nathaniel Chidi Amaize Onyeagocha. All former documents remain valid. University of Port Harcourt and the general public take note (Nathaniel Chidi Amaize onyeagocha).

OWEDE—I, formerly known, called and addressed as Godfrey Bodoberiowe Owede now wish to be known and called as Ebiere Bodoberiowe Orle. Documents bearing my former name or names valid Rivers State Ministry of Education, Number Nursing Examining Schools and the general public take note, Ebiere Bodoberiowe Orle.

Dikenigha—I formerly known as Alfred Ben Dikenigha now wish to be called and known as Miss Alfred Bigha. All documents bearing the former name remain valid. Rivers State Ministry of Education, The Principal of W.T.C. Egwanga and the public take note, Miss Alfred Bigha.

THE INSTITUTE OF ADMINISTRATIVE ACCOUNTING INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOOK-KEEPERS LONDON. JUNE, 1978 EXAMINATIONS

(WAEC CONDUCTED)

Prospective Candidates are requested to apply for forms, syllabuses with fee and self addressed stamped envelopes to: The A.C.I. Examinations, P.M.B. Box 98 Ibadan. Entry closes 28th February 1978.

Flats to Let

Four flats of three Bedrooms each are available for immediate use.

Interested companies should contact.

Mr Chinweuba
133A, Aba Road
Port Harcourt

OR

The Manager
P.M. B. 5687
Port Harcourt

IN MEMORIAM

In loving memory of our aunt and sister,



who died on the 10th of January 1976 and was buried on the 17th of January 1976.

May her soul rest in peace.

MRS THERESA SYLVIA ALLAGOA

Mr & Mrs George Miller
On behalf of the family

UMEJURU SERVICES AND SUPPLY COMPANY (NIGERIA) LIMITED

VACANCIES

PROJECT MANAGER:

Qualifications:

O.N.D., H.N.D., or many years experience in building construction. Good knowledge of civil and building engineering works. Knowledge of quantity Survey will be an advantage but not necessary.

Duties:

Administration of building contract on works.

ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER:

Qualifications:

1. A diploma in Business Administration not less than five years experience in a similar position.
2. Those with many years of experience but without the paper qualifications could be considered.

Duties:

Directly responsible to the Managing Director for all administrative jobs. Experience in a similar position is very essential.

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On or Before 31st January 1978.

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Contact: Engineer, 11 Moscow Road or 26 Nsukka Street, Diobu, Port Harcourt or Phone 8268 or 8065.

IN MEMORIAM

In loving memory of our dear mother, grand mother and great grand mother,



MADAM ESTHER EMILY BIBI WOKOMA

Mama, you lived an examplary life until death called. We shall continue to enjoy your wisdom.

Rest in Perfect Peace.

G. B. HORSFALL
for the family.

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, PORT HARCOURT

Press Release

Owing to circumstance beyond our control, we wish to notify all the companies that are active participants in the Students Industrial Work Experience Scheme (SIWES) with the College of Science & Technology, Port Harcourt that the proposed first block training for present **Second Year Engineering Students** scheduled for January to March 1978 has now been postponed.

A tentative date for the resumption of industrial training for this batch of students is April, 1978. We regret any inconvenience this announcement may cause the numerous programme.

Chief Nwa Okere
for: REGISTRAR.

Help goes to Omoku hospital

THE Rivers State Commissioner for health Dr I. A Oburo has assured the people of Omoku in the Ogba/Egbema district of Ahoada local government area of government's preparedness to improve the status of the Omoku general hospital.

The commissioner was replying to an address of welcome presented to him by the staff of the hospital and the people of Omoku during his official tour of hospitals in the district.

A new generator would be mounted in the hospital and in addition a modern staff quarters would be built to meet the requirements of the institution, he said.

On shortage of drugs in the Omoku hospital, the commissioner regretted the inability of the stores department of his ministry at the headquarters, to supply drugs to the hospital.

There are sufficient drugs, the commissioner said but transportation of the drugs to the hospital had given rise to situation, he said immediate action would be taken to remedy it.

Opposition grows stronger in S' Africa

A MODERATE political alliance of coloureds (mixed race), Indians and Zulus will be officially formed on Wednesday in South Africa, headed by the Zulu leader, Gatsha Buthelezi.

The cultural and political movement, known as Inkatha, claims more than 100,000 members and has invited coloured Labour Party leader, Sonny Leon and the president of the Asian Party for Active Reform, M. Y. Chinsamy to draw up a common strategy for non-white groups.

The alliance has sprung from men who are committed to fighting South Africa's apartheid system from inside.

Chief Buthelezi is Prime Minister of the Bantustan (homeland) Kwazulu but has nevertheless spoken out against the "partitioning of South Africa."

Both Mr Leon and Mr Chinsamy are members of their community consultative organisations for relations with the South African Government.

However, the numerical power of this new alliance, — 8.6 million people compared with the 4.3 million whites — is bound to give the government food for thought.

Leaders of the coloured community are strongly opposed to the government's constitutional proposals for setting up three parliaments with respective community powers, for whites, Indians and Coloureds — with the election of an all-powerful South African president.

Non-white leaders have described the powers of the new president as "dictatorial" and also point out that there is nothing in the new constitution for the country's 18 million blacks.

For most observers, however, the new alliance has an uphill struggle ahead if it hopes to merge as a leader of the urban Africans and the disorganised blacks hostile to any collaboration with Pretoria.

Churchill's widow dies

Baroness Spencer-Churchill, widow of Britain's wartime leader, Sir Winston Churchill has died at her home in London at the age of 92.

When Sir Winston died in 1965, Lady Churchill had been his devoted wife for 54 years.

Soon after her husband's death, she was given a life peerage and since then had continued a very active life. Her death was due to a heart attack.

No hurry, Christmas

THE Archdeacon of St Andrew's Anglican Church in Warri Venerable E. Arawore has warned that christians who usually obey God's order, do not hurry for things.

"If you want to enjoy the New year, make it God fearing, peaceful for yourselves and others.

"You will go to heaven one day if you are an obedient christian but you must not go in a hurry, the Archdeacon emphasized.

Venerable Arawore gave this warning while delivering his New year message to his congregation at Warri.



IA

VACANCY

COMPANY ACCOUNTANT ADMINISTRATION MANAGER

Our Client, one of the foremost indigenous companies dealing in the manufacture of building materials, has a vacancy for a company Accountant Administration Manager in its Port Harcourt head office.

The Man to fill this challenging post should possess drive and an ability to communicate effectively. He should also possess either an ACA, ACCA or ACMA qualification, be in the early thirties and familiar with modern management and accounting techniques.

His job would initially be to implement an accounting Management Information System recently designed for the company. Thereafter, he would take full control of the financial/Administrative functions of the company and report directly to the Managing Director.

Salary is very attractive but negotiable. Other conditions of service include company accommodation and car.

Method of Application:

Interested candidates should in the first instance send two copies of a brief but up to date outline of their career to us before 30th January, 1978.

Lex Associates,
Management Consultants,
P.O. Box 95,
Port Harcourt.

Smith sees settlement

RHODESIAN rebel leader, Ian Smith has reaffirmed his refusal to be party to a settlement with the militant Nationalist Patriotic Front led by Robert Mugabe and Joshua Nkomo in an interview published in the Sunday Express in London.

He was confident that his talks with moderate African leaders in Rhodesia — including Bishop Abel Muzorewa and the Rev. Ndabaningi Sithole would be successful.

He said that the election of a new government representing the majority of Rhodesia's people would end the reasons for the war for independence by Africans.

Mr Smith said Britain had a "definite role to play after a genuine settlement is achieved." He expected to see Britain take swift legislative action to legalise a settlement and then to lift economic sanctions against Rhodesia.

Meanwhile, in Dar es Salaam, Nationalist leader, Robert Mugabe was called on Zimbabweans (Rhodesians) "for total and effective" mobilisation in an "all out armed struggle against Rhodesia's white minority regime.

He described Rhodesia as "one vast military operational zone".

In his "revolutionary New Years greetings" to Rhodesia, published there, he said: "The enemy is frightened. He is in disarray and completely destined for defeat".

Mr Mugabe, joint leader with Joshua Nkomo of the militant Patriotic Front said the "organisation of the masses must conform to party directives as nationalist guerrillas "move among them like fish in the water."

He said: "this is no moment to slacken our efforts. Let us hammer him (the enemy) to defeat. Let us blow his citadel. Let us give him no time to rest. Let us chase him in every corner. Let us rid our home of this venom. Zimbabwe must be free now," he said.

BENDEL OWES N56m TO LAND OWNERS

FOR 63,000 hectares of land it acquired from various individuals and communities since 1963, the Bendel State Government is in debt of N56 million unpaid compensation.

The debt stood at about N59 million but about N3 million has already been paid.

These facts were disclosed by the State's Commissioner for Lands and Housing, Prince P. I. Jegbefume in a weekly radio-television programme "Bendel Today".

On housing, Prince Jegbefume said that about N402 million has been set aside for the construction of 3,356 housing units in the state. He did not however stipulate the period during which these houses were to be completed.

He said that a total of 8,000 housing units were expected to be completed in the state during the 1975-1980 plan period.

Contract for the construction of 1,220 houses would be awarded before the middle of this month and already, 311 housing units had been completed in the State.

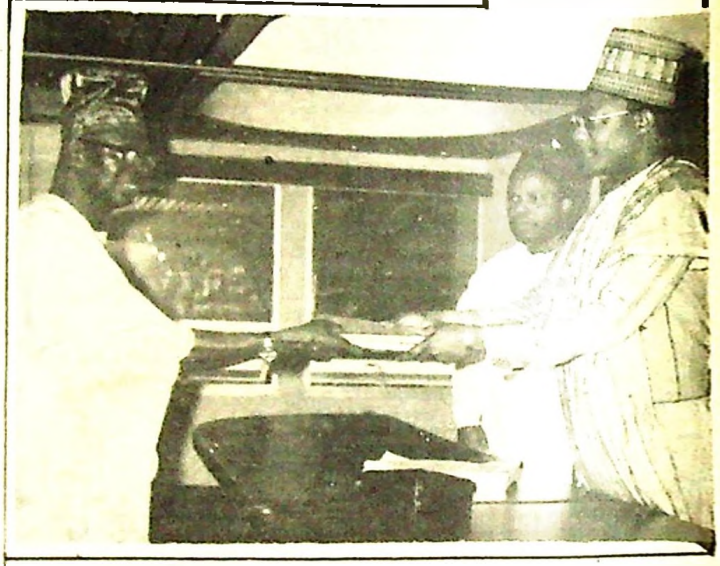
The Commissioner further said that as part of the Government efforts to encourage indigenes of the State to build their own houses, it had set aside the sum of N3 million for the establishment of a mortgage bank which would grant loans to public servants to build their own houses.

On land tenure, the commissioner said the State Government had approved the establishment of office for the registration of titles in order to reduce to the barest minimum the incidence of insecurity of tenures that was prevalent in the present system.

Lambo meets Adeogun

THE Deputy Director of the World Health Organisation (WHO), Professor T.A. Lambo, recently paid a courtesy call on the Federal Commissioner for Special Duties and Chairman of the Federal Capital Development Authority, Mr M. Ajose-Adeogun in his office.

Professor Lambo is seen explaining some points on the Federal capital territory to pressmen while Mr Ajose-Adeogun (to his right and in glasses) and another official listen attentively.



ARTS CENTRE IN UYO

A modern arts gallery constructed by "Sunjasa Natural Sculptor" at a cost of more than N10,000 has been opened at Ikot Obio Offiong in Uyo Local Government council area of Cross River State.

Addressing newsmen on the gallery complex, the managing director, Mr Sunday Akpan spoke of the need for the development of fine arts in Nigeria.

Sculptor Akpan announced that he proposes to expand the centre at the cost of N500,000 and that a training school and other facilities be all provided also.

On the training school, Mr Akpan stated that it will serve as centre for the training of sculptors for both government and private institutions.

Need for technical education emphasised

COLLEGES of technology in Nigeria must tailor their courses to reflect the nation's immediate manpower needs, the Attah of Igala, Alhaji Ahiyu Obaje has charged.

Speaking during a reception at his palace in honour of the principal staff and students of the newly opened Idah College of Technology, Idah, Benue-Plateau, Alhaji Obaje expressed concern over the shortage of technological manpower in the country, which he said could only be improved through genuine efforts of technical colleges and other institutions of higher learning in the country.

He said that products of technical colleges should be capable and practical rather than theoretical.

The Attah called on the country's technical institutions to produce not just quantitative but also qualitative technicians for the smooth and sound technological advancement of the country.

He praised the Federal Military Government for siting a College of Technology in the historical headquarters of ancient Igala Kingdom.

Replying, the principal of Idah College of Technology, Engr S.E. Chukwuojekwu, thanked the Attah for his kind gesture.

He assured the Attah that the College would aim at stimulating social, industrial and economic development of Idah and its environs.



WORKSHOP OPENS

THE 4th workshop of the National Rice Maize centre of the National Accelerated Food Production Project (NAFPP) began yesterday at the conference hall of the National Cereals Research Institute, Moor Plantation Ibadan.

It will last for a week.

The workshop brings together research workers from various research institutes, extension staff of the State agriculture of Agriculture and Farmers representatives, and is to evaluate the work of the 1977 cropping season and draw up plans for the year 1978.

Tidesport



Our Cameraman caught this action last week during the P & T Police encounter in continuation of the Port Harcourt Dafa league. Picture shows P & T goalie in a firm grip of the ball.

WTC, Isiokpo receive cash donation

EIGHTEEN sports lovers in Isiokpo have made a total cash donation of N85.20 to the students of Federal Government Women Teacher Training College Isiokpo, in Ikwerre Etche Local Government Area, in appreciation of their outstanding performances in this year's sports competition among Teacher Training Colleges in the state.

The College emerged the over all winners in the Women's Amateur Athletics competition and also in the Women's Basket ball competition.

Receiving the donation on behalf of the students the games master of the College, Mr Ndubuisi Ezuruike thanked the donors for their kind gesture which he said was worthy of emulation.

Mr Ezuruike, expressed confidence in his team in the current national sports competition among all the Teacher Training Colleges in the country, which took off in Kaduna on January 6.

The games master also thanked the principal of the College, Mrs E. M. Kenpamo for her constant encouragement towards sporting activities in the institution.

The principal made a cash donation of N40 to her double champion students.



World of Sports - Any exercise keeps one in top physical fitness.

Referee course ends in Okrika district

A ONE WEEK course for referees sponsored by the state Sports Council has ended in Okrika District of Bonny Local Government Area.

Speaking during the closing ceremony, the Secretary to the Rivers State Football Association, and the state chairman of referees association, Mr L. N. Ofuru, charged the successful participants to take decisions quickly and firmly when performing their duty.

Mr Ofuru disclosed that ten persons qualified as grade three referees.

The state football association secretary also intimated that similar courses have been planned for other areas of the state.

At the course, which was attended by twenty participants drawn from the district, a ten man referees association was formed. Mr G. T. Omgbonga was elected chairman.

Speaking after his election, Mr Omgbonga promised that his association would uphold the rules and regulations of soccer.

CURRENT DEGEMA REFEREES NOT TO BE RECOGNISED

As many would be referees that are now undergoing training at Degema would not be recognised when they pass out.

Reason they are not organised by the Rivers State Referees Association (RSRA).

Speaking to Tidesports was the chairman of the association Mr Bob Ogali.

According to him, it is the usual practice that such course be organised by the state referees association with the co-operation of the state NFA.

Answering a question he pointed out that the Rivers State Sports Council does not have any paid referee trainer.

According to Mr Ogali the Degema referee publication was done in order to undermine the good relationship between the referees council and the state NFA.

And more so, he went on it is to drag the reputation of the state NFA low as an organisation not capable of effectively organising football activities within the state.

Guillermo Vilas proves superior to Manuel Orantes at tennis

IN the last match last week, the Argentinian left hander, Guillermo Vilas had a speedier victory, beating Manuel Orantes of Spain 6 — 4 6 — 1 in 67 minutes. The vibe of his win was surprising for Orantes had won eight of their previous 13 encounters.

Orantes, at his best a highly gifted player, looked out of touch and made many uncharacteristic errors. Vilas seized victory earlier on and kept up the pressure throughout the match.

He did not drop single service game and served a total of seven aces.

Get registered for the 1979 general elections. It is your right

NIGERIAN TIDE

Tuesday, January 10, 1978

5 DOCTORS QUIT IN IMO

THE Imo State Commissioner for Health, Dr R. E. Asobie has confirmed the resignations of five medical doctors in Aba and Umuahia from the medical service of the state.

The doctors tendered their resignations because they were not given car loans.

Dr Asobie said that car loans were given on seniority basis after the ministry had submitted the names of doctors and their years of service.

He said that so far as his appeal to the doctors to be patient and explanations as to the reasons leading to the non-availability of their car advances reached deaf ears, his ministry had no alternative than to accept their resignations.

In answer to a question, Dr Asobie stated that N2.5 million had been made available by the government for the purchase of drugs in the current year.

Fire disasters in Anambra

N15m LOSS RECORDED LAST YEAR

from Chris Eluemunoh



DR ODENIGWE
Commissioner for Local Govt and Social Welfare

THE Anambra State government, in an effort to reinforce the activities of the fire service in the state, had recruited and trained about 100 fire men and procured two new major fire engines and other auxiliary equipment.

There is also an effort to put into use the permanent fire service training school at Uwani in the State capital.

Disclosing this at Enugu, Mr Ikem Obi, deputy chief fire officer, said that between January and December, 1977, a total of 279 fire calls resulting in an estimated loss of N15 million were attended to by the Anambra State fire service.

Of this figure, he said, Enugu recorded 194 calls with an estimated loss of about N13 million, Onitsha 50 calls with an estimated loss of N1 million, Nsukka 36 calls with an estimated loss of about N28,000 while Awka recorded nine calls with an estimated loss of about N5,000.

He observed that almost all the fire outbreaks occurred at times when it was impossible to invite the fire service immediately the fire started until it had gained a lot of ground, adding that there were also impediments on the side of the fire service during some of the operations.

Mr Obi said that investigations had revealed that outbreaks of fire were caused by carelessness, either deliberately or through neglect.

He said that the worst hit in the fire disasters were markets, and remarked that if the traders could co-operate and trade strictly on what they exhibited in their stalls, it would be possible to advise them on the type of fire extinguishers or precautionary measures to be taken.

He added that in residential buildings where fire incidents occurred, it was noticed that bad house-keeping due to congestion and storage of inflammable materials were responsible.

Govt procures more equipment

IN MEMORIAM



Mrs Theresa S. Allagoa

S. your memory still remains green

JUSTICE A. E. ALLAGOA AND FAMILY.

Livestock industry may close down

THE report which covered operations of the Livestock Project Unit (LPU) up to November last year showed that the Nigerian Agricultural Development Bank had insisted on the provision of a Federal Government guarantee or a certificate of occupancy for the ranches which the companies proposed to develop.

In the report, the unit contended that the Agricultural Bank had not only yet demanded the certificate of occupancy or Federal Government guarantee until the unit applied for loan to get the project going on.

The report said that the unit would in the light of its demand by the Agricultural Bank see what action it could take towards meeting the bank's demand.

A general problem, the report said, existed over the animal grazing reserves development which was to be financed by funds from the Federal Government but which fund was not forthcoming.

On heavy equipment section of the livestock project unit, the report said that this had been "logistical nightmare" and had made adequate supervision difficult because of inadequate supply of spare parts for the heavy duty equipment which had made a definite planning of the programme difficult.

The report spoke of the resignations of some top staff of the LPU and said that since the resignation of the animal production specialist Mr. I. Hoover and two other ranch technical officers, the staff training wing of the unit had not been in operation.

The future of the livestock industry in the country is bleak in the face of acute and insurmerable constraints dogging the establishment and its projects the report said.

According to a progress report submitted to the conference of the national livestock unit, just ended in Enugu, Anambra State capital, the unit might fold up if funds were not forthcoming, as wages had not been paid to the workers of the unit since last September.

The report said that for the personal advances by the senior staff of the unit, the establishment would not have been operating and explained that numerous requests made to the Federal Ministry of Finance for fund had met with the negative reply.

It made it clear that this situation could not continue and that if funds were not coming the project would have to be packed up and the staff laid off.

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