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VOL. 2 NO. 94 WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2001 SHAWWAL 5, 1422 A.H. N50



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General Shehu Musa Yar'Adua House,  
7/9 Bank Road, PMB 2180, Kaduna.  
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Senate President, Chief Anyim Pius Anyim (right), receiving GCON award from President Olusegun Obasanjo in Abuja... yesterday.  
Pic: Felix Onigbinde

## Obasanjo tasks Nigerians on development

**By Reuben Yunana**

President Olusegun Obasanjo yesterday urged Nigerians to strive to develop the country rather than wait for others to come and do it for them.

Speaking while conferring national honours on 235 recipients, comprising 226 Nigerians and nine foreigners, President Obasanjo stressed that Nigerians must be at the vanguard of national development.

He said it would be unwise for Nigerians to leave the development of the country to foreigners.

"The responsibility for developing Nigeria ultimately rests on our shoulders. Needless to say that it is

neither wise nor realistic to expect others to come and develop our society for us without our being at the vanguard of such development.

"No society in history has achieved greatness in that fashion. Others may have ideas that inspire us but we must be the architects of our fate and destiny," the president said.

According to him, the achievements of the awardees are stimulants that would inspire other Nigerians to place premiums on such non-negotiable values as integrity, honesty, tolerance, hard work, pursuit

of excellence, respect for traditional family values and patriotism.

"It is the manifestation of these qualities in the lives and activities of these men and women when taken together that form the kernel of the substance on which people-centered development could, and should be based," the president stressed.

Responding on behalf of the awardees, former Minister of External Affairs, Professor Ishaya Auda, described the honours list as "very comprehensive."

*Contd. on Pg 2*

## ELECTORAL ACT

# Reps give Obasanjo ultimatum

Fifteen members of the House of Representatives have dissociated themselves from the controversial Electoral Act, describing the bill assented to by President Obasanjo as not only a forgery but also a nullity.

They vowed that the House would do no other work when it resumes on

**By Henry Omonu**

January 22 next year until the controversial clause of the Act is expunged. The 2002 budget is pending before the two houses of the National Assembly.

The House members, who addressed National Assembly correspondents yesterday in Abuja, said the

bill signed into law by the president was different from the one passed by the House on December 5, 2001.

Commenting on the Act for the first time as a group, the lawmakers said the only condition for them to work



Alhaji Ghali Na'Abba

on anything, including the 2002 budget, is for the president to withdraw his assent to the bill to enable the controversial clause 80(1) to be expunged from it.

The spokesman of the group, Rep. Halims Agoda, said the first business of the House when it resumes next year, would be to work

towards the removal of the controversial clause and the retention of the Act as originally passed by the House.

They stated that apart from the Electoral Act being a forged law because it contained clauses not assented to by the House,

*Contd. on Pg 2*

**... FG may withdraw award, if... - Atiku**

**By Samson Ojo**

Vice-President Atiku Abubakar has said government will not hesitate to withdraw the national award bestowed on any of the just-conferred awardees found to have been corrupt.

The vice-president stated this while delivering his address at the commissioning of the Labour House and launching of N500 million Training Endowment Fund, yesterday, in Abuja.

The vice-president made the remark against the backdrop of insinuations by the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) President, Comrade Adams Oshiomhole, that some of the awardees had

*Contd. on Pg 2*



Vice-President, Atiku Abubakar

## Bin Laden difficult to get - U.S.

Pashtun forces in the southern Afghan city of Kandahar have stepped up their search for the Taliban spiritual leader, Mullah Mohammed Omar.

The new effort came as American officials admitted losing all traces of Osama bin Laden, suspected of masterminding the September 11 attacks on New York and Washington D.C.

The newly-appointed Governor of Kandahar, Gul Agha, told the BBC that his forces have arrested up to 80

**By Musa Aliyu with Agency Reports**

fighters belonging to Bin Laden's al-Qaeda organization and that he has sent out search parties to find

*Contd. on Pg 2*

## No going back on CIL - NCC

Hopes that the Federal Government may succumb to persistent public appeals and reverse its earlier stand on the fourth Global System for Mobile Communications

**By Ahmed Shekarau**

(GSM) licence, won by Communication Investment Limited (CIL), were dashed yesterday, when the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC)

*Contd. on Pg 2*

## We stand by our decision - Senate President

Senate President, Chief Anyim Pius Anyim, yesterday reacted to the widespread criticisms trailing the Electoral Act, saying: "We have done our best and we stand by our decision."

The Senate president, who was speaking at the Senate Media round-table with editors and media executives, said: "We appreciate the controversy that the Electoral Act is generating, but we want to assure Nigerians that we have thoroughly followed the procedure and observed the process."

Anyim expressed surprise at the controversy generated by the Act, pointing out that politicians showed lack of interest when the Bill was going through its formative stage in the Senate.

*Contd. on Pg 2*

maintained there was no going back.

Similarly, the NCC said the first Mobile Telecommunications Services (MTS) cannot offer analogue mobile services even though

*Contd. on Pg 2*

NEWS

its ETACS mobile licence was recently revalidated.

The Executive Vice Chairman of NCC, Engr. Ernest Ndukwe, stated this while briefing media executives yesterday in Abuja.

He said, the commission would not reverse its earlier decision on the GSM license won by CIL, saying that "the issue is not a question of late payment but an issue of non-payment."

He said after a successful auction of the four licences, which was widely acknowledged to have been transparent and hitch-free, "it would have been a crowning



Dr. Haliru Mohammed Bello, Communication Minister

Decision *Contd from Pg 1*

"Even my party, the PDP did not make a submission during the public hearing on the Bill.

"We advertised in newspapers, and on radio and television, and nobody showed any interest and we went ahead to do our job to the best of our ability, passing it with the utmost interest of the nation and the unity of the country at heart," he explained.

On the performance of the Senate since its inception in 1999, the Senate president said 154 bills had so far been received out of which 69 had gone through first reading, 28 had gone through second reading while 14 had been passed.

Next year, he said, the Upper House would

CIL *Contd from Pg 1*

experience for NCC if CIL had paid." The CIL, along with MTN, Econet and NITEL won the four GSM licences after the final round of a publicly held auction on January 15, 2001.

Each of the four bidders was given up to February 9, 2002 to pay \$285 million to the NCC through the Central Bank of Nigeria.

According to NCC, "only three out of the four bidders that received provisional licences fulfilled their payment obligations."

This, according to the commission, rendered the CIL provisional licence "null and void."

This has generated a lot of controversy with the Nigerian public appealing to the NCC to reconsider its stand to enhance telecoms in the interest of consumers in the country.

Meanwhile, the NCC has said that even though it revalidated the licence earlier issued to MTS in 1993 to offer analogue mobile services in the country, the

deliberate on the reports of its 62 committees on the 2001 budget collated by the Appropriation Committee.

He explained that Senate would lay emphasis on level of implementation of projects so as to guard against abandoned project in the 2002 budget.

Another legislation to be considered in the coming year, he said, is the "New Revenue Allocation Bill," which will shape the distribution of revenue between tiers of government and among governments.

Also to be handled is the creation of new local governments, which Anyim said would enjoy the support of the Senate within the ambit of the constitution.

Obasanjo *Contd from Pg 1*

"Every sector of human activity in Nigeria and the minine sex is well represented in the list" he

He called on Nigerian athletes to endeavour to live life of honesty and education to duty for the progress of the country.

Senate President, Pius Anyim, who was honoured with the Grand Commander of the Order of the Niger (GCON) led the pack of the awardees who included Second Republic Governor of Kaduna State, Alhaji

Balarabe Musa, and two publishers, Vanguard's Sam Amuka Pemu and Guardian's Alex Ibru.

Eight received Commander of the Federal Republic (CFR), and 30 were awarded Commander of the Order of the Niger (CON).

Seventy two people were awarded the Officer of the Order of the Niger (OON) while 40 got Member of the Federal Republic (MFR) and 16 got Member of the Order of the Niger (MON).

First class medals were awarded to nine others,

company cannot operate for now.

The NCC Chief Executive said at the media executives briefing yesterday in Abuja that the ETACs spectrum on which MTS was to operate was "full."

"For MTS, we all know that there is a major issue of frequency spectrum. The ETACS spectrum is full," Ndukwe maintained.

Commenting on the recent transfer of management of the nation's frequency spectrum to the NCC, the Chief Executive said his commission was capable of managing the spectrum.

Mullah Omar.

Haji Gullalai, an intelligence chief in the former Taliban stronghold, said he believed Mullah Omar was sheltering with some 500 men in a mountain hideout near the village of Baghran, and that ethnic Pashtun forces were preparing to attack.

He said Mullah Omar would be hanged if caught.

Gul Agha said large numbers of Taliban fighters in Kandahar had handed in their weapons, and the city was now generally calm.

The new governor of Kandahar said he would turn over to the international community any Taliban leaders they captured.

But a spokesman for a



One of the recipients of the national honours given by President Obasanjo in Abuja yesterday, Dr. Ladi Hamalai MFR (left), with Mrs. Zainab Boni Haruna, wife of Governor Boni Haruna of Adamawa State

Bin Laden *Contd from Pg 1*

militia leader in the eastern Tora Bora mountains said the dozens of al-Qaeda fighters captured there would be handed over to the new interim government and not to any foreign country, the Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) reported.

"We had held talks with the central government of Hamid Karzai and agreed to hand over all the arrested fighters of al-Qaeda to the government," AIP quoted a spokesman for commander Hajj Mohammad Zaman, as saying.

"This is the central government and we will hand over the prisoners to them but not to any foreign

country."

On Sunday, Mr. Zaman claimed victory over al-Qaeda fighters in Tora Bora after two weeks of US air strikes and ground battles.

U.S. and British special forces are continuing to search the caves of Tora Bora to determine whether al-Qaeda leaders are among 200 bodies found there.

But Pentagon spokesman Rear Admiral John Stufflebeem said that the location of Bin Laden was "anybody's guess."

Admiral Stufflebeem said that some senior Taliban officials had escaped capture by offering opposition commanders weapons and

territory in return for freedom.

The U.S. Defense Department said its forces were interrogating hundreds of prisoners held by Afghan opposition forces, and that it would seek custody of certain al-Qaeda members.

FG *Contd from Pg 1*

shady past. The vice-president, while assuring the audience of the Federal Government's sincerity of purpose in bestowing the awards, advised that the NLC president should write a formal complaint letter to the Presidency against any person(s) who do not merit their awards.

Vice-President Atiku Abubakar further assured that the Federal Government will set up a probe panel to investigate the allegations, and if found to be true revoke the awards conferred on any such corrupt persons.

"We will remove from the honours' list the name of any one found to have committed fraud in whatever way in the past," Atiku charged.

Earlier, the NLC president had stated that the congress was re-launching a N500 million education and training fund towards enhancing the nation's workforce.

About N4 million was realised at the launching, with the highest donation of N500,000 from the Nasarawa State government.



President Olusegun Obasanjo

Electoral Act *Contd from Pg 1*

the manner it was tampered with was fraudulent and since due process was not followed, makes the law illegal.

Since the rules of the House in the enactment of any legislation were flouted, the lawmakers urged Obasanjo to assent to the original bill as passed by the House, adding that "democracy means playing by the rules. In this case, we didn't follow the rules."

"We expect Mr. President to be a gentleman and withdraw the law before we resume from recess. As far as we are concerned, our authentic bill is still before him and he can do two things; sign it or return it to us," they stated.

Moreover, the House members said the options open to them include waiting for 30 days to over-ride Obasanjo's veto in respect of the original bill if he refuses to give his assent; propose amendment to clause 80(1) and finally challenge the validity of the Electoral Act in a court of law.

Said the Reps: "The conference committee had no powers to deliberate on matters not committed to it.

It's a big fraud and nobody has the right to disenfranchise Nigerians in this way.

"The honourable thing for him (Obasanjo) to do is to withdraw his assent," the members advised.

In stating their opposition to the Electoral Act, Rep. Agoda said the law rather than enlarge the political landscape as envisaged by most lawmakers and in consonance with the 1999 constitution, clause 80(1) had abridged the democratic space.

They stated that since the three political parties were brought into being by the military, "the Electoral Act would have afforded the political class the opportunity to form political parties with strong ideological backdrops that would restore sanity to the political system."

Expressing disgust with some National Assembly members who connived with the Presidency to insert clause 80(1) in the Electoral Act, the House members said a conference team of six Senators and six House members cannot take the

place of 469 members of the National Assembly in making laws.

"We reject in its entirety, the unholy attempt to abridge the democratic space by the inclusion, through guerilla tactics, a provision that was unknown to both chambers of the National Assembly in the Electoral Act.

"Since it is not a law by the National Assembly, we believe that it is an outright nullity and that the National Assembly would remove it urgently through an amendment," the members said about clause 80(1).

While rejecting the call by President Obasanjo to those opposed to clause 80(1) of the Act to go to court, the lawmakers however, enjoined Nigerians to go to court only if they are dissatisfied with any other clause or clauses in the Electoral Act.

They said: "Those who are not satisfied with other provisions of the Act as passed by the two houses may go to court. Section 80(1) is not our law and we do not need to waste the time of the court with litigations concerning it."

# NEWS FOCUS

## OSUN POLITICAL CRISIS

# The hoodlums in the House

The lingering feud between the Osun State Governor, Chief Abdulkareem Adebisi Akande, and his deputy, Otunba Iyiola Omisore, was eventually extended to the State House of Assembly last week, leading to violent scuffle among the lawmakers.

The assemblymen had earlier engaged in a long argument that eventually led to a major fracas over an attempt to debate the allegations of fraud levelled against the deputy governor, which some believed may lead to a motion suspected to be aimed at the eventual impeachment of the deputy governor. By the end of that session, terror has already been unleashed on the city of Osogbo, the state capital.

The feud between Akande and Omisore started almost immediately after their assumption of office and had been raging ever since. Today Osun State ranks high among the states where personal and ideological differences have pitched governors against their deputies.

The friction between the duo, according to *Daily Trust* investigation, originated from mistrust, which sources also attributed to the polarisation of the Pan-Yoruba socio-political group, *Afenifere*, with Chief Abraham Adesanya, its national leader, leading one pack, while his deputy, Chief Bola Ige, serves as the generalissimo of the other faction.

The incumbent governor, who was also the Secretary to the State Government (SSG) when Chief Bola Ige was the governor of old Oyo State, *Daily Trust* gathered, was the candidate of Ige. While Chief Ige was said to have insisted that Osun State is his state where he should have a say in who becomes its governor, Chief Adesanya, on the other hand, was said to be solidly behind Otunba Omisore, maintaining that he is still the leader of *Afenifere* and should, therefore, be interested in who rules the state.

However, the main source of discord between the two could be traced to the ambition of the two gladiators over the coming 2003 governorship elections in the state. *Daily Trust* finding revealed that Omisore was persuaded by the leadership of AD in the state to step down for Akande during the race for the elections that brought Akande to power. Omisore, however, claimed that his decision to suspend his ambition was based on the accord allegedly entered into with Akande over the 2003 elections, in which Akande agreed to spend a single term as the governor after which he would give way to Omisore, since in 2003 the

From Yinka Oladoyinbo, in Osogbo

pected to shift to Ife/Ijesha zone where Omisore hails from.

Sources revealed that it was against this understanding that Omisore invested heavily in the electioneering campaign that brought them to power. It was also speculated that the deputy governor was the largest single financier of the AD 1999 gubernatorial campaign.

For a long period of time, Akande and Omisore have carried on like bitter marital rivals with the bitterness heightening last December, when members of the state House of Assembly who were allegedly dragged into the crisis made a move to impeach the governor. The impeachment bid was planned, with the lawmakers accusing Governor Akande of 22 different offences among which were violations of some sections of the constitution. The legisla-



Otunba Iyiola Omisore

tors went ahead with their plan, despite a hail of threats allegedly from the executive arm. But Akande managed to secure the support of 13 out of the 26 members of the House. Legislators who voted against Akande, sources claimed, fled the town for fear of possible physical attack by pro-government agents, while those who voted for Akande, *Daily Trust* learnt, also went into hiding for fear of attacks by a disenchanted public which wanted Akande out of power.

As if not satisfied by the level of crisis pervading the political scene of the state, the deputy governor also alleged that the governor was attempting to cripple his business and put him in financial mess. He alleged that the \$1.5 million water project in the state, which was won by his company before he became the deputy governor, was snatched from him and handed to the governor's supporters.

However, the state government, in an advertorial, alleged that Otunba Omisore attempted to dupe the state through his company, Chinsore Engineering Limited, which, they alleged, was in-

involved in a shady contract deal. According to the state government, Chinsore, claiming to be an agent of a foreign firm, Hybart Limited of London, quoted outrageous sums for the supply of water chemicals to the state ministry of water resources. Since then, it has been a heap of accusations and counter-accusations from both camps.

Meanwhile, the greatest of the allegations emanated from the deputy governor early this year, when he alleged that the governor had perfected a plan to assassinate him through food poisoning. He alleged that some of the governor's aides, including the Commissioner for Water Resources, Mr. Bisi Alamu, the Secretary to State Government, Engineer Shola Akinwunmi, and Rinde Oladele, the Press Secretary to the deputy governor, were the arrowheads of the plot.

As the trouble occasioned by the loss of confidence between the governor and his deputy rages on at the executive level, their supporters at the state House of Assembly are also capitalising on every available opportunity to take their pound of flesh from the opposing camps.

It was against this background, *Daily Trust* learnt that some of the lawmakers, who had become disenchanted with the leadership of the House since the aborted impeachment move against the governor, wanted a revenge by pressing for the ouster of the Speaker, Dr. Mojeed Alabi, who was alleged to have sympathies for Omisore, and was said to be the alleged mastermind of the impeachment move against the governor.

The plot, as it was hatched then, was to have come in phases. Removal of the speaker, it was gathered, would be a prelude to the impeachment of the deputy governor, who had engaged in a long drawn battle with the governor. Sources also hinted that the assemblymen, who have vowed to assist the governor to remove the deputy, believe that their move will not be successful unless the speaker is removed from his post. This, therefore, prompted the decision to get rid of the speaker first and the deputy governor later. An official of the Assembly, who spoke under condition of anonymity, confirmed the plot. He said: "You see this House has been divided since last year when there was an attempt to impeach the governor. The situation became worse following the crisis between the governor and the deputy. The House has become polarised; while some line up behind the governor, others are behind the deputy governor." So, while the battle goes on, at the



Gov. Adebisi Akande

executive level, the legislators are also not left out as the two camps have been trying to use their influence in the House to outdo one another.

But recently, in an attempt to perform its constitutional role, the House summoned the two principal actors in the crisis, the governor and his deputy, and demanded that the two should formally present their grievances to the House, with the leadership of the Assembly promising to mediate in the matter. Governor Akande, in his submission, accused this deputy of divulging the secret of the state executive council meeting, an action, which he said, negates the oath of office sworn to by the deputy governor. Akande, *Daily Trust* learnt, also accused Omisore of lack of respect for his personality and the office of the governor through several comments made on the pages of newspapers.

Omisore, on his part, was said to have presented four different tapes, containing recordings of meetings between suspected agents of Governor Akande, mapping out plans to poison him. The tapes were also said to have been presented to the House along with a petition, seeking full investigation of the matter by the state Commissioner of Police and the Inspector General of Police.

Ironically, the move initiated by the House to douse the tension and finally resolve the crisis has now exacerbated it. This, sources confirmed, was due to the heat generated by the debate on the matter by the already polarised members of the Assembly. *Daily Trust* reliably gathered that the House crisis was sparked off penultimate Thursday following the debate on the submission of the duo.

Investigation revealed that the House opted to look into the allegation of fraud levelled against the deputy governor, a decision which did not go down well with his supporters in the House. The pro-deputy governor legislators, arguing that despite the assassination attempt allegation brought against the gov-

ernor, supported by tapes submitted by the deputy governor, the House has not deemed it fit to investigate that allegation. Instead, the House, according to them, wanted to sweep the allegation under the carpet.

Hell was thereafter let loose in the Chamber of the House, with the lawmakers physically assaulting each other, an action which led to the suspension of proceedings, with the mace, the symbol of authority, allegedly smuggled out of the Chamber by one official of the State Security Service (SSS).

The weekend that followed, however, availed the lawmakers with the opportunity to go back into their sheds and re-strategise for another confrontation the following Monday.

The lawmakers, on that day, stormed the House with thugs, who wielded guns, cutlasses and cudgels. For about one hour, it was gathered, thugs of the two rival factions unleashed terror on opponents at both the premises of the Assembly and at the AD State Secretariat in Osogbo.

Eyewitness accounts had it that several people were wounded, while properties were indiscriminately destroyed, gunshots rang out, car windshields smashed and heads oozed out blood as the state lawmakers and their political thugs battled one another over the frosty relationship between the governor and his deputy. The rival factions also stormed the House



Hon. (Dr.) Mojeed Alabi

with thugs as early as 8 a.m. following the earlier pandemonium at the House penultimate Thursday, hence they had expected proceedings to resume last Monday, but they were wrong as the House had adjourned sine die.

Upon realising that the House proceedings had been suspended, the two factions engaged each other in a fierce battle, shooting sporadically, mashing opponents and smashing their vehicles. No fewer than 10 vehicles were reportedly damaged during the fracas, while about 80 people were arrested for in-

terrogation by the State Police Command.

Among those arrested was Mr. Kunle Alao, a former commissioner, who was allegedly dropped from the state cabinet because of his support for the deputy governor. Others were Honourables Odumayo Olagbaju (AD Ife Central), Sunday Akinpelu (AD Ayedaade) and Lekan Oyediran (AD Odo Otin). Two of the lawmakers and the former commissioner were last Wednesday arraigned on three-count charges before an Osogbo chief magistrate court.

As the state continues to witness rounds of crises and disturbances, occasioned by the animosity between the two helmsmen in the state, residents of the state who spoke with *Daily Trust* expressed disappointment with both Governor Akande and Mr. Omisore. "The two should bury their heads in shame because this is not what they promised us when they were canvassing and begging us for our votes. They have continued to unleash terror on the populace they were supposed to cater for," a resident said.

An early attempt to mediate the crisis by *Afenifere* was rebuffed by the deputy governor's faction, hinging their argument on the assertion that the former governor of Kwara State, Chief Cornelius, O. Adebayo, that headed that committee was biased against their faction.

They, therefore, argued that they could not trust Chief Adebayo since he is a close associate of the governor. And as if to confirm their fears, Governor Akande appointed Chief Adebayo as the Osun State representative on the board of Trans International Bank Plc, jointly owned by Oyo and Osun States.

Meanwhile, when the Speaker of the state House of Assembly was assessing the level of damage caused by the fracas, he said he felt very sad about the whole development. He noted that such an act was capable of derailing the nation's democratic effort. He denied the allegation that the House wanted to impeach the deputy governor. He, however, agreed that the deputy governor took certain steps that required the House to call him to order.

However, in a swift reaction to the latest attack, the Pan Yoruba group has agreed to set up another committee to look into the crisis. Some reports indicated that the committee has already begun its work.

But as the Yoruba leaders struggle to broker peace between the warring factions, only time will tell how far Governor Akande and his deputy could go with the state of animosity that exists between

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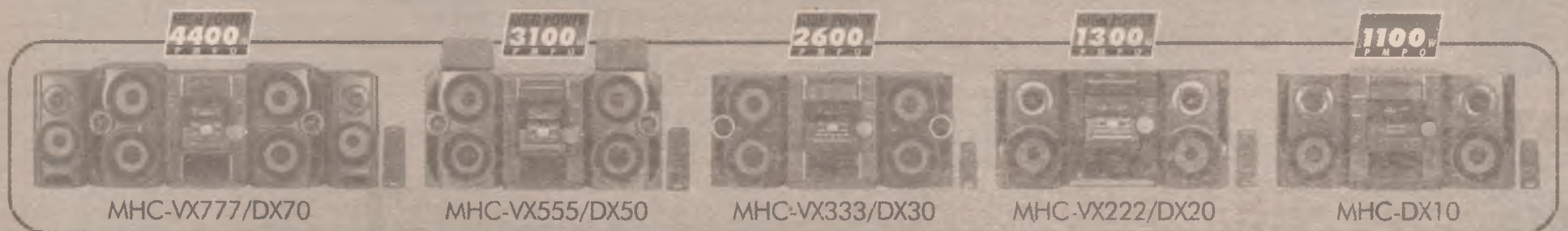
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B R A N C H E S N A T I O N W I D E

## Opinion

## A reign of dictators

By Danlami Baban Takko

Way back in 1984, the celebrated journalist Peter Enahoro, otherwise known as 'Peter Pan' wrote in *Africa Now* magazine, the story of Emperor Joseph II of Austria.

Peter said of Emperor Joseph "... he was consistent in his drive to relieve the poor of their misery. Indeed, history says of him that he was known as "the peasants' emperor".

"It was Emperor Joseph who said "great things have to be accomplished at the stroke and, as all changes arouse controversy sooner or later, the best way of going about it is to inform the public of one's intention at once and, after having made one's decision, to listen to no contrary opinion and resolutely to carry it out".

"When he died they said on his epitaph: 'Here lies Joseph II, who failed in all his enterprises'.

Now despite being the "peasants' emperor", Joseph was to put it in plain language a dictator. He achieved so much to relieve the poor of their misery, but as a dictator who fancied himself as a great visionary with the greatest wisdom, Emperor Joseph was to fail in all his enterprises.

Back here in Nigeria, in spite of our nascent democracy, dictators in the image of Emperor Joseph are everywhere and have pervaded the political atmosphere to the extent that doubt is beginning to cast on one's mind as to whether we are really in democracy or a kind of military dictatorship.

Let's begin with the president. The National Assembly, especially the Senate is now firmly under his feet. He engineered the removal of Chuba Okadigbo as Senate President but woefully failed in his bid to perform the same magic in the case of Ghali Na'Abba of the House of Representatives. He has now committed the greatest fraud by tampering with the Electoral Bill. He is aware of cancellation of Rimi's contract with FRCN Kaduna and has called university lecturers "irresponsible" and all that. The president is doing all these because he cannot stand opposition. In other words, he is a dictator.

He is not alone. The governors are busy toeing the same line. Look at Bola Tinubu of Lagos. He cannot let the old woman (his deputy), old enough to be his mother, have her way. His dictatorial tendencies would not allow him to let the grandma perform her constitutional responsibility. Governor Saminu Turaki is another dictator who forced his deputy to resign and like all dictators, he has found a way of "settling" the legislators and are now mere rubber stamps.

In Abia State, the young Orji Kalu is busy fighting it out with his deputy and efforts are being made to remove him by all means possible. In Kano State, Dr. Kwankwaso is not ready to listen to any contrary opinion on his resolve to spend money the way he feels. Sanusi Lamido once tried it and he did not find it easy. In Bauchi State, it is a taboo to hear the voice of the deputy governor whether his boss is in town or out of it. He too, like the Jigawa and other state legislators, is no more than a mere rubber stamp.

Amazingly, dictatorship has no boundary and is not limited to public sector alone. Recently, workers of Dangote group of companies raise their voices in order to press home certain demands. In a swift reaction, typical of dictators, Dangote ordered for their sack.

But here is a word from Peter pan. It is meant for dictators. He said, "No man, no exclusive court, whether enlightened and however well intentioned, has all the answers. Emperor Joseph, despite all he had achieved for the poor, had nonetheless robbed them of man's greatest possession: The freedom of his soul ... an epitaph as pathetic as that over Emperor Joseph's grave surely awaits the bloated egos that rule us today".

Danlami Baban Takko is a staff of Daily Trust, Abuja.

## In defence of Dr. Banu

By Mohamed Mahmoud Baba

The media reports on the probe of the provost of Federal College of Education (Tech) Gombe on some allegations by the Gombe State House of Assembly came not only as a surprise, but really beats ones imagination. The lawmakers were supposedly held in high esteem by those who elected them, but the way and manner they create problems where there is none, leaves one to question the actual sources and authenticity of their information.

The allegations levied against the college provost Dr D. P. Banu, were heard on the air (Gombe State Broadcasting Services- GSBS) and in the print media - specifically, the *Daily Trust* of 29th November 2001. These allegations are that: The drop in the admission figure from 2,500 to 600 will affect the state indigenes who will find it difficult to secure a place to further their education; and the provost was conniving with top government officials on how to relocate the institution to another state.

These ill-motivated allegations were the least expected from well-intentioned persons, and should not have been

believed by enlightened group in whom the electorate trust and in whom they repose confidence to adjudicate. The media sponsored reports were not given second thought by those who did it. Whatever their sinister motives, an adage says, "clear conscience fears no accusation". Facts and figures are readily available to convince any right thinking person. They would have sought for verification before going to the media.

There has never been a time when the college admitted 2,500 students in one academic year. Presently the total student population is about 2,700 (for all levels). The figure quoted is blatantly fictitious. The maximum number of students to be admitted for pre-NCE per academic year is set at 600 by the National Commission for Colleges of Education (NCCE). However, to meet the requirement for teacher education, especially in Gombe State, indigenes, though not all qualify for admission for our science/technical education programmes, efforts are being made

to improve the existing facilities in order to accommodate more students.

It is important to state that the lawmakers should be informed that Federal College of Education (Tech) Gombe, like other colleges of education in the country, has a supervising agency i.e. the National Commission for Colleges of Education, with headquarters at Abuja. This agency draws policies and other guidelines on all aspects of academic and administrative issues. Also, the college has a governing council comprising of people of high repute in the Nigerian society. At the college level, the provost does not operate alone. There is a strong management team, which is made up of all principal officers of the institution. Yet another statutory body in the college is the Academic Board that deliberates and takes decisions on all academic matters. This picture suffices to show that the allegations against the provost and all other administrative structures in the college are mischievous. Admissions are usually done by the admissions office under the registry in conjunction with deans of schools.

In this democratic dispensation, it is a fact that freedom of speech is guaranteed to all Nigerian citizens. However the freedom should not be manipulated for the purpose of blackmail or character assassination. We expect at this time that enlightened citizens are objective in their thinking and criticisms and base all that they say or write on facts and figures. Words used in the write up in the *Daily Trust* depict ignorance and sentimentalism. Such words as "probe", "connive" and "violate", clearly portray grammatical deficiency in the writer of the material in the *Daily Trust*.

It is also true that the lawmakers and the provost of the said college reside in the state capital, and the location of the institution is not very difficult for anyone to peep in and verify facts before going to the media. We expect that well-meaning individuals should have inquisitive minds and should view things positively, rather than engage in mischief making for reasons best known to them.

Mohammed Mahmoud Baba is of the Federal College of Education (Tech), Gombe.

## Akintola on Shariah

By Chindo Yakubu Kani

*Shariah in Nigeria: An eschatological desideratum* is a book of 319 pages written by visionary sparkles Dr. Ishaq Akintola, a lecturer of Islamic studies at the Lagos State University (LASU). He is also the director of the Muslim Rights Concern (MURIC), an Islamic human rights outfit and the ambassador of the Tele-Da'awah Embassy, an organization, which cultivates the seeds that God, has planted in our hearts.

Whatever approach one takes to Akintola's book one finds oneself in a drama: the unseen is always here, woven in the fabric of our life, each moment precious, each moment sacred. In the word of the author: "we assert clearly, authoritatively and emphatically that as far as the Muslims are concerned, Shariah is an eschatological desideratum". In page 5, the author defined Shariah as the laws of God and His path. It is quite revealing to learn that in p.66 the author was able to show that even the Bible actually recognises Shariah by name. Hear him: "The word Shariah itself is in the Bible. It is the name of the fourth son of Azel. The Bible says: 'Azel had six sons and these are their names, Azrikam, Bocheru, Ishmael, Sheariah, Obadiah and Hanan.'" (1 Chronicles 8:38)

And according to the Bible Concordance, Shariah means the gate of the Lord. (Alexander 1769 p584). It means that whoever embraces Shariah has chosen the path that leads to the gate of God. And whoever remains far from his origin, strives to regain the days of his union with it. For Akintola Shariah as long as it is hidden is in danger. Then many better for Shariah when gossip forces it by lies to spread like fire. He writes: *Femi Falana, a human right activist, reportedly called on Obasanjo to "cage" Ahmed Sani, the Governor of Zamfara. . . . If it is true, we are constrained to ask Falana a few questions: Is it part of human rights to cage a human being? Is this what Falana will start doing if he ever gets the chance to lead? Is Falana fanning the embers of anti-Muslim campaign in this country? Is Falana an agent of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN)?*

We can also suggest that Akintola is on the right track when he commented that: "The habit of marginalising the Muslims has eaten deep into the fabric of the Southern press . . . thus explains why the media gave wide publicity to the so-call dissenting view of Ibraheem ZakZaky . . . P. 170

Ibrahim Zakzaky published a full page advertorial in the *Vanguard* of Thursday, July 27, 2000 and *Weekly Trust* in which he emphatically refuted media reports of his so-call opposition to Shariah.

Zakzaky was able to publish a rebuttal because he could afford to pay about one hundred and sixty thousand naira for a full page advertorial in two newspapers. There are millions of Nigerians who cannot afford to pay money just to clear their names. We have no doubt that one-day nemesis will catch up with those who engage in media terrorism.

He then calls on people to ignore the press. As he put it: "Shariah is not just about amputation. It is a divine welfare programme. It is for peace, social security, good healthcare, responsible parentage and dignified childhood. It is all about transparent honesty, sincerity in high and low places responsible leadership, probity and accountability. Above all, Shariah enshrines equity, justice, fair play, goodwill and equity before the law. Shariah, eliminates traces of hunger, famine, disease and homelessness" (P. 302)

To put it more plainly, Shariah is the animating spirit of the Islamic tradition. Wherever Shariah flourishes, Islam is alive to its

own spiritual and moral ideals, but to the extent that Shariah has been eclipsed, Islam becomes desiccated and sterile, if it survives at all.

Given the fact that God's wrath is closely connected to the manifest domain - the Shariah - which concerns the more outward affairs of life, it has a special connection with God's wrath. However, this wrath derives from mercy and leads back to it. In other words, the rather stern and forbidding face of the Shariah, which demands that people follow its commandments or taste the chastisement of hell, displays God's majesty and severity, even if the promise of paradise expresses His mercy. This may help to explain why ignorant people can simultaneously be attracted by Islam and repelled by Shariah. But Islam and Shariah are two sides of single reality. To use traditional imagery, the Shariah is the shell while Islam is the kernel; neither can survive without the other. To isolate either of them from the other is to falsify both.

Another significant point in the Book is the good advice of the author to the Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA). His study found the leadership of the umbrella organisation by traditional rulers inimical to growth of Islam in Nigeria. He writes: "The present position is unacceptable to the generality of Muslims in the country. The present leadership is monarchy. The supreme council is being ruled by hereditary system. Muslims find this alien to true Islamic teaching, arbitrary and therefore unacceptable. Article 7(a) of the constitution of the supreme council stipulates that the Sultan of Sokoto shall be the President-General while Article 7(b) permanently gives the position of Vice President General to the Shehu of Borno. Nigerian Muslims do not elect these monarchs. They are imposed on them".

Akintola's position on 'monarchy' seems to have undergone radical changes when he discusses Saudi Arabia. On the one hand he regards monarchical system as "untidy, unfair, unwise and myopic" and that "hereditary rule is not an acceptable system of governance in strict Shariah terms". And that the "Consultative right of all Nigerian Muslims is usurped by eleven king-makers of Sokoto origin whose selection is finally ratified by the governor of Sokoto State. He then demands for reform in the supreme council immediately. But he is full of praise for Saudi Arabia and some other Arab countries. Gibb summarised the attitude of these ruling elite towards religion in the following words, "... (The) Political leadership in the Middle East remains in the hand of groups who conceive the Islamic heritage in terms of political entities rather than as a cultural nexus, and whose entire political outlook is coloured by contemporary Western motivations".

Monarchical system is bad. It does not matter whether it is in Nigeria or Saudi Arabia.

At the end, through this work, more perhaps than any other, the philosophy behind Shariah in Nigeria is recreated and integrated into a tradition, and its influence cannot be over estimated. We have no doubt that the book will seize hold of the interest of all those who are seekers of truth, notwithstanding their religious persuasion. The reader should be reminded, however, that Shariah is practice to be experienced, not topics to be discussed only. Hence words cannot explain Shariah to the extent the author might wish. Nevertheless as Rumi says: "Though the ocean cannot be swallowed completely, taste it to the extent of your thirst".

Chindo Yakubu Kani is of Ayyamullah Islamic Foundation, Badagry Expressway, Oto Awori, Lagos



Ask Production Bee!

## YOUR LETTERS

### What's up Fika LG?

Permit me space in your widely read newspaper to express my displeasure at the activities of the present democratically elected executives of Fika Local Government Council, Yobe State. In spite of the huge amount collected by the council from federation account in the last two years for recurrent and capital expenditure at the grassroots. Only the former is carried out, there is nothing to show in terms of physical development. Even the projects inherited from the previous administrations were still lying there as abandoned projects.

members are doing has gone contrary to the promise they made. Engaging in unnecessary spending is denying the good people of Fika local government dividends of democracy.

I am appealing to the elected executives and the council members to have the fear of Allah in mind and keep to their promises, as it is not too late. A stitch in time saves nine.  
**Mallam Abba Bukar Fika, Federal College of Education (Technical) Potiskum, Yobe State.**

Most times, people keep on asking what the elected executives are up to. There is no effort to complete these abandoned projects or even initiate new ones. What the executives and its council

### A case for Gusau— Sokoto road

Please permit me space in your widely read newspaper to express my dismay with the manner and way the rehabilitation of Tsafe-Gusau Road, and Gusau-Sokoto road is being handled. The quality of work tends to suggest that it is a community self-help effort rather than a federal government project.

While appreciating that those dividends of democracy are gradually trickling down here, we believe it should be a worthwhile exercise that will not only enrich the contractors, but also alleviate the suffering of the populace.  
**Umar Faruq Sani, Gusau**

### We won't vote for Obasanjo in 2003

President Obasanjo will fail the next election in the country except Mohammed Abacha and other Northerners detained under the present administration in the country are released. The Abacha Memorial Club nationwide will campaign day and night to achieve this objective.

During the 1999 election of President Obasanjo it was a tug of war between the Peoples Democratic Party and All People's Party where our children were beaten others killed while some people were forced to leave their towns and villages just for supporting Obasanjo. And now that he is president of the country he has just intentionally forgotten the people that suffered and struggled to ensure his success during the elections. Instead of him to reward us for the job we have done he is now paying us back by allowing his kinsmen (Afenifere and OPC) which earlier disowned him and didn't support him to kill more than one thousand five hundred Northerners in Lagos for no just cause. The most annoying thing is that no judicial commission of inquiry has been set up to investigate the mass killing of Nor-

therners. The arrest and illegal detention and trial of Mohammed Abacha and others currently going on, is not in the best interest of the country.

The revenge mission of Mr. President on Abacha's family is just like fighting the dead, and it is contrary to the teaching of the holy Bible. The action clearly shows that Mr. President is not a born again Christian, as he allowed his

selfish interest to becloud him.

About the confiscated Abacha family wealth, I quote again to Mr. President Isaiah chapter 10 verses 1 to 3 "woe to those who make unjust laws, to those who issue oppressive decrees, to deprive the poor of their rights and withhold justice from the oppressed of my people. Making widows their prey and robbing the fatherless. What will you do on the day of reckoning?"

### Re: 150 displaced persons return to Jigawa

I write to respond to the news item with the above caption carried in the front page of *Daily Trust* No 81 of Tuesday, November 27th 2001.

It became necessary for me to issue this rejoinder because the said publication was not based on facts and the realities on the ground at Manchok the headquarters of Moro'a chiefdom which has been an absolute home of peace and tranquillity for decades if not centuries. It can be confirmed from other bona fide citizens of the said town and its environs that there was no breach of peace

or violent confrontation hitherto.

It therefore amounts to a double tragedy for one named Kabir Mohammed to ridicule the hitherto cordial, accommodating relationship among the various residents of the locality on one hand and the decision of your editors to go ahead and publish the story without corroborating it either directly or through a third party. It should be noted that the aged mother, brother, and children of Ahmed Kabir Mohammed are still in Manchok. Apart from him no one else left Manchok which

### Re: Saminu Turaki, a case of executive irresponsibility

Whosoever cast the heading must be someone alien to our cherished traditional values of decorum and respect to the name Saminu Turaki and the exalted office he occupies – that of a state governor. Try that elsewhere and libel suit will be yours till thy kingdom comes.

You also stated in the piece "Governor Turaki had hardly stayed in Jigawa for three consecutive weeks". Show me any of his colleagues who stayed in his state for three uninterrupted

weeks.

Again, when a state is "under-governed", its structures will naturally collapse. Since Turaki's swearing-in, there was neither labour unrest, strike, ethnic or religious disturbance. Jigawa pays the national minimum wage as and when due.

Your postulations on the former deputy governor are clearly an editorial misadventure. No one would deny your paper the right to offer a crying shoulder or sanctuary from where he

colludes with you to unleash a catalogue of pure lies. It is not true that Turaki and his erstwhile deputy "never had good working relationship". Indeed it was the former deputy who selected and posted all the permanent secretaries in the state's civil service. All members of boards of parastatals were selected and posted by him arbitrarily. How can anyone complain of not being involved in governance? When he was entrusted with the agriculture ministry, he was unable to give a simple handing over note of his "activities" while in charge. The governor asked the incoming commissioner to simply draw a line and continue. The man simply wanted to be an incumbent governor where there is one. No one can deny the former deputy his inalienable right to withdraw his services – and join the PDP.

The truth is that our party leadership in the state and the good citizens of Jigawa are happy with the administration of Saminu Turaki. A dozen more caustic editorials from your paper, however uncharitable in tone and disrespectful in words however ill conceived or vitriolic, will not bring down the government of Saminu Turaki.

And please be civil enough to tell all those paper tigers of Jigawa State who seek refuge in your paper or connive with it to disparage our governor that all of you will, In-sha Allah not succeed.

As for the provision of social amenities, be bold enough, spend three days in Jigawa and after that be courageous as much to report your findings. Good luck.  
**A. Aminu Ahmed Babura APP PRO, Jigawa State**

As such the Abacha Memorial Club with its head office at Lafia, Nasarawa State will do everything possible to ensure that Obasanjo is not returned as the president of this country come the year 2003. Long Live Peoples Democratic Party. Long Live Nigeria, Long Live Nasarawa State.

**Alhaji Baba Sambo Aliyu, Chairman, Abacha Memorial Club, P. O. Box 178, Lafia, Nasarawa State.**

shows that the alleged crisis exists only in his imagination.

Finally I found it necessary to put the record straight by telling the truth to shame the devil.

I hope next time you will be more cautious and do a thorough, systematic and balanced investigation before you go to press to avoid sliding the good name of *Daily Trust* in the mud.  
**Mahmood D. Abdu, No. 3 Palace Road, off Jankasa Road, Manchok, P. O. Box 125, Kafanchan**



**ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF COLLEGE OF NIGERIA (ASCON)**  
**ASCON AD-HOC PROGRAMMES**  
**FROM FEBRUARY - DECEMBER, 2002**

S/N	COURSES	VENUE	COST	DATE
1.	Accelerated and Sustainable Rural Development Workshop	Federal Secretariat Conference Hall, Sokoto, Sokoto State	N12,500	March 25 - 29, 2002
2.	3-Day Workshop on security Awareness for Honourable Members of National and State Assemblies	ASCON Complex, Topo Badagry	N25,000	April 10 - 12, 2002
3.	Computer Networking Course	ASCON Complex, Topo Badagry	N30,000	April 22 - May 3, 2002
4.	Computer Application to Library Services	ASCON Complex, Topo Badagry	N25,000	April 8 - 12, 2002
5.	Local Government Treasury Management Workshop	State Secretariat Conference Hall, Akure Ondo State	N12,500	April 22 - 26, 2002
6.	Assertiveness and Leadership Skills for Women Managers	Gateway Hotel, Otta, Ogun State	N25,000	May 13 - 17, 2002
7.	National Workshop for Chief Executives of Public and Private Enterprises	To be announced	N40,000	May 15 - 17, 2002
8.	Democracy and Good Governance for Honourable members of the National and State Assemblies	ASCON Complex, Topo Badagry	N25,000	May 29 - 31, 2002
9.	Public Policy Analysis and Management Workshop	Gateway Hotel, Abeokuta, Ogun State	N25,000	May 20 - 24, 2002
10.	Administrative Principles Processes and Practice	Gateway Hotel, Otta, Ogun State	N25,000	May 13 - 17, 2002
11.	Internet Connectivity Appreciation Workshop	ASCON Complex, Topo Badagry	N20,000	May 6 - 8, 2002
12.	Primary Health care Management Workshop	State Secretariat's Conference Hall, Uyo, Akwa-Ibom	N12,500	May 6 - 10, 2002.
13.	Workshop on Strategies for Revenue Generation	Gateway Hotel, Otta, Ogun State	N20,000	May 20 - 24, 2002
14.	Personnel/Management Forum	ASCON Complex, Topo Badagry	N25,000	June 10 - 12, 2002
15.	Feasibility Studies and Investment Analysis Workshop	Gateway Hotel, Otta, Ogun State	N25,000	June 17 - 19, 2002
16.	Modern Trends in Leadership Delegation and Accountability Workshop	Gateway Hotel, Otta, Ogun State	N25,000	June 17 - 19, 2002
17.	Local Government Maintenance Management Workshop	State Secretariat, Conference Hall Gusau Zamfara State	N12,500	June 3 - 7, 2002
18.	Auditing and Investigation	Premier Hotel, Ibadan	N20,000	June 10 - 14, 2002
19.	Workshop on fraud Detection Prevention and Control	Plaza Hotel, Otta, Ogun State	N20,000	June 24 - 28, 2002
20.	One Week Security Management Course for Senior Staff of the National and state Assemblies	ASCON Complex, Topo Badagry	N25,000	June 1 - 5, 2002
21.	A Three Day Workshop on Conflict Management and Resolution for the Senior Staff of National and State Assemblies	ASCON Complex, Topo Badagry	N25,000	June 24 - 26, 2002
22.	Performance Appraisal for Productivity/Improvement Workshop	Plaza Hotel Otta, Ogun State	N20,000	July 8 - 12, 2002
23.	Entrepreneurship Development Programme for Retiring Officer	Gateway Hotel, Otta Ogun state	N35,000	July 1 - 12, 2002
24.	Performance Improvement Workshop	University of Ibadan Conference Centre, Ibadan	N25,000	July 15 - 19, 2002
25.	Management of Public Records	Gateway Hotel, Otta	N20,000	July 1 - 5, 2002
26.	Effective Delegation/Leadership	ASCON Complex, Topo Badagry	N20,000	July 3 - 5, 2002
27.	2nd Accelerated and sustainable Rural Development Workshop	Federal Secretariat Hall Yola, Adamawa State	N12,500	July 8 - 12, 2002
28.	Workshop on Total Quality Management (TQM)	Gateway Hotel, Otta, Ogun State	N20,000	July 1 - 5, 2002
29.	Procurement and Materials Management	Circular Hotel, Ilorin, Kwara State	N20,000	July 29 - August 2, 2002
30.	Training Managers Retreat	Plaza Hotel Otta, Ogun State	N20,000	August 26 - 30, 2002
31.	Seminar on Total Quality Management (TQM) for Human Resource Management	Plaza Hotel Otta, Ogun State	N25,000	August 19 - 23, 2002
32.	(Project) Report Writing and Presentation Workshop	ASCON Complex, Topo Badagry	N20,000	August 12 - 16, 2002
33.	Administrative Principles, Processes and Practices	Gateway Hotel Otta, Ogun State	N30,000	August 26 - 30, 2002
34.	Desktop Publishing	ASCON Complex, Topo Badagry	N30,000	August 5 - 16, 2002
35.	2nd Local Government Treasury Management Workshop	State Secretariat Conference Hall, Abakaliki Ebonyi State	N12,500	August 12 - 16, 2002
36.	Workshop on Development Statistics	Gateway Hotel Otta, Ogun State	N20,000	August 19 - 23, 2002
37.	Negotiating Skills in Labour Relations	Plaza Hotel Otta, Ogun State	N20,000	September 9 - 13, 2002
38.	Senior Women In Management Seminar	Gateway Hotel Otta, Ogun State	N25,000	September 23 - 27, 2002
39.	Workshop on Techniques of Effective Time Management	Gateway Hotel Otta, Ogun State	N20,000	September 23 - 25, 2002
40.	2nd Primary Health Care Management Workshop	Federal Secretariat Conference Hall Kaduna, Kadauna State	N12,500	September 23 - 27, 2002
41.	Workshop on Effective Stock Control	Premier Hotel, Ibadan	N20,000	September 23 - 27, 2002
42.	Seminar on Total Quality Management	Airport Hotel, Ikeja	N20,000	October 21 - 23, 2002
43.	Word Processing Workshop	ASCON Complex, Topo Badagry	N20,000	October 7 - 11, 2002
44.	Computer-Based Presentation Techniques	ASCON Complex, Topo Badagry	N20,000	October 14 - 18, 2002
45.	Workshop on Facility Management	ASCON Complex, Topo Badagry	N20,000	October 21 - 25, 2002
46.	Seminar on Managing Negotiation	ASCON Complex, Topo Badagry	N20,000	October 26 - 30, 2002
47.	Workshop for Heads of Supplies	Circular Hotel, Ilorin, Kwara State	N20,000	October 7 - 11, 2002
48.	Workshop on Final Accounts Preparation	Plaza Hotel Otta, Ogun State	N20,000	October 21 - 25, 2002
49.	2nd Local Government Maintenance in Government Management Workshop	ASCON Complex Topo Badagry	N12,500	November 4 - 8, 2002
50.	Advanced Workshop on Office Systems/Technology	ASCON Complex, Topo Badagry	N20,000	November 4 - 8 2002
51.	Effective Conduct of Government Business	Gateway Hotel Otta, Ogun State	N25,000	November 11 - 15, 2002
52.	Computer Appreciation for Senior Managers	ASCON Complex, Topo Badagry	N25,000	November 18 - 22, 2002
53.	Workshop on Tendering and Contract Management	Adeyemi College of Education Ondo, Ondo	N25,000	November 11 - 15, 2002
54.	Workshop on Government Budgeting	Circular Hotels, Ilorin Kwara State	N20,000	November 18 - 22, 2002
55.	Workshop on Management of Secretarial Functions	ASCON Complex, Topo Badagry	N15,000	December 2 - 6, 2002
56.	Word Processing	ASCON Complex, Topo Badagry	N20,000	December 15 - 20, 2002
57.	Workshop for Secretaries and Finance Officers to Traditional Councils in the Federation	All State Capitals	N12,000	Mutually agreeable dates

*NB: Please note that the cost excludes feeding and accommodation. Further information on the above can be obtained from*

The Director - General,  
Administrative Staff College of Nigeria (ASCON),  
P. M.B. 1004  
Topo - Badagry

OR

The Liaison Officer,  
Administrative Staff College of Nigeria (ASCON),  
New Federal Secretariat,  
Shehu Shagari Way,  
P.M.B. 150,  
Abuja. Tel: 09-5236883 Fax: 0952356883



**ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF COLLEGE OF NIGERIA (ASCN)**  
**ASCN REGULAR PROGRAMMES**  
**FROM FEBRUARY - DECEMBER, 2002**

S/N	COURSES	DURATION	VENUE
1. 2.	Legislative Management (LMC) General Management (GMC)	18th February - 15th March, 2002	ASCN Complex, Topo Badagry
1. 2. 3. 4.	Train-The-Trainers (TTT) Advanced Management (AMC) Advanced Financial Management (AFMC) Data-Based Management (DBM)	13th April - 10th May, 2002	ASCN Complex, Topo Badagry
1. 2. 3. 4.	Women in Management (WIM) Use of Computer for Financial Management (CFM) Maintenance Management (MMC) Management Consulting (MCC)	25th May - 21st June, 2002	ASCN Complex, Topo Badagry
1. 2. 3. 4. 5.	Labour Management Relations (LMR) Learning Media Technology (LMT) Advanced Course in Project Management (ACPM) Public Sector Auditing (PSAC) Advanced Legislative Management for Senior Staff of National & State Assemblies	27th July - 23rd August, 2002	ASCN Complex, Topo Badagry
1. 2. 3. 4. 5.	General Management (GMC) Records Management (RMC) Data-Base Processing and Analysis Using SPSS/PC+ (DBPA) Programme Monitoring and Evaluation (CPME) Financial Management (FMC)	7th September - 4th October, 2002	ASCN Complex, Topo Badagry
1. 2. 3. 4.	Advanced Personnel/Human Resource Management (APHRM) Computer Based Management Information System (MIS) Course on Project Management (CPM) Purchasing and Supplies Management (PSC)	12th October - 8th November, 2002	ASCN Complex, Topo Badagry
1. 2. 3. 4.	Maintenance Management (MMC) Legislative Drafting (LDC) Advanced Management (AMC) Enterprise Management (EMC)	16th November - 13th Dec. 2002	ASCN Complex, Topo Badagry

**CHARGES FOR 4-WEEK REGULAR PROGRAMMES**

**(i) PAYMENT TO ASCON**

Chalet N110,000.00  
 Double Room N62,200.00  
 Single Room N56,100.00

**(ii) FIELD TRIP ALLOWANCE**

- (a) All Project Management Course (both Advanced & Regular) N15,000
- (b) All Other Regular Courses N10,000
- (c) Management Consulting Course attracts a Professional fee of N20,000
- (d) Computer related courses attract N20,000

\*Payment to ASCON should be made by certified Bank Draft or by cash  
 \*The courses are fully residential in which lodging only is provided  
 \*Sponsoring organisations are expected to make funds available for the upkeep of their nominee(s) during the course.  
 \*The above regular courses are for officers on GL. 08 and above as well as their counterparts in the private sector.  
 All advanced Management Courses are for officers on GL. 13 and above.

**METHOD OF APPLICATION**

ASCN courses are open to officers in the Federal and State Civil services, Parastatals, Local Governments, the Armed Forces, the Police and also Private Sector organisations. Such officers must be sponsored by their employers. Interested candidates should therefore apply through their organisations for nomination and sponsorship. All applications for admission should reach the College, at least, four weeks before the commencement of each course for processing.

Sponsoring organisations are requested to collect or apply for Nomination Forms for completion by their nominees for the various courses scheduled for the year. They are also to ensure that completed forms are returned promptly.

*Further information on our programmes can be obtained from:*

The Director-General,  
 Administrative Staff College of Nigeria (ASCN),  
 P.M.B. 1004,  
 Topo-Badagry,  
 Lagos State.  
 Tel: 01-732272, 732206, 7323000, 732273

**OR**

The Liaison Officer,  
 Administrative Staff College of Nigeria (ASCN)  
 New Federal Secretariat,  
 Shehu Shagari Way,  
 P.M.B. 150, Abuja.  
 Tel: 09 5236883. Fax: 0952356883

## TRUST INTERNATIONAL

AFRICA &amp; THE MIDDLE EAST

## Angolan helicopter crash kills 40

A helicopter is reported to have crashed in Angola, killing about 40 people.

The French newsagency, AFP, said the helicopter came down in the province of Bengo, north of the capital, Luanda, on Saturday, while on a flight to the city of Uige.

It quotes the vice-governor of the province, Mendes Domingos, as saying that rescue workers have found the remains of some of the victims.

There has been no word about who was on the helicopter or what may have caused it to crash.



Madagascar President, Didier Ratsiraka, votes within the city of Antananarivo, on Sunday. Marc Ravalomanana, a self-made millionaire and the Mayor of the city of Antananarivo, is challenging Ratsiraka, who has been in power for more than 20 years.

## Egypt plans pro-Palestinian TV broadcasts

Egypt is to begin broadcasting Hebrew-language TV programmes to Israel, to counterbalance Israeli media and give the Arab view of the Palestinian conflict.

Egypt's state-owned Nile TV is to begin the broadcasts for two hours in the afternoon on Egypt's regional NileSat satellite from January 1.

"It is time to illuminate for the Israelis our points of view," Hala Hashish, director of national television's satellite stations, told the state-owned Al Ahram Hebdo.

"It is time to act so that our opinions do not reach them only via the Israeli media, which is far from being impartial," she said.

"One reason for the persistence of the Israeli-Arab conflict is that the two parties are separated one from the other because of the stereotypes presented by the Israeli media," she added.

According to the head of the Nile TV project, Hassan Ali Hassan, the broadcasts will include news, current affairs discussions and cultural slots. Up to 50 Egyptian Hebrew speakers will be involved.

Egypt's Information Minister, Safwat el-Sherif decided to launch the Hebrew television after the Arab information ministers met in August and agreed to inject cash into media backing for the Palestinians. Mr. Hassan, who is also director of Egypt's Hebrew radio, said.

Mr. el-Sherif said the aim

of the broadcasts was to espouse the Arab cause and "to call for peace based on justice and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people".

The launch of the Hebrew-language channel came as the latest round of an Arab-Israeli media war.

Israel and the Palestinian

Authority have made strenuous efforts to shore up world support through the media since the Palestinian uprising began more than 14 months ago.

Israel's government said in May it had plans to beef up its Arabic-language broadcasts and transmit them across the region, in part to counter the effect on Arab public opinion of the popular Qatari al-Jazeera satellite channel.

## 'Bin Laden planned liberating Uganda'

Osama bin Laden and his Al Qaeda network targeted Uganda for "liberation" strikes, the president said on Saturday.

Mr. Yoweri Museveni's revelation stunned more than 400 Muslim leaders and guests at the annual end of Ramadan (fasting month) futri (dinner) at Nakasero State House.

"While the rest of the world slept, we fought Al Qaeda. I stood against bin Laden and his terrorists," Museveni, clad in a black suit, white shirt and dark tie and accompanied by his red-robed wife, Janet, said in



Osama bin Laden

English, Kiswahili and Luganda.

"Those terrorists targeted Uganda. The Americans recently captured some documents. They discovered that Uganda was targeted for "liberation" by those terrorists! They planned to strike us. Can you imagine those fellows liberating Uganda? Ni wajinga sana (Kiswahili for they are very stupid)," he said. Mufti Sheikh Shaban Mubajje was among the guests.

Museveni said, "We have more evidence that Tourabi and bin Laden misled our children and took them for terrorism training in Afghanistan, Sudan, Pakistan and other places to cause chaos here. We arrested 129 of them."

Hassan Tourabi was speaker of the Sudan parliament till 1999 when he fell out with President Bashir. Bashir suspected that Tourabi tried to undermine him by pushing for a motion to create the position of premier with executive powers.

## General detained over alleged coup in Liberia

A Liberian general has been picked up as the capital, Monrovia, is awash with rumours of an attempted coup.

General Jang is being questioned by security agents, Information Minister, Reginald Goodridge, told the BBC.

Mr. Goodridge denied that there had been a coup attempt and said that this was not why the general had been picked up.

But he did not reveal why General Jang was being interrogated and said he was still receiving his pay.

Monrovia has been buzzing with rumours that members of the elite Anti-Terrorist Unit, along with members of opposition parties have been arrested.

"No one has been arrested," he said.

There have been reports that security checks in Monrovia have been stepped up but Mr. Goodridge said that

the capital was in festive mood, ahead of Christmas.

The rumours came as Lurd rebels continue to battle with government forces in Lofa country and elsewhere.

The government claims to have retaken the Kolahun district but has also warned that the rebels are moving towards the Sierra Leone border.

Some 15,000 people have fled recent fighting and arrived in Sawmill, 100km from

Monrovia.



President Charles Taylor

## Israeli soldiers kill three Palestinians

Israeli soldiers have shot dead three Palestinians, including a child, just one day after Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat called for an end to violence and a return to peace negotiations.

The 12-year-old boy was hit by a bullet in the chest fired from an Israeli checkpoint in the southern Gaza Strip, doctors said.

Palestinian sources said there were no clashes at the time the child was killed.

The UN special envoy to the Middle East, Terje Roed-Larsen, criticised the killings as "unhelpful", and called for restraint from Israel.

He welcomed the action taken by Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, against militants, but warned that it must be deepened and broadened.

The other two Palestinians shot dead were killed in the West Bank. One was a member of the Islamic movement Hamas, whose militants have already rejected Mr. Arafat's appeal as unworkable, the other was a naval policeman.

Israeli Prime Minister, Ariel Sharon, who last week dismissed Mr. Arafat as "irrelevant", made clear his disregard for the Palestinian leader's televised address.

"I thought it was unnecessary for me to see it," he said. "When it comes to the security of Israel, we relate only to deeds, not words."

## Rebel plane crash kills two in DR Congo

A plane carrying at least two senior members of a rebel movement operating in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo crashed on Friday in Geti, Ituri province, a spokesman for the movement announced on Radio Candi.

"According to information we have received, there are no survivors," Wale Sombo, spokesman for the Ugandan-backed Rassemblement congolais pour la democratie/Mouvement de liberation, said.

However, he added that a

team from the movement's executive council had gone to the crash site to search for survivors. He said the movement's commissar for education, the deputy commissar in charge for foreign affairs and "some officers" had been on board. It is unclear how many people were on the plane, owned by the Eagle Company. The plane, whose type was not identified, took off from the northeastern Congolese town of Bunia for Entebbe, in Uganda, via Beni in the DRC.

## King Mswati's daughter obeys chastity order

Princess Sikhanyiso, the eldest daughter of King Mswati III of Swaziland, has returned home from her studies in England wearing a set of umcwasho tassels, worn by young girls as a mark of chastity.

Under ancient Swazi tradition, girls under 18 were expected to wear a set of blue and yellow tassels, while older girls wore red and black tassels as a sign that they were still virgins.

In September, King Mswati, Africa's last absolute monarch, announced the tradition was being reintroduced in an effort to combat AIDS, which has killed more than 50,000 people in the tiny mountain kingdom.

But the move has met with huge opposition - not least of all because the king's own daughter has not been forced

to comply with the rule.

Princess Sikhanyiso, who is studying at St Edmunds College in England, took everybody by surprise when she arrived at Matsapha Airport on Saturday with a pair of yellow and blue tassels around her neck.

The 14-year-old princess, who was accompanied by her grandfather, Reverend Percy Mngomezulu, Swaziland's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, has returned home for the Christmas break.

The princess has come under fire from young Swazi girls because she is being educated in Britain and therefore is not bound by the strict rules of her own country.

King Mswati's draconian rule demands that all virgins must wear the tassels and

remain chaste for a period of five years. They are discouraged from any physical contact with men - even shaking hands.

Many young women and their parents believe the five-year period is too long.

Their anger has been fuelled further by the fact that Princess Sikhanyiso has not been required to wear the tassels whilst at school in England.

There were rumours that she was whisked abroad so she would not have to comply with the decree and there were even allegations that she was not a virgin, as all maidens who don the tassels are required to pass a virginity test.

However, the princess said that she is in full support of the rite and that she respects it even when living in London.

TRUST INTERNATIONAL

World Report

# Refugees riot over visa in Australia

Asylum seekers have been rioting at a detention centre in Australia, setting fire on a number of buildings.

The incident, at the Woomera detention centre in South Australia, is the latest and worst in a series of demonstrations that have plagued refugee camps in the last couple of years.

An eyewitness described seeing a wall of fire jump from building to building, over the course of three hours, which destroyed at least four buildings and damaged more than 10 others.

The protesters, who come mainly from the Middle East

and central Asia, were reported to be chanting demands for visas.

A petrol station owner near the detention centre said the riot began with a series of gas bottle explosions late on Monday evening.

"They were throwing rocks, smashing windows, yelling and screaming, then the huge explosions started and the fires," Dave Kirby said.

Australia's Acting Immigration Minister, Daryl Williams, said that people were sadly mistaken if they thought setting fire to buildings was the way to get a visa.

"It's outrageous that Commonwealth property should be dealt with in such a way," he said.

Head of the Refugee Council of Australia, Margaret Piper, said Woomera was more prone to violence as its desert location north of Adelaide, made conditions harsher and exacerbated tension.

Woomera is one of the six detention centres set up in isolated areas of mainland Australia to detain illegal immigrants as their claims for asylum are investigated or after they are rejected.

Under the government's hardline

policies aimed at deterring boat people, recent arrivals have instead been shipped off to Pacific island nations such as Nauru and Papua New Guinea to have their claims assessed.

Refugee campaigners say there is rising discontent in the immigration camps, where asylum seekers can be held for as long as five years before their applications are processed.

## India debates response to attack

The Indian Home Minister, L K Advani, has begun making a statement in parliament on last week's attack on the Indian parliamentary complex.

He is expected to reiterate his warning that Pakistan should close down two militant groups India says were behind the attack, which led to the death of 13 people.

The government is also expected to give top priority to its controversial anti-terrorism bill.

This will be the first opportunity for the Indian parliament to discuss the attack at length.

BBC correspondent in Delhi said Mr. Advani is likely to be centre-stage for the government. He has the reputation of taking a hard line when it comes to what India describes as terrorist attacks.

He is expected to repeat the government's warning of dire consequences if Islamabad does not close down the Jaish-e-Mohammad and Lashkar-e-Toiba militant groups.

Delhi said these two groups are based in Pakistan and received training and support from the country's intelligence service. Islamabad denied this and said that India has provided no evidence to support its allegations.

So far Delhi has not indicated exactly what action it will take if Pakistan does not comply with its demands.

One possibility is that the army will pursue militant groups from Indian-administered Kashmir across the Line of Control into Pakistan-controlled territory.

## ODD WORLD

### Pregnancy makes would-be daddies fatter

First-time dads-to-be are prone to put on weight and reach for the bottle during their partner's pregnancy rather than after the baby is born, according to an Australian study documenting a form of male pre-natal depression.

A three-year study by the Adelaide-based Flinders Medical Centre (FMC) found on average men put on 3.5 pounds and one in seven started to drink a dangerous amount of alcohol before the baby's birth to counteract stress and less mating.

"This was surprising because it was expected that the fathers would be more likely to feel anxious after the baby was born than before," FMC researcher, Carolyn Corkindale, told Reuters.

"Men get stressed and depressed because they are not prepared for the changes to their lifestyle, they have poor role models and are neglected during pregnancy."

The study of 312 men in Sydney and Adelaide, aged 18 to 40, found 5.2 per cent of men were depressed and anxious before the birth, declining to 3.7 per cent when their baby was a year old.

### Granny, 88, leads hunting contest

In a Texas contest to bag the biggest buck of the hunting season, 88-year-old grandmother, Viola Meckel, is the best shot of them all.

She is currently winning the competition in Comal County, north of San Antonio, with a 98-pound deer she gunned down earlier this month from the back door of her rural home.

Meckel said on Friday that she spotted the deer and grabbed a rifle she keeps by the door just for such moments.

"I'd had him in the scope several times, but it was too far away," she said. "Finally, I saw the buck coming up into my yard, and I shot him and I got him."

It was the fifth buck she has downed in the past three seasons. Meckel said her late husband taught her to shoot and she's been hunting for years.

"It's quite a sport. I do enjoy it," she said.

Unfortunately, the excitement of the hunt may have been too much because Meckel later had a heart attack and is currently recovering in the hospital.

While the deer is small by hunting standards, it represents a growing population in an area becoming a suburb of San Antonio.

### US forces bombard Afghanistan with cake

US forces bombarded Afghanistan on Sunday — with 46,000 pounds of cake, a military spokesman said.

The cakes, from California, were dropped near the cities of Mazar-i-Sharif and Kunduz in the north and Kandahar in the south, Sergeant Major Raymond Cordell, head of public affairs at the US-British guarded Bagram air base north of Kabul, told Reuters.

Sunday was the start of Eid al-Fitr, the biggest holiday in the Muslim calendar when Muslims celebrate the end of the fasting month of Ramadan.

One of the traditional ways to mark the holiday is to share sweets, especially cakes, with family.

"It's the end of Ramadan, and we thought that after all the Afghan people have suffered, this could be one way to show our respect," Cordell said.

### Made-in-space TV commercial to be aired

The world's first completely made-in-space television commercial will be aired in Japan from next year, officials said on Monday.

The commercial, completed with the help of Russia, features a Russian astronaut picking up a floating bottle of a Japanese sports drink and gulping it down while looking at Earth from the International Space Station.

The ad for Otsuka Pharmaceutical Co's "Pocari Sweat" drink cost about 100 million yen (\$786,000) to make and will air from January 1, said an official at Japan's Dentsu Inc, the world's fourth largest advertising agency.

The National Space Agency of Japan also chipped in 10 million yen for the project, the Dentsu official said.



Philippine President, Gloria Macapagal Arroyo (left), joins Muslim leaders in prayers as they celebrate Eid-el-Fitr in suburban Caloocan city, North of Manila on Monday. Arroyo is the first president to proclaim the end of Ramadan as a national holiday to promote awareness among this predominantly Catholic nation.

## Al-Qaeda fighters publicly paraded

Anti-Taliban fighters have publicly paraded captured members of the al-Qaeda terror network, as they continue to meet resistance from others forced out of their bases in mountains in eastern Afghanistan.

The anti-Taliban Afghan forces, backed by US and British troops, have taken dozens of prisoners since Sunday after they cleared areas in Tora Bora.

But the BBC correspondent in Tora Bora said that anti-Taliban forces are still meeting with resistance from pockets of al-Qaeda fighters.

Many of al-Qaeda fighters have fled to the higher hills and the bombing by US planes is continuing.

Al-Qaeda bases in the region fell over the weekend following a sustained bombardment by US

warplanes. But despite allied gains on the ground, few senior al-Qaeda figures have been captured.

There is still no sign of their leader, Osama bin Laden, the man accused of masterminding the September 11 terror attacks on the United States.

Speaking at the Pentagon, Rear Admiral John Stufflebeem said Bin Laden's whereabouts were anybody's guess.

The anti-Taliban forces have been searching the network of caves and tunnels in Tora Bora to flush out any remaining fighters, while other troops have been stationed on mountain ridges to cut off possible escape routes.

But the search has been complicated by the

inhospitable terrain and the presence of mines.

Mr. Stufflebeem said the search for al-Qaeda fighters in the Tora Bora was a difficult job.

## Five killed as Haiti foils coup

Armed commandos stormed Haiti's National Palace on Monday, taking over radio communications and killing at least five people before the building was recaptured by police.

The attackers, reported to be former members of the Haitian military, were pushed back in an intense exchange of gunfire by security guards at the palace, which is President Jean-Bertrand Aristide's official residence.

Pro-Aristide protesters erected barricades of burning tyres to block off main roads and set fire to

the headquarters of the Democratic Convergence opposition alliance in retaliation.

"We have defeated the coup, but it is not over yet," Mr. Aristide said after returning to the palace.

At the time of the attack, in the early hours of Monday morning, Mr. Aristide and his family were sleeping at another home, in the suburbs of the capital Port-au-Prince.

The gunmen were thought to be members of the former military, which was disbanded after 1994 when Mr. Aristide was restored to power following his ousting in an earlier coup.

# Congratulations



## **Alhaji Abdullahi Muhammad Sallam Hashim (OFR)**

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in recognition of your meritorious service to your Father-land.

You are indeed the star and pride of the family  
and will forever remain our source of inspiration.  
May Allah (SWT) in His infinite mercies continue to guide you  
and bless you with long life and good health. Amen.



Alhaji Salem Ali Sallam *ANIOS, ROS, IWINI*  
*for the family*

# BUSINESS DAY

## FG commits N100bn to power plants rehabilitation

The Federal Government has spent N100 billion in the last 24 months to rehabilitate broken down plants and raise generating capacity from 1,700 megawatts to 4,000 megawatts.



Segun Agagu, Power & Steel Minister.

From Rakiya A. Muhammad, in Lagos

Minister of Power and Steel, Dr. Olusegun Agagu, disclosed this in a lecture on Independent Power Projects in Lagos.

Dr. Agagu, who was represented by a Member of the Technical Board on NEPA, Engineer Folusege Shomolu, noted that with Nigeria embracing democracy, the investment climate has improved considerably, adding that it is expected to translate into more rapid economic growth.

According to him, expected growth in the electricity sector should cost about \$3 billion or N422 billion at an average cost of N500 for every 1,000 megawatts.

Earlier, he said corresponding demand for electricity is estimated at an additional 1,000 megawatts

per year over the next six years.

He, however, lamented that the country is still only 35 per cent to 45 per cent covered by electricity delivery network, noting that the sums of money required to sustain the system had reached staggering proportions that government cannot continue to provide by itself.

While stressing the need for private involvement in the sector, the power minister added that government access to the cheap funds from abroad has started to dwindle due to huge unpaid

debts of the country.

Hitherto, the minister noted, "government monopoly of the electricity sector was considered necessary in order to enable the country get the benefit of cheap funds available to government from international lending agencies like the World Bank as well as other aid schemes of friendly countries which would not be available to independent commercial companies."

While stating that some forms of IPP involvement are already in place in the country, he explained that until the electricity sector is properly deregulated and investors confidence in the country's economy as well as democracy are built, IPP's will continue to require power purchase agreements with the country's sole electricity utility, NEPA.

## Akume tasks MAN on local industries

From Mike Elaigwu, in Makurdi

The Benue State Governor, Mr. George Akume has called on the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN) to intensify efforts to ensure the revival of local industries as the country has abundant raw materials to service them.

Mr. Akume stated this when the unit chairman exchange of five states, Mr. Albert T. Kattians, led a delegation, who were in the state for their 17th annual general meeting, to the governor's office in Makurdi.

He urged the members to take advantage of the abundant raw material deposits across the country

to improve the nation's economy, instead of relying on finished products importation which pegs the policies beyond the reach of ordinary Nigerians.

The governor also appealed to the federal government to award the contract for the 332 KVA electricity line from Oji River Power Station as the current 132 KVA in the state will not meet consumers demand, and demands of industries in the state.

In his remark, the unit chairman, Mr. Albert Kattians blamed the underdevelopment of local industries to lack of government's commitment and some inconsistent policies of the government.

Answering questions from newsmen after the visit, Kattians described the privatisation exercise as a step towards improving the nation's economy.

He said privatisation is the only vehicle of transparency and wheel for industrial development, if it is transparently executed.

## Abdulsalami decries imbalance in world trade

From Buhari Bello, in Jos

Former military Head of State, General Abdulsalami Abubakar, has decried a situation where African commodities account for over 70 per cent in the world market without a corresponding value.

He made this observation in a paper titled: "Regional integration and conflict management in Africa: ECOWAS and the challenges of the 21st Century," which he presented recently at the annual distinguished lecture of the Institute of Governance and Social Research (IGSR), in Jos.

The guest lecturer described as unfortunate the stagnating economies of African countries characterised by weak economy, declining industrial output, poor export performance, climbing debt and deteriorating social indicators.

"The economics of many West African countries are monocultural and dependent on primary commodities for their export earning." Their heavy reliance on primary commodities (including oil) persist. They still account for over 70 per cent of total export earnings. The commodities are still largely exported unprocessed without any value added," he said.

According to the former Nigerian head of state, the implication of this development was that the demands for African products remained income in elastic while their prices is fixed thereby resulting in price instability on the economy.

Under this situation, he pointed out that "many African countries resort to heavy external borrowing to sustain the level of their expenditure," stressing that "the external debt stock of the ECOWAS states is put at 70 billion US dollars, with Nigeria and Cote d'Ivoire accounting for about 70 per cent.

## Second carrier for Lagos/London route

## NASI plans lawsuit

Following the failure of the Federal Ministry of Aviation to designate a second indigenous carrier on the Lagos/London route and the plans by Virgin Atlantic Airways to gain access to additional frequencies on the route through a joint venture with the Nigeria Airways, the Nigerian Aviation Safety Initiative (NASI) has concluded plans to take the Ministry of Aviation to court over the issue.

According to the General Secretary of NASI, Captain Jerry Agbeyegbe, the organisation has engaged the services of renowned aviation lawyer, Jayo Haleye, who is currently involved in a case instituted by the Nigerian Aviation Ministry Handling Company (NAHCO), against the aviation ministry and the law firm, Ekene Odum and Co. for guidance.

Under the dual designation agreement, which was hurriedly entered into earlier in the year between the UK and Nigerian governments, Virgin Atlantic was nominated by the UK to route as a second carrier and allotted four out of a total fourteen frequencies, the remaining ten was reserved for British Airways.

NASI says it is concerned that whilst Virgin has already commenced operations and has started to enjoy the benefits of the

From Shakirat Abdulmajeed, in Lagos

agreement, no Nigerian carrier has been designated.

"Worse still, is the fact that Virgin now seeks to have access to the Nigerian frequencies through a ridiculous joint venture. If allowed to subsist, this will not only adversely affect the development of the air transport industry in the country, but amounts to economic sabotage" NASI charged.

According to the General Secretary of NASI, "having explored all other democratic options, we are going to court as our last hope, not only to seek a declaration to compel the Federal Government to designate a second carrier on the route, but to stop the unholy advancement of Virgin Atlantic against our National Economic Interest."

Captain Agbeyegbe further observed that a most commendable attempt by the National Assembly through the House of Representatives Aviation Committee to address this and other issues was stone walled by the aviation ministry.

Rather than address issues, the Honourable Minister's special assistant in exhibition of the ministry's insensitivity to the concern of industry, chose instead to personalise matters and pour venom of Honourable Awwal Tukur, the chairman of the House Aviation Committee, he said.

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**NOT LATER THAN FRIDAY, DECEMBER  
21<sup>ST</sup>, 2001**

# Privatisation UPDATE

## Developments in privatisation

In the bid to promote efficiency in the Nigerian Capital Market, protect shareholders and improve corporate governance, the NCP recently inaugurated a committee to explore the feasibility of establishing a National Depository.



Atiku Abubakar, NCP Chairman.

Although the committee has since started work, many questions are however, lingering on what a National Depository is all about.

In this edition, we attempt to share with our readers the picture of the inner workings of a National Depository.

What is a Depository?

A depository is essentially a financial institution established for the purpose of providing facilities for central handling of securities usually in electronic book-entries. The

functions of a depository thus involve the transfer of beneficial ownership in securities transactions.

In addition, a depository provides risk management and custodial services, enables securities lending and borrowing among users of its facilities, takes corporate actions on their behalf and holds records of securities on behalf of clients. Thus, depositories act in two board capacities; as clearing houses for securities and as custodians to their users.

In more elaborate terms, the functions of a typical depository area: Dematerialisation i.e. conversion of physical certificate to electronic form;

Rematerialisation i.e. conversion of securities (such as shares, debentures, bonds and units) in dematerialised form into physical certificates;

Electronic settlement of trades in stock exchanges connected to the depository;

Pledging/Hypothecation of dematerialised securities against bank loans;

Electronic credit of securities allotted in public issues, rights issues and splitting of securities;

Receipt of non-cash corporate benefits such as bonus shares in electronic form and Other services such as holding debt instruments in the same account, awaiting stock lending/borrowing facilities etc.

## Association proposes bill on regulation of private pension funds

The President of Association of Pension Fund and Investment Managers (APFIM), Chief Ajibola Ogunshola has disclosed that his association has set up a committee to prepare a pension bill that would be sent to the National Assembly.

Ogunshola who made this disclosure in a lecture at the Capital Market Correspondents' Association of Nigeria (CAMCAN) quarterly forum in Lagos, said the committee is being headed by the Vice President of APFIM, Mr. F. N. Akpe. He said the committees outline of a draft legislation for the regulation of private occupational pensions schemes in Nigeria, is in the form of a pension bill.

The draft, he said, will be subjected to wide consultations both within and without the association before it is submitted as a bill.

He advocated for the establishing of a self-financing Occupational Pension Board (OPB) to undertake the regulation of

such pension fund schemes in the country.

The APFIM president condemned the efforts being made by Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). To regulated pension funds in the country, saying that it has rights only over pension funds that are invested in the capital market.

On the OPB being advocated by his organisation, he stated that the "functions of the occupational pension board would be backed up by legislation and will address the various legal, administrative and some of the investment matters and problems bedeviling pension fund administration in Nigeria.

He called on the federal government to look into the issues of pension fund management for eh betterment of all and sundry, adding that even the public pension fund is being poorly managed and that NLC lackadaisical attitude to the issue is helping matters.

The National Insurance Commission (NAICOM), has approved a proposal by the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) to separate the core assets of both NICON and Nigeria-Re from other investments outside insurance.

By this approval, the bureau can now take inventory of the two insurance companies' liquid and solid assets they hold in banking, hotel, and other investments not within their statutory mandate.

Joseph Anichebe,

## NAICOM gives BPE green light on NICON, Nigeria-Re assets

Deputy Director, Public Affairs of BPE told Privatisation Update yesterday that with this development, the bureau will in January next year,

establish two Special Purpose Vehicles (SPV) to carry out the sorting of the assets.

"NAICOM has given BPE the green light to

establish two SPV that will enable the bureau separate the core assets of both NICON and Nigeria-Re," he said.

Anichebe said at the end of the separation exercise, the core assets of the insurance firms will then be transferred to new companies or SPVs that would be later sold off.

"Subsequently, the core assets of both insurance firms will be transferred to the new companies or SPVs created for NICON and Nigeria-Re and privatised.

Unlike the case of NITEL where its solid assets outside telecommunications infrastructures were to be transferred to the pension fund, the two parent insurance companies are said to be buoyant enough to handle their pension fund even after they are sold.

## BPE proposes teams for refineries, NPA, others

The BPE has proposed five additional in-house team on fire critical areas of the economy where the federal government intends to sell off its equity stake in companies doing business on its behalf. A similar team was last week raised for NEPA.

The in-house team



Nasir el-Rufai, BPE DG.

include those on oil and gas, aviation, transport and other transactions.

According to a statement from the bureau, Mr. B. Onagoruwa will head the oil and gas team that will be charge with the responsibilities of privatisation of the nation's refineries.

Members of the team include E. Edu, B. Kuru, S. Bukoye, B. Ajagunna J. Odu and L. Okorie.

For the aviation team which is expected to handle Nigeria Airways and Federal Airport Authority of Nigeria (FAAN), T. Abdullahi is team leader with I. N. Chigbue, I. Njidah, M. Abiodun, I. Kashim, A. Asikiwe, M. Bamali and Sadiq Mohammed as members.

Hassan Usman will head the ports team to work on the NPA, while U. Mohammed,

transactions team that will package NICON, Nigeria-Re, Afribank, Assurance Bank, Bank of Industry, NACB, Federal Mortgage Bank, NSITF and the security unit.

K. Khalidson, B. Wuro, C. Anohu, O. Olowo, O. Dinneh, A. Gwani, J. Ma'azu and Ijeoma Nwogwugwu are to serve as members.

The railway team has a five member team, with Y. Adamu, Chairman and the members are L. Yahaya, I. Ayewoh, M. Aliyu and K. Khalidson.

The statement also indicated that E. Obi is heading the other

Members of the team include; L. Gada, A. Othman, R. Ogugu, S. Sule, A. Tukur, H., Bashir, A. Amaechi, A. Hassen and Hassan Usman.



## TENDER NOTICE CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA NIGERIAN TREASURY BILLS

Notice is hereby given by the Central Bank of Nigeria that 91-day Federal Government of Nigeria Treasury Bills amounting to N16,000 million will be issued by an auction-based system on Thursday, 27/12/2001.

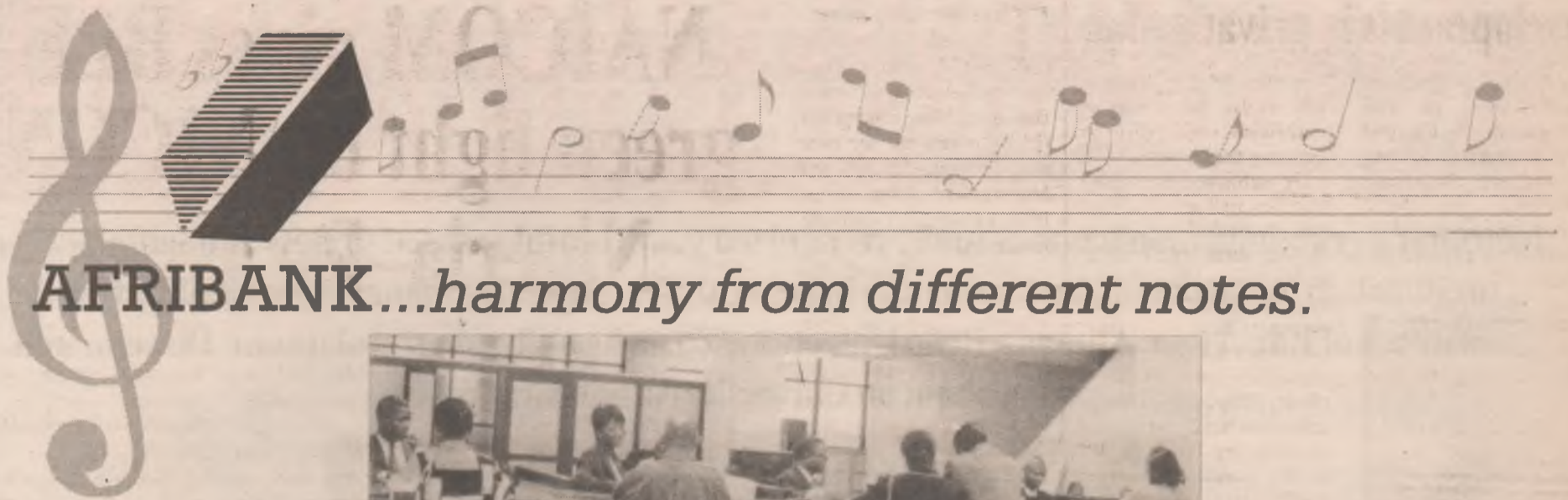
Interested Authorized Dealers (Commercial/Merchant Banks, Designated Discount Houses and Brokers) are invited to submit tenders to reach the Public Debt Office, Central Bank of Nigeria, Lagos, not later than 1.30 p.m on Tuesday, 25/12/2001.

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 Tuesday, 25/12/2001. The Bank reserves the right to reject any tender in part or in full.

Allotment letters will be issued to successful tenderers on Wednesday, 26/12/2001. Payment in full for the amounts of the accepted tenders must be made to the Central Bank of Nigeria not later than 1.30p. m on the issue date 27/12/2001. This will normally be effected by direct debit to the accounts of the affected Authorized Dealers which should ensure that their accounts with the Bank are adequately funded for this purpose.

PUBLIC DEBT OFFICE  
CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA  
TINUBU SQUARE  
LAGOS.



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# CONGRATULATIONS ON A WELL – DESERVED HONOUR

Now that a grateful nation has eventually recognized your dutiful years of tireless and selfless service to education in particular, and humanity in general, We, the entire management and staff of the Institute of Education, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria heartily congratulate our Director and Consultant on University Administration,



***Professor Adamu Baikie, CON***

on his conferment with the Prestigious national honour of *Commander of the Order of the Niger (CON)* by His Excellency and Commander in-Chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, President Olusegun Obasanjo.

Knowing you as a man of dedication, determination and transparency, this recognition has not come to us as a surprise. You will for ever remain a perpetual source of inspiration and a reference point to us at the Institute of Education, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, in particular, and in Nigeria and Africa in general.

***Once again, accept our very heartfelt congratulations.***

**Management and Staff of the  
Institute of Education,  
Ahmadu Bello University,  
Zaria.**

# Congratulations



The Executive Governor of Bauchi State,  
His Excellency, Alhaji Ahmadu Adamu Mu'azu  
(Mutawallen Bauchi) on behalf of his family,  
The Government and Entire Good,  
Peace-Loving People of Bauchi State  
Heartly Congratulate the Nine Distinguished  
Indigenes of the State for their Well Deserved  
National Honours conferred on them by the  
President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria,  
His Excellency Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, GCFR.

1. Alh. (Dr.) Mahmoud Yayale Ahmed (CFR)
2. Alh. Mohammed Bello Kirfi (OON)
3. AMB. Abba Abdulkadir (OON)
4. Dr. Gambo Laraba Abdullahi (OON)
5. AMB. Mohammed Chadi Abubakar (OFR)
6. Alh. Ibrahim Jarma (OFR)
7. Alh. Adamu Hussaini (OFR)
8. Alh. Dahiru Musa Jahun (1st Class Federal Republic Medal)
9. Alh. Bala Yakubu Lame (2nd Class Federal Republic Medal)

*You Have Done It!  
We Have Seen It!  
We Are Proud of You!*

**Alhaji (Dr.) Ahmadu Adamu Mu'azu, (Mutawallen Bauchi)**

Signed:-  
Alh. Madaki Hamma  
Hon. Commissioner,  
Ministry of Information & Culture, Bauchi State.

NEWS

Briefs

Abeokuta

As a result of the nationwide strike embarked upon by the Medical and Health Workers Union (MHWU), the lives of patients currently on admission at the Federal Medical Centre, Idi-Aba, Abeokuta, are in serious danger.

Dr. Ukum Ukpong of the centre informed our correspondent that the situation is so bad that "it is not possible to admit patients, it is not possible to treat patients or do anything meaningful in the hospital for the time being."

Jos

The Jos Ultra-Modern Amusement Park, with out-door picnic parks, tennis courts, swimming pool, children's playground and accommodation chalets, was recently commissioned by president Olusegun Obasanjo.

Commissioning the project, which was abandoned by previous administrations, the president said its completion re-affirms Plateau State's position as Nigeria's tourism capital.

Lokoja

The former Chairman, Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Kogi State chapter, Mr. Justice Etu, has berated the National President of the union, Mr. Smart Adeyemi, for interfering in the activities of the Credentials Committee set up by the Kogi NUJ to organise elections into the state chapter.

Mr. Etu warned the NUJ boss to stay clear of the state union's matters, adding that to "avert serious constitutional crisis in the Kogi State chapter of the Nigeria Union of Journalists, elections should be allowed to hold immediately."

Gusau

Gusau, the Zamfara State capital, has recently been losing its streets lights, one of the major achievements of Governor Ahmed Sani's administration.

Daily Trust gathered that no fewer than 200 of such streets lights have so far been destroyed along Gusau-Zaria Birnin Ruwa-Sabon Gari and Gusau-Sokoto roads, owing to over-speeding by mostly under-aged commercial drivers.

Concerned citizens have, therefore, called on the relevant authorities to check the increasing threat to lives and property posed by the recklessness of these under-aged and sometimes drunken drivers.

IFAD president makes case for rural poor

The visiting International Food and Agricultural Development (IFAD) President, Mr. Lennart Bage, has urged world leaders to give priority attention to poverty alleviation among the rural communities, who constitute the majority of the world's population.

Bage said in an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) that "we cannot also afford to fail the



Mallam Adamu Ciroma

poor, because we all belong to one world, and they have a right to live in dignity too."

Bage, who signed a \$29.9 million loan agreement with the Federal Government recently, in Abuja, said "the present situation in which more than 1,200 million absolutely poor human beings are condemned to short lives, stunted growth, ill-health and illiteracy, is no longer acceptable from a moral or realistic point of view".

The IFAD boss said poverty poses a great threat to social stability, and acts as a reservoir for communicable diseases as well as crime, warning that "nobody, rich or poor, can remain immune from the consequences of poverty."

Bage disclosed that in sub-Saharan Africa where more than half of the rural population lives below poverty line, sustainable growth would only be

achievable through the creation of conditions, in which poor groups could increase their productivity and output.

He declared: "Human capital and the capacity to work are among the most important assets the poor possess. Past privations have often left them inadequately equipped in the skills required to deal with modern

technologies and markets.

"Enhancing these skills and building the capital of the poor is particularly important as it would have a major impact on both their economic productivity and their human dignity."

The IFAD president, who said the Nigerian government has adopted the right approach to rural development and poverty

alleviation, urged it to commit more resources and political will to rural community development.

"If government emphasises commitment to rural development in the budget, the international community would readily assist. But Nigeria must be seen to be committed to helping itself first," he added.

Community opposes reinstatement of exiled chief

The Kurama community of Kaduna State has warned the state government against the reinstatement of the exiled chief of the area, Alhaji Tanimu Shuaibu, who has been accused of having a hand in the bloody civil unrest that rocked the chiefdom last June.

The spokesman of the Kurama Federated Association (KFA), Dr. Lazaru Mantau Soni, said at a press conference in Kaduna that the entire Kurama people were vehemently opposed to the reinstatement of the exiled traditional ruler.

"We want to reiterate that Alhaji Tanimu should not be reinstated as the Chief of Kurama Chiefdom. We should be allowed to choose our own chief just as it is in other chiefdoms and not by self-imposition," the spokesman added.

Discrediting the claim by the government appointed reconciliation committee, KFA said any reconciliation that did not take the majority view into consideration was unacceptable.

"Our opinion, therefore, regarding this matter is that the submission by our representatives should stand and nothing else," the group demanded.

The community maintained that the Tagurai Sambo Committee did not complete its assignment before briefing the governor and going on air to announce that reconciliation had been achieved.

Referring to a 20-point charge against the exiled chief, the association declared: "We are quick to conclude that Alhaji Tanimu Shuaibu has been found to be completely unfit to be the chief of Kurama, as he was supposed to project the objectives of government towards ensuring peace, justice and transparent rulership in Kurama chiefdom."

The Kurama people, through their spokesman, also alleged that the chief was imposed on them by the Zazzau Emirate as no council of kingmakers existed before the creation of the chiefdom.

They, therefore, called for the creation of a council of kingmakers comprising all major clans in the chiefdom, who will see to the emergence of a new chief.

From Ibrahim Dan-Halilu, in Kaduna

other chiefdoms and not by self-imposition," the spokesman added.

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Referring to a 20-point

Tinubu to rebuild demolished churches if...

Governor Ahmed Bola Tinubu of Lagos State has promised to rebuild demolished churches, if the owners present valid building plans.

Leaders of the Victory Christian Church, Abule-Oshun, Lagos, and the Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria (PFN) are fighting the Lagos State government over the demolition of their churches.

Tinubu told newsmen in Lagos that the state government, which ordered the demolition of the churches, would rebuild them, if the Church leaders produced certificates to build on the ground.

"If they can produce one single paper of planning permission or approval that was given to them or a design for the planning or



Gov Ahmed Tinubu

an application that the church made to the government for them to commence building, then I will rebuild the churches," Tinubu said.

"Without that, I will demolish it in totality.

The Church cannot use religion to stalemate or intimidate the implementation of the law."

He said government was merely ensuring the rule of law and was not biased in favour of anybody, adding that government had earlier demolished property belonging to Muslims without any hue and cry, since the property had no approval permit.

The governor stated that he had written to the PFN to forward to him a document of approval on the land by his administration, saying the provision of the document would make it mandatory for the demolished building to be rebuilt.

The Church wall was demolished on December 7 and 11 workers of the state's Ministry of Physical Planning and Environment.

It would be recalled that last Thursday at a peaceful demonstration at the governor's office, the PFN gave the state government 21 days to rebuild the church.

Cross River NLC calls-off strike

From Bassey Ita, in Calabar

The one-month-old industrial action embarked upon by the workers in the Cross River State Civil Service has been called-off.

This followed an agreement reached at the weekend by government and labour leaders on the issue.

According to a communiqué issued after their meeting, government agreed to re-instate all retrenched workers within seven working days. Government and labour also agreed that October and November salaries be paid before December 24.

Daily Trust authoritatively gathered that the resolution of the government-labour dispute followed the intervention of prominent citizens of the state. Labour, it will be recalled, embarked on a strike to press for the recall of 210 staff of the state Water Board earlier sacked.

WESTERN UNION  
Road to  
2002

DRAW LOCATIONS

**KANO**  
Royal Tropicana Hotel  
Date: December 9, 2001

**ENUGU**  
Hotel Presidential, Enugu  
Date: December 13, 2001

**BENIN**  
Akenzua Cultural Centre, Benin  
Date: December 17, 2001

**KADUNA**  
Crystal Garden, Kaduna  
Date: December 20, 2001

**LAGOS**  
Eko FM Multi-purpose Hall, Ikeja.  
Date: December 27, 2001.

Time: 10.00 am.  
in all locations

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NEWS

### Alwali Kazir congratulates Bade Emir, others

One-time Chief of Army Staff, General Alwali Kazir (rtd.) has congratulated the Emir of Bade, Alhaji Saleh Suleiman II and two prominent indigenes of the Bade community in Yobe state on the conferment of national honours on them by the president and commander-in-chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo.

General Kazir, who spoke at a civic reception organised for the recipients at the Sheraton Hotels and Towers, Abuja, urged them to strive for more honours as there were more challenges still ahead.

**By Zakari Suleiman**  
His words: "I congratulate you on your well-deserved national honours. It means our country is not blind to selfless service to the community and the nation at large. And I urge you to keep it up as more challenges and honours await you in life."

The reception was organised by the Bade community in Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), to honour the Emir as well as Alhaji Zarma Gorgoram and Hajiya Fati Mu'azu.

While the Emir was made

an Officer of the Order of the Federal Republic (OFR), the others became Members.

General Kazir, who was the chairman of the occasion, expressed dissatisfaction with the performance of some Bade indigenes in public service, saying "success in public service cannot be measured in terms of personal aggrandisement, but in terms of how a politician impacts the community positively."

Speaking at the occasion, the Emir, Alhaji Saleh II, called for self-help efforts to combat desert encroachment and floods which are making life uncomfortable for the generality of the people.

### Water Board warns on water-borne diseases

Determined to expand and deliver quality service to the 12.5 million people of Lagos State, the State Water Corporation has warned consumers against contracting water-borne diseases from alternative sources of water.

Appealing to consumers to pay regularly for consumption to assist the corporation generate enough revenue for its expansion efforts, it warned that neglect could cause diseases such as typhoid, hepatitis, dysentery and cholera.

The corporation, expected to derive an immediate benefit of more than N26 billion through the Private Sector Participation (PSP) policy scheduled for implementation next year, explained that prompt payment of bills would help in the sustenance of the system.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that, at present, less than 35 per cent of water generated, reaches the people, leaving a large number of people at the mercy of water vendors and

alternative sources of water. Stressing the need for the expansion in the service delivery of the corporation, its Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Olumuyiwa Coker, said this was necessary in the quest for portable water for all and the building a healthy and productive population.

He told the NAN at the weekend in Lagos that it was an "established fact that our water is safe, clean, germ-free and cheaper compared with other alternative sources of water."

The corporation, he said, needs the co-operation of consumers in its revenue drive because of its myriad of commitments, including the procurement of spare parts, chemicals, diesel, payment of wages, electricity bills and meeting other social obligations.

He also explained that consumer care centres have been established to attend to complaints, such as wrong billings, erratic supply, abandoned bills, burst pipes, illegal connections, diversion and low pressures amongst others.

### Police nab suspected arms-dealer

The Ogun State Police Command at the weekend arrested a suspected arms dealer, who specialises in importing arms into the country from the neighbouring Benin Republic.

The suspect (names withheld), who had successfully beaten security operatives in Benin and Nigeria, ran out of luck when he was nabbed by eagle-eyed local government officials at Imeko motor park in Badagary.

The suspect was about to board a Sango-Ota (Ogun State bound commercial bus at the motor park at the time of his arrest. Found on him were 12 rifles carefully wrapped in tokumbo used clothes.

According to police source, the suspect was a middleman between a yet to be identified dealer in Benin Republic and buyers in Ibadan, the Oyo State capital.

Following the arrest and subsequent confession of the suspect, the Chairman Imeko-Afan Local Government, Alhaji Ibrahim Abiola Dande, enjoined residents of the town to be on the alert.

His words: "I urge the people of Imeko to be vigilant and thwart efforts of undesirable elements who may want to perpetrate their clandestine activities through the international borders in the area."

Confirming the arrest, the state police boss, Mr. Udom Ekpoundom, said "my men who were on patrol on Saturday evening picked an arms smug-

From Olumide Bajulaiye, in Abeokuta

gler with 12 foreign made single barrel pistols.

"He confirmed upon interrogation that he has his base in Ibadan, the headquarters of his syndicate. Already detective have made some arrests in Ibadan. Meanwhile investigations are still on. When they are completed we will make our findings public.

### Enugu re-affirms commitment to welfare of handicapped children

Governor Chimaroke Nnamani of Enugu State has re-affirmed his government's commitment to the welfare of the handicapped and mentally retarded children.

Nnamani, who made the commitment in Enugu at the launching a book entitled "Rehabilitation of Children With Mental and Learning Disabilities in Nigeria," said government would provide an enabling environment for the survival of such handicapped children.

The governor promised

to offer logistical and professional support to the organisers of the event, Therapeutic and Day Care Centre, Ugbo-Ezeji in Abakpa, near Enugu.

Nnamani, who was represented at the occasion by the Chairman, Post-Primary Schools Management Board, Mr. Mathias Eze, praised Mrs. Hildegard Ebigo, a German, for founding the centre.

He said Ebigo, wife of the book's author, deserved commendations for her commitment and concern for

the education of the handicapped children in Nigeria.

The governor made a pledge of N25,000 in support of the school and called on the Federal Government to re-name the school, Enugu Therapeutic Centre, to serve as a model centre for the training of children with mental retardation.

The book's author and winner of the Nigerian National Merit Award for the year 2000, Prof. Peter Ebigo, said the plight of the mentally retarded children in the country, particularly in Enugu State, informed his decision to write the book to further highlight their problems and suggest ways of solving them.

Recounting her 22 years' of service to the centre, Mrs. Ebigo said through her efforts, "children, abandoned to their fate, now have hope they are now contributing their quota to nation-building through their God-given talents."

### Dariye commends NASS over electoral bill

Governor Joshua Dariye of Plateau State has commended the National Assembly over the electoral bill passed into law recently, saying, it did a good job.

Addressing a gathering at the Government House, Jos, Dariye said there was nothing wrong in extending the tenure of local council chairmen to four years as provided by the bill.

"The National Assembly has done very well. As far as I am concerned, the electoral bill is commendable. Extending the tenure of local council chairmen to four years is in order," the governor reiterated.

He said anything capable of derailing the present democratic experiment should be avoided, pointing out that since council chairmen were "partners in progress," they should be encouraged and supported to deliver democratic dividends to the grassroots.

The governor also commended journalists in the state for highlighting the

dividends of democracy in Plateau and promised to brief them periodically on the activities of his administration.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that Dariye's position on the electoral bill is in total contrast with that of other governors, who have already threatened court action over the extension of the tenure of council chairmen to four years.

### Zamfara to continue with poverty alleviation

The Zamfara State Government has pledged to continue with its loan disbursement Programme to the people of the state despite the refusal of some beneficiaries of the Programme to repay their loans.

To this end, the state government has now earmarked an undisclosed amount of money in its 2002 budget to assist youths and women through the Programme.

Governor Sani disclosed this when he paid a Sallah

From Salisu Zakari Maradun, in Gusau

homage to the Emir of




Gov. Ahmed Sani

Gusau, Alhaji Muhammad Kabir Danbaba, in his palace.

The governor, who said, the funds would be channelled through the State's Poverty Alleviation Agency, popularly known as ZAPA, re-affirmed his administration's commitment to the welfare of the people, especially the under privileged.

In his response, the Emir of Gusau, Alhaji Muhammad thanked the state government for reviewing the salaries of the Islamic school teachers and pledged the support of the Emirate to its laudable objectives.

NTA 2 CHANNEL 5 Victoria Island, Lagos Your reachout station PROGRAMME SCHEDULE	
TIME	WEDNESDAY
6.00-6.30	Aerobics
6.30-7.00	Peri. The Globe/ Cartoon
7.00-7.05	News
7.05-7.30	Reports
7.30-8.00	Traffic Watch
8.00-8.30	Humour on Ice
8.30-9.00	Crime Watch
9.00-9.30	Golden Cage(B)
9.30-10.00	Motor Magazine
10.00-10.10	
10.10-10.30	SNOOPS
10.30-10.45	SNOOPS
10.45-11.00	
11.00-12.00	One on One
12.00-12.30	Family Matters
12.30-1.00	Airborne(sp)
1.00-1.30	Super Story
1.30-2.00	(sp)
2.00-2.15	News of the Hour(N)
2.15-2.30	Expose®
2.30-3.00	SuperHighway®
3.00-3.30	SuperHighway®
3.30-4.00	Sledge Hammer
4.00-4.30	News Update
4.30-5.00	Talking Finger (N) Live
5.00-5.30	Talk French(N)
5.30-6.00	On Wheels(sp)
6.00-6.30	Business&National Events(sp)
6.30-7.00	IT Impact(sp)
7.00-7.30	News at Seven
7.30-8.00	Today's Woman(sp)
8.00-8.30	Maggi Family Menu(N)
8.30-9.00	Strides(N)
9.00-10.00	NetworkNews
10.00-10.30	Sport Stars(N)
10.30-11.00	Household of God®sp
11.00-11.30	Jazz House II
11.30-12.00	Energy Summit(N)
12.00-12.30	Newscape
12.30-1.00	
1.00-1.30	Super Movies
1.30-2.00	Hour
1.00-2.00	NBA Action
2.00-2.30	
2.30-3.30	Ramadan
3.30-4.30	Diet
4.30-5.00	Live
5.00-6.00	



# INSIDE POLITICS

## Moves to impeach speaker worries Benue indigenes

Some concerned indigenes of Benue State have expressed dismay over moves to impeach the speaker of the State House of Assembly, Mrs. Margaret Icheen.

A statement issued by Messrs Myke Gbe and Edwards Inyah, both Makurdi-based politicians, stated that the Speaker was marked for impeachment because she attended the reception of the former National Chairman of the PDP, Chief Barnabas Gemade, in Gboko on December 10.

They said it was

saddening that the affairs of governance could descend to such a low level and called on the lawmakers to desist from the move in the interest of the state.

The duo also advised the governor that it was time for him to consolidate his quest for a second term by ensuring prompt and unstaggered payment of workers' salaries, pensions and students' grants and bursaries.

They criticised the first lady of the state, Mrs. Regina Akume's "Hope

Alive Foundation," which they said had turned out a failure after spending millions of naira in a year.

According to them, the land earmarked for it has since become a grazing ground for goats and rodents as well as for "card players at Kwararafa quarters."

Gemade had at the weekend, at Logo Local Government Area, noted that it had now become a feature for any council official who attends his reception to be removed from office.

Chief Arojo of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Ogun State, Chief Dele Arojo, has reiterated the determination of the people of Yewa land not to play second fiddle in the race to the Government House, come 2003 polls.

Chief Arojo, who is also a gubernatorial hopeful, made the declaration in Afon in Imeko Afon Local Government Area while flagging off his grassroots campaign in the area.

His words: "Yewa has suffered for long in the scheme of things in Ogun, as far as political and infrastructural distribution is concerned, and now is the time to assert our supremacy. Enough of this marginalisation."

He, however, urged the people of Yewa land to unite,

## We'll not play second fiddle – PDP aspirant

From Bajulaiye Adelanwa, in Abeokuta

explaining that "this is our brightest chance ever to produce the occupant at Oke-Mosan come 2003 and by the special grace of God, it shall come to pass."

While promising to restore the glory of Yewa land, if voted as governor, Arojo, called for unity of purpose in the rank of all Yewas both at home and in diaspora to make their dream a reality.

"We shall settle for nothing less, but the governorship ticket. We won't settle for deputy nor the secretary to the state governor," he said.

"We are enlightened

enough with the necessary materials to actualize our dream.

We will regain all our resources plundered to develop the state without any commensurate remuneration to the area that produced the resources," he added.

## Electoral law is a time bomb – PLP

The Progressive Liberation Party (PLP) has said the new Electoral Law was a time bomb designed by the executive and some legislators to derail the nascent democratic experiment.

Briefing newsmen before its national steering committee meeting in Abuja yesterday PLP Protem National Chairman, Dr. Ezekiel Izuogu said the law which sought to disenfranchise new political parties from participating in the 2003 federal and state elections was unconstitutional.

He said the document as signed by President Obasanjo did not represent the clean copy of the Electoral Bill passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives.

He declared that it "therefore stands condemned and reject as a bunch of fraud package to confuse Nigerians and derail the polity."

Dr. Izuogu said the PLP will not accept this development and will stop at nothing constitutional including legal and other option to redress this "oppressive justice" being visited on innocent and helpless Nigerians by those elected to guide and protect them.

Flanked by the Protem National Secretary, Professor Usman Hussain, former SDP Presidential aspirant, Mrs. Sarah Jibril, former Edo State Governor, Chief John Oyegun, Senator Spanner Okpozu and Chief Alexis Arielo, Dr. Izuogu said the PLP has taken the National Assembly to court.

He said the contentious law full short of the expectations of Nigerians and the international community. He said having presented Nigeria, as a country not ready for democracy the law is likely to scare away investors.

Dr. Izuogu said the actions of the President, the Senate President and Speaker House of Representatives were contrary to their oath office and a violation of the constitution which are impeachable breaches in a democratic society.

He said President Obasanjo has been a long time proponent of a one party state and his actions regarding the Electoral Act was a confirmation pointing out that it was impossible to understand his eagerness to sign the Electoral Bill while he refused to sign the NDDC Bill even after the National Assembly had passed it.

## Agitation for Ibadan State hot up

From Yinka Oladoyinbo, in Ibadan

Agitation for the creation of an Ibadan State was renewed on yesterday with a call on state Houses of Assembly nationwide to support and approve the creation when the time comes.

Section 8 of the 1999 constitution had stipulated that two-third of Houses of Assembly across the country must endorse by agitation for creation of new state before such state could be created.

The call was made by the President of the Central Council of Ibadan Indigenes (CCII), Chief Olabode Amoo, while addressing the press at the ancient Mapo Hall in Ibadan.

According to him the city of Ibadan has been neglected by successive governments since 1953 when the Western Region was created.

"What Ibadan has witnessed in the past 48 years was continual decimation and mutilation of the structures put in place for the Western Region. In the process, Ogun State, Ondo State, Osun and Ekiti States have been created with intention of developing these other parts of the western region but with no specific concern for Ibadan as a city," he said.

While substantiating the call for the state, the CCII President maintained that Ibadan is the gateway to the Northern part of Nigeria, and the only town that was formerly a regional capital and still does not have a state named after it.

Chief Amoo further explained that both Enugu and Kaduna States that were former regional capitals had been given state status, leaving behind only Ibadan.

He, however, explained that concrete arrangement on the state creation had been completed, saying that politicians and businessmen who had achieved success in the land should support the creation of the state.



Wife of Vice President, Chief (Mrs.) Titi Atiku Abubakar (right) and former Senate President, Chief Chuba Okadigbo at the Okadigbo's 60th birthday party, in Abuja... Sunday. Pix: Felix Onigbinde

## AD wants bonus for workers

Alliance for Democracy (AD) has appealed to President Olusegun Obasanjo to approve special December salary bonus for federal workers to enable them to cope with the demands of the festive season.

In a statement in Lagos, the party said it was lamentable that the prices of essential commodities had suddenly shot up by 35 per cent, noting that there had been no corresponding increase in the income of the average Nigerian worker.

The statement, signed by AD's National Director of Publicity, Mr. Opeyemi Bamidele, pointed out that continuous power failure and insecurity of lives and property jointly made December an "unpleasant" month.

The statement, a copy of which was made available to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), urged the government to ensure that the police and the FRSC deployed more personnel to traffic control to effectively tackle the high volume of traffic at this time of the year.

It stressed the need for government to meet its December 31 target of providing every nook and cranny of the country with electricity, while efforts should be made to get Jebba, Kainji and Shiroro dams to operate at full capacity as soon as possible.

On the new Electoral Act, it urged the government to purge itself of "the contempt for the democratic aspirations of Nigerians by repenting of its sinful commitment to the ill-

fated Electoral Act and other economic and political policies that are capable of further

heightening tension and making mockery of the present democratic dispensation."

## Sankara commends electoral law

National ex-officio member of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Alhaji Danladi Sankara has commended the provision inserted in the electoral law demanding parties wishing to be registered to win at least 15 percent of chairmanship and councillorship in two third of states.

Alhaji Sankara who is a PDP elder in Jigawa State told the *Daily Trust* in Kano that the clause would instill sanity into the polity and weed out unserious political associations.

He commended President Obasanjo for the foresight stating that the proposed amendment should not raise any suspicions as Obasanjo is doing it for the interest of the nation.

From Jamilah Nuhu Musa, in Kano

"Obasanjo does not have a hidden agenda," he stated.

As such it is premature to begin to predict that newly registered political parties would be precluded from elections if they did not perform effectively at the grassroots level.

Alhaji Danladi Sankara who is also chairman board of directors of the Hadeia Jama'are River Basin Development Authority said that people should give our nascent democracy the opportunity to thrive.

According to him, democracy in this country is still young, it should be given chance to grow and such proposals and amendments are the necessary ingredients for

This space is for sale

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**FHA reduces prices of Lugbe houses - Page 24**



Edited by Kevin Ebele Adinnu

**AUTO ACCIDENT**

**2 die on Nyanya-Keffi road**

By Tashikalmah Hallah

Two people were killed yesterday in an auto accident along the Nyanya-Keffi road, which left four others with serious injuries.

Witnesses told *Abuja Trust* that the accident which affected traffic on the road for about four hours, happened at about 8.45 am when a commercial motorcyclist attempted to cross the road and was knocked down by a pick-up van with an Abuja registration number AX 511 KWL, which later somersaulted.

The motorcyclist and his passenger were killed on the spot. The driver of the pick-up and two other passengers received injuries and were taken to the Garki General Hospital.

Soft drinks, which were being conveyed in the pick-up, were scattered across the highway, with broken bottles making smooth passage of vehicles difficult. This resulted in heavy traffic build-up with several drivers trying to make their ways out.

An FRSC officer attached to the Nyanya division who

pleaded anonymity, confirmed the casualty figure. He said the driver of the pick-up was on a controllable speed and tried to avoid the motorcycle but

failed, due to the sloppy terrain.

By the time *Abuja Trust* arrived at the scene, the victims were already taken to the hospital.

The Nyanya-Keffi road, otherwise known as the

valley of death, has been the theatre of several carnages which has cost an unspecified number of lives. This prompted the Federal Government's decision to dualise the road, a project which is being handled by

an indigenous construction firm, Setraco. The dualisation project which started in April this year has generated several complaints from members of the public who say it is going on at "snail speed."



An auto accident along Abaji road on sallah day.

Pix: Yakubu Ozohu-Suleiman.

**FRSC warns motorists on mobile phones**

By Austine Odo

The Sector Commander, Federal Road Safety Corps in the FCT, Cdr. Danjuma Aliyu Garba, has warned motorists in the FCT against the use of cellular phones while driving.

Speaking with *Abuja Trust* yesterday on the sector's activities towards checking the excesses of drivers and reducing carnage on the roads during the festive period, Cdr. Aliyu Garba emphasised that the use of cellular phones was a distraction on the roads, saying the FRSC believed

that anything that constitutes hazards should not be used while driving.

According to the sector commander, "research has shown that a man on a cellular phone while driving is just like a drunken driver, because his concentration is not complete, and while driving, it is expected that you have full concentration."

Cdr. Garba therefore advised law-abiding motorists to "desist from making calls while on the steering wheel." He said a number of motorists had already been booked for the offence, adding that many drivers who do not want to be corrected would want to learn the hard way.

On efforts to check road accidents during the period, the sector commander said following increased public enlightenment and enforcement of traffic rules, his command had intensified patrols on major roads within the capital city. He however advised motorists to observe

traffic regulations, stay off alcohol, obey traffic lights and avoid over speeding or use of drugs.

"Many get carried away by the nature of vehicles they drive and over speed. People should maintain their vehicles. It is advisable to subject vehicles to tests to avoid disappointment," he said.

Cdr. Garba also cautioned against night journeys, saying "night journeys are suicidal and every family should see safety as a collective responsibility. If family members advise their relatives to observe traffic rules, accidents will be reduced. It should not be left to FRSC alone," he said.

On the Nyanya-Keffi road, he advised motorists to keep some distance from other vehicles and drive with utmost care, especially during the period.

*Abuja Trust* investigations revealed that there are increased patrols by the FRSC on the major roads in Abuja, including the Nyanya-Keffi road, Gwagwalada -Giri, Zuba-

Suleja, Kubwa-Berger, Airport road, and Gwagwa-Karmo roads. Congested areas are also being eased up for smooth traffic, just as the Corps has maintained 24-hour patrols by standby reserve teams, marshals and ambulances.

As a result of the

increased traffic control, only three lives were lost in auto crashes in Abuja during the sallah break. While two persons died in Kubwa, one died in Minister's Hill. The accidents resulted from over speeding, according to the FRSC.

**Hausa leader charges MFCT on markets**

By Godwin Tyonongo

The Ministry of Federal Capital Territory (MFCT), has been charged to quickly develop all markets in the territory.

The *Sirkin Hausawa* (Chief of Hausas), Abuja, Alhaji Ahmed Mohammed Grena, gave the charge in his sallah message at the weekend.

The traditional ruler described the present state of the FCT markets as congested.

On who should be in control of the markets, Alhaji Grena opined that wherever a market is sited, the area

council and MFCT have it as a responsibility to oversee its affairs.

Early last week, the new Wuse Market was burnt, killing no fewer than three persons, including a pregnant woman.

Observers blamed the incident on poor planning, which according to them impeded prompt fire service operation.

FCT Minister, Engr. Abba-Gana has since set up a committee to evaluate the extent of damage.



Musiliu Smith, IGP.

# Abuja Trust

## News

### AEPB warns on bush burning

By Tashikalmah Hallah

Residents of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) have been urged to desist from any form of bush burning during the harmattan period.

The Director and Chief Executive of the Abuja Environmental Protection Board (AEPB) Engineer Ibrahim Mohammed gave the warning in his office while speaking to journalists.

According to him, a situation where some residents burn bushes or dry trash or set rubbish on fire is unhealthy to the environment, as emission from such fires pose health hazards and destroys soil nutrients.

He warned that the AEPB would not tolerate any form of bush burning or thrash flaming throughout the dry season, lamenting that bush burning had "robbed" FCT of valuable trees, vegetation, flowers and hedges on which government had invested huge sums of money to conserve, plant and maintain.

These losses he said, are in addition to destruction of solid infrastructure with the NEPA and NITEL installations, public and private buildings.

Engineer Mohammed, while advising the residents to always use bins and bags provided by the board to store their refuse for easy evacuation also frowned at the incessant cases of burning on the major highways in the FCT saying that the AEPB would do everything possible to bring

the trend to a stop.

The Director however acknowledged that vehicles catch fire no matter how new they may be, but advised drivers and vehicle owners to always make sure that their vehicles are always roadworthy. Burnt vehicles, he said, constitute menace on the highways.

Also worrisome to the AEPB, according to him, are the problem of flooding following heavy rainfall in the rainy season; soil infertility and general environmental infertility that are glaring in the FCT.

Engineer Mohammed promised that the board would continue to do

everything humanly possible to meet up with the expectations of residents in terms of environmental cleanliness, but regretted that, often, those who create and promote environmental problems are usually the first to pick holes with the operations of the board.

He added that with the level of support given to the board by the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Engineer Muhammed Abba-Gana the operations of the board would continue to improve. He called on the area council chairmen in the FCT, chiefs and leaders of trade unions to appeal to their members to make Abuja the most environmental friendly city.



Engr. Abba Gana, FCT Minister

### ... Council chairman too

By Yakubu Ozohu-Suleiman

The Chairman of Abaji Area Council, Mr. Sokodabo, has warned Fulani cattle rearers and people of the area council to desist from setting bushes on fire, as it has been identified as a major source of environmental hazard.

The Chairman gave the

warning in one of the series of meetings he had with people of the area council and the task force on environmental protection in Abaji. "In fact, we are very uncomfortable with the rate of bush burning which is not

taking place only in Abaji. We have had several meetings with Fulani cattle rearers who happen to be the major people responsible for the atrocity. Unfortunately the cattle rearers feel that they have to burn the dried grasses so that new ones would grow for their cattle to

graze, unknown to them that the soil nutrients which enable new grasses to grow is killed by burning."

"We have instructed the Forestry Unit of the Agric Department to be at alert, and anyone caught in the act would face the wrath of the law," he warned.

### Diplomat calls for tribal unity in FCT

By Emmanuel Ande

Gbagyi, people in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) have been urged to close ranks towards a legal framework that will give birth to a political structure for FCT indigenes.

A leader of the group and Nigeria's High Commissioner to the Gambia, Ambassador Jacob Ayuba Ngbako, gave the charge at the Gbagyi Day Celebration in Abuja at the

weekend.

Ambassador Ngbako stated that while Abuja indigenes had resolved to sponsor a bill to amend the FCT Act in the National Assembly, all ethnic groups in the FCT must work together to achieve the set objectives.

The diplomat noted that since December 1991 when the Babangida

administration transferred the federal capital from Lagos to Abuja, the people of Abuja who had customary ownership right to the land have been wallowing in abject poverty inspite of the affluent lifestyle prevalent in the city.

Chief Ngbako who was represented by his Special Assistant, Mr. Zaphaniah Ayuba, described Gbagyi as one of the largest ethnic

expressions in the FCT, stressing that this had made the unity of the people imperative in the pursuit of a mayoral status for Abuja.

According to the former chairman of the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in the FCT, Abuja indigenes remained the only people in the Nigerian democratic experiment that have no right to vote and be voted for in the second tier of governance, saying that "the people have waited too long for government's promises and may take to the last resort."

While appealing to the people to be calm and await the outcome of the recommendations of the 19-man committee set up for the purpose, Ngbako called on President Obasanjo to create a mayoralty for Abuja in fulfilment of his electioneering promises.

### New national policy on children out soon - Ismail

A comprehensive national policy that will ensure rapid development and welfare of the Nigerian child is being put in place by the Obasanjo administration, and will soon become operational.

The Minister of Women Affairs and Youth Development, Hajiya Aisha Ismail, made this known last week in Abuja at the closing ceremony of the National Children Festival of Arts and Culture (NACHIFEST) held at the old Parade Ground.

The minister, who had earlier accused Nigerian elites, adults and parents of fanning the embers of violence in Nigeria, using the young ones as cannon fodders, stressed that the Federal Government would do everything possible to protect the Nigerian child from all sorts of abuses and exploitation.

Hajiya Ismail also accused some parents of conniving with international syndicates to illegally transport their children and wards to different parts of the world for sexual and other forms of labour for paltry sums of money.

She stressed that this modern form of slavery in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century is not only criminal but also dehumanising to the human race, and must therefore be condemned in its entirety.

Hajiya Ismail said government is presently working hard to address this crime against humanity, through the promulgation of appropriate legislation against child abuse and trafficking with stiff penalties for culprits.

"The issue of child trafficking is critical because it has transcended national boundaries and has international networks which would require international alliances and commitment to combat," the minister remarked.

The one week festival which attracted over 1,000 children from the 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory, ended with Kano State emerging the overall winner in the competitive events that included Arts & Craft, creative writing, moonlight games and mock parliamentary sessions, among others.

### FCT Igbo women hold award ceremony

The Igbo Women Forum in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) will today hold its "Women of Excellence Year 2001 Award."

A statement made available to Abuja Trust yesterday said the award ceremony will be under the chairmanship of the Senate President, Chief Anyim Pius Anyim.

The statement said the award is aimed at encouraging Igbo women to work hard to compliment the

efforts of their husbands. It also advised Igbo women in the FCT to shun acts capable of affecting the economy of the country.

The occasion, which is to take place at the National Press Centre, Radio House, Garki will have the wife of the Vice-President, Hajiya Titi Amina Abubakar, as the special guest of honour.

The award ceremony will also be used to mark the 40<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Forum's National President, Chief (Mrs) J.N. Olojeme.



Women Affairs and Youth Development Minister, Hajiya Aisha Isma'il, (l) at the Enugu State stand during the 2nd National Children's Festival of Arts and Culture held in Abuja... recently. Pix: Felix Onigbinde.

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# Abuja Trust

## Habitat (property and environment column)

### Abandoned projects: Why so many

By Udosen Warsaw

Abandoned projects abound in Nigeria. Lagos and 'the young' FCT of Abuja are hard hit as they are teeming with careless abandoned projects both in the low income, high-density areas and the high income low density neighbourhoods.

A recent study has shown that over 50 percent of abandoned projects in the FCT are not because the developers are broke but principally as a result of inconclusive or non-existent feasibility and viability studies.

It is also very common to find completed projects or developments not gainfully in use. Such properties remain in the market for too long. One might wonder, how come beautiful houses are left vacant for so many years. But if one takes a closer look at the genesis of such projects, one would be surprised to find out that a good feasibility and viability appraisal of the projects were either neglected, not properly done or completely ignored by the developer. A property that was properly appraised before constitution will command the required rent, therefore, the question of the developer asking for too much on his property will not arise as the viability aspects of the appraisal would have taken into cognisance an obtainable open market figure. In the FCT, one could point instances such as the numerous vacant commercial properties in the CBD and particularly a well-finished shopping complex that has been vacant for well over five years on T. Y. Danjuma Street in Asokoro.

#### Why undertake feasibility and viability appraisal

The starting point for any system of project appraisal must be an examination of objectives and alternative means of achieving them. The first step before any take-off in the analysis is the decision to undertake the analysis. The decision process is complicated in the sense that the quality of any decision depends on the accuracy, quality and reliance on the basic information on which that decision is based. For a more reliable information on which to base the ultimate decision to invest funds (whether public or private) in any project, it is very necessary that a feasibility and viability study of the proposed project be carried out first.

The terms feasibility and viability are coterminous. A feasibility study is concerned with the fundamental question of the possibility or practicability of a development project or investment proposal. To establish feasibility, the project has to be weighed against certain parameters known as feasibility indicators, which primarily comprise technological, economic, legal, financial and socio-political feasibility. If the feasibility question is answered affirmatively given these constraints i.e. is this project practicable within the limits of available technological knowledge? Are there available, enough economic resources to support the project? Does the implementation of this project not contravene any law of the land? Are there enough finances available for this project to see it through? And if so, is such a project or scheme welcome and beneficial to our socio-political framework as a people? Feasibility is only established when these parameters are positive. The other side of the coin is viability and it seeks to find out the necessity, financial worthlessness and economic desirability of the project with regards to its ability to generate enough funds to raise the capital and interest on the loan. It seems to ask the question, "must it be done, should it be done." Is it worthwhile tying up funds on this project having regard to other opportunity cost of the same funds? Viability considers the major issues of cost of development vis-a-vis the benefits expected from the development, and the relationship between them, having regard to the major objectives of the project and the relative constraints.

This analyses the proposal based on the cash flow to establish its performance under the various indicators for project evaluation including (NPV) the Pay Back Period (PBP) which seeks to establish the length of time for the stream of cash proceeds produced by the investment to equal the original cash outlay by the investment? The Net Present Value (NPV) which is the value today of the surplus that a project makes over and above what it could make by investing at its marginal investment rate. A positive NPV means that the project is viable the internal rate of return which shows the rate of return that is being earned by capital tied up. The higher the IRR the more viable the project.

The bottom line is that a thousand and one reasons can be adduced for project failures (either abandoned ones or those completed but remaining void for long periods) therefore developers or financiers should learn to consult a professional in real estate, preferably an Estate Surveyor whose professional ethics stipulates and encourages that he be careful enough to anticipate a clients future needs and the relevance of feasibility and viability appraisal before the commencement of a project and seeing to it that the contents of such a report is implemented and concluded.

Mr. Udosen is a Senior Estate Surveyor with Country Home, Abuja.

## FHA reviews prices of Lugbe Houses

By Nasir Imam

first pay, first served.

The management of the Federal Housing Authority (FHA) has reviewed the prices of its houses at its Lugbe estate in the outskirts of Abuja where completion work has resumed in earnest.

In a press release made available to *Abuja Trust*, the Deputy General Manager (DGM) Public Relations, Mr. Fola Owoladi, said the cost of completing the houses have made it necessary to review the prices upward.

The statement revealed that depositors who had not made full payments are hereby revoked, but that those depositors still interested in new purchases will pay the new prices and be offered houses on the basis of

However, all allottees who have made full payments for their houses are excused from paying the new price, but are required to make capital contribution in respect of their units.

The development charge is a contribution to the cost of providing infrastructural development and must be borne by all full depositors whether they have moved into their houses or not.

Mr. Owolabi said the deadline for payment of capital contribution is January 31, 2002.

It will be recalled that the minister of state for works

and housing Mr. Garba Ali Madaki last month visited Lugbe in company of MD of

FHA, where both complained of lack of infrastructures at the estate.

The new prices are as follows:-

House Type	New Prices	Devt. Charge
Isheri A one b/r sitter bungler	1.5m	200,000.00
Isheri A two b/r sitter bungler	1.8m	250,000.00
Satellite B two b/r sitter bungler	2.5m	300,000.00
Satellite C three b/r sitter bungler	3m	400,000.00

### Bank of the North tower

The newly completed Bank of the North (BON) office complex on Herbert Macaulay Way in Garki, Abuja, is a magnificent 12-storey structure comprising a banking and multi purpose hall at the ground floor, nine floor office space, and two pent-house suites capping the elegantly designed building.

Occupying a landmass of approximately four thousand square metres, the main contractors are: AG FERREO, an Italian firm based in Kaduna. It was designed by HAMADA DESIGN CONSULT, Maiduguri while the Quan-

tity Surveyors are PROJECT COST CONSULTANTS. Y. AHMED & ASSOCIATES are the service engineers.

Situated in a prime area of the Central Business District, the structure, engineered by SANI MUSTAFA & ASSOCIATES, has an attractive vitrified tiles and internal and external ceramic finishing/.

Facilities provided include a mosque, a generator house, and an ample parking space.

The four-tour NNPC Headquarters is just about 500 metres away opposite it is the National War College and A.G.I. Motors directly facing it.

### FAO DG advocates forest sustenance

By Tashikalmah Hallah

The Director-General of the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), Dr. Jacques Diouf, has said that only a coordinated plan aimed at saving the forest will meet the demand of the ever-increasing world population.

Dr. Diouf stated this in a message to the National Forest Programmes in Africa, organised by the Ministry of Environment and the FAO in Abuja last week.

Forest resources, he said, should be accorded highest priority for sustainable management all over the world and the developing countries in particular because, "a large proportion of their population depends on these forest resources for their shelter, food energy, income, employment and health."

According to him, "good management and wise policies require adequate funding" except for the constraint of inadequate national capacity to generate sufficient funds to support national policies and Programmes.

There is also lack of co-ordination in fiscal policies between different parts of government, he continued, adding that the European Commission (EC) and FAO have a Programme which covers six topics in Africa.

The Programmes he said included: National Forest Programmes; Fiscal Policies; Harvesting; Non-wood Forest Products; Wood Energy; and Research.

The Minister of Environ-

ment, Alhaji Muhammad said represented by the Permanent Secretary in the ministry, Engineer D.B. Usman in his comment explained that forest resources in Africa are "grossly underpriced."

According to him, the price of timber products in timber market for instance, has no relationship with what the free exporters pay government but reflect the level of demand for the particular species.

"The situation is responsible for the over-exploitation of forest resources and degrading of the environment. Therefore, there is the need for tariff review to take care of economic cost of forest resources," he explained.

However, he added that the current forest policy, formulated in 1998, is under review and when completed it would lend more support to sustainable forest management.

Also, he said that the review will include a legislation that will safeguard the intrinsic value of woods and introduce discriminatory policy to protect severely threatened timber species and free trading to increase competition for available wood supply.

Similarly, he said that the review would enforce the regeneration of the forest revenue system that would give guidelines for easy revision at national and state levels periodically.



The magnificent Bank of the North Headquarters at the Central Business District, Garki, Abuja, just completed.

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	731	Shop @ Kubwa	N50,000.00
	847	Mechanic shed @ Apo	N200,000.00
	344	Land 2,500m <sup>2</sup> @ CKK ext. Filling Station	N4 million
	F/27B	2 Hectre land at Shere farm and Bwari	N4 million
	F/27B	3,000.63m <sup>2</sup> land at Kwali	N2 million
	E1	1,099.198m <sup>2</sup> @ Asokoro	N5 million
	LD98	1,600 @ Guzaje district	N4 million

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- 1 Room self-contained @ Garki II, Zone 7, Zone 6, Asokoro, Kubwa (@ 2 years)
- 5 Bedroom Duplexes @ Maitama, Zone 6, Wuse II, Area 8
- 6 room Boys Quarters, Wuse II
- Office spaces at Wuse Zone 1, Garki
- Shops to let and land in various places

# For the record

## Electoral Law 2001 (VI)

(3) The Commission shall monitor the organisation and operations of political parties, political campaigns, and provide guidelines which shall govern the political parties to ensure that they comply with the provisions of the Constitution and the present Act.

(4) The Commission may delegate any of its powers to any Resident Electoral Commissioner.

**CLAUSE 81:** Every Political Party shall hold on a democratic basis, election of its principal officers and members of its Executive Committee or other governing body in accordance with its Constitution.

**CLAUSE 82:** (1) No Political Party or Association shall establish, operate, retain, train, equip, any person or group of persons, or maintain any wing, arm, or vanguard, in whatever form or manner and in whatever name called, for use or display of physical force or coercion in promoting or attaining any political objective.

(2) Any Political Party, which contravenes the provision of subsection (1) or (2) of this section is guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to a fine of: (a) N500,000.00 for the first offence.

(b) N200,000.00 for any subsequent offence and N50,000 for every day that the offence continues.

(3) Any person or group of persons who establishes, operates, retains, equips or maintain any wing, arm, or vanguard, in whatever name called, for use or display of physical force or coercion in promoting or attaining political objective or interest or to aid the political party in the propagation of its objective, shall be guilty of an offence and be liable on conviction to a fine of N200,000 or two years imprisonment or both if a member of a political party.

(4) Any person who encourages or conspires with a political party or association to commit a breach of the provisions of this Section, shall be guilty of an offence and on conviction be liable to a fine of N200,000 or imprisonment for one year or both.

**CLAUSE 83:** (1) The Commission shall keep a register of symbols for use at elections.

(2) The Commission shall register the symbol of a Political Party upon payment of the prescribed fee if it is satisfied-

(a) That no other symbol of the same design is registered; and

(b) That the symbol is distinctive from any other symbol already registered.

(c) That its use will not be offensive or otherwise objectionable howsoever

(3) The Commission shall remove a symbol from the register of symbols, if-

(a) A Political Party in whose name it is registered requests the removal; or

(b) The Commission is of the opinion that the Political Party in whose name the symbol is registered has ceased to exist or to use the symbol.

(4) Nothing in this section shall authorise the allotment or registration for use at any election of a symbol or material as symbol of a Party, if it portrays-

(a) The Coat of Arms of the Federation;

(b) The Coat of Arms of any other country;

(c) Any device or emblem which in the opinion of the Commission is normally associated with:-

i) The official acts of Government; or

ii) Any of the Armed Forces of the Federation or the Nigerian Police Force or other uniformed service; or

iii) The regalia of a chief; or

iv) Any tribe or ethnic group; or

v) Any religion or cult;

vi) Any portrait of a person living or dead

(d) Any symbol or part of a symbol which under the provisions of this section continues to be registered by another political party.

(5) Subject to the foregoing provisions of this section, the symbol allotted to a Political Party and in use immediately before the coming into force of this Act shall continue to be available to, and be used by, that Political Party without payment of the fee mentioned in subsection (2) of this section.

**CLAUSE 84:** Where a symbol is registered by a Political Party in accordance with this Act, the Commission shall allot the symbol to any candidate sponsored by the Political Party at any election.

**CLAUSE 85:** (1) Any two or more registered Political Parties may merge on approval by the Commission following a formal request presented to the Commission by the Political Parties for that purpose. PROVIDED that there shall at no time be less than three political parties registered in the country.

(2) Political Parties intending to merge shall give to the Commission 90 days notice of their desire to do so, and the notice shall be accompanied by:-

(a) A special resolution passed by the National Convention of each of the parties proposing to merge, approving the merger.

(b) The proposed full name and acronym, Constitution, manifesto, symbol or logo of the party together with the addresses of the National and Staff offices of the merged party; and

(c) Evidence of payment of processing fee of N100,000 or as may be fixed from time to time by an Act of the National Assembly.

(3) The written request for merger shall be sent to the Chairman of the Commission and shall be signed jointly by the National Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer for the time being of the different Political Parties proposing the merger.

(4) On receipt of the request for merger of any Political Parties the Commission shall consider the request, and if the parties have fulfilled the requirements of the Constitution and this Act, approve the proposed merger and communicate its decision to the Parties concerned before the expiration of thirty (30) days from the date of the receipt of the formal request.

(5) Where the request for the proposed merger is approved, the Commission shall forthwith withdraw and cancel the certificates of registration of all the Political Parties opting for the merger and substitute therefore, a single certificate of registration in the name of the

merged Party.

(6) Notwithstanding the provision of subsection (2) of this section no application for merger of Political Parties received by the Commission less than six months before any general election in the country shall be considered by the Commission.

**CLAUSE 86:** (1) Every registered Political Party shall give the Commission at least 21 days notice of any convention, congress, conference or meeting convened for the purpose of electing members of its executive committees, other governing bodies or nominating candidates for any of the elective offices specified under this Act.

(2) The Commission may with or without prior notice to the Political Party monitor and attend any convention, congress, conference or meeting which is convened by a Political Party for the purpose of:-

(a) Electing members of its executive committees or other governing bodies; or

(b) Nominating candidates for an election at any level;

(c) Approving a merger with any other registered Political Party.

(3) Notice of any congress, conference or meeting for the purpose of nominating candidates for Local Government/Area Council elections shall be given to the State Independent Electoral Commission at least 21 days before such congress, conference or meeting.

**CLAUSE 87:** (1) The Commission shall monitor and keep records of the activities of all the registered political parties.

(2) The Commission may seek information or clarification from any registered political party in connection with any activity of the political party which may be contrary to the provisions of this Act or any other law, guidelines, rules or regulations.

(3) The Commission may direct its enquiry under subsection (2) of this section to the Chairman or Secretary of the Political Party at the National, State, Local Government Council or Ward level, as the case may be.

(4) A Political Party which fails to provide the required information or clarification under subsection (2) of this section or carry out any lawful directive given by the Commission in conformity with the provisions of this section is guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to a fine of not more than N500,000.

**CLAUSE 88:** (1) Every Political Party shall, at such times and in such manner as the Commission may require, submit to the Commission a Statement of assets and liabilities.

(2) Every Political Party shall submit to the Commission a detailed annual statement and analysis of its sources of funds and other assets, together with a statement of its expenditure in such a form as the Commission may from time to time require.

(3) No Political Party shall:-

(a) Hold or possess any funds or other assets outside Nigeria; or

(b) Be entitled to retain any funds or other assets remitted or sent to it from outside Nigeria by corporate bodies, entities, non-Nigerians and foreign governments.

Any funds donations, contributions or other assets remitted or sent to a Political Party in breach of the provisions of this Section shall be forfeited to the Commission.

(4) The Commission shall have power to give directions to Political Parties regarding the books or records of financial transactions which they shall keep and, to examine all such books and records.

(5) The powers conferred on the Commission under subsection (5) of this Section may be exercised by it through any member of its staff or any person who is an Auditor by profession, and who is not a member of a political party.

**CLAUSE 89:** Any Political Party which holds or possesses any funds outside Nigeria or retains any funds or other assets sent to it from outside Nigeria and fails to declare same to the Commission with 21 days of receipt of such funds or other assets with such information as the Commission may require commits an offence and shall forfeit the funds or assets to the Commission and on conviction shall be liable to a fine of not more than N500,000.

(a) Any person who aids or abets a Political Party in the Commission of an offence under this Section commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine of N100,000 or twelve months imprisonment or to both.

(b) Any entity; or association or corporate body which aids and abets a Political Party in the Commission of an offence under this Section is liable on conviction to a fine of not more than N500,000.

**CLAUSE 90:** (1) The Statement of Assets and Liabilities referred to in Section 81 of this Act shall be in respect of the period 1st January to 31st December in each year, however that in the year in which this Act comes into operation it shall be for the period beginning with the registration of such party and ending on the following 31st December.

(2) The Commission shall arrange for the annual examination and auditing of the funds and accounts of political parties and publish a report on such examination and audit in three National Newspapers.

**CLAUSE 91:** (1) The Commission shall in every year prepare and submit to the National Assembly a report on the accounts and balance sheet of every Political Party registered under this Act.

(2) The Commission shall, in preparing the report under subsection (1) of this section, carry out such investigation as may enable it to form an opinion as to whether proper books of account and record of items of income and expenditure have been kept by each Political Party, and accordingly report its findings to the National Assembly.

(3) The Commission, any of its officers, or agents:

(a) Shall have the right at all times to look into the books of accounts of a Political Party and all other documents relating to those accounts; and

(b) May demand such information as may be necessary for the performance of the duties of the Commission under this Act and report any difficulty encountered in obtaining the information.

**CLAUSE 92:** (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this part of this Act, the statement relating to the election expenses of a political party as prescribed in section 100 of this Act shall be submitted to the Commission in a separate audited account as in the prescribed form not later than 90 days from the date of the election.

(2) Any political party which fails to submit to the Commission the audited return of election expenses in accordance with the provisions of this Act is guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine of N100,000 payable jointly and severally by the leaders of the Political Party.

**CLAUSE 93:** (1) The National Assembly may approve a grant for disbursement to the political parties contesting elections after the coming into force of this Act.

(2) The grant approved in pursuance of subsection (1) of this section shall be made to the commission which shall distribute the grant to the Political Parties in the following manner.

(a) 30% of the grant shall be shared equally among the registered political parties participating in respect of a general election for which the grant has been made.

(b) The remaining 70% of the grant shall be shared among the Political Parties, after the result of the elections have been known, in proportion to the number of seats won by each party in the National Assembly.

**CLAUSE 94:** Notwithstanding the provisions of this Act, the National Assembly may make an annual grant to the Commission for distribution to the registered Political Parties to assist them in their operation. The Commission shall distribute such grant as follows:-

(a) 30% of the grant shall be shared equally among all the registered Political Parties.

(b) The remaining 70% of the grant shall be shared among the registered political parties in proportion to the number of seats won by each party in the National Assembly.

**CLAUSE 95:** No political party shall be eligible to receive a grant under Sections 93 unless it wins a minimum of 10 per cent of the total votes cast in the local government elections in at least two-third of the States of the Federation.

**CLAUSE 96:** (1) The Commission shall have power to place limitation on the amount of money or other assets, which an individual can contribute to a Political Party.

(2) Every Political Party shall maintain a record of all contributors and the amounts contributed.

**CLAUSE 97:** (1) For the purposes of an election, "election expenses" means expenses incurred by a political party within the period from the date notice is given by the Commission to conduct an election up to and including the polling day in respect of the particular election.

(2) Election expenses incurred by a Political party for the management or the conduct of an election shall not exceed in the aggregate the sum determined by multiplying 20 Naira by the number of names appearing in the final voters' list for each Constituency where there is a candidate sponsored by the Political Party.

(3) Election expenses of a Political Party shall be submitted to the Commission in a separate audited return within three months after polling day. The return shall be signed by the party's auditors and counter-signed by the Chairman of the Party as the case may be and shall be supported by a sworn affidavit by the signatories as to the correctness of its contents.

(4) The return referred to in subsection (3) of this section shall show the amount of money expended by or on behalf of the party on election expenses, the items of expenditure and commercial value of goods and services received for election purposes.

(5) The Political Party shall cause the return submitted to subsection 94 of this section to be published in at least two (2) National Newspapers.

(6) Any political party which incur election expenses beyond the limit stipulated in this Act is guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine of N500,000.

(7) The Commission shall make available for public inspection during regular business hours at its national and state offices the audit returns of the political parties required by subsection (3) of this Section. Such audited returns shall include the name, address, occupation, and amount contributed by each contributor to a party.

**CLAUSE 98:** (1) For the purpose of the proper and peaceful conduct of political rallies and processions, the Commissioner of Police in each State of the Federation and in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, is by this Act empowered to provide adequate security for processions and at political rallies in the States and the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, as the case may be.

(2) A person who, while present at a political rally or procession or voting centre, has with him any offensive weapon or missile otherwise than in pursuance of a lawful duty is guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to a fine of N100,000 or imprisonment for a term of 2 years or both.

(3) For the purpose of subsection 92 of this Section, a person shall be deemed to be acting in pursuance of a lawful duty if he is acting in his capacity as a Police Officer or as a member of a security agency authorised to carry arms and is specifically posted to be present at that political rally or procession.

(to be continued)

# BADE COMMUNITY IN ABUJA HONOURS EMIR AND OTHERS

Last Monday at Ladi Kwali Hall Abuja Sheraton Hotel and Towers, the members of Bade Community in Abuja organised a dinner to felicitate with the **EMIR OF BADE, ALHAJI SALE SULEIMAN II OFR, ALH. ZARMA GORGORAM, HAJIYA FATI MU'AZU** (recipient National Merit Awards) and **ALHAJI IBRAHIM GWIO-KURA** for Retiring from Civil Service. The event is displayed in Pictures.

## PHOTO FAIR



From left is Alhaji Ibrahim Gwio-Kura receiving gift from General A.J. Kazir.



Alhaji Abubakar Bukari, President Bade Community in Abuja, delivering welcome address.



From left is Hajiya Fati Mu'azu, Alhaji Zarma Gorgoram and Alhaji Baba Yusuf at the dinner.



From left is Mallam Abdulhamid Buba, Engineer Buba Galadima and Alhaji Ibrahim Gwio-Kura exchanging pleasantries



From left is the F.C.T. Minister in a warm handshake with His Royal Highness, the Emir of Bade, Alhaji Sale Suleiman II OFR



From left is the Emir of Bade Alhaji Sale Suleiman II, a recipient of national honour award at the reception organized by Bade Community in Abuja, discussing with F.C.T. Minister Engr. Moh'd Abba Gana



From left is Alhaji Ibrahim Gwio-Kura, Hajiya Fati Mu'azu and Alhaji Zarma Gorgoram. The last two are awardees during the dinner in their honour.



From left is the F.C.T. Minister exchanging greetings with Alhaji Zarma Gorgoram one of the recipients of the national honours award.



Mallam Abdulhamid Buba reading a citation of Hajiya Fati Mu'azu, a recipient of the award



Bade Traditional Dancers came all the way from Gashua to entertain audience at the occasion



General A.J. Kazir Chairman of the occasion, delivering his address at the Dinner.



The Yobe State Deputy Governor presenting a gift to the Emir of Bade during the dinner.



The Emir of Bade's traditional Dancers at the occasion.

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S/NO	SIZES	INCHES/COL	PRODUCT ADVERT (N)	PUBLIC NOTICE (N)	POLITICAL STATEMENT (N)	COLOUR RATES (N)
1	Full Page	14.5 X 6 Cols	71,486.42	77,535.30	83,769.45	119,189.45
2	Half Page (Upright)	14.5 X 3 Cols	40,920.80	47,371.95	54,575.60	67,485.40
3	Half Page (Accross)	7.25 X 3 Cols	40,920.80	47,371.95	54,575.60	67,485.40
4	Quarter Page	7.25 X 3 Cols	19,911.33	22,438.80	28,296.90	51,620.00
5	10" X 6 Cols	10" X 6 Cols	44,442.90	47,775.60		80,200.00
6	10" X 5 Cols	10" X 5 Cols	37,740.24	39,454.20		68,170.00
7	9" X 6 Cols	9" X 6 Cols	35,315.32	36,446.35		57,994.50
8	9" X 5 Cols	9" X 5 Cols	32,300.28	33,922.55		46,355.60
9	8" X 6 Cols	8" X 6 Cols	30,190.00	31,295.00		44,530.70
10	8" X 5 Cols	8" X 5 Cols	23,767.05	25,357.50		38,150.50
11	7" X 6 Cols	7" X 6 Cols	22,546.72	24,474.00		34,500.00
12	7" X 5 Cols		21,685.32	23,572.70		31,000.00
13	6" X 5 Cols		18,009.00	20,079.00		27,000.00
14	6" X 3 Cols		14,477.58	15,160.45		22,510.00
15	6" X 2 Cols		12,305.90	12,886.38		15,463.58
16	5" X 2 Cols		9,136.80	10,133.10		14,200.00
17	4" X 2 Cols		6,903.70	8,106.30		12,702.00
18	3" X 3 Cols		4,657.50	4,992.15		11,000.00
19	3" X 2 Cols		3,958.88	4,243.33		7,000.00
20	2" X 2 Cols		2,100.00	2,600.00		5,200.00
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THE OSANA OF KEANA**

**Alh. Aliyu Akwe Dema, OON  
GARKUWAN DOMA**

**on the recognition and conferment on them of the National Honours of the Officer of the Federal Republic OFR and Officer of the Niger, OON respectively.**

**We also thank Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, GCFR, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, for finding His Royal Highness, The OSANA and the Garkuwa, two illustrious sons of our land worthy of the Honours and, wish His Excellency many years of meritorious service to our fatherland.**

*Signed*

**Alhaji Ibrahim Safiyanu  
Dan Iyan Keana**

**Mike Omeri**

**Engr. Salihu Ofoku**

**Dr. Mathew Abu Ashikeni**

**Mal Safiyanu Ogah  
On behalf of the people of Doma and Keana Local Government  
Areas of Nasarwa State in the FCT.**

3

YEARS IN MIND



LATE MAJOR GENERAL IBRAHIM DAHIRU GUMEL

Another long year has passed without the comfort of your friendship. Allah knows best why he took you away on 19th December, 1999.

You may not be with us physically, but you shall always be with us in our hearts.

We shall forever keep your memory alive through prayer and remembrance.

MAY ALLAH REWARD YOU WITH ALJANNA FIRDAUSI

Fondly remembered by:

HAJIYA L.H. IBRAHIM & CHILDREN

THREE YEARS IN MIND



David Beckham, left, of Manchester United, Portuguese player Luis Figo, center, of Spanish team Real Madrid, and Raul, right, of Real Madrid, pose with their trophies following the FIFA award ceremony in Zurich, Switzerland, on Monday. Figo was awarded FIFA "World Player of The Year 2001", Beckham placed second and Raul was third.

## Tyson accused of assault

Police in New York are investigating a claim that ex-world heavyweight champion Mike Tyson punched a former boxer outside a nightclub.

Mitchell Rose has told police Tyson knocked him to the ground during a scuffle on Sunday morning.

One of Tyson's lawyers, Darrow Soll, confirmed they were talking to police investigators.

"We're working with law enforcement. We've conducted witness interviews, and the allegations are unsupported," Soll told Associated Press.

The police had yet to talk to Tyson.

Tyson is expected to fight Lennox Lewis in April next year.

Rose had been told to leave the nightclub by Tyson's security guards and club personnel, but waited for him outside, ac-

ording to a police report.

When Tyson left the club, Rose cursed and screamed at him and his companions, including two women, the report said.

Reports differ on what happened next, with Tyson's friends saying he chastised Rose and then left, but Rose said Tyson assaulted him before leaving.

During Rose's boxing career, he had two wins, eight losses, one draw and two knockouts. He has not fought since 12 No-

vember 1998.

In 1988, Tyson broke a bone in his right hand in a street brawl with boxer Mitch Green in New York.

Meanwhile, police in Las Vegas, have been told to complete an investigation into an alleged rape.

The Clark County district attorney's office said prosecutors will decide by the end of the year whether to file charges against Tyson.

## Leeds duo could face civil charge over student attack

Leeds United players Lee Bowyer and Jonathan Woodgate could face legal action in the civil court over the attack on an Asian student that led to two lengthy Crown Court trials.

A friend of the players was found guilty of grievous bodily harm and affray and sentenced to six years in jail while Woodgate was found guilty of affray and sentenced to community service and Bowyer was cleared.

The BBC reported on Monday that the family of the victim, Sarfraz Najieb, plans to take action against the three men, another former Leeds player Tony Hackworth who was cleared in the original trial, and Leeds United Football Club.

The BBC quoted family spokesman Suresh Grover as

saying: "The attack on Sarfraz was motivated by racism. Although this may not have been the only motive, we believe it was very significant."

Muhammed Najeib, the father of the victim, said after the trial ended on Friday that he intended to fight on.

Grover told the BBC on Monday that Muhammed Najeib would make an announcement later this week giving details of what action is to be taken.

Grover said that there would be an action against Leeds because of a belief that the club acted to cover up for the accused players.

Leeds manager David O'Leary this weekend criticised Bowyer and Woodgate for their role in the incident, saying they brought the club into disrepute by being "boozed-up and running through the streets of Leeds."

## Amodu, Wenger parley over Kanu

By Patrick Andrew

Super Eagles chief coach, Shuaibu Amodu, is to hold crucial meetings with Chelsea and Arsenal managers on the release of some Eagles for the Nations Cup championship in Mali early next year.

The Eagles, returnee, Celestine Babayaro and Nwankwo Kanu, have had running battles with their clubs over response to national calls and their clubs engagements.

Arsene Wenger, the Arsenal manager had threatened to withhold Kanu even as his opposite number in Chelsea, had vowed to deny Nigeria the services of Babayaro on the ground that the club pays and was generally responsible for the treatment of the player each time he sustained injury while playing for Nigeria.

Chelsea management had equally adduced the alleged refusal of Nigeria to reimburse Babayaro's return tickets for the Olympic Games, a problem that had created a chasm between the player and the Nigerian sports authorities, as another reason.

But Amodu wants to parley with them with a view to finding suitable compromise especially as it would affect their early report to camp, pre-Nations Cup friendlies and the tournament proper.

The Eagles chief sweat merchant has undertaken to have the parley basically to establish a cordial relationship between the managers and the Nigeria Football Association (NFA).

The NFA believes the parley was imperative as it would erase any ill-feeling between the

clubs and itself especially following Nigeria's threat to report them to FIFA for failure to release players given national call-up for the Nations Cup tournament.

Besides, the NFA also wants to nib in the bud such ugly inci-

dences as was experienced by Taribo West, Ike Shorunmu and Sunday Oliseh who had problems with their clubs because of repeated response to national service at the expense of their clubs.

The Eagles are expected to converge at the Gateway Hotel, Otta to begin camping for the

Mali, African World Cup fiesta on December 28.

They are also to trade tackles with the Pharaohs of Egypt and Elephants of Ivory Coast on January 8 and 12 respectively.

The Nations Cup has been scheduled to commence on January 19, the Eagles would, however, play their first games on January 21.

## Owen leads Europe 'Hamm is women best'

Liverpool and England striker Michael Owen has been named European Footballer of the Year by the French magazine France Football.

Owen, who turned 22 last week, on Monday became the first English player to win the prestigious award since Kevin Keegan in 1979.

He is also the first Liverpool player to take the prize. Keegan played for the Liverpool but won the award in both 1978 and 1979 when he played for Hamburg SV in Germany.

Owen who helped England to qualify top of their group for the 2002 World Cup finals scoring a hat-trick in a 5-1 thrashing of Germany in Munich, got 176 points ahead of Spaniard Raul of Real Madrid, who was second on 140 points.

Bayern Munich goalkeeper Oliver Kahn, an inspiration as Bayern won the European Cup in May, was third on 114 points.

Manchester United midfielder David Beckham came in fourth on 102 points ahead of

Italy's Francesco Totti and Portugal's Luis Figo, who were fifth and sixth respectively.

Two other English footballers apart from Keegan and Owen have won the award — Stanley Matthews in 1956 and Bobby Charlton in 1966, the year England won the World Cup.

Liverpool are current leaders of the Premier League and won the FA Cup, the League Cup, the UEFA Cup, the European Supercup and the English Charity Shield during 2001.

Meanwhile, in another first for U.S. star Mia Hamm, she won world soccer's inaugural award as the best woman player.

Hamm edged Sun Wen of China and Tiffany Milbrett of the United States for the honor awarded Monday by FIFA, the world governing body for the sport.

Led by Luis Figo, Real Madrid players swept three of the top four places for the men's top award.

Hamm, who has made 219 appearances for the United States and scored 129 international goals, won with 154 points, easily beating Sun, who had 79, and Tiffany Milbrett of the United States with 47. Seventy-two coaches voted.

"I'm surprised but very honored," Hamm said. "There was Sun Wen, and Tiffany's been playing unbelievably."

With no Olympics or World Cup this year, the international women's scene was quiet. Hamm's award is no doubt a recognition of her contributions the last decade more than anything she did this year.

Hamm was unable to attend the ceremony in FIFA's headquarters city. She spoke from Texas, where she is training and spending the holidays with her family.

"She's been the icon of women's soccer so it's only fitting," Milbrett said of her teammate on the U.S. national squad.

Hamm plays for the Washington Freedom in the WUSA, the new U.S. women's professional league.

The 29-year-old Figo — the first Portuguese player to take

soccer's No. 1 player award since its inception in 1991 — narrowly outscored Manchester United and England midfielder David Beckham.

Figo's Real Madrid teammates, Raul Gonzalez and Zinedine Zidane, finished third and fourth.

FIFA president Sepp Blatter, who presented the award to Figo at a dinner in Zurich, declared the Portuguese player has "the touch of an artist."

"It's an honor for me to stand beside two such great players and accept this trophy," said Figo, who finished behind Zidane last year.

Zidane won the award, which is based on the votes of 130 national team coaches, in 1998 and 2000 when he was playing for Juventus.

Figo won with 250 points, edging Beckham by just 12, even though the English captain amassed more first-place votes than Figo — 30-27.

But Figo edged Beckham on the strength of 35 second-place votes, opposed to Beckham's 23. Each top vote is worth five points, and a second-place vote is worth three.

## Capriati lands new award

Jennifer Capriati has been honoured for an incredible year by being named Reuters sportswoman of the year.

The American beat compatriots Venus Williams and Marion Jones, who finished equal second, with Croatian skier Janica Kostelic in fourth.

Forty sports editors and journalists from 31 countries made three nominations each, with Capriati receiving 61 points to 27 for Williams and Jones.

Capriati made a stunning return to the top flight of tennis in 2001 after a much-publicised fall from grace.

She won the Australian and French Opens and looked on course for a Grand Slam, before losing in the semi-finals at Wimbledon.

But she recovered to claim the world number one ranking for the first time in October, and ended the year as the Interna-

tional Tennis Federation's world champion.

Venus Williams dominated

the second half of the year, retaining her Wimbledon and US Open crowns.



Capriati won her first Grand Slam title in Australia.



Liverpool's striker, Michael Owen, celebrates his goal against Derby County during their premier league match at the Pride Park stadium in Derby. Owen has been named European Footballer of the Year by the French magazine France Football.

### The Electoral Law as Obasanjo's defining moment

By Mohammed Haruna

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EDITORIAL

## Lessons from the Kaduna tragedy

Only recently, tragedy struck the city of Kaduna again. This time, a soldier, supposedly under the influence of alcohol, shot and killed an Islamic preacher and six others. He was said to have killed the preacher after warning him to stop the act, and in the process terminated the lives of the six others who were unlucky to be within range of the berserk soldier's bullets.

There is no doubt that murder, in whatever form, is a heinous crime. It is all the more sad and grave when other innocent lives are lost in committing the dastardly act. That was what made the Kaduna tragedy a very sad one indeed.

The sad event notwithstanding, there is a great lesson to be learnt. First, we commend the good people of Kaduna State especially those within the city for exhibiting the highest degree of restraint and maturity. The fact that they did not take the law into their hands in the name of reprisal killings and destruction is what we at *Daily Trust* find immensely commendable and worthy of emulation. It is imperative that in matters such as this, we must always exercise the greatest caution so that we are able to distinguish between individual and collective guilt and not to generalise things.

Secondly, the military authorities have so far taken the right step by reacting in the most appropriate manner in arresting the culprit and instituting a court martial against him. The action by the military will no doubt enhance its credibility and impartiality especially at a time like this when the popularity of the military is at its lowest ebb.

Thirdly, we commend the state governor, Ahmed Makarfi for taking prompt and decisive action in not allowing the incident to take a negative dimension. He did it twice in the past and this is the third time he is displaying his God-given abilities to diffuse tension in a volatile and complex state like Kaduna.

Also, we cannot fail to commend the various religious, community, opinion and traditional leaders for their roles in calming down their followers and urging them not to panic or take the law into their hands.

As we pointed out earlier, the lessons to be learnt from the sad episode are for us to learn to live together in peace and harmony. We should not allow the devilish act of a single individual to disturb our sense of belonging and togetherness.

Most importantly, however is the fact that we must always allow reason to prevail in difficult situations, and must resort to the due process of the law in our quest for justice and fairness. We hope that the outcome of the court martial now in progress will be such that justice will not only be done, but it will be seen to have been done.

I don't remember the exact date now, but it was some time towards the end of 1998 that this professor acquaintance of mine from one of the eastern states, who also happened to be one of the many academician friends of General Ibrahim Babangida, accosted me in the lobby of NICON Hilton Hotel Abuja. He appeared somewhat drunk but his reason for accosting me was dead serious.

"Go and tell your friend Babangida", he said thumping my chest with his finger, "that he is making the most serious mistake of his life backing Obasanjo for the presidency". As soon as Obasanjo comes into power, the professor said, the former head of state will invariably team up with Lt. General T. Y. Danjuma whose dislike for Babangida is almost proverbial. The things they will do to Babangida and his northern constituency, especially the Muslim North, will make the former military president rue the very day he ever contemplated manoeuvring Obasanjo back into power.

Babangida's safest bet, he argued, was to support either Chief Alex Ekwueme or a capable southern minority politician. Even though my professor friend appeared drunk, I thought he was dead serious about what he said. Still I thought and told him he should go and tell Babangida himself. "Prof", I told him, "why don't you go and tell Babangida yourself? He is my senior brother and not my friend. You are his friend and you probably know him better than I do".

I don't remember if I ever discussed the professor's reservations about Obasanjo with Babangida and I don't know if the professor did so himself. In any case, I doubt if Babangida would have changed his bet on Obasanjo at that point in time; he was really too far-gone in his support for his former boss.

Personally, even though I did not think my friend's view was the worthless opinion of a drunk, I did not share his reservations about Obasanjo's good faith in heeding his recall to power. On the contrary, I shared the faith of those who thought Obasanjo's fairly good record as an even-handed head of state, coupled with his widely acclaimed status of being a born-again Christian, consequent upon his travails in the hands of Abacha's regime, I thought these two points, at least, had put him in good stead to heal the wounds of June 12, 1993 and of Abacha's tyranny.

Over two and a half years on, there is widespread consensus that President Obasanjo has betrayed the faith of those of us who thought he had the will and the capability to heal the nation's wounds. Many of those who feel betrayed, especially those from the Muslim North, have been blaming Babangida for making it possible for Obasanjo to return to power. I think this is merely being wise after the fact of how Obasanjo has performed – or not performed – in the last two and a half years.

Babangida can only be blameworthy if, after Obasanjo's recent hasty signing of the electoral bill into law, he still continues to support his former boss either actively or even by default. For me Obasanjo's action in hastily signing into law a bill that he himself has acknowledged as flawed, even if he thinks those flaws are minor, a bill which he has acknowledged could lead to litigations, that action is the most defining moment of his presidency. This action exposes him in a way that not even his rather dismal record in the past two and a half years does. Before the electoral law, I still believed Obasanjo still meant well for this country. Probably he still does, only I am no longer so sure.

For many of Obasanjo's opponents, his inability to deliver on his promise to end electricity cuts, his inability to stem corruption, his inability to drastically reduce unemployment and bring down inflation, his dismal human rights record as exemplified by the military massacres in Odi and Zaki-Biam, his total disregard for the checks and balances of the presidential system which has shown itself in his contempt – probably well deserved – for members of the National Assembly, even the mixed record of his privatisation exercise, all these and more, are seen by his opponents as enough reason for Obasanjo to be denied a second term. There are, indeed people who think some of these are enough reason to have impeached him long ago.

Dismal as this list is, however, I never thought they were sufficient evidence that Obasanjo was incapable of or unwilling to turn the country around. After all, most of these were not problems that even the most willing and able politician can solve completely even in a decade, never mind two and a half years.

For me the conclusive evidence that Obasanjo is probably incapable or unwilling to turn the country around is, as I have just said, the new Electoral Law. His action on December 5, in signing the bill into law shows unambiguously that his primary pre-occupation is not the problems of this country, but merely how to survive in power. And anyone whose pre-occupation is the acquisition or retention of power is more likely than not to abuse it. At any rate, the price of such a pre-occupation is bound to be the general welfare of the people and the unity and progress of this country.

President Obasanjo, to be sure, is not alone to blame for this

outrageous electoral law. If the majority of the members of the National Assembly, the Senators in particular, did not oblige Obasanjo's presidency at whose behest the INEC initiated the bill, we will not have been saddled with a law which at worst, is threatening, on its own, to create unprecedented political chaos in the country or, at best, is looking like the last straw that may break the camel's back.

Among the Senators defending the law is Jonathan Silas Zwingina, the chairman of the Senate committee on Information and a doctor of philosophy in one of the social sciences. The Senator, according to the *Vanguard* of December 10, has been lately propounding the strange political theory that "In a presidential system, the president is the chief law maker. He initiates any of those laws and when you pass it, he has to sign it". Until Zwingina's new theory, I thought that it was elementary politics that in a presidential democracy, legislative power belonged to legislators not the presidency. I thought the presidency's power lies in executing the law, not making it.

There is also another Senator of the same view with Zwingina who says the electoral law is "the most liberal law" that any House can pass and that if the law appears to disenfranchise millions of voters by restricting their choice to the existing crisis-ridden parties, the fault is in the constitution and not in Obasanjo or the members of the National Assembly. This Senator, Adeseye Ogunlewe, the chairman of the Senate Committee on Human Rights and a member of the apparently pliant House Joint Committee on the Electoral Bill, told the *Daily Trust* (December 14) that if members of the new parties felt disenfranchised by the new electoral law, "They should have arrangement with the existing political parties. They can have an arrangement with AD or APP to participate at the big election".

In all this toying with the nation's fate, however, the most revealing remarks have come, not from the more pliant Senate, but from the House of Representatives. The *Vanguard* of December 10 reported Alhaji Bello Masari, an honourable member of the House as saying in effect that the primary pre-occupation of the members of the National Assembly in passing the Electoral Bill the way they did, was the retention of their seats in the Assembly.

"When the law is there", he said, "you look at how you can take advantage of the law because the merits or demerits of the law as it has become the law, is irrelevant. It is how you can take advantage of the law that is on the ground to further your political interest that matters... You go through the law and protect your own interest without committing any crime". Many Nigerians would probably denounce Alhaji Bello for what he has said, but at least he is honest enough to own up for why he, and probably most of his colleagues, voted for the Electoral Law.

President Obasanjo may truly believe that the law has only minor flaws. If he does, he should know that most Nigerians do not share this view. The reversing of the sequence of elections is clearly aimed at disenfranchising those who believe President Obasanjo and the PDP have turned out to be disastrous for this country. This action is a sleight of hand of the most despicable kind. Senator Zwingina has justified it by arguing that the new parties must be subjected to the same political tutelage as the old one. "You don't go and join a political process", he told a press conference as reported in the *Vanguard* of December 10, "using different rules from those who joined earlier. What is good for the goose is good for the gander".

Precisely. The only problem is that the Distinguished Senator seems to have forgotten, perhaps somewhat conveniently, that all three existing parties were at the hustings for barely a few months before they contested for elections at all three levels of government, during General Abdulsalami Abubakar's very short transition programme. The question is, why does he, and those who think like him, now want new parties to take over six years at the hustings before they can participate in state and federal elections? Could it be that Zwingina and Co. have no confidence that in a free and fair election, they can retain their seats? And if indeed they have the interest of the nation at heart, is that enough reason to disenfranchise the opposition, even if it is a minority or even if it is only one person?

As for extending the lives of the local governments by fiat and the attempt to block Chief Osoba and Co. from a second term, these are clearly a breach of the fundamental principles of justice, fair play and the rule of law, i.e. the principles that laws should never have a retroactive effect. In the case of the local governments, the gratuitous extension of their tenures even after Obasanjo himself is on record to have denounced their elected officials as thoroughly corrupt, can only lend credence to the suspicion of plans to use the local governments as the foundation for a grand plan to rig the 2003 polls.

As I have said, the new Electoral Law is indeed a defining moment for President Obasanjo. He can send it back to the National Assembly to review these and other fundamental flaws and that way possibly set another record for himself as the first civilian leader in the country to midwife a successful civilian to civilian transition – and thereby add to his record of being the first military leader to voluntarily hand over power – or he can persist in the folly of believing that a rigged Electoral Law can guarantee him a second term, and go down in history as the only former head of state that had a second chance at turning a decaying nation around, but blew it simply because of his naked hunger for power.