NIGERIAN TIDE

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NOW POLICE MOVE INTO CRISIS VILLAGE

- One dead
- 12 persons wounded
- Appeal fund

ANTI-RIOT policemen have been drafted to the disturbed town of Iyoba in the Bonny Local Government Area of the Rivers State.

Fighting broke out there on December 31, when the villagers were attacked by a neighbouring town. A number of people were feared dead and houses burnt and looted.

The police have confirmed that the body of a middle-aged man had been found in the area. He was suspected to have been brutally matcheted during the riot. Twelve others are on the critical list at the Bori general hospital with matchet wounds.

In another development, the people of Iyoba have set up the "Iyoba Disaster Relief Appeal Committee."

In a statement yesterday the committee said, among other things:

As at the moment over 6,000 men, women and children are taking refuge in the open at the Bonny waterside in Bori Local Government Authority area (BOLGA). They are now homeless and are without food, water, clothing and shelter.

Appeal

Many of them are scattered around the riverine area of the Bonny waterside and some are still missing. The bodies of the dead are in the Port Harcourt mortuary.

All the Iyoba refugees are living in the open and an epidemic of cholera is feared to have broken out among them.

The committee further appeals to the Federal Government for an outright grant of N1m to assist in providing the much needed shelter and clothing and also feeding for the refugees.

The committee strongly appeals to the Federal Military Government, all the state governments of the Federation, the Women Christian Council of Nigeria, World Council of Churches, all national and international relief agencies, philanthropic and religious organisations for aid.

The committee further appeals to both the Rivers State Ministry of Health and Rural Development and Social Welfare to come to its aid.

A

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PORT HARCOURT.



MR ETIM O. IYANG

Police lift ban in Bendel

RESTRICTIONS on the movements of persons and vehicles in Bendel State have been lifted by the police in the state.

The state's Police Commissioner, Mr Etim O. Iyang, said in Benin that after a careful review of the crime situation, he was satisfied that the need for such a severe measure no longer existed.

He stated that the restrictions had been lifted with immediate effect from January 3 and that bottle clubs and cinema houses could now operate freely.

Mr Iyang further said that members of the public

(Continued on page 16)

HOSPITAL AUTHORTY APPEALS FOR HELP

Blood bank runs dry

THE blood bank in the Port Harcourt general hospital is now almost dry. As a result patients who need blood transfusion now resort to appeals for blood donation from their relatives and other people. Some of the donors are said to have been paid before they agreed to donate.

The situation is causing anxiety among the hospital authorities as some patients in the hospital are sometimes left helpless through their inability to find the needed blood for them.

Hospital sources said the situation worsened by the fact that unlike before, people are not now prepared to donate their blood free of charge.

The senior consultant in the general hospital, Dr Long-John speaking to our correspondent confirmed that there was shortage of blood in the blood bank.

He made a strong appeal to members of the public to donate to the blood bank.

He said by so doing very many people would have been saved from untimely deaths.

Corona society aids destitudes

THE Women's Corona Society, Port Harcourt branch has made some donations of various articles, including television sets, ceiling and table fans and cots complete with mattresses, to the Cheshire Home, Motherless Babies Home, the Old Peoples Home and the Nabele Workshops.

The society also donated N400.00 to the Christian Council Project Four Seas, in Okrika.

The presentation was marked by a ceremony to which leading personalities in Port Harcourt attended.

They included the chief judge of the state, Mr Justice Ambrose Alagoa and Mr Nwpodike Nwanodi, a member of the Constituent Assembly.

The presentation was made by the president of the society, Mrs. M. Alfanso.

Mr Justice Alagoa, received on behalf of the Cheshire Home three ceiling fans; one table fan and 12 hand towels, while Rev. Don Mackay, on behalf of Nabele Workshops, received the television set.

On behalf of the Christian Council Project Four Seas, Rev. Canon Green received N400.00 for library books and N400.00 towards the rehabilitation of the project's premises. While Rev. Green were Rev. D. Z. Amos and Pastor Eeiya.

The donation of four cots with mattresses to the Motherless Babies Home was received by Mrs God Abbey, while Mrs Warmate received one television set on behalf of the Old People Home.

In presenting the donations, Mrs Alfanso expressed her society's deep gratitude to industrial and commercial firms and individuals who donated to the society's annual Christmas sales and bazaar for charity.

The organisations are, Wilt & Busch (Shipyard) Ltd.; Mothercat (Nig) Company Ltd. Nixon Borys and Partners, Blackwood Hodge, Berger Paints, Nigerian Eng. Works; Femina; Nadder Brothers; Brossette; Camco; Amadi & Bros (Elect), Cristal Hope; Sante Fe Drilling; U.B.A; Standard Bank, A. A. Alapi (Niger Motors); S. V. Udosin (Mobil);

Others include Eastern Enamel Ware, Kwetaram, Narumal, General Plastics; Fraser & Shephard, Trelna; Globe Fisheries; Camerons Iron Works; Haldomus George Allreds & Co.; Shell Eng., O.C.C., Bata, Equip; COWAC, Dowell, Schlumberger, Kaycee, Otis Eng; Apex, Mills, Presidential Hotel, C.F.C. Furniture, Nigerian Tobacco Co. Ltd.

The rest are Drake & Scull, Kingsway Stores, Leventis Stores, Nigeria Bottling Company, Optical Services Ind. Rd.; A. O. Oyebade (Brit. Cal.); Airways International Fisheries; Brolsons; Charal; Nigerian Tide; Radio Vision; I.T.C.; Eli Weidman and Walters; G.I.F. Enterprises Nig. Ltd., Whessoe.

In the photograph below are some of the dignitaries at the party. They include from left to right — the chief judge of the state, Mr Justice Ambrose Alagoa second from (left); the society's president, Mrs M. Alfanso third from (left) and Mr K. H. Hartley of CST, Port Harcourt, sixth from (left).

Photo by Tidephotographer, Taemunotaim Omoni Lawson. Story by Inengisa Somiari.

WATER FOR 70 TOWNS

THE Ondo State Water Corporation has embarked on a number of measures aimed at overcoming acute shortage of water in the state during the current dry season.

This was announced by the chairman of the Corporation, Mr B. A. Faluyi during the signing of contract on water supply to the riverine areas of the state.

More than seventy towns and villages in Ilaje Ese Odo and Ikale Local Government areas of the state will benefit from the scheme.

Engineer Faluyi said in order to arrest water shortage in the state this dry season additional mobile water tankers have been purchased by the corporation. This would be used in distributing water to the people in the areas likely to be affected by drought.

RIVERS NUJ MEETS JAN 10

A general meeting of the Nigeria Union of Journalists, Rivers State Branch takes place on Tuesday, January 10, 1978.

Place of meeting is at the newsroom of the Nigerian Tide, 4 Ikwerre Road, Port Harcourt by 5 p.m.

A statement from the secretariate of the branch said very important issues connected with the general affairs of the union in the country will form the major discussion.

Meanwhile, all journalists in the state have been invited to attend the crucial meeting.

MORE FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT ACQUIRED

THE Oyo state government recognises the importance of fire fighting service as an essential instrument for development.

It therefore makes considerable financial provisions annually to purchase modern fire fighting and rescue operations equipment.

These facts were contained in an address delivered by the Oyo State Commissioner for Local Government and Information, Mr Ayanlayo Ayandele, at the passing-out ceremony of 50 newly-trained firemen in Ibadan.

The commissioner added that the government has provided substantial fund for manpower development to ensure adequate protection of lives, private properties and commercial houses.

He announced a purchase by the government of two fire fighting vehicles at over N90,000. The equipment, he said has greatly helped the fire brigade to cope more effectively with fire outbreaks and other disasters such as road accidents.

Mr Ayandele disclosed that new fire stations has been opened at Dick road, Ibadan, Gbongan and Saki and that the one at Molete in Ibadan now under construction would be commissioned this month.

New ones at Iseyin and Ikirun would be opened before the end of the current financial year, he added.

The commissioner further assured the people that the government would not relent in its efforts until fire stations were provided in all the 24 local government areas in the state.



EDITORIAL

FUNDS FOR LOCAL GOVTS

THE Federal Military Government cannot expect the local governments to function without funds. So, we cannot appreciate its difficulty in releasing grants allocated for this purpose. All too often, government spokesmen harp on the importance of local administration to the overall political programme of this administration, but all this sounds hollow amidst complaints by many councils about the failure of the Federal Military Government to release funds for their efficient administration.

WE ARE aware that some councils do not take the trouble to devise their own means of raising revenue. These are the lazy and inefficient ones. Others peter out their resources in wasteful spending. Ostentation and graft are yet other problems that stalk the growth of some councils. Such errant councils can be dealt with by their state governments.

FOR THOSE who show evidence of hardwork and efficiency, government should not make things unnecessarily difficult by denying them statutory grants. They should be encouraged in their efforts and endeavours to improve the position of their localities.

THE IYOBA HORROR

WITHOUT prejudice to the current police investigations into the horrifying incident at Iyoba in the Bonny Local Government Area last week, we call attention to the ever recurring riots that have prevailed in these areas over the years. The issue of land ownership is a most sensitive one, no doubt. Even so, the people should learn to use the law courts for the purposes for which they exist, which is to resolve disputes and conflicts between one citizen and another or between groups.

THE VERY easy resort to lawlessness, in the process of which innocent women and children are either killed or wounded and valuable property destroyed, must be ruthlessly checked. The method of attack during the Iyoba riot discloses a burning hate and a calculated design to kill and plunder.

THIS IS anarchy in its worst form, and the law must not delay justice in a matter of this kind. Those involved in the incident must be rounded up and dealt with severely and instantly, so that others might be deterred from such cruelties. They have brought unnatural death, destitution, pain and a near collapse of whole communities in one blind night of brutish inanity.

ON PURELY humanitarian grounds, we draw attention to the appeal for relief for the riot victims published in this paper on Thursday. This is irrespective of which side has wronged the other or offended against the law. Agencies and organisations which are in a position to offer relief to the people in this their hour of distress are requested to do so NOW and NOT LATER.

LOOK INTO THIS BOARD

IT IS known that civil servants go about their duties in strict adherence to laid down policies. We also know how civil service bureaucracy in all its ramifications could render an otherwise innovative men helpless on issues requiring quick action. No wonder a bureaucrat has been defined as "one who obeys the rules of his department without exercising much judgement". To all those in such position, I offer my sympathy.

However, a line has to be drawn between the policy (no matter how unpopular) and its implementation, which is purely an executive responsibility. Where the executives show no reasonable care in the discharge of their duties, such acts should not pass without comments.

The Rivers State Scholarship Board was established primarily to cater for the needs of her students. Of recent, it is difficult to award the Scholarship Board and, our policy makers a pass mark in their pursuit of this noble objective.

As I see it, the administrative machinery of the Board is now rusty and will need some kind of spring cleaning. Let me say straight why this cleaning is imperative.

(a) In 1975 /76 session an amount of over N2,000 laid "fallow" in the Bursary department of the University of Benin. This sum represents a duplication of payment of fees for certain medical students who transferred from Ahmadu Bello University (ABU) Zaria. Interestingly, the money is still lying here despite official protests from students.

(b) Under the same period, an amount of about N1,[illegible] was transferred to the University as fees for two "ghost" students. Why fees should be paid for two students that do not 'exist' is what I cannot explain.

(c) In its characteristic manner, nobody was suprised when in November this year, fees were paid for students already in the Youth Service programme. It is a clear indication of the proverbial fact that, the Board operates without adequate records of students it is supposed to serve. Of course you can be sure that other Nigerian Universities have different unpleasant stories to tell.

(d) If inefficiency does not plague the Board, why was it defrauded of over N60,000 by some unscrupulous students studying overseas? Once more, it is because they do not know their jobs. And instead of hiding their heads in shame they gleefully announced to the world, how public money (including my father's) was poured into the sea.

(e) As of now, there are well over 20 students of the state without any form of scholarship in this school.

Again, here are some unresolved issues.

University education is now tuition free (thanks to the Federal Military government). What disturbs me is how, or why the Board decided to pay N297 per student as school fees, instead of the figures as approved by the University authorities. The problem is that the amount hardly covers the deductions to be made by the school. When that is done, each student is left with a pocket allowance of N20 for the whole year!

Point 1 Is tuition— free education the same as cut in students allowances?

Point 2 What is the difference between the undergraduate studying at home and that in America or the United Kingdom?

In a bid to escape from the hunglings of the past, the Board, apparently for lack of care and interest decided to c r e a t e hell for us, here on earth. Ours is a case of poverty in paradise and, nowhere in this reflected more than in the tyranny of parsimony. But parsimony is not a management tool, neither is it a remedy for an abused responsibility accounting method.

If the Board members, officers and the swarm of clerks will forever remain in slumber, then we are in for the worst. That is why a thorough investigation into their activities is imperative. One thing the state government should know is that "a stitch in time saves nine".

A. O. NSITEM,
University of Benin

PUBLIC OPINION FORUM

LABOURERS DESERVE BETTER TREATMENT

THE Rivers State Ministry of Works should come to the aid of the labourers working under it. These people were employed at different times by the then Eastern Regional Government and later, from 1972 by the Rivers State Government.

In the pre-war days these labourers used to be paid their wages promptly on the site of their duties. This continued after the civil war. To my utmost dismay, that efficient system has changed. Labourers now travel for hundreds of kilometres at the end of every month to receive their pay.

During the last Christmas period when transport from say Yenagoa to Port Harcourt skyrocketed to eight naira and above, labourers who made the journey only got back home empty handed.

Another irksome disappointment that arises from centralised payment is the prevailing rate of fraudulent acts and stealing. On several occasions these poor labourers travel all the way to Port Harcourt only to be told that their salaries have been signed for and collected by unidentified persons.

The main cause of this is that pay-clerks do not know whom they pay to and few of the labourers know themselves, since they come from different stations.

This should not continue. There sohuld be a way of paying labourers in their respective stations. And where they have to travel out of their stations, the government should compensate them for expenses incurred.

B. M. AMAFIEN
Agudama-Epie

HELP : BAD ROADS

I want to draw the attention of road workers to the disgusting state of some of our roads, particularly the road leading to the Port Harcourt University.

These roads have not been repaired or maintained for four years and above. As a result they are filled with pot holes which cause accidents.

The Ministry of Works should do something about these roads.

Port Harcourt

Why this?

SINCE after the Nigerian civil war, residents of Borikiri in Port Harcourt have not had any postal agency to serve them.

Similar areas like Diobu and Aggrey Road have their postal agencies. Why should Borikiri be left out?

GOLDEN HARRISON
Port Harcourt

Check these malpractices

As far back as 1958 when there was not land route from Port Harcourt to Okrika, people have been operating out board engine boats for transportation.

Before they put these boats to use, they ensured that roofs were mounted to provide shelter for passengers. In addition the boats were properly inspected by transport officials before licence was issued out.

Before the inspection, the owner of the boat fixed in the required number of life-bouys, fire extinguishers lamps etc. After all these, the inspector ascertained the capacity of the boat.

It however has been observed that those who operate boat services these days do not care so much to provide all these necessities. Many people now use fishing boats which are designed to carry only two people with perhaps a fishing net to carry more than twenty passengers.

There is also the case of flying boat drivers who refuse to slow down for oncoming smaller boats.

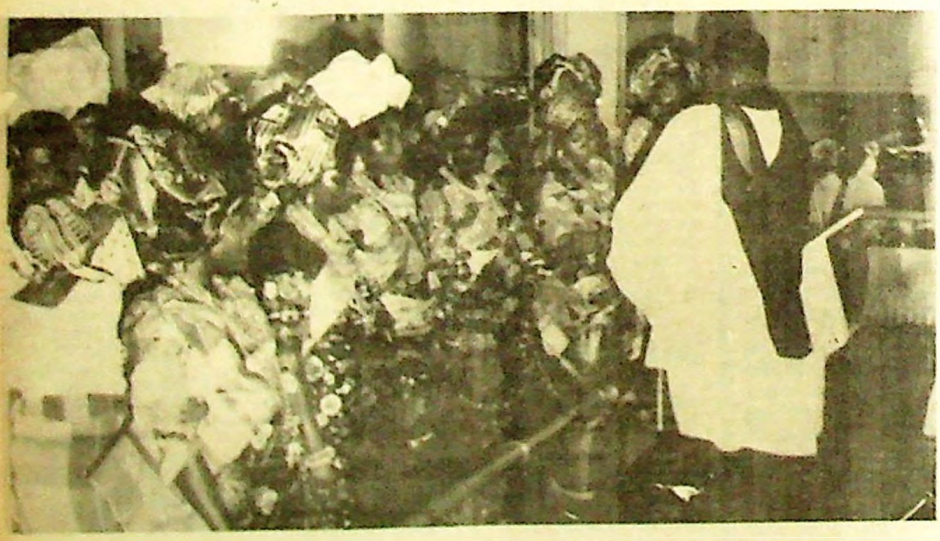
I think men of the traffic section of the Nigeria Police should be sent down to our riverine transport routes to check all these malpractices.

B. ATELA-GI
Okrika

MR JUSTICE DAPPA RECEIVED







A NEWLY appointed high court judge of the Rivers State, Mr Justice W. O. Dappa has been honoured to a party organised in Opobo by the Opobo Union. The party featured a thanksgiving service at the St Paul's Church Opobo to which distinguished personalities from various parts of the federation, attended.

A reception was held over by the Association of Opobos, Chief S. S. Pepple followed the religious service.

A display of Mbede dancers who were clad in costly coral beads provided an extra attraction to the party.

Thanksgiving service staged

In the photograph top left, Mr Justice Dappa, second from left, is seen at the thanksgiving service, offering thanks to God. Also at the thanksgiving service the Mbedes, doing out to offer thanks to God. Photograph above, top right, one of the Mbedes seen whilst at the party went on.

The reception was rounded up with some entertainments

From left to right in the photograph are Mr Justice Dappa, Chief S. S. Pepple, Mrs Dappa and Miss Peterside.



Enugu-Ezike property row:

KPERA THROWS IN THE TOWEL

THE Anambra State Military Governor Col John Atiga Kpera has intervened in the row between an engineer in the state Ministry of Works and an Enugu-Ezike family over alleged threat to use soldiers to demolish a family house.

The row was sparked off by alleged refusal of an engineer to pay compensation to the family whose premises and property were affected by the new Nsukka Ogugu highway now under construction.

Reliable sources said it was agreed that the family would be paid compensation after their farms and economic trees and crops worth over N7,000 were destroyed and houses in the premises were also demolished.

The family was said to have engaged the services of estate valuers who prepared and submitted a report on their claim.

Instead of the claims being paid said the report the family was threatened with eviction through the aid of soldiers.

The family then petitioned the Military governor who later paid an unscheduled visit to them accompanied by a chief engineer. An old man who was frightened on seeing the governor, received a surprise packet of N1,000 Christmas Bonanza from the governor. The governor assured him that the purpose of his visit was to settle the quarrel.

In an exclusive interview the head of the family, Mr Asanya Omeh told the Nigerian Tide that the refusal to pay compensation had brought untold hardship on the family.

He praised Governor Kpera for his humanitarian actions.

The disputed compound he said contained seven buildings, ancestral graves, shrines and other traditional sacred objects which he inherited from his ancestors.

These would require a great sum of money to be transferred to another site.

Former Tideman on charge of stealing

Theophilus Alegbe, a former employee of the Nigerian Tide Office in Port Harcourt has appeared before a Senior Magistrate's Court on a charge of forgery and stealing.

The prosecution said that the accused between Dec 31, 1975 and March, 1976 at the Nigerian Tide office, Port Harcourt did conspire with person or persons unknown to commit a felony to wit forgery and also forged a payment voucher No. 2369 for the sum of N200.00, voucher No. 2776 for the sum of N431.28k and voucher No. 2777 for the sum of N1,307.51k. He also did steal the sum of N2,884.31k property of the Rivers State Government.

The accused pleaded not guilty on all the counts.

Further hearing was adjourned to Jan. 11, 1978.

Also in the same court Samuel Adekanbi and Samuel Adafemi are to serve four months each in prison or in the default to pay a fine of N80.00 each after Chief Magistrate R. C. Nzeribe had found them guilty on their own plea on a charge of dangerous driving.



Kpaikpai festival ends

THE Ekowe people in Yenagoa Local Government area of the Rivers State have ended their Kpaikpai festival.

People from all walks of life including the chairman of the Yenagoa Local Government Council attended the festival.

The chairman of the Ekowe development committee Mr S. E. Charles Abali said that the aim of the festival was to make every body in the town forget all their sorrows and troubles before entering the new year.

He said it was the custom of the people to come home once and acquaint themselves with things in the town before the new year.

The chairman stressed the need for people of the same town to come together to contribute their own knowledge towards the progress of the community.

Community awarded ₦26,000 for self help effort

A MATCHING grant totalling N26,500 has been made to four communities in the Ikwuano/Umuahia Local Government area by the Imo State Government in appreciation of their self-help efforts.

The projects completed by the communities included rural electrification, construction of roads and bridges and the provision of toilet facilities in their local markets and the communities involved are Ossiuga, Umuihie, Ubakala and Ariam/Usaka.

Presenting the cheques for the amount to the communities in his office, the chairman of the local government council, Mr Cyril M. Edoh stressed the need for every community to get involved in the current crusade for rural community development programme.

He urged the initiation of other viable projects in efforts to raise the living standards of their people.

Mr Edoh advised the recipients to make judicious investment of the grant in the subsidised projects in order to achieve maximum results, adding that the technical section of the council would always assist in the execution of meaningful projects.

The grant was made as follows: Ossiuga ₦11,500; Umuihie ₦4,000; Ubakala ₦6,000; and Ariam Usaka ₦5,000.

Graduation day

Eighteen Staff Nurses of the Eku Baptist School of Nursing, Eku in Ethiope Local Government area graduated recently. The graduation ceremony was addressed by the Commissioner for Health, Mr B. C. Bozimo. A cross section of parents and officials of the Ministry of Health are seen during the occasion.

12-men education panel for Sokoto

A twelve-man Task Force committee has been set-up by the Sokoto State Government to implement the national policy on education.

The committee is headed by the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education.

Speaking at an interview in his office, the state Commissioner for Education, Malam Lawal Mohammed Bunudu said that members will include the Permanent Secretaries of Works, Transport and Water Resources; Agriculture and Natural Resources; Local Government; Finance, Establishment and Economic Planning.

Other members are the chief planning officer, Ministry of Finance; the chief inspector of education; director of schools management service; director of planning and management (all of the Ministry of Education); the principals of colleges of technology and of Arts and Science.

The chief education officer, planning, would be the secretary.

Malam Lawal said that the Task Force was to work with the national education policy implementation Task Force, set up by the Federal Military Government to ensure the progress of planned education evaluation and its effective implementation.

It would in addition formulate a state policy on education.

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NIGERIA AIRWAYS

THE WORLD



BRIEFS

London

A nasal spray could replace the contraceptive pill for women, the British scientific magazine "Nature" reported yesterday.

It said that experiments on monkeys in India had shown that breathing in progesterone stopped ovulation as effectively as using the pill did, and that the components of the contraceptive acted more rapidly on the brain when administered in spray form.

But the spray would apparently fail to work on women with colds, "Nature" said.

Riyahd

PRESIDENT Jimmy Carter left Riyadh for Aswan, Egypt, where he was to meet President Anwar Sadat.

King Khalid and Crown Prince Fahd saw Mr Carter off at Riyadh airport after spending nearly two hours in conference with him.

Mr Carter spent 14 hours here.

Washington

ROBERT Strauss, President Carter's special trade negotiator, will visit Japan on January 12 for a series of meetings on trade relations between the two countries, administration sources said here.

The sources said the Japanese were "prepared to take further steps" to open up Japanese markets to American goods.

America's trade deficit with Japan last year was about 10,000 million dollars.

Tokyo

MIRRORING decline in London and New York, the US Dollar fell to a new low of 237.80 Yen on the Tokyo foreign exchange market yesterday, the year's first trading day.

This was a drop of 2.10 Yen from last year's close of 240.00 Yen on December 30.

Bangkok

THE Thai Government has banned radio stations throughout the country from broadcasting comments or news reports attacking China, officials said yesterday.

They said the Interior Ministry had circulated the ban order to governors of all 72 provinces.

Hong Kong

A Hong Kong Government spokesman has dismissed as speculation a report here that China planned to introduce air passenger service to Hong Kong.

The report in the newspaper "The Star" said that service was expected to start soon between Hong Kong and both the big industrial city of Shanghai and the southern metropolis of Canton. An air link to Hong Kong was in line with China's current "opening up" to visitors, "The Star" said.

Fund team meet in London

Representatives from 25 nations attended the recent meeting of the African Development Fund in London. Pictured before the start of the two-day meeting are (left to right) Sir Veerasamy Ringadoo, the Minister of Finance in Mauritius, who is chairman of the Board of Governors of the Fund; Mr John Tomlinson, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at Britain's Ministry of Overseas Development, and Mr Kwame Fordwor, the President of the Fund. This consultative meeting was held to exchange views on the resources target which should be set for the second replenishment of the Fund. A final decision will be made at another meeting early this year.

'JOURNALISM, WORLD'S RISKIEST JOB'

JOURNALISM is fast becoming one of the world's "riskiest professions," the London-based International Press Institute (IPI) said in its annual report published today.

The IPI, a watchdog body on press freedom, reported that 73 countries violated press freedom in 1977.

The violations included the murder of journalists in four countries, their kidnapping in six, torture and other forms of violence against journalists in seven, and their jailing in 23.

The report singled out Argentina and Czechoslovakia, which it said, showed "to a frightening degree the extent to which gangsterism, official and unofficial, is being used to repress editorial freedom."

"What shames Argentina beyond all dispute," the report said, "is the disappearance without trace of scores of people (opponents of the regime talk of thousands) willing to speak or write against the junta."

The situation in Czechoslovakia, the report said, is the worst example of what happens to a greater or lesser degree throughout Eastern Europe.

The report also attacked [illegible] Africa.

"In the course of [illegible]", the report noted, "the last years in Africa [illegible] confirmed the hypocrisy of the South African leaders who criticise other African states where manipulation of the media is the norm."

The report also noted gunshot attacks against journalists as hostages in Lebanon, the murder by gunshot and bombs of Spanish journalists, the sabotage of the car of a foreign correspondent posted in Moscow, bomb attacks against French [illegible] and [illegible] urged international [illegible] the report added "necessary for journalists is an urgent matter of human and civil rights."

The IPI's membership comprises about 2,000 newspaper publishers and editors in more than 60 countries.



MR LATEEF JAKANDE, President of the Newspaper Proprietors Association of Nigeria

MOVING DIARY OF FORMER CANADA'S PM

CANADA'S Prime Minister for 21 years, William Mackenzie King, once compared the death of a pet dog to the crucifixion of Christ, according to entries in his personal diary released in Ottawa by the Archives of Canada.

Writing in 1947 about the death that August after an operation [illegible] Mr Mackenzie King commented: "I feel in all this [illegible]

Mackenzie King recorded that [illegible] the Canadian Parliament [illegible] Mr Mackenzie King [illegible] that the [illegible] feel the same deep concern for a minister of the crown who is a colleague."

When King George offered the Prime Minister the Order of Merit (an exclusive award of the British sovereign limited to 24 people) at a time, Mr Mackenzie King recorded that [illegible] also married more than I did, and the loyalty of his nature and fidelity and all that counts for most."

Mr Mackenzie King who died in 1950 was prime minister for a total of 21 years between 1921 and 1948.

Varsity hits new idea

RESEARCH workers at Cambridge University have hit upon a method of feeding the 4,300 most common characters in the Chinese language into a computer.

One of the major uses of the new technique [illegible] automatic [illegible] of documents written in [illegible] the universally [illegible] Arabic and [illegible] Latin [illegible] Cyrillic [illegible] a breaking of [illegible] China the system, which is expected to be a commercial proposition by the end of the year.

Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea and Singapore have shown interest in the system.

NUJ debacle

IT'S FIGH CONSTITU AND IL

A TWO-DAY meeting of the National Executive Committee of the Nigeria Union of Journalists ended in Kaduna last week.

The Committee meeting was attended by members representing 13 states and the National Finance Committee of the union, elected at the Enugu convention of 1976.

The meeting was addressed by the National President, Mallam Sidi Ali Sirajo.

Below is Mallam Sidi's address:

WE have over and over again, warned our country men and leaders that the struggle within the NUJ has transcended the limitations of ordinary journalists and is never a mere quarrel among journalists alone. That would be an over simplification.

It is and has always been an interminable, high-powered and vicious conspiracy master-minded by a most determined, ruthless and utterly unprincipled politicians in their bid to take control of our union with the clear and unmistaken determination to use the Nigerian Union of Journalists as a platform for tribal re-alliance and political intrigues in the coming struggle for political power in 1979.

Those who doubted the truth and sincerity of our claim should study the recent developments where the Borno State Commissioner for Information, Establishments and Training Alhaji Mahmud Ahmed declared openly and without equivocation that the Federal Military Government has directed the Borno State Government to recognise the rebel group within our union.

That a responsible state commissioner could openly make such a politically dangerous statement by claiming that his state government would not invalidate the "directive of the Federal Military Government" is yet a glaring indication as to why a group of insignificant minority should have the effrontery of imposing themselves on the vast majority of our union's membership.

It is most imperative for the Borno State Government to state to the world as to the circumstances whereby the Federal Military Government directed the State Government to back a rebel faction within our union or for the Federal Government to come out openly and declare its standpoint on this sensitive and nationally controversial development.

Does it mean that all along, it was the FMG that initiated, planned, financed and encouraged this group representing less than six state councils to impose their will on the majority of state councils.

In a vast economic political manifestation, is this tragic development not an indication that it is possible for a future political development in the country for the decisions of twelve or thirteen states to be overruled by merely six states if they enjoy the patronage of the federal authorities?

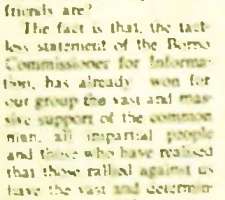
Our adversaries in their morbid conspiracy have always lacked political vision, underrated the intelligence and national perspectives of the people of Nigeria and have continued to make one blunder after the other.

They over simplify sensitive professional and political issues, they overrate the strategy of their sponsors and easily rush to cheer themselves without critically and objectively studying the dangerous implications of their actions.

The Borno affair has made its national heroes:

For example, they assumed, that if a state commissioner, in a northern state of Borno could openly support them by invoking the name of the Federal Government, the backbone of our support in these states would have been broken. Alas! how shortsighted our friends are?

The fact is that, the tactless statement of the Borno Commissioner for Information, has already won for our group the vast and massive support of the common man, all impartial people and those who have realised that those rallied against us have the vast and determined support of the powers that be.



●MICHAEL ABIODUN
Administrator of Trade Unions

They have not sought the support of honest and dedicated journalists they needed the support of Government to survive.

We are the victims of injustice, the victims of high power, we are the underdogs who though we control majority, we represent the rule of law and the will of majority and constitutionality, the forces rallied against us are less powerful.

Apart from the national televisions, NBC, Daily Times and others that have subjected us to ruthless and vindictive attacks of blackmail, our supporters in the states are being carefully frightened or giving promises of patronage to turn against us to no avail.

And to my superiors, advisers and state leaders among whom are Alhaji Yahuza Makongiji (Plateau State), Mallam Ibrahim Madaki (Kaduna), Mr Thomas Chigbo (Anambra), Mr Sunny Unachukwu (Imo), our National Secretary, Minere Amakiri (Rivers); Yaro Mardugum (Borno), Alfred Ilamre and Mahmud Ikhuniaye (our fearless fighters and stalwarts of Kwara State), Chris Anana and James Idonadolor (Bendel State); Mohammed Sallau and James Adeniyin, Peter Idu (Benue State); Ibrahim Biu (Sokoto); Niyi Omotoro, Tundu Adekunle, Abas, Lawal and countless others, I assure you at all times I will depend and rely on your advise and instructions.

I consider myself both in terms of rank, responsibility, professional experience and intellectual background, your humble subordinate always ready at all time for you to teach and guide me.

I will always be your loyal and obedient servant, your steadfast and untiring friend, brother and son.

If I ever betray your confidence, disobey your honest instructions or acted in a manner detrimental to your mandate and your expectations – please throw me out.

I therefore call upon all our courageous, fighting journalists to rise up to emulate the courage, the unprecedented demonstration of extraordinary loyalty, faith and firmness of our state council leaders who fought in my absence in Cuba in the defence of the sacred tenents of constitutionality, the rule of law and the will of the majority.

You have by your determination and courage shaken the minority clique, destroyed their credibility and exposed them to the nation through the startling disclosure by the Borno State Commissioner for Information that "the Borno State Government has received directives from Lagos to support the minority clique."

The nation has now realised who are backed by true, honest and sincere journalists and who on the other hand are being backed by



●MALLAM SIDI ALI SIRAJO
NUJ National President

top Federal Government officials and state commissioners to defy the constitutionally elected leadership of the NUJ.

Our strength is rooted only in our sincerity, our just cause and the admiration of our people.

Because we enjoy the admiration and loyalty of our State Councils, we will remain invincible to the last.

However, if by any means we are crippled then let history record that we were removed by force and not the constitutional decision of our National Council.

Our names will be enshrined in the scrolls on the history of Nigerian Journalism as giants in our times who towered high and above their opponents but who were overwhelmed by arbitrary power.

Let the people of Nigeria ponder well over our appeal to the conscience of Nigeria. Let the people of Nigeria remember that if we are forced out despite the fact that we represent constitutionality and the will of the Majority, then the present generals, stadcats, professional lawyers, parliamentarians, students, professional men or whatever, will equally stand condemned by history for their silence in the face of injustice, their fear of the truth, their hypocrisy and their tacit complicity in watching in silence while the decisions of 13 State Councils have been whittled and scuttled by a few minority State Councils because as they openly admitted themselves, they have the support of the Governments of the land.

Gentlemen and Ladies, I salute you.

We have therefore been compelled to appeal to the conscience of Nigeria, to the members of the Constituent Assembly and to all forces of justice, the rule of law, the sacred concept of constitutionality and the will of majority.

Ours is a clear case and we believe the nation will support our crusade for true and a free Press.

Because if Nigerians and particularly members of the Constituent Assembly could sit down with folded arms for the constitutionally elec-

BETWEEN ONALITY GALITY

ging the will of the majority and the course of history.

We are fascinated with their judgment of history and we applaud ourselves for our remarkable victory.

There will be no question of mediating with men without principles and whose sickening obsession with sectional intrigues should portray them in their true colours as agents of foreign forces anxious to provoke a new national crisis.

To us the unity, peace and progress of our country will not be compromised.

In fact, far from suffering a setback through the statement of the Borno Commissioner for Information, the tactlessness of the commissioner's statement has already projected us for what we really to our compatriots, to posterity, the thousands of journalists yet unborn and to history, as National heroes, the first true and undisputed martyrs of the struggle for true Press freedom and men of vision, utmost patriotism, guts and will to face clowns and stooges being fronted in a dangerous game that could harm the overall interests of our country.

We have the sympathy and admiration of our people. We have the sympathy and loyalty of those unbiased and above narrow-minded, sectionalism and the massive goodwill and moral support of all progressive people in this country.

The Benin and Maiduguri conspiracy has made us stronger than before and we have been strengthened as never before to fight to the last.

We shall hold our emergency national conference with goodwill to all in the interest of the unity, peace and progress of our country. We promise our people that we would not be the first to issue an ultimatum to the confused and disorganised group.

The Maiduguri Affair was attended by nine journalists from Ondo, Lagos, Ogun and Kwara States.

Daily Times and some NBBC staff violated the decision of the Borno State council to join the nine delegates in attending their



DR G. B. LETON
Federal Commissioner for Information

evil design in Borno.

We have with us today in Kaduna, true, dedicated and fearless journalists who have defied attempt to influence them to betray the national leadership.

The Kaduna declaration would prove fatal a national watchdog and a decisive defeat of those that think they could tamper with the destiny of our great nation and great people.

We have already won a political moral victory by the realisation that the forces fighting against us are in reality merely agents of superior power.

"LET the people of Nigeria ponder well over our appeal to the conscience of Nigeria. Let the people of Nigeria remember that if we are forced out despite the fact that we represent constitutionality and the will of the majority, then the present generations of Nigerians whether as lawyers, parliamentarians, students, professional men or whatever, will equally stand condemned by history for their silence in the face of injustice, their fear of the truth, their hypocrisy and their tacit complicity in watching in silence while the decisions of 13 state councils have been whittled and scuttled by a few minority state councils because as they openly admitted themselves, they have the support of the governments of the land."

NBC PROGRAMME

05.45	Drum Signal	RSP TAPE
05.48	National Anthem and Pledge	"
05.45	Programme Summary	RSP LIVE
05.50	Morning Prayers	RSP TAPE
06.00	News At Dawn	NP
06.03	Moment for Thought	"
06.05	From The Nigerian Editorials	"
06.10	Morning Glee (Gramo)	RSP CGR
06.30	State News Summary In English	RSP LIVE
06.35	OLN Jingle	RSP TAPE
06.37	Personal Paid Announcement (Gramo)	RSP LIVE
06.57	Moment For Thought	NP
07.00	The News	"
07.10	News Talk	"
07.15	Your Government And You	"
07.20	Early Morning Request	RSP LIVE
08.00	News On The Hour	NP
08.03	News Summaries In Edo, Ebk, Fulfulde and Hausa	"
08.15	A Date With 8.15	RSP CGR
08.45	Educational Service	NP
09.00	News Summaries In Igbo, Ijaw, Kanuri, Tiv and Yoruba	"
09.15	Music Rendezvous (Gramo)	RSP CGR
10.00	The News	NP
10.10	Network Programme Promotion	"
10.15	National Programme Educational Service	"
10.30	National Programme Educational Service	"
10.45	National Programme Educational Service	"
11.00	News On The Hour	"
11.03	National Programme Educational Service	"
11.18	National Programme Educational Service	"
11.30	National Programme Educational Service	"
11.45	National Programme Educational Service	"
12.00	News On The Hour	"
12.03	National Programme Educational Service	"
12.18	National Programme Educational Service	"
12.30	Kumsoi Benima Ifie (Kolokuma Mag. prog.)	RSP TAPE
	Klrike Chiri (Okrika Mag. Programme)	
13.00	The News	NP
13.10	From The Nigerian Editorials	"
13.15	Announcer's Choice	"
13.30	Jike Box	"
14.00	News on the hour	"
14.03	Home maker's special	"
14.30	Izon Otu Ife	"
15.00	News on the hour	NP
15.03	Music from other States (Gramo)	RSP CGR
15.30	State News in English, Bwerre and Kalabari	RSP LIVE
16.00	The News	NP
16.10	Interlude	"
16.15	Information Bureau	"
16.30	Educational Service	"
16.45	News in Edo, Ebk and Fulfulde	"
17.00	State News in Khana and Kolokuma	RSP LIVE
17.20	Personal Paid Announcement (Gramo)	"
17.30	Let's discuss (Repl. Wed. 17.30 hours)	"
18.00	News in Hausa, Igbo and Ijaw	NP
18.15	Your Government and you/The next step	"
18.20	Let's go Farming	"
18.25	Earl Piri	RSP LIVE
18.40	Looking Ahead	RSP LIVE
19.00	News Panorama	NP
19.30	In My Days	"
19.45	News in Kanuri, Tiv and Yoruba	NP
20.00	State News In English	RSP LIVE
20.10	State News summary in Bwerre, Kalabari Sana and Kolokuma	RSP LIVE
20.30	Agric Quarter Hour	RSP TAPE
20.45	Meditation	NP
21.00	News on the hour	NP
21.03	Moment for Thought	"
21.05	Gods of our Fathers	"
21.28	Interlude	"
21.30	Leisure World	"
22.00	The News	"
22.10	News Talk	"
22.15	Educational Service	"
22.30	Music of the Rivers State	RSP TAPE CGR
23.00	News On The Hour	NP
23.03	My favourite	NP
23.13	Evening Worship (Igbo)	NP
23.23	Just For You	RSP LIVE
00.00	News At Midnight	NP
00.05	Close Down — Pledge and National Anthem	RSP TAPE

NTV CHANNEL 10 PH

FRIDAY

7.00	Cartoon
7.30	World News
7.45	Pidgin Today
8.15	Perfocus World
8.30	Nigeria Today
9.00	Network News
9.30	Scope Theatre
10.00	Matter of Conscience
10.30	Star Soccer

The Law

APPOINTMENT OF LA[Y] MAGISTRATES: AN APPRAISAL

The Federal Military Government appears to have endorsed, in principle, the appointment of laymen as magistrates. Bendel, Ondo, Cross River States have already appointed Laymen as magistrates. The purpose of this writer is to put the idea into a proper but brief historical perspective, attempt a rationalisation of the policy and venture an opinion on the matter.

"Laymen", wherever the term appears in this article is used to mean, and must be taken to refer, to anybody who is not a Legal practitioner by virtue of the Legal Practitioners Decree. The usage is devoid of any derogatory connotation.

The official reasons offered for such appointments is that because it is becoming increasingly difficult to recruit Legal practitioners into the Lower bench, the appointment of Laymen as Magistrates will obviate the problem. Congestion in our courts; congestion in the prisons of persons awaiting trial and the resultant delay in the dispensation of justice are problems the new policy seeks to solve or at least to reduce to a not-very-gargantuan proportion.

The appointment of Laymen as adjudicators is by no means a novel idea in our Legal history. Between 1861 and 1874 there were about 11 types of courts in what we now know as Nigeria (See Dr T. O. Elias Nigeria, the Development of its Laws and Constitution Page 314). Many of these courts were manned by laymen. The PETTY DEBT COURT, one of such courts the history of which dates back to 1863 consisted of 6 local residents and any 3 of them formed a quorum.

by



MALLA SASIME Esq.

This court had powers to adjudicate upon matters involving up to N40.

There were consular courts members of which were not legal practitioners. Consuls had powers to impose a maximum of N200 on offenders. With time, as our legal system became more sophisticated, some of these out-of-the-ordinary courts were faced out. When they existed, they served useful purposes.

Furthermore, and more recently too, we have always had and we still have courts presided over by laymen. The AREA COURTS in the Northern States and the customary courts, where they exist, (except Grades A & B ones in the West) are manned by laymen. It is pertinent to note that to be qualified for appointment as "judges" in these courts the candidate is usually required to be a specialist in his own right.

The area court presidents were usually learned in the Sharia, the body of moslem law, and recently they are required to undergo some from of legal training by the Faculty of Laws, A.B.U., Zaria. Customary Court presidents, on the other hand, are supposed to be "experts" in the native law and custom of the particular area the court serves. Primarily, these courts apply native law and custom but they also have limited jurisdiction in criminal matters. In the determination of the latter they apply the principles of English Law. Legal Practitioners are barred from appearing before these laymen.

It is of interest to note that though styled Customary Courts, the Grades A & B ones presided over by Legal Practitioners have Legal Practitioners appearing before them as a matter of Law.

From the foregoing background the following may be postulated, namely.

(1) Laymen have always been appointed to preside over our Courts.

(2) The appearance of Legal Practitioners has usually been excluded in Courts presided over by laymen and

(3) Where laymen have been appointed they have been "experts" in the matters they had jurisdiction to adjudicate upon save in some cases where they are enjoined to apply English Law for which they were ill-equipped.

Using the foregoing background as our base we may now rationalise the new policy. We will use Bendel State as an example. Edict No. 14 of 1977 titled MAGISTRATES COURT (AMENDMENT) EDICT is currently in force in Bendel State. It is deemed to have come into force on the 1st day of August, 1977. This Edict amends the Magistrate Court Law, the Principal Law on the subject. The amendment provides, inter alia, that the following:

(1) Retired Administrative officers, retired Police Officers or retired Army Officers;

(2) A Law [illegible] who has comp[illegible] NYSC — shall be a[illegible] Magistrate Grade [illegible] have jurisdiction [illegible] a maximum of [illegible] imprisonment or [illegible] This Edict specifi[illegible] that Legal Pra[ctitioners] have right of aud[ience be]fore such magistra[tes].

The questions [illegible] now be answe[red] (1) Is it prudent [illegible] the said category [of] Magistrates? (2) [illegible] must be appoint[illegible] the interest of [illegible] vest them with [illegible] the Edict purport[illegible] them and (3) Sho[uld] practitioners appea[r before] them? We will [illegible] points seriatim.

In normal circ[umstances] persons required [illegible] cate upon a mat[ter] have a sound kno[wledge of] the particular [illegible] Regretably, the [illegible] tances are no[illegible] Government says [illegible] yers have refused [illegible] up for magisterial [appoint]ments. The Law[illegible] fair enough, but [illegible] conditions of serv[illegible]

Increased bus fare is decried

MAJORITY of the people in Lagos have decried the increase in bus fare as announced by the Lagos State Transport Corporation last week.

The new increase, which became effective from the first day of the year, was introduced because of increasing poor financial returns by the corporation.

The state's Commissioner for Special Duties, Dr A. Balogun who announced the increase said that the buses were being run at a deficit and that the latest audit report showed that the corporation was owing N6.97 million.

He stated that bus fare which was 5k a drop before would now be 10k while the 10k ride jumped to 15k.

During my interview with a [illegible] bus users in the Federal Capital, most of them attributed the loss made by the corporation to the inefficiency of the staff.

Those who supported the increase, however expressed unhappiness with the services rendered by the corporation to the people and noted that the increase was however too much.

Mr G. N. Uwechue, a Lagos lawyer said of the bus fare rise: "The increase in the bus fare is quite justifiable. One cannot expect anything to remain the same in this our inflations ridden country.

"One will expect the Lagos State Transport Corporation to run at a loss since all what must be bought to maintain these buses have doubled in prices and, this is a service rendered to the public which they feel they cannot just fold up because of a N6 million debt.

"In my view, the fifty per cent increase is too much anyway, I will expect it to be nothing more than 25 per cent for this might come to affect too much the lives of the people for whom these services were being rendered."

A house wife, Mrs R. M. Kehinde however, differed. According to her, reason given for the increase of the fare makes the whole thing to be unreasonable.

by Kenneth Gold



DR. A. BALOGUN
... announced the new fare

"The loss of N6 million they are shouting about is caused by the bus drivers who usually show a carefree attitude to work. These drivers could always be seen sleeping at the bus terminal with the engine of the bus running for hours not minding the crowd at the bus stop. Most the masses now suffer for these inefficiencies from the LSTC drivers.

"I am very sure with this increase, they will still lose more than the million already lost unless they check both the drivers and the conductors on these buses. This is just too much".

Mr Olaiya Bayo, a trader in Lagos has this to say: "This increase in fare is not a well conceived idea. My own view is that the poor will continue to be poorer while the rich will be getting richer. The LSTC authorities know that no big man goes on a bus.

"They should not have punished the masses more than they are now doing. With me, this new order cripples my purse: so to avoid my being turned into a beggar, I will increase the prices of my goods.

"This I am sure will be the line of action to be taken by other traders. I will expect the former fare to be reintroduced to avoid increase in everything".

Mrs Funmilayo Babalola, a clerk typist with the Ogun State Broadcasting Corporation, Lagos office said: "The new bus fare [illegible] is not in the [interest] of the masses, the people that made this law go in cars, so they are not aware of what people suffer from the "I don't care" attitude of LSTC drivers. If this attitude is not arrested quickly, the corporation will lose more than N6 million.

"If the increase at least will improve the services, it can be accepted but by



COMMANDER C[illegible]
Lagos State G[illegible]

yesterday, things [illegible] much the same, la[illegible] lazy buses, [illegible] conductresses [illegible] less waiting at the [illegible] for buses that [illegible] come. And we [illegible] [illegible] ments".

Mr Lucky A[illegible] dent at the Ya[ba College] of Technology [illegible] "The LSTC [illegible] millions [illegible] complained of [illegible] glaringly shows [illegible] was caused by the [inefficien]cy of the drivers [and con]ductors. In fact, [illegible] is not synonym[ous with] improvement in [illegible] we prefer the [illegible]

Executive Government, always having the last word even when it is manifestly repugnant to the governed, reacts by appointing Lay magistrates.

By virtue of their jurisdiction, the Grade III Magistrates can try a lot of criminal cases, ranging from simple offences to those technically known as misdemeanour. In the performance of their duties, they are enjoined to apply the principles of the common Law and Equity; they also have to interprete Statutory provisions.

If the retired administrative officer: He may have had upwards of 10 years experience in administration. The retired Court registrars may lay some claims to having some rudimentary and patchy knowledge of the law by reason of their intimacy with files on legal matters, court proceedings etc. The other officers, should they have any claims to the knowledge of law at all must be imagining that occasional participation in the settlement of administrative disputes is gooed enough. Retired Army Officers may have had the occasion of participating in court martial proceedings where they depend almost solely on facts, not on legal technicalities.

Retired Police Officers: They are supposed, during their training, to have taken a brief and sketchy excursion into the realms of law. In particular, I can testify to the fact that Police Officers take courses in criminal procedure — but I have not come across any honest Police Officer who can positively assert that he is vast in substantive law.

The law graduate who has completed his NYSC programme. Persons envisaged here are Law graduates who have not been called to the Nigerian bar and are therefore not Legal Practitioners. Persons in this category may be sound in substantive law but certainly not in objective law.

I am aware that in some universities the law of evidence, criminal and civil procedure are taught but they are taught with academic bias which is very unlike the one year professional grooming in the Nigerian Law School, Lagos.

There are cases where experienced nurses prescribe drugs and even go to the extent of performing surgical operations successfully. The Medical Practitioners have never taken too kindly to such practices. So, when Legal Practitioners frown at the appointment of laymen as magistrates, the matter should not be dismissed as mere professional bigotry.

Taking the above facts into consideration and also bearing in mind certain extraneous matters, I am of the opinion that if the afore mentioned categories of persons must, of necessity, be appointed, it may give the legal profession a better image if the incumbents are styled "Presidents" or given any other suitable designation. The truth is that in our society, designation could raise a hell lot of sentiments.

The second question is whether or not as in the case of Bendel State it is in the interest of justice to vest upon them such powers. We operate the English system of law. Even a minor case of affray (fighting in a Public Place) or wandering could raise hair-splitting legal arguments. Legal authorities have to be cited and jurisprudential principles of interpretation of statutes may be employed. I wonder how a retired army officer, for example, can understand those technical matters.

There is a reported case ARAB V.B.N.A. 1963 NNLR 49. Where the accused was charged before an Alkali court for stealing £9: 5s :6d. The only evidence against the accused was that he was of bad character. The Chief Alkali sentenced him to 2 years imprisonment. On appeal the High Court quashed the conviction because there was a gross miscarriage of justice. S.68 (1) of the Evidence Law was not complied with.

There are abundant cases where laymen have made a mockery of our laws. This should not be taken to mean that qualified magistrates or judges never have lapses in the determination of Legal issues. But the chances are a million times higher in the case of laymen.

My stand on this question therefore is that they should be limited to the determination of minor traffic contraventions, the granting of bail to accused persons pending the trial of such persons before a competent court and any other matter basically an issue of fact, not of law. With time, depending on their performances, their jurisdiction may be reviewed.

The third issue — whether legal practitioners should be allowed to appear in such courts can be dismissed summarily: No. Lawyers may only succeed in obfuscating and mystifying laymen with legal jargons. The above suggestions are consistent with our legal history.

For those states that have already come out with Edicts on this subject, there is nothing wrong with amending a piece of legislation if it is reasonable to do so and for those yet to enact Edicts on the same matter some measure of consideration should be given to responsible and meaningful public opinion.

To Proprietors/Owners or Managers of all Hotels, Private Guest Houses and Catering Rest Houses.

The National Hotel Classification study commences on December 12th 1977 and ends on February 15th 1978.

If you are the Proprietor/Owner or Manager of any establishment whose main trade or business is the provision of sleeping accommodation and food, then you must complete one of the Hotel Classification study questionnaires.

The questionnaires are available for collection from the State branches of the Federal Ministry of Trade listed below.

Once you have completed the questionnaire and returned it by hand to the office from which it was obtained, you will be given an Interim Certificate which must be prominently displayed in your establishment until further notice. This certificate is formal evidence that you have complied with this instruction.

When the study has been completed.

Hotels

Catering Rest Houses

Private Guest Houses

Will be graded and awarded Star ratings in each of these categories. Details of the ratings awarded will be published in a National Tourist Guide that will be sold in Nigeria and Overseas.

REMEMBER YOU ONLY HAVE FROM DECEMBER 12TH TO FEBRUARY 15TH 1978 TO COMPLETE THE NATIONAL HOTEL CLASSIFICATION STUDY.

STATES		STATES	
Anambra:	Fed. Ministry of Trade, Domestic Trade Div., 9, Kingsway Road, Enugu.	Kwara:	Fed. Min. of Trade, Domestic Trade Div., 93 Ibrahim Taiwo Rd., Ilorin.
Bauchi:	Fed. Min. of Trade, Domestic Trade Div., Bakin Kura Ward, Bauchi.	Lagos:	Fed. Min. of Trade, Broad Street, Lagos.
Bendel:	Fed. Ministry of Trade, Domestic Trade Div., 2, Sapoba Road, Benin City.	Maiduguri:	Fed. Min. of Trade, Domestic Trade Div., Nguru Road, Maiduguri.
Benue:	Fed. Min. of Trade, Domestic Trade Div., 55 Aliade Ourkpo Road, Makurdi.	Minna:	Fed. Min. of Trade, Domestic Trade Div., 11Y Sabon-Geri Road, Minna.
Cross River:	Fed. Ministry of Trade, Domestic Trade Div., 12, Bassey Duke Street, Calabar.	Ogun:	Fed. Min. of Trade, Domestic Trade Div., Oke-Ilewu, Ibara-Abeokuta.
	Fed. Min. of Trade, Domestic Trade Div., 26, Oron Road, Uyo.	Ondo:	Fed. Min. of Trade, Domestic Trade Div., 41, Alakure Street, Akure.
Gongola:	Fed. Ministry of Trade, Domestic Trade Div., Yelwa Ward Jimeta, Yola.	Oyo:	Fed. Min. of Trade, Domestic Trade Div., 2, Lakanmi Close, Ibadan.
Imo:	Fed. Ministry of Trade, Domestic Trade Div., 95, Hospital Road, Aba.	Plateau:	Fed. Min. of Trade, Domestic Trade Div., 35, Langtang Street, Jos.
Kaduna:	Fed. Min. of Trade, Domestic Trade Div., 1, Ali Akilu Road, Kaduna.	Rivers:	Fed. Min. of Trade, Domestic Trade Div., Bank Road, Port Harcourt.
Kano:	Fed. Ministry of Trade, Domestic Trade Div., Nasarawa Street, Kano.	Sokoto:	Fed. Ministry of Trade, Domestic Trade Div., Yakubu Gowon Street, Sokoto.

Permanent Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Trade,
Lagos.

5th December, 1977.

CINEMA TONIGHT

PLAZA CINEMA

presents tonight at 8.30 p.m.

"KUNG FU BROTHERS IN THE WILD WEST"

New West-Eastern high tension drama. When the blazing guns of the west and the lightening hits of the East clash the result is terror. Cleave and see Donald Brian, William Berger clash with Jason Pat and Kao Thompson.

Admission—60k & 50k

General Ideas

WELEKWE — I, formerly known and addressed Miss Elizabeth Ego Eze wish to be known and addressed Mrs Joy Ego Welekwe. Documents bearing my former name remain valid. Rivers State Ministry of Education, Schools Management Board and the general public take note. Mrs Joy Ego Welekwe.

DOKUBO — I, formerly known and addressed as Miss Siboba Commander Dokubo, now wish to be known and addressed as Mrs Siboba Tonye Angala. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. The Principal and Staff of F.G.G.T.C. Degema, RSMB, TSC Rivers State Ministry of Education and the general public take note. Mrs Siboba Tonye Angala.

EZEKIEL — I, formerly known, called and addressed as Mr Young Dave Ezekiel now wish to be known, called and addressed as Mr Dave Young Ebenibo. Former documents remain valid. Transport Corporation Port Harcourt, Ignatius Ajuru College, Yaba and the General Public should please take note. Mr Dave Young Ebenibo.

NWEKE — I, formerly known and addressed as Miss Comfort Chioma Nweke now wish to be known and addressed as Mrs Comfort Chioma Ekwueme Nwala. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. The general public and the staff and students of the College of Science and Technology should please take note. Mrs C. C. E. Nwala.

ANYANWU — I, formerly known and called as Miss Victoria Uzodi Anyanwu now wish to be known and addressed as Mrs Victoria U. Amadi. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. Rumuji Specialist Hospital, Umuahia and Ministry of Health, Imo State take note. Mrs Victoria U. Amadi.

IMBASI — I, formerly known and addressed as Miss Christiana Worlgee Imbasi now wish to be known called and addressed as Mrs Christiana Worlgee Mark. All documents remain valid. Ministry of Health and the general public should please take note. Mrs Christiana Worlgee Mark.

WANTED

One Lady Clerk
Two Male Clerks
and Four House boys.

Apply personally to No. 2 Port Johnson Street, Under Rumuji Cinema.

Change of Business Name

THE public is hereby informed that Chief Dr Dodiyi — Manuels' Clinic, Igbu Obo Compound, Ahoada, is now known as Doku/Morgan Klinik, Igbu Obo Compound, Ahoada. All former documents remain valid. Pan African Bank, Ahoada and Guffanti Nig Ltd Edeoha, in particular please note.

WANTED

1. Three Drivers.
2. Two male showroom attendant.
3. Two sales girls.
4. One book-keeper.

Apply in person with your application in your own handwriting. Interview 9 a.m. Tuesday 10th January 1978.

Application to be addressed to:—

The Managing Director,
Rodat (Nig) Ltd.,
16 Ikwerre Road,
P.O. Box 194, Port Harcourt.

Vehicle for Sale

ONE PEUGEOT PICK-UP FOR SALE

MODEL:— 1975

REG. NO:— LAD 3873

CONDITION:— IN PERFECT RUNNING CONDITION

Inspection can be conducted at the premises of BLACKWOOD HODGE (NIGERIA) LIMITED TRANS AMADI INDUSTRIAL LAYOUT, PORT HARCOURT, between the hours of 9. a.m. — 4. p.m. Mondays — Fridays. Sealed bids to be submitted to the Acting Service Manager after inspection.

TERMS:— Cash only.

WANTED URGENTLY

(a) TECHNICAL SALESMAN:
QUALIFICATION:- Intermediate Certificate in City and Guild London, Specialising in Electronics.

(b) ACCOUNTS CLERKS:
QUALIFICATION:- Commercial School Leaving Certificate. Applicants must have obtained R.S.A. Stage II Certificate of which Accounts and English Compulsory subjects and one year post Certificate experience.

(c) ENTRY CLERKS:
QUALIFICATION:- Middle Four Secondary Certificate with at least two years working experience with any reputable Company.

(d) WHARF SUPERVISOR:
QUALIFICATION:- Middle Four Secondary Certificate with at least two Years working experience as a Wharf Supervisor.

(e) WHARF CLEARING CLERKS:
QUALIFICATION:- Middle Four Secondary Certificate with at least two Years working experience as a Wharf Clearing Clerk.

CLOSING DATE 31ST JANUARY, 1978.
SALARY: REASONABLE.

APPLY TO:- OFFICE MANAGER,
P. O. BOX 39,
PORT HARCOURT.

APPOINTMENTS VACANT

An indigenous Engineering Enterprises based in Port Harcourt has the following vacancies:

(1) Qualified and experienced Administrative Manager.

(2) Experienced Workshop Supervisor-Machanical / Fitting.

(3) Bus Conductors & Conductresses

(4) Stenographers.

Salaries and Conditions of employment which are negotiable, will be attractive to the right candidates.

All applications should be addressed to:

The Managing Director,
P. M. B. 5262,
Port Harcourt.

OR 16 Abonnema Wharf Road.

LEGAL NOTICE

In the High Court of the Rivers State of Nigeria

(PROBATE DIVISION)

WHEREAS the persons whose names are set out in the first column hereunder died intestate of the dates and at the places stated in the said column.

AND WHEREAS the person or persons whose names and addresses are set out in the second column hereof and who have claimed relationship to the deceased named in the first column, have applied to the High Court of the Port Harcourt Judicial Division, for grant of Letters of Administration of the personal property of the said deceased.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Letters of Administration will be granted to the said applicant or applicants unless a NOTICE TO FORBIDIT GRANT thereof is filed in the Probate Registry, High Court, Port Harcourt, within twenty one (21) days from the date of publication of this Notice.

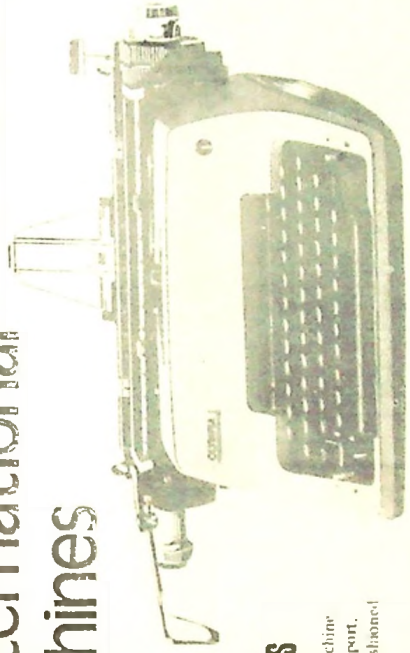
	FIRST COLUMN NAMES OF DECEASED		SECOND COLUMN NAMES OF APPLICANTS FOR GRANT
1.	Elijah Yemah Numashe, late of Betem, Babbe Clan, Bori, died on the 5th day of July, 1975, at Betem, Bori.	1.	Gloria Selema Numashe, of Bori Betem, Babbe clan, Bori Local Government Authority Area, the widow, of the deceased.
2.	Chief Nathan Amaramba, late of Igwuruta, died on the 6th day of August, 1977, at Owerri.	2.	Chima Amaramba and Chidi Amaramba, both of Igwuruta, the children of the deceased.
3.	James W. Semenitari, late of Omuala, died on the 16th day of May, 1977 at Rumuomasi, Port Harcourt.	3.	Gladys Semenitari, Nene Osuinala and Alfred Semenitari Abam, all of care No 9, Hospital Road, Port Harcourt, the widow, sister and brother, respectively of the deceased.
4.	Joseph Chukwukere Ekwegh, late of Ezinna Orah, Mbaise Okigwe, died on the 22nd day of February, 1977, at Port Harcourt.	4.	Nwamiriya Joseph Ekwegh, Godwin J. Ekwegh, Clement J. Ekwegh and Vincent J. Ekwegh, all of St. Michael's Church, Ezinna Orah, Mbaise Okigwe, the children of the deceased.
5.	Nathaniel Beredagin, late of 78, Aklpo Street, Port Harcourt, died on the 21st day of April, 1977, at Port Harcourt.		Julius Ereware and Sunday N. Beredagin, of Ministry of Establishments & Training, Port Harcourt, the brother and widow, respectively of the deceased.

Dated at Port Harcourt this 2nd day of January, 1978

E. U. APPAH,
AG. PROBATE REGISTRAR,

Probate Registry,
High Court,
Port Harcourt.

Olympia International
Office Machines



The SG3N

FOR ALL TYPING JOBS IN MODERN OFFICES

This handsome SG3N Olympia Typewriter is an all purpose office machine with a fast, silent operating mechanism. Hotliers automatic paper support, accurate, easy margin tabulators stops and features exclusive, Steel cushioned keys. PRICES RANGE FROM N435.00 to N915.00

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DEPARTMENT STORE,

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PORT HARCOURT

The Union Trading Company of Nigeria Limited.

VACANCY

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidate for the post of a Typist at Chinwuba & Sons (Nig) Trading Co 133A Aba Road Port Harcourt

EXPERIENCE:

At least two years working experience

Application in applicants own hand writing addressed to the Manager to reach him not later than 20th January 1978.

EDUCATIONAL

INTENSIVE EVENING CLASSES FOR THE FOLLOWING COURSES

1. G.C.E. O Level
2. G.C.E. A Level
3. Adult Education Class

Specifically for GCE Nov/Dec 1978 Examinations.

Registration commences 6th January 1978 at army children's School, Diobu G.R.A. (6 p.m.-8 p.m. daily)

part time lecturers should apply

THE PROGRAMME OFFICER.
Goman Extra Murals
Box 749, Port Harcourt

LEGAL NOTICE

In the High Court of the Rivers State of Nigeria

(PROBATE DIVISION)

WHEREAS the persons whose names are set out in the first column hereunder died intestate of the dates and at the places stated in the said column.

AND WHEREAS the person or persons whose names and addresses are set out in the second column hereof and who have entered relationship to the deceased named in the first column, thereof respectively in the High Court of the Rivers State of Nigeria, Port Harcourt Judicial Division, for grant of Letters of Administration of the personal property of the said deceased.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Letters of Administration will be granted to the said applicant or applicants unless a NOTICE TO ROBIETI GRANT thereof is filed at the Probate Registry, High Court, Port Harcourt, within twenty one (21) days from the date of publication of this Notice.

FIRST COLUMN NAMES OF DECEASED	SECOND COLUMN NAMES OF APPLICANTS FOR GRANT
1. Magnus Ogara Ikpor, late of Cheghe-Ikpeyi, Abuoli, died on the 22nd day of August, 1977, at Jonkrama.	1. Friday Ikpor and Augustine Igbongwo both of Cheghe-Ikpeyi, Abuoli, the brother and cousin, respectively of the deceased.
2. Seth John Onyema, late of Abonnema, died on the 11th day of December, 1976, at Port Harcourt.	2. Toby John Georgewill and Divinegay George-hill, both of Georgewill's Compound, Abonnema, the brother and father, respectively of the deceased.
3. Robson Samuel Uzoma, late of No. 3, Crowther Road, Port Harcourt, died on the 8th day of January, 1976, at Umuahia, Cross River State.	3. Margaret Ebere Uzoma and Patrick Ejiofor Uzoma, both of No. 3 Crowther Road, Port Harcourt, the widow and son, respectively, of the deceased.
4. Joseph Abu, late of Isaiyo, died on the 20th day of November, 1977, at Isaiyo.	4. Benjamin Mpi and Johnson Mpi, both of Isaiyo, the children of the deceased.
5. Idai Iwo Anyanwu, late of Umuaneke Orodo, Mbaise, died on the 13th day of May, 1976, at Umuaneke.	5. Lawrence O. Iwo Anyanwu and Joseph Odo-ngwuma, both of Umuaneke Orodo, Mbaise Clan, the nephews of the deceased.
6. Chief Abraham Wariboko Charles Tamuno-ala, late of Ogbakiri, Bonny, died on the 1st day of March, 1977, at Port Harcourt.	6. Foster Sunnyday Idemange and Ebimotimi Ikiemeadi, both of Ogbakiri, Bonny Local Government Authority Area, the son and nephew, respectively, of the deceased.
7. Fubara Young Amachree, late of Buguma, died on the 23rd day of June, 1968, at Buguma.	7. Winifred Soibifa Amachree, Clerk, of 8 Bell Crescent, Port Harcourt, the widow of the deceased.

Dated at Port Harcourt this 27th day of December, 1977.

S. W. SPIFF,
Ag. PROBATE REGISTRAR.

Probate Registry,
High Court,
Port Harcourt.

New chief for Daura turbanned

A NEW Magajin Gari for Daura has been turbanned by the Emir, Alhaji Muhammed Bashar.

He is Alhaji Sa'idu Abdurrahaman.

Aged 48, Alhaji Sa'idu succeeded his late father, Alhaji Umar Abdurrahaman.

Born in 1929, in Daura Emirate, Alhaji Sa'idu attended his elementary school in Daura from 1936-42; Katsina Middle School from 1943-45; Kaduna — Barewa College from 1946-49 and the PWD Training School from 1952-54.

Alhaji Sa'idu later became the councilor for Works in Daura and was a member of Parliament from 1959-66.

He won the honour of Membership of the Niger Medal (MON) in 1965.

Until his appointment as Magajin Gari of Daura, Alhaji Sa'idu was council member of Katsina College of Arts, Science and Technology, director of Inpresit Bakolo Limited and chairman Kaduna State Water Board.

The Emir of Daura, Alhaji Bashar in a short address implored the new Magajin Gari to emulate his late father in the discharge of his duties.

Nigercem gets new GM

THE Nigerian Cement Company Limited, Nkalagu, has announced the appointment of Mr S. O. Ilodibia, as the new general manager of the company.

In a statement announcing the appointment Mr Oliver Okeke, the public relations manager of the company, said until his appointment, Mr Ilodibia was the deputy general manager (engineering) of the cement industry.

According to the announcement, Mr Ilodibia, 38, who until his appointment into the company was Chemical Engineer, and a graduate of the University of London, where he obtained the Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering.

The new general manager of the cement firm, who is a Chartered Chemical Engineer and a member of the Nigerian Society of Engineers, earlier attended the defunct Nigerian School of Arts, Science and Technology and the Government Secondary School, Owerri.

He is married with four children.



3 good citizens honoured

The Bendel State Military Governor, Commodore Husaini Abdullahi recently presented National Honours — O.O.N. Award to three deserving Bendelites in Benin City. Pictured is Commodore Abdullahi (right) decorating Mr Peter Ikale, retired cook steward, with the O. O. N. Honour.

CULTURAL REVIVAL STRESSED

COMMUNITIES in Ogb district of Brass local g vernment area in the Riv State have been called o on to revive their cultu heritage.

The call was made b the principal of Gover ment Secondary Schoo Ogbia, Mr A. C. Owuzo while addressing chil and people of the com during a display by S Adika dance group f Egwoma at Imiringi.

The move, he pointed o would foster co-operat among the communit and also help to che the declining culture the people.

Director rebukes lazy engineers

THE adoption of more practical and positive steps in the prosecution of projects in the country has been strongly emphasized by Mr M. N. A. Manafa, managing director of Power Construction and Engineering Company Limited.

Directing his advice to those engineers who "believe in cosy air-conditioned offices and lounge suits" as prerequisite for the effective execution of their projects, the electrical engineer observed that little or nothing could be achieved in our development programmes if such engineers, rather than being active on the field, confined themselves to cosy offices.

Engineer Manafa reminded professional engineers that the country was in a hurry to take its place among developed countries of the world.

He said Nigeria needed the contributions of practical and positive craftsmen, from whom the general public could learn from them.

Mr Manafa was speaking on the occasion of the formal dedication ceremony of a ₦300,000 two-storey office block of his company at Ogui Road, Enugu.

He appealed to the federal and state governments to ensure that contract agreements were observed and payment made to contractors within 28 days of having been issued with certificate for work completed.

Government delay over payment, he further stressed, adversely affected contractors who relied on the commercial banks to p salaries of their wor ers and who stood t risk of loosing ban assistance as a result n non-payment by g ernment.

In his brief addre on the occasion, D Anambra State Co missioner for Wor and Housing, Mr B. Okwu said his gover ment had always end avoured to ensure th payment for work do was made to hone and hard working co tractors.

The commissio commended the Pow Construction and En neering Company, f its contribution wards the counc development.

He called on oth contracting firms emulate the lauda example set by the f and expressed the ho that the compa would further demon trate its effectiven in prosecuting develo ment projects in c country.



Leadership course ends

The graduation ceremonies for the Voluntary Youth Club leadership course participants was held at Thompson's College, Ibadan. Photo shows a cross section of the graduands listening to the speech of the Oyo State chief social development officer, Mr M. I. Okunola.



World of sports!!! Any exercise keeps one physically fit.

Tidesports

India beat Australia at cricket!

India two days ago beat Australia by 222 runs to win the third test and record India's first-ever test victory on Australian soil.

Captain Bishen Bedi steered the Indians to victory, capturing the last two Australian wickets to wrap up the innings at 164, well short of the 387 target.

Jeff Thomson was the first to go, giving Bedi a simple return catch. Then Wayne Clark was well caught at midwicket by Karson Ghavri after making a determined 33. Bedi finished with 4-58, but it was leg-spinner Bhagwat Chandrasekhar, with a match haul of 12 wickets, who won the man-of-the-match award and 500 dollars.

Won recognition: key to beating South African sport

SACOS (the South African Council on Sport), the non-racial organisation of national sports federations in South Africa could become the body that will be recognised as the voice of South African sport.

This recognition by the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa at its recent General Assembly in Morocco implies future international acceptance, but representatives of SACOS believe firmly that South African sport should not be given any recognition, either through their body or otherwise, until apartheid comes to an end.

To prove how adamant the member bodies of SACOS are in appearing to condone apartheid, the South African Cricket Board of Control (SACBC), under the presidency of Hassan Howa two years ago refused the payment of about R3000 into a trust fund initiated by the White South African Cricket Association in appeal to them in a call for unity in cricketism.

The Board also turned down an invitation to entertain a cricketing team from the English Cricketers and the opportunity for a South African team, only eleven to play against a Black-only West Indies side. They also turned down an opportunity to tour America as a Black South African team, and rejected an invitation to play in the Robbie Lawrie Trophy and participate in the Davis Double-Wicket competition.

Basil Varachia, Howa's counterpart as SACBC President, made major problems which confronted the Board's policies during his term of office by taking part in the organisation of an International Wanderers Tour, a move that was opposed by many SACBC member associations.

Subsequently, the Board called for Varachia's resignation, and a new South African Cricket Union (SACU) was born in September last year with Varachia as President and Boon Wallace as Vice President. Varachia claims that membership of clubs should be open and not governed by race or colour, and with merit selection, to truly implement this mixed cricket should be played from club level up and there should be a sharing of common facilities.

By **Bobby Naido**

Then came the background to all this disappointment. He said: "My board will discuss as much as it can the question of getting South Africa back into the Test scene."

In the space of a few months since the creation of SACU, most of the provincial associations have deserted the Union and joined the organisation recognised by SACOS, the SACBC, once again under Howa.

It is because of this kind of reaction that SACOS is insisting on not applying for international acceptance of its member bodies. This plus the fact that the South African government has in the past resolutely refused to grant many Black South African administrators and sportsmen and women passports to travel abroad, makes SACOS feel they must continue their firm stand.

SACOS has the continuing support of the big guns that Nigeria, Tanzania and Kenya, particularly, can muster to win the battle against apartheid. Both the President of the Supreme Council, Abraham Ordia, and the Nigerian Commissioner for Social Development, Youth and Sport, Dan Ikokari, were most vocal on the issue when I talked with them at great length on the subject in Rabat.

Later, the Secretary General of the Supreme Council, Jean Claude Ganga, went to Madrid, where the World Boxing Council (WBC) was meeting in its XIIIth convention. There he made an eloquent appeal for non-recognition of boxers visiting South Africa for matches that offered financial purposes. As a result, no top-line matches are being arranged by the WBC to establish any moral organisation to co-operate with the World Boxing Association (WBA), the main body which recognises South Africa.

Only a handful of countries recognise the WBA — mainly individual bouts — while there are 92 nations divided into seven continental confederations as members of the WBC.

AS BOLGA LEAGUE OPENS:

Promoters, Kpean United share equal points

THE BOLGA Zonal Inter-Club Football League took off last weekend. It will last three weeks.

In a press release issued by the BOLGA Football Association and signed by its secretary, Mr Paul Dum Wife, the association noted that the matches will be held at three centres daily within the Bori metropolis.

A total of 24 football clubs are participating in the league. These include belligerent titles like the Sensational Promoters of Kpong, the Shooting Stars of Kpite, the Young Angels of Eeen, the Bori Police Team, the Bori Army Team and the Internationals of Kono.

And in their first encounter, the Sensational Promoters Football Club of Kpong only shared points with Kpean United in the current BOLGA Inter-Club league.

Play had started on schedule with everything going according to plan when, in the twentieth minute, a misunderstanding amongst spectators brought the exciting match to an abrupt stop.

From **Livinus Nwikina, Bori**

The BOLGA Football Association therefore, decided to share the points, the winners could not be decided since the duel had not enjoyed its full span.

In another encounter during the weekend in the same series, YECHE Invincibles Kono 5-2, Zaaspon whipped Nonwa 3-1, while the Bori Police team walked-over Bodo Tuns.

Wayeakara played a goalless draw with Bornu and Owara walked-over K. Dere Carpet Shooters.

Registration for the 1979 general elections begins on January 14 this year. Get ready to be registered!

NIGERIAN TIDE

Friday, January 6, 1978



JUSTICE UDO UDOMA



DR FRIDAY NWATOR

Assembly now to meet in secret

THE press will be excluded from covering the proceedings of the Constituent Assembly when it resumes sitting in Lagos on January 9. Reason? The Assembly is to go into Committee for the Third Reading of the draft constitution otherwise called the Bill.

The Assembly adjourned for the Christmas holidays amidst a volley of criticisms from the press for the ban imposed on the Daily Times following an editorial in which the paper questioned its decorum.

Sessions no more open to press

In an interview yesterday, Dr Friday Nwator, a member of the Assembly, told the Tide that the Assembly would as from Monday go into "business session" under "closed doors". It would then face the first item on the agenda being the filing of motions on the subjects in the draft.

Referring to the period of the second reading of the draft which was devoted to debates to general principles and objectives, Dr Nwator said that the press appeared not to understand the working of the Assembly, hence the criticisms of the debates as frivolous and puerile.

The second reading, he said, was designed to familiarise members with parliamentary procedure. He thought it was necessary because of the long ban on political activities in the country.

He called for patience as the Assembly progressed and expressed high hopes that a viable constitution would emerge.

Commenting on the report of the Technical Committee of the Assembly which was submitted yesterday, Dr Nwator regretted that members of the committee did not take cognisance of derivation, population and the equality of states into consideration before arriving at a conclusion on revenue matter.

Reports

He noted that some members of the Assembly were not satisfied with the Committee's report and called for a total review of the entire system under which the committee worked out its report.

The review of the reports of the various committees, he further said, was necessary because some members were not conversant with all the economic and social system of the various organisations operating in the respective states of the federation.

On the recent ban on the Daily Times, Dr Nwator noted that though it was the unanimous decision of the Assembly that the paper be asked to tender an apology, no resolution was passed on the question of a ban.

TRAFFIC WARDEN JAILED

Clement Amadi, a traffic warden attached to the Motor Traffic Division of the Nigeria Police, Port Harcourt, has been sentenced to two months imprisonment with the alternative of N50 fine by Chief Magistrate R. C. Nzeribe, for unlawfully assaulting Grace Aloche in May last year at Ogbogoro village in the Ikwerre Local Government Area of the Rivers State.

Bendel lifts ban

(Continued from page

could now fire cannons at processions but warned the police would still demand explanation and identity of people found in streets late in the night.

The police boss also advised landlords to ensure that the identity of their tenants and guests were known to them in case they were requested to furnish the police with any information.

He appealed to members of the public to report all cases of strange faces and suspicious characters and called for public cooperation in the current efforts to get the state rid of criminals.

Mr Iyang further advised people in the state to steer clear from any activity that might force the government to reimpose such restrictions in future.

• The police in Lagos has issued a warning to motorists who ply the uncompleted Lagos—Ibadan expressway without permit.

In a statement by the state Police Command public relations officer, Mr A. J. E. Umeffia in Lagos yesterday, the police advised all motorists to obtain special permit from the Federal Ministry of Works before using the expressway.

A few weeks ago, roadblocks were drafted to strategic points on the expressway to prevent motorists without the special permit from plying the route.

People ply the route in order to avoid the frustrating traffic jam between Ikeja and Ikeredu town.

REDEMPTION OF 5½% FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA FIRST DEVELOPMENT STOCK 1978

Notice To Stockholders

THE CENTAL BANK OF NIGERIA ANNOUNCE THAT THE N8,000,000.00 FIVE AND ONE-QUARTER FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA FIRST DEVELOPMENT STOCK ISSUED ON 26TH JANUARY, 1968 WILL BE REPAID IN FULL ON 15TH JANUARY, 1978 AND THE LAST HALF-YEARLY INTEREST WILL BE REPAID ON THAT DATE.

IF YOU ARE A HOLDER OF THIS STOCK AND HAVE NOT RECEIVED FROM THE CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA THE INDIVIDUAL NOTICE TO STOCKHOLDERS, YOU SHOULD WRITE IMMEDIATELY TO THE MANAGER, PUBLIC DEBT OFFICE, CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA, TINUBU SQUARE, PRIVATE MAIL BAG 12194, LAGOS.

CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA
TINUBU SQUARE,
LAGOS.

How did she die?

A final-year female student of a secondary school has died in circumstances which are believed to be connected with pregnancy.

The police in Omoku confirmed the death and said they were investigating.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Installation

A new Chief is to be installed in Orochiri Village Rumuomeasi on 7th January, 1978. He is Chief Harrison Nyeche Chukwu who succeeded late Chief Nnamowo Chukwu.

This was announced yesterday by the Secretary, Rumuomeasi Council of Chiefs.

The installation will be performed by Chief Omunakwu Nyeche Nsirim (Tse Appuru of Rumuomeasi). The colourful ceremony will be watched by friends and well-wishers from the Town and from all over the State.

You are all cordially invited.

F. N. J. WOKE
(Organising Secretary)