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## EXTERNAL DEBT

# Reps order Obasanjo to stop payment

By Hammeed Bello & Zainab Alimi, Political Reporters

The House of Representatives yesterday resolved to cease approval for any budgetary allocation for payment of any external debt just as it called on President Olusegun Obasanjo to cease further external debt payment to any

foreign creditor.

The House also resolved to transmit its resolution to the senate for concurrence, noting that the move became necessary in the face of President Obasanjo's unsuccessful

visits and appeals to foreign countries and groups of creditors for relief and cancellation of the country's debt.

Members of the House unanimously agreed to the resolutions contained in a motion which came up on matters of national interest on the floor of the House moved by Deputy Speaker, Hon.

Austin Opara and seconded by Hon. Olufunmilayo Aondona Dabo Adzuana.

In moving the motion entitled "repudiation of foreign debt repayment," Deputy Speaker, Austin Opara, noted that the federal republic of Nigeria has over the past 25

years, been under undue burden over the debt allegedly owed to foreign creditors, mainly the Paris and London Clubs of creditors.

He noted that while the government and people of Nigeria have, over the past five years, done all that is humanly possible to estab-

lish the economy of the country on the path of sustainable growth despite complexity of constraints, the debt owed continues to increase every year.

He added that in spite of Nigeria's achievements in the area of establishing more sus-

Contd. on Pg 2



L-R: Mrs. Nkoyo Toyo, South South women group delegate, Alhaji Aminu Ibrahim Ringim, Jigawa State delegate and Alhaji Tijjani Inuwa Dutse also Jigawa State delegate putting heads together during the sitting of the National Political Reform Conference in Abuja... yesterday.

## Confab: Delegates canvass removal of immunity clause

By Habeeb I. Pindiga, Political Reporter

Delegates at the ongoing national political reform conference yesterday canvassed the removal from the constitution of Section 308 which gives immunity from prosecution to elected executive public office holders.

They argued that the clause gives undue protection to corrupt state governors and that so long as it remains in force, the war against graft would not succeed.

Section 308 of the 1999 constitution grants immunity from civil and criminal proceedings to the president, vice president, governors and deputy governors.

Contributing to the debate on President Olusegun Obasanjo's inaugural speech, Prof. A.R. Anao, Rear Admiral Mike Onah and Alhaji Mohammed Hassan, among others, said executive officers must be stripped of their immunity.

Anao said leaders must be accountable to those who voted them by subjecting

themselves to probity.

He lamented that democracy has been upturned in Nigeria where executive officers steal because they know

Contd. on Pg 2

## Makarfi seeks truce with senators

By Isa Sanusi, Political Reporter

Governor Ahmed Muhamed Makarfi of Kaduna state has in a letter to the senate said berating criticisms of the senate credited to him were not aimed at the present senate while assuring that the people of Kaduna state will strive to continue working in harmony with the National Assembly in general and the senate in particular.

The governor who was reacting to the senate's resolution last week stopping its officials from paying

Contd. on Pg 2

## NNPC RECRUITMENT

# Fed character official confirms violation of guidelines

By Abdullahi M. Gulloma, Labour Reporter

The Federal Character Commission (FCC), yesterday declared that the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), has breached its guidelines for conducting recruitment into federal government establishments.

The NNPC had con-

ducted recruitment exercise where the corporation engaged the service of 30 top management staff. Out of the 30 newly employed staff, five are from President Olusegun Obasanjo's Ogun state.

The remaining 25 seats were shared thus: Abia (3), Adamawa (3), Edo (4), Rivers (3), Osun (2), Ondo (1), Oyo (1), Kano (1), Kaduna (1), Katsina (1), Kwara (2), Ekiti (1), Delta (1) and Anambara (1).

States that lost out in the recruitment exercise are;

Akwa Ibom, Bauchi, Bayelsa, Benue, Borno, Cross River, Ebonyi, Gombe, Imo, Jigawa, Kogi, Lagos, Nasarawa, Niger, Plateau, Sokoto, Taraba, Yobe and Zamfara.

A commissioner in the FCC, who spoke to *Daily Trust* on condition of anonymity, said the NNPC did not fulfil any of the conditions stipulated by the FCC in its recent recruitment exercise.

"The Federal Character Commission's guideline for conducting recruitment stipulates that the organisation carrying out the recruitment exercise must advertise in three national dailies covering the Northern and Southern parts of the country. And

in which we discussed exhaustively and decisively and wish by the grace of God, that we will pass the budget tomorrow. We agreed that for us to arrive at a balanced budget, it is reasonable to have a benchmark of 32 dollars per barrel instead of 30 dollars."

President Olusegun Obasanjo had earlier bud-

Contd. on Pg 2

Contd. on Pg 2

## Budget: Senate pegs oil benchmark at \$32

### Oil boom back in Nigeria - Daulbama

The Senate has, after an executive session, resolved to pass the 2005 budget today with an upward review of the crude oil benchmark from 30 US dollars to 32 US dollars which the Upper Chamber said will give the nation a balanced budget.

By Isa Sanusi, Political Reporter and Ikenna Emeka Okpani, Bureau Chief (Port Harcourt)

After the executive session yesterday, Senate President, Adolphus Wabara, remarked that: "We have just rose from an executive ses-

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# News

## Reps *Contd. from Pg 1*

tainable economic growth, Nigeria's creditors and development partners have failed and refused to grant the country substantial debt relief.

The House had severally raised objections to the continued debt payments which it perceived was stifling the economy and worsening the poverty index.

"Mr. President and the government of Nigeria has established sound economic policies to reposition the Nigerian economy as encapsulated in the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS), programme. But despite this, the debt stock as at December 2004 was 35 billion US dollars outstanding to all external creditors of Nigeria," argued Hon. Opara.

Nigeria's debt stock as at 1985 was about 19 billion US dollars but the nation has repaid a total amount of 37 billion US dollars to all her creditors including the Paris and London clubs between the said 1985 and 2005, according to the notice of motion.

It likewise noted that Nigeria rated on the same category of countries emerging from war and thus qualifying for debt relief since the country suffered military dictatorship from 1984-1999 which impacted on its economic, political and social stability.

"Whereas the creditors have for inexplicable reasons refused to accede to Nigeria's pleas for debt relief despite the efforts of Mr. President, the economic restructuring programmes, anti-corruption process and financial crime legislations in the country, the Western group of creditors have packaged for Iraq, a comprehensive debt relief of 80 per cent of Iraq's total indebtedness commencing with an immediate cancellation of 30 per cent of her debt stock," the motion noted.

The House frowned at a situation whereby about three billion dollars is being expended annually to meet up with her outstanding debt services while the 98 countries and Paris Club of creditors have on case by case basis, provided debt relief for other developing countries such as Poland, Yugoslavia, Cote d'Ivoire, Pakistan and Egypt among others.

Hon. Opara, lending figures in support of his argument that there is no way Nigeria can meet up with the debt payment which accumulates huge interest annually, added that even the International Monetary Fund (IMF), reports recommended a 67 per cent debt reduction for Nigeria.

Our external debt burden has become unsustainable. How do we develop with about 20 per cent of our annual budget allotted to debt servicing? It means we must ignore all our capital projects for years to be able to keep up with the increasing debt. This is simply a threat to our democracy.

"We are already operating below the one dollar poverty line. This is a serious political issue which demands a political answer because the state-to-state deductions contributing to the debt servicing is simply outrageous," said Hon. Opara.

Meanwhile, the chairman, House of Representatives committee on Information, Hon. Alaba Ojomo, briefing newsmen after the session, disclosed that the House resolved to stop servicing debts because it was costing the country too much money and the dividends of democracy.

He said that the decision was taken in the best interest of Nigerians even as he admitted that unfavourable reactions may follow the decision of the House from the international community. "But we believe that the international community will understand us. We believe the amount we use to service debts every year can be used to improve the lives of Nigerians through the provision of improved infrastructure," he said.

He added that other countries whose debts have been written off have not done any better than Nigeria, and that because some Nigerians stack stolen monies abroad does not mean that as representatives of the people, the legislators cannot assist the president on the issue of debt repayment.

He pointed out further that several donations which Nigeria have made to other countries became imperative "because you cannot look the other way when your neighbours are in need. Besides," he added, "those donations are paltry sums compared to the amount we are alleged to be owing."

He said that while it may be true that the creditors are powerful nations capable of changing governments of countries, government cannot just sit back and watch while the economy is being strangled by annual payments of two million dollars to service debts.

the advert must give six weeks notice to the applicants to submit their applications.

"Secondly, the organisation must submit names of shortlisted candidates to the FCC for the commission to compare it with the organisation's existing staff strength.

"Again, the commission is required by law to send one of its staff as an observer whenever the organisation is interviewing the applicants. The NNPC did not fulfil any of these conditions," the official said.

The FCC commissioner told *Daily Trust* that the commission had in a letter dated November 15, 2004 directed the NNPC to extend the date of submission of applications to six weeks against the two

## Atiku denies visiting IBB over Ribadu

By Reuben Yunana, *State House Correspondent*

Vice President Atiku Abubakar, has denied travelling to Minna in company of Alhaji Aliko Dangote and Wasiri Mohammed to beg retired General Ibrahim Babangida on behalf of the EFCC boss, Nuhu Ribadu, as reported by the *Daily Independent* newspaper.

"The story is false in its entirety. The vice president neither visited General Ibrahim Babangida anywhere nor called to plead for whatever Nuhu Ribadu must have said or done," a letter signed by the senior special assistant to the vice president (public communications and media affairs, Dr. Onukaba Adinoyi-Ojo and addressed to *Daily Independent's* editor stated.

The statement went on: "It is amazing how your reporters could have concocted such a story. There is

no iota of truth in the story. Beyond mischief, we still cannot understand the motive behind such

courtesy calls on him, said he accepts in good faith the decision taken by the senate even though he noted "I see no good cause for it."

Makarfi's letter reads: "I accept in good faith the decisions taken by the senate even though I see no good cause for it. The Senate President and distinguished members and indeed the general public are fully aware of the events which manifested in the first National Assembly which I referred to in my interview. For avoidance of doubts, there were power struggles within itself, between it and the states and also between it and the federal government. This struggle influenced the

deliberate fabrication. The fact that the story was published at all in a national newspaper says a lot about the state of journalism practice in Nigeria.

The publishers of the *Daily Independent* should be concerned that the paper could be used to peddle such a blatant lie," the statement said.

## Makarfi *Contd. from Pg 1*

contents of a number of legislations and in some cases, failure to legislate. Even the newspaper report acknowledged that I indicated there is currently a departure from the above."

Governor Makarfi's two-page letter noted that the instability witnessed in the last senate necessitated the on going national conference, saying that "I do assure the National Assembly and the nation that I am not privy to any hidden agenda set for actualisation through the conference. I did not see from any member of our committee any sign to indicate the knowledge of such hidden agenda. Equally I do not believe the president has any hidden agenda."

The governor goes further to say that: "we shall also continue to provide the principal officers, members and staff of the National Assembly all due recognition, respect and hospitality of the government and people of Kaduna state even

if no courtesy calls are paid on me. Importantly, my personal relationship with members will not in any way be affected by the current position. I do hope that this feeling is mutual."

Makarfi who drew the attention of the senate to the contradictions in reporting the statement in question in "The Punch" and "The Sun" urged the senate to give another look at the reports and reconcile the incoherence in reporting the statement by the two national dailies.

He however reminded the senators that "as leaders and representatives of our people, we should know and I am sure we do know that we are subject to criticisms," while urging the senate to feel free to advice or criticise him.

The senate had last week passed a strongly-worded motion condemning Governor Makarfi for berating the National Assembly.

## Confab *Contd. from Pg 1*

the law cannot get them.

To remedy this, he said, immunity must be removed to break the awesome powers of government officials, offer accountability and give people the powers to challenge corrupt leaders.

Anao said, "we should eliminate immunity totally from the constitution."

Commenting on how to make Nigeria better, Onah said with the immunity clause in place, little can be achieved. "The immunity clause has become very problematic," he added.

In his 19-page submission to the conference secretariat, Hassan lamented that the clause has been bastardised in Nigeria, where "criminals" hide under the cover of government.

He said in other countries, immunity clause is intended to protect the dignity of the offices and stop unnecessary distraction from governance.

Hassan, however, lamented that "certainly from experience so far, our society is not as patriotic and disciplined as those societies where immunity clauses are feasible. In our case, we have

a lot of criminals in government circles."

He urged that Section 308 of the constitution be expunged and issuance of diplomatic passport be restricted to reduce money laundering, theft and transportation of contraband.

During yesterday's plenary, delegates also said "enough is enough" to military coups and urged the military to restrict itself to its constitutional duties.

Senator Jack Tilley-Gyado and Mr. Sam Eke, took a swipe at the military for intermittent interference with democracy.

They canvassed stiff penalties against coup plotting after the executors leave office.

Tilley-Gyado appealed to the military not to strike again, as, he added, democracy could only find its feet through trials and errors.

Eke said coups should remain illegal and coupists should not be treated with levity.

"Enough is enough. Enough of military coups," he said.

## NNPC *Contd. from Pg 1*

weeks earlier advertised by the corporation.

According to him, the letter with reference number FCC/099/S.7/028.042, also urged the NNPC to submit names of shortlisted candidates to the commission so that the commission could send a representative to observe the interview process.

He said that the NNPC ignored all the instructions handed over to it by the FCC and went ahead to interview the candidates.

This, he said, made the commission to ask the NNPC in a letter dated December 10, 2004, to suspend the interview until the corporation was able to abide by the commission's guidelines on recruitment.

According to him, the

NNPC in a letter dated February 7, 2005, with reference number LD 27 Volume 15, informed the FCC that it has conducted the interview and the corporation was satisfied that it has complied with the FCC guidelines.

The FCC official told *Daily Trust* that the commission would examine the guidelines the NNPC had violated and refer the case to its legal experts for necessary action.

He said that appointments into federal government establishments must be shared equitably among the components that make up the Federal Republic of Nigeria and that the commission would prosecute any government establishment that violates the federal character principle.

## Budget *Contd. from Pg 1*

geted on 27 dollars per barrel but the senate pushed and increased it to 30 dollars per barrel and last week, the president wrote the senate explaining NNPC's projection of the nation's expected revenue from joint ventures even though the senate had earlier maintained the position that the figures presented by the NNPC and the budget office fell far below the actual revenue to come from the joint ventures.

Meanwhile, the Presidential Adviser on Petroleum and Energy, Dr. Edmund Daukoru, has stated that Nigeria was passing through another era of oil boom with oil price reaching a peak in 2004, even as he has cautioned government on the pitfalls of the past which led to reckless spending and acquisition of foreign debts.

Dr. Daukoru told *Daily Trust* in Port Harcourt where he presented the 21st convocation lecture of the university of Port Harcourt, that with the near total reliance on oil revenue during the booms of the 70s, the rest of the industrial sector - power, telecommunications, transport, agriculture, manufacturing etc fed off the oil sector leading to a national foreign debt of some US \$ 32 billion.

"On the positive side, it must be admitted that a lot of well intentioned projects, both infrastructural and strategic were undertaken during the boom years particularly pre 1973 and again 1978/79.

These include many of the highways that replaced the old colonial road network, major dams for irrigation and power supply, mod-

ernization of the telecoms system, the construction of existing refineries, petrochemical and fertilizer plants, expansion of the tertiary educational system, etc," Dr. Daukoru said.

He argued that the volatility of prices on the world oil and gas market often prompted government to sometimes take actions that are out of place with market realities. "When world oil prices are high, government tends to spend oil revenues on major development schemes thus raising popular expectations and depending upon this spending. When world oil prices fall, government is forced to take out loans to avoid making deep cuts in spending that would fuel popular discontent that could disturb the nation's socio-political base."

On alternative funding in the sector, Dr. Daukoru said his office was formulating a new funding package that will meet the aspirations of government without dampening the enthusiasm of operators to carryout new Greenfield projects on their own.

He said the NNPC joint venture funding arrangement of the late 90's has run its course and in his view, no longer sustainable.

He said the downstream sector was under pressure arising from inadequate returns on stakeholders' investments, poor maintenance of existing backbone infrastructure and facilities and the dearth of reception facilities for imports due to the monopoly position granted government parastatals and agencies.

# News

## Security threat: Self imposed chief in police net

A self appointed chief of Kadarko in Wase local government area of Plateau state, Nimkur Ninden, is now in police net over his negative attitude to returnees who fled the crises area and the perceived security threats he poses in the area.

The state commissioner of police, Mr. Joseph Apapa, who disclosed this to our correspondent in Jos, said the accused would soon be

From Rakiya A. Muhammad, Correspondent (Jos)

charged to court.

It would be recalled that the state government had after series of sectarian crises rocked the southern part of Plateau state, enjoined those who fled their homes to return even as it urged leaders in the area to ensure their safe resettlement while urging all self proclaimed

chiefs to renounce such positions.

Daily Trust learnt that in defiance to the order, Nimkur Ninden had continued to arrogate powers to himself and went ahead to stop returnees from rebuilding their houses even after they sought permission to do so from the legitimate traditional ruler in the area, Chief of Suku.

Ninden was alleged to have given the people of the area three options, to accept him as their chief, if not pack out or choose to be dealt with.

But some of the returnees refused to dance to Ninden's tune, insisting that there was a legitimate ruler, which consequently led the self proclaimed chief to order his errand boys to turn such people's houses into market sheds.

Following this development, Daily Trust further learnt that the police was informed about the security threat which Ninden was constituting and the police immediately waded into the situation.

## JNI/SCIA meet on N5bn National Mosque fund

The Jama'atu Nasril Islam (JNI) and the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (SCIA), held a joint meeting yesterday at Arewa House Kaduna, to finalise arrangements for tomorrow's launching of the N5 billion National mosque Appeal Fund.

The meeting was briefed by the chairman of the fund raising committee, Governor of Nasarawa state, Alhaji Abdullahi Adamu, on the committee's efforts to mobilise the Muslim Umma to attend the launch at Eagle Square tomorrow.

Alhaji Adamu also thanked Muslims throughout the country for the unity they maintained in the face of attempts to divide them over the issue.

Daily Trust gathered that projects expected to be executed with the funds is to rehabilitate and upgrade the interior, the structure and facilities in the mosque in Abuja.

The fund will also be used to build a standard clinic, Islamic education institution, an Islamic research library, a multi-storey car park and a revenue generating investment for the upkeep and maintenance of the national mosque.

The meeting was attended by all traditional rulers from the north and religious leaders from all the northern states and delegates from the south - south - east and south - west was presided over by the Sultan

From Sani Babadoko, Bureau Chief (Kaduna)

of Sokoto, Alhaji Muhammad Maccido.

President Olusegun Obasanjo is the chairman of the presidential committee on the rehabilitation of the national mosque and he is expected to meet with a delegation of JNI and SCIA in Abuja today at the villa.

## Zamfara deputy speaker removed

The Zamfara state House of Assembly deputy speaker, Alhaji Namadi Isah Kasuwar Saji, has been removed.

The removal came following his alleged ineptitude and insubordination.

Addressing newsmen in his office, the Speaker of the House, Alhaji Mamman Bawa Gusau, explained that the former deputy speaker had on several occasions, failed to meet the demands of the House which is contrary to its rules and regulations.

The speaker also disclosed that the affected deputy speaker is incompetent to hold the office of the deputy as he could not even express himself fluently in English

From Salisu Zakari Maradan, Correspondent (Gusau)

language. According to the speaker, the former deputy speaker was also accused of revealing the secrets of the house to other organs of government, including politicians.

"So we were fed up with what he has been doing to us and therefore, the House unanimously agreed to get rid of him whereby eighteen out of 24 members of the House passed a vote of no confidence against him."

"He behaves arrogantly. He does not respect his elders even in the House and above all, the former deputy speaker had been a failure in the history of the state House of Assembly since its inception.

## Ogbeh tasks Ali on PDP

Former chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Chief Audu Ogbeh, while handing over to his successor, Col. Ahmadu Ali (rtd), yesterday urged him not to spare efforts to reorganise the party to meet the aspirations of Nigerians and sustain their confidence.

Ogbeh made the remarks at the PDP national secretariat in Abuja as part of the brief handover ceremony which was attended by members of the national working committee.

Ogbeh who said he did his best as PDP chairman and had no regrets, identified priority areas which all must

By Hammeed M. Bello, Senior Political Reporter

address to ensure stability in the party. The areas he said included petitions, especially in Anambra and other states where there are crises, the state of party finances and the forthcoming convention.

A file containing the handover notes was handed over by Ogbeh to Ali and according to Ogbeh, he would be available for occasional consultations in certain key areas by his predecessor while Ali noted that Ogbeh did his best as the PDP chairman and asked for his continued loyalty to the party to make it greater.



Former heads of state, General Muhammed Buhari, Dr. Yakubu Gowon, and Governor Peter Odili here putting heads together during the launching of the biography of Chief Harold Dappa-Biriye, at hotel presidential, Port Harcourt...recently.

## Treasury looting: Abacha, Bagudu want case dismissed

By Kemi Ogedengbe, Judicial Editor

Late general Sani Abacha's son, Mohammed and Abubakar Atiku Bagudu, have prayed the court of Appeal sitting in Abuja, to declare as illegal, their trial by the federal government over alleged looting of treasury when the forfeiture of same funds have been made.

Mohammad, through his counsel, Mr. J. B. Daudu (SAN), said that the federal government had no statutory powers to prosecute him when he had forfeited assets to it in compliance with Decree 53 of 1999.

The issue, whether the federal government can initiate criminal trial against Mohammed based on Decree 53 of 1999 was referred to the appeal court by the former chief judge of Abuja High court who sought the court's assistance on the correct interpretation of Decree 53 of 1999.

The reference to the court of appeal on the correct interpretation of Decree 53 of

1999 would be argued today by Abacha's counsel and the federal government's lawyer.

Daudu in his brief of argument, said that when retired General Abdulsalam Abubakar took over the government and promulgated Decree 53 of 1999, certain funds were forfeited to the federal government by Bagudu on behalf of the Abacha family.

The contending Decree had stipulated that if there is a forfeiture of assets or funds, the family of late General Abacha and Mohammad shall be absolved and be made free from any future or further prosecution regarding any transactions relating to any fund particularly security related sums of money of the federal government.

He said that Decree 53 binds the government of General Abdulsalam Abubakar and all the governments that succeeded

that regime or administration while the matter cannot be reopened for the second time by any government after Abdulsalam's regime.

Daudu said that Decree 53 was clear and absolute on the fate of those dealt with by the said law, which is now an act of the National Assembly and it also stipulates that no other proceedings shall lie against persons like the appellants (Mohammed and Bagudu) who complied with the terms of the Decree.

But the federal government in its reply to the issues raised said that substantial part of the money stashed abroad was at the year 2000 when the charge was filed, still in various bank accounts in countries across Europe.

Government's counsel, Chief Bayo Ojo (SAN), said that after the death of General Abacha, and during the regime of General Abdulsalam, a special investigation panel was set up and mandated to investigate and recover monies illegally acquired by public officials and their collaborators.

This, he said, led to the forfeiture of certain assets from the family of Abacha, saying that the special investigation panel could not conclude its assignment before General Abdulsalam handed over power to the civilian government of Olusegun Obasanjo. "The federal government then continued efforts to recover the money stashed abroad."

On the issue of reference to court of appeal, he said that the current case did not meet three conditions that governs application and interpretation of the constitution.

He said that there was nothing in the provision of forfeiture of Asset or Decree No. 53 of 1999 which inhibit the high court of the FCT from exercising judicial power from trying Mohammed and Abubakar Atiku Bagudu for various criminal offences contained in the four charges brought before it by the Attorney General of the federation pursuant to section 174 of the 1999 constitution.

## NYSC abolishes JAMB admission letter for service

By Henry Omuonu, Senior Reporter (Education)

The National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), has abolished the contentious issue of the presentation of the Joint Admission and Matriculation Board (JAMB), admission letters by prospective corps members before they can participate in the scheme.

Announcing the abolition yesterday in Abuja at a pre-orientation press briefing, the director-general of the NYSC, Brig. Gen. Yusuf Bomo, said the decision to abolish the use of JAMB admission letter as a pre-requisite for registration is to save prospective corps members the stress associated with collecting admission letters from JAMB.

The earlier directive that all intending corps members must present their JAMB admission letters to the NYSC had not only turned out to be controversial, but had been

allegedly abused by JAMB officials who have been accused of demanding monetary inducements from university graduates before releasing their admission letters.

Brig. Gen. Bomo said the NYSC directorate must limit itself to mobilising graduates to participate in the scheme and leave the sanitisation of the nation's education system to the relevant statutory bodies.

He said 70,000 graduates have been mobilised for the Batch 'A' three weeks orientation exercise which will begin throughout the country from March 10, 2005, with the swearing-in ceremony of the corps members billed for this weekend.

## Weekly Trust Editor loses mother

The death has occurred of Hajija Rahinatu Muhammad, mother of the Weekly Trust Editor, Garba Deen Muhammad.

The sad event took place on Sunday, March 9, 2005, in an automobile accident along the Abuja-Kaduna road.

Hajija Rahinatu Muhammad aged 65, is survived by six children and many grand-children. She has since been laid to rest in accordance with Islamic rites.

# News

## CLOSURE OF FINETEX, NORTEX Union accuses manager of importing textiles from China

The Chinese manager of two textile mills in Kaduna has been accused of importing textile materials from his rival company in China leading to the closure of Finetex and Nortex mills in Kaduna.

The Chinese, Mr. K.S. Wong, whom the union of the two companies allege is owing the retrenched workers over N2.8 billion, would rather "repatriate huge sums of money to China where he has set up a textile company which exports textile materials into Nigeria in stiff competition with the company in Kaduna."

This revelation was made yesterday by the secretary general of the National Union of Textile Garment and Tailoring Workers of Nigeria (T and G for short), Alhaji Umaru Mohammed, at a press conference in Kaduna.

He said the long running battle between the unions of the two mills has led to a legal battle after the managements unilaterally closed the mills on Friday, September 12, 2003 without following laid down procedures.

On February 28, 2005, the federal high court ruled in favour of the union, upholding the rights of the unions

From Sani Babadoko,  
Bureau Chief (Kaduna)

to institute action against the company and on Thursday, March 3, 2005, the judge again granted the unions' petition on the winding up of Finetex and Nortex Limited which will come up for mention in court on March 23, 2005.

The management, had through its counsel, filed a counter petition denying owing the workers and challenged the competence of the union to institute legal action against it.

Alhaji Umaru said, "it was as a result of this recalcitrant and irresponsible attitude of management that the unions opted for the legal process. Evidence on ground points to the fact that the companies are insolvent and unable to pay their debts. Under the circumstances, it is just and equitable that the companies be wound up with a view to settling their liabilities to union and workers."

"The prayers of the union therefore include that Nortex and Finetex Limited may be wound up by the court under the provisions of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 1990.

"That the deputy chief registrar of the federal high

court or any other appropriate officer of the court, be appointed to supervise the winding up of the company," the T and G scribe added.

A counter petition by the company's solicitor, J.B. Daudu (SAN), said the management is not indebted to the union, challenged the competence of the union to drag it to court and prayed the court to stop from granting the winding up order.



Gov. James Ibori

## Ibori: Appeal court delivers judgement March 21

The court of Appeal sitting in Abuja, will on March 21, 2005, deliver judgement in an appeal filed by Goodnes Agbi and Anthony Alabi against governor James Onanefe Ibori of Delta state over the ex-convict case.

Justice R.O. Rowland fixed the date after the conclusion of arguments by Chief Gani Fawehinmi (SAN), who appeared for the appellants and Ibori's team of lawyers led by Chief Paul (SAN).

Fawehinmi prayed the court to set aside the judgement of Justice Hussein Mukhtar of an Abuja high court which ruled that governor Ibori was not sufficiently identified as the person convicted in charge 81/95.

He urged the court to examine the first judgement of the matter delivered by Justice Baba Yusuf, court of appeal judgement delivered in 2003, the final police report, the evidence of the judge who allegedly convicted Ibori and the February 6, 2004 supreme court judgement on the matter.

Citing the case of Lawal Uryama, Fawehinmi said that it was no longer necessary to revisit section 225 of the evidence that since it has been settled by the court of appeal and the Supreme Court.

With regards to onus of

By Kemi Ogedengbe,  
Judicial Editor

proof, he said that section 135 of the evidence act was what the supreme court referred to as applicable law and not section 138 which the Abuja high court judge relied on in writing his judgement.

He said that section 138 deals with commission of offence while section 135 was the most relevant section to the identification trial.

Counsel to PDP chairman, Mr. J.C. Obialor, adopted his brief but added that the case cited by Fawehinmi should be compared with Ibori case in order to get to the root of the matter.

He said that the inconsistency of PM I evidence was material to the issue of the identification trial and urged the court to dismiss the case with heavy cost to serve as deterrent.

Also, one of Ibori's counsel, Dr. Alex Izinyon (SAN), said that the report of the judge of Abuja high court should be rejected on the principle of fair hearing.

He also charged the court disregard police final report on who was convicted by the court and prayed for an order dismissing the entire appeal before the court or allow the cross appeal of Ibori.

## I'm vindicated—freed Islamic scholar

Mal Ibrahim Mai Mai, an Islamic scholar and a successful businessman in Jos, Plateau state, who was accused by security reports of harbouring terrorists and perpetrating mayhem in his community, was recently absolved of the allegations by the federal high court, Jos.

The federal high court awarded N1m as general damages to Ibrahim Mai Mai who runs a Quranic school that accommodates over 300 students, against the commissioner of police and the General Officer Commanding (GOC), 3rd armoured division of the Nigerian army whose men invaded Ibrahim's compound and shot indiscriminately.

Reacting to the judgement in a chat with *Daily Trust* in Jos, Mal Ibrahim Mai Mai said he was happy with the verdict as it has vindicated him. "I am happy because now nobody will look at me as a threat to the society," Ibrahim stated.

He noted that the security operatives who accused him of harbouring terrorists and perpetuating mayhem in his community could not come to court and proof their allegations because it was false. Ibrahim maintained that he had been going about his lawful business and contributing to the development of the society, adding that he did not know why he was attached by the security operatives, even as he maintained that their reasons that he was harbouring terrorists was only an after-thought.

Asked if he was happy with the amount of money the court awarded him, though he

From Rakiya A. Muhammad,  
Correspondent (Jos)

claimed he lost N5m in the attack, he said he was pleased with the verdict of Justice Charles Archibong who said that his (Ibrahim's) claim of N5m lost was difficult to establish as his business transactions were unrecorded.

According to him, the incident had thought him to always ensure he puts on record all his transaction but emphasised that though the amount was not close to what he lost, "the most important thing that makes me happy is that I have been vindicated."

Ibrahim said with the one million naira and assistance from wellbeing members of the society, he will continue his business.

## Kwara workers reject new tax regime

Workers in Kwara State have vowed to reject the new tax regime proposal by the state government.

Speaking yesterday at the Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC), local school opening, state chairman of the congress, Comrade Emmanuel Ayeoribe, declared that workers in the will use all available means to resist any new tax regime that will compound their plight.

He advised the state government to suspend the planned tax regime until workers received their 12 percent wage increase and resolve other pending labour matters.

Comrade Ayeoribe also condemned the proposal by the federal government to sack over 74,000 employees and the scrapping of the ministry of federal capital territory (MFCT), saying they could cause serious socio-economic dislocations for affected citizens.

Head of service, Alhaji Yusuf Kawu Daibu who represented governor Bukola Saraki at the opening of the local school, defended the move on the new tax regime, saying even though the issue was discussed recently, "the position of the governor is that anything that will harden further the living standard of workers will not be condoned."

He said "an assignment has been given to us to ascertain the veracity of the deductions in other states for comparative purposes and from there we take off" but for now, "nothing like that is

By Abdulrazaq Adebayo,  
Correspondent Ilorin

going to happen until issues have been thoroughly deliberated upon and considered. We are not imposing any further hardship on our people," he explained.

Governor Saraki noted that Kwara NLC has been mature and orderly in its dealings with government on labour issues; hence "the state government also deemed it fit to respond urgently to labour issues, especially those directly affecting the wellbeing of its workforce."

Also speaking, the director of Michael Imodu Institute of Labour Studies, Dr. Awoniyi Olarenwaju, described training and education as essential tools to keep workers abreast of global changing trends.

## FG advocates free movement between Nigeria, Tunisia

Vice president Atiku Abubakar has stressed the need to facilitate free movement of people and goods between Nigeria and Tunisia.

Atiku who spoke at the State House yesterday while receiving the Tunisian Ambassador to Nigeria, Abdul Razaq Azalez, commended efforts by both countries to commence direct flights between Abuja and Tunis.

"If you want to promote economic relationship between two countries, it is im-

portant that you have free movement of people and goods," he said.

Bilateral air agreement signed by both countries must be implemented for the benefit of the people of both countries.

"Nigeria needs your support in the area of power generation, we need the participation of Tunisian companies in the deregulated oil sector," Atiku told the Ambassador.

## FOCUS ON FURNITURE AND INTERIOR DECORATING COMPANIES IN NIGERIA

Nigeria's furnishing and decorating companies are bracing up to the challenges of the industry by producing and selling of high quality and durable materials that are of global standard.

Going by the high quality products of the operators of this sector of the economy, there is the need to publicise their activities in order to tap the potentials of the market to the maximum.

To appraise the contributions of the stakeholders in the industry, Media Trust Limited, the publishers of *Daily/Weekly Trust* newspapers, will publish a special focus on the manufacturers and suppliers of durable and high-grade furniture and furnishing items.

The date of publication is Wednesday, March 23, 2005, while deadline for submission of materials, the company's profile and artworks is three days to the publication date.

For participation and further enquiries, please contact the Special Projects Department on the following numbers:  
080-32916731, 080-37038663, 080-42145839 or  
09-6720346, 5235787 exts. 124 & 117



# NASARAWA STATE GOVERNMENT

## Statement of assets and liabilities for the three months period ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 1996

Assets	Notes	N	N
<b>CASH IN HAND</b>			
Central Accounts		874,226	
Sub-Treasuries	2	51,470	
Remittances in Transit	3	427,827	
Other Stations Balances	4	8,946,433	
			<u>10,299,956</u>
<b>CASH AT BANK</b>			
First Bank of Nigeria Plc, Lafia			1,001,106
Central Bank of Nigeria			205,576,018
			<u>216,877,080</u>

### REPRESENTED BY

Consolidated Revenue Fund	<u>216,877,080</u>
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## Statement of consolidated revenue fund for the three months period ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 1996

RECURRENT REVENUE	AMOUNT
	N
Taxes	861,661
Fines and Fees	5,795,414
Licences	1,419,435
Earnings and Sales	3,260
Rent on government property	31,606
Re-imburement	16,470
Interest/Dividend Received	—
Miscellaneous Income	20,280
Statutory Allocation	226,010,769
VAT Allocation	61,769,496
	<u>295,928,391</u>

### LESS: RECURRENT EXPENDITURE

Contribution to Primary Education	2,382,258
Pension and Gratuity	—
Personnel Cost	23,779,448
Transport and travelling	2,906,329

Utility Services	45,420
Telephone and postal Services	100,040
Stationeries and Printing	2,762,240
Maintenance of Office Furn. and Equip.	2,772,566
Maintenance of Vehicles and Capital Assets	1,397,729
Consultancy Services	—
Grants, Contributions and subvention	15,378,077
Training and Staff Development	1,556
Entertainment and Hospitality	2,284,087
Miscellaneous expenses	7,105,066
Feeding Supplementation	4,696,610
	<u>(65,611,426)</u>
	230,316,965
<b>LESS: CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>(13,439,88445)</b>
<b>CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND</b>	<b><u>216,877,080</u></b>

## Statement of capital development fund for the three months period ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 1996

	SUB-HEAD	AMOUNT
Express Service	457A	3,700,000
Water Project	462	8,677,885
Printing of Number Plates	467	1,062,000
		<u>13,439,885</u>

Prince Aliyu Abdullahi Idde (CNA)

Accountant-General

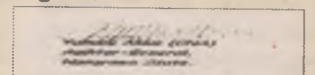
Nasarawa state

### AUDITOR'S GENERAL CERTIFICATE

In compliance with section 125 of the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, I have examined the Accounts and the financial Statement of Nasarawa State Government of Nigeria for the year ended 31st December, 1996. Proper returns have been rendered by ministries and departments and their related parastatals in conformity with the public finances (control and Managements) Law of 1958. I have obtained all information and explanation necessary in the discharge of my responsibility.

The audit was conducted in accordance with auditing requirements as specified in the audit law (chapter 12) of Nasarawa state of Nigeria, 1979. In addition, projects and programmes were verified in line with the concept of performance in audit. In the discharge of my responsibility as required by section 125(5) of the same constitution, the financial statements have been certified subject to comments contained in this report.

In my opinion, projects and programmes executed were satisfactory in consideration of funds employed. Furthermore, the financial statement (Nos. 1-3) and related schedules give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of Nasarawa State Government as at 31st December 1996.



**Yakubu Akwe (CNA)**  
Auditor-General,  
Nasarawa State.

# NEWS

## National confab... National confab... National confab

### TIT BITS

With Emmanuel Belle

#### Elders do it better

Chief (Mrs.) Bisi Ogunleye is one delegate most people want to hear. Ageing and almost bent, the Yoruba woman who calls herself "the most rural woman around" always challenges everyone to be original in their doings. Using herself as a model, she observes that there is nothing on her that was not made by rural people. She lambastes those who try to copy westerners in the way they speak, dress and behave. She noted that it was this copy-catism that is responsible for the nation's ill.

#### Where is Katagum?

The man who put a new meaning on "silence is golden" was conspicuously absent in yesterday's meeting. Though no official reasons was given, the deputy chairman's absence might not be unconnected with ill health. Inside sources reveal that the former head of service (sacked by General Murtala) has stomach upset. Sounds more like mind up beat!

#### Boring delegates

You cannot help but walk out on some of the delegates. They bore everyone to exhaustion with mutterings that the microphones can't pick their voice. It is worse when the person speaking has a misplaced sense of importance. Such a conferee comes out, clears the throat and embarks on a trip to monologue. Come on! Why did you come to a conference to dialogue?

#### Name droppers and their effect

For some delegates, a speech is not complete without mention of a great sage of the past. Thus Sir. Tafawa Balewa, the Sardauna himself, Obafemi Awolowo and Nnamdi Azikwe get their name taken in vain by people who cant emulate these great men. And have no plans to ever do so.

#### President speech: what's the big deal?

Two weeks into the conference and delegates are still battling with the president's speech. Tagged "debates on the president's inaugural speech, the proceedings are all that over 30 million Nigerians have been watching. Sometimes, the delegate veers off from the president's address (often called speech from the throne), in the most however, some dwell on it as if it is scriptures. They call it the most courageous speech, laden with vibrant intellectualism. Please!

#### Asom Bur's day of shame

If you know him, feel no embarrassment. His last position of prominence was that of a deputy governor in the hey days of gun-men. At the confab, he's on the list of respected elderstatemen from Benue State. So, when the Benue delegation was called upon, Mr. Bur stood up to be its spokesperson. Minutes into his introductory remarks, Bur was promptly stopped by Justice Tobi. According to the chairman, Bur's name was not on the list from the state. Bur then explained in a rather blurry manner how he's representing a delegation he's not part of. He was asked to take his seat. General Malu was then called upon to speak for the state.

#### Late comers and their antics

These are delegates whose time-keeping should have been the subject of the confab. They come in late and then leave before the end of the conference. There is a particular big man who comes in late and proceeds to demonstrate it by prancing about as if he's a sweep stake winner.

Some don't come in late but they have a problem of keeping to the allotted 3 minutes time-limit for their speech. They often start with a longish gratitude to the president, the chairman, their state governors, royal fathers, god-fathers, their families, God and the press (in rare cases). By the time, the first 2 minutes are up. It is then battle royale with Niki to get the gamulous speaker off the stage

#### Delegates get '60, '63 constitutions

In line with President Olusegun Obasanjo's promise on working documents for the confab, delegates yesterday received copies of the 1960 and 1963 constitutions.

Both documents provided a parliamentary system and regional structure for Nigeria.

Delegates had already been provided with the report

of the presidential panel on the review of 1999 constitution, the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) document and the 1999 constitution.

The presidential panel report had recommended among others a five-year single tenure for president, president vice, governors and their deputies



Speaker House of Reps. Hon. Aminu Bello Masari (r.), chairman House Committee on Housing and Urban Development, Hon. Osita Izunazo (m.) and House Whip, Hon. Bawa Bwari during the public hearing on violation and recovery of unremitted funds, held at the National Assembly complex, Abuja on Tuesday. Pix: Felix Onigbinde.

## Confab in rowdy session over resource control

The National Political Reforms Conference was thrown into confusion yesterday, following protests by some delegates against a remark by one of the advocates of resource control that oil money was used to build Abuja, the federal Capital Territory (FCT).

Chants of "no!" resonated for the best part of five minutes when a Bayelsa State delegate, Barrister Orono Douglas, in calling for resource control, said proceeds of crude oil were used to develop the FCT, even though the product was exploited down South.

It took the intervention of chairman, Justice Niki Tobi, to calm down frayed nerves and for Douglas to be able to speak further.

Douglas lamented earlier that the Niger-Delta was short-changed as its communities were in devastated environment.

Ironically, he said, other non-oil producing areas were unduly benefiting from the product.

"Abuja is built from the oil wells of Niger Delta," he said, but was rebuked by angry delegates who shouted "no!"

By Habeeb I. Pindiga,  
Political Reporter

Tobi called for order and urged the delegate to go on.

But an angry Douglas accused those shouting of being beneficiaries of the injustice.

He said they were the same people who siphoned the oil proceeds and used it to develop Abuja.

This threw the chamber into further bedlam as delegates yelled at him.

He was cautioned by Tobi who asked him to stop the accusation, but that he was protected to continue with his comments.

When the chants and murmurs died down, Douglas said the confab was a forum where truth must be told, instead of shouting at those who were willing to promote justice and equity.

Also in his contribution, Senator Akaminyere Ukanah (Akwa Ibom) urged delegates to "understand" problems of the Niger Delta, which he said were enamours.

He said the area suffers oil spillages that turn out to be as destructive as earthquakes and tsunamis.

But Danjuma Maina (Plateau) pointed out that the

nation was endowed with several other mineral resources besides oil and agricultural products, which he said contributed immensely in developing the nation.

Kaulaha Aliyu (Bauchi) attributed Nigeria's problems to an unreliable election system which gives victory to the highest bidder.

He urged the confab to come up with credible system in which voter's opinion could be upheld, saying development would continue

to elude Nigeria so long as it relies on the present election system.

Aliyu also advocated for judicial reform.

The calls for referendum also continued to feature with Zik Obi (Anambra), Chika Okafor and A.P. Diete-Spill urging that the confab report be laid before the people in whom sovereignty resides.

Other speakers talked about devolution of powers to the federating units and modification of presidential system.

#### How AD delegates emerged

Contrary to media report that the Alliance for Democracy (AD) has no representation at the confab, the party's national convention committee chairman, Alhaji Muhammad Ibrahim Hassan has said that two persons have been accredited to represent AD.

The AD delegates are Hassan and Mr. Segun Adesegun.

Hassan, who was minister of power and steel in the second Republic, said they received the nod of the secretary to the government of the federation, Chief Ufot Ekaettee, after due clearance from the Independent

National Electoral Commission (INEC).

He said AD received invitation to nominate two persons, and in a letter by its national secretary U.Z. Yohanna, the party fielded Hassan and Adesegun.

But the Mojisola Akinfenwa, led faction protested to the presidency, claiming that both nominees were from a fake splinter group of AD, Hassan said.

This, according to him, prompted the SFG into seeking clarification from INEC, which wrote through its public affairs director, Steve Osemeke recognising the Bisi Akande faction.

Osemeke's letter dated February 21, said "I have been directed to confirm that INEC on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September, 2004 observed and nominated the convention held by Alliance for Democracy (AD) in Lagos where a National Executive Committee was elected with Chief Bisi Akande as chairman.

"Accordingly, this is the only national executive committee of the Alliance for Democracy (AD) that the commission is dealing with."

Hassan has since the INEC clearance and subsequent accreditation been attending the conference.

Media report recently said AD is still to send its delegates to the confab because of the raging feud between the two factions.

## FG ignored Taraba State - Delegate

By Emmanuel Belle

The federal government is to blame in part for the teeming challenges faced by Taraba State. This assertion was made by Alhaji Johnny Atiku, one of the delegates attending the ongoing National Conference on political reforms. He said that the federal government has neglected development projects in the state in a long time.

"A television station project has been abandoned and the project to build a bridge over the Donga river has not been mentioned anymore. These are some of the ways we don't feel the presence of the central government in our state" he said.

He also said that Taraba State identifies itself with all the points in the president's inaugural address, stressing

that a memorandum will be presented in which the state will articulate its agenda.

Describing it as a minority state, observed that the presence of the federal government in Tabara will act as a knock on its potentials. "You can't keep all the blame on the present leadership in the state. If the federal government takes its proper place, it will be like a knock or tapping on the door for the state to do more."

On the issue of settlers/indigene dichotomy, the delegate said that while Tabara State respects the rights of groups who are not indigenes, this "does not give anyone the exclusivity and monopoly of the state in disadvantageous manner"

He said that the conference is most desirable at "this period in our history because we've all reached the point where dialogue is inevitable."



Alhaji Johnny Atiku

# News

## National Confab ... National Confab ... National Confab ...

### ACF accuses Obasanjo of instigating Nigerians

The Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF), has described as "reckless and irresponsible," the lop-sided appointments to the national political reform conference.

The ACF in a statement by its publicity secretary, Mallam Aliyu Hayatu, made available to newsmen in Kaduna yesterday, said the appointments made in defiance of the constitutional requirements for quota and balance is capable of igniting religious controversy and hostility.

ACF in the statement reiterated that by making such insensitive appointments, the federal government and President Obasanjo in particular was pitching Muslims against Christians thereby fanning the dangerous embers of religious antagonism. "This, the ACF observed, is reckless and irresponsible."

"It is the view of the ACF however that there is an imbalance deliberately created by the government to pitch religious groups against one other, to secure a purely private and selfish objective.

"The unmistakable constitutional intentment is not only to give all sections of this country a sense of participation in national affairs but to remove suspicion and rancour which in an emerging Nigerian society, have continued to be a source of animosity and violence.

"As things now stand, Nigerians are only to conclude that the federal government is unwilling to demonstrate the required level of care, maturity and responsibility to assure the nation of official impartiality.

"The fact that Obasanjo had gone ahead to make these appointments deliberately in total disregard of the religious controversy he would thus ignite and may be

**From Sani Babadoko  
Bureau Chief (Kaduna)**

seen as a manifestation of a desperate intent to actualize a hidden agenda. ACF wishes to say that this is sad and frightening.

The statement however said it has no quarrel with individuals appointed by the federal government whom it said are hardworking and innocent victims of a government scheming where intention in the convening of a political reform conference has been under intense public suspicion from its very inception.

"Unwillingly, government

might have succeeded in subverting the outcome of the reform exercise even before it got off the ground," the statement added.

It however appealed to Nigerians to remain calm in the realization that whatever hidden agenda there might be with the conference is not schemed or instigated by any of the major religious groups.

"Muslims and Christians should not fall into this government trap by fighting each other. Rather, Nigerians should disappoint the Obasanjo government by refusing to fight each other," The statement declared.



The National Political Reform Conference Chairman, Justice Niki Tobi (r) exchanging views with Alhaji Abdullahi Ibrahim (SAN) Kogi state delegate (l) during the sitting of the confab ... yesterday

### Obasanjo'll implement Confab report, says Tobi

Following concerns raised by delegates over the fate of their recommendations, chairman of the national political reform conference, Justice Niki Tobi, yesterday assured that president Olusegun Obasanjo will implement the report of the confab.

A delegate had expressed worry that reports of the conference may end in the cooler like similar ones including the Oputa panel report.

But Tobi, who was responding to such concerns, said he was confident that this will not happen.

The chairman was particularly reacting to comments by Mr. Arthur Nwanko, who urged the president to "listen to us," and implement the outcome of the conference for a better Nigeria.

Tobi said: "By the grace of Almighty God, the

**By Habeeb I. Pindiga  
Political Reporter**

president will follow our advice and we will wake up to see Nigeria blossoming."

Nwanko had earlier stressed his faith in Nigeria's unity, saying God put the nation together and so nobody should tamper with its oneness.

He, however, urged that the unity be finetuned in the interest of peace and justice.

Tobi also announced yesterday that a standing committee on education would be set up.

Responding to Professor Nimi Brigg's observation that President Obasanjo's speech had overlooked education, the chairman said when its time for the confab to resolve into committees, education will be taken care of.

"I want to assure you that we will have a committee on education," he said.



(L - R): Chairman of the Confab, Justice Niki Tobi, the Muslim representative and Bauchi delegate, Dr. Ibrahim Tahir and PDP Edo State delegate, Dr. Samuel Ogbemudia, discussing at the National Political Reform Conference in Abuja ... recently

### Bauchi speaker cautions Confab on referendum

Alhaji Tanko Ibrahim Jallam, Speaker of the Bauchi state House of Assembly, has cautioned delegates to the national political reform conference over the recent call by some delegates for a referendum saying it will contravene the mandate given to them by the president.

Alhaji Jallam, while reacting to the proposal put forward by Chief Afe Babalola [SAN] human rights activist Mike Ozekhome where the picked holes in the 1999 constitution stressed that President Obasanjo's motive to use the conference for personal gains is gradually manifesting.

**From Tashikalmah Hallah,  
Correspondent (Bauchi)**

two people could pick holes in the constitution and condemn the National Assembly, "the President should resign, because he is a by-product of the 1999 constitution".

According to him, both Babalola [SAN] and Mike are constitutional lawyers. They know the constitution much better than any other person.

They know how the constitution is to be amended. It is through the National Assembly. Now if they are passing a vote of no confidence on the 1999 constitution, which the President and all other elected people have sworn to

defend and protect, then it is a vote of no confidence on the president and he should resign.

The Speaker explained that he holds both lawyers in high esteem, adding that they ought to have advised the president about the unconstitutionality of the conference, as the National Assembly is mandated to discuss anything about the country.

On the call by some delegates that the nation should adopt parliamentary system of government, Alhaji Jallam declared that it was a none issue as the system will not work again in Nigeria



ANPP National Chairman and Confab delegate, Chief Don Etiebet (l) and Chief G.D. Onosode, Delta state delegate (r) exchanging views during a sitting at the national conference



# NASARAWA STATE GOVERNMENT

## Statement of Assets and liabilities as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 1997

ASSETS	NOTES	1997 N	1996 N
<b>CASH IN HAND</b>			
Central accounts	1		874,326
Sub-Treasury	2		51,476
Imprest-Ministry of Finance	3	90,000	
Remittance in Transit	4	47,618,482	427,827
Other Station Balances	5	43,928,470	8,946,433
		<b>91,636,889</b>	<b>10,299,956</b>
<b>CASH AT BANK</b>			
First Bank of Nig. Plc. Lafia			1,001,106
Central Bank of Nigeria		2,212,646	205,576,018
		<b>93,849,535</b>	<b>216,877,080</b>
<b>OTHERS ASSETS</b>			
Advances	6	4,746,820	
		<b>98,596,535</b>	<b>216,877,080</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Bank overdraft	7	60,584,901	
Consolidated Revenue Fund	8	38,011,454	216,876,880
		<b>98,596,355</b>	<b>216,876,880</b>

## Statement of consolidated revenue fund for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 1997

	1997 N	1996 N
<b>BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD</b>	<b>216,877,080</b>	
<b>ADD: RECURRENT REVENUE</b>		
Taxes	25,976,855	861,661
Fines and fees	35,838,273	5,795,414
Licenses	6,142,385	1,419,435
Earnings and Sales	707,608	3,260
Rent on government property	3,526,319	31,606
Re-imburement	9,629	16,470
Interest/Dividend Received	5,900,848	
Miscellaneous Income	7,866,581	20,280
Statutory Allocation	1,078,855,185	226,010,769
VAT Allocation	255,866,175	61,769,496
	<b>1,420,669,858</b>	<b>295,928,391</b>
<b>LESS: RECURRENT EXPENDITURE</b>		
Contribution to Primary Education		2,382,258
Pension and Gratuity	38,918,895	
Personnel Cost	201,566,102	23,779,448
Transport and travelling	28,193,269	2,906,329
Utility Services	4,819,382	45,420
Telephone and postal Services	7,123,313	100,040
Stationeries and Printing	14,377,975	2,762,240
Maintenance of Office Furn. and Equip.	19,140,277	2,772,566
Maintenance of Vehicles and Capital Assets	12,985,808	1,897,729
Consultancy Services	4,031,310	
Grants, Contributions and subvention	165,104,239	15,378,077
Training and Staff Development	2,658,863	1,556
Entertainment and Hospitality	11,207,453	2,284,087
Miscellaneous expenditure	213,468,300	7,185,000
Feeding/Supplementation		4,696,610
	<b>(727,195,804)</b>	<b>(65,611,426)</b>
	<b>910,371,134</b>	<b>230,316,965</b>
<b>LESS: CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>(872,359,680)</b>	<b>(13,439,88445)</b>
<b>CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND</b>	<b>38,011,454</b>	<b>216,877,080</b>

## Statement of capital development fund for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 1997

	Budget Sub-Head N	Actual N	Variances N
Agriculture and Rural Development	450	20,000,000	2,000,000
Nasarawa Integrated Rural Development	450A	7,000,000	(5,000,000)
Livestock and Veterinary	451	5,000,000	7,000,000
Forestry	452	500,000	5,000,000
Fisheries	453	500,000	500,000
Manufacturing (Commerce and Industry)	454	15,000,000	15,000,000
Rural; Electrification	455	50,000,000	20,000,000
Tourism and Hotel Development	456	10,000,000	17,050,000
New Lafia Main Market	456A		0
Nasarawa Invest. and Property Dev.	456A	25,000,000	25,000,000
Transport	457	100,000,000	102,210,687
Nasarawa Express Service	457A	10,000,000	(2,210,687)
Education	458	25,000,000	12,500,000
Relevant Technology Board	458	A2,000,000	13,000,000
Health	459	70,000,000	2,000,000
Information	460	5,000,000	55,942,065
Nasarawa Broadcasting Corporation	460A	30,000,000	14,057,935
Sports	461	2,000,000	(346,350)
Arts and Culture	461A	2,000,000	25,485,000
Social Development	461B	2,000,000	(11,845,645)
Water Supply	462	300,000,000	2,000,000
Sewage and Drainage	463	15,000,000	4,600,000
Housing	464	15,000,000	90,672,400
Town & Country Plan. (Lands & Survey)	465	5,000,000	15,000,000
Town and Country Planning (NUDB)	465A	20,000,000	209,676,191
Environmental Protection Agency	465B	2,000,000	(7,581,000)
Community Development	466	1,000,000	2,000,000
Secretary to the State Government	467	187,137,650	261,420,342
High Court of Justice	467A	25,000,000	25,000,000
Justice	467B	10,000,000	10,000,000
Finance	467C	10,000,000	10,000,000
Nasarawa Internal Revenue Service	467D	10,000,000	10,000,000
Nasarawa House of Assembly	467E	30,000,000	30,000,000
Commission for women Affairs	467F	4,000,000	4,000,000
		<b>1,337,137,650</b>	<b>872,359,680</b>
			<b>164,777,970</b>

Prince Aliyu Abdullahi Idde (CNA)  
Accountant-General  
Nasarawa state

## AUDITOR'S GENERAL CERTIFICATE

In compliance with section 125 of the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1996, I have examined the Accounts and the financial Statement of Nasarawa State Government of Nigeria for the year ended 31st December, 1997. Proper returns have been rendered by ministries and departments and their related parastatals in conformity with the public finances (control and Managements) Law of 1958. I have obtained all information and explanation necessary in the discharge of my responsibility.

The audit was conducted in accordance with auditing requirements as specified in the audit law (chapter 12) of Nasarawa state of Nigeria, 1979. In addition, projects and programmes were verified in line with the concept of performance in audit. In the discharge of my responsibility as required by section. 125(5) of the same constitution, the financial statements have been certified subject to comments contained in this report.

In my opinion, projects and programmes executed were satisfactory in consideration of funds employed. Furthermore, the financial statement (Nos: 1-3) and related schedules give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of Nasarawa State Government as at 31st December 1997.

Yakubu Akwe (CNA)  
Auditor-General,  
Nasarawa State.

# Opinion

## Insight on smuggling at seaports

By Okey Ibeke

Smuggling has been variously defined in many quarters. While Oxford Dictionary defines it as an act of taking, sending or bringing goods secretly and illegally into or out of a country without paying Customs duties, the Customs defines it as an act, practice or procedure designed to evade Customs and Excise duties, regulations, restrictions and prohibition applicable to goods, works of art, currency, arms and ammunition and produce imported and exported from the country or in transit through the country. This definition is not exhaustive and may include falsification of Customs documents, over-valuation and under valuation of goods for the purpose of evasion of duty or other fiscal measures.

Smuggling could be carried out through

unapproved routes such as the numerous bush paths surrounding the international border towns or through approved routes along the overlapping and contiguous inter-territorial boundaries; through sea ports of Apapa, Tin Can Island port, Kirikiri Lighter Terminal (KLT), Lily Pound, Warri, Onne, Calabar, Port Harcourt and more than 100 approved and unapproved jetties in various river line areas. Through air by passengers accompanied or unaccompanied baggage carried out by passengers who travel by air either inward or outward with prohibited or restricted goods.

While the members of the public and people in governance has been inundated with news of numerous seizures at our border stations and Federal

Operation Units, the determined effort to stamp out smuggling at our ports, especially at Apapa has not been properly brought to the consciousness of the nation.

When smuggling is mentioned, the tendency of people to assume that it involves only outright smuggling of prohibited item is high. While in the real act, there are numerous methods and types of smugglings going on in our ports. Namely: False declaration, concealment of prohibited items or high duty goods inside the same container with low duty goods, non CRI good - cargoes that evaded pre-shipment inspection and landing of un-manifested cargoes, landing of un-manifested cargo, wrong Tariff classification resulting into serious underpayment or intentional wrong classification of contraband goods like

textiles into dutiable goods like industrial rags.

Others include: declaration of single imported commodity out of various commodities imported on only one SGD form instead of having additional SGD forms, thereby paying duty on single commodity out of many, use of fake documents to clear goods eg. fake Bank receipts, fake or doctored bill of lading; cargoes diversion during transfer on bond to private bonded warehouses, non-examination of containers, use of exemption certificate to clear dutiable goods, use of Temporary Importation Permit to bring in dutiable goods, among others.

Interestingly as one of the work plans of the new Customs administration is due process aimed at rebuilding integrity and indeed enhance efficiency and effectiveness in trade

facilitation thus enforcing compliance with Customs regulation, facilitation of trade and protection of local industries towards putting our dear country in the road map of belonging to the league of manufacturing countries, the Apapa office of customs command resolved to tackle the above enumerated methods of smuggling and duty evasion head on it proactively identified the main exit gate of the port as the most sensitive and defined battle ground for eradication of irregularities on import duty administration and smuggling.

From the beginning of 2003, there was a noticeable resolve to checkmate the activities of importers and their agents who rather than change for good, have continued to engage in various tricks in their desperation to achieve

unwholesome objectives of forgery of documents and importation of prohibited items. The measures taken include introduction of thorough scrutiny of documents before exit of cargoes, re-examination of suspected cargoes, re-orientation of personnel, and limitation of past track measures that necessitate exit of cargoes at the main gate.

The desire of the government to curb the activities of economic saboteurs may have been met. While the officers and men of the service are battling at the risk of their lives to stop the evil phenomenon at our border stations and Federal Operation Units, some officers are also tirelessly waging a similar war at our ports, especially Apapa.

Ibeke, the publisher of *Business & Maritime West Africa*, writes from Lagos.

## Tackling the pension albatross

By Salisu Na'inna Dambatta

While receiving the new executive members of the Nigerian Union of Pensioners (NUP), Kaduna State branch, Governor Ahmed Mohammed Makarfi of Kaduna State reportedly urged the teeming pensioners in Nigeria to consider forgoing the estimated N1 trillion owed them in unpaid pensions (some say it is N2.5 trillion), as it is impossible, in his view, for the Federal Government to get such a huge amount of money to pay them off.

Although it is probably not easy to raise the money at a go, as is the case with all other huge unpaid bills, such as the trillions of Naira the government owes local contractors, suppliers and foreign creditors, urging the pensioners to give up their unpaid claim may not be the first or best option for many. And the example and standards set by the Kano State government under Alhaji Ibrahim Shekarau shows that with a genuine commitment to justice and fairness, and despite assumptions that resources available to states are mostly not on a par with their needs, it is possible to pay pensioners regularly and consistently. If Kano State could do it, other states could and should do it too. All it requires is a caring attitude.

It was this caring attitude and a desire to be fair and just to federal pensioners that led the Federal Government, in consultation with stakeholders, experts and through its institutions, especially the Office of the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation, to set up a committee under Alhaji Fola Adeola that fashioned out a

going to be a better and more practically sustainable way of tackling the pensions albatross.

The new system, which replaces the old non-contributory pay-as-you-go method that solely depended on government budgetary allocations (about 10% of the Federal annual budget, and N126 billion in 2005 alone) with all its uncertainties, has the specific objective of ending the problems associated with the old system, such as failure to pay pensioners their dues at all, paying them late or in bits that could not provide minimum material comfort to the aged citizens who toiled for Nigeria for decades.

Listing the objectives of the scheme in detail, the Pension Reform Act 2004 provided at Section 2 of Part 1 that the scheme should "ensure that every person who worked in either the Public Service of the Federation, Federal Capital Territory or Private Sector receives his retirement benefits as and when due."

The implication of this portion of the Act is clear: unpaid pensions would no longer be the norm for retirees in this country. Consequentially, if this becomes manifest, the sad news of pensioners dying in queues to receive their meager cheques in arrears would no longer feature in our media.

Two other stated objectives of the contributory pension scheme as provided for in the Pension Reform Act 2004 are to "assist improvident individuals by ensuring that they save in order to cater for their livelihood during

uniform set of rules, regulations and standards for the administration and payments of retirement benefits for the Public Service of the Federation, Federal Capital Territory and the Private Sector."

One important fact for readers to note is that reforming pension systems has never been easy anywhere in the world. In fact, the British Prime Minister, his Italian counterpart, President Putin of Russia, President Bush of the USA and the German Chancellor are now in the centre of some political turmoil over their attempts to reform the pension systems and labour laws in their respective countries. Existing and potential pensioners in the four European countries and the USA are, through their powerful and well-organised trade unions, stoutly resisting the new pension ideas.

Given the potential benefits of reforming pensions, the Federal government of Nigeria deserves our praises for pulling it off smoothly. The Pension Reform Act 2004 came into force on 15 July 2004. So far the signs are that it has made a good start and the outlook remains positive.

The Director General of the National Pension Commission, M. K. Ahmad recently announced that contributions by those covered by the Act in the four months from July 1, 2004 amount to over N13 billion. With this huge amount of money coming into the Commission's accounts in its first four months, it is obvious that the Contributory Pension Scheme has the

after-service lives of its contributors, and at the same time, use the resources it is holding in trust for subscribers to help in bolstering the Nigerian economy.

The Fola Adeola-led National Pension Commission, which is charged with the responsibility of ensuring that the clauses or provisions of the National Pension Act achieve their objectives, is undoubtedly one of the new institutions designed to make the Nigerian system work and serve the people better.

Just to illustrate, Part III of the Pension Reform Act 2004 specified nine primary Functions and Powers of the Commission. It stated that the Commission shall "establish standards, rules and guidelines for the management of the pension funds under this Act" as well as "approve, licence, regulate and supervise pension fund administrators, custodians and other institutions relating to pension matters as the Commission may, from time to time, determine." In the pursuit of this, the National Pension Commission recently organised well-attended consultative sessions with prospective Pension Fund Administrators and Pension Assets Custodians on rolling out licensing requirements, which would be issued soon for take-off.

The effective take-off was slightly off target date because the painstaking confirmation process of the Chairman, Director-General and other Commissioners of the Commission by the Senate, an exercise that reaffirmed their integrity, was slow and took longer time

Consequently, the Board of Commissioners was inaugurated late. They are now busy on the job.

The recent consultative sessions in Port Harcourt and Lagos, as well as the release of transitional guidelines by the Commission to clear the air on certain pension-related issues, coupled with the imminent licensing of qualified Pension Fund Administrators and Pension Assets Custodians, are strong signals that the Commission is alive to its functions.

As some readers, especially contributors and countless other stakeholders may be interested in knowing the functions of the Commission, it is appropriate to now touch on them.

The functions and powers of the commission, which are basically nine, include the "maintenance of a National Data Bank on all pension matters" and that it shall "issue guidelines for the investment of pension funds; regulate and supervise the Scheme established under this Act; and carry out public awareness and education on the establishment and management of the Scheme."

Why are governments all over the world and in Nigeria, busy changing the pension systems in their areas of jurisdiction? As alluded to elsewhere in this article, the answer could be found in the failure and inadequacies of most pension schemes, which are largely dependent on dwindling government annual budgetary allocations for funding and sustenance, in the face of ballooning number of

But there are skeptics, who fear that, laudable as the new system looks, it could be crippled by the so-called 'Nigerian factor,' which simply some defined as an innate capacity of Nigerians to derail even the most elaborately constructed institutions.

The skeptics point at the failed contributory pension system in Argentina to justify their stance. The collapse of the system in Argentina has caused anguish and pushed millions of pensioners into a life of uncertainty as the scope for compensating them is severely limited. The skeptics also remind people of the fact that many clearly laudable national initiatives were derailed or even sabotaged in the past. They recalled the Peoples' Bank of Nigeria, the Directorate of Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructure and several others.

But there is a large pool of citizens who believe that, it is not standard for every institution in this country to fail or get derailed. Indeed, there is sufficient ground to be optimistic about the new pension system.

For, a combination of factors, such as the positive reputation of the Commissioners, the excellent character of their Chairman, Alhaji Fola Adeola and the Management team under M. K. Ahmad as Director-General, the safe guards in the Pension Reform Act 2004, an apparent willingness to do good on their part and a clear sincerity of purpose based on the fear of God, are enough reasons for optimism for many, and assurances to the skeptics.

Dambatta is AD (Information) in the OSGF,

How do you feel about the sudden exit of the former privatisation boss?

Well I feel sad to some extent



Why? Isn't he one of the Brettonwood Proxies bent on selling our property

Yeah! But they still accused him of being too slow in selling our resources. That may have protected public property from official hawks. But remember he was faster in staff changes. That's a credit !!



Good! But I think that makes him ideal for retraining in the Federal Character Commission.



Signature

# YOUR LETTERS

## Of confab and separatist tendencies

To say that the question of the Nigerian unity will not be tampered with at the on-going National Dialogue among other things, is a clear pointer to the fact that Nigeria as a nation has a long way to go and that Nigerians are still yet to come to terms with reality.

How do you convene a National Dialogue to discuss and seek solution to Nigeria's problems and exclude from participation the various ethnic nationalities some of which even agitate for secession? Chief Ralph Uwazuruike is agitating for independent Biafran Republic under his Movement For the Actualization of Sovereign State of Biafra(MASSOB) and I think he must not be taken for granted. Mujahid Alhaji Dokubo-Asari under Niger Delta Youth Volunteer Force (NDYVF) is calling it quits from the Nigerian federation. The middle Belt region has also come of age, vowing not to be associated with the "core-north" again. These are all political agitations which pose great danger to the Nigerian territorial integrity.

But the religious issues even need much more urgent solution. Nigerian Muslims are canvassing for a freer atmosphere to practice their religion without hindrance or molestation. They are striving to revive their Islamic empire, destroyed by the British colonialists and merged into what is today called Nigeria.

Therefore declaring some

crucial these issues are, is an indication that the conference is being used as a tool to score some short-term political goals and that our so-called leaders are ever ready to compromise the peace and stability of the nation to satisfy their personal interests.

But take my word for it, dialogue or no dialogue, Nigerians must sooner or later be ready to face the

inescapable reality: That the country is an artificial creation of British colonial masters, to facilitate their political domination and economic exploitation without consideration of the constituent ethnic nationalities and the geographical situations of the various religious communities. Nigeria will only know peace when these divergent ethnic nationalities

## Open letter to Gov Kure on tertiary education

May I use this medium to draw your attention on education and the future of the State's youths. Education is no doubt the best legacy parents can bequeath to their wards. But in Niger state there is a problem(s) in this important sector, most especially in the area of tertiary education.

The state is one of the most populated in the country, but the higher institutions of learning in the state are not even enough for the indigenes let alone others. The norm is that there should be an exchange of students between states in the country in order to enhance unity and peaceful co-existence among the various ethnic and religious groups in the country. This also promotes cross-cultural oneness as well.

Your excellency, the tertiary institutions in the state are mostly Federal Government-owned, which is absolutely control by the Federal Government and give equal treatment to each and every student regardless of whether he/she comes from Niger or not. The institutions, as you may be aware include Federal University of Technology (FUT) Minna; Federal Polytechnic Bida;

However, these institutions are not conventional and are rather they restricted to offering selected courses.

An indigene of the state that has the ambition of studying medicine, pharmacy, law, economics, international relations *et cetera* would have to go elsewhere outside Niger state to achieve that. And it is always difficult to do so outside Niger, for the state indigenes. Making matters worst is the fact that the state institutions too are not capable of offering the courses earlier mentioned. Even the courses that they do offer are in fact not as recognised as those of the federal institutions in the state. The unfortunate state institutions include College of Education Minna(COE) - capable of awarding NCE, Niger state Polytechnic Zungeru which awards Ordinary National Diploma and has a branch at Bida; College of Administration and Business studies (CABS),Niger state school of Nursing Bida, School of Health Minna; School of Agric Mokwa, which offers Higher National Diploma (HND). Last is the only private institution in the state - College of Arabic and Islamic Studies (CAIS) Minna.

In view of the above, I am

and religious communities have unanimously agreed on the terms of their coming together. To face this inescapable reality is a task that must be done. And the more this is neglected the more the country is becoming prone to disintegration

No thanks to the colonial masters for this time-bomb which we blindly mistake for colonial legacy.

Jamilu M. Kudan No. 21, Tudun Wada Kudan, Kaduna State.

indigenes of the state in general, to come to our aid. In other words, this should be treated as a matter of urgency before it gets out of hand. I am also appealing to the state government to implement the recommendations of the committee on proposed state university, which is billed for October this year. Sir, as the chairman of the committee advised, money should not hinder the project. May I also plead with your excellency not to let this opportunity slip off. The state university should take-off immediately. This, once done, will remain your greatest achievement in the area of education and the youth will never forget you.

Lest I forget, the university should be conventional capable of offering as many courses as possible. And the other existing one should also be standardized. The state university has become necessary because of the frequent crises that erupt in FUT/Minna and numerous problems. Time to act is now, your excellency! May God guide you

## Bondage as Taraba's second name

When Taraba State was created in 1990, hope was raised on nurturing a state that would meet the needs and yearnings of its people, especially in the provision of employment, social infrastructure and other basic necessities of life. These expectations were premised on the fact that the state is blessed with both human and natural resources in abundance.

Regrettably, the availability of these endowments has not translated into the fulfillment of the dream of the populace, as it continues to reflect indicators of backwardness. The situation is further bedeviled by apathy on the part of some prominent indigenes to the socio-economic and political development of the State. Only recently, the Senator representing Taraba South Senatorial District, while answering questions on an AIT Hausa programme claimed that he is oblivious of the state of affairs in Taraba because he does not visit the state capital. He added that the State administration does not consult with its elected representatives at the National Assembly. This revelation is appalling as it paints a gloomy and depressive picture of a state where mediocrity holds sway, while merit and competence are relegated to the backseat.

It is disheartening in this era that most parts of the state are without electricity. Hitherto, NEPA high tension line does not pass through the State. The only five (5) out of the sixteen (16) Council Areas in the State

that enjoy electricity supply tap from the neighbouring Adamawa and Benue States, while equally suffering incessant power outages.

This shameful and retrogressive state of inertia in Taraba, raises a lot of questions and challenges about the survival of its future generation especially in a country that lays claim to embracing globalization..

For Taraba State to be on the path of sustainable development, social amenities and infrastructural facilities, including good governance must be firmly put in place.

It is time for credible and committed indigenes of the State to come forward with clear vision, enthusiasm and evolve a blueprint of policies in order to transform and align the State with the progress of the 21st century. The leadership of the State must create opportunities for stock-taking, as well as charting a new course for our people.

Efforts should equally be made to salvage the lives of our youths who are predisposed to injurious attitude and behaviours as a result of prolonged deprivation, injustice, utter neglect and lack of opportunities. The present leadership of the State must avoid the pitfalls of being perceived in worse light by a scornful, angry and frustrated generation of youths by turning over a new leaf.

Shinmo Yusuf Agbeloba, Quarry Road Abeokuta, Ogun State.

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



**FEDERAL MINISTRY OF POWER AND STEEL**

**\*PUBLIC NOTICE**

**INVITATION TO BID FOR INDEPENDENT POWER PRODUCERS (IPPs) IN NIGERIA**

Further to our recent advertisement in This Day Newspaper of 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2005 and Daily Trust Newspaper of 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2005, in respect of the above subject matter, the Public is hereby notified that the submission date has been extended for a period of one month.

2. In view of the foregoing, the submission date is accordingly extended to 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2005 at 4.00 p.m.

The Permanent Secretary,  
FEDERAL MINISTRY OF POWER & STEEL  
Federal Secretariat Complex, Shehu Shagari Way,  
Abuja.

Signed:  
Engr. S. M. Mahmood FNSE  
Permanent Secretary,  
Federal Ministry of Power & Steel

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O. Busari: Pharmacy, Manchester U; A. Eyisi: Law, Sheffield U; B. Hammanga: Computer Sci. Loughborough U; I. Huthman: Accounting, Cardiff U; L. Lawson: Economics, Bristol UWE O. Jokosenu: Law, Sheffield U; N. Makunga: Business, Kent U; A. Muoneke: Computing, Kent U; M. Nyako: Agriculture, Reading U;  
Z. Nyako: Law, Kent U; E. Obanero: Business IT, London U; N. Ogbuagu: Com. Sys. Engr. Birmingham U; M. Ogomudia: Elec. Engr. Nottingham U; T. Ogunde: Elec. Engr. Nottingham U; U. Okeke: Law, Kent U; C.N. Okaka: Computer Sci. Kent U; C.E. Okeke: Business, Kent U; A. Omolayo: Pharmacy, Brighton U; A. Onasanya: Architecture, Dundee U; C. Onukwue: Accounting, Essex U; I. Onukwue: Economics, Essex U; N. Opene: Chem. Engr. Birmingham U; M. Waziri: Pharmacy, Brighton U; A. Zakariyu: Economics, Birmingham U.

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Students and their sponsors are invited to meet Mr. Sean Grady, Director of Studies on his visit to Nigeria.

Thursday 10th March, Friday 11th March, Saturday 12th March at the Sheraton Hotel, Ikeja (9am - 7pm) for private meetings.

Sunday 13th, Monday 14th March, Tuesday 15th March at the Nicon Hilton Hotel, Abuja (9am - 7pm) for private meetings.

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HS



FEDERAL AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF NIGERIA

FEDERAL AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF NIGERIA

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**INVITATION TO TENDER FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF X-RAY BAGGAGE SCREENING MACHINES AND WALK - THROUGH METAL DETECTORS**

The Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) operates a number of screening machines in its airports nationwide. Reputable indigenous and foreign companies interested in the maintenance of these machines are invited to bid for the jobs as specified in the scope of works. The Maintenance period will be for one (1) year in the first instance and it is renewable on an annual basis upon satisfactory performance.

**SCOPE:**

Sourcing of spare parts and maintenance (routine, preventive, breakdown as appropriate) of

- Rapiscan Screening machines of the 5 series
- Perkin Elmer/I.3 machines - 108A 208 and 215I; Heiman machines
- Meteor 200 and sentries IIS 4W walk-through metal detectors.

The details of the above can be obtained from the tender documents.

**REQUIREMENTS/CONDITIONS:**

Prospective bidders must be sound technically and must provide evidence of experienced and professional personnel in X-ray detection systems, with proof of factory training on the machines. Documentations in the following areas will also be required,

- ▶ Certificate of incorporation,
- ▶ Manufacturers Representative
- ▶ Records of company tax payment in the last three (3) years
- ▶ Records of successful performance on similar projects
- ▶ Bank reference from a reputable commercial bank
- ▶ Certificate of registration with FAAN

**SUBMISSION OF BIDS**

The documents should be delivered by hand or courier in sealed envelopes marked 'MAINTENANCE: SCREENING MACHINES', not later than four (4) weeks from the date of this publication to **The Board Secretary, Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria, Headquarters, Ikeja, Lagos.**

Bid documents including the tender procedure can be collected from the same office after payment of a non-refundable deposit of N20,000.00 (Twenty Thousand Naira only).

**Tenderers will be informed of the date for the opening of tenders.**

Signed:  
**Management**



# NASARAWA STATE GOVERNMENT

## Statement of Assets and liabilities as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 1998

ASSETS	NOTES	1998	1997
		N	N
Bank Balance & Cash	1	165,833,528	2,212,646
Remittance In-Transit	2	(10,216,079)	47,618,482
Imprest	3	261,600	90,000
Loans and Advances	4	5,689,328	4,746,820
Stations Balances	5	27,659,319	43,928,407
Deposit	6	42,275,234	0
		<b>231,502,930</b>	<b>98,596,355</b>
Investments	7	85,644,935	0
		<b>317,147,865</b>	<b>98,596,355</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Consolidated Revenue Fund		248,795,628	38,011,454
Bank Overdraft	8	68,288,552	60,584,901
Station Deposit	9	10,000	0
Housing Loan	10	53,685	0
		<b>317,147,865</b>	<b>98,596,355</b>

## Statement of consolidated revenue Fund for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 1998

	1998 Budget N	1998 Actual N	Variance N	1997 Actual N
Balance as at 1st January	38,011,454	38,011,454	-	216,877,080
<b>ADD: RECURRENT REVENUE</b>				
Taxes	61,057,000	82,664,977	21,607,977	25,976,855
Fines and fees	72,590,000	22,057,961	(50,532,039)	35,838,273
Licenses	11,410,000	4,488,280	(6,921,720)	6,142,385
Earnings and sales	28,207,000	3,092,175	(25,114,825)	707,608
Rent on Government properties	27,240,000	121,300	(27,118,700)	3,526,319
Interest and dividends	5,000,000	6,301,471	1,301,473	5,900,848
Re-imburement	50,000,000	46,438,849	(3,561,151)	9,629
Miscellaneous income	125,151,967	48,475,552	(76,676,415)	7,866,185
Statutory Revenue Allocation	1,118,946,000	1,397,745,138	287,799,138	1,078,855,185
VAT Allocation Federation Account	0	0	-	255,866,175
<b>Total Revenue (A)</b>	<b>1,537,613,421</b>	<b>1,649,397,159</b>	<b>111,783,738</b>	<b>1,6637,566,938</b>
<b>LESS: RECURRENT EXPENDITURE</b>				
Personnel Costs	202,654,000	2034,129,424	(475,424)	201,566,102
Overhead Costs	268,585,000	418,507,962	(149,922,962)	321,606,568
Grants, Contribution/Subventions	386,750,000	266,504,439	120,245,561	165,104,239
Public Dept Charges	50,000,000	68,368,993	18,368,993	-
Pension and Gratuities	20,000,000	48,531,054	(28,531,054)	38,918,895
<b>Total Recurrent Expenditure (B)</b>	<b>927,989,000</b>	<b>1,005,041,872</b>	<b>(77,052,872)</b>	<b>727,195,804</b>
<b>Operating Balance (A-B)</b>	<b>609,624,421</b>	<b>644,355,287</b>	<b>34,730,866</b>	<b>910,371,134</b>
<b>APPROPRIATION/TRANSFER</b>				
Capital Development Fund	(609,624,421)	(395,559,659)	214,064,762	(872,359,680)
<b>Balance Carried forward</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>248,795,628</b>	<b>248,795,628</b>	<b>38,011,454</b>

## Statement of capital development fund for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 1998

	1998 Budget N	1998 Actual N	Variance N	1997 Actual N
Balance as at 1 <sup>st</sup> January	-	-	-	-
<b>ADD: CAPITAL RECEIPTS</b>				
Value added Tax (VAT)	255,424,000	305,113,192	49,689,192	-
Special grants	280,912,546	950,000,000	669,087,454	-
Internal loan	0	229,000,000	229,000,000	-
<b>Total Capital Receipt (A)</b>	<b>536,336,546</b>	<b>1,484,113,192</b>	<b>947,776,646</b>	-
<b>LESS: CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</b>				
<b>Economic Sector:</b>				
Agriculture & Rural Development	15,000,000	42,102,700	(27,102,700)	25,000,000
DFPRI	12,489,000	1,496,000	10,993,000	-
Livestock and veterinary	4,000,000	0	4,000,000	-
Forestry and wildlife	500,000	0	500,000	-
Fisheries	500,000	0	500,000	-

Commerce and Industry	10,000,000	137,798,343	(127,798,343)	-
Tourism and hotel Development	15,000,000	6,000,000	9,000,000	17,050,000
Nasarawa Invest. and mineral dev.	20,000,000	17,000,000	3,000,000	-
Transport sector	400,000,000	218,000,000	182,000,000	-
Nasarawa Transport service	12,000,000	0	12,000,000	124,710,687
<b>SOCIAL SERVICES SECTOR:</b>				
Education sector	25,000,000	61,766,789	(36,766,789)	12,000,000
Relevant Technology Board	1,000,000	0	1,000,000	-
Health Sector	50,000,000	423,280,775	(373,280,775)	55,942,065
Rural Electrification	20,000,000	0	20,000,000	20,000,000
Information	10,000,000	5,145,000	4,855,000	5,346,350
Nasarawa Publishing Company	-	-	-	-
Nasarawa Broadcasting Services	30,000,000	114,292,970	(84,292,970)	4,515,000
Sports Development	2,500,000	11,000,000	(8,500,000)	13,845,645
Arts and culture	2,500,000	17,557,220	(15,057,220)	-
Social development	5,000,000	0	5,000,000	4,600,000
Housing Dev.	20,000,000	193,547,237	(173,547,237)	224,676,191
Women Affairs and Social dev.	10,000,000	0	74,744,674	-
Community development	1,000,000	0	1,000,000	-
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL SECTOR:</b>				
Water Supply	100,000,000	35,478,900	74,521,100	90,672,400
Town and country Planning (Lands)	8,000,000	19,308,000	11,308,000	12,581,000
Town and country Planning (NUDB)	-	-	-	-
Urban Development	58,615,110	5,000,000	53,615,110	-
Environmental Protection	1,500,000	0	1,500,000	-
Sewage and Drainages	12,511,000	3,655,000	8,856,000	-
<b>ADMINISTRATION SECTOR</b>				
SSG's Office	150,845,857	513,432,328	(362,586,471)	251,420,342
High Court of Justice	20,000,000	25,611,863	(5,611,863)	-
Ministry of Justice	15,000,000	0	15,000,000	-
Ministry of Finance	5,000,000	12,944,400	(7,944,400)	-
Nasarawa Internal Revenue Service	2,000,000	0	2,000,000	-
Shari'a Court of Appeal	1,000,000	0	1,000,000	-
Nasarawa State House of assembly	90,000,000	15,255,326	74,744,674	-
Local Government Service Commission	6,000,000	0	3,665,000	-
Min. for Women Affairs and Social Dev.	10,000,000	0	6,000,000	-
<b>Total Capital Expenditure (B)</b>	<b>1,145,960,967</b>	<b>1,879,672,851</b>	<b>(733,711,884)</b>	<b>872,359,680</b>
<b>Balance to consolidate Rev. Fund (A B)</b>	<b>(609,624,421)</b>	<b>(395,559,659)</b>	<b>214,064,762</b>	<b>(872,359,680)</b>

Prince Aliyu Abdullahi Idde (CNA)  
Accountant-General  
Nasarawa state

### Auditor's General certificate

In compliance with section 125 of the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1976, I have examined the Accounts and the financial Statement of Nasarawa State Government of Nigeria for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 1998. Proper returns have been rendered by ministries and departments and their related parastatals in conformity with the public finances (control and Managements) Law of 1958. I have obtained all information and explanation necessary in the discharge of my responsibility.

The audit was conducted in accordance with auditing requirements as specified in the audit law (chapter 12) of Nasarawa state of Nigeria, 1996. In addition, projects and programmes were verified in line with the concept of performance in audit. In the discharge of my responsibility as required by section 125(5) of the same constitution, the financial statements have been certified subject to comments contained in this report.

In my opinion, projects and programmes executed were satisfactory in consideration of funds employed. Furthermore, the financial statement (Nos. 1-3) and related schedules give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of Nasarawa State Government as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 1998.

Yakubu Akwe (CNA)  
Auditor-General,  
Nasarawa State.



# NASARAWA STATE GOVERNMENT

## Statement of assets and liabilities for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 1999

	NOTES	1999 N	1998 N
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Cash in hand (Imprest)	2	372,600	261,600
Cash at Bank	3	182,129,033	165,833,529
Remittances in Transit	4	241,741	(10,216,080)
Other Station balances	5	87,004,948	(27,669,319)
		<b>511,248,041</b>	<b>183,538,368</b>
<b>OTHER ASSETS</b>			
Investment	6,	30,000,000	20,000,000
Loans and advances	7	39,415,328,	5,689,328
Deposits	8	113,970,114	107,920,169
		<b>694,633,483</b>	<b>317,147,865</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Bank Overdraft	9	420,153,992	68,288,552
Consolidated revenue Fund	10	274,415,806	248,795,628
Other Creditors	11	63,685	63,685
		<b>694,633,483</b>	<b>317,147,865</b>

Agriculture and Rural Dev.	450	15,000,000	1,500,000	16,500,000
Nasarawa Integrated Rural Dev.	450A	15,000,000	51,747,540	66,747,540
Livestock and veterinary	451	5,000,000	—	5,000,000
Forestry	452	1,000,000	74,000	1,075,000
Fisheries	453	1,000,000	—	1,000,000
Manufacturing (Com. and Ind.)	454	20,000,000	—	20,000,000
Rural electrification	455	20,000,000	—	20,000,000
Tourism and Hotel Development	456	20,000,000	1,984,912	21,984,912
Nasarawa Invest. and Prop. Dev.	456B	—	37,000,000	37,000,000
Transport	457	100,000,000	151,368,086	251,368,086
Nasarawa Express Service	457A	20,000,000	7,797,768	27,797,768
Education	458	80,000,000	156,322,737	236,322,737
Relevant Technology Board	458A	3,000,000	—	3,000,000
Health	459	100,000,000	142,660,169	242,660,169
Information	460	20,000,000	20,071,339	40,071,339
Nasarawa Broadcasting Corp.	460A	60,000,000	159,172,696	219,172,696
Sports	461	5,000,000	2,020,823	7,028,230
Sewage and drainage	463	60,000,000	500,000,60	500,000
Housing	464	76,000,000	219,545,505	295,545,505
Town and country plan. (L & S.)	465	20,000,000	36,452,660	54,452,660
Town & Country Plann. (NUDB)	465A	125,000,000	8,951,456	133,951,456
Environ. Protection Agency	465B	30,000,000	—	30,000,000
Community Development	466	8,000,000	—	8,000,000
Secretary to the state govt.	467	106,000,000	470,346,596	576,346,596
High Court of justice	467A	30,000,000.00	30,000.00	30,000,000
Justice	467B	20,000,000	20,000,000	20,000,000
Finance	467C	20,000,000	20,000,000	20,000,000
Nasarawa Internal Rev. Service	467D	15,000,000	4,593,772	19,593,772
Nasarawa House of Assembly	467E	186,825,000	83,901,268	270,726,268
Commission for Women Affairs	167F	20,000,000	13,000,000	33,000,000
Local Govt. Service Comm.	468A	10,000,000	—	10,000,000
Nasarawa Publishing Company	468B	—	24,000,000	24,000,000
		<b>1,211,825,000</b>	<b>1,211,825,000</b>	<b>381,187,327</b>

## Statement of consolidated revenue fund for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 1999

	Code	Budget N	Actual N	Variations N
Balance b/f at January				
Add: Recurrent REVENUE				
Taxes	401	74,450,000	18,997,841	(55,529,12)
Fines and fees	402	389,825,000	28,997,841	(360,827,15)
Licences	403	30,220,000	510,750	(29,709,25)
Earnings and Sales	404	40,482,000	18,661,224	(21,820,75)
Rent on Government Property	405	21,298,330	99,090	(21,199,24)
Interest	406	5,000,000	2,319,389	(2,680,61)
Re-imburement	407	50,000,000	49,496,059	(503,94)
Miscellaneous Income	408	184,103,500	2,351,821	(181,571,67)
Statutory Allocation	409	1,448,052,622	2,176,003,209	(772,950,58)
		<b>2,492,227,080</b>	<b>2,545,935,908</b>	<b>53,708.82)</b>
<b>LESS: RECURRENT EXPENDITURE</b>				
Personnel Costs		431,486,000	507,895,833	76,409,83)
Overhead Costs		277,643,000	531,150,037	253,507,03)
Grants/Subventions		486,950,000	474,057,017	(12,892,98)
Public Debt Charges		50,000,000	157,368,325	107,368,32)
Pension and Gratuities		70,000,000	73,523,716	(3,523,7)
		<b>1,316,079,000</b>	<b>1,743,994,928</b>	<b>427,915,92)</b>
		1,176,148,080	801,940,980	(374,207,10?)
<b>LESS: TRANSFER TO CAPITAL DEV. FUND</b>		<b>(1,176,148,080)</b>	<b>(527,525,174)</b>	<b>(648,622,90?)</b>
<b>BALANCE C/F AT 31<sup>ST</sup> DEC.</b>		<b>274,415,806</b>	<b>274,415,80)</b>	

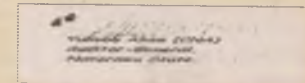
Prince Aliyu Abdullahi Idde (CNA)  
Accountant-General  
Nasarawa state

## AUDITOR'S GENERAL CERTIFICATE

In compliance with section 125 of the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, I have examined the Accounts and the financial Statement of Nasarawa State Government of Nigeria for the year ended 31st December, 1999. Proper returns have been rendered by ministries and departments and their related parastatals in conformity with the public finances (control and Managements) Law of 1958. I have obtained all information and explanation necessary in the discharge of my responsibility.

The audit was conducted in accordance with auditing requirements as specified in the audit law (chapter 12) of Nasarawa state of Nigeria, 1976. In addition, projects and programmes were verified in line with the concept of performance in audit. In the discharge of my responsibility as required by section 125(5) of the same constitution, the financial statements have been certified subject to comments contained in this report.

In my opinion, projects and programmes executed were satisfactory in consideration of funds employed. Furthermore, the financial statement (Ncs. 1-3) and related schedules give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of Nasarawa State Government as at 31st December 1999.



Yakubu Akewe (CNA)  
Auditor-General,  
Nasarawa State

## Statement of capital development fund for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 1999

	Budgeted	Actual	Variance
Balance b/f at 1 January	—	—	—
Capital Receipts	—	—	—
Value Added Tax (VAT)	—	434,014,764	434,014,764
Consolidated Rev. Fund	709,994,927	527,525,174	182,469,753
Special Grants	501,830,073	631,472,389	(129,642,316)
	<b>1,211,825,000</b>	<b>1,593,012,327</b>	<b>(381,187,327)</b>

# Trust International

Africa

## 350,000 African refugees back home in 2004 - UN

More than 350,000 African refugees were able to return to their homelands in 2004, but some 4 million remain in limbo because of sustained conflicts on the continent, the UN refugee agency said.

Another half a million Africans were expected to return home this year, as refugee levels continue to drop from their mid-1990s peaks, said David Lambo, director of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees' Africa Bureau in Geneva. Sustained peace and long-term investment will be needed to facilitate more repatriation and to make these returns lasting, he said.

"It is important in Africa to stabilise the continent," Lambo said Monday. "Given the right type of support from the international community over the next several years, we could actually repatriate the remaining (refugees) we still have in countries of asylum."

## S/Africa renames capital Tshwane

In a symbolic break with apartheid, officials in South Africa's capital voted Monday to rename the city Tshwane, retaining the name Pretoria for the city centre only.

The decision was taken at a special meeting of the governing African National Congress dominated metropolitan council, the *South African Press Association* reported.

"By embarking on this process and project of transformation, our country is making a clear distinction between the old and the new, the past and the present," Executive Mayor Smailiso Mkhathshwa was quoted as saying during a four-hour debate.

The city of 2 million, established by white settlers in 1855, was named after Andries Pretorius, a leader in the Afrikaners' "Great Trek" into the interior of the country. Tshwane, which means "we are the same," was the name used by some of the region's earliest African settlers.

The South African Geographic Names Council is expected to approve the change when it convenes in October and begin the process of changing the city's name on maps.

Monday's vote is the latest in a series of geographic name changes since South Africa's first all-race elections in 1994 ended decades of white-minority rule.

The government said South Africans should not have to live in cities, towns and streets named after the people responsible for their racial oppression.

Opposition councilors argued Monday that the process was a waste of money, and said the move to rename Pretoria threatens to split the capital along racial lines.

The majority of refugees are returning to nine African countries stricken by conflicts in recent years — Angola, Burundi, Congo, Eritrea, Liberia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia and Sudan. Lambo cited Angola and Sierra Leone as examples from 2004 of successful repatriation programme, but said they still faced challenges reintegrating returnees.

"What is absolutely vital is that we get long-term sustainable support for these areas," he said. "The movement stage is difficult, but in a way it's the easiest part of the process."

Angola's civil war which began after independence from Portugal in 1975 and ended three years ago uprooted some 4 million people, or about one-third of the population. More than 200,000 have been repatriated in the last two years, and Lambo said he was confident the remaining 75,000 would be able to return in 2005.

In Sierra Leone, which had an 11-year civil war that also ended in 2002, the UNHCR has "completed the repatriation" of the more than 270,000 people uprooted by the conflict, Lambo said.

But in both cases, peace is fragile and renewed hostilities could cause many to flee again, he said.

"In Sierra Leone, you still have 80 percent unemployment there among the group who can cause the biggest problem: the youth," he said.

Lambo identified Sudan as a "black cloud" on the continent, bucking the trend of diminishing numbers of refugees throughout Africa.

Despite a peace treaty signed in January ending 21 years of civil war in south Sudan, Lambo said the country was not ready for a major influx of returning refugees from Uganda, which he estimated at half a million.

"There's a lot to do before we can really start promoting repatriation in any major way into Sudan," he said.

In Sudan's separate conflict in its western region of Darfur, some 200,000 refugees have fled to makeshift camps in neighbouring Chad, in often awful conditions. But Lambo said it would be impossible to begin a return operation while fighting and insecurity persist in the region.

"We have got to find a political solution (in Darfur)," he said.



Sierra Leone former military ruler, Johny Paul Koroma

## S/Leone war crimes trial begins

Three members of Sierra Leone's former military government have gone on trial, accused of committing crimes against humanity during the civil war. Alex Tamba Brima, Brima Bazzy Kamara and Santigie Borbor Kanu deny allegations of murder, rape, sexual slavery and recruiting child soldiers.

The UN-backed court said they were prominent members of the junta which seized power following a coup in 1997.

Many thousands of people were killed, raped and mutilated in the 10-year war.

In their opening address, prosecutors said the evidence they would present would "show pain, agony, suffering, sorrow and grief beyond human description, understanding and reason."

They said the trial would hear evidence from young men who had their hands cut off, women who were gang-raped and children forced to become soldiers.

"In a decade of painful and horrific warfare, their intense criminal actions over a relatively short period of time took the suffering to a new dimension and traumatised an entire nation," said Chief Prosecutor David Crane of the three defendants.

Johnny Paul Koroma, leader of the junta, the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council, has also been charged, but his whereabouts are not known.

There were reports two years ago that he had been killed in neighbouring Liberia, but they were never confirmed.

Former Liberian President Charles Taylor is also wanted by the court for allegedly backing Sierra Leone's RUF rebels.

He is in exile in Nigeria after resigning as part of a deal to end Liberia's civil war.

Last week, Mr Crane announced that he would be stepping down in July for family reasons.

Unlike the war crimes tribunals for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia, the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone is based where the alleged crimes occurred and draws on both national and international law.

## 500 women treated for rape in Darfur-Report

About 500 women in Darfur have been treated for rape in recent months and most said their attackers were militiamen or soldiers, according to an aid agency report obtained by *Reuters* Monday.

But the number of rape victims is probably higher as many are afraid to report the crime for fear of stigmatisation and mistreatment, said the study prepared by *Medecins Sans Frontieres* (MSF).

UN aid Chief Jan Egeland said he fully backed the report, which he said included some of the first documented medical evidence of the widespread

abuses against women in the arid region in western Sudan.

He said armed men and government soldiers had been involved in rape, although it was sometimes difficult to fully identify the perpetrators.

"It's generally armed men in militias but I think also government soldiers have been involved and also many of the ethnic militias," he said.

Egeland said the government could not continue to allow impunity for these crimes and the guilty must be brought to justice.

"The problem is acute — it's wide ranging. Sudan never had this kind of

systematic rape before," said Egeland, the UN under secretary-general for humanitarian affairs.

"Now Sudan has the same problem that we see in many other African and other conflicts and the Sudanese government has to face up to this," he told reporters in Khartoum.

The government in the predominantly Muslim country has accused media and aid groups of exaggerating the extent of rape during a more than 2-year-old rebellion in Darfur.

The MSF study said more than 80 percent of the victims reported that their attackers were militiamen or soldiers. It did not specify whether the militiamen included rebel factions.

In anonymous accounts, it described how three women in West Darfur state were beaten and raped by five men last October.

"After they abused us, they told us that now we would have Arab babies; and if they would find any Fur women, they would rape them again to change the color of their children," the women said in the report.

The Fur is one of three non-Arab tribes who form the majority of the almost 2 million people displaced in Darfur, where rebels took up arms in early 2003 accusing Khartoum of neglecting the western region and favouring Arab tribes.

## DR Congo needs to end widespread rape cases - Right group

A human rights group said the justice system in the Democratic Republic of Congo needs urgent reform to end widespread rape in eastern areas.

The US-based Human Rights Watch said that although more rape victims have gone to court, the government has not done enough to ensure prosecutions.

The organisation said armed men have raped tens of thousands of women and girls since civil war began in 1998.

The violence has continued despite an official end to the civil war in 2003.

HRW said that in some parts of eastern DR Congo, rape has become so prevalent the women have stopped going to work in the fields.

Some of the victims are

girls as young as three. Men and boys have also been raped.

But sexual violence in eastern DR Congo is not a random act.

It is often used as a weapon of war; a means of humiliating and controlling civilian populations.

Many victims are gang-raped. Some are also violated with objects like sticks and knives.

Only a handful of the perpetrators have been brought to justice. But HRW's Alison Deforges said women in eastern DR Congo are now fighting to end this impunity.

"In the past, this was an area where there was virtually no action by victims — they were too ashamed, too weak, too afraid to try to do anything.

"But the remarkable

development in the last year has been an effort by a number of victims to bring their aggressors to justice," she said.

But the challenges they face in taking their cases to court are huge.

Prosecutors are sometimes unwilling to investigate crimes of rape; witnesses are intimidated; and military authorities often refuse to cooperate.

## Militiamen kill 20 in Somalia

Militiamen involved in a new round of factional fighting in central Somalia have killed 20 people and wounded at least nine, hospital officials have said.

The bloodshed on Sunday underscores the task facing a fledgling government trying to establish itself in the lawless Horn of Africa country after it was formed in the safety of neighbouring Kenya last year.

There was no clear word on what started the violence near the town of Hobyo 730km north of Mogadishu, but fighting

between armed gangs in the area has killed up to 200 people and displaced thousands in recent months in disputes over land and blood feuds. Residents said Sunday's clash, like recent ones, pitted fighters of the Saad wing of the Habr Gedir sub-clan of the Hawiye.

Somalia's commercially most powerful clan, against the Habr Gedir's Sulaiman wing.

The fighting erupted at the villages of Hin-dawaco, Megajib and Saqirro, 18km outside Hobyo and then spread into Hobyo itself, forcing more

than 5000 terrified residents to flee, witnesses contacted by radio said.

Somalia, a country of about 10 million, has since 1991 been carved up into fiefdoms run by regional commanders.

Somalia's new President Abd Allah Yusuf and Prime Minister Muhammad Ali Gedi, both of whom are still based in Nairobi, toured areas in Somalia in late February and early March to prepare for the return of their government, which intends to disarm the country's many militias.

# Trust International

## Middle East

### Syrian troops leaving Lebanon

Syrian soldiers have loaded equipment and furniture into trucks and driven east from Lebanese mountain positions they have held for decades, the first signs of a redeployment announced earlier in the day by the leaders of the neighbouring countries.

Syrian President Bashar al-Asad and his Lebanese counterpart, Emile Lahud, met in Damascus to outline plans for a withdrawal of the Syrian military.

While announcing that the troops would redeploy to the eastern Bekaa Valley closer to the Syrian border by the end of March, they were vague on the timing of a complete withdrawal from Lebanon.

The proposed troop movement was quickly rejected by the United States as insufficient, and the absence of a timeline was unlikely to satisfy the Lebanese opposition and the international community, which have demanded a full withdrawal of Syria's 14,000 troops.

Foreign nations - particularly the United States, France, Russia and the United Nations - have firmly demanded that Syria withdraw its troops and cease its political

influence on its smaller neighbour.

The United States has called for a complete withdrawal of Syrian soldiers and intelligence agents from Lebanon before parliamentary elections expected in April and May.

"We stand with the Lebanese people, and the Lebanese people, I think, are speaking very clearly," said White House spokesman Scott McClellan, who called the Damascus agreement a "half measure".

"They want a future that is sovereign, independent and free from outside influence and intimidation," McClellan said.

Al-Asad and Lahud said Syrian troops will first pull back from northern and central Lebanon to the east, near

Syria's border. Then, military officials from both countries have a month to decide how many Syrian troops will remain in the Bekaa Valley and how long they will stay there.

After a negotiated timeframe, the two governments will "agree to complete the withdrawal of the remaining forces," the announcement said.

Although it did not set a timetable for complete withdrawal, it stated: "The Syrians and Lebanese agree on continuing the withdrawal of Syrian Arab forces."

In Washington, the Syrian ambassador to the United States, Imad Mustafa, told CNN that Syria would withdraw all its troops from Lebanon within a few months. The withdrawal would be done in two stages, he said.

A British man working in Afghanistan as an adviser to the Afghan government has been shot dead in the capital, Kabul.

Stephen MacQueen was killed late on Monday while driving alone in his car on a main road in the city centre, near a UN building and the Dutch embassy.

Police said he died after his car was shot at from another vehicle, and the attackers escaped immediately.

The Foreign Office has informed his next of kin, an embassy spokesman said.

Mr MacQueen, 41, had been working for Afghanistan's ministry of rural rehabilitation and development.

He was working on a rural credit scheme, one of its aims being to reduce the dependence of farmers on growing opium.

The BBC's correspondent in Kabul has been to the scene of the shooting and counted three bullet holes in a metal gate nearby.

### Briton shot dead in Afghanistan

ne of the shooting and counted three bullet holes in a metal gate nearby.

BBC correspondent said that two Afghan guards, one from the Dutch embassy and another from the nearby United Nations guest house, are both reported to have been taken away for questioning by police.

Mr MacQueen was a well-known figure in the development community in Kabul, and was due to leave Afghanistan later this week after finishing his contract.

Correspondents said the shooting is bound to lead to a reassessment of security in Kabul, after months of relative calm.

The UN estimates that there are around 2,000 Westerners working in Afghanistan as diplomats or aid workers.

Most are based in Kabul, which is generally considered to be safer than other parts of the country.

It is patrolled by thousands of NATO-led peacekeepers, but, even so, Westerners have been caught up in violence in the capital.

An American woman was killed in a suicide bomb attack in the city in October, the same month as three United Nations workers were kidnapped. They were released unharmed in November.

Last August a car bomb went off outside the offices of an American security firm in the city. At least three Americans and three Afghans died in the blast, which the Taliban said it carried out.



## VACANCY

### PROGRAMME OFFICE MANAGER, KANO

Applications are invited for the position of Programme Office Manager in Kano, Kano State.

The States and Local Government Programme (SLGP) is financed by the British Government's Department for International Development. It is intended to help State and Local Governments to build capacity to deliver services, especially to the poor, and to strengthen democratic governance (SLGP) currently operates in Kano, Lagos, Jigawa, and Enugu with a head office in Abuja,

Reporting to the State Programme Manager, with functional responsibility to the Finance and Administration Manager in Abuja, you will be responsible for:

- \* Financial administration of the state government's funds.
- \* Maintaining the accounting records for the office to a very high standard.
- \* Submission of monthly accounting returns to Abuja.
- \* Preparation of monthly cash flow forecasts.
- \* General office management.
- \* Supervision of the maintenance of the programme's properties and equipment.
- \* Control and maintenance of the office I. T. equipment.
- \* Providing administrative support to visiting consultants.

Although the position requires sound accounting knowledge, you should be multi-skilled and able to deal effectively with a diverse range of tasks. You must be able to prove that you are:

- \* Holding a University Degree or Diploma in Accounting.
- \* Computer literate with excellent skills in MS Excel. You should also be able to demonstrate that you have sufficient experience of computer housekeeping to take on the role of I. T. manager for the office.
- \* Energetic, self-motivated, flexible and hands-on.
- \* Sufficiently familiar with Kano State to ensure that you can carry out your duties with minimum supervision.

Written applications, including a covering letter, CV and copies of credentials, should be submitted to:

The Programme Manager  
 State and Local Government Programme (SLGP)  
 8 Suleiman Crescent  
 Kano, Nigeria.

The closing date for applications is 5.00 pm on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2005. The State and Local Government Programme is an equal opportunities employer. Applications are particularly welcomed from women with the appropriate qualifications. More details on SLGP can be found at [www.slgpnigeria.org](http://www.slgpnigeria.org)

### Security summit opens in Madrid

Anti-terrorism experts and political leaders have begun a four-day summit in Madrid looking at ways of dealing with international terrorism.

UN Secretary Kofi Annan, EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana and former US president Bill Clinton are due to attend the meeting.

The talks open three days ahead of the first anniversary of the 11 March train bombings, which killed 191.

Twenty-two people have been jailed so far in connection with the 2004 bombs.

The attack was claimed by a Moroccan cell with links to Al-Qaeda, and most of the arrested are Moroccan citizens.

Spanish authorities have launched a special security plan involving a NATO plane and more than 7,000 police to protect the event, which will look into how the terror threat can be reduced.

An anti-aircraft battery and police units specialised in nuclear and biochemical warfare have also been deployed.

But five Spanish police officers guarding the conference were killed in an accident yesterday, when a truck ploughed into a checkpoint before dawn.

More than a dozen heads of state, including King Juan Carlos of Spain and King Mohammed VI of Morocco, are due to attend along with some 200 international terror experts.

At the end of the meeting, organised by the Club of Madrid, the experts are due to issue a "Madrid Agenda" with guidelines on how to tackle the terror threat.

# Trust International World Report

## Muslims face more hostility, intolerance in post 9/11 Europe

A human rights group has reported that intolerance and discrimination towards Muslims has risen in Western Europe since September 11th, and that's it become more legitimate to openly express hostility against Muslims in the post

9/11 period. "As the perceived threat of religious extremism has been given wide attention in public debate, pre-existing prejudices and discrimination against Muslims have been reinforced," said the Helsinki International Fed-

eration of Human Rights (IFH). "Muslims have increasingly felt that they are viewed with distrust and hostility and that they are stigmatised because of their beliefs."

The IFH has reported an increase in verbal and physical attacks on Muslims and Muslim institutions and property. Furthermore there's been a rise in the unbalanced and stereotypical media portrayals of Muslims as "aliens" and an "enemy within" as well as discrimination in employment and aggressive political rhetoric by popular right-wing parties.

"No country has escaped this phenomenon," said IFH president Ulrich Fischer, referring to the federation's member countries; Germany, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Spain, France, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Britain and Sweden.

"The situation is getting worse and is marked by regular surges, as happened during the passing of the law in France against the wearing of the veil by Muslims in schools or the murder of (Dutch film maker) Theo van Gogh," said IFH director, Aaron Rhodes.

According to the report, the debate in France over the French law which forbids religious clothing in schools had encouraged discrimination against Muslim women who wear headscarves.

As a result of the law some women have been unable to marry, vote or take exams in a headscarf, the report states.

While in Britain the media have created the impression that justice officials are successfully prosecuting Muslim terror suspects, although only a few people have been convicted and the vast majority of those who are arrested on allegations of terrorism are released without charge.

The report also said that Muslim schools in the Netherlands are widely believed to "undermine integration efforts" although it says such claims are "poorly supported by facts."

## Bush appoints hardliner as UN envoy

US President George W Bush has named Undersecretary of State John Bolton as his choice to be US ambassador to the United Nations.

Mr Bolton, currently the top US arms control expert, is known to be a harsh critic of the UN.

His appointment was quickly criticised by opposition Democrats, who said the move sent out "all the wrong signals".

Mr Bolton must be confirmed by the US Senate before he can succeed John Danforth, who retired in January.

His nomination was announced by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, who described him as a "tough-minded diplomat" who "knew how to get things done".

His track record, she said, was proof of his commitment to multilateral action and reform of the UN.

But Senator John Kerry, defeated in last year's presidential election, asked: "Why would [President Bush] choose someone who has expressed such disdain for working with our allies?"

BBC state department correspondent said Mr Bolton's confirmation hearing in the Senate is likely to be stormy.

He has been a leading hawk on Iran, Iraq and North Korea, admired by many Republicans and neo-conservatives, but not seen as particularly close to former Secretary of State Colin Powell.

He has in the past been

quoted as saying there is no such thing as the United Nations.

At the UN, diplomats gave the appointment a cautious welcome.

"I hope that once he is here he will have a deeper perception of what the UN is about," said Chinese Ambassador Wang Guangya.

A spokesman for UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said: "We have nothing against people who hold us accountable."

Mr Bolton has recently been involved in multilateral talks with North Korea over its nuclear programme.

He has often accused UN bodies of not taking a tough enough stance against nations such as Iran and North Korea.

He was excluded from talks on North Korea's nuclear programme after trading insults with the country's ruler, Kim Jong-Il.

But the US administration said Mr Bolton will work well at the UN.



John Bolton

## 'Palestinians occupation main cause of Muslim anger in US'

An Asian scholar's latest book has generated wide spread debates on why Muslims hate America.

Kishore Mahbubani states that US policy towards the Middle East has unwittingly made Osama bin Laden somewhat of a popular figure in the region.

Singapore's former two-term chief diplomat to the UN warned that the level of anger in the Islamic world will become even stronger if the US does not act swiftly to enhance its image amongst Muslims.

"I think the moment to rectify the situation is now," he told a forum in Washington last week about his new book, "Beyond the Age of Innocence: Rebuilding Trust between America and the World."

In the thought-provoking book, Mahbubani, now a Singapore university dean, describe positive US contributions to global society and how the superpower abruptly walked away from the world when the Cold War ended.

He also conveyed his own anguish over deepening distrust and resentment of the United States.

"Even in East Asia, where its rise as an economic power was made aided by US political, military and financial support, "the tone of conversation about America, sadly speaking, has turned negative," he said.

"In my conversations, when I travel around the world, I discover there are two sets of con-

versation when you have Americans in the room and everybody will say the right, nice things and how wonderful America is.

"And then the Americans will leave the room and the real conversation begins. And inevitably, the comment comes up: "Who do these people think they are?"

Mahbubani recounted that when he asks Muslim friends

what is "the number one issue" for resenting the U.S., the Palestinians plight was cited as the main reason.

"My fear — and this by the way is a very real fear — is that 10 years from now, 20 years from now, if we get things wrong, then the level of anger in the Islamic world may be much heavier, much stronger than it is now," warned Mahbubani.

"The purpose of my book is to tell Americans that these are the voices I hear when they speak about you in private."

## Kosovo PM faces war crimes charges

The Prime Minister of Kosovo, Ramush Haradinaj, has been charged with war crimes by the UN tribunal in The Hague, Kosovo government sources said.

The officials - who were not named - said he would resign and fly to The Hague today.

Mr Haradinaj, a former commander of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), was investigated over his role in the 1998-99 Kosovo conflict.

He led ethnic Albanian guerrillas in Kosovo's western region.

In December Mr Haradinaj, 36, was overwhelmingly endorsed by Kosovo's parliament, becoming Europe's youngest prime minister.

He heads Kosovo's third largest party, the Alliance for the Future of Kosovo - an offshoot of the political successor to the KLA.

"My position is that we

tional justice, with the ICTY [Hague tribunal]," Mr Haradinaj said before yesterday indictment was reported.

"Whatever are the obligations we will fulfil them towards justice, and I believe there is no case against me."

The tribunal in The Hague declined to confirm or deny the indictment report.

Mr Haradinaj has denied Serb accusations that his men committed atrocities against Serb civilians, but he has said he will go to The Hague to answer any charges.

International forces stepped up security in Kosovo this week.

A K-For spokesman quoted by Reuters said Germany had flown in extra troops to bolster the NATO-led K-For mission.

And the UK deployed an extra 500 troops on Monday, acting on a request from NATO.

## NIGERIA UNION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES (SOUTHERN FORUM) COMMUNIQUE

The southern forum of Nigeria Union of Local Government Employees (NULGE) consisting of the states in the South East, South-South and South West geopolitical zones met on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2005 at Delta State NULGE secretariat, Asaba to review the state of the union.

The Forum discussed extensively the lingering crisis in our Union with a view to proffering a lasting solution that will restore peace, sanity and finally move our union forward.

The forum RESOLVED as follows

1. That an Emergency meeting of the National Executive Council be convened within Ten (10) Days from the date of this communiqué. This meeting shall NOT be a pre conference National Executive Council meeting.
2. The above National Executive Council meeting shall review the resolutions of the Emergency National Executive Council meeting of 4th December 2004, with a view to bringing back peace within the NULGE Family before the National Delegate Conference.
3. The National Executive Council (NEC) meeting being sought shall among other things:
  - (i) Approve the Agenda for the National Delegates Conference in line with Rule 7 sub-rule (i)-(iii) of the Unions constitution.
  - (ii) Ensure compliance to Sections 5 and 7 of the 1985 Nigeria Union of Local Government Employees (NULGE) Electoral Regulations.
4. That the proposed National Delegate Conference scheduled for BAUCHI ON 28<sup>th</sup> TO 29<sup>th</sup> March 2005 be POSTPONED to a Date to be approved by the National Executive Council at the proposed meeting.
5. In view of the lingering crisis and the manipulations of the General Secretary Alhaji A.A. Salam within the NULGE family and the apparent use of the Unions check off dues of the Finance the crisis and feathering of personal nests, the Forum has therefore resolved to WITHHOLD check off dues remittance to the National Secretariat until further notice.
6. That an independent committee, should be constituted by the National Executive Council to handle the National Delegate Conference without interference from the General Secretary to ensure fairness to all parties.
7. The above resolutions are borne out of genuine interest and desire to restored the integrity and unity of our Union and most importantly to defend the NULGE Constitution against flagrant violation, abuse and manipulation by an official of the Union.
8. The Forum resolved that where the above resolutions are not met by the General Secretary, the Southern Forum will be compelled to hold it's own National Delegates Conference in line with the Constitutional provisions of the Nigeria Union of Local Government Employees.
9. The Forum affirm her belief in a united strong, and indivisible Nigeria Union of Local Government Employees, ALL THINGS BEING EQUAL.

### SIGNED

STATES	NAMES	DESIGNATION	SIGNATURE
ABIA	Com. Eze Idem	President	[Signature]
AKWA IBOM	Com. Adigwe Adigwe	President	[Signature]
ANAMBRA	Com. G. C. Okeke	President	[Signature]
BAYELSA	Com. G. C. Okeke	President	[Signature]
CROSS RIVER	Com. B. B. Okeke	President	[Signature]
DELTA	Com. O. O. Okeke	President	[Signature]
EBONYI	Com. K. K. Okeke	President	[Signature]
EDO	Com. A. O. K. Okeke	President	[Signature]
EKITI	Com. S. S. Okeke	President	[Signature]
IMO	Com. S. S. Okeke	President	[Signature]
OGUN	Com. S. S. Okeke	President	[Signature]
ONDO	Com. O. O. Okeke	President	[Signature]
OSUN	Com. K. K. Okeke	President	[Signature]
OYO	Com. A. A. Okeke	President	[Signature]
RIVERS	Com. T. T. Okeke	President	[Signature]
KWARA	Com. A. A. Okeke	President	[Signature]

In Attendance  
1. Com. Okeke O. O. Okeke  
2. Com. Okeke A. A. Okeke

# Business Trust

## Today's flight schedule

<b>Albarka Air</b>		
Lagos - Abuja	07:20	15:15
		13:00
Abuja - Lagos	8:45a.m.	11:00
		13:15
		17:00
Maiduguri - Abuja	06:50	
Abuja - Maid	17:00	
Lagos - Yola	1:00 p.m.	
Abuja - Yola	14:30	
Yola - Abuja	15:30	
Yola - Lagos	4:00 p.m.	
<b>Chanchangi Airlines</b>		
Lagos - Abuj	8:15a.m.	11:00a.m.
		12:10p.m.
		4:45p.m.
Kaduna - Lagos	8:30a.m.	
P/H - Lagos	9:00a.m.	4:30p.m.
Abuja - Kaduna	2:30p.m.	
Kaduna - Abuja	1:30p.m.	
<b>IRS Airlines</b>		
CBQ - Abuja	8.00 a.m.	
Abuja - Lagos	9:45a.m.	
Lagos - Kaduna	9:30a.m.	
Kano - Lagos	7:30p.m.	
Lagos - Kano	11:15a.m.	
Kaduna - Lagos	11:00a.m.	
Lagos - Abu/MM	2:30p.m.	
Abuja - MM	1:45p.m.	
MM - Abuja	3:45p.m.	
Abuja - CB	5:15p.m.	
Kano - Abuja	1:15p.m.	
Abuja - Kano	2:30p.m.	
Kano - Lagos	3:45p.m.	
Lagos - Kano	6:00p.m.	
<b>EAS Airlines</b>		
Lagos - Abuja	8:15p.m.	11:45a.m.
		5:45p.m.
Abuja - Lagos	10:15a.m.	7:15p.m.
Lagos - Jos	11:45a.m.	
Jos - Lagos	2:30pm.	
<b>Dasab Airlines</b>		
Auja - Lagos	8:30 a.m.	
Lagos - PHC	10:30 a.m.	
PHC - Lagos	12:30 a.m.	
Lagos - Kano	2:30 p.m.	
Kano - Lagos	4:30 p.m.	
Lagos - Abuja	6:30pm.	
<b>ADC Airline</b>		
Lagos - Abuja	7:15 a.m.	12:45 p.m.
Abuja - Lagos	8:55 a.m.	
Lagos - Calabar	11:15 a.m.	
Calabar - Lagos	7:20 a.m.	
P/H - Lagos	9:45 a.m.	
Lagos - sokoto	8:55a.m.	
Sokoto - Lagos	11:55a.m.	

Most airlines operate the same flight schedule on week days.

## Again, WAMZ shifts Eco deadline

Plans for a new common currency shared by five West African countries are unlikely to be ready by the targeted July launch date, Charles Soludo, governor of Nigeria's central bank, said last week.

The West African Monetary Zone (WAMZ) had earlier fixed January 1, 2005 for the introduction of the currency, but shifted the deadline to July 1, this year.

Speaking to journalists in London, he was reluctant to prejudge the outcome of a review, due in May, to assess preparedness for the new currency, the Eco.

But he said the five countries in the West African Monetary Zone, Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Guinea

and Gambia, with a combined population of 170m would probably have to fix a more credible timetable. "From all indications, at least from a practical point of view, it doesn't seem you're going to have the Eco by July 1," he said. The five partners, initially with the addition of Liberia, agreed on the principle of a common currency zone to promote regional trade and growth five years ago, but they missed their original 2003 launch date.

The ultimate aim of the plan is to merge the new zone with the existing CFA franc monetary union, which embraces eight other, mostly French-speaking, nations of West Africa. The CFA franc is tied to the euro. The details of a combined 13-nation zone have yet to be decided.

The pair a currency had appreciated in nominal terms by 3 per cent against the dollar last year, and the central bank had accumulated a sufficient "war chest" of reserves to keep exchange rate fluctuations

within a band of plus or minus 3 per cent this year, he said. Mr. Soludo said that time would be needed to order and print the new currency, which he estimated would cost well over \$1bn (EU715m, £525m) to

produce. "If that is the case, who pays the bill?" he asked.

"It is still there on the table, we're still very much committed to it. Everybody's working hard but we want the numbers to add up," Mr. Soludo said.

## Obj tasks Afrexim Bank on African trade

President Olusegun Obasanjo on Monday in Abuja urged the new management of the African Export-Import Bank (AFREIMBANK) to boost the level of intra-African trade.


A statement signed by Attah Esa said, receiving a delegation of the bank led by the out-going president, Mr. Christopher Edordu and the incoming president, Mr. Jean Ekra, at the State House,

president Obasanjo tasked the new leadership to set for itself "a target by which you want to increase the rate of trade among African countries and between Africa and the rest of the world."



"While noting that more opportunities existed for intra-African trade than had been exploited by the bank in the past, the President urged the incoming leadership to work towards achieving set targets," the statement said.

The out-going president of AFREXIMBANK, Mr. Edordu, thanked President Obasanjo for his support during his tenure which ends on March 18, adding that the bank had supported Nigeria in the oil, gas, power and aviation sectors among others.

The incoming president, Mr. Ekra, an Ivorian, thanked President Obasanjo and Nigeria for supporting his election for a five-year tenure.



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### FirstBank Annual Essay/Quiz Competitions Grand Finale

**Date:** March 10, 2005  
**Venue:** Agip Recital Hall, Muson Centre, Onikan, Lagos  
**Time:** 3.00 pm

**Essay Competition Winners:**

- **N120,000** **Oluyemisi Aina**  
OAU, Ile-Ife
- **N80,000** **Tochukwu Onyido**  
FUT, Minna
- **N50,000** **Godwin Agada**  
UNILOS

Winners of the Quiz Competition will emerge on the same day and will be presented at the Grand Finale

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# Business Trust

## Industry

### British cosmetics coy sets up plant in Nigeria

A British-based cosmetics company is planning to establish a plant in Nigeria to manufacture cosmetic products for the black skin from natural botanical extracts, the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports.

The company, "Radiant Glow", is owned by a Nigerian, Mr Abiodun Olusesan and was part of a trade delegation from the London Chambers of Commerce.

Olusesan told NAN in Lagos on Monday that the products were being manufactured from natural ingredients such as shea butter, rape seed oil, vitamin E oil and palm oil.

According to him, the company is to be fully established in Nigeria by early 2006 and is set to exploit Nigeria's rich botanical base to manufacture the skin care products.

Olusesan noted that because of Africa's tropical weather, Africans, especially the females, spend as much as 45 per cent of their income on skin products as compared with Europeans who spend just about 15 per cent.

He decried a situation,

where people were spending a lot of money on their skin but were getting very little from it as result of the use of banned chemical products that contain hydroquinone and mercury "which are very dangerous for the skin".

He said that the company would first establish its brand and the people feel it for about six months.

"Depending on the response, we will ship the consignments here through local agents, which we hope to secure during this meeting," Olusesan added.

He noted that local representatives were key to making the products known in the country as well as educating them on the importance of natural cosmetics as against chemical-based ones.

Mr Sym Otiike-Odibi, whose legal firm was in charge of registering "Radiant Glow" with NAFDAC and other relevant bodies, said that the process would be concluded in the next two months.

Otiike-Odibi added that a machinery, including the close monitoring of distributors, had been put in place to forestall the activities of

fakers, especially those who might attempt to repackage the products.

"The distributors are not going to be more than two or three for close monitoring and feedback; we know the task is daunting but we are determined to succeed," he said.

The 10 range products include botanical facial wash, botanical facial toner, botanical facial scrub, botanical body lotion and botanical exfoliating cleansing bar soap.

### Tsunami, solid minerals dominate mining confab

Natural disasters and solid mineral development are some of the core issues being discussed at 41<sup>st</sup> annual international conference of the Nigerian Mining and Geosciences Society (NMGS), tagged "Eko 2005".

The conference, holding at the Eko Hotel & Suites, Victoria Island, Lagos, from March 6<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> has its overall theme as "policy imperatives for sustainable development in the energy and minerals sector."

About 90 papers (from the academia, professionals in geosciences and mining, investors in mineral and energy sectors as well as bureaucrats and top ranking government officials), will be delivered at the conference. The papers cover five sub-themes-coal mining, water resources development, the search for alternative fuel, in the light of environmental

### 'Why Nigerian industries are fast collapsing'

From Bukola Oladiji, Correspondent (Lagos)

Acting director general of the Manufacturer Association of Nigeria (MAN), Mr Jide A. Mike has said that among the paramount problems facing the manufacturing sector in Nigeria is the harsh operating conditions and non-existent infrastructure.

Mr Mike said this at a media luncheon held at the MAN secretariat, Ikeja, Lagos recently.

He said the manufacturing sector contributed 4.7 to gross domestic product (GDP) in 2003, while industrial capacity utilisation dropped to a paltry 48.8 per cent in 2003.

Mr Mike also said that 30 percent of industries in Nigeria have closed shop while 60 percent are ailing and only 10 percent operate at sustainable level.

Apart from the inconducive environment other problems that hinder the development of the manufacturing sector are multiple taxation, shortage of electricity supply, insecurity amongst others.

He said Nigeria economy is yet to be revived and the problems facing the manufacturing sector is proving difficult to be solved.

More Free Trade Zones (FTZ) are to begin operations in the country by the end of the year, the managing director of the Nigerian Export Processing Zones Authority (NEPZA) Mr Sina Agboluaje, has said.

Agboluaje told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) at a forum in Abuja that at least 10 free trade zones have so far been licensed to operate in the country.

While some have started operating fully, others are at various stages of construction with some already admitting investors, he said.

Of that number, two out of the three, owned 100 per

### NEPZA plans more free trade zones



A.D. Idris Waziri, Commerce Minister.

cent by the federal government including the Calabar Free Trade Zone (CFTZ) and the Onne Oil and Gas Free Trade Zone in Port Harcourt are fully operational while the Kano Free Trade Zone is still under construction.

Free trade zones owned by state governments include Maigatari and Banki border trade zones owned by Jigawa and Borno state governments respectively.

Others include Lekki free trade zone owned jointly by the federal and Lagos state governments and Olokola, owned by Ondo and Ogun governments.

Others are Lekki Export Processing Zone which is a private initiative by Eurochem of Singapore, Oil and Logistics free zone owned by a private developer, Snak Island free zone being sponsored by Niger Dock.

According to him, the success recorded with the pioneer CFTZ and personal efforts of president Olusegun Obasanjo through his foreign trips have had positive impact on the development of the free zone scheme in the country.

Describing Obasanjo as "our unpaid P.R.O.", Agboluaje said: "we have benefited a lot from such visits because we have situations where the President tells a company come to Nigeria and locate in the free zone."

He said all the new upcoming free zones were as a result of his canvassing and marketing.

Agboluaje said that it is only in the free zone that a company could set up and start operations within three months due to the "one-stop" processing arrangement provided by the scheme among other attractive incentives.

### Akwa Ibom

From Edet Ekanem, Stringer (Uyo)

The Akwa Ibom state House of Assembly will soon come up with a Bill to check the excesses of companies that secretly come into the state to tap resources from the state without paying for it.

Chief Adasi Obolom, a member representing Eastern Obolo Constituency in the Akwa Ibom state House of Assembly who made the revelation yesterday in an interview with *Business Trust* said Akwa Ibom state can no longer tolerate, companies coming with the state to tap its resources without paying for the resources on the excuse that they do not have operational base in the state.

"This exploitative game will stop, and we shall deal decisively with these companies" he pledged Chief Obolom, who is also the chairman of budget monitoring committee in the state House of Assembly urged such companies to register with the state without further delay and share in the developmental process of the state government.

### AKIPOC

Three new members have been added to the existing eleven members of the Akwa Ibom Industrial Investment Promotion Council (AKIPOC).

Inaugurating the reconstituted council at the executive council chambers of his office, the state governor, Obong Victor Attah, commended AKIPOC for successfully combining the roles of both the Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission and that of the Bureau of Public Enterprise (BPE).

Obong Attah explained that if government must success, a body such as AKIPOC was needed to help define, prosecute and implementation its policies for the overall benefit of the citizenry.

The governor explained that the increase in the council membership was to ensure continuity of government development policies and programmes as well as inject new ideas and strengthen the council.

### Trade Fair

The fourth ECOWAS trade fair is scheduled to hold from the 22<sup>nd</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> of October this year in Lagos.

According to a press release signed by Marshall H. Gundu the chief press secretary in the ministry of commerce, a 25-member national organising committee (NOC) for the fair was constituted and inaugurated by the minister of commerce, Ambassador A. D. Idris Waziri on the 24<sup>th</sup> of May 2004.

The trade fair, which has hitherto been held every four years - Senegal in 1995, Ghana in 1999 and Togo in 2003 - will from now on be a bi-annual event, the statement said.



## CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA TENDER NOTICE

### NIGERIAN TREASURY BILLS

Notice is hereby given by the Central Bank of Nigeria that 91-day Federal Government of Nigeria Treasury Bills amounting to N40,000,000,000 will be issued by an auction-based system on Thursday, 17/03/2005.

Interested Authorized Dealers (Commercial/Merchant Banks, Designated Discount Houses and Brokers) are invited to submit tenders to reach the Issues Office, Central Bank of Nigeria, Lagos, not later than 1.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 15/03/2005.

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

Tenders for the Bills should be submitted on the prescribed printed forms in duplicate and in sealed envelopes clearly marked "TENDER FOR BILLS". The result of the tender will be announced before the close of business on Wednesday, 16/03/2005. The Bank reserves the right to reject any tender in part or in full.

Allotment letters will be issued to successful tenderers on Thursday, 17/03/2005. Payment in full for the amount of the accepted tenders must be made to the Central Bank of Nigeria not later than 1.30 p.m. on the issue date 17/03/2005 This will normally be effected by direct debit to the accounts of the affected Authorized Dealers which should ensure dial their accounts with the Bank are adequately funded for this purpose.

ISSUES OFFICE  
CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA  
TINUBU SQUARE  
LAGOS

# Business Trust International

## Oil price slips but holds above \$53

Oil prices eased yesterday as US crude stocks looked set to rise for the fourth week in a row, but held above \$53 on growing signals that OPEC was unlikely to boost output to tackle soaring energy bills.

US light crude traded down 57 cents at \$53.32 a barrel as dealers snapped up profits after Monday's \$53.89 close, the highest in four months.

London's Brent crude fell 67 cents to \$51.42 a barrel.

Iran's Oil Minister Bijan Zanganeh was the latest to say the cartel had little room for manoeuvre ahead of a March 16 meeting to discuss production in the Iranian city of Isfahan.

"The most OPEC can do in Isfahan is roll over production for a short period and to have another extraordinary meeting," Bijan Zanganeh told a news conference in Tehran yesterday.

Venezuela, Qatar and Algeria have all come out against raising output, and OPEC president Sheikh Ahmad al-Fahd al-Sabah of Kuwait said on Sunday that although prices were high, the market was well-supplied.

A foreign affairs adviser to Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah said on Monday prices should come down somewhat from current levels, but added that expecting a significant drop was unrealistic.

"Everybody realizes that at this level OPEC can't really do anything, they are still afraid that the market isn't really that tight," said Tony Nunan, a manager at Mitsubishi Corp. in Tokyo.

The group is usually reluctant to raise output ahead of the second quarter because the end of the northern hemisphere winter spells a slowdown in demand, while the summer driving season has yet to kick off.

Nigeria has called on other producers to help cut "excessive" prices. OPEC is already producing some 630,000 barrels per day (bpd) above its 27 million bpd limit, a Reuters survey showed.

Claims by some OPEC members that the market's supply-demand balance is healthy are likely to get backing from US data this week, which is expected to show a 1.7-million-barrel increase in crude inventories.

The US Energy Information Administration releases its weekly inventory report at 10:30 a.m. EST on Wednesday.

If the forecasts from a Reuters poll of nine analysts are on target, it would mark the fourth consecutive week that crude stocks have risen and would put total US commercial inventories at more than 300 million barrels.

## Martha Stewards returns to work

Beaming Martha Stewart told several hundred employees that the lessons she learned from a cross-section of people she met during five months in federal prison will be reflected in her company.

Stewart said on her first day back at work Monday that Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia Inc. has focused too much in the past on technical aspects of entertaining and cooking, and not enough on why people need to take care of each other.

"We're going to deepen our bond with the millions who read our publications and watch our television programs," Stewart said. "We're going to engage and inspire new readers and new viewers for whom these topics may have seemed alien, unfamiliar or even — believe it or not superficial."

As if to confirm her new down-to-earth image, Stewart pulled out a much-photographed poncho she wore when released from prison on Friday, saying it did not come from a fancy store, but was crocheted by a fellow inmate.

"The night before I left she handed me this... and said, 'Wear it in good health,'" Stewart said. "I hope she is reading the news and looking at television because I'm so proud of her."

Whether or not Stewart has emerged from prison a changed woman may not matter as far as her company goes, observers said. They said the new strategy is brilliant for turning around Stewart's multimedia empire, which has struggled with a string of losses and sales declines since news surfaced in June 2002 about her questionable stock sale.

"Her prison experience can be used as a new and powerful brand asset," said John Barker, president of DZP Marketing Communications, based in New York. "What prison has done is to make her more fallible. There is this opportunity to make Martha more approachable, more empathetic."

Company officials declined to comment on the details of the new approach.

Barker said Martha Stewart Living previously focused on functional benefits in its editorial content, but has become more aware of the "emotional power of the brand."

Stewart's prison experience has made her "start to understand the real struggles that people have in their lives," he said.

C. Britt Beemer, chairman of America's Research Group, based in Charleston, S.C., agreed.

"America is going to find out that they are going to see a new Martha that is more humble, more caring and more understanding of the American female," Beemer said. "I would say it is a very clever transformation of a business icon into a real person with feelings."



140 million chip and pin cards are being issued by UK banks

## UK card fraud rises above £500m

One hundred and forty million (140) chip and pin cards are being issued by banks fraud involving credit and debit cards rose by a fifth to £504.8 million last year, a bank payment body has said.

Much of the rise was due to an increase in crime involving cards lost or stolen in the post, the Association of Payment Clearing Services (Apacs) said.

Banks are replacing 140 million cards with new chip and pin cards, but Apacs said some of these were falling into the hands of fraudsters.

Apacs also said that internet scams cost UK consumers £12 million in 2004.

It is the first time that Apacs has put a figure on the amount of money consumers are losing through phishing scams and computer viruses which can capture security details through keystroke logging.

Overall, the biggest types of fraud were 'card not present' fraud and counterfeit cards. Together, the two accounted for more than half the total fraud level.

Apacs hope that the rising tide of UK fraud will be stemmed by chip and pin technology.

Chip and pin cards aim to cut fraud by including a smart chip, which can store more information than the usual magnetic strips, and also by having users verify transactions by keying in a pin number rather than signing a receipt.

France pioneered the technology more than 10 years ago - reportedly cutting fraud by almost 50 percent as a result.

Latest figures show more than 90 million new cards have been sent out, with 50 million more cards due to be sent out later this year.

However, the roll-out of chip and pin seems to have been at least partly responsible for the upturn in fraud

during 2004.

The cost of crime involving cards lost or stolen in the post increased by 62 percent, from £45.1m in 2003 to £72.9m in 2004.

"There are 100,000 cards a day being sent out through chip and pin roll-out and

some of these have inevitably found their way into the hands of the fraudsters," Sandra Quinn, Apacs spokeswoman, told BBC News.

But, according to Ms Quinn, card fraud would be much more prevalent if it had not been for the introduction

of chip and pin.

"We estimate that if we had not rolled out chip and pin card fraud would rise to £800m this year," she said.

Apacs is advising cardholders to check their account regularly in order to spot bogus transactions.

## Boeing CEO 'flies' into sex storm

Boeing has sacked its chief executive Harry Stonecipher after an inquiry into "a personal relationship" between him and a female co-worker.

Harry Stonecipher took over as Boeing chief in late 2003. The company said it had asked for and received his resignation on Sunday, describing his actions as "inconsistent with Boeing's code of conduct".

The US aerospace giant said that chief financial officer James Bell would replace him on an interim basis.

Mr Stonecipher, 68, had been appointed chief executive in December 2003.

His predecessor Phil Condit had resigned in 2003 in a move aimed at drawing a line under a number of busi-

ness scandals at the firm.

Mr Stonecipher, a married-father-of-two, was formerly the head of McDonnell Douglas.

Boeing shares closed trading on Monday down 8 cents at \$58.30.

In a statement Boeing said Mr Stonecipher's relationship had been with an executive who "did not report directly to him".

The CEO must set the standard for unimpeachable professional and personal behaviour

However, the board determined that he had breached the firm's code of conduct.

"The board concluded the facts reflected poorly on Harry's judgement and would impair his ability to lead the company," said Lew Platt, Boeing's chairman.

"The CEO must set, the standard for unimpeachable professional and personal behaviour and the board determined this was the right and necessary decision under the circumstances."

He had received anonymous information, which had also been sent to the firm's "legal and ethics" leaders, 10 days ago.

"The investigation determined the relationship was consensual and had no effect on the conduct of the company's business," said Mr Platt.

On Friday, the US Air Force lifted a 20-month ban that prevented Boeing from bidding for its satellite-launching contracts.

Boeing was in July 2003 suspended from bidding after it was found to have illegally obtained documents from its rival Lockheed Martin.

Mr Stonecipher's predecessor resigned as a result of the contracting scandals that led to two Boeing executives receiving jail terms.

Analysts said US corporate boards have been taking a more active role in dealing with employee behaviour in recent years.

"This speaks to indiscretions on the part of the CEO, which is inconsistent with where Boeing has to be," said Joseph Battipaglia at Ryan, Beck & Co.

"Boeing has clearly been under a microscope so any variation whether vis a vis a government contract, or a third-party dealing or even a personal dealing would not be tolerated."



Ex Boeing CEO, Harry Stonecipher.

# Business Trust

## 1ST-TIER SECURITIES

## THE NIGERIAN STOCK EXCHANGE

REPORT AS AT TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2005

COMPANY NAME	NO OF DEALS	QUOTATION(N)	QUANTITY TRADED	VALUE OF SHARES
<b>AGRICULTURE/AGRO-ALLIED</b>				
THE OKOMU OIL PALM COMPANY PLC	8	16.99	50,078	849,782.00
PRESCO PLC.	12	9.40	42,954	404,719.18
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>20</b>		<b>93,032</b>	<b>1,254,501.18</b>
<b>AIRLINES</b>				
AVIATION DEVELOPMENT COMPANY PLC.	2	1.00	21,000	21,000.00
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>21,000</b>	<b>21,000.00</b>
<b>AUTOMOBILE &amp; TYRE</b>				
DUNLOP NIGERIA PLC.	13	1.85	145,791	269,702.80
R. T. BRISCOAE PLC.	4	5.32	8,572	45,194.32
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>17</b>		<b>154,363</b>	<b>314,897.12</b>
<b>BANKING</b>				
ACB INTERNATIONAL BANK PLC	1	0.94	500	470.00
ACCESS BANK PLC	9	3.42	275,773	943,143.66
AFRIBANK NIGERIA PLC.	55	6.63	2,386,035	15,819,412.05
FIRST ATLANTIC BANK PLC	3	3.41	11,000	37,510.00
CHARTERED BANK PLC	2	3.90	6,769	26,399.10
COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT BANK PLC.	4	0.73	37,519,000	27,388,870.00
EIB INTERNATIONAL BANK PLC.	2	2.26	3,265	7,378.90
FIRST BANK OF NIGERIA PLC.	539	22.95	1,519,924	34,922,632.81
FSB INTERNATIONAL BANK PLC.	19	1.15	99,851	117,478.65
GUARANTY TRUST BANK PLC.	289	9.03	2,503,714	22,609,759.02
GULF BANK OF NIGERIA PLC	1	0.46	100,000	46,000.00
INTERNATIONAL MERCHANT BANK PLC.	23	0.57	1,361,951	765,247.23
INLAND BANK (NIGERIA) PLC.	8	1.26	1,780,500	2,303,850.00
INTERCONTINENTAL BANK PLC.	3	7.81	135,000	1,054,350.00
LION BANK OF NIGERIA PLC.	3	0.59	177,000	104,430.00
MANUFACTURERS BANK NIGERIA PLC.	4	1.18	85,000	100,300.00
NAL BANK PLC.	5	2.80	14,063	39,376.40
OCEANIC BANK PLC	10	4.93	119,851	594,902.45
STANDARD TRUST BANK PLC	10	7.41	20,365	150,904.65
TRANS INTERNATIONAL BANK PLC.	1	1.53	9,577	14,652.81
TRADE BANK PLC.	1	1.35	300	405.00
UNITED BANK FOR AFRICA PLC.	26	10.00	158,518	1,585,180.00
UNION BANK NIGERIA PLC.	355	19.04	1,010,681	19,343,538.90
UNIVERSAL TRUST BANK PLC	9	0.69	463,311	310,400.94
WEMA BANK PLC.	9	3.93	231,202	908,623.86
ZENITH BANK PLC	154	13.75	3,113,295	42,554,018.01
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>1,545</b>		<b>53,106,445</b>	<b>171,749,234.44</b>
<b>BREWERIES</b>				
CHAMPION BREWERIES PLC.	1	4.23	7,600	32,148.00
GUINNESS NIGERIA PLC.	217	79.99	801,654	64,121,975.40
JOS INTERNATIONAL BREWERIES PLC.	1	3.80	1,600	6,080.00
NIGERIAN BREWERIES PLC.	413	36.00	783,602	27,960,400.15
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>632</b>		<b>1,594,456</b>	<b>92,120,603.55</b>
<b>BUILDING MATERIALS</b>				
ASHAKA CEMENT PLC.	86	22.70	547,413	12,472,038.27
BENUE CEMENT COMPANY PLC.	9	4.35	2,013,196	8,554,763.40
CEMENT CO. OF NORTHERN NIG. PLC	19	7.10	222,364	1,544,785.20
WEST AFR. PORTLAND CEMENT CO. PLC.	36	10.00	248,135	2,478,301.91
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>150</b>		<b>3,031,108</b>	<b>25,049,888.78</b>
<b>CHEMICAL &amp; PAINTS</b>				
AFRICAN PAINTS (NIGERIA) PLC.	1	0.48	2,000	960.00
BERGER PAINTS PLC.	16	4.60	49,233	225,134.95
CAP PLC.	9	6.65	15,622	107,933.30
D. N. MEYER PLC.	11	4.80	13,331	63,733.35
NIGERIA-GERMAN CHEMICALS PLC.	2	3.80	13,000	49,400.00
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>39</b>		<b>93,186</b>	<b>447,161.60</b>
<b>CONGLOMERATES</b>				
A. G. LEVENTIS NIGERIA PLC.	1	0.98	127	124.46
C F A O NIGERIA PLC.	6	4.35	34,359	150,849.60
CHELLARAMS PLC.	3	1.71	21,500	36,765.00
UNILEVER NIGERIA PLC.	138	15.76	381,476	5,834,001.97
P. Z. INDUSTRIES PLC.	66	10.11	847,569	8,521,952.27
U.A.C.NIGERIA PLC.	80	14.17	652,140	9,240,823.80
U.T.C. NIGERIA PLC.	1	1.01	100,000	101,000.00
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>295</b>		<b>2,037,171</b>	<b>23,885,517.10</b>
<b>CONSTRUCTION</b>				
CAPALBETO	2	7.25	291	2,109.75
COSTAIN (W.A.) PLC.	2	0.98	2,333,628	2,286,955.44
JULIUS BERGER NIGERIA PLC.	2	15.55	2,341	36,402.55
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>6</b>		<b>2,336,260</b>	<b>2,325,467.74</b>
<b>ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY</b>				
NIGERIAN WIRE AND CABLE PLC.	6	0.73	15,140	11,225.20
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>6</b>		<b>15,140</b>	<b>11,225.20</b>
<b>FOOD/BEVERAGES &amp; TOBACCO</b>				
7-UP BOTTLING COMPANY PLC	34	23.49	101,443	2,264,435.75
CADBURY NIGERIA PLC.	148	50.00	191,785	9,647,299.46
FLOUR MILLS NIGERIA PLC.	30	16.61	193,636	3,216,293.96
P. S. MANDRIDES & COMPANY PLC.	1	8.00	600	4,800.00
NIGERIA BOTTLING COMPANY PLC.	72	51.00	359,669	17,890,203.11
NESTLE FOODS NIGERIA PLC.	95	142.50	97,798	13,867,747.69
NORTHERN NIGERIA FLOUR MILLS PLC.	3	15.00	23,450	351,750.00
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>383</b>		<b>968,381</b>	<b>47,242,529.97</b>
<b>HEALTHCARE</b>				
EKOCORP PLC.	6	0.72	108,587	78,182.64
EVANS MEDICAL PLC.	12	2.72	638,376	1,799,724.80
MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC.	2	5.10	5,633	28,728.30
NEIMETH INTERNATIONAL PHARM. PLC	15	2.85	159,512	454,609.20
PHARMA-DEKO PLC.	3	4.09	12,493	51,096.37
GLAXOSMITHKLINE CONSUMER NIG. PLC	31	8.11	135,672	1,108,968.48
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>69</b>		<b>1,060,273</b>	<b>3,521,309.79</b>
<b>INDUSTRIAL/DOMESTIC PRODUCTS</b>				
NIGERIA ENAMELWARE COMPANY PLC.	5	3.40	5,150	17,510.00
FIRST ALUMINIUM NIGERIA PLC.	2	0.95	18,150	17,267.50
B.O.C. GASES PLC.	2	2.93	3,050	8,936.50
VITAFOAM NIGERIA PLC.	27	3.10	309,553	925,428.46
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>36</b>		<b>335,903</b>	<b>969,142.46</b>
<b>INSURANCE</b>				
ACEN INSURANCE COMPANY PLC	1	0.60	2,000	1,200.00
AICO INSURANCE PLC.	9	1.66	147,000	237,230.37
CORNERSTONE INSURANCE CO. PLC.	1	1.40	112	156.80
LAW UNION AND ROCK INSURANCE PLC.	1	1.25	7,800	9,750.00
LINKAGE ASSURANCE PLC	3	1.41	43,451	61,285.91
MUTUAL BENEFITS ASSURANCE PLC	1	0.93	10,004	9,303.72
N.E.M. INSURANCE CO. (NIG.) PLC.	1	0.76	1,500	1,140.00
NIGER INSURANCE CO. PLC.	12	2.88	103,179	299,057.42
PRESTIGE ASSURANCE PLC.	2	1.97	2,620	5,161.40
ROYAL EXCHANGE ASSURANCE PLC.	12	2.91	80,205	247,373.22
STANDARD ALLIANCE INSURANCE	1	0.70	4,000	2,800.00
UNIC INSURANCE PLC.	7	0.92	30,500	28,060.00
WEST AFRICAN PROV. INS. COY. PLC.	9	2.67	84,500	223,319.21
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>60</b>		<b>516,871</b>	<b>1,125,838.05</b>
<b>MANAGED FUNDS</b>				
C & I LEASING PLC.	4	1.38	20,700	28,766.00
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>4</b>		<b>20,700</b>	<b>28,766.00</b>
<b>PACKAGING</b>				
BETA GLASS COMPANY PLC.	1	3.87	5,000	19,350.00
STUDIO PRESS (NIGERIA) PLC.	5	1.62	994,000	1,610,280.00
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>6</b>		<b>999,000</b>	<b>1,629,630.00</b>
<b>PETROLEUM(MARKETING)</b>				
AFROIL PLC.	1	0.75	1,000	750.00
AFRICAN PETROLEUM PLC.	147	50.50	414,600	21,467,889.41
ETERNA OIL & GAS PLC.	9	2.04	72,500	147,900.00
MOBIL OIL NIGERIA PLC.	59	165.99	73,384	12,146,945.45
CONOIL PLC.	95	105.30	67,844	6,938,135.78
TEXACO (NIGERIA) PLC.	13	150.00	4,754	723,877.80
TOTAL NIGERIA PLC	55	173.00	27,681	4,772,641.95
OANDO PLC.	171	90.00	174,983	15,550,013.37
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>550</b>		<b>836,746</b>	<b>61,748,153.76</b>
<b>PRINTING &amp; PUBLISHING</b>				
DAILY TIMES PLC.	2	0.69	100,000	69,000.00
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>100,000</b>	<b>69,000.00</b>
<b>REAL ESTATE</b>				
UACN PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT PLC.	15	8.22	47,500	387,230.00
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>15</b>		<b>47,500</b>	<b>387,230.00</b>
<b>TEXTILES</b>				
UNITED NIGERIA TEXTILES PLC	6	2.10	12,404	26,048.40

TOP 10 TRADES YESTERDAY			
SYMBOL	VOLUME	VALUE	TRADES
UBN	1,010,681.00	19,343,538.90	355
IMB	1,361,951.00	765,247.23	23
FIRSTBANK	1,519,924.00	34,922,632.81	539
INLANDBANK	1,780,500.00	2,303,850.00	8
BCC	2,013,196.00	8,554,763.40	9
COSTAIN	2,833,628.00	2,286,955.44	2
AFRIBANK	2,386,035.00	15,819,412.05	55
GUARANTY	2,503,714.00	22,609,759.02	289
ZENITHBANK	3,113,295.00	42,554,018.01	154
COOPDEV	37,519,000.00	27,388,870.00	4

TOP 10 GAINERS			
SYMBOL	LASTCLOSE	YESTERDAYSCLOSE	CHANGE
MOBIL	164.00	165.99	+1.99
UNIPETROL	88.50	90.00	+1.50
NB	35.06	36.00	+0.94
OKOMUOIL	16.20	16.99	+0.79
LEVBROS	15.01	15.76	+0.75
NOLCHEM	104.55	105.30	+0.75
7UP	22.94	23.49	+0.55
UAC-PROP	7.83	8.22	+0.39
CCNN	6.85	7.10	+0.25
BCC	4.15	4.35	+0.20

TOP 10 LOSERS			
SYMBOL	LASTCLOSE	YESTERDAYSCLOSE	CHANGE
AP	53.01	50.50	-2.51
NBC	52.01	51.00	-1.01
NNFM	15.78	15.00	-0.78
CADBURY	50.51	50.00	-0.51
NESTLE	143.01	142.50	-0.51
PRESCO	9.89	9.40	-0.49
CAP	7.00	6.65	-0.35
ASHAKACEM	23.00	22.70	-0.30
OCEANIC	5.18	4.93	-0.25
PZ	10.30	10.11	-0.19

### LSE board meets after D. Boerse scraps bid

The London Stock Exchange board met on Monday to urgently review its options after Deutsche Boerse scrapped a 1.3 billion pound (\$2.5 billion) takeover plan, and with Euronext yet to bid after weeks in the wings.

Shares in LSE, Europe's largest equity market, slumped on the Deutsche Boerse news, while Euronext stock hit a lifetime high. Deutsche Boerse gave up early gains.

The LSE declined to comment on the Deutsche Boerse withdrawal, and a source familiar with the situation said the LSE board was meeting to discuss developments. "The meeting is ongoing," the source said.

The cross-border exchange Euronext said it had taken note of Deutsche Boerse's withdrawal but did not wish to comment at this stage.

Sources familiar with the situation said Euronext, which had said it could make an offer for the LSE that would generate far more synergies than Deutsche Boerse's, would wait for an LSE statement before making its next move known.

Euronext and Deutsche Boerse had both been examining the LSE's books, but the former has not yet indicated how much it might be prepared to pay for a tie-up with the 300-year-old London exchange.

Analysts speculated the LSE may now have to accept a lower price than the 530 pence per share Deutsche Boerse had offered if it wants to strike a takeover deal at all.

"Shareholders of Deutsche Boerse and Euronext have shown this weekend that they are clearly opposed to paying the price that LSE shareholders want," said analyst Thomas Nagtegaal at Rabo Securities. "The LSE now has to calculate its chances of ever being taken over at a higher price."

He noted although Euronext shareholders have not made any public comment, many Deutsche Boerse shareholders also held stakes in Euronext.

At stake was a battle for dominance of Europe's share markets that would set the winner up as second in size to the New York Stock Exchange.

LSE shares had dropped 7 percent to 500.75p by 1200 GMT as investors started to bet that Euronext would come up with a lower offer.

Deutsche Boerse said however, it reserved the right to make a new bid if Euronext or another party announced an offer.

### Revenue boss wants expatriates to pay tax

The chairman of the Joint Tax Board (JTB) Ms Ifeako Omoigui, has criticised the practice of taxing members of the expatriate community in Nigeria on "deemed income."

"The practice of taxing expatriates on deemed income will be discouraged as much as possible," Omoigui said at the opening of the 110th meeting of the Joint Tax Board today in Abuja.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the chairmen, Board of Internal Revenue from the 36 states, constitute the Joint Tax Board.





# PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PDP)



POWER TO THE PEOPLE

*Motto: Justice, Unity and Progress*

National Secretariat: Plot 1970, Wadata Plaza, Micheal Okpara Street, Wuse Zone 5, Abuja. Tel: 09-5232569, 5233429, Fax 09: 5231299

## NOTICE OF 25<sup>TH</sup> NEC MEETING

The National Chairman, Senator Dr. Amadu A. Ali hereby invites all members of the National Executive Committee (NEC) of the Peoples Democratic Party to a meeting on Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2005.

**VENUE:** PDP National Secretariat Zone 5, Abuja

**TIME:** 1:00 pm

**All NEC members must endeavour to attend, please.**

  
**PRINCE VINCENT OGBULAFOR, OFR**  
National Secretary



# FEDERAL MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

## NATIONAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (NITDA)

PLOT 695, Port-Harcourt Crescent, Area 11 Garki, Abuja

# VACANCY

Applications are hereby invited from suitably qualified Nigerians that meet the pre-requisites below to fill the vacant post of Director-General/Chief Executive Officer, National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), Abuja.

### a) QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

The candidate should possess a post graduate degree preferably PhD degree with minimum of twenty years post graduate cognate experience. The degree and experience must be in the fields of Information and Communications Technology (ICT). In Addition, the candidate must attain the rank of Director or its equivalent in similar position, the must also produce credible evidence of considerable research publications. Registration with relevant professional bodies and demonstrable evidence of computer literacy and should be conversant with the development of Information Communication Technology (ICT) in Nigeria.

### b) CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

The conditions of service are the same as those applicable to similar positions in the Federal Government Public Service.

### c) DUTIES

The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day management of the Agency. In addition he will be responsible to the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology for the overall attainment of the goals and objectives of the Agency.

### d) AGE

Prospective candidate should be within the age of 35 to 55 years.

### e) MODE OF APPLICATION

Candidates are required to submit fifteen (15) copies of their application. Curriculum Vitae and copies of credentials giving the following information:

- (i) Post applied for;
- (ii) Surname in capitals;
- (iii) Forenames;
- (iv) Dates and place of birth;
- (v) State of origin;
- (vi) Current postal address;
- (vii) Permanent home address;
- (viii) Number and ages of children;
- (ix) Educational institutions attended and qualifications with dates;
- (x) Names and addresses of current/previous employers, stating post(s) held with dates and salaries;
- (xi) Details of administrative experience;
- (xii) Membership of relevant professional bodies
- (xiii) List of research publications;
- (xiv) Academic distinctions / special awards;
- (xv) Extra curricula activities; and
- (xvi) Names and addresses of three Referees.

### SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

Application should be received within 6 weeks from the date of this publication and addressed to the Honourable Minister, Federal Ministry of Science and Technology, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, Federal Secretariat, Phase I, Abuja.

### g) INTERVIEW

Only short listed candidates will be contacted.

Signed:  
**IBE OCHU UKOHA,**  
 Director, Personnel Management,  
 For: Honorable Minister.



# NASARAWA STATE GOVERNMENT

## Statement of Assets and liabilities as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2000

ASSETS	Notes	2000 N	1999 N
Bank Balances & Cash	1	363,811,712	182,129,033
Remittance In-Transit	2	266,820,145	241,741,460
Imprest	3	372,600	372,600
Loans and Advances	4	41,219,921	39,415,328
Station Balances	5	49,569,826	87,004,948
Deposit	6	283,274,336	113,970,114
Sundry Debtors	7	23,446,659	0
		<b>1,028,515,199</b>	<b>664,633,483</b>
Investments	8	119,913,338	30,000,000
		<b>1,148,428,537</b>	<b>694,633,483</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Consolidated Rev. Fund		548,880,173	274,415,806
Bank Overdraft	9	595,878,839	420,153,992
Station Deposit	10	3,615,840	10,000
Housing Loan	11	53,685	53,685
		<b>1,148,428,537</b>	<b>694,633,483</b>

Agriculture & Rural Devt	38,500,000	0	38,500,000	1,500,000
DFRR	80,000,000	253,535,693	(173,535,693)	51,747,540
Live stock and veterinary	13,500,000	0	13,500,000	—
Forestry and wildlife	1,500,000	0	1,500,000	75,000
Fisheries	4,000,000	0	4,000,000	—
Commerce and Industries	75,500,000	21,700,000	53,800,000	—
Tourism and hotel development	30,000,000	29,248,900	751,100	1,984,912
Nasarawa Invest and Mineral devt	0	0	0	37,000,000
Transport Sector	348,000,000	740,362,693	(392,362,693)	151,368,086
Nasarawa Transport Service	0	0	0	7,797,768

### SOCIAL SERVICE SECTOR:

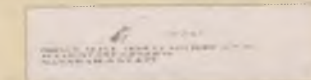
Education Sector	247,000,000	645,625,829	(398,625,829)	156,322,737
Relevant Technology Board	4,500,000	0	4,500,000	—
Health Sector	144,936,000	119,460,323	25,475,677	142,660,169
Rural Electrification	50,000,000	0	50,000,000	—
Information	60,000,000	35,966,593	24,033,407	20,071,339
Nasarawa Publishing Company	0	4,822,572	(4,822,572)	24,000,000
Nasarawa Broadcasting Service	100,000,000	25,510,358	74,489,642	159,172,696
Sports Development	25,000,000	89,071,660	(64,071,660)	2,020,823
Arts and Culture	20,000,000	757,250	19,242,750	—
Social Development	13,000,000	0	13,000,000	—
Housing Development	158,000,000	188,239,039	(30,239,039)	219,545,505
Women Affairs and social Devt	16,300,000	19,694,375	(3,394,375)	13,000,000
Community development	10,000,000	0	10,000,000	—

### ENVIRONMENTAL SECTOR

Water Supply	155,000,000	113,255,657	41,744,343	—
Town and country plann. (Lands)	23,000,000	4,708,000	18,292,000	—
Town and country (NUDB)	76,500,000	8,702,490	67,797,510	36,452,766
Urban Development	50,000,000	6,356,184	43,643,816	9,451,456
Environment protection	42,236,000	25,000,000	17,236,000	—

### ADMINISTRATION SECTOR:

SSG's Office	368,000,000	625,805,558	(257,805,558)	470,346,596
High Court of Justice	34,000,000	0	34,000,000	—
Ministry of Justice	27,000,000	8,634,340	18,365,660	—
Ministry of Finance	63,000,000	10,000,000	53,000,000	—
Nasarawa Internal Rev. Service	15,000,000	2,776,595	12,220,405	4,593,772
Shari'a Court of Appeal	1,000,000	0	1,000,000	—
Nasarawa State House of Ass.	119,000,000	0	119,000,000	83,901,268
Local Govt. Serv. Comm.	5,000,000	1,335,000	3,665,000	—
<b>Total Capital Expenditure (B)</b>	<b>2,418,472,000</b>	<b>2,980,590,109</b>	<b>(562,118,109)</b>	<b>1,593,012,237</b>
<b>Bal. to consolidate Rev. Fund (A-B)</b>	<b>(1,675,849,000)</b>	<b>(724,996,847)</b>	<b>950,852,153</b>	<b>(527,525,174)</b>



Prince Aliyu Abdullahi Idde (CNA)  
Accountant-General  
Nasarawa state

## AUDITOR'S GENERAL CERTIFICATE

In compliance with section 125 of the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1996, I have examined the Accounts and the financial Statement of Nasarawa State Government of Nigeria for the year ended 31st December, 2000. Proper returns have been rendered by ministries and departments and their related parastatals in conformity with the public finances (control and Managements) Law of 1958. I have obtained all information and explanation necessary in the discharge of my responsibility.

The audit was conducted in accordance with auditing requirements as specified in the audit law (chapter 12) of Nasarawa state of Nigeria, 1999. In addition, projects and programmes were verified in line with the concept of performance in audit. In the discharge of my responsibility as required by section 125(5) of the same constitution, the financial statements have been certified subject to comments contained in this report.

In my opinion, projects and programmes executed were satisfactory in consideration of funds employed. Furthermore, the financial statement (Nos. 1-3) and related schedules give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of Nasarawa State Government as at 31st December 2000.

Yakubu Akewe (CNA)  
Auditor-General,  
Nasarawa State

## Statement of consolidated revenue fund for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2000

	2000 Budget N	2000 Actual N	Variance	1999 Actual N
Balance as at 1 <sup>st</sup> January	274,415,806	220,655,934	159,955,934	18,520,877
<b>ADD: RECURRENT</b>				
Taxes	60,700,000	220,655,934	159,955,934	18,520,877
Fines and Fees	353,985,750	76,934,732	(277,051,018)	18,520,877
Licenses	15,300,000	6,665,867	(8,634,133)	510,750
Earnings and sales	61,290,000	5,223,344	(56,066,656)	18,661,244
Rent of Govt properties	20,840,000	909,304	(19,930,696)	99,090
Interest and dividends	5,000,000	533,639	(4,466,361)	2,319,389
Re-imbursment	50,000,000	116,857,034	66,857,034	49,496,059
Miscellaneous income	14,150,000	29,293,035	15,143,035	2,531,821
Statutory Rev. Allocation	3,000,000,000	5,108,009,538	2,108,009,538	2,176,003,209
Revenue from Parastatals	88,734,259	0	(88,734,250)	0
Total Revenue (A)	<b>3,944,415,806</b>	<b>5,839,498,233</b>	<b>1,895,082,427</b>	<b>2,545,935,908</b>

### LESS: RECURRENT EXPENDITURE

Personal Cost	617,341,000	1,483,826,634	(866,485,634)	507,895,833
Overhead Cost	578,810,000	963,002,497	(384,192,497)	531,150,037
Grants, Contrib./Subve.	668,000,000	1,257,574,122	(589,574,122)	474,057,017
Public Dept Charges	50,000,000	669,466,035	(619,466,035)	157,368,325
Pension and Gratuities	80,000,000	191,751,925	(111,751,925)	73,523,716
<b>Total Recurrent Expend. (B)</b>	<b>1,994,151,000</b>	<b>4,565,621,213</b>	<b>(2,571,470,213)</b>	<b>1,743,994,928</b>

Operating Balance(A-B) 1,950,264,806 1,273,877,020 (676,387,786) 801,940,980

### APPROPRIATION/TRANSFER

Capital Devt. Fund	(1,675,000)	(724,996,847)	950,852,153	(527,525,174)
Bal. Carried forward	274,415,806	548,880,173	274,464,367	274,415,806

## Statement of capital development fund for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2000

	2000 Budget N	2000 Actual N	variance	1999 Actual N
Balance as at 1 <sup>st</sup> January	0	0	0	0
<b>ADD: CAPITAL RECEIPTS</b>				
Value Added Tax (VAT)	453,281,000	531,608,695	78,327,695	434,014,764
Special Grants	289,342,000	973,984,567	684,642,567	631,472,389
Internal Loan	0	750,000,000	750,000,000	—
Total capital receipt (A)	<b>742,623,000</b>	<b>2,255,593,262</b>	<b>1,512,970,262</b>	<b>1,065,487,153</b>

LESS: Capital expenditure  
Economic sector:



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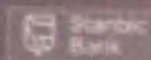


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# FEDERAL MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Federal Secretariat Phase I,  
Shehu Shagari Way, Abuja

## INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE POST OF DIRECTOR-GENERAL, NATIONAL BOARD FOR TECHNOLOGY INCUBATION, (NBTI) ABUJA

The Federal Ministry of Science and Technology intends to employ dynamic, well-focused and result-oriented person to fill the vacant position of Director-General/Chief Executive Officer, National Board for Technology Incubation (NBTI).

Technology Incubation Programme is a comprehensive infrastructural facility established for the nurturing of up-coming entrepreneurs engaged in value-added and technology-related manufacturing. It is a vehicle for commercialization of Research and Development results or findings from our Research Establishments and other higher institutions. Entrepreneurs are admitted into the centre and graduate after 3-5 years of the incubation period.

Applications are hereby invited from suitable individuals that meet the pre-requisites specified below:

### a) EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

Candidates should possess post graduate degrees preferably Ph.D degree with minimum of twenty years post graduate cognate experience. The degree and experience must be in the field of Science, Engineering, Economics/Accountancy and Business/ Public Administration. Computer Literacy and higher degrees will be an added advantage. In addition, the candidate must have attained the rank of director or its equivalent in a similar institution.

### b) CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

The conditions of service are the same as those applicable to similar position in the Federal Government Public Service.

### c) DUTIES

The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the secretariat and the management of the Technology Incubation Centres located all over the country.

In addition he/she will be responsible to the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology through the NBTI for the overall attainment of the goals and objectives of the Centers.

### d) AGE

Prospective candidates should be within the age of 35 to 55 years of age.

### e) MODE OF APPLICATION

Candidates are required to submit fifteen (15) copies of their application. Curriculum Vitae and copies of credentials giving the following information:

- (i) Post applied for;
- (ii) Surname in capitals;
- (iii) Forenames;
- (iv) Dates and place of birth;
- (v) State of origin;
- (vi) Current postal address;
- (vii) Permanent home address;
- (viii) Number and ages of children;
- (ix) Educational institutions attended and qualifications with dates;
- (x) Names and addresses of current / previous employers, stating post(s) held with dates and salaries;
- (xi) Details of administrative experience;
- (xii) Membership of relevant professional bodies
- (xiii) List of research publications;
- (xiv) Academic distinctions / special awards;
- (xv) Extra curricula activities; and
- (xvi) Names and addresses of three Referees.

### f) SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

All application should be received within 6 weeks from the date of this publication and addressed to the Honourable Minister, Federal Ministry of Science and Technology, 9th Floor, Federal Secretariat, Phase I, Abuja.

### g) INTERVIEW

Only short listed candidates will be contacted.

Signed:  
**Ibe Ochu Ukoha**  
Director, Personnel Management  
For: Honourable Minister.

# STAR INTERVIEW

## Many state varsities may crumble-Dr. Yusuf

**D**r. Badmus Lanre Yusuf, an educationist, Islamic scholar and university lecturer, is the provost of the Kwara State College of Arabic and Islamic Legal Studies. He is two years shy of fifty and was educated in Nigeria and Saudi Arabia. After a stint of media practice with the Radio Nigeria, Dr. Yusuf became a lecturer with the Kwara State College of Education in 1986. He joined the University of Ilorin in 1991 where he has been lecturing until his current leave of absence as provost. Dr. Yusuf has also been a member of the National Hajj Committee since the last five years. In this interview with Uthman Abubakar, Senior Reporter (Features), he bared his mind on various issues. Excerpts:

As an educationist and a professional teacher how would you assess the country's educational development since it gain political independence in 1960?

I can say that so far we have not been able to realize the set goals that we have in the national policy on education because we have not been able to have the administration that has the courage to give deserving percentage of our budget to education. Consequently, the education sector is being starved of funds unduly and it is affecting the teachers because their morale is at the lowest ebb. Therefore the productivity has not been as high as expected. Consequently the turnout of our products from all level of our educational institutions is nothing to write home about. Presently in some countries, whenever our students want to do their higher degree it is like they are asking them to start all over again because they have lost confidence in the kind of certificate we issue out to our products in Nigeria.

What really is wrong. Could you pinpoint some areas where things have gone wrong over the decades which the country must put right to enable it restore educational glory?

I have talked about starving of the educational sector of funds. The other factor that is creating this problem is the economic hardship that functionaries of educational institutions being part of the society are facing, which is one of the reasons why ASUU once said that our take home pay can not take us home, meaning that even if you get the emolument at the end of the month, it can hardly take you up to half of the next month. Therefore you discover that against their own will most teachers become emergency traders. Hardly could you go to some institutions without you finding petty traders among teachers. Hardly could you go to even tertiary institutions without seeing some lecturers becoming contractors or looking for things to augment what the government is giving to them. Then we also have this problem of

carelessness of the society, a situation that has led the society surrendering the responsibility of complementing the effort of school to bring up the children in a very sound moral environment. As a result you discover that our educational institutions are partly becoming centers of nefarious activities of the cultists, because when you don't engage them properly as a result of you lacking this attitude which is required for you to be able to perform efficiently you create enabling environment for the brains of the children to be engaged in evil activities. That is also contributing. Many are not willing to learn, but majority of them are wishing to have paper qualification. This has taken us to another area that is affecting the educational development in this country, and that area is what we call examination malpractices. It has graduated into a scientific act that if care is not taken you will not even detect any student engaging in this, and may be because right from the word go our educational goal is not fashioned in such a way that we produce job creators. It was fashioned by the colonialists in such a way that it will provide people that will satisfy their immediate needs. Take for instance what we call professions into account when you are developing the curriculum. For example, a tailor who is making money is feeling inferior that he has no university education so that he is abandoning the job from where he is making money and go into the university to become problem in that institution. Why don't you create the department of tailoring and give him certificate 'BA (Hons), BSc Tailoring. When you do this he will have sense of belonging, sense of arriving in the society and he will be able to face whatever he is doing very well. If you look at most of the universities we have faculty of engineering, faculty of technology but up till now the dream of the founding fathers of projects like Ajaokuta is still yet to be realized. Look at our railway sector, we have no manpower and we have not been able to train such to be able to say



Dr. Badmus Lanre Yusuf

why are you calling the Chinese to come and do this? We can do it. So that means that people have only been passing through various schools, universities, but real education has not imparted in them as expected.

You seem to have drawn a sharp contrast between the quality of our educational development and the rising number of our educational institutions. In the light of the situation you have painted, would you suggest a reduction of the current number of the country's universities to a lower number?

I don't call it a development. It is not a development it is a disservice to the education sector because proliferation of universities in this country in trying to ape America and Europe is madness to say the list. I am of the view that the existing universities that we have should be well equipped. If you go to most universities that are teaching sciences you hardly see functional laboratories. In the face of this dearth of the required equipment and what is needed to be able to give sound technological and scientific education to our people, you don't add to the problem. You just face the few universities that can be catered for and make sure that they are well catered for. If you look at the report recently

in Ado Ekiti University, they had to scrap the college of medicine there because they discovered that if they leave the college as it is without equipment, without laboratory facilities they will just be producing killer doctors. They decided to cancel the whole programme. The committee was headed by Professor Osuntokun, and promised that the students will not suffer any deprivation as they in the nearest future will be distributed to other existing universities with very good facilities. So I am of the view that the government is not serious about education. Government is expected to give us qualitative universities not quantitative universities.

Is it then a good development that states establish their own universities?

It should be a good development provided there is hard and fast rule, there are conditions like the NUC is insisting that before you get universities registered XY conditions must be met. It is not good to allow states to establish universities like that when you are not even sure of what that state has been doing with the workforce in the civil service. So if you can not pay adequately the civil servants in your own states how will you be able to meet the social need of

universities. You notice it is not just rare structure and elegant building here and there or signposts that you just put there to show XY universities. It is a capital intensive project. Therefore, for any state to be given the right to establish a university there must be stringent conditions. For example, you can ask such a state to give assurance that in the next ten years the requirements for human and material development of that university will be met. But when you put a university in place and you allow the state to just take people any how before you know what is happening, give them ten years many of the universities will either become glorified secondary schools or they will crumble. I mean many state owned universities because you discover that there isn't any strong grassroots foundation for these. It may just be the chief executive who is eager to have a legacy after his tenure. But do you know who is going to succeed him? But when you have a community based interest in the establishment of a university the community leaders in that state, it is their idea or they had a roundtable discussion with the governor even if that governor is not there the situation will continue. There are states with specific programmes that once their chief executives pack their bags and baggages and leave the government houses their programmes will die a natural death.

There has to be the tertiary institutions to train the required professionals the country needs. Would you then suggest the establishment of more specialized institutions, like polytechnics, than universities to train such professionals?

We had polytechnics in the seventies. There was one particular polytechnic that was able to manufacture what they now call KEKE NAPEP and was able to introduce these traffic lights. It was expected to be supported by the government so that it could be produced in commercial quantity. But the effort was restricted. Then came the problem of the brain

drain which has reduced most of our polytechnics now to theoretical polytechnics because they hardly have things to show or justify their existence as institutions established to give impetus to the technological development of the country. So, except you want to take care of teaming candidates who just have to be educated then you encourage the establishment of more polytechnics. If you look at Kaduna Polytechnic, our own premier polytechnic in the north, is it the same Kaduna Polytechnic of the seventies? It is not the same, and this is because of misplacement of priorities, inadequate funding and other factors.

Last February, the first governor to re-introduce Shariah, Governor Ahmed Sani of Zamfara State celebrated its fifth anniversary. How would you assess the implementation of the Islamic legal system by the states that have re-introduced it in the last five years?

What one can say as far as this implementation of Shariah is concerned is that the governors of the Shariah states have done well. That is summarily put. One is saying this because they were trying to implement the Shariah code of conduct in a very hostile environment. A lot of hostility comes in even from known Muslims who are afraid that they will not be able to regulate their own conduct under Shariah atmosphere, not to talk of known Muslims who know that if non-Muslims should see the beauty of Shariah you don't need any Da'wah. Effortlessly they will just be converting to Islam. So if people are still able to achieve what they have been able to then one can give them a pass mark that they have done well, but I must add that there is a room for improvement because Shariah is not about amputating peoples hands or stoning people to death. The welfare aspect of Shariah requires more emphasis on the part of our good brothers who are implementing Shariah. The history of Islam is full of instances when leaders go round to ensure that people are well taken care of. When there is hunger they will do all within their power to make sure that they reduced the problem to the barest minimum. So if you emphasise the welfare aspect of Shariah you reduce the number of people who are embezzling public funds and people inflating contract costs. If people, those who don't have job, discover that there is a welfare scheme to take of them I am sure in the next two to three years even the enemies of Shariah will surrender and say let Shariah continue. If the welfare aspect of Shariah is given prominence it is only a mad person that will oppose its implementation even in non-Muslim states in Nigeria.

**We had polytechnics in the seventies. There was one particular polytechnic that was able to manufacture what they now call KEKE NAPEP and was able to introduce these traffic lights. It was expected to be supported by the government so that it could be produced in commercial quantity. But the effort was restricted. Then came the problem of the brain drain which has reduced most of our polytechnics now to theoretical polytechnics because they hardly have things to show or justify their existence as institutions established to give impetus to the technological development of the country. So, except you want to take care of teaming candidates who just have to be educated then you encourage the establishment of more polytechnics.**

# PROPERTY & ENVIRONMENT

## Land Act hampers provision of houses, says FMBN boss

The Managing Director of Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria (FMBN), Alhaji Tanimu Yakubu has said that the Land Use Act of 1978 is the major obstacle to the provision of affordable houses to Nigerian. Yakubu said this at a public hearing on the refusal of some agencies and companies to remit the 2.5 per cent deductions meant for the National Housing Funds (NHF).

The hearing was organised

by the House of Representatives committee on Environment and Urban Development.

He said as long as the provision, which made the issuance of Certificate of Occupancy the sole responsibility of the state governors is not amended, "we cannot provide affordable houses to the people".

Nigeria, according to him, has a deficit of between 12 million to 16 million houses adding

that between 72 million to 104 million Nigerians were either homeless, living in rented or sub-standard houses.

He observed that the nation's political and economic crises could only be solved when the issue of house ownership is addressed, noting that it was only when people were "decently accommodated that they would contribute their quota to the development of the nation."

The FMBN, Yakubu said, had in the last two years collected 48 per cent of funds meant for the NHF as against the 70 per cent collection from 1994 to 2003.

Declaring the hearing open, Speaker, Aminu Masari said the non-remittance of the Housing Funds was as a result of perceived non benefits by employers and employee. Masari charged the committee to review the existing Housing laws to make them confirm with the present and future realities.

The laws, he said should be review to make states and local governments contribute to the fund.

In her remark, the minister of Housing and Urban Development, Mrs Mobolaji Osomo, said Housing was one of the six global developmental goals.

Osomo said the problem of housing would have been addressed, if the 2.5 per cent deduction for the fund was being faithfully remitted, saying that the contribution was not a tax but an investment.

## FG to assist in the construction of Church centre

President Olusegun Obasanjo has promised to assist the Assemblies of God church in the construction of its multi-million Naira conference centre.

Obasanjo made the promise at Okpoto-Ishielu, Ebonyi, at the weekend at the launch of a N500 million fund raising organised to build the centre.

He said aside promoting spiritual gains; the centre could be beneficial socially and economically.

The president, who was represented by the Minister of Culture and Tourism, Chief Frank Ogbuewu, noted that more than 9,000 Nigerians traveled to Israel annually on pilgrimage alone.

With the Assemblies' plan, he said, people from within and outside the country could visit the centre, adding that government was therefore

committed to providing it necessary infrastructure.

In his remarks, Gov. Sam Egwu of Ebonyi said apart from being a member of the church, his government supported the project because it would serve as unifying ground.

Egwu noted that the state government had provided some infrastructure to help the church achieve its objective since the project began in 1999.

The General Superintendent of the Assemblies of God Church, Dr Charles Osueke, said the church first conceived the idea in 1996 after its first national prayer convocation.

Osueke said the centre, named "Evangel camp", would house a 120,000-seat auditorium, two conference halls, hostels and chalets, in addition to a clinic and cafeteria when completed.

More than N100 million was collected at the launch.

## FG gives 1004 estate residents 30-day quit notice

The Federal Ministry of Housing and Urban Development has given residents of the 1004 housing estate in Lagos 30 days to quit or be ejected by force.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the quit notice was contained in a letter sent to 445 occupants of the estate.

The ministry said it was revoking the allocation of the houses to the residents in line with a directive from its minister, who is also the chairman of the implementation committee on federal government's landed property.

The letter, entitled "Revocation of allocation of government quarters" and bearing reference number NO IMP/C/FSF/£, said the residents should vacate their apartments on by March 31. The letter, dated Feb. 25, stressed that "failure to comply with this directive may attract forcible ejection without further notice".

It said the divisional police officer in charge of the

division had been duly informed of the development.

The letter advised the residents to settle outstanding bills and hand over their keys to the estate manager.

Accompanying the revocation letter was a letter for the purchase of alternative accommodation in Abuja.

Reacting to the development, the Chairman of the 1004 Residents' Association, Mr Abdul Ter Kohol, described the threat of forcible ejection as a slap in the face of the judiciary.

"The case is already in the Court of Appeal and it would be unconstitutional for the government to carry out its threat," he explained.

"Giving us a 30-day quit notice is most wicked; even if the exercise is genuine and sincere, we still expect them to have given us nothing less than eight months notice."

"Our children are still in school, those in secondary school are preparing for their exams; how do we relocate them?"

Speaking further, Kohol said the bid undertaken to sell the estate had been forfeited because the winners of the bid, the UACN Property Ltd, had violated one of the conditions of the bid.

He explained that the condition had stipulated that the winner of the bid must pay in full within 30 days, but said UACN had yet to complete payment more than four months after the bid.

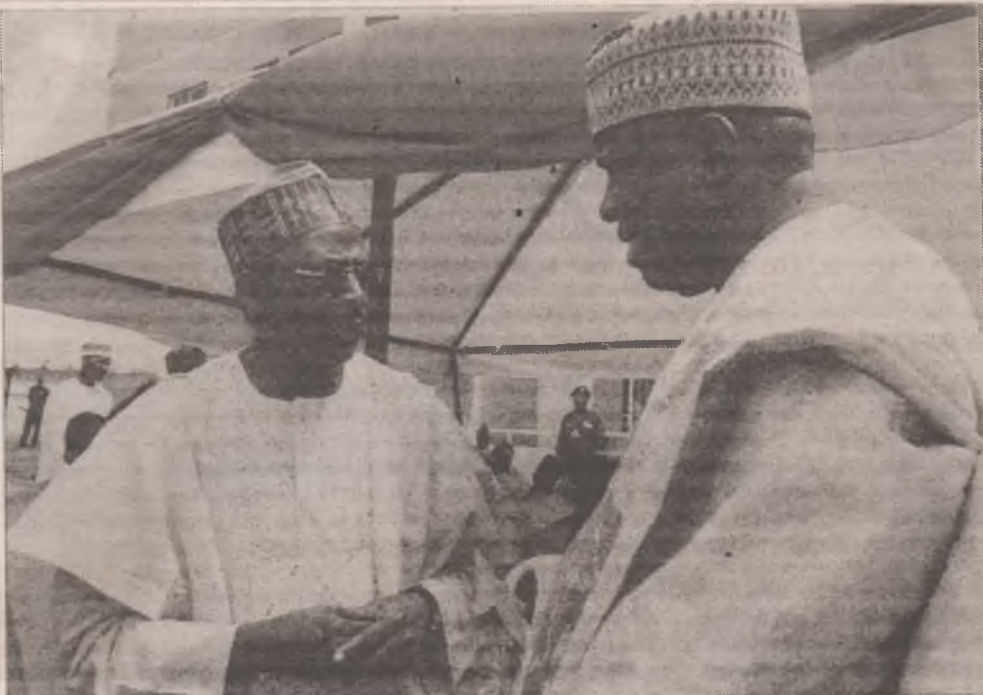
Kohol described the whole exercise as sheer wickedness on government's part.

"The government wants us to buy alternative accommodation in Abuja while we are working in Lagos. How do

## Katsina launches campaign on neem trees

Governor Umaru Musa Yar'adua of Katsina State has initiated a campaign to sensitise his people on the advantages of planting neem trees and sesame.

To this end, Yar'adua has embarked on a mobilisation tour of the 34 local government areas of the state "to augment efforts of the state



L-R: Ahmed Rufa'i MD, NSITF with minister of labour and productivities, Alhaji Hassan Lawan Muhammad during the commissioning of NSITF commercial housing estate in Karu, Abuja...yesterday.

Pix: Kennedy Egbonodje.

## Post-tsunami construction threatens forest

Re-construction of tsunami-damaged properties around the Indian Ocean area would threaten local forest coverage rate if no protective measures are adopted.

The UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) gave the warning in Bangkok yesterday.

"Much of the infrastructure destroyed by the tsunami was made of wood, including piers, bridges, boats, houses and other buildings, and many of the affected coastal communities rely on fuel wood for heating and cooking," said FAO in a statement in Bangkok.

If not managed appropriately, this demand could adversely affect the

remaining forests "irrevocably", warned the UN agency.

FAO therefore called affected countries' governments to carefully study the actual needs of wood or reuse wood salvaged from damaged buildings and drowned trees so as to avoid over-harvesting and illegal felling of trees.

Besides, FAO also called on assessment and restoration of mangrove and other coastal forests and

trees damaged by the tsunami, the full extent of which is still unknown.

FAO today opened a workshop in Bangkok on rehabilitation of tsunami-affected forest ecosystem.

The event, gathering some 50 participants from affected countries' governments, NGOs, international and regional agencies, is expected to formulate a framework for forestry rehabilitation initiatives.

## Cross River to spend N1.5n on housing

About N1.5 billion is to be spent by the Cross River State government for the construction of low cost housing estate at Atimbo, Akpabuya local government area of the state.

The project which is to be co-handled by the state government in conjunction with the Federal Mortgage Bank Limited and the Union Homes Limited will be leased out to the occupants for between 25 and 30 years for quick recovery of the project sum.

The state commissioner for lands and housing, Architect Bassey Eyo Ndem who disclosed this to newsmen recently said further that the state government has made the project a priority used on the increasing demand for more housing units in the state to cater for the tenably elimination problems in the land.

Mr. Ndem also disclosed that the plans to erect low cost housing emoluments

From Bassey Ita, Correspondent (Calabar)

were abortive because the contractor failed to put faith with the government over the project.

He however stated that fresh plans have been hatched to ensure the construction of 100 houses with the Federal Mortgage Bank partnership adding that all categories of pensions may avoid themselves.

The commissioner maintained that the plans will be perfect as soon as funds are available.

On the ongoing demolition of structures on the orders of government, Mr. Ndem stated that government's development plan to redesign the towns accounts for the demolition saying too that the people will later appreciate the good quality environment which they will be living in.

The commissioner decried the unplanned nature of some towns in the state saying that some structures were too close to the road just as some had no owners or occupation and therefore construct eyesore because of their devastation.

Ndem disclosed that over 100 structures have been demolished near roads in the past few months and expressed satisfaction with the redesigning of the state in the urban renewal programme.

on the international market.

"Their production in the state will surely enable you to break away from poverty and improve your living standards," he said.

Yar'adua had earlier visited Kaita and Mashi, among other local government areas, where he addressed the people on the need to plant neem and sesame.

government to combat desertification".

He explained at Kongolam in Maiadua local government area that "our people need to grow the sesame seeds and collect neem seeds in order to boost their economic status".

The governor pointed out that both crops were well known and in high demand

# PROPERTY & ENVIRONMENT

## Expert makes case for wildlife conservation in Nigeria

By Sunday Ejike Benjamin, Reporter (Health)

The African programme director of the United States fish and wildlife services, Mr. Richard Ruggiero has expressed optimism that Nigeria's wildlife conservation can be greatly improved as there are indications to this effect.

"With some of the signs we are seeing, it showed that Nigerians are increasingly becoming aware that part of the nation's wealth include conservation and preservation of those things that would improve the quality of life in Nigeria," Mr. Ruggiero pointed out recently when he paid a courtesy visit on the Minister of Environment, Col. Bala Mande (rtd) in Abuja.

According to him, Nigerians and the government of Nigeria are showing willingness and enthusiasm to work with others to accomplish efficient wildlife conservation in the country and pledged his country's Preparedness to help the country in achieving this goal.

He said the thrust of his visit was to see how his

organisation can support Nigeria on the elephant conservation strategy and to also see ways in which some of the deficiencies could be sufficiently enforced.

In his remarks, the senior technical adviser, wildlife conservation in Nigeria and Cameroun, Prof. John F. Oates expressed his happiness

that there is an evidence of federal government's support on the conservation of gorillas and other species in the country and disclosed out US government's readiness to provide fund for the wildlife conservation programme in Cross-River State.

According to him part of Mr. Ruggiero programmes in Nigeria was to, "see for himself what level of success we are making in gorilla conservation in the country and what resources might be needed for the future." He

pointed out that the wildlife conservation society works in partnership with many organisations in Nigeria, especially, the Nigeria conservation foundation and its zonal office in Calabar.

Responding, the minister of environment, Col. Bala Mande commended the team for its visit adding that the visit was an indication of its concern about the country's efforts in the conservation of wild-life and expressed hope for a stronger relationship in the interest of conservation of bio-nature in Nigeria.

The government, Col. Mande noted has concluded

arrangement to handover the Yankari games reserve to the Bauchi State government, stressing that the federal government has the overall responsibility for policy, monitoring and enforcing the conservation of nature.

The minister, who said government is taking the issue of conservation serious, also added that Nigeria and Cameroun has a joint declaration to work together in the protection of gorillas that are found in the two countries. According to him, a protected area has been marked and expressed government's determination to promote wildlife

conservation in the country.

Col. Mande disclosed that the federal government will soon launch a shelter-belt programme as a way of rehabilitating the natural habitat in the country, pointing out that a sufficient amount of money has been earmarked for the project.

He said over 22 million seedlings will be planted across the northern states of the country as part of government's effort to revegetate them adding that the project is in line with the national policy on poverty eradication and empowerment of the rural community.

### FG to re-award contract for Onitsha-Owerri road

The federal government has decided to re-award 40 per cent of the contract for the construction of the 97 km Onitsha-Owerri road to another company. Works minister, Adeseye Ogunlewe, told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Abuja today that the move became necessary due to the slow pace of work on the project. "We decided to allow Consolidated Construction Company (CCC), which got the initial contract for the project, to undertake 60 per

cent of the job while we hand over the remaining 40 per cent to another company," he said.

Ogunlewe said that although the N25.6 billion contract awarded in 2002 was to have been completed and handed over to the federal government last year, only four kilometres of the road has been constructed to date. "The road project was one of the campaign promises made to the people of the area and we cannot afford to fail them and all Nigerians. We are splitting the project into two so that work on it could be faster," he added.

The minister disclosed that his ministry would consider only reputable companies in re-awarding the contract for 40 per cent of the road project. "My office and that of Mr. President have been filled with many complaints by the governor and some concerned citizens of the state about the slow pace of work on the road. At one point the people even thought that we had forgotten our promises," he said. While giving the assurance that the project would be completed by 2006, he stressed that President Olusegun Obasanjo's promise to construct good road networks in Nigeria would be fulfilled.



A view of Chida International Hotel, Utako, Abuja. Chida Hotel has 250 rooms in the categories of presidential, royal, ambassadorial, super executive standard rooms. It is located in the serene environment of Abuja and surrounded by many private villas.

### El-Rufai attributes environmental degradation to human activities

The chairman of the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA), Malam Nasir el-Rufai has attributed the problems plaguing the environment to unhealthy interferences by humanity.

Malam el-Rufai made this observation yesterday in Abuja while he was at a National Summit on Environmental management in Nigeria organised by the House of Representatives committee on environment.

El-Rufai enumerated the resultant effects of human interferences as erosion, desertification, flood, deforestation, draught and abject poverty.

Mallam el-Rufai declared that the objective of the summit is to review existing

By Ebenezer John Buoro (Intern)

laws on environmental management adding that our environment law need to be strengthened to make them relevant, appropriate and contemporary in order to meet the challenges of present day urbanisation.

Malam el-Rufai said "in order to ensure a cleaner and healthier environment for the resident of the FCT. We have repositioned the Abuja Environmental Protection Board founded in 1991 to manage the FCT environment, and also to enhance life expectancy of the people."

He appealed to the residents of the FCT to keep their houses, offices and

environment clean and tidy adding that the FCT administration will tolerate unwholesome activities geared towards frustrating its desire to build a first class clean capital city that will be comparable with the best anywhere in the world.

"as you drive through the FCT, you will probably notice our efforts to further beautify Abuja with the local and exotic ornamental trees in fulfilment of the presidential mandate to plant one million trees in the FCT. Our beautiful recreational parks are popular rendezvous for families at weekend and during public holidays. I urge you to take time off your busy schedule to visit some of them

### Ogun state housing programme takes off

The Ogun state government's housing programme has completed and sold of 100 housing units to the public at N70 million during the past year. The state's commissioner for housing, Chief Wale Egunleti, told newsmen in Abeokuta that a semi-detached two-bedroom bungalow at the OGD Housing Scheme, Asero, Abeokuta went for N1.5 million, while a detached two-bedroom bungalow was sold for N1.75 million.

Chief Egunleti announced that the housing ministry would build a minimum of 100 housing units at the Games Village, Ijebu-Ode this year in preparation for the 2006 National Sports Festival, which has been tagged 'Gateway Games.' He said that another 100 units of two, three, and four-bedroom bungalows would be provided at the Sagamu interchange. Other houses would also be built within the Gateway City at Isheri North 'to take advantage of Ogun state's nearness to Lagos,' he explained.

Meanwhile the Ogun State Housing Corporation is also set to build 100 housing units at Ota estate.

On infrastructural

development in state-owned institutions, the commissioner said the government had released money for the completion of the Moshood Abiola Polytechnic, Abeokuta. Other projects handled by the ministry included the design of the Council of Obas and Chiefs building as well as the completion of the deputy governor's lodge and the 'June 12' market, he added.

### Gov Ibrahim inaugurates environment project in Yobe

The National Primary School Friends of the Environment and Agriculture project has been inaugurated in Yobe by Gov. Bukar Ibrahim.

The inauguration in Damaturu on Thursday followed its approval by the National Council on Education.

The governor charged the National Coordinator of the project, Dr Eze Ezedioramma, to ensure that it was sustained and spread to all parts of the country.

He commended the initiators of the project, saying it would bring about self-sufficiency in

food production and economic recovery.

The governor said the project was also aimed at making the environment safe for human beings and animals.

He said the project was relevant to the state that was prone to drought and desertification, adding: "I have directed the Ministry of Education to commence the project at six pilot sites."

Responding, the national coordinator said it was a long-term plan to support government efforts to guarantee food security.

He explained that youths and women would be mobilised to own farms for increased output of agricultural products.

# PROPERTY & ENVIRONMENT

## Flood threaten one million in Kano

Over one million people in Hadejia-Nguru wetlands are threatened by flood and aridity because of blockage of three of the four channels of the Hadejia River.

The warning was contained in a document of the Joint Wetlands Livelihoods Project (JWL) of DFID entitled, "flood and typha devastation of Hadejia-Nguru wetlands".

The document released in Kano on Friday show that the blockage of the river channels by floating typha grass and situation, had thrown the majority of the people in the wetlands into a state of uncertainty and apprehension.

The blockage of the three channels had caused annual flooding of the fourth channel, leading to destruction of farms, houses and roads.

According to the report, the situation was caused by unfavourable upstream water management over the past 20 years.

Such unfavourable management was caused mainly by the construction of dams (tiga and

Chalawa/Gorge of Kano), irrigation schemes, and urban water supply intakes.

This, the report said had rendered the wetlands flooded and extremely arid as against its high productive

nature until 20 years ago in North-East.

The land had been rendered unproductive, forcing people to migrate.

JWL project, according to the report was now planning to tackle the problem at community, wetlands and basin levels, working with a wide range of stakeholders.

The project was now

facilitating a series of process-oriented pilot activities that would foster institutional change in the management of water.

Communities along the Burum Gana channel in Guri and Kirikasama local governments, have with the assistance of JWL embarked on clearing some channels of weed.

## Landslide may shut down beverage company

A landslide threatening the Nigerian Beverages Production Company, makers of Highland Tea in Kakara village in Mambilla Plateau of Taraba may force it to close shop.

The Managing Director of the Company, Mr Jonah Agyo raised the alarm while conducting the Speaker and members of the Taraba House of Assembly round the company at the weekend in Karaka, Taraba.

Agyo said that if urgent steps were not taken to check the landslide threatening the two roads leading to the company, it might be forced to fold up.

Agyo said that the slide which was first noticed three years ago was fast eating up the two roads leading to the

company.

He said that unless something was done urgently to address the problem before the rainy season set in, transportation of goods and persons to and from the company would be halted.

The managing director said though he had reported the problem to the federal government and was expecting a favourable response, the legislators could assist by taking up the issue with the government.

He said that the control of the landslide threatening the two roads was beyond the financial capability of the company.

Agyo said further that inadequate funding had also compounded the problems of the company, saying that the company needed N15 million monthly for effective management.

Responding, the speaker of the Assembly, Mr Istifanus Gbana appealed to the relevant federal government authorities to urgently come to the rescue of the company to prevent it from folding up.

Gbana who described the environmental problem as "devastating", promised that the legislators would take urgent measures to address it as it did some years ago when the company was at the verge of collapse.

He thanked the Taraba government for coming to the aid of the company by injecting some funds which led to its resumption of production.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the legislators were shown round the company's production processes and the 1,200 hectares of tea farmlands belonging to it and small scale farmers in the area.

The company which is worth N7.5 billion, which was ailing bounced back to business about two years ago after the Taraba government had invested about N100 million in it.

## Delegate urges more investment in infrastructure

Former ASUU national President, Prof. Attahiru Jega, has canvassed for substantial investment in the country's infrastructure.

He suggested that government needed to invest enormous capital to rejuvenate the nation's social amenities and infrastructure to impact positively on the lives of the citizenry.

Jega was commenting on President Olusegun Obasanjo's inaugural address at the ongoing national political reform conference (NPRC) in Abuja.

The university don urged his fellow delegates to dispel any hidden agenda for convoking the conference by pushing through what their respective constituencies requested them to accomplish.

Similarly, Dr Chris Abashiya from Kaduna state, stressed the need for the government to strengthen the structures binding the polity, including rotational presidency,

federal character, religion and ethnicity.

He urged the delegates to ensure that the constitution clearly provided for institutional schedules for the Vice President, deputy governors and local government vice chairmen, so as not to produce "useless appendages".

Also speaking at the occasion, Alhaji Umar Tofa from Kano state, demanded for a meaningful economic reform that had direct bearing on the lives of commoners by way of eliminating poverty, hunger and disease to achieve lasting peace, unity and stability.

He suggested for heavy investment in the agriculture, health, education, water supply, electricity and roads to uplift the living standard of the people.

In his contribution, Alhaji Ishaku Jikantoro from Niger state said that religious leaders and traditional rulers should be given a chance to rule the country for the better.



FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA  
FEDERAL MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES

## CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR THE DESIGN OF SHAGARI IRRIGATION PROJECT INVITATION FOR BID:

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The Federal Government of Nigeria, through the Federal Ministry of Water Resources, proposes the provision of infrastructure for irrigation that will utilize water from the Shagari Dam currently under construction. The project is located within Shagari Local Government Area of Sokoto State.

### 2. SCOPE OF SERVICES

The services to be rendered by the Consultants shall include, among others, the following:

- Feasibility study, Engineering design, preparation of tender documents, as well as Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) study for the irrigation component. The irrigation component is to be integrated into the on-going dam, such that the irrigation canals from the dam is properly aligned and positioned.
- Preparation and submission of necessary reports/documents including but not limited to EIA and Feasibility Studies, engineering design and tender documents.

### INVITATION:

Technical and financial proposals are invited from reputable and suitably qualified consultants for provision of the above services. The technical proposals should have contents that clearly reveal and or demonstrate the following:

- The true and full identity of the firm, its principal partners and core personnel to be deployed on the project.
- Firm's knowledge of the project and the project area.
- Firm's relevant work experience of similar jobs within the last ten years backed up with evidences and/or completion certificates.
- Project Personnel list (core), time-schedule, qualification, CVs and relevant work experience.
- Evidence of registration with CAC and COREN.
- Works/services Methodology, Programme, Organization.
- Demonstration of financial capabilities with respect to Annual Turn Over and line of credit from reputable bank.

The financial proposal should be based on not more than 6 months period and be in line with the Federal Government approved guideline for professional scale of fee for consultant in construction industry. It should specifically include the following main components:

- Personnel Remuneration corresponding with time-schedule under the technical proposal.
- Responsibility Fee.
- Remunerable Fee for reimbursable expenses.

All interested consultants should send their Technical and Financial Proposals, which must be first marked and sealed in separate envelopes. The two envelopes should thereafter be wrapped and sealed in a cover envelope marked "Consultancy Services for the Design of Shagari Irrigation Project" at the top right hand corner of the envelope. This should be addressed and delivered not later than 12.00 noon on 24th March, 2005 to:

The Director,  
Irrigation and Drainage  
Federal Ministry of Water Resources  
Area 1, Garki  
Abuja

Signed:  
Dr. C. J. G. Orjioko OON  
Permanent Secretary  
7th March, 2005

# Agric News

## Kwara assures on agric infrastructure

The Kwara state governor, Dr Abubakar Bukola Saraki, has reiterated that the provision of agricultural infrastructure remains a continuous exercise in its bid to establish sustainable large-scale mechanised farming in the state. He gave the assurance on Thursday while flagging-off rice planting under the state government's 'Vee Tee Group' rice production programme at Duku-Lade in the Pategi local government area. The programme, which is a joint venture between the state government and the Vee Tee Group, is aimed at the mass production of rice in the state.

Dr Saraki had earlier in January visited the irrigation site to assess its facilities and determine its needs. He stressed the enormous potential of the agricultural sector, including its capacity to improve the standard of living of the populace and promote balanced economic growth.

'Through this irrigation project, we are adopting a more technical approach to rice production that would guarantee the efficiency of the process as well as introduce high yield rice varieties and the use of modern post-harvest processing method', Dr. Saraki said.

'The comparative advantage that the rice growing areas of our state have over other parts of our country, coupled with the facilities at the Duku-Lade irrigation scheme, has been a major attraction for investors in the rice industry and has made Kwara state the cynosure of all eyes in Nigeria', the governor added. Applauding the presidential initiative on

From Abdulrazaq Adebayo, Correspondent (Ilorin)

rice production, Dr. Saraki said that the goal of the project is to produce rice seeds and rice grains with an initial target of 18,000 metric tonnes.

The project, which is aimed at assisting local farmers to become more productive and multiply their incomes, is based on a tripartite arrangement with government providing the required infrastructure. The Vee Tee Group is to provide the expertise and technical information to facilitate production and the marketing of the products, while the farmers will own the plots and maintain them with inputs from the Vee Tee Group. 'We have pursued our vision of a new agricultural dawn with unparalleled zeal and tenacity of purpose.

We are determined to remove every hurdle on our path with great understanding and in partnership with our local and foreign investors, as well as with our host communities,' the governor declared. He commended the Vee Tee Group, the banks financing the programme,

and the community leaders for their dedication and appealed to the farmers to handle the facilities with care.

Speaking in the same vein, the Kwara state commissioner for agriculture and natural resources, Alhaji Ja'afaru Bio Ibrahim, said that rehabilitation work at the site has reached about 75 percent level of completion, adding that it has started to yield fruitful dividends as many farmers were in a position to produce rice in large quantities compared to the low yields of the previous years.

Alhaji Ibrahim, who disclosed that the Vee Tee Group would bring in a \$14 million rice mill to process the harvested rice, expressed optimism that the yield would increase from 1 tonne per hectare to about three tonnes per hectare. He appealed to farmers to avail themselves of the opportunity so that Kwara state could become a rice exporting state.

The chairman of Pategi local government, Architect Thomas Gana, appealed to the state government to hasten work on the rehabilitation of the Pategi rice mill to facilitate the processing and packaging of rice in the area.

## Minister lauds reduction in rice importation

The agriculture and rural development minister, Mallam Adamu Bello, has expressed delight over the reduction in the volume of rice importation into Nigeria from 2 million metric tonnes in 2002 to 1.2 million metric tonnes in 2004. The minister disclosed this in his keynote address at the opening ceremony of the National Cotton Forum held in Kaduna. He said that the reduction is an attestation to the fact that the presidential initiative on increased rice production, which commenced in 2002 with a stakeholders' forum, is yielding fruit and that the ban on rice importation scheduled for January 2006 when local production is expected to meet consumption demand is realisable.

Mallam Bello also used the opportunity to correct the notion that the federal government neglects agricultural development in certain parts of the country. According to him, the present administration tackles the development of agriculture in a holistic manner, and no part of Nigeria is being neglected. He said that although 82 percent of rice being grown locally is from the northern part of Nigeria, other initiatives such as those on vegetable oil, cassava, livestock, and cocoa are being implemented in many other areas in Nigeria.

The minister explained that the Cocoa Development Programme is funded in part through the liquidated cocoa buffer stock, which was transferred to his ministry from the ministry of commerce in 1999. Counterpart funds came from the cocoa producing states and other stakeholders such as the various cocoa associations.



A woman milking a cow for domestic purposes.

## Minister canvasses committee for cotton development

The agriculture and rural development minister, Mallam Adamu Bello, has called for the constitution of a high-level committee composed of governors or deputy governors of all cotton growing states, the Nigerian Textile Manufacturers' Association, the National Cotton Association of Nigeria, as well as key relevant public sector institutions.

The minister made this call in his keynote address at the National Cotton Forum held in Kaduna. He said that the proposed committee is to plan and project cotton as a high priority crop, source necessary funds and provide managerial direction for the cotton sector similar to the cocoa development programme.

Mallam Bello informed the forum that significant changes had occurred in the sector since the first national symposium on cotton production was held in 1982.

He said that the ministry of agriculture and rural development has been collaborating with its counterpart in the ministry of commerce, all cotton producing states, and other key stakeholders on both production and quality issues.

According to Mallam Bello, the evolving institutional support such as the establishment and operation of the Cotton Consultative Committee, the Cotton Seed Revolving Fund and its management committee, and the recently established Arable Crops Development and Marketing Company are attestations of the government's interest and keen support for the sub-sector.

This administration, he said, has also established two presidential initiatives - vegetable oil and the revival of the textile industries - and both have cotton as a major component of their mandates. He observed that the existing linkages between

cotton growing, ginning, and the cotton textile industry comprising yarn spinning, fabric weaving, and knitting, as well as apparel manufacture must of necessity be strengthened to expand production.

The minister also disclosed that under the presidential initiative on vegetable oil, a target has been set for the production of one million tonnes of seed cotton per annum from 2007, which would yield 660,000 tonnes of cotton seed for vegetable oil production as well as 340 million tonnes of quality fibre for the textile sector.

Earlier in his welcome address, the Kaduna state governor, Alhaji Ahmed Makarfi, who was represented by his deputy, Engineer Stephen Shekari, said that cotton production was crucial to the

economy of the state. He implied the forum to consider and make recommendations on how to revive the production of quality cotton and the eventual reopening of the many closed textile factories.

The governor of Zamfara state sent a goodwill message through his deputy, while those of Ogun, Oyo, and Ondo states were represented by their agriculture commissioners.

The National Cotton Forum was organised by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in collaboration with the Cotton Revolving Fund Management Committee, the Federal Ministries of Commerce and Finance, the Nigeria Textile Manufacturers' Association, and the National Cotton Association of Nigeria.

## MISTOWA launched in Abuja

Efforts to improve intra-regional trade in agricultural products and inputs received a boost on Thursday March 3 2005 with the launch of a project in Abuja worth 15 million US dollars. Code-named MISTOWA (the Regional Market Systems and Traders' Organisations in West Africa), the project's focus is on six ECOWAS member states, namely, Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, and Senegal. It will provide market information, news, demand and supply situation, trend reports, and market intelligence for producers and traders to help them make informed decisions to increase trade.

Activities of the first year of the project, which began in September 2004 and will end in 2008, are expected to help increase the efficiency of regional market information systems, improve the effectiveness of existing and new market information systems, and ensure that the national market information systems are better positioned

for information dissemination.

The project would focus in its first two years on nine priority products for which the region has relative advantages. These include cassava, maize, rice, cashew nuts, tomatoes, cattle, and shea butter.

The key areas of MISTOWA include increasing efficiency of regional market information systems, improving capacities of regional trade and producer organisations, improving the trade environment in West Africa, as well as assisting member states to develop regional-oriented market information systems and trade associations.

The MISTOWA project, which was also launched in Accra, Ghana on 10th February 2005, was jointly organised by ECOWAS and the International Centre for Soil Fertility and Agricultural Development (IFDC), the implementing agency for the project which is being sponsored by the USAID.

## Agriculture: Most potent weapon against poverty - Saraki

The Kwara state governor, Dr. Bukola Saraki, has described agriculture as Nigeria's most potent weapon against poverty and hunger. Receiving the Japanese ambassador in Nigeria, Mr. Akio Tanaka, at the Government House, Ilorin, Governor Saraki said that the country could reduce poverty and empower its people economically through viable agricultural projects. He told the envoy that the state government had invested a lot in commercial farming, most especially rice and maize production, with a view to increasing agricultural produce in the state.

Dr. Saraki specifically sought Japanese collaboration and assistance in diversifying the economy, reducing the burden on government, and providing jobs to stem rural-urban migration. He lamented that the government had limited resources to meet numerous needs in education and health sectors.

Dr. Saraki appealed for intellectual and cultural exchanges with Japan as a means of projecting the image and cultural heritage of Kwara state. He pledged to promote understanding between Japan and Kwara state.

Earlier, Mr. Tanaka had praised Dr. Saraki for steering the state to the path of development and facilitating his visit. The envoy, who has had 34 years of experience in the diplomatic mission, expressed the willingness of his country to increase economic cooperation with Nigeria and promised to assist the state especially in cashew processing.

Mr. Tanaka also promised Japanese investment in the state to increase agricultural production, assuring his host that a ready market for the products existed in Japan. While pledging assistance in the field of education, Tanaka also called for cooperation from the state to cement the collaborative efforts with his country.



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# ABUJA TRUST

## Power outage hits Kubwa

Residents of Kubwa in the FCT are having a tough time coping with persistent electricity blackout amidst intensive heat wave. A high percentage of workers in the FCT reside in Kubwa which is about 20 minutes drive from the city centre.

Electricity supply has been erratic in most parts of Kubwa for the past two months, and the setting in of the heat wave has worsened the situation.

In areas such as Federal Housing, 2.1, 2.2, PW and most parts of Kubwa village, those who enjoy electricity supply at all do so for not more than two hours in a day. As a result, most residents spend many hours of the night outside their houses or leave their doors open. Even

By Austine Odo, Senior Reporter

when there is electricity, the fans mainly blow hot air.

At the Federal Housing Estate, *Abuja Trust* saw several families outside their houses with the hope of receiving cool air. But the worst hit were women and children, especially new born babies, who cry deep in the night.

A pregnant woman told our correspondent that as a result of the intense heat and power outage, she is forced to bathe more than five times in a day, even as the taps have all run dry. But she said she had resorted to buying water in jerry cans from water hawkers whose source of supply she could not establish.

Her case may sound more

bearable than one Mrs Sarumi who recently gave birth to two baby girls, and her neighbour who has been ill and is said to have high blood pressure.

Mrs. Sarumi told our reporter she spends an average of N400 every day on water to be able to keep her house and new babies clean.

"The babies do not understand when the heat wave blows, and they keep crying all night, but at most times, we do not have light, so we almost sleep outside every night," she said.

Her neighbour, Hajiya Hanatu, has just survived a bout of typhoid fever, but also has high blood pressure. She has not been going to her shop because she said it was demolished by the FCDA authorities.

She said she has been expecting a message from her only son in Lagos because her husband is no more.

"We de buy water every day, and we no de get light. Heat de worry us well-well," she said.

In the meantime, NEPA has intensified the disconnection of debtors in Kubwa. Even though power supply is at very low level, the disconnection team is very serious in cutting and packing away debtors' cables.



A member of an immunization team giving oral polio vaccine to a child during the exercise in a suburb of Abuja...recently.

## Theft of iron rods: court arraigns policemen

Four policemen were yesterday arraigned before an Abuja magistrate sitting at Jabi for allegedly stealing iron rods at the National Economical Centre Abuja.

The accused, who have been dismissed from service over the matter, are Amos Katuka, Yahaya Aminu, Joseph Sani and Chinedu Eke. According to the First Information Report (FIR), the accused are standing trial for criminal conspiracy and theft, offences contrary to section 97 and 287 of the penal code.

Police prosecutor ASP John Udeh told the court that the accused on February 28, 2004 conspired and stole about 200 length of iron rods of various sizes kept at the construction site of the centre.

By Ekanem Bassey Eyo (Intern)

All the accused persons pleaded innocence to the charges.

Chief magistrate Othman Musa, in his ruling, ordered their remand at the Kuje Prison, and adjourned the case to March 22, 2005 for further hearing.

## Secretariat declares support for 'charity organisations

The executive secretary, Social Development Secretariat, Ms Bolanle Onagoruwa, has reiterated the secretariat's commitment to identifying with charity organisations in the Federal Capital Territory. She made this known when members of the Planned

Parenthood Federation of Nigeria paid her a courtesy visit.

Represented by Dr Chris Iyimogha, the executive secretary promised to forward the organisation's request for exemption from the deadline given for the revocation of undeveloped plots to the FCT minister for consideration.

In his speech, the president of the PPFN, Dr. Nosa Omoregie, explained that the body is a non-governmental organisation established 'with a view to creating a conducive environment where Nigerian citizens can freely exercise their rights in accessing quality sexual and reproductive health service and family planning'.

While commending the minister for waiving the development levy on its plots, the president disclosed that PPFN was committed to establishing its national headquarters in Abuja and called for the support of the



Pupils of an FCT primary school engaged in a sack race

## el-Rufai inaugurates c'ttee on AIDS confab

The administration of the Federal Capital Territory has inaugurated a 13-member committee that will ensure the successful hosting of the International Conference on AIDS and STI's in Africa (ICASA) in December this year.

The special assistant to FCT minister on social sector, Hajia Amina Salihu, who represented the minister, stated this at the inauguration of the committee in Abuja.

According to the special assistant, about 12,000 delegates are expected from all over Africa to share their

By Ebenezer John Buoro, Intern

conference.

Hajia Amina Salihu said that HIV/AIDS should not be looked at as a health issue alone but as a multi-sectoral crisis.

She charged the committee to formulate the appropriate modalities to aid the success of ICASA.

The chairman of the committee, Dr. Gajere Tali, thanked the minister for the opportunity given them to see to the success of the conference.

He assured the minister he and the other members would do everything within their power to see that the

# KANO TRUST

## Poverty: Villagers revert to trade by barter

Trade by barter occasioned by exchange of goods for goods has resurfaced in Gabargal Village, Guri local government area of Jigawa State.

The *News Agency of Nigeria (NAN)* reports that the residents engaged in the trade to meet their immediate needs because of lack of money.

Men and women in the village engaged in exchange of foodstuff such as giving millet and sorghum for other items as soap, salt and other essential items. The people,

mostly women exchanged cow milk for foodstuff.

One of the women in Gabargal, Mrs. Fatima Maina, told *NAN* that money was scarce in the village because farming and fishing no longer thrive as major rivers, including Komodugu had dried up.

"For the last nine years the river bed remains without water following the silting of the River Hadejia tributary," she said.

An elder, Malam Shugaba Amanu, said the

natural diversion of the river channel to the west of the village left the eastern tributary dried rendering Gabargal Village in aridity, while annual rainfall was little.

Over the years the people have resorted to fetching and sales of firewood as their mainstay, he said.

"As we desperately want water from the river because of the threatening aridity, the people of Marma, Margadu, Tukwikwi and Kabak villages on the western channel of the river are now in flood," he said. Amanu alleged that many men have migrated from the village because of the situation.

## Kano Muslims urged to assist Abuja mosque rehabilitation

Muslims in Kano State have been asked to immensely contribute by way of financial assistance to the committee set-up by the emir

### NEPA pledges prompt repaid of faults

Kano people have been assured that electrical faults reported by residents will henceforth not exceed 2 hours before they are rectified.

Chief operating officer, Kano distributing zone of N.E.P.A, Alhaji (Dr) Is'haq Usman gave the assurance while launching two new Rapid Response vans attached to the N.E.P.A. customer service in the state meant for faults clearance.

Alhaji Is'haq Usman promised that within the abilities of N.E.P.A, the new fault clearing technique would help them not exceed two hours of rectification after faults have been reported.

He also said that the vehicles procured are dedicated for that singular purpose of local electric faults clearance fitted into the NEPA's customer service charter that undertakes to provide quality service that N.E.P.A customers can expect.

While presenting the keys of the vehicles to Dala and Nassarawa Business district in Kano, he promised to provide more of those facilities to other NEPA business units that will be used in generating awareness for people concerning their bills and other issues.

The vehicles which were equipped with communication gadgets will be strategically stationed for easy reach by customers and will be on 24 hours service.

Yusha'u Adamu Ibrahim,  
Correspondent (Kano)

of Kano Alhaji Ado Bayero, for the rehabilitation of Abuja national mosque.

The plea was jointly made by two members of the committee, Shiekh Mudi Salga and Alhaji Wada-Aliyu Gaya in a television programme aired by the state-owned television station, CTV and monitored in Kano.

Contributing in the programme, Alhaji Wada Aliyu Gaya, said the committee has divided itself in 7 sub-committees for easy collection of donations from the various class of Muslim communities in the state.

He explained further that the sub-committees include academicians, businessmen, major marketers, elites, Islamic scholars, associations and other public gathering

centres. He pointed out that already some of the market association leaders have been contacted and arrangements have reached advanced level on how to source money from their members.

Alhaji Wada Gaya disclosed further that the emir, Dr. Ado Bayero, had also directed the chairman of the committee, Alhaji Sani Sarki Yola, to inform all district heads across the state to collect donations from individuals in their domains.

Alhaji Gaya, who was the Sarkin-Yakin Kano, stated that enough receipts are provided to various collection centres which include, Juma'at mosques, offices of the district heads, offices of the market associations as well as to the members of the committee.

The Sarkin-Yakin Kano, who described the donations

### Police promotes servicemen

The Nigeria police force has promoted (9) nine members of the police rank and file to their various next ranks in Kano. This gesture is also a policy of rewarding excellence, and hard work to its members.

The Inspector General of police, Mr. Sunday Ehindero conducted the decoration exercise at the sentry guard mounted for the number one police shepherd at zone one headquarters in Kano.

The IGP expressed his administrations readiness to train and retrain officers in order to give the Nigeria police force a sense of direction while enlightening both cadets and police officers of the Nigeria police force of his 10-point programme of action.

Ehindero also informed the police of its new slogan which he said is "to serve and police with integrity" and urged them to use that as

guide through hard work and the seeking of honour and integrity.

## Bayero tasks Muslims on Islamic education

Muslims in Kano state have been implored to strive assiduously for the development of Islam through prompt support to the Islammiya and Qur'anic schools, the emir of Kano, Alhaji Ado Bayero, issued the advice at appeal fund launch for the construction of Kanzul Huda Islammiya School.

The royal father, who gave a personal donation of N1million at the occasion, observed that the full participation of Muslims especially wealthy individuals for such gesture is the only solution to the development of Islamic education.

According to him, Al-



Selling Kpomo (cattle-skin) pepper soup in Kano is becoming a common feature among men as they struggle to earn a living.  
Pix: Yushau Ibrahim.

as another form of Jihad, stated that shops, town-halls and libraries would be provided to the national mosque for proper maintenance of the mosque.

In his contributions, Shiekh Mudi Salga called on the Muslims to imbibe the culture of offering assistance to mosques, suggesting that "even after the rehabilitation

of Abuja national mosque, Muslims should continue donating financially to assist the mosque and other Juma'at mosques across the country for proper maintenance of such worshipping places."

Shiekh Salgu who quoted various Qur'anic verses and prophetic sayings explained that those who contributed in sustaining a place of worship

would be rewarded both in this world and the hereafter.

It could be recalled that the emir of Kano, Dr. Ado Bayero has set-up a committee under the leadership of Madakin-Kano, Alhaji Sani Abdullahi Sarki Yola to collect donations for the rehabilitation of Abuja national mosque.

## Emir of Kano urges support for census

The emir of Kano, Dr. Alhaji Ado Bayero, has called on district heads to give the forthcoming census exercise the necessary support in order to achieve success of the project.

The emir made the call

By Jamilah Nuhu Musa,  
Correspondent (Kano)

when the census committee led by Professor Sadik Suleiman Wali, paid him a courtesy call in his palace.

He noted that the census as a national programme is

timely and would augur well for the people of the state.

He therefore enjoined them to enlighten their people on the issue to enable them participate fully.

The emir reiterated that the census is important for the development of the nation and its people in general.

He then commended the committee for the success achieved so far and promised that necessary support would be given to enhance the project.

Speaking earlier, professor, Sadik Suleiman Wali, said that they were in the palace to intimate him on the census project and to seek for his support.

Professor Wali had called on the emir to enjoin district and village heads as well as Islamic leaders in the community to sensitize people on the forthcoming census exercise.

He said that people needed to be more enlightened in order for them to perform better than they did during the last census exercise.

ing between their counterparts of other faiths, explaining that Islam does not condone tribal or ethnic violence.

Also speaking at the occasion, the Walin Kano, Alhaji Mahe Bashir Wali applauded the emir for the kind gesture saying it will serve as a good lesson for others to emulate.

He emphasised that Kano is one of the best recognised areas nationwide due to its vast religious and economic tolerance, saying all and sundry should participate in any effort meant to overhaul its standard.

The headmaster of the school, Malam Dauda Abdullahi, in his vote of thanks, commended all those who offered donations to the fund which realised N1.8m.

# EKO TRUST

## PAYE deductions: LASG seals companies premises

The Lagos State government on Monday continued its aggressive revenue generation drive, sealing off the premises of two companies and a plaza over non-remittance of N47 million Pay As You Earn (PAYE) deductions from their workers salaries to government coffers.

Two of the affected firms, NAYEE Press and Magodo Plaza were said to have defaulted to the tune of N15 million and N25 million respectively while Dorman Long Nigeria Limited, which paid N601, 955.96 to tax collectors on site was spared. Another firm, GRIZI Nigeria Limited with a tax liability of N7 million was equally shot. The on-going clampdown on erring firms operating in Lagos is part of efforts being made by the Tinubu administration to raise the internally generated revenue to N10 billion monthly before the expiration of its tenure in 2007.

Other blue chip companies like Guinness Nigeria Pl, Chevron and Sheraton Hotel and Towers have all been indicted over non-remittance of PAYE deductions to fatten government's internal earnings.

The legal adviser to the Lagos State Board of Internal Revenue, Mrs. Abosede Olukolu, led the enforcement team.

NAYEE Press, located at 1, Lambert Imasuen Drive, Ajao Estate was sealed, as the management team was not around. The company was audited for the fiscal year

2002. Magodo Plaza was said to be owned by one Dr. Fatai Animashaun. However, he was said to have sold the property to another company.

But the team did not buy the explanation as the company was placed under lock and key. The on-going exercise is the outcome of a discovery by the state government that a large percentage of corporate concerns in the state have failed in the last 10 to 15 years to remit PAYE deducted from their staff to the coffer of the state government.

The state government is desirous of meeting a monthly internally generated revenue of N10 billion to be able to effectively meet its obligations.

Olukolu said that the state government is determined to ensure that all outstanding tax liabilities are collected.



Some of the children rescued in Lagos on Saturday from alleged traffickers.

PH: NAN

## ...threatens to shut down Chevron hqrs

Meanwhile state government said it may be compelled to shut down the Lagos Headquarters of Chevron Nigeria Limited and its senior staff arrested for failure to remit the sum of N4.2 billion as tax liability to the state government's coffer as applicable under the Personal Income Tax Act of 1993.

The threat to seal up the head office of the Chevron and to arrest its senior staffs emanated from its inability to pay the sum of N4.2 billion deducted from its staff salaries from 1991 to 2003.

The tax liability is in respect of a home ownership

scheme instituted by Chevron for its employees known as Chevron Employees Home Ownership plan.

The Federal High Court sitting in Lagos had last month struck out the case instituted by the Chevron challenging the special investigation carried out by the Lagos State Board of Internal Revenue and the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, (EFCC) which indicted Chevron of N4.2 billion tax evasion.

A special investigation jointly carried out by the Lagos State Board of Internal Revenue and the EFCC revealed that Chevron had

failed to remit the said amount deducted from personal income of its staff within the period under review.

Chevron had filed a suit at the Federal High Court against Attorney General of Lagos State, Lagos State Board of Internal Revenue and EFCC claiming that its fundamental rights to acquire and own property and to fair hearing was being infringed upon.

The state government had accused the oil company of evading N4.2 billion and subsequently served it with a demand notice to pay the said amount.

Delivering judgment, Justice Rebecca Olomajobi held that the main issue reflected in the reliefs sought the ground upon which the reliefs are based and the facts in support of the reliefs are principally on the personal income tax 1993 as amended.

"While the issue of fundamental right of the applicant flows from the principal reliefs and are therefore incidental or ancillary to the principal reliefs. And such this action is incompetent and the same will be and it is hereby struck out."

Reacting to the judgment, public relations officer, ministry of finance, Boshun Jinadu lamented the high rate at which corporate bodies and individuals defraud the state government through the falsification of tax returns on PAYE and withholding taxes.

While reinstating the fact that with the judgment, the era of tax evasion and falsification of tax returns is now a thing of the past as the government has already put in place all necessary machineries to deal with all companies engaged in fraudulent tax practices in the state.

Also speaking the PRO,

board of internal revenue, Folashade Quadri, disclosed that the prosecution and enforcement committee set up by the commissioner for Finance has started yielding positive results, adding that the team is set to enforce the judgments of courts against defaulting companies and individuals operating in the state.

## 14 Unilag students, woman, charged with arson

Fourteen students of the University of Lagos on Monday appeared before an Ebute Meta chief magistrates' court on a 13-count charge, including arson.

Charged along with the students for the offence, allegedly committed on January 19, 2005 was a 46-year-old woman, one Mrs. Modupe Ola.

The prosecution told the court that on the said date, the suspects allegedly burnt down the official quarters and guest chalet of the vice-chancellor of the university, Prof. Ayo Ibidapo-Obe, and those of professors Dele Olowokudejo and Duro Adeyalemi, all federal government property.

The prosecution added that buildings, vehicles, bicycles, computer sets, television sets, air conditioners, books and bags of rice were set ablaze and stolen by the accused persons who struck at about 5 a.m.

Eze further said that the

suspects also unlawfully confined Mrs. Folake Olowokudejo, in Moremi Hall, and that they also attempted to murder Miss Deola Olowokudejo "by throwing her into a burning fire."

Messrs Leon Mbakwe and Abel Odetunde, counsel to the suspects, urged the court to grant the suspects bail in the interest of justice, noting that the offence did not demand capital punishment.

The chief magistrate, Mrs. LO. Akinkugbe, in spite of the protests of the prosecution, granted the suspects bail in the sum of N350, 000 with two sureties each in like sum.

Akinkugbe stressed, however, that the sureties should not be below grade level 08 in the civil service. She adjourned further hearing in the case to March 31, 2005.

Many students of the university and the relations of the suspects thronged the court, many of whom broke down and sobbed as the 13 counts were read.

## Withheld LG funds: House accuses FG of victimising Lagos

The Lagos State House of Assembly (LAHA) has said the federal government is politically victimising the state by its refusal to release the over N18 billion owed councils in the state.

According to LAHA, the state had won twice at the Supreme Court but the federal government defied the ruling of the apex court and stand in breach of the constitution of the country.

The chairman of the house's committee on Information, Mr. Tunde Oyewo who gave this submission in Alausa, said the face-off between the federal and state government over the seized allocation was

By Oluvide Bajulaiye, Correspondent (Lagos)

taking a dangerous trend.

He said, "The face-off between the Lagos State and federal government is taking a dangerous trend, it is purely political vindictiveness. The Lagos State House of Assembly is condemning in totality the continuous withholding of local government funds and we call on all well meaning Nigerians and all those concerned to prevail on the federal government to pay the funds immediately".

Oyewo said the House would do everything possible to ensure that the funds are released. "The House is fully

in support of all means to ensure the release of the councils' funds, whether political, legal, constitutional, moral, and spiritual".

Oyewo also said that the plenary sittings in the house would resume soon, while he condemned speculations that the house had fallen short of the required number of sittings as listed in the Constitution.

He said the constitutional requirement for houses of assembly in the constitution is 188 days. According to him, the state assembly had sat for 198 days and the constitutional year for the assembly, which starts on June 2nd - June 1st had not yet ended.



## JIGAWA STATE GOVERNMENT

### *Congrats to Mr. President*

I, Alh. Ibrahim Saminu Turaki, Executive Governor, Jigawa State, on behalf of myself, the Government and good people of Jigawa State join other Nigerians at home and in the diaspora in congratulating our visionary leader at 68. Mr. President, Sir, Your attainment of 68 years of age is a shower of blessing to Nigeria as you continue to lead by exhibiting your visionary style of leadership and craftsmanship in piloting the affairs of our nation.

We wish you many more happy returns.

**Congratulations!**

Signed

Alh. Ibrahim Saminu Turaki,  
Executive Governor, Jigawa State,



CHIEF OLUSEGUN OBASANJO, GCFR, PRESIDENT OF THE  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA



Alh. Ibrahim Saminu Turaki,  
Executive Governor,  
Jigawa State,



# News

## Rivers orders arrest of illegal users of govt. plate numbers

The Rivers State government has advised the police in the state to arrest and impound vehicles whose owners are using government plate numbers illegally.

Handing over the order, the commissioner of information in the state, Mr. Magnus Abe, said it has come to the notice of the State government that people were in the habit of using government plate numbers on private vehicles.

"The practice is unhealthy and criminal and should be stopped. We have advised the police in the state to arrest any individual involved in this and to

From Ikenna Emeka Okpani, Bureau Chief, Port Harcourt

impound the vehicle" he said.

Mr. Abe said most people print local government number plates and put in their vehicles without permission and can use such vehicles to commit crime.

The commissioner also announced that the state government was interested in the banking sector and would buy enough shares in some banks that will give it some level of ownership of such banks.

"When we talked of banks we didn't say we were going to revive the state

owned pan African bank. We did not say that. But we are looking at banks which are already established and being managed well where we can buy into to the level that we can have a director and be able to make decisions, such investment would be good for the future of Rivers State and the creation of employment for the youths" he said.

He debunked claims in certain quarters that the state government was trying to establish a new bank adding that the government was aware that it was difficult for it to run such businesses without undue politicization and influences, an issue, he said plagued the moribund state owned bank.

In a related development, the government has acquired an executive aircraft that would be used for commercial purposes.

The commissioner for transport, Chief Glory Emeh, who was speaking after the State Executive Council meeting in Port Harcourt said the venture was expected to improve the revenue base of the state since the aircraft which is fitted with special ambulance would be available for anyone in need of such services.

Chief Emeh said that other investors in the aviation sector have agreed to bring in ten helicopters that would be operated in the state in moving passenger and cargoes, as well as for fire fighting and agriculture.

Government's role, in this direction, he said would be to provide the needed conducive environment for the aviation business to strike.

By Nasir Imam, Property & Environment Editor

## FG to standardise highway billboards

The minister of works, Senator Adeseye Ogunye, has stressed the need for the government to collaborate with the Outdoor Advertising Practitioners of Nigeria (OAN) to standardise billboards posted on federal highways so as to optimise all possible benefits to the government and in the Nigerian public.

To this end, a permanent committee comprising of representatives of Outdoor Advertising Practitioners and officials of the federal government is to be set-up within two weeks.

A press release from the minister's office, signed by his Chief Press Secretary, Lawrence Ojabo, said the minister made the remark while receiving the report of a 7-man bi-partisan committee of the ministry and OAN's

officials set up to monitor the display of billboards mounted on federal roads.

The minister observed that many of the billboards currently posted on federal highways were designed and installed with little consideration for safety of road users, suitability of location or aesthetics, as is the current practice in other parts of the world.

He also said that the primary aim of government is not to enhance its revenue profile but to explore all avenues to reduce road accidents through removing distractions to motorists, collapse of board, leading to destruction due to improper construction and mounting of the billboards, among others.

## NBTE chief tasks ASUP on confab

The executive secretary for the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE), Engr. Dr. Nura A. Yakubu has tasked members of the Academic Staff Union of Polytechnics (ASUP) to seize the opportunity of the ongoing national confab to demand for the resolution of some of the teething problems facing the sector.

He said while receiving members of the National Executive Council (NEC) of the union led by the outgoing national president, Mr. Sylvester Mamah on a courtesy visit that though education reforms was not on the agenda of the national confab, representatives of the academic community are seriously canvassing for its inclusion as an agenda using the institutional discussion forum.

In a statement by NBTE spokesman, Lawal Hafiz, Dr. Nuru said the union should articulate its position on reforms including structure of the educational system, its

From Sani Baba Doko, Bureau Chief (Kaduna)

governance and funding supported by well-researched reasons and superior arguments characteristics of an academic community.

Besides, the executive secretary said the union

## Adamawa gov. commends NASS

Governor Boni Haruna of Adamawa State has commended the members of the National Assembly for their complementary role of oversight functions of ensuring the actualisation of the National Identity Card programme. In a speech delivered during the flag-off ceremony for the distribution of National Identity Cards at the Women Development Centre, Yola, Governor Haruna also commended President Olusegun Obasanjo for taking what he described as a giant stride.

"Indeed, by ensuring the actualisation of this programme which was

From Abdulkareem Baba Aminu, (Reporter)

should work in concert with other stakeholders to come up with a position on the forthcoming public hearing in the House of Representatives on the bill for an act to establish the National Commission for Polytechnics (NCP).

initiated over 20 years ago through budgetary provision and monitoring of its implementation, the present members of the National Assembly will go down in the history of this country as the most effective in its constitutional role of oversight functions," said Governor Haruna.

He said that the National Identity Card is another effort to give Nigerian citizens a sense of national pride and to attain the state of nationhood. "It is another effort to actualise the Nigerian project with common identity," added governor Haruna.



L-R: Mrs. Fatima Murtala Nyako-vice chairman, Senbore farm Ltd., Dr. Sidi Jammeh, World Bank Regional Director for Africa Rural Development Programme, Mr. Ari Thammus Kobis, commissioner of agriculture, Adamawa State, Dr. Adetunji Oredope, national coordinator, Fadama II project during the visit of Fadama II project team to Senbore farm Ltd., Adamawa State...recently.

## Suswan kick-starts water project in Benue

Succour has at last come the way of the rural communities suffering from acute water shortage in Benue State, as a project designed to sink various motorised boreholes in the 23 local government areas of the state was flagged off yesterday, by Governor George Akume.

Initiated by the House of Representatives committee chairman on Budget and Appropriation, Hon. Gabriel Tor Suswan, the water supply project which is contracted to an engineering

From Hir Joseph, Correspondent (Makurdi)

company co-owned by the Chinese, the C.G.C. Nigeria Ltd. through the federal ministry of water resources, is according to the lawmaker, an extension of his original constituency project in his Sankera (Benue State), federal constituency.

Performing the flag-off ceremony in April, one of the first benefiting communities in Makurdi local government, Governor Akume who was flanked by members of his state executive council as well as elders of the area, passed the appreciation of

the state government that one of the Benue representatives at the National Assembly has considered it imperative to continue to support government's efforts at reducing the sufferings of the people.

Dr. Akume who challenged other state representatives at the National Assembly to emulate Hon. Suswan's gesture to the people, also recalled that the current effort of the federal legislator is just the continuation of what he (Hon. Suswan) began in his first tenure towards touching the lives of the rural people.

This, he said, began in various ways including award of scholarship to students, provision of education support materials, fertiliser to farmers and rural electrification to various communities.

Introducing his initiative earlier to the community and the state government, Hon. Suswan who was flanked by an army of his colleagues from the National Assembly, said the project whose first phase would come to fruition in four months, covering 17 out of the 23 local government councils, was the proposal he made in the 2004 budget as a principal officer of the federal legislature.

## N95m equipment for Kano hospitals

Eight (8) general hospitals in Kano State are to benefit from modern hospital equipment worth N95 million procured by Kano State government as part of its efforts to improve healthcare delivery in the state.

Kano State governor, Malam Ibrahim Shekarau who announced this while inspecting the equipment at the premises of the state drug management agency, said the move was aimed at total transformation of emergency and maternity units of the hospitals which has been neglected for a long time by past administrations.

The equipment procured, according to the governor will help in no small way in reducing the problems encountered by both patients and hospital administrators in healthcare delivery of the state. He reiterated the commitment of his administration to producing quality and efficient healthcare services to the people in line with his government's policy of development.

The equipment procured include 300c new mattresses to replace old ones in all maternity units of the 8 hospitals, oxygen cylinders, examination couches, surgical instruments, diagn-

From Musa Umar Kazaure, Bureau Chief (Kano)

osis sets, electro-cardio-gram and others.

Hospitals to benefit from these equipment include Murtala Mohammed specialist hospital, general hospital in Wudil, Bichi, Kura, Tudun Wada, Gezawa and Gwarzo.

The state commissioner of health, Sanda Muhammad who conducted the governor round the equipment said they will be distributed to the benefiting hospitals without delay and urged the hospitals to make best use of the equipment.

## Jigawa explains non-payment of salaries

The inability by some local government and primary schools workers in Jigawa State to get their March salaries was as a result of indiscriminate recruitment of teachers without abiding by laid down procedures.

This was announced by the state head of service, Alhaji Ibrahim Mu'azu in an interview with newsmen.

He said the councils have carried out massive employment between March 2004 to date which are not in tandem with the state employment embargo placed in both the local and state

From Hassan A. Karofi, Correspondent (Dutse)

civil service.

Daily Trust learnt that hundred of local government staff could not get their salaries this month leading to serious tension amongst staff in the 27 councils of the state.

According to the head of service local government salaries including promotion and yearly increment stands at N202 million but the councils wrote claiming about N218 million with an increase of N16 million they could not properly explain.

# News

## Customs impound 2,500 cartons of frozen chickens

Following the banning order of the federal government on the importation of frozen foods into the country, the Ogun state command of the Nigeria Customs Service has impounded 2,500 cartons of frozen chicken. The area commander of the command, Mr. Rasheed Taiwo, disclosed this at Idiroko when the executive members of the state chapter of Nigeria Union of Journalists paid him a courtesy visit at his office.

He said the seizure came a few weeks after his command arrested an eastern bus containing contraband goods, explaining that the bus carrying the frozen chicken with registration number XG 824 EKY was arrested last Thursday at about 11.45pm along the Benin-Sagamu express way.

Mr. Taiwo, who said the impounded frozen chicken worth several thousands of naira, explained that his officers who acted on a tip off suc-

By Kayode Ajibola,  
Correspondent Abeokuta

ceeded in nabbing the bus containing the items, while some buses with similar banned food items escaped.

'We have discovered that the smugglers are dynamic, but we are also ready for them', he stated.

The customs comptroller who expressed dismay over the rate at which smugglers engaged in their nefarious act, promised that his command would make live unbearable for them in the state.

While speaking on the efforts of the command to check people from buying banned frozen foods in the country, Mr. Taiwo said his command has concluded arrangement to educate the public on the risk involved in the consumption of imported frozen foods.

Ogun state capital has blamed the National Electric Power Authority (NEPA) for their inconsistency in power supply which has affected the State Water Corporation.

The general manager of the State Water Corporation, Engr. Dele Jolaoso, disclosed this to newsmen while briefing them on the problem of water supply in the state.

According to him, 'the major problem facing the State Water Corporation is the erratic power supply to our various water schemes and booster stations.' Mr. Jolaoso explained that the power supply in recent time was very poor and erratic, stressing that in most cases, NEPA supply comes for about two hours and goes off for three hours.

The public relations officer of NEPA Abeokuta district, Mr. Tokunbo Peters, described the general manager's statement as false, accusing the State Water Corporation as crying wolves where there

## Water corporation manager blames NEPA for scarcity

is none.

Mr. Peters explained that the State Water Corporation has its own separate 33KV line, which the NEPA does not

loadshed.

According to him, 'there is no reason for the State Water Corporation to blame NEPA for its internal problem', add-

ing that the 'State Water Corporation should look for a solution to its problems and leave NEPA out of the whole issue.'



Alhaji Shehu Shagari sitting (L) waiting to collect his Certificate of Occupancy (C of O) from the Administrator of Abuja Geographical Information System (AGIS), Mrs. Altine Jibril (R), in Abuja...Monday

## Lawmaker launches poverty alleviation scheme

From Hassan A. Karofi,  
Correspondent Duste

A lawmaker representing Ringim in the Jigawa state House of Assembly, Honourable Inuwa Sule Udi has launched a poverty alleviation scheme in his constituency to boost the peoples' socio-economic wellbeing.

In the launch ceremony, 11 motorcycles, six bicycles, and about N100,000 cash were given to individuals, clubs and schools. While thousands of youths and the less privileged gathered at the Ringim to witness the occasion.

In his speech at the occasion, Hon. Inuwa disclosed that his decision to launch the scheme was in his believe to improve the living condition of the less privileged in his community.

He said apart from the poverty alleviation scheme, an education scholarship to the students of the less privileged was equally flagged-off which has 100 students as beneficiaries.

Hon. Udi further explained that all qualified students in his constituency would get free WAEC forms, JAMB and scholarship to assist them further their education.

During the ceremony, a 15 year old JSS III student, Mohammed Sani, who came 1st in his class, was given a scholarship up to university level by the lawmaker.

Several speakers at the occasion, including the beneficiaries described the launch of the scheme as commendable, and called on other

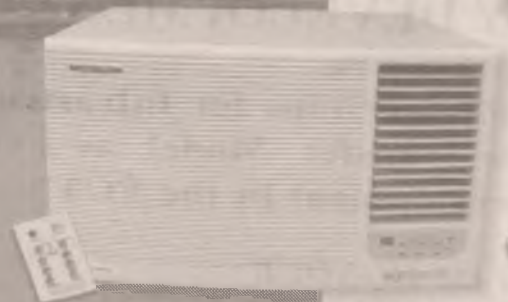


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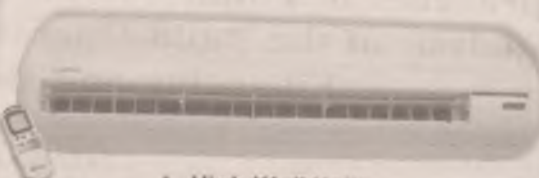
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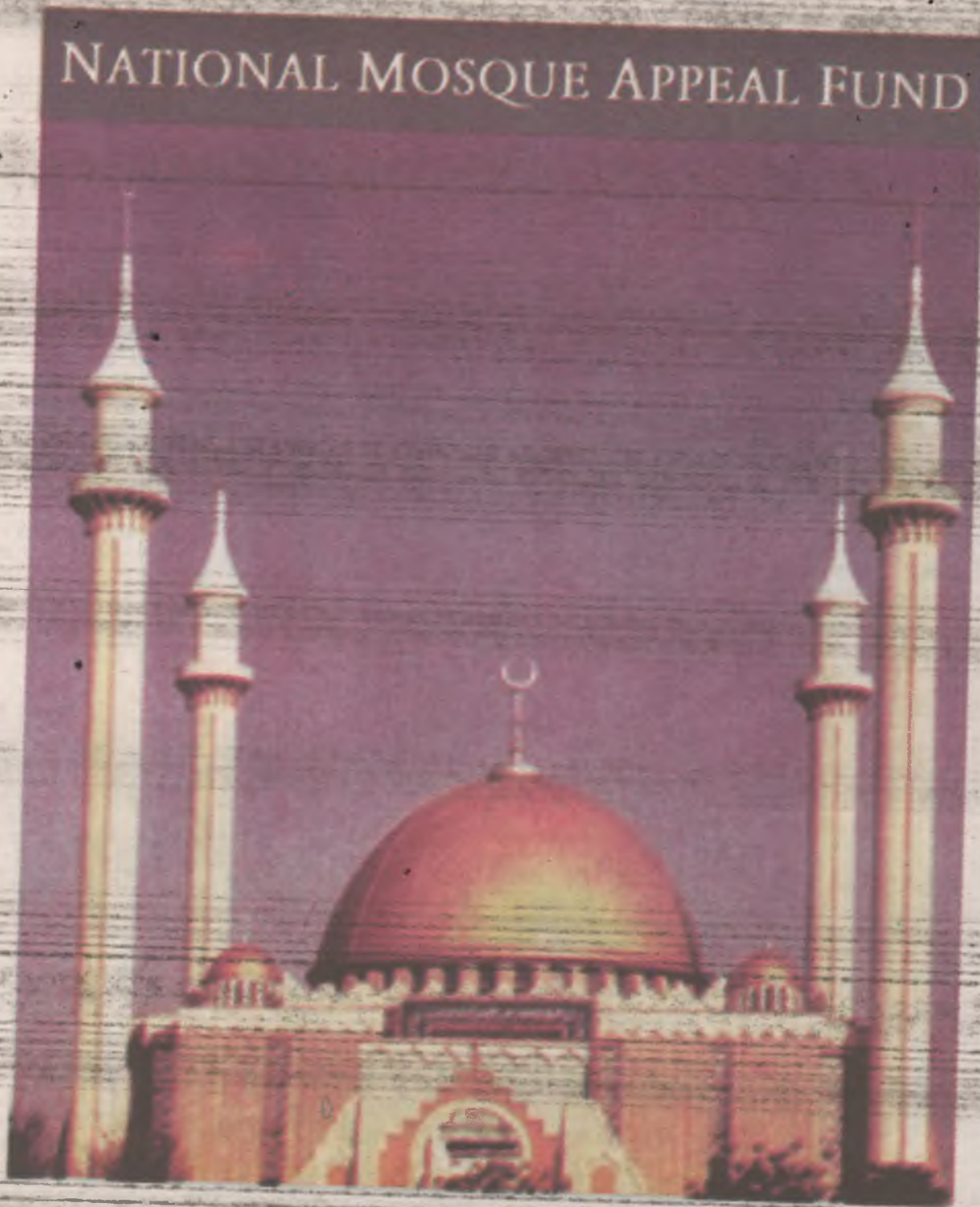
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BRANCHES NATIONWIDE

# THE ARTS



Excitement in the air...Dancers at a public event in Lagos

South African director Zola Maseko has won the top prize at Africa's premier film festival, Fespaco 2005, held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

His film *Drum* is set in Johannesburg's Sophiatown district amid the jazz clubs and bars of 1950s. It centres on a determined reporter and his clashes with the apartheid regime. "This is an

## Drum wins top African film prize

honour for South African people - their resilience in overcoming one of the most brutal regimes of the last century," Maseko said.

The hero of *Drum* is the fun loving, hard-drinking philanderer, Henry Nxumalo, a magazine reporter. Nxumalo's enterprising

reportage leads him into direct conflict with South Africa's apartheid machinery with fatal consequences.

The leading role is taken by African American actor Taye Diggs.

Maseko was awarded the Etalon d'Or de Yennenga or the Golden Stallion of

Yennenga, and a cash prize of 10m CFA francs (\$20,000) at the end of the week long film festival.

Second prize went to the Moroccan film, *La Chambre Noire*, a film about the tortures and extra judicial imprisonment in 1970s Morocco.

## Project group names festival date

The executive director of the Abuja-based African Theatrical Project (ATP), Mrs Linda Olisa-Meddleton, has named May 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> 2005 as the date for a Kaleidoscope Festival and Expo to be staged at the Eagle Square in Abuja. She made the announcement yesterday at a press conference at Abuja's NICON-Hilton Hotel.

Mrs Olisa-Meddleton also said that the festival is aimed at reinforcing consciousness of cultural values and heritages of all participating countries. The event, which has the tentative theme 'Colours of our Culture', is billed as "an exhibition of works of art, food, music, fabric, and carnival floats."

Furthermore, a PowerPoint-backed presentation by Mr Frank

By Crispin Oduobuk,  
Group Literary Editor

Sheen of the United States-Nigeria Development Institute (USNDI), which is also based in Abuja, sought to, among other things, detail the expected gains of the festival. Mr Sheen said that the festival would boost Nigeria's image positively in the international community.

In collaboration with USNDI, ATP says it is working with several ministries and institutions to bring about the festival. The ministries include those of Information and National Orientation, Culture and Tourism and Foreign Affairs. Several embassies are also said to be assisting with the project.

However, it is not clear precisely how many countries are expected at the festival.

It tells the story of an elderly ex-serviceman, Tasuma, who fought for France but was still waiting for his pension years later.

It was directed by Hassan Benjelloun and is based on real events inspired by the book *The Black Room* written by Jaouad Mdidech.

*Tasuma Le Feu*, a comedy by Burkinabe director Kollo Sanou carried the third prize.

Fed up with waiting Tasuma holds the district administrator hostage and forces him to dictate a letter to French President General Charles de Gaulle - who unknown to Tasuma is long dead. (bbcnews.com)

# The Michael Jackson Trial

## Alleged to have physically abused boy

Michael Jackson twice physically abused a 13-year-old boy on his bed while the youngster was asleep, a court has heard. Star Arvizo told a Santa Maria court, California, USA this week that he spied Jackson lying on the bed next to his brother Gavin, touching both himself and the boy. The 14-year-old claimed to have spotted the incident as he made his way upstairs to bed one night

while the family was staying at Jackson's Neverland ranch.

"I saw directly onto the bed," he said. "I saw my brother was outside the covers. I saw Michael's left hand in my brother's underwear and I saw his right hand in his underwear."

He said his brother, then 13, was curled up and snoring slightly, and Jackson was touching himself. "He had his eyes closed," Star told the

court calmly. "I didn't know what to do. I went back to my guest room."

Two days later, he said, he encountered a similar scene but never told anyone what had happened. The incidents occurred shortly after Jackson had shown the boys explicit magazines which he kept in a suitcase in his bedroom, he said.

The covers of magazines, including one called *Barely Legal*, were projected into

the courtroom on a screen, one depicting a young woman.

Jackson denies physically abusing Gavin Arvizo, plying him with alcohol and conspiring to hold him and his family captive.

In extensive evidence about alcohol consumption, Star added that on the trip back to Neverland from Miami he had also been offered wine. The boy described a wild charter flight from Miami to Neverland in 2003, in which Jackson offered him "Jesus Juice" (wine in a Diet Coke can), made crank phone calls and licked his sleepy older brother's head. The family claims they were whisked to Miami when Martin Bashir's controversial documentary on the singer aired in the US.

Back at Neverland, the boy testified, the wine flowed freely, X-rated sites were surfed (prompting Jackson to quip, "Got milk?"), sleeping arrangements were tight (three boys and Jackson in one bed), and an unclothed Jackson surprised the boy and his brother one night while they were watching movies. "He sat on the bed and said it was natural," the boy said. Earlier, the jury heard a tape on which mother,

Janet Arvizo, said she felt her children were "safe" and "protected" when they were with the singer. The tape was made in February 2003 by a private investigator working for the Jackson team, 10 days after Bashir's documentary was broadcast.



Jackson outside the courthouse

## The star puzzle

Meanwhile, as Michael Jackson faces trial in the USA, people in Austria have been puzzled by his wardrobe during the opening of his trial. He appears to have chosen to wear the Golden Medal of Honour for Services to Vienna on his left breast.

"We've received hundreds of calls from citizens who want to know if Vienna has really awarded this honour to Michael Jackson," said Petra Rama, a city spokesman. But the answer is no. Jackson is 46, and you have to be at least 50 to receive the capital's most prestigious award, which has been given only around 1,000 times since its inception in 1967, mainly to architects, artists, and writers.

Rama acknowledged that the eight-pointed golden star



The star in question

worn by Jackson appears to be genuine. The newspaper Kronen Zeitung speculated that Jackson might have bought it from a specialised medal dealer just round the corner from the hotel where he stayed during concert appearances in 1992 and 1997. One small comfort for Jackson - there is no punishment for unduly wearing the medal.

## ...A crumbling prosecution witness

In the meantime, the Arvizos' 18-year-old sister's credibility crumbled under questioning. Jackson's defense attorney, Thomas Mesereau Jr., got the teen to backtrack, or clarify her testimony, on everything from past abuse claims made by her family to the number of times she'd been to the wine cellar at Neverland.

In an audiotape made by Jackson's team with the family after the Martin Bashir documentary aired, and around the time they allegedly were being held

against their will, the sister is heard describing Jackson as "our father figure."

Additionally, while the sister initially denied knowing anything of her family's sexual-abuse lawsuit against JC Penney, she

recanted when Mesereau appeared before her with documentation showing she had sat in on both of her brothers' depositions in the case. "I just remembered right now when you said 'deposition,'" she said.

**"Additionally, while the sister initially denied knowing anything of her family's lawsuit against JC Penney, she recanted when Mesereau appeared before her with documentation showing she had sat in on both of her brothers' depositions in the case."**

THE ARTS THE ARTS THE ARTS

Review

# Representing the new woman

**Title:** *Genevieve*  
**Publisher:** Sonia Publications Ltd  
**Pages:** 100 **Price:** N600.00  
**Reviewer:** Susan Eneche



Cover of *Genevieve's* February 2005 issue

As the name implies, the magazine *Genevieve* focuses mainly on women and their issues. Departmentally, the magazine is divided into eight parts namely; Cover, Features, Styletitude, Columns, Health & Beauty, Out on the Town, Fashion, and Regulars. It is planned in a way that makes it easy to get to what you want to read. Each of these parts is well written and with good picture splashes the whole package is a beautiful one. *Genevieve* has succeeded in maintaining good quality since it hit the newsstands. When you talk about picture quality, it does a good job. The paper used is also of high quality while the contents are well laid out. I particularly like the Gripping Stuff column.

Moving on, the magazine generally tries to represent the modern woman, her achievements and the concerns she faces. Typically, successful women who have

carved a niche for themselves are usually portrayed as cover girls.

For the second anniversary edition dated February 2005, the cover girl is Mrs Aisha Babangida Mohammed, the daughter of former military president General Ibrahim Babangida. Though hers is a well-conducted interview, Mrs Mohammed comes across as being somewhat evasive. However, she is also witty. The lady appears to be a rather private person and seems to take after her father in some ways. For instance, although she seems down to earth, her evasiveness ends up ensuring that the interview, which can be found on pages 44, 45, 46, 47 and 49, is not really focused in depth on anything at all. Still, it is good to know that someone from her background cares about the less privileged and that helping others gladdens her heart. I particularly like the part

where she says she likes to impact on people's lives without making noise about it.

For a magazine like *Genevieve* to have survived two years in a country like Nigeria, I say kudos, because if one gets to know the behind-the-scene struggles to grace the news stands

regularly, then one would appreciate that this is no easy accomplishment. In the edition under review, the publisher, Betty Irabor, writing under the title 'Finding my true purpose', discloses her encounters, especially the discouraging words she's heard from people with regards

to the magazine. From Mrs Irabor's piece, it is clear that success oftentimes is a question of determination, not minding the obstacles ahead of one to achieve a desired goal. Knowing one's goal and believing in oneself, I would say, is one of the strong points that has helped the success of this magazine. Despite discouraging things that were said to her, she forged ahead. For example, an interviewer said to her, "Wait till you see the unsold copies. Maybe then you will understand what I mean when I say, publishing isn't a job for a woman." For a person that is not strong, hearing that will take the air out of you and you'll be back to square one with just ideas in your head that may never see the light of day.

Mrs Irabor, I dare say, is one of the few that survived that stage of dreams becoming realities by having good family and friends that counselled her and said the right things to her. She was able to weather the storm even after the first batch of unsold copies was returned to her two months after take-off. She also went through other emotional problems even after things began to look up. For instance, she suffered self-doubt, the 'Nigerian-factor' and even ended up in hospital where

she was diagnosed with stress and exhaustion. Yet, she had this drive to make it work. As she puts it, *Genevieve* is a magazine she does with a passion. It is for her a tool for self-discovery and a journey towards finding her life's purpose.

It's not been an easy road but with such passion the candle can never burn out. Mrs Irabor's ideas have turned into reality, her dreams have come true. Inevitably, her passion, her purpose and her drive to succeed all add up to the beautiful packaging *Genevieve* usually gets. And there is no taking away the fact that, all in all, *Genevieve* is a well-packaged magazine.

Finally, as with any human endeavour, there are some shortcomings. Primarily though, while *Genevieve* does a good job of portraying the efforts of the modern woman, it has a problem in that most of the women that have been featured so far are Lagos-based. Despite the possibility that the Lagos readership may be the highest, that does not mean the magazine should centre on just Lagos. I think *Genevieve* can do a better job by spreading its tentacles to other parts of Nigeria. The North and East for instance are places where one can find a lot of women achievers.

# Rethinking social security

**Title:** *The Quest For Social Security*  
**Publisher:** Nigerian Social Insurance Trust Fund (NSITF)  
**Reviewer:** Kayode Komolafe

Systems of social protection are subjects of vigorous discussions in many countries. Quite a lot of rethinking is taking place even in places where social security schemes are relatively more established to give social protection such as Europe, the United States and Latin America. Governments and players in the social security sector are re-examining issues for the purposes of restructuring and alignment. There are also common challenges faced by different nations such as unemployment, job insecurity, ageing populations, family instability and social exclusion. The social security's redistributive and integrative functions constitute a priority for the reform debate. In some places, the question is posed as a redefinition of fundamental rights. For instance, should social security items be conditional or universal rights? How should social security be financed and administered? How can medical care be provided through social security. These and several other pertinent questions agitate the minds of experts and stakeholders alike.

It is in the context of these global trends that the transition being experienced by the Nigerian Social

Insurance Trust Fund (NSITF) ought to be situated. The Fund, which is the end result of the necessary transformation that the old National Provident Fund had to undergo, is again undergoing another significant transformation. And this transformation happens to coincide with its 10th Year Anniversary. This publication is meant to be a forum to discuss issues arising from this transformation. It is, therefore, not just a commemorative publication. It is also a serious intellectual effort to interpret the emergent trends and suggest how the social security situation can change for the better. This is even more so because of another monumental coincidence. That is the coming into being of the 2004 Pension Reforms Act. This, of course, has profound implications for NSITF as we know it.

Embodied in the 167-page publication are contributions from those who are familiar with these emergent issues and how they can shape the future of NSITF and indeed the future of the social security sector in Nigeria. The eminent contributors are as follows: Professor Dayo Akeredolu-Ale, the Executive Director/Chief Consultant, Centre for Social Policy based in Ibadan; Mr. Olusegun A. Oshinowo, the Director-

General of Nigeria Employers' Consultative Association (NECA); Mr. Ahmed Rufai Mohammed, the Managing Director of NSITF; Professor Olaseni Akintola-Bello a Visiting Professor of Finance & Dean of Faculty of Management Sciences, Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ago-Iwoye, Ogun State, and Chairman, Arbitrage Consulting Group based in Lagos and Dr. Peter Ozo-Eson, Director, Labour Centre for Social and Economic Research, Nigeria Labour Congress, Abuja.

The foreword to the book is from the Hon Minister of Labour and Productivity, Dr. Hassan Lawal.

It is remarkable that even though the contributors wrote from various perspectives, there is a synchrony of purpose as evident in the common thread in the book. That is the centrality of social protection to economic development and how a comprehensive social security can bring about this much-needed social protection.

Professor Akeredolu-Ale in his paper entitled Laying the Foundation for a Comprehensive Social Security Scheme argues for a comprehensive social security scheme for all Nigerians regardless of classes. He frowns at "the tendency to exclude the vast majority of workers" from social security schemes. He is referring to the huge gap in the social scene situation in which less than 10% of the labour force is taken care of under the social security coverage of any sort. The fate of over 90% of the labour force that is to be found in the formal sector is yet to be determined. Those in this category are not covered by any of the existing social protection schemes. That is why the professor suggests that another look should be taken at the Pension Act. He also calls for research input in laying the foundation for the evolution of a "social insurance culture" in Nigeria among other concrete suggestions to be found in the book. He also suggests

the clarification of the philosophical basis of social protection: "Therefore the issue concerning the philosophical basis of the scheme and the engineering of consensus regarding principles involved (citizenship, solidarity, social insurance, compassion, human welfare, human rights, human dignity, social cohesion, social capital, and so on) must be tackled earnestly as a major aspect of the foundation laying effort."

Akeredolu-Ale makes vast references to the situations in other countries as he poses the question of a sustainable social security system. He also identifies possible obstacles to the evolution of such a scheme. He is, however, optimistic that the goal of a comprehensive social security system is achievable especially because of the opportunities offered by the system. The contributor also stressed the importance of generation of ideas to accomplish the dream. It is noteworthy that it is such generation of ideas that this publication is all about.

In chapter two, Professor Akintola-Bello draws a link between social security pensions and economic development. For in instance, he demonstrates how government can use social security pension

funds to serve "non-pension objectives". His paper is entitled *The Role of Social Security in Economic Development*. There are economic objectives that can be achieved with a successful security system. These include financing budget deficit and providing funds for socio-economic investments. Social security pensions can be a factor in the development of the capital market. The enhancement of the capital market in turn can boost economic development. Akintola-Bello also draws attention to the possible effects that the reform of the pension system could have on life insurance and housing. The finance expert also foresees the emergence of the "new class of institutional investors" with the reform of social security pension. This, he says, is capable of improving corporate governance as the new investors would pay adequate attention to their investments. However, Akintola-Bello points out that while pension reserves could veritably become "tempting sources" for government to resort to for financing its deficits, such a development could rob the private capital market of liquidity and good projects could be denied needed funding. (To be continued.)

# Inside Politics

## Marwa condoles Emir of Lafia, family of late Senator Haruna



Brigadier-General Mohammed Buba Marwa

Former Borno and Lagos states military administrator and chairman of Albarka Airlines and Buba Marwa Endowment Fund, Brigadier General (Dr.) Mohammed Buba Marwa (rtd) had condoled the Emir of Lafia, Alhaji (Dr.) Isa Mustapha Agwai and the family of late Haruna Abubakar over the death of the former deputy senate president, Senator Haruna Abubakar.

Accompanied to the Emir's palace by Dr. Terhenfer Shiga and Mr. Usman Enoch, the Benue state and Keffi local government coordinators of Buba Marwa endowment fund respectively, Dr. Marwa said the death of the former deputy senator president was a loss to the entire country dying as he did at the most productive stage of his life.

The presidential hopeful also condoled the family of the deceased at their Maitama residence in Abuja where he prayed for the repose of the soul of the politician as well as God's fortitude to the family to bear the loss.

## Ajaokuta LG fire blamed on political opponents

The recent fire incident that gutted down a part of the building of Ajaokuta local government headquarters has been blamed on the opponents of the new PDP administration of the council.

A member of the recently constituted staff screening committee which was constituted to look into the over bloated staff strength of the council, who spoke to *Daily Trust* on condition of anonymity, alleged that the fire incident was the handiwork of those who were scared of

the staff screening exercise.

According to the source, some of the committee's recommendations are unpalatable to many people who are likely to be negatively affected hence the resort to torch down the secretariat with a view to having all incriminating documents burnt down.

In a related development, the concerned youths of Ajaokuta local government area have petitioned the inspector general of police over the fire incident pointing accusing fingers at some of the staff of the council.

The CYA's petition, which was signed by Com-

rade Musa Y. Audu and Deacon Gabriel Ezekiel, president and secretary general respectively, alleged that some of the staff of the council, who were indicted by a staff screening committee constituted by the chairman of the local government council are actually the brain behind the arson.

The concerned youths of Ajaokuta also accused the indicted staff as being responsible for the physical assault on the screening committee chairman, Hon. Adams Isah, who is also the secretary designate of the Ajaokuta local government council.

## North, most marginalised part of Nigeria - Shehu Sani

**You have been nominated to the national dialogue in order to represent northern civil society. What agenda do you have for the region in the on going dialogue?**

It should be recalled that the agitation and campaign for national conference was not started by either the present government or the governor and the politicians themselves.

The call for national dialogue was initiated and was agitated for by civil society organisations that fought gallantly against the former military dictators over the years.

And our resolve then was to press for national conference, in view of the fact that our country has been faced with series of socio-economic and political crises that defy solution from one government to another because of the fact that the key players of government have been the same people that were in the NPN, NRC and in the PDP today.

But it has become clearly evident that over the years especially during military dictatorship that the country is no more moving anywhere, and if there is anywhere it is moving, it has been moving down ward.

So we started the agitation and the decision by the Obasanjo led administration to accept this issue of a conference is simply based on agitation we have done over the years. Some of us were opposed to it initially, but later we have a lot of converts who see reason for it.

Now this conference its organisers have already made it clear that it is not a sovereign national conference, it is a national confab for political reform.

We had a divided house in the civil society in the sense that many don't believe that we should participate. Why because they see it as a waste of time and there are those of us who feel that we need to participate in order to bring about the necessary change and if we don't do

*Mallam Shehu Sani is the President Civil Right Congress (CRC), a Kaduna based non-governmental organisation (NGO), and federal government nominee to represent Northern Civil Society in the on-going National political reform conference. In this interview with our Kaduna correspondent, Aliyu Haruna he said that the CRC decided to participate in the confab so that it may not be hijacked by those that led the country to its present predicament. Excerpts:*

that, there is every possibility that the conference will be hijacked by the same forces that led us to where we are in this country today.

So by agreeing to participate in the conference we have definitely put our credibility at stake, but what will vindicate us is the kind of position which we will present, the kind of view which we will give and the kind of principles which we will maintain in the conference.

We are there to ensure that the socio-economic and political interest of common man is protected and also to ensure that the constitution of this country and future of the country are fashioned to such a point that it will genuinely reflect the interest, desire and wishes of our common people.

I am there representing the northern civil society, due to the fact that region has a peculiar problem, as it is the most marginalised part of Nigeria, most neglected.

Simply because it has produced a number of heads of state in the past, some people from other parts of the country think that the whole of the North is paradise, but it can be seen clearly the level of poverty, want, illiteracy that abound in the north.

It does not mean because we have produced presidents, so you think that all roads in the region have been constructed and that there is electricity in every village, that all schools and hospital are equipped.

We have a situation where the masses of the people of the Northern part (Talawas) have suffered in the hands of those that came from their own people and also suffering from those that came from other parts.

We shall be in the confer-

ence to make it categorically clear that the north is suffering and have suffered the same injustice as much as any part of the country. We are not going to present sectional interest, but rather to clearly demonstrate before any person who is there that we have problems in the North socially, economically, politically and culturally, and that the solution to resolve it lies in solving the problem of the country.

If the people in position of power in the past six year have done what they are supposed to do at this time we would not be talking about conference.

But, what we see in the end was the increase in corruption, poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy in the land and complete break down of law and order and we have also a situation whereby people in the position of power are enriching themselves, the state governors and local government chairmen and so on.

It has reached a point that people are of the opinion that military regime is better than a democratic one.

That is why we are going to be in that conference, not only to ensure that the position of people is well presented, but also challenge the old and dead political forces, that were nominated by the governors to present views which may not be of any importance.

If you look at the list of the nominees coming out from the state governments, you will find out that most of these so called experience hand, but their experience has never led us to any where.

It is part of their hand work that we are here, those of us that are to represent the civil society there are to be their wages to ensure that the whole agenda of the confer-



Mallam Shehu Sani

ence is not hijacked to suite either any person or group interest.

Now you have been nominated to represent the northern civil society, what do you think is behind your nomination?

The process which they took to nominate members of the civil society, I think is the same process which they took to nominate other members from labour, press and women groups.

And it involves the government writing to coalition of organisations and then they will make their nomination to them, but due to the fact that it is not an election, but rather a nomination in which our names are presented and approved, I think any person who think that we are going to be sycophants or to allow anybody emerge and propergate, promote or re-enforce any hidden agenda, I think he is making a mistake to nominate us to that kind of place.

Some section of the civil society have been against the proposed dialogue, as they are saying it is usurpation of

power of the National Assembly, as it amounts to dual sovereignty, what is your opinion about that?

Well the sovereignty of this country is not with the president nor with the national assembly, it is with the people of Nigeria.

The president is the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, but the commander in chief of Nigeria to Nigeria he is a servant, while to the Armed Forces he is a president.

And people who are representing their constituency in the national assembly do not mean that you cannot speak out excerpt through the national assembly. If the sovereignty of Nigeria is with the president or the national assembly then you will certainly say that what has happen to Nigeria for the past forty four years, government come and go, but Nigeria remains. So Nigerians are always there.

The opposition to this confab are on different categories, some oppose the confab on the believe that it is going to be a complete waste of time, money and re-

sources, some are opposed to the confab, especially those from the national assembly they believe that such a confab will divert attention away from them.

Some simply are opposed to the confab because they are nominated to the confab, in every respect if the president has initiated a confab, for people to think the best thing is to be there.

If you want to oppose any hidden agenda the best thing is to be here and oppose the hidden agenda, because it is when we are there that we can come out openly and tell Nigerians that what was said was not the same thing done inside.

But if we are not there certainly we are not going to get any way out for us to be able to justifies our feelings.

Some people are of the opinion that the conference may end up be a wasted agenda, due to fear of government hidden agenda, what is your view on such assertion.

People are right about the motive of government, and I have always said it very clearly that you cannot blame Nigerians about motive of government, because government in the past has deceived Nigerians severally.

If N1 billion will be spend in a conference, in which at the end of the day that conference become fruitless, I think is going to one of the darkest part of the history of this political dispensation.

Because if we are going to have a conference that will not be used I think is better to use the money to construct boreholes for the masses of the country.

**Do you think that the government will use the resolution of the conference?**

If the federal government used the resolution the conference that will boost the credibility of government itself, if the conference resolution is dismissed or destroyed, then it will only prove the critics of the conference right.

# SPORTS

## UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

### Real's defensive resolve faces Juventus test

Two years ago the limitations of a Real Madrid side packed with attacking talent but lacking defensive solidity were exposed in a Champions League semi-final defeat by Juventus.

Real return to the Delle Alpi on Wednesday with a 1-0 advantage from the first leg of their first knockout round tie knowing that their stiffer



resolve under coach Vanderlei Luxemburgo faces its toughest examination yet.

The 3-1 second leg loss to Juve in 2003 ended the Spaniards' dream of winning a fourth European Cup in six seasons and although Real went on to claim the Spanish title, failure in Europe cost coach Vicente del Bosque his job.

Real entered a spiral of decline in which they devoured three more coaches in little over a year but club president Florentino Perez eventually realised the need to reverse his policy of signing only attack-minded players.

Perez has strengthened the side's defensive capacity with the addition of Argentine centre-back Walter Samuel and Danish midfielder Thomas Gravesen, the latter credited with giving Real the fight they lacked.

The new-look Real are less spectacular in attack, but the pay-off has been an improvement in defence which they hope will see them through against the Italians.

With the Spanish title gradually slipping out of reach, Real are now focusing their attention firmly on Europe.

"The whole of our season depends on what happens against Juve," said midfielder Guti. "It will be a failure if we don't get through to the next round, but if we score it will be very difficult for them to knock us out."

The absence of Juve's Czech midfielder Pavel Nedved, who has not trained since a clash of heads with Raul Bravo in the first leg, has forced Juventus coach Fabio Capello to re-organise his side with surprisingly good results.

Capello, who won the Spanish title during a brief spell with Real, has compensated for the lack of punch from midfield caused by Nedved's injury by opting for a three-pronged attack.

Alessandro Del Piero has enjoyed the freedom of a deeper role behind Sweden's Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Uruguayan Marcelo Zalayeta, although the latter could be forced out of the starting line-up by fit-again

Frenchman David Trezeguet.

In the two games that Capello has used the "trident" system in attack, Juve have beaten Siena at home 3-0 and won 2-1 at Roma.

The Spaniards drew 1-1 draw at a rejuvenated Valencia on Saturday and although it did little for their title aspirations, the draw augured well for Real's prospects in Turin.

Ronaldo ended his recent scoring drought to score his first goal in eight games and looked a lot sharper than in recent games, while the Real back four gave an assured performance that will give them hope of keeping the Italians at bay.

Former Juventus and France midfielder Zinedine Zidane has recovered from a groin strain, and strikers Raul and Michael Owen are back in training after missing the Valencia match through illness.

In midfield, Guti is likely to be dropped despite his recent good form as Luxemburgo opts for the muscular qualities of Gravesen.

### Arsenal must hold firm against Bayern

Arsenal's leaky defence must somehow repel Bayern Munich on Wednesday if they are to avoid yet another Champions League disappointment.

The London side have been shorn of injured centre back Sol Campbell since February 1 and without him they have looked suspect at the back, conceding three goals in the first leg of the first knockout round tie in Munich.

A late goal by Kolo Toure gave Arsenal a glimmer of hope — a 3-1 deficit means they can win 2-0 at Highbury and progress — yet they are a shadow of the side which went through the last league season unbeaten.

There are few in English soccer outside the Arsenal dressing room who believe the home side can survive 90 minutes against a well-organised Bayern team without conceding a goal, even if the Germans will be without injured striker Roy Makaay.

Arsenal, who have never gone beyond the quarter-finals of Europe's top club competition, strolled past Portsmouth 3-0 on Saturday thanks to a hat-trick from Thierry Henry who was only fitfully involved in the first leg against Bayern.

The Arsenal defence looked shaky in the early stages against Portsmouth and Campbell's replacement Pascal Cygan was injured. Despite the obvious problems, manager Arsene Wenger remains confident.

"Wednesday's game will be more about mental strength. We must regroup, relax and show resilience," said Wenger.

"I'm sure we can do it." The loss of Makaay, who has scored seven goals in the Champions League this season, with a hamstring strain is certainly a blow for Bayern.

The good news though is the return of playmaker Michael Ballack, who missed the first leg with a thigh injury.

The Germany captain scored the winner against Werder Bremen at the weekend in what was another ultra-professional performance.

Bayern have not conceded a goal since the first leg against Arsenal and a key contributor to that defensive stability has been Martin Demichelis.

The Argentine originally came in as a replacement for Ballack but his performances were so good that coach Felix Magath has had to make space for him since Ballack's return.

"With (goalkeeper) Oliver Kahn, Lucio, Robert Kovac and Demichelis, we look so solid in

### Bayern

the centre it's become very difficult scoring against us," Magath said.

The absence of Makaay may persuade the coach to deploy a five-man midfield on Wednesday, with Claudio Pizarro, scorer of two goals in the first leg, on his own up front.

Bixente Lizarazu is also struggling with injury, so Hasan Salihamidzic is likely to slot back into defence, with Sebastian Deisler and Ze Roberto coming into midfield.

### Depleted Leverkusen soft target for Liverpool

Liverpool must feel a Champions League quarter-final place is within their grasp when they travel to face a Bayer Leverkusen side in poor form and missing five first-team regulars.

After losing the opening leg of the first knockout round tie at Anfield 3-1, Leverkusen have managed just a point from two league games and lie seventh in the Bundesliga, 11 points behind the leaders.

The Germans will be missing injured defenders Jens Nowotny, Roque Junior and Juan on Wednesday, as well as midfielders Paul Freier and Robson Ponte through suspension.

Liverpool coach Rafael Benitez is certainly confident about his side's chances, not only of reaching the quarter-finals but even of adding a fifth European crown to the club's trophy room.

"Last season there was not one person who spoke about Porto and Monaco reaching the Champions League final when we got to this stage," Benitez said.

"It was all about Madrid, Barcelona, Juventus, Milan, Manchester United and Arsenal. But in the end it was Porto who were champions, so why not Liverpool?"

"If we defend well against Leverkusen, we will go through."



Liverpool also have selection problems but Czech striker Milan Baros should relish the chance to get at a severely depleted defence and the English side will be boosted by the return from suspension of captain Steven Gerrard.

Gerrard and Dietmar Hamann, who scored against his compatriots at Anfield, will be a vital first line of defence after Leverkusen were given several chances to score at Anfield.

The pressure will also be on Polish keeper Jerzy Dudek to make amends for the blunder when allowed Franca to score in stoppage time and keep Leverkusen's hopes alive.

Liverpool also have problems up front. Djibril Cisse, Florent Sinama-Pongolle and Neil Mellor are all out with season-ending injuries and Fernando

scratches, but believes they can rescue the tie.

"Liverpool are not exactly tearing down trees at the moment either," he said. "If we get a goal in the first half it's possible. We are good enough."

With so many absences in defence and midfield, Augenthaler will need forwards Dimitar Berbatov and Andriy Voronin to play much better than at Anfield, when they squandered a series of chances.

#### Probable teams

**Bayer Leverkusen:** 1-Hans-Joerg Butt; 29-Jan-Ingwer Callsen-Bracker; 28-Carsten Ramelow; 35-Diego Placente; 27-Gonzalo Castro; 25-Bernd Schneider; 13-Daniel Bierofka; 23-Landon Donovan; 16-Jacek Krzynowek; 9-Dimitar Berbatov; 12-Andriy Voronin  
**Liverpool:** 1-Jerzy Dudek; 3-Steve Finnan; 4-Sami Hyypia; 23-Jamie Carragher; 28-Stephen Warnock; 6-John Arne Riise; 8-Steven Gerrard; 16-Dietmar Hamann; 10-Luis Garcia; 7-Harry Kewell; 5-Milan Baros

Referee: Alain Sars (France)

Morientes is cup-tied after his move from Real Madrid.

The German side will pin their hopes on their excellent home form in the group phase, when they scored three goals against Real Madrid, Roma and Dynamo Kiev.

They should also glean confidence from memories of the 4-2 win over Liverpool in the second leg of the 2002 quarter-finals, a result that took them through to the last four at the English side's expense.

Coach Klaus Augenthaler admits Leverkusen's form in their 1-0 defeat by SV on Saturday was not up to



Henry... will he conjure the magic to dislodge Bayern Munich tonight?

#### UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE RESULTS

A C Milan	1	Manchester United	0
Chelsea	4	Barcelona	2
Lyon	7	Werder Bremen	2

# Sports

## Mourinho hits back at UEFA

Jose Mourinho hit out at UEFA again on Monday after the ruling body said it was unhappy with the Chelsea boss for suggesting Pierluigi Collina should referee Tuesday's Champions League game against Barcelona.

William Gaillard, UEFA's director of communications, told Sky Sports on Monday it was not Mourinho's job to suggest match officials, adding that the Portuguese coach was being unsporting.

Speaking at a news conference later on Monday, Mourinho described what Gaillard had said as "completely untrue", a comment that could land him in further trouble with European soccer chiefs.

The spat began after Chelsea's stormy 2-1 defeat in Barcelona two weeks ago when Mourinho was unhappy with the performance of Swedish referee Anders Frisk.

"Something tells me the referee in London will be Collina," Mourinho told a Portuguese newspaper, describing the Italian official as "perfect" for the match.

The appointment of widely respected Italian Collina for the first knockout round second leg at Stamford Bridge was announced by UEFA on Sunday.

On Monday Gaillard made it clear the remarks had not gone down well at UEFA headquarters.

"We didn't really appreciate Jose Mourinho saying we had assured Chelsea that Collina would be refereeing the game," Gaillard said. "It is not true at all."

"He was trying there to put some undue pressure on us."

Mourinho snubbed the post-match news conference at the Nou Camp, which has also landed him in trouble with UEFA, after incidents in the tunnel at halftime.

"We had decided to appoint Pierluigi Collina even before we considered the incidents but it made it very difficult for us to do so," Gaillard said.

"People were arguing that if we did, it sounded like we're bowing to pressure from Mourinho and that if we didn't, then again we're being influenced in appointing someone else when we wanted to appoint Collina."

"Frankly, we don't like coaches or anyone from a team telling us which referee we should appoint. This is not within the Fair Play spirit that we want in the game. It is not pleasant and it is not his job."

When asked about Gaillard's comments, Mourinho said: "I heard this morning what the gentleman said and it's completely untrue."

Gaillard also said Chelsea have yet to respond to UEFA after the ruling body began disciplinary proceedings against the club last week on two counts after the game in Catalonia.

"We're still waiting for Chelsea to explain why they didn't come to the press conference at the end of the game and why they were late at halftime (for the second half)," Gaillard said.

"These are minor, administrative violations of the competition's rules, but still we would like to clear that up...and we hope the second leg is played in a better atmosphere altogether. No-one is exempt from the rules."

Chelsea have until March 14 to make their response. The case will be considered by UEFA's Control and Disciplinary body on March 24.

## I'm fit, raring to go, says Zidane

Real Madrid's French midfielder Zinedine Zidane said that he has recovered from a left leg muscle strain and was raring to go in Wednesday's Champions League first knockout round second leg match at Italian side Juventus.

"I'm feeling good. I've worked well the past few days and I'm ready to play," said 32-year-old Zidane, who enjoyed a sparkling spell at the Italian side prior to moving to Real.

"In Turin we have to attack to go through (Real lead 1-0). We're going through a tricky period in

Primera Liga because we've points to make up, but we always play to win. Champions League is an important competition for us, for the club and for the fans. We won three years ago and want to win again."

Zidane picked up the injury playing against Deportivo La Coruna last month.

The Spanish giants are currently second in the Primera Liga, eight points behind Barcelona after 27 games.

## Wade, O'Neal lead Heat to sixth win

Dwyane Wade scored 32 points and Shaquille O'Neal added 25 to power the Miami Heat to a 108-100 victory over the Philadelphia 76ers Monday.

Despite playing for the fourth time in five nights, the Heat shot 54.9 percent from the field to win their sixth straight outing and their 10th consecutive home game.

Wade's points included a franchise record 18 free throws as he got to the line 23 times to help Miami score 30 games over the .500 mark at 46-16.

Shandon Anderson had 13 points for the Heat while Udonis Haslem contributed 12 points and 10 rebounds.

Allen Iverson collected 27 points for the Sixers, who lost for the first time in three games.

Samuel Dalembert, who was involved in a fourth-quarter altercation with Alonzo Mourning which resulted in the Heat center being ejected for a double technical foul, added 21 points for Philadelphia.

Mourning played only four minutes and scored one point.

Chris Webber struggled in his first game since he and O'Neal moved to the Eastern Conference, picking up 10 points in 26 minutes.

In Dallas, Marquis Daniels registered 32 points as the short-handed Mavericks beat the Toronto Raptors 113-105.

Dallas was without the injured Dirk Nowitzki and Michael Finley. Jason Terry had 23 points for the Mavs and Josh Howard chipped in with 22 points and eight rebounds.

Morris Peterson led Toronto with 23 points while Milt Palacio added 19.

In Chicago, Kirk Hinrich notched 17 points, eight assists and six rebounds to guide the Bulls to a 90-85 triumph over the Milwaukee Bucks.

Eddy Curry recorded 16 points and seven rebounds for the Bulls while Chris Duhon had 13 points and 10 assists.

Michael Redd led Milwaukee with 26 points.

In Denver, Carmelo Anthony scored 23 points in only three quarters as the Nuggets won their seventh straight game, 111-98 over the Portland Trail Blazers.

Wesley Person added 18 points in 22 minutes for the Nuggets, who are on their longest winning streak in 16 years.

# Trust Classified

## NYSC ORIENTATION CAMPS: KATSINA AND KEBBI STATES

The 2005 NYSC Batch 'A' Orientation Camps published on March 4th for Katsina and Kebbi States have been corrected as follows:

**KATSINA STATE:** Government Day Secondary School, Dutsin-ma, Dutsinma Local Government Area.

**KEBBI STATE:** Arabic Secondary School, Jega Local Government Area.

Corps Members deployed to the two states are to report for Orientation at the above listed camps. The appropriate Camps are also reflected at the back of Call-Up Letters

## LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public of the loss of Original document of Right of Occupancy and Acceptance of Offer of Grant, Ref. No. MFCT/LA/KD.3500 Plot No. 162 Katampe Ext. District belonging to Dr. Rilwan Lukman of plot 560 Kwame Nkrumah Street, Asokoro Abuja. If found please return to the nearest police station or the address below:

Signed

Kaodi Onwoha Esq.  
LC & N (Legal Practitioners)  
Plot 728 Alexandria Crescent  
Wuse II Abuja.

## AMINU KANO INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

This is to inform the general public that the above named Foundation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under Part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 1990.

The Trustees are:

1. Alhaji Shehu Usman Shagari (Turakin Sokoto) - Chairman
2. Abba Aminu Kano
3. Maryam Aminu Kano
4. Dr. Saifi Abubakar
5. Mohammed Mustapha - Secretary

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General Corporate Affairs Commission, Wuse Zone 5 Abuja, within 28 days of this publication

Signed:

Abubakar & Associates

## LOKOJA FORUM

This is to inform the general public that the above named Forum has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under Part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 1990.

The Trustees are:

1. Dr. G.T.N. Ajakpo
2. Senator Tunde Ogbeha
3. Mr. Edward M. B. Jiya
4. Alhaji Mohammed Ida Umaru
5. Alhaji Rajab A. Na'ibi

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General Corporate Affairs Commission, Wuse Zone 5 Abuja, within 28 days of this publication

Signed:

ALH. RAJAB A. NA'IBI

## LOSS OF RIGHT OF OCCUPANCY

Notice is hereby given to the general public that the original Right of Occupancy No. MFCT/LA/97/AN.2550 bearing the name of CHARLES P. ABARI, belonging to HOMER PROPERTIES LIMITED of Plot 1149 Kwame Nkrumah Crescent, Asokoro District, Abuja is missing.

Whoever has information that could lead to finding the said Document should contact the above address or their Solicitors, Messrs CRYSTAL CHAMBERS at Suite 6 Cornershops Zone 6 Wuse, Abuja or Phone 09-3143455, 09-5232536, 08037872836.

Signed

Messrs CRYSTAL CHAMBERS, ABUJA.

## LOSS OF CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY FCT/ABU/MISC 10230

This is to inform the General Public, Corporate Bodies and the Federal Capital Development Authority that the Original Copies of the above Certificate of Occupancy (C of O) issued in respect of property to MUSA DANKANO FARMS is hereby declared missing. If found please contact the undersigned or nearest police station.

SIGNED

MUSA DANKANO FARMS  
PLOT 807 UYO CRESCENT AREA H,  
GARKI-ABUJA

## LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public that the original Land document of Miss. Hauwa C. Ibrahim of Admin Dept. FCDA Area 11 Garki Abuja with Plot No. 774 of about 674.54 CM2 within Katampe District has been reported missing. Whoever transact business with the said lost document, does so at his/her own risk.

Signed

MISSHAUWAC. IBRAHIM

## LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public that the original Land document of Mrs. Chioma C. Nwakor of No 18 Ukpo Street, New Heaven Enugu State with Ref. No. MFCT/LA/AN 6310 of about 1500 m2 Plot No. 374 located at Katampe Ext. District FCT Abuja has been reported missing. Whoever transact business with the said lost document, does so at his/her own risk.

Signed

Mrs. Chioma C. Nwakor

## CHANGE OF NAMES

I, formerly known as SALIHU DANSULEIMAN, now wish to be known and referred to as SALIHU YARIMA ADAMS. All former documents remain valid. General public to note.

Former MISS EMHOKIDI MARTHA, now MRS AHMED MARTHA. Former documents remain valid. National Youth Service Corps, Auchi Polytechnic and General public please note.

I, formerly known as HAFSAT MOHAMMED, now wish to be called HAFSAT MOHAMMED AMBURSA. Former documents remain valid. General public to note.

Former MISS ESTHER O. SALE, wishes to be known as MRS ESTHER CHIKA EDWIN. Former documents remain valid. University of Abuja to take note.

I, formerly known and addressed as MRS KEHINDE OLAWANLE OTUJIYA, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. KEHINDE OLAWANLE OLUKOYA. Former documents remain valid. Osun State Civil Service Commission and general public please note.

I, formerly known and addressed as MISS MILINDA KELECHI NWEKE, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. MILINDA KELECHI ORJI. Former documents remain valid. General public to note.

# Sports

## I'm unaware of club owners sack threat

NFA Chairman, Alhaji Ibrahim Galadima has said he was unaware of the club owners' decision to sack him and three other members of the NFA board.

Speaking with *TrustSports* on Monday, Galadima said he had no knowledge of the allegations leveled against him by the club owners, adding that he would only be in a position to comment after

**By AbdulRaheem Aodu, Sports Reporter**

being properly informed.

"I am unaware of the club owner's decision, I have not been contacted. If they are serious about the allegations they know the right procedure to follow. You can not take a decision about somebody without first informing him about your position," he said.

Last week, the club owners accused Galadima along with vice chairman Chief Gabriel Chukwuma, Elder Dickson Adejube and NFA technical committee chairman Suleiman David, of working against the interest of the club owners.

However, the Kano-based businessman disclosed that he would attend the club owners' congress meeting tomorrow Thursday.

## -Galadima

The meeting, according to club owners association secretary, Arthur Kwame, will deliberate on the allegations raised against the NFA chieftains and their continued membership in the NFA board as well as the club owners

association.

"I remain a member of the club owners, so if I am properly invited for the congress meeting I would attend. All I ask for is things should be done properly," Galadima stressed.

## Makinwa chooses Inter

Atlanta's Nigerian striker Stephen Ayo Makinwa, who is the subject of interest from Serie A's big clubs, says he would like to join childhood friend Obafemi Martins at Inter Milan.

"I would love to play in a great club, and Inter are one. My friend Martins has always said good things about them. Martins is great, he will become one of the best in the world," the big forward says.

Makinwa joined Atalanta from Genoa in January to help strengthen a misfiring forward line. Seven games and four goals later, he has become the toast of the Serie A, and the striker who also scored on his international debut tells KICK OFF that he is not worried about an international call-up for now.

"I can't be thinking about not getting a call up now. I just have to focus on my game," he told KICK OFF. But he admits that was disappointed not to get a call-up.

"Of course I felt a bit disappointed not to get called. When you are doing well and you don't get recognised back home it can be frustrating. But I know the coach has other players who are doing well, and he is used to them already, so I can't fault him.

"For me, I will just keep playing my game, and doing the best I can, and hopefully, I can convince him to give me an opportunity."

### WORLD YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIP

## Nigerians want early preparation

Nigeria's soccer lovers have urged the NFA to give coach Samson Siasia of the Flying Eagles the necessary support and assistance toward preparations for the World Youth Championship (WYC) in Holland in June.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the National U-21 soccer team, the Flying Eagles, have been drawn against Brazil, South Korea and Switzerland in Group 'F' of the tournament.

Coach Basil Obeta of a Lagos-based Weekend Soccer Academy told NAN today in Lagos that Siasia needs about three or four friendlies to prepare the team.

"And the friendlies have to be with real soccer playing nations which are good in youth soccer like Paraguay, Uruguay, Hungary and Switzerland," Obeta said.

"It will cost a lot of money and that is why I urge the NFA to assist Siasia in the friendlies in order for him to

prepare well for the competition," he added.

He said that Siasia's players were good, but added that the friendlies would enable the coach discover other lapses in the team before the WYC.

He said that the loss to host Mali in the four nation WAFU Cup was a blessing, as it has helped to discover other mistakes in the team.

Coach Gafaar Ibrahim of the Naval-YSFON Academy, also urged NFA to assist Siasia with friendly matches before

the competition.

"Our opponents in that group will not be idle until June.

They will play lots of friendlies so the NFA should assist Siasia in organising friendlies before June," Ibrahim said.

Ibrahim who was in Lagos briefly to clarify some issues said that it was only constant playing through friendlies that would ensure success in Holland.

A former Flying Eagles

Coach, Paul Hamilton, has said Nigeria's draw against Brazil in the forthcoming WYC should be seen by Siasia as an opportunity for revenge.

Hamilton told NAN in Lagos today that "thank God the coach of the Flying Eagles had once played at this level against Brazil in Moscow 88 and I happen to be the coach of the team, we lost to Brazil via penalty."

"I can see Siasia playing against Brazil as a revenge mission and I know he has all it takes to do well at the championship," Hamilton said.

### CAF CLUB CUPS

## Pundits praise performances of Nigerian clubs

Football pundits have praised Nigerian coaches for the "excellent" performances of the four clubs engaged in various continental assignments at the weekend, with some saying that it was an indication that the local league was improving.

In the CAF Champions League, Dolphins of Port Harcourt whipped the 2000 title winners, Accra Hearts of Oak of Ghana, 4-0 to make the return leg less difficult, while defending champions Enyimba drew 1-1 with Simba FC of Tanzania in a match played in Mwanza after the original venue, the Dares Salaam Stadium, was closed for repairs.

In the Confederations Cup, Bendel Insurance held Kamsar of Guinea to a 1-1 draw at Conakry, while Enugu Rangers posted a morale boosting away victory with a 1-0 win over Sony Nguema of Equatorial Guinea.

The return legs will take place in a fortnight's time. "It is an

evidence that our league is developing and our football management is improving," former Green Eagles international Paul Hamilton told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN).

He said the various measures put in place by the league management board would further assist to develop the league.

"The decision of the league management board to ban the use of bad pitches will help because football played on good pitches help the game. Also the decision to pay the referees' indemnity will help to have a good league. All these will help in developing the game," Hamilton, also a former national team coach, added.

Basil Obeta, coach of Lagos-based Weekend Soccer Academy, said he was so happy with the victories because it was an indication that Nigerians coaches were performing well.

"Tell me which of the four clubs has a foreign coach, even the African champions Enyimba have an indigenous coach and all of them have not only made Nigeria proud but also the indigenous coaches.

Obeta urged the teams to work harder to make the second legs easier.

"It is not yet Uburu. Surprise might come their ways in the return legs, so they should keep their heads high and remain determined," he said.

Ahmed Jumare, the manager of the National Stadium Lagos, agreed with Hamilton.

"I want to believe that the performance of our various clubs at the continental level is a sign of improvement in our league because these teams are products of our domestic league.

"If that is the case, we should now face our league more seriously and not fear that our good products will go out and play."

Jumare said with the level of money put into our football, the domestic league will continue to grow.

"Kudos should be given to Gov. Kalu because the performance of Enyimba has encouraged other state governments and other club financiers to encourage our players to do well."

"Football now is all about money and good welfare package for the players, so private bodies should now come to help in putting in money into our league

toward football development. The state governments cannot do it alone."

Gafaar Ibrahim, a grassroots soccer development coach, urged the four teams to continue to support their coaches and should not contemplate hiring a foreign one if they were planning on having one.

"I think it is time we start appreciating ourselves, not many people thought that a Nigerian team, with local coaches could excel in away matches," Ibrahim said.

Ibrahim said for the teams to excel in their return leg matches, the managements should give their teams, especially the coaches, maximum support.

## Ex-international, King, criticises Chukwu

Nigerian former international goalkeeper, Raymond King has criticized Super Eagles coach Christian Chukwu for inviting only two goalkeepers to camp ahead of the Nigeria-Gabon World Cup cracker slated for Port Harcourt later this month.

He told KICK OFF from his Abeokuta base that it was unnatural for Chukwu to invite only Vincent Enyeama and Austin Ejide considering the amount of talent in the local league.

"Inviting only two goalkeepers to camp will make competition less attractive.

Under normal circumstances he's supposed to have called up a third keeper to make room for competition. But that's his decision and I respect him for that," King

said.

He suggested the inclusion of Dolphin's Chijioke Ejiogu or Sam Okoye of Enyimba in future call ups, stating that these two were the best in the local front now.

"I can place a bet on Ejiogu and Okoye guaranteeing stiffer competition in the goalkeeping department, and I hope Chukwu considers them in future," he added.

King, who is presently the goalkeeper trainer to Premier League side Gateway FC, made waves as a goalkeeper of repute in the 80s.

Highlights of his career include an African Champions Cup runners-up medal with Shooting Stars in 1984, plus a couple of national FA wins with the defunct Abjola Babes of Abeokuta.



Stephen Makinwa challenged by Milan's Ambrosini



Abdullahi, Dolphins coach

budget. rose from an executive ses-

ern parts of the country. And  
Contd. on Pg 2

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# DAILY TRUST

WEDNESDAY COLUMN

Wednesday, March 9, 2006

## A word for the Emir of Borgu

By Mohammed Haruna

It is nearly three years ago this month when I wrote a piece on the Borgu emirship tussle, a piece that stirred the hornet's nest in Niger state. The emirship tussle started in February 2000 following the death of Alhaji Musa Mohammed Kigera III, as the emir. In keeping with the tradition of the emirate, its kingmakers met shortly after Kigera's death to select a new emir. At that time only three of the five kingmakers were alive. They unanimously chose Alhaji Halliru Dantoro from a list of 12 contestants. Dantoro was Kigera's younger brother from the same mother.

For some strange reasons, the Niger State Government rejected the kingmakers' choice. One reason it gave was that there were only three surviving kingmakers whereas in the history of Borgu no fewer than the full compliment of the kingmakers ever chose an emir.

This was rather unconvincing because under the Borgu native law and custom, three kingmakers including the Baakarabonde, their head who also holds a veto in the selection process, form a quorum. The second reason the government gave was that the kingmakers tied Governor Abdulkadir Kure's hands by sending him only one name. This too was unconvincing as no law said the kingmakers must send more than one name to the governor.

After rejecting Dantoro, the governor expanded the kingmakers list through executive fiat. He then ordered a fresh selection. Dantoro quickly went to court and obtained a stay of execution order. The kingmakers, with the apparent backing of the government, ignored the order and went ahead with their selection. This time they picked two names, still with Dantoro on top of the list. Their second choice was Alhaji Isiyaku Musa Jikantoro, Dantoro's nephew, and at the time a commissioner in Kure's cabinet. Not surprisingly Kure picked Jikantoro. Again, not surprisingly, Dantoro went to court to challenge his rejection and replacement by Jikantoro.

For over two years the case dragged its way through the courts until finally – well almost finally – the Federal Court of Appeal in Suleja under Justice Muntaka Coomassie ruled in favour of Dantoro. Predictably the Niger State government appealed to the Supreme Court.

It was before this appeal that I wrote my article which ruffled not a few feathers in Niger state. In the article I had pleaded with the state not to drag matters any further for the sake of peace in the state and in the interest of the people of Borgu.

"The ruling of the Federal Court of Appeal under Justice Coomassie", I said, "shows quite clearly that the amendment of the rules of the game by executive fiat is unsustainable. The Niger state government should eat humble pie and not drag the matter any further. It should, for God's sake and for the sake of peace and harmony in Borgu and in Niger State, accept the choice of Senator Halliru Dantoro as the Emir of Borgu."

The government ignored my humble plea and went ahead to appeal to the Supreme Court. The appeal was pending when I took a journalist colleague of mine who works in Lagos from Abuja Airport to Minna to keep an appointment with General Ibrahim Babangida. The plan was for me to drop him off at Babangida's residence and return to Abuja to attend to my own businesses. Unfortunately – or was it fortunately? – Babangida traveled unexpectedly that morning but was expected back later in the day.

To kill time while awaiting Babangida's return, I suggested to my friend that we go to Government House for a chance meeting with Kure whom he had never met. Luckily the governor was in town and luckily he quickly granted us an audience.

For nearly two hours Kure took time to explain to my friend and me how he had become such a misunderstood governor among many Nigerlites, especially those of us in so-called diaspora. The case of the emir of Borgu took much of those two odd hours. Of all the things people have said about his rejection of Dantoro as emir, he said, none has pained him as the suggestion that he was acting at the behest of Babangida. "Wallahi, tallahi," he said repeatedly "kuna kwasan alhakin Babangida" meaning those of us insinuating that he took orders from Babangida over the Borgu affair were offending God, because we were lying against Babangida.

His main reason for rejecting Dantoro, he said, was that Dantoro had shown himself as unworthy of the leadership of his people by holding such a huge grudge against his elder brother, the late Kigera, that they were never on talking terms. Dantoro, he said, rejected every attempt to reconcile him with his elder brother who, on his part was more than willing for such reconciliation. The Qur'an, he said, was clear about such an attitude because it said any Muslim who, for whatever reason, refused to speak to his brother Muslim for

three days running, "is not one of us". He had other reasons for rejecting Dantoro, he said, but none had anything to do with speculations about why the relationship between Dantoro and Babangida had gone sour years after Babangida, as military president, moved Borgu emirate out of Kwara State into Niger.

At the end of our conversation, Kure gave myself and my friend a pledge. He swore by Allah and said that if Niger state loses its appeal, he will swear in Dantoro as emir the following day. About one year later the state lost its case. Kure, to his eternal credit, kept his word.



Alhaji Halliru Dantoro, Emir of Borgu.

When this happened, I said to myself, well, well, all's well that ends well. For months after this development I tried but could not reach Kure to congratulate and thank him for keeping his word. The postponement nearly three weeks ago of the formal installation of Dantoro as emir suggests that my congratulations and thanks would have been premature.

This time, however, it seems to me that the emir himself is essentially to blame for keeping alive a crisis which, like a bad dream, has simply refused to go away. Not only has the crisis refused to go away, this time, it seems to have grown from a crisis local to Niger State into a huge national controversy involving at least three governors – those of Lagos, Delta, and Adamawa states – and the vice-president and even the president himself.

The latest twist in the crisis surfaced when, barely three days to Dantoro's formal installation on February 19, the Niger State government announced that it had cancelled it and gave no new date. Shortly after that it sent in an amendment bill to the State House of Assembly for the deposition and appointment of emir of Borgu. The bill received a record hearing and was passed into law in next to no time.

The postponement of Dantoro's installation was not the first in the state. That of the current Etsu Nupe, the chairman of the State's Council of Chiefs, was postponed thrice while that of the Etsu of Lapai, the governor's home town, was postponed twice. However, that of Borgu was the first time the executive would seek an amendment of the law appointing and deposing an emir in the state. This showed quite clearly that there was more to the postponement of Dantoro's installation than met the eye.

The first sign that there was trouble in store for Dantoro was a story in the *Sunday Tribune* of February 13, titled "Tinubu, Ibori, Boni consolidate on New Party". According to the story the three governors were to use the turbaning of Lagos State governor, Senator Bola Ahmed Tinubu, as *Jagaban Borgu*, as a cover to review their plan to form a new party that would challenge the ruling PDP in the light of the well-known mutual hostility between President Obasanjo and Vice President Atiku Abubakar, an hostility which has fueled speculations that Obasanjo was dead set against handing over power to his deputy in 2007.

According to *Sunday Tribune*, Tinubu's turbaning was

also to provide cover for Atiku Abubakar to make an in-road into Niger state as the home-state of General Babangida, who, like the Vice-President, is widely believed to have his eye on the presidency in 2007.

Three days after this story, Dele Alake, Tinubu's Commissioner for Information and Strategy, took out full page adverts in several newspapers to dismiss *Tribune's* story as false. "The insinuation that Asiwaju Tinubu would use the chieftaincy event to send shockwaves to the political machinery of the PDP or any group or any individual in Niger state", said Alake, "is simply childish".

Apparently the Niger State Government did not think the matter was childish. First, said sources close to the governor, the emir did not inform Kure he was inviting his Lagos, Delta and Adamawa counterparts for his installation, much less inform Kure he would turban Tinubu as the *Jagaban Borgu* the day after his installation. Kure got to know only after Tinubu called him to ask for accommodation.

Second, Dantoro had reportedly planned to construct a royal box at the installation ground in which, apart from himself and the governor, only five of the invited royal fathers would sit. These were the Sultan, the Ooni of Ife, the Shehu of Borno, the Alafin of Oyo and the Etsu Nupe, as the chairman of the Niger State Council of Chiefs. This arrangement would have confronted both Niger State and the Etsu Nupe with a protocol nightmare, for the order of precedence in the old North puts the emirs of Gwandu, Kano, Bauchi, the Lamido of Adamawa and the emirs of Katsina and Zaria ahead of the Etsu Nupe, in that order. And emirs do not take a breach of this protocol lightly even though there is not much they can do about such a breach should it occur.

These alleged infractions of the emir, however, were merely the last straw to break the camel's back. Long before then the governor had queried the emir for traveling locally and abroad without as much as informing the chairman of his local

government or the governor, never mind seeking their permission. Kure had also queried him for flying the national flag on his car and using the national coat of arms on both his car and his letter-head, in breach of the law. Again, he was alleged to have used the state allocations to his emirate to renovate his private residence rather than the palace. Worst of all, a reply to a letter he had allegedly written to the Vice-President assuring him that he will deliver his emirate to the vice-president in 2007 in appreciation of the vice-president's support in his fight to become emir, somehow found its way into the governor's hands.

Some or all of these allegations may or may not be true but speaking to several Nigerlites, including some of those sympathetic to Dantoro, it seems to me that he does not want to let bygones be bygones. Because he has become emir in spite of the state government and in spite of the hostility of some of the movers and shakers of Niger state, he seems to believe he will also survive as emir in spite of them all. Therefore, rather than try and mend fences, he seemed to delight in antagonizing just about everyone who opposed his emirship. For example, he has often been heard to boast that many an emir have seen the back of governors who challenged their authority, and if Kure thought he would be an exception, he would need to think again, especially since he has only two odd years left as governor. Dantoro as a very experienced politician should know that such boastfulness is not an attribute of good leadership.

Again since becoming emir, he has not stretched a hand of friendship and reconciliation to his relations in the rival camp, including the children of his predecessor. Instead, one of his first acts as emir was to sack those of them working in the emirate council including the secretary of the council. Again, Dantoro surely knows that vindictiveness, like boastfulness, is not an attribute of good leadership.

Here Dantoro can obviously borrow a leaf from Alhaji Awwal Ibrahim, the Emir of Suleja, who became emir in spite of implacable opposition from the Suleja kingmakers. Unlike Dantoro, Alhaji Awwal had the support of government and would therefore not have needed to placate the local opposition. That, however, would have been unwise. He has therefore done everything possible to reconcile with his kith and kin. I am reliably informed that recently, he, for example, pleaded with the governor to appoint Alhaji Suleimanu Barau, whom the kingmakers had preferred, the Chief Librarian of the soon to be established state university. Barau has been librarian at Bayero University, Kano, before he left to become the Emirship of Suleja.

Dantoro is emir today because God wanted it. However, as a much experienced and a well-meaning leader, he should know that the same God may not sustain him there if he does not unnecessarily antagonize the authorities in the state and if he is seen to be unfair to all his subjects whether or not they opposed his s...