

**POST OFFICE BOXES/PMB AVAILABLE FOR INSTANT ALLOCATION NATION WIDE**



**NIPOST**  
NIGERIAN POSTAL SERVICE

## ABUJA TRUST

### Police, FCDA lay siege on Wuse market

Pages 25

This space is for sale

## NATIONAL CONFAB

# Reps file suit today

**F**ifty six members of the House of Representatives will today at the federal high court, Maitama, Abuja, file a suit challenging the legality and constitutionality of the proposed national political reforms conference.

To be joined as co-defendants in the suit are the president of the senate, Adolphus Wabara, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Aminu Masari and the Attorney General of the Federation, Akin Olujimi (SAN).

Dependable sources told *Daily Trust* yesterday that the

By **Habeeb I. Pindiga,**  
Political Reporter

suit is to be filed today.

*Daily Trust* also learnt that a member of the House representing Langtang north/Langtang South federal constituency of Plateau State, Mr. Victor Lar, is to lead the plaintiffs.

The source said also that part of the relieves to be sought in court includes a perpetual injunction restraining the federal government from convening the confer-

ence.

The contention of the plaintiffs, according to findings, will be that the constitution only recognises the National Assembly to deliberate on the agenda slated for discussions at the confab.

*Daily Trust* also learnt that

there were high-level meetings yesterday between the leadership of the Senate and that of the House to consider mounting pressure from the executive to stop the case.

The meeting, *Daily Trust* learnt, was held at Wabara's office and had in attendance,

among others, leader of the House, Abdul Ningi.

It could not, however, be ascertained what decisions the leadership took.

Since the government announced intention to convene the confab, opposition has been gathering momen-

tum against it from the lawmakers.

The minority caucuses of both chambers have vowed to frustrate the conference, while the House had rejected the proposed N932 million budget for the forum.

## ... Masari writes Obasanjo

**T**he Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon Aminu Bello Masari, in a letter to President Obasanjo yesterday, communicated the decision of the House to reject the proposed budget for the national dialogue.

The letter was read at the tail end of yesterday's plenary session by the Deputy Speaker, Hon. Austin Opara, who presided, but was not audible enough because of power outage which lasted till the close of session.

The House had on Wednesday, February 2, unanimously turned down the request by the president to approve a budget of N931 million for the conference.

By **Hammeed M. Bello,**  
Senior Political Reporter

apparently on grounds that such approval might constitute an illegality.

The reason for withholding the approval, as explained by the media and publicity committee chairman of the House, Hon. Abike Dabiri, was the difficulty of deciding which sub-head to classify the budget, hence the decision of the House to ask the president to source the money elsewhere.

She said the House was not against the convocation of a national conference but would not go out of its way to approve money for it

Contd. on Pg 2



The ever busy old Wuse market road, cordoned off by members of the Nigeria Police Force to prevent traders and customers from entering the market in Abuja... yesterday.

Pix: Kennedy Egbonodje.

## Hajj: Stranded Nigerian pilgrims bribe airlines for seats

**T**he return journey of Nigerian pilgrims from Saudi Arabia has been thrown into confusion following irregularities in the conduct of their transportation.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), reports that the return journey began on January 29 and is billed to end on February 17.

NAN learnt that most of the pilgrims are now stranded in either Mecca or Jeddah due to confusions allegedly created by the country's Hajj officials.

NAN gathered that pilgrims anxious to return home have resorted to bribing officials to include them on flights home as the two official air carriers allegedly compounded the situation by discarding the use of flight manifests.

"They don't have manifests for passengers to know which flight we are scheduled to return with.

"Manifests are prepared after passengers have bribed their way into the aircraft,"

one of the stranded pilgrims told NAN on phone from Jeddah.

Another pilgrim, still in Mecca, told NAN that because of the confusion in

Jeddah, many pilgrims were yet to be moved to the port city for their onward journey to Nigeria.

"We do not know our fate,

Contd. on Pg 2

## SOME STATE DELEGATES AT A GLANCE

**Akwa-Ibom State**  
Mr. Etim Inyang  
Mrs. Helen Esuene  
Dr. Asikpo Essien  
Dr. Ekeng Anam-Ndu  
Senator Akaninyene Ukpana  
Senator Emmanuel Essieq  
Ibok-Essien

**Benue State**  
Gen. Victor Malu (rtd)  
Geoffrey Ejigah  
Steven Okor  
Fred Orti  
George Korgba  
Jack Gyado

**Anambra State**  
Dr. Chukwuemeka Ezeife  
Mr. Zik Obi  
Senator Mike Ajegbo  
Mr. Gabriel Akweze  
Chief Obi Ogene

**Borno State**  
Alhaji Muhammadu Goni  
Alhaji Baba Ahmed Jidda  
Professor Nuru Alkali  
Alhaji Mohammed Aliba  
Alhaji Ibrahim Damcida  
Alhaji Lawal Buba

Contd. on Pg 2

## N25bn capitalisation: Senate insists on banks categorisation

**T**he senate passed into law the act amending the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Act and the Banks and Other Financial Institutions (BOFI), decree categorising banks and bringing under the supervision, control and regulation of the banks and other financial institutions.

According to the new Act, mega banks shall have share capital and shareholders fund of N25 billion, medium banks

By **Isa Sanusi,**  
Political Reporter

N10 billion, small banks N5 billion while specialised banks' capital base will be as stipulated in their respective Acts. Section 9 sub-section 2 of the Act as amended provides that "subject to the approval of the National Assembly, the bank (CBN) shall have the power to review from time to time the

Contd. on Pg 2



Alhaji Aminu Masari

# News

## Nigeria's external reserves hit \$18.4bn

### As inflation rate now 9.5%

By Hamisu Muhammad, Reporter (Business)

The external reserve for Nigeria as at January 31, 2005, has risen to \$18.4 billion. President Olusegun Obasanjo made this known while declaring open the Nigeria Investment Forum in Abuja.

According to Obasanjo, "Our stock of external reserves rose from \$7.68 billion to \$16.9 billion and as at January 31, 2003, had risen to \$18.4 billion."

External reserve has been one of the major determinants of macroeconomic indicators

which indicates the performance of a particular nation on the global economy.

Some of the indicators mentioned by the president include the growth rate of 5.5 percent as against the targeted five percent, growth of the credit to the private sector which is 28 percent and growth in money supply as 15.2 percent which is against the targeted 15 percent.

He said the federal fiscal

deficit/GDP ratio on cash basis was 2.1 percent as against the targeted three percent.

However, the president also explained that the inflation rate was down from 10 percent to 9.5 percent and poverty level was down to 55 percent from 66.5 percent.

He described the performance of the indicators as a sign of demonstration of his administration's new economic reform measures taken in the economy.

Obasanjo said "we are

convinced that these positive indicators will unlock more opportunities and potentials for wealth creation, job creation and poverty eradication.

He said he was happy that the main objective of hosting the conference in Nigeria is to assist in attracting increased foreign direct investment from across the commonwealth nations for private sector projects.

Speaking at the conference, the executive secretary, Nigeria Investment Promotion Commission (NIPC), Engineer Mustapha Bello, said the success of hosting such an event in Nigeria can never be overemphasised.

He said the theme of the forum "Trade and Investment Opportunities: Growth Through Global Partnership", is unique in concept and vision, having as its major objective, the enhancing of investment prospects among the commonwealth member countries.

Bello said the opportunities in Nigeria for business and investment in many sectors like oil and gas, agro-allied, power, manufacturing, solid minerals, banking and finance, telecoms and ports are enormous.

### Capitalisation

Contd. from Pg 1

criteria for categorisation."

The amended Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Act makes the appointment of CBN governor and members of the governing board by the president subject to the approval of the senate while making provisions for more independence from the CBN from undue interference.

Responding to questions from newsmen, the chairman and the vice chairman, senate committee on banking and financial institutions, Senators Zik Sunday Ambumo and Farouk Bello Bunza, said the amendments were inspired by the desire to bring Nigerian banking laws into consonance with democratic tenets.

Senator Zik said: "We support the reforms in the banking sector. What we want is a level playing ground so that smaller banks can aspire to be big. All we are saying is that we should do it step by step."

The amended Act empowers the Central Bank of Nigeria to take over the supervision of Community Banks while reviewing upward, fines for contravening provisions of the Act. Section 50 as amended says: "where a bank is unable to meet its obligations or suspends payment or where its management and control has been taken over or where its licence has been revoked pursuant to the provisions of this Act, the assets of the bank shall first be available to meet all the deposit liabilities of the bank."

The Central Bank of Nigeria had last year given all banks up to December this year to have N25 billion



From (L-R) British American Tobacco (BAT) director of corporate regulatory affairs, Mr. Kehinde Johnson, BAT managing director, Mr. Richard Hodgson and BAT social responsibility manager, Mr. Don Dussey during the Nigeria Investment Forum and launching of the 2007 British American Tobacco social report, held in Abuja... yesterday.

Pix: Felix Onigbinde.

### Hajj Contd. from Pg 1

there is no order in the return journey. In fact, it has turned into hitches galore, leaving many pilgrims running out of upkeep allowances and begging to survive," he said.

NAN reports that as a result of the numerous problems created by the officials, the country might not be able to meet up with the task of transporting the pilgrims home in good time.

NAN recalls that hundreds of pilgrims from some states could not perform this year's Hajj due to hitches in transporting them to the Holy Land.

Meanwhile, at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja, one of the designated arrival points for the pilgrims, the situation was that of confusion and uncertainty in the conduct of the exercise.

A senior official of the airport told NAN that the flights from Saudi Arabia arrived unscheduled, while some pilgrims were boarded on Nigeria-bound aircraft and discharged at the wrong destination.

"It is funny what we noticed a few days ago. One of the aircraft arrived the airport only for the pilgrims to discover they were at the wrong destination and have to board the same aircraft again for them to be taken to their correct destination," the official said.

tered at the Abuja airport blamed their predicament on lack of proper organisation by the federal and state governments.

NAN reports that stakeholders have picked holes in the planning and organisation of the 2005 Hajj operations, citing interference by government and other interested parties.

Efforts to speak with officials of the Directorate of Pilgrims Affairs (DPA), proved abortive as none of the relevant officers were on seat.

However, one of the air carriers, IRS chairman, Rabiun Isyaku-Rabiun, told NAN on phone that the airline was conforming with its schedule of transporting its allotted pilgrims without any hassles.

"We are keeping to our schedule and we are not involved in any shady deals in bringing back home our pilgrims and we will conclude the exercise in good time," Rabiun said.

About 65,000 Nigerians performed this year's Hajj out of the more than two million who participated from other parts of the world.

Thousands of Nigerian pilgrims in Mecca have threatened a showdown with their respective board officials if not transported to Jeddah on their way home.

The pilgrims are now

their hajj rites.

NAN investigations revealed that most of the pilgrims who are now in Mecca, complained of long stay in Mecca when they should have gone to Jeddah.

A statement from the media committee of the FCT pilgrims board, however, warned the pilgrims against staging any protest as anybody caught risks a 10-year jail term in Saudi Arabia.

The pilgrims expressed disappointment with their various state officials saying that they should have for long been in Jeddah or back home in Nigeria.

A pilgrim, Isyaku Oyenuga, from FCT, lamented that he took a three-week leave from office and is already in his fourth week without any hope of when he would return home.

Oyenuga, who was one of those stranded pilgrims at Abuja airport for a week, said that the officials allowed them to stay for two weeks in Mecca after hajj rites without any return date.

Another pilgrim, Rakiya Umar, said most of them have exhausted their money in Mecca because of the long stay.

"As it is now, some of us are eating once in a day because we don't know when we are leaving Mecca to Jeddah, let alone our

### Masari Contd. from Pg 1

because such approval was not backed by law.

"We believe there are many ways to source funds but we are not likely to appropriate any fund specifically for the conference but we are not against the conference," Hon. Abike said.

Abike, while confirming the fears nursed by Nigerians over the possibility of a hidden agenda by Obasanjo however relayed to newsmen that the president has assured the leadership of the National Assembly when they visited him at the presidential villa in Abuja to enquire about the essence of the dialogue. This explanation followed a question that the president had allegedly snubbed the lawmakers.

In the two paragraph letter by Masari to Obasanjo which was read by Opara on the floor of the House yesterday, the Speaker explained that the House was unable to pass the budget after considering its demands.

Attempts to get the letter yesterday failed because the only copy was in the custody of the deputy speaker and was difficult to obtain.

Widespread consultations had on Wednesday preceded the decision to reject the president's request for approval of the budget.

Sources said majority of those who attended the PDP caucus meeting had risen beyond party sentiments to oppose the budget on grounds that democracy must be protected and the rule of law safeguarded from undue breaches.

The All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP), caucus had earlier resolved to oppose the budget if it were presented for debate on the grounds that it violated the constitution and the House rule.

The Alliance for Democracy (AD), caucus was also said to have closed ranks with other opposition parties and some PDP members to reject the budget.

### SOME STATE DELEGATES AT A GLANCE

<b>Delta State</b> Mr. Gamaliel Onosode Prof. Itse Sagay Prof. Omafume Onoge Andrew Moemeke Rear Admiral Onah E.K. Clark	<b>Kwara State</b> Abubakar Baraje Ayinla Folorunsho Kola Shittu Saidu Isa Mahmud Ibrahim Albert Ogunshola
<b>Gombe State</b> Senator Uba ahmed Alhaji Magaji Mu'azu Professor Idris Mohammed Alhaji Abubakar Aliyu Deba Alhaji Abubakar Muazu Hassan Mr. Nuhu Poloma	<b>Lagos State</b> Femi Okunmu Sikiru Shitta-Bey Olorunfunmi Bashorun Ahmed Onipede Tawa Williams Chief O.B. Adebawale
<b>Jigawa State</b> H.R.H. Alhaji Najib Alhaji Sulaiman Bappa Engr. Habu Gumel Alhaji Aminu Ringim Alhaji Tijjani Inuwa Dutse Hajiya Fatima Mai Borno	<b>Niger</b> Prof. Shehu Bida Alhaji Dahiru Awaisu Kuta Alhaji Abubakar Magaji Alhaji Umar Kawu Alhaji siyaku Jikantoro Gen. Garba Duba
<b>Kano State</b> Alhaji Magaji Danbatta Professor Auwalu Yadudu Alhaji Sule Yahaya Hama Alhaji Isiaku Umar Tofa Dr. Haruna Salibi Alhaji Musa Tanko Waziri	<b>NFAN</b> Nduka Obaigbena
<b>Kaduna State</b> Alhaji Umar Dikko Dr. Chris Abashiyah Ja'afaru Makarfi Emmanuel Toro (SAN) Prof. Anjo Abdullahi Abdullahi Jibrin	<b>Ondo State</b> Admiral Akin Aduwo (rtd) Dr. Femi Adekanye Dr. Olaiya Oni Dr. Adewunmi Ibitoye Chief Olusola Oke Dr. Tayo Dairo
<b>Katsina State</b> Alhaji Ibrahim Coomassie Alhaji Saidu Barda Alhaji Garba Ja Abdulkadir Alhaji Kabir Saidu Barrister Ibrahim Shema Alhaji Tukur Mani	<b>Osun State</b> Chief Ebenezer Babatope Justice Bola Babalakin Professor John Ayoade Chief Olu Alabi Mr. Dosu Oladipo Dr. Wale Oladipo
<b>Kebbi State</b> Col. Bello Kalief (rtd) Alh. Isah Mohammed Abdullahi Na'amo Garba Mohammed dan diga Abdullahi Ahman Zuru Daidu Mohammed B/Yauri	<b>Plateau State</b> Mr. Danjuma Mama Dr. Alexander Kebang Malam Adamu Adio Senator John Washpam Chief Solomon Lar Alhaji Mohammed Sambo
<b>Kogi State</b> Alhaji Abdullahi Ibrahim (SAN) Col. Ahmed Ali (rtd)	<b>Taraba State</b> Tanko Bobbo Anadami Luka Zanya Ibrahim Abubakar Emmanuel Bavoa Yakubu Aghaizi

# News

## Power cut disrupts NASS session

By Habeeb I. Pindiga & Zainab Alimi, Political reporters

Darkness enveloped the senate chambers yesterday due to sudden power cut, disrupting the activities of the upper chamber.

The senate had to hurriedly adjourn without attending to two of the five orders of the day scheduled for deliberations.

Indications that the session would be stalled emerged at about a 12.40pm when the lights in the chamber went out while the senate was in a committee of the whole considering the banks and financial institutions Bill.

Suddenly, the chamber went dark, but the microphones were still working. Thus, the lawmakers continued the deliberations but soon the microphones too went off and senators had to shout to be heard.

When the senate reverted back to plenary to adopt the report of the committee of the whole, president of the senate, Adolphus Wabara, had to put the question twice, shouting at the top of his voice.

There were murmurings in the chamber, indicating that senators were uncomfortable with the situation.

At this moment, deputy leader, Dr. Jonathan Zwingina, noted that it was impossible to continue the session in darkness and with the microphones not working.

He said: "In view of the absence of light, the report we have is that since yesterday there has been no light. We have been on generator and now it has to get some rest. In view of this, I'll like to move that the senate adjourn till Tuesday next week." The motion was adopted at about 12.59pm.

Meanwhile, the House of Representatives adjourned sitting abruptly yesterday following disruption in electricity supply by the National Electric Power Authority (NEPA).

The legislators were forced to rise while only half-way through deliberations on the scheduled orders of the day when the power failure made it difficult for them to hear one another.

Presiding deputy speaker of the House, Hon. Austin Okpara, adopted the motion for adjournment moments after NEPA struck.



L-R: Governor Abdullahi Adamu of Nasarawa State, Chief Tony Anenih and Alhaji Ibrahim Mantu during their courtesy visit to President Obasanjo at the State House Abuja...yesterday. Pix: Joe Orove.

## NUTGTW takes Arewa textile mill to EFCC

The National Union of Textile, Garment and Tailoring Workers of Nigeria (NUTGTW), has decided to take the management of Arewa Textile Mills plc, Kaduna, to the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), and the Industrial Arbitration Panel (IAP), over their refusal to pay all entitlements of thousands of members of staff of the company.

The acting secretary general of the NUTGTW Comrade Issa Aremu, disclosed this at a peaceful rally organised by the union to protest lack of proper management by the company and refusal to settle the workers their rights following the management unilateral closing down of the company without adherence to the laid down procedures.

According to Comrade Aremu, before the closure of the company on January, 5,

From Aliyu Haruna, (Correspondent Kaduna)

2005, salaries and other entitlements were not being paid as at when due, while the union dues and other levies running into several millions of naira which the management deducted from workers salaries were not remitted.

Also not remitted by the management of the company is the Nigeria Social Insurance Trust Fund (NSITF), deductions, he said.

The acting secretary general disclosed that Arewa textiles management decision to unilaterally terminate the appointment of about 342 workers, while 481 were summarily dismissed for protesting the non-payment of backlog of salaries owed by the company, is unacceptable.

He also added that the unilateral termination and summary dismissal of these

workers by the newly employed general manager of the company, Dr. Ejila Oyibi which according to management restructuring will not be tolerated.

Comrade Aremu also said that to ensure peaceful resolution of the impasse, the union held several meetings with stakeholders of the company, which included Chief Paul Sunday Achimugu, the vice-chairman of the company, management staff, senior staff association and the workers representative (union) to resolve the issue.

## C'ttee generates N6.9b to develop cocoa

The minister of agriculture and rural development, Alhaji Adamu Bello, has announced that the National Cocoa Development Committee (NCDC), has realised N6.9 billion for cocoa production nationwide.

Alhaji Bello made this announcement yesterday at a press briefing in his office in Abuja.

He praised the efforts of the chairman of the planning committee and the deputy governor of Osun State, Erelu

By Hassan Idris Senior (Reporter Agric)

Olusola Obada, including other members. According to him, they worked hard and encouraged cocoa promotion.

He said Obasanjo's administration was poised to give its support so that cocoa will return to its past glory, and challenged the cocoa producing states to take up cocoa farming, processing and be among the generation to the rebirth of cocoa.

## Nigerian wins Commonwealth Writers' Prize

Nigerian-born writer Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's book, *Purple Hibiscus*, has been named winner of the 2005 African regional Commonwealth Best First Book Award. An international panel of judges made the announcement after meeting in Lagos.

The Best Book Award for the region went to South Af-

By Crispin Oduobuk, Group Literary Editor

rican-born Lindsey Collen for her book *Boy*. Both awards carry a 1,000 British Pound cash award. Aside from Nigeria and South Africa, the panel of judges considered fiction written in English from Ghana and Kenya.

As regional winners, *Purple Hibiscus* and *Boy* will

## Court dismisses EFCC appeal, orders release of BON MD

It was another victory for the embattled former managing director of Bank of the North Limited, Alhaji Mohammed Shettima Bulama, yesterday as the court of appeal in Lagos dismissed the application of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), challenging the bail granted him by a lower court.

The former managing director of Bank of the North limited who has been detained by the commission since 2003 over alleged financial impropriety, was on March 5 last year admitted to bail by Justice Dan Abutu of the federal high court, Lagos in the sum of N5 million and with other conditionalities.

Dissatisfied with this de-

## Police commission distances self from Tafa's removal

The Police Service Commission yesterday said it has no hand in the removal of the former Inspector General of Police, Tafa Balogun.

A statement signed by the special assistant to the chairman of the commission, Mr. Emmanuel Ibe, noted that the president has prerogative powers to retire and appoint the IGP.

He added that by the appointment of the acting IGP, Mr. Sunday Ehindero, he has been elevated to the rank of Inspector General of Police.

"The commission's clarification follows media reports, (not Daily Trust) that the new

By Kemi Ogedemgbe, Judicial Editor

acting Inspector General of police remains a DIG and was only functioning in an acting capacity," he added.

He reaffirmed that the appointment of a substantive inspector General of police is to exclusive function of the president on the advice of the police council.

He noted that the council also resolved to enlist 1100 cadet/inspectors to be trained at the police academy Wudil, Kano, while 222 serving members (constables, corporals) with higher qualifications are to be trained at the Police Staff College, Jos.

## Reps c'ttee summons bank boss over NPA fund

The House of Representatives Committee on Disaster and Emergency Preparedness, Thursday summoned the managing director of Metropolitan Bank, Mr. Michael Muiyiwa Bakare, over N262 million Nigeria Ports Authority (NPA), funds

By Zainab Alimi Political reporter

allegedly diverted by Bakare.

Chairman of the committee, Hon. Jerry Sonny Ugochu, ordered the summons yesterday following a unanimous decision by members of the committee at a meeting with the view to determine why the said funds was not appropriately utilised since 2001.

He disclosed that the MD of metropolitan bank was summoned following the committee's discovery during investigations that N247 million stood as outstanding money in the name of NPA, which had lodged the money in the bank from 2001 till date.

"It becomes necessary for us to find out why the sum is stuck in the bank over such a long period of time while the problem which it was mandated to solve still persists," he said.

The executive director of NPA, Alh. Kwaisu Yaro, said that the sum, which was meant for tackling ecological problems at the port of Calabar, was deposited in the bank in 2001, but has proven difficult to retrieve, following words that the bank was in distress and allegedly on its way down.

But the deputy general manager of Metropolitan bank, Mr. Chuka Eze, who appeared on behalf of the bank's managing director, while admitting that the fund is with the bank, added that no request was made for it until the last quarter of last year when questions started arising about it by the House.

He explained that the MD of the bank was unavoidably absent owing to the ongoing merger and acquisition process the bank is undergoing.

By Mohammed Shosanya, (Correspondent Lagos)

velopment, the EFCC through its counsel, Tayo Oyetibo (SAN), filed an appeal at the appellate court challenging the bail. The commission also argued that there was a subsisting ruling of Justice Mohammed Shuaibu of the same lower court which earlier denied Bulama bail while praying that the latter's position be upheld.

But in a unanimous judgement delivered yesterday by Justice Clara-Bata Ogunbiyi, Mohammed Lawal Garba and Samuel Onage, they dismissed the commission's appeal because it lacked merit and is misconceived.

They contended that the matter before Justice Abutu of the lower court is not an extension of the ruling of the former judge, adding that the decision of each of the two judges are detached and by law, none have overbearing influence on the other. The judges therefore ordered the accelerated trial of Bulama in the substantive suit before the lower court and ordered the EFCC to immediately release him.

# News

## Fire wreaks havoc in two Katsina secondary schools

An outbreak of fire in two secondary schools of Katsina has gutted hostels, destroyed property worth hundred of thousands of naira leaving over 200 students without shelter.

Daily Trust gathered that a block of dormitory containing about 120 students was destroyed at Government Girls Arabic Secondary School,

From Lawal Ibrahim,  
Correspondent (Katsina)

Kabomo, while a similar incident also occurred at Government Rural Boarding Secondary School, Kaita, affecting over one hundred students also in the hostels.

In Kabomo, Daily Trust gathered that not less than 50 students lost their valuable completely and are attached

to their colleagues in the hostels, while about 152 students also lost their belongings in Kaita Rural Boarding Secondary School an inferno which took hours before it was brought under control.

The principal Government Girls Secondary School, Kabomo, Hajiya Bilkisu Mohammed told the parents of the affected students to strive and provide the immediate needs of their children, while that of Kaita, Mallam Shehu Moh'd K/Sauri, enjoined people to assist the school cushion the effect of the inferno.

The cause of the fire is still unknown, while the chairmen of Bakori and Kaita local government councils, Alh. Mansir Aminuh Bakori and Kasir A. Kwalabe visited the schools and promised to assist.

## Ibru: Rabo Lawal wants statements released

One of the principal accused persons in the murder trial over an attempt on the life of the *Guardian* newspaper publisher, Mr. Alex Ibru, Chief Superintendent of Police, Rabo Lawal, has asked an Ikeja high court to order the Lagos state government to release certain documents containing statements he made to the Special Investigation Tribunal.

The police officer who is being tried along with former Chief Security Officer, Major Hamza Al Mustapha, former Chief of Army Staff, Major General Ishaya Bamaiyi, Col. Jubrin Bala Yakubu and former Commissioner of Police in Lagos and Ogun state, James Danbaba, said the request is necessary to enable him prepare enough for his defence.

Barrister Olalekan Ojo who held brief for him, submitted that his client made fundamental statements before the Special Investigation Tribunal on September 12, 1999, a development which he claimed not only favoured his client but will also give his trial a headway.

But with according to him, the prosecution scripted other documents forcefully while also expunging the initial statement he tendered in the prove of evidence.

Ojo said that this was an abuse of fair hearing guaranteed the accused by the constitution and prayed the court to order the release of the initial statement as it was authentic and made devoid of controversy.

Countering the submission of the accused counsel, state prosecution represented by Miss Titilayo Shitta-Bey, said it was not true that they

From Mohammed Shosanya,  
Judicial Correspondent (Lagos)

scripted a forceful statement from the accused adding that some of the statement he made which were contained in the prove of evidence was in his favour.

further mention of the matter.

## 17 youth corp members to repeat service year in Kwara

Seventeen out of 38 National Youth Service Corps members found guilty of violating service by-laws in Kwara state are to repeat the service year as a corrective measure.

Speaking at the passing out ceremony of 2004 Batch 'A' Corps members held at the main bowl of the stadium complex, Ilorin, yesterday, state coordinator of the NYSC, Mr. S.O Ochim, said the 38 Corps members were being penalised for various offences.

However, in recognition of hard work and excellence, and as a way of encouraging hard

From Abdulrazaq Adebayo,  
Correspondent (Ilorin)

work and dedication to duty, Mr. Ochim said a total of 76 corps members were selected for various forms of award for distinguishing themselves in the communities they served.

He expressed gratitude to governor Bukola Saraki for his support to the NYSC in the state which he said included the provision of over 600 mattresses, payment of N500,000 as state subvention for 2004 and automatic employment offered three corps members among others.

A total of 854 Corps members, he said would be issued certificates of national service.

## FG signs N523m road contracts for three states

As part of its commitment to the rehabilitation of all federal roads in the country, the federal government has signed a N532m contract for road projects in Abia, Kwara and Oyo states.

The road projects are the Osogbo-Ogbomoso road in Oyo state awarded to kopek construction at the cost of N253.8m, the Aba-Obohia road in Abia state awarded to Bvodo Nigeria Limited at the cost of N40m.

The other two road projects in Kwara state include the Share-Lafiaji-Pategi road and the Ilorin-Osun state border roads both awarded to Bulletine Construction Ltd. for N192m and N47m respectively.

Minister of Works, Senator Adeseye Ogunlewe who signed on behalf of the federal government said it is part of the efforts of his ministry

From Nasir Imam, Property  
and Environment, Editor

nities in the signing of road construction and rehabilitation contracts.

Senator Ogunlewe called on the committee to supervise the road projects in their communities since stakeholders are the direct beneficiaries of such projects which aims to boost the economic activities in their respective areas.

Governors Bukola Saraki of Kwara state and Rasheed Ladoja of Oyo state, representative of Abia state governor, minister of state for health and agriculture, all commended government efforts at rehabilitating the roads in their various communities.

In a related development, the Minister of Works has assured that the Sokoto-Illorin-Niger Republic border road would be completed



Minister of works, Sen. Adeseye Ogunlewe (middle) signing some documents, while Governors Bukola Saraki of Kwara state, (left) and Rasheed Ladoja of Oyo state watch with interest during the signing of road contracts held in Abuja...yesterday  
Pix: Felix Onigbinde

## Court slams new charges on Tidjani

Respite may have eluded the alleged transborder robber, Alhaji Hamani Tidjani, as a Lagos high court, has slammed him with two fresh charges which borders on robbery.

It would be recalled that on December 20 last year, an Ikeja high court presided over by Justice Olubunmi Oye-wole, discharged Alhaji Tidjani of one count of robbery on the grounds that he lacked jurisdiction on the matter.

In the new charge, the accused was said to have stolen a Toyota Corolla car with registration number CQ-327LND and a Peugeot number 607 car with registration number AY651 APP, which belonged to one Mr. Gorge Igbinoba and Mr. Ahmed Taimiyu respectively.

The particulars of the first charge IJP/RT 37/04/10 reads as follows: "Alhaji Hamani

From Mohammed Shosanya,  
Judicial Correspondent (Lagos)

Tidjani on or about the 25th day of September 2003, in Lagos Island in the Lagos judicial division did receive a Toyota Corolla car with registration number CQ327 LND property of George Igbinoba knowing same to have been stolen".

However the second charge preferred against him which bordered on theft of a Peugeot 607 car with registra-

tion number AY 651 APP was short listed and therefore dismissed over to the failure of the prosecution counsel to back it up with relevant sections of the law.

Prosecution counsel said the offence runs contrary to section 427 of the criminal code cap C17 laws of Lagos state, 2003.

The accused pleaded not guilty to the charges.

Meanwhile, the court has fixed February 17, this year for having on the matter.

## Confab: Minister decries women marginalisation

The minister for Women Affairs, Obong Rita Akpa, has expressed dismay over the exclusion of women from participating in the proposed national dialogue.

Rita Akpan made this known while briefing newsmen on the forth coming

From Abubakar Haruna,  
Reporter (Women Affairs)

world women conference tagged "Beijing-10" at the ministry in Abuja yesterday.

The minister who described the gesture as unfortunate, said women were not duly represented at the national political reform conference.

She said "of about eight or nine states that have sent in nominations, only one has included the names of two women".

She added "it is sad and unfortunate that a state that has more than 50 per cent female population has an opportunity to nominate six of its citizens to an event as important as a national conference does not think of one woman.

The minister regretted that most of the facilitators of the nomination processes were politicians with monumental political ambition.

According to her, these are the very people who, come 2007, expect these same women whom they have disregarded now to stand in queues as long as a mile, under rain or sunshine to vote for them.

She also stressed that Nigerian women are more aware of their rights now than ever before and know

## Cross River Speaker faces recall threat

The Speaker of the Cross River State House of Assembly, Hon. Basse Ewa, risk recall by his constituents if his alleged mastermind of discord and fragmentation among the people was not addressed.

Rising from a one day meeting, the Yakur people resolved that "we shall not hesitate to exercise our constitutional right to recall you from the House of Assembly" if he fails to arrest his mind and address the issues on ground.

The group which parades as CONTACT 2000 and whose aim is to perfect, promote and preserve the interest of Yakur people of Ugep in particular is disappointed with the leadership style of their representative.

A statement credited to Barrister Okoi Obon Obla, as chairman of the groups Executives Committee, dated 27th January and captioned

From Bassey Ita,  
Stringer (Calabar)

ership in Ugep: our position, castigated the Speaker for instigating the crisis in Yakur.

According to the statement, Hon. Ewa allegedly hijacked the state government's scholarships for studying in Russia for his relations even as they report that the leadership of the

State Assembly was storage of the executive because of the timid and incompetent leadership of Hon. Ewa.

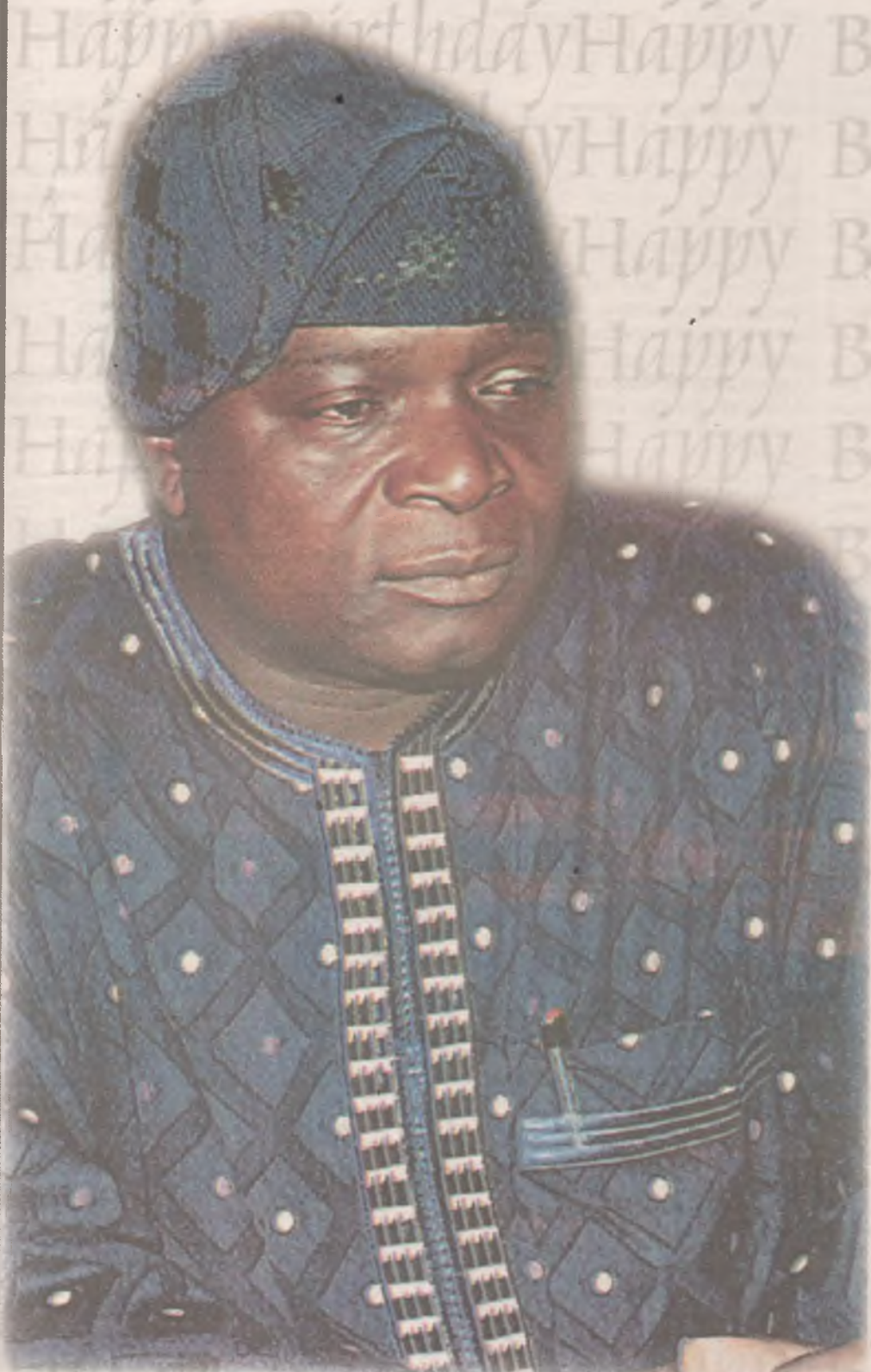
"This incompetence has seen the complete surrender of the sovereignty of the House of Assembly to the executive branch", the statement explains, adding that the Ugep people lack confidence in him.

The group also accused the Speaker of being the mastermind for the removal of former lands commissioner, Mr. Etim Ayomobi, dropped



# Happy Birthday

## 54 HEARTY CHEERS TO THE PEOPLE'S GOVERNOR



**HIS EXCELLENCY  
PRINCE OLAGUNSOYE OYINLOLA  
GOVERNOR, OSUN STATE**

Oga Sir! I join millions of your admirers and well wishers in wishing you many fruitful and rewarding years on earth. May God in His Infinite Mercies continue to grant you good health and wisdom in abundance and may you continue to render useful service to mankind and your fatherland.

*Congratulations and many happy returns*

**SIGNED:**

**PRINCE HONEST IRMIYA STEPHEN**

# Opinion

## The Beautiful Ones Are Not Yet Born!

When Dr. Rice the new Secretary of State for the United States, in her confirmation hearing talked about cooperating with Nigeria to eliminate corruption, I suspect she was apparently referring to the evidence demanded by Nigeria from the Bush administration on Halliburton activities; Evidence about Halliburton's tax evasion and bribery scandal which is being investigated by Nigeria's National Assembly, a court in France and some other governments worldwide. Halliburton is being probed everywhere, even by branches of the US government itself, for bribery and corruption.

It is amazing that the Americans want to lecture the rest of us about corruption! Only on Monday, January 31, 2005, the Attorney General of the state of New York, Mr. Elliot Spitzer, in his anti corruption campaign, fined Marsh & McLennan Company, the sum of \$850 million dollars to settle charges stemming from its bid-rigging practices that were irregular.

Meanwhile, Nigeria, is the much maligned and lampooned country on earth.

What do the critics of Nigeria want? Public execution of anyone accused of corruption? Should Nigeria be pressured and goaded into conducting Public executions without trials? Must Nigeria pursue corruption, without due process and without recourse to the rule of law and without obeisance to democratic tenets and ideals? Nigerians must recall how in the 1980s some Nigerians were publicly executed under some arbitrary legislation, that was retroactive and retrospective, which arose from a combination of factors; Nigeria's determination to eradicate narcotics, and combined foreign pressure that was mounted on Nigeria as Nigeria was accused of more narcotic trade, more than Afghanistan and Colombia combined or put together, even though the latter countries are the cocaine, heroin and opium exporting countries, countries where these drugs are natives, they are the grower of the raw materials-crops and manufacturers! But more pressure was on Nigeria's infinitesimal participation in the Narcotic-trade; I hate drugs!

The infamous World Bank has praised Nigeria's anti corruption efforts and we all ought to give credit to the current government for its efforts, even as we encourage it to do more! For some, who are adept only at condemning Nigeria and any government in Nigeria, there seem to be no efforts on their

By Paul I. Adujie  
distinction with the past? What does Nigeria need to do to be in the good books of these perennial maligners and lampooners, those who seem to reap immeasurable joy from ridiculing Nigeria, despite Nigeria's best efforts in all directions?

According to Nigeria's minister for finance, Mrs. Okonjo-Iweala, Nigeria currently spends an inordinate amount of Nigeria annual national income to service foreign debts, with the punishing effects on Nigerian citizens, who are deprived of development resources and the bulk of these debts are just interests and penalties that have accumulated over the years and have become larger than the original debt, spurious debts in the first place.

Nigerians should only pay attention to Dr. Rice when she agrees to talk about trade between America and Nigeria, or if she talks about debt forgiveness or reparations or something useful, more useful than her platitudes with mere nuisance value, as her feigned government cooperation with Nigeria on Halliburton corruption, tax evasion and bribery by Halliburton, all over the place.

How does the United States, given its illegal invasions and occupations of Haiti, Iraq and perhaps Iran soon? How does the US that refuses to be signatory to the anti corruption convention and protocol by the UN, how does the USA with the plethora of abuses of detainees in Afghanistan, Abu Gharib prisons in Iraq and Guantanamo, have the audacity or temerity to always manage to portray itself well, despite its unilateralism? While abusing Nigeria, Nigeria that is always eager to be multilateral in Nigeria's own dealings with the entire world or in dealings internationally?

Nigeria is currently pursuing all manners of reforms in all sectors, there are deregulation, privatizations and subsidies removals by Nigeria, with crushing effects on Nigerian citizens, this is happening during the same time the USA is being sanctioned left right and center by the Europeans and the World Trade Organization because the US violate international trade rules, regarding its subsidies for agriculture, steel and Boeing Aircraft manufacturers!

This same USA self-righteously told us four years ago, about The Road Map to peace between Palestine and Israel, this current government of America, and this current Secretary of State helped formulate that policy, a policy that was tepidly

as US Secretary of State should tell Israel to stop the abuse of the fundamental rights of Palestinians! Don't Palestinians have Human Rights?

Only a few days ago, Israeli military murdered a young girl in a United Nations Refugee Camp School, Israeli military frequently murder harmless Palestinian children, as it also arbitrarily demolish Palestinian homes, brutalize and maim them with raw military might, while Dr. Rice and her government during the past four years, have only given a wink and a nod, and every tacit approval to whatever Israel and prime minister Ariel Sharon wants! Dr. Rice is an African American I could not have imagined an American Jew in Dr. Rice's shoes deriding Israel during such Jew's confirmation hearings! Could Dr. Rice not keep Nigeria out of her garrulous and gratuitous comments? As if she had nothing usefully beneficial to say about Nigeria? Would she dare say something disparaging of Israel during confirmation hearings or anytime during her tenure? She could consult Dr. Andrew Young, a former US ambassador to the United Nations, whose political career ended because he was perceived to have slighted Israel!

Dr. Rice ought to have devoted her confirmation hearing explaining all the lies and embellishments about WMD in Iraq and the bungled Road Map to peace between Palestine and Israel, instead of the Weapons of Mass Distraction she engaged in, by talking feebly of some unknown help that her government has rendered to Nigeria? Too many people discuss Nigeria based on their preconceived notions rooted in worst case scenarios! And mostly repeated baseless accusations against Nigeria without comparative analyses of such issues as with the rest of the world, Nigeria surely possess virtues and vices like everyone else, why then should Nigeria be isolated or particularized in vacuum?

Dr. Rice is soon to be on tour, her first tour, and none of the countries to be visited include any country in Africa or countries in the Caribbean! Her priority and first order of business with is "old Europe"! I'm still waiting for her policies towards continental Africans, and peoples of African descent worldwide, these are my people! Where exactly does she stand on real development concerns for African Americans, Africans on the continent and our brethrens in the Caribbean? Would she talk debt relief, trade and development? Or if past is prologue, as her four years with President Bush administration indicates, we may safely now conclude that "The beautiful ones are not yet born?"

## Reforming Nigeria: Which model?

(Continued from yesterday)

Then came the last speaker, his paper was by far the most controversial, yet real. Aluko argued that economics is only pure common sense and that any economist that tries to proffer an economic theory or even relates it to the Nigerian economy is talking nonsense.

Aluko seemed to have disagreed with both speakers, accusing Kwanashie of defending the Obasanjo economic programme. He further argued that no economic theory can solve the problem, adding that what we have here is a primitive, informal economy that works only with common sense. He also identified corruption and in fact the inability of those that steal the country's resources to invest them in the country.

Aluko refused to agree that majority of Nigerians are corrupt, he said only a few are and went further to accuse the ruling class of exploiting and oppressing the majority of the people, citing an example with the privatization exercise, saying that the ordinary Nigerian does not have the money to buy these things, but that the ruling class are the ones that privatize and at the same time buy them.

He took us back memory lane when, the economic adviser to the late head of state, General Abacha. He recalled how he and Abacha would sit and analyse how to deal with problems like debt payment procedures as well as how to handle issues with International financial Institutions like the I.M.F and World Bank.

Towards the end of the lecture Aluko said he knows Obasanjo loves Nigeria but that there are some things that are beyond him, but that they are dictated to him by some foreign power and that these forces are very powerful, sometimes you have to dance to their tune or else you have it rough with them.

Most of what Aluko said seemed to have tallied with the writings of Nkrumah on Neo-colonialism when he said "It is a stage in the development of imperialism. It is more insidious, complex and dangerous than the old colonialism. It not only prevents its victims from developing their economic potential for their own use, but it controls the political life of a country and supports the indigenous bourgeoisie in perpetrating oppression and exploitation of the masses. Under Neo-colonialism, the economic system and political policies of independent nations are managed and manipulated from outside, by international monopoly finance capital in league with the indigenous bourgeoisie,

By Yusuf Ibrahim Gamawa  
by the Neo-colonialists".

It is particularly at this point that I wish to add something to all that the three speakers have said and my own understanding of the basic problem.

The relationship between the Nigerian economy to that of the British after Independence and of recent to that of Europe is.

Two Philosophies of Integration were adopted by Western Nations in their desire to control the economies of all nations. The first philosophy was the Federalist philosophy, which sought to take direct, control of nations, but failed and was considered unrealistic. But by far the most effective and which had more impact on the economies of Nations and peoples are the Neo functionalist philosophy. Under this philosophy the European nations sought to control the economies of all nations tactically, through the use of Multinational Corporation and other international financial Institutions like the I.M.F, World Bank, etc.

Once the economies of such nations are taken, then surely their political power will all the same be in control. Slowly and tactically, the neo-functional philosophy is today a success. In the course of their (Western Nations) struggle to achieve this control different methods were adopted including assassinations - like Sam Aluko said on Obasanjo, Invasions- like it happened in Iraq, blackmail and many other ways. Once they succeed in controlling these Nations, they dictated every aspect of their lives and encouraged them to embrace European civilization and culture including their kind of political philosophy.

The Western political Philosophy which is an intellectual and moral creation, which contains higher ideals, easy slogans, dubious facts, crude propaganda and sophisticated theories, urges its adherents to use these ideals in judging men and events and as goals and aspirations.

The implementation of such ideals is what many refer to as "imperialism". Imperialism, though very broad was thought by many

scholars to be a conceptual fame work, of which colonialism, which entails the concentration and organising the force of the society to hasten the transition from feudal to capitalist mode of production, but with the brute force as reported by Marx and Engels in their work on colonialism, is part of and of course Neo Colonialism.

Imperialism was also viewed as a global confrontation between Western European Nations on the one hand and Africa and the third World Nations on the other, in the struggle for survival. It should be noted that the desire to control the world by the Western Nations is basically economical and most crucially to create a permanent dependence on them by Africa and other third world Nations.

Perhaps it was in realization of the crude and imperialist nature of the colonial economy and governmental structure that Mohandas Karanchand Ghandhi introduced some reforms into the Indian National Congress.

He said that henceforth everything must be made in India and that even their schools have to teach in the Indian Language. It was at this particular period that all Indians withdrew their children from schools in protest until they had become Indian in all respect.

I am not hereby suggesting a model, but today India is doing very well, self reliant and technologically more advanced than many Nations that have come out of colonial rule as nuclear power. Even Sam Aluko did say that most of the advanced nations were only able develop after isolating themselves, only to come out stronger. Another example is the industrialization of Japan, they too, like India had to believed wholly in themselves, although they all paid a price, and it appears it is this price that Nigeria and its leaders are running away from, but surely someone has to take the blame or the credit and make the sacrifice if Nigeria is to really become advanced like India.

Gamawa writes from Plot 117, Monrovia Street, Wuse II - Abuja.

E-mail: [ibrahimgamawa-2000@yahoo.com](mailto:ibrahimgamawa-2000@yahoo.com)

**The Western political Philosophy which is an intellectual and moral creation, which contains higher ideals, easy slogans, dubious facts, crude propaganda and sophisticated theories, urges its adherents to use these ideals in judging men and events and as**



## YOUR LETTERS

### The North and media survival

The North always wakes up to the news of its surrounding and the world at large with the sunrise, while most of the other parts of Nigeria are still asleep. To listen to the Hausa service of VOA, BBC and FRCN Kaduna in this sequence (6-7am) every morning by both the elites and the common citizens in the North is being elevated to an act of worship. It is the modern initiation into manhood to 'yan Arewa. No matter the level of one's education, a Northerner is a radio listener.

He therefore considers most of the time, the news in magazines and newspaper stale. Absolutely, he is not a target of the print media. Many investors overlook this identity of the Northerners at their own peril.

That is to say the ability to perceive, accept and manage this fact determines the success or failure of a print media outfit in Northern Nigeria.

On this scene enter our man who is a thesis of "swimming where experts drawn". Malam Kabiru Yusuf. The conceiver, Editor in Chief and the Manager of the Brand (apology) *Daily Trust* and *Weekly Trust* Newspapers.

Critics of surface personalities couldn't keep an eye on him simply because he bubbles and refuse to show up.

Not only to his family and the circle of friends he keeps, the youths North of Niger albeit Nigeria owe him a gift of social recognizable face.

This could save him from the court of prosperity where his strongest point of defence 'humility' can not stand alone to revoke the order of connivance and conviction against him. Recall the defunct and rested this and that. The Reporter, Comet, Sentinel, Hotline, Citizen, Amana, Rana, the path and so on, all these once came to the newsstand from the north and simply vanished. There was a time setting up a

newspaper and magazine in the north look like giving birth to twins.

A newspaper and its undertaker. When you desire an empty arena invite the elite's to a northern newspaper lunch, you have a regret. This state of despair has reached a nadir of "given up. It is a Nigerian idiom in modern marketing that the product with highest mortality rate in the country is a northern newspaper.

A victim of defunct and rested outfit himself, Kabiru Yusuf on set a growth for development of journalism and media ownership in this pen desert called Arewa. The north has never lacked the experienced wherewithal.

Its media school of thought has the highfliers and the technocrats like Mallam Muhammed Haruna, Sani Zorro, Bilkisu Yusuf, Adamu Adamu, Sanusi Lamido Sanusi and Aliyu Tilde.

You also have the media bureaucrats and chiefs like Mallam Turi Muhammed, Sani Kontagora, Tukur Othman, A B Ahmed, Sama'ila Isa Funtua and Wada Maida.

But has Kabiru Yusuf cross over to the other side of the river? No!

The trick is he has mastered the art of swimming with the tides of

publishing and ownership without familiarising his eyes with the darkness of its deep sea.

Reading through the prism of Nigeria print media history, the *Newswatch* magazine hatched *The Tell*. *The Tell* hatched *The News* and the magazine newsstand was never the same again. In similar trend Kabiru Yusuf's Trust hatched the *Leadership*.

We are praying fervently and hoping that the *Leadership* would soon hatch an egg. The credit of this trend only goes back to him. He successfully unveiled the secret of achieving media circulation and reach. That to the West, the ivory towers, the East Commerce and the North politics.

Although no region refused another bits of its identity, but none give others it whole. The nation citadels of learning and advertising practitioners should take note in their curriculum and concept respectively.

At the beginning of my discourse I made an apology for calling Kabiru Yusuf or his trust stable as a brand. This is now a subject of debate. And until Kabiru Yusuf starts attending local social gathering where the reader is, the question of who comes first continues. The egg or the hen.

By Mahmoud M. Shafii No. 137, Gadon Kaya Qtrs. Kano.

### Re: Still on Gombe and its clique

I found two interesting aspects in Ado Umar's "Still on Gombe and its clique" (*Daily Trust*, January 14, 2005). In responding to an earlier article titled "Gombe in the grip of a clique" by Bashir Abdullahi, who alleged that Governor Danjuma Goje sacked some traditional rulers because they did not support his election, Umar had this to say:

"He (Abdullahi) should know that certainly Goje cannot work with traditional rulers who allow their turbans to fall on the ground in their desperate haste to eat the crumbs falling from the table of their corrupt masters, forgetting their role of bipartisan leaders.

First, coming from a Government House employee, Umar's statement should be viewed as an official position confirming that indeed the traditional rulers were not sacked on account of the frivolous allegations of funds misappropriation, as the government had initially said, but that they were fired merely because they exercised their freedom of choice by supporting former Governor Abubakar Hashidu.

The second thing I want to point out is that if Abdullahi's claim that Goje

is after the emir of Gombe, Alhaji Shehu Abubakar is not true, then why did the governor dissolve the Gombe emirate kingmakers' council?

Mamuda A. Jauro, Checheniya, Gombe email malammudi@yahoo.com

### On NEPA's ramadan blackout

We are living witness to the fact that there was stability of power supply before Ramadan period but during Ramadan the power supply was reduced to very low level in Kano. We were forced by NEPA to be buying ice-block at the cost of 100 - 120 naira which we understand was sold by family of NEPA officials. It happened during Edil-Kabir period. But during christmas and easter period the power supply was very stable why this?

Is the district manager quarrelling Muslim or Islam? Somebody in NEPA should answer this question please; we may assume the war against Islam being waged by America has come to Nigeria though NEPA officials. I stand to be corrected.

harunakhs@hotmail.com

### CORRIGENDUM

PDP: Is Atiku defeated?

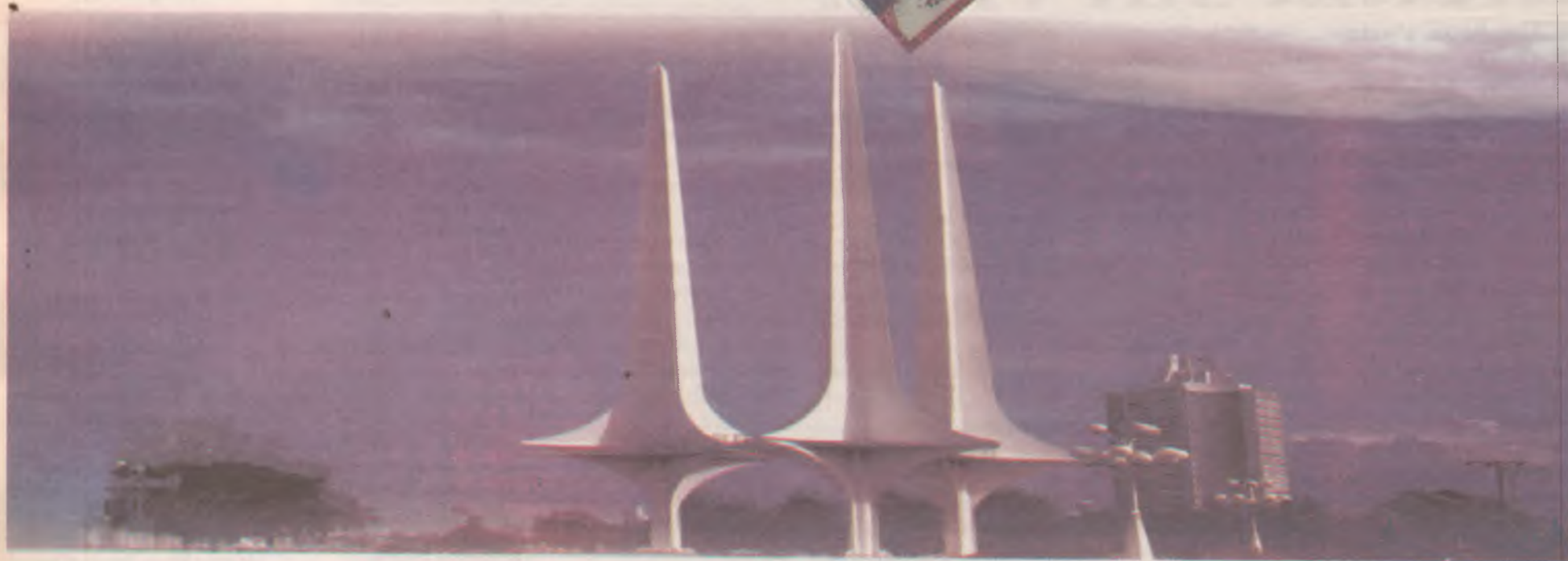
On this page yesterday, we mistakenly attributed the letter in reference to Gbenga Olawepo instead of Peter James. The error is regretted.

-Editor

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



# Kanawa Albishirin Ku!



Now you can buy Thomas Cook Travellers Cheques in Kano

- A valid international return ticket
- A valid passport and relevant valid visa
- Certificate of business incorporation/registration for Business Travel Allowance (BTA)
- Cash in denominations of N100 and above

- Cheques purchased in minutes
- No need to queue
- No long forms to fill
- Just cash no account required
- Accepted worldwide

Visit Travelex at:

**NAL BANK PLC**

110 Murtala Mohammed Way, Kano

Enquiries: 064 - 630837, 08035354275

# Opinion

## Thoughts on Nigeria's film industry

By Brendan Shehu

late, there has been a barrage of media write-ups notably by Mr. Ademola James, the immediate past Chief Executive of the National Film and Video Censors Board. His virulent attack on the National Film Censorship (NFC) and its leadership since inception also contain so many distortions and outright falsification of known facts.

The Nigerian Film Corporation which I headed, never sought to merge with the National Film and Video Censors Board, nor convinced government to merge it with the Board. It has always been my belief that both the NFC and the NFVCB have distinct and clear cut functions in the industry. I also aware that the present Management of the Corporation neither canvassed for nor was it consulted about the rationalisation exercise of parastatals in the Federal Ministry of Information and National Orientation.

It is therefore surprising that insinuations are being made about the last committee based largely on unfounded fears and rumours about its recommendations which are yet to be adopted or even made public.

The Nigerian Film Corporation was never conceived as solely a production outfit. In the same vein, the writer cannot unilaterally ascribe regulatory powers to the NFVCB. The Board is supposed to regulate only content of film products meant for public viewing and sale.

As I gathered, at the last stakeholders conference in Lagos, it was resolved that the NFVCB should only be a classification and not a

regulatory agency as obtains in virtually all film cultures in the world. As a film maker, Censorship of film content is incompatible with freedom of artistic expression which is the hallmark of all democratic societies.

Both the Mass Communication Policy (1989) and the National Film Policy (1992) clearly state that the Nigerian Film Corporation is the central agency for the overall development of the film industry. To therefore confine the mandate of NFC to a mere production outfit and at the same time, expand that of NFVCB to cover classification as well as regulation of the industry is sheer mischief on the part of Mr. James. To regulate what in the industry?

Based on the outcome of a 1999 seminar, a Committee comprising of film makers and the stakeholders in the industry like Wole Soyinka, Sanya Dosumu, Adegboyega Arulogun, recommended the establishment of a central film agency, to be called the Nigerian Film Corporation which eventually came into being after the promulgation of Decree No. 61 of 1979. It effectively took off in 1982 with Mr. Adamu Halilu as the protom General Manager and Mr. Bayo Oduneye, a senior Art fellow from University of Ibadan as Chairman. However, the NFVCB's emergence is shrouded in secrecy. Hence, the avalanche of protests, walk-outs, and distrust from stakeholders which has dogged its existence.

The National Film and Video Censors Board during James tenure was totally lacking in focus, and had low credibility among its

stakeholders. The present complains from film makers on the activities of NFVCB today, are directly related to the confusion that was sown during your tenure in office.

I am therefore, not surprised that two states, Lagos and Kano have now established their own Classification Boards as a result of pressures from their local film makers who have lost confidence in the NFVCB. The threat to NFVCB is not from the NFC. An example of this is the fact that the Board has never plowed back into the industry any single kobo it has received from censorship fees, since its inception. Indeed, it is supposed to remit 40 per cent of its taking to the NFC, which will then use it for the further development of the industry through the Film Fund.

It is surprising that somebody who was in service for over thirty five years, can make a statement to the effect that the NFC unilaterally transferred itself to another Ministry.

The merger of the NFC, NFDC and the Federal Film Unit was the result of Executive Council meeting of the 27<sup>th</sup> August, 1987. Based on this, the Corporation inherited the film equipment of the Federal Film Unit as the parastatal in charge of film. The Federal Film Unit was later merged due to political pressure. Its eventual relocation to Jos, was based on report of the first Board and Management of the Corporation which was then headed by the chairman of NFC, Mr. Bayo Oduneye. This Committee recommended Jos based on its weather, which is conducive to storage of film materials, and its saline-free waters which was equally

found to be adequate for film processing. To now attribute the choice of Jos to primordial ethnic sentiment about a deliberate intention to stall the film development potentials of a particular part of this country, reflects an unbelievable moral and emotional degeneration from somebody who has served in the government throughout his working career. It is indeed true that the Corporation got approval to retrieve films from some overseas agencies. We successfully retrieved over 20,000 cans of films from pre-independence to date from various overseas film laboratories and agencies. These master sound tracks and film negatives form the bulk of collections in the National Film, Video and Sound Archive (NFVSA).

It is equally necessary to enlighten Mr. James that the National Film Institute which took off in 1996 was never conceived as a vocational training school. Its syllabus gives the students broad theoretical and practical knowledge in all areas of motion picture production.

It is interesting to note that the first institution to which the NFI was affiliated is the premier University of Ibadan for its Diploma programme, before the present affiliation to ATBU, Bauchi, for the Degree programme. What then does Mr. James mean when he says that the school is theoretically based, does not have the requisite synergy with the industry and is affiliated to a Northern institution? I do know that Mr. James and his initial staff benefited from training on Classification and Censorship provided by NFL.

I need not lobby for the Practitioners Council to be

under NFC. The responsibility squarely falls under the Nigerian Film Corporation as part of its mandate. The NFC has the skills, manpower and vision to run both establishments.

Rather than breaking NFC up, the Corporation should be strengthened to enable it carry out its statutory developmental and regulatory functions fully. The model of authentic Nigerian Film Commission should therefore be brother under one umbrella.

Mr. James' laughable and unsolicited advice to the government on the National Film Development Fund and Film Practitioners Council is obviously the first step in the process of recycling self from obscurity into relevance.

In the present environment in which we operate, the necessity for a centralized film censorship agency is no longer tenable. This calls for the abolition of the censors board. Nigeria is a nation of different socio cultural, ethnic and religious grouping. What one group might find acceptable can easily be offensive to the religious and cultural sensibilities of another. Indeed, recently, some officials of a particular state in the country have publicly burnt films supposedly approved for screening by NFVCB. Moreover, some states have already gone ahead to establish their censorship boards.

At the national level, censorship should at best remain an adhoc activity carried out by a committee as it was before the emergence of NFVCB. Censorship fees should be abolished or at best only negligible fees be charged. The present situation where huge sums are collected

is unethical as it can easily compromise the censor. Classification should revert back to its ad hoc status as it was in the Culture Ministry.

In any case, the Internet revolution and satellite broadcasting have made censorship not only laughable but largely irrelevant. Virtually anybody can watch what he wants either through satellite or the Internet. It is only the National Broadcasting Corporation (NBC) that has the technology and the means of blocking any offensive programme.

Increased funding of the Nigerian Film Corporation Between 1984 - 2004, the Corporation received capital allocations that averaged N9 million per annum. This cannot even shoot one budget film on celluloid. There is the need to increase substantially, the funding of the Corporation so that it can perform one of its functions as a production outfit. It needs to be able to acquire state of the art facilities for production and post production purposes, particularly in cine.

The need to expedite action on the National Film Development Fund (NFDF) and Film Practitioners Council (FPC) under a centralized film agency had become more than urgent. This will solve the issue of accessing practitioners to funds, the FPC should immediately be empowered under its funding agency (NFC) to enable it professionalize and standardize the practice of film in the country.

Shehu, a former M.D, Nigerian Film Corporation, writes from Garba Ja Abdulkadir Way, Angwan Rimi, Kaduna.

## NAIC, farmers and food security

By Butrous Pemb

Primarily, the Nigerian Agricultural Insurance Corporation (NAIC) is part of the Federal Government's strategy of protecting agricultural ventures from devastating natural hazards like floods, drought, pests and diseases.

It began with the underwriting of two arable crop items especially rice and maize as well as cattle, poultry and livestock. Presently, it also covers cash crops such as tea/coffee, rubber, horticultural crops as well as fisheries. It is also experimenting, with giving covers to snairy and bee keeping on a pilot basis.

To expand its scope of operations over the years, NAIC has also scaled up its activities by offering extension services in farm management and other modern techniques towards enhancing confidence in participating farmers. Currently, NAIC is collaborating with the Zamfara state government to retrain about 100 extension staff who have since been posted to offer extension services to about 10,000 farmers in the state.

It is in this vein that Mr. Yusuf has repeatedly sent a clarion call on other state

governors to equally demonstrate sufficient political will empower and building the capacity of the local farmers towards food self-sufficiency, with NAIC as dependable and specialized agro-allied based team-player. The whole idea is to encourage greater investments in the agricultural sector of the Nigerian economy and therefore guarantee food security, i.e., optimal productivity in food production to meet both domestic consumption and have surplus for export, and of course for local commercial purposes.

As part of its statutory responsibility, NAIC has over the years provided Insurance Cover to Agricultural credit from lending institutions to all categories of farmers across the country. The benefits of Agricultural Insurance is to minimize and eventually do away with the annual ritual by government to dole out millions of Naira in form of emergency relief materials as assistance to cushion the effect of natural disasters on farmers. Presently, the insured

farmer is better off and confident that should there be flood, pest invasion leading to poor yield, the loss will not be total since he will be indemnified. His sense of security and confidence in agricultural business is assured and therefore given more boost.

This undoubtedly will translate to more stability in food production, self-reliance and ultimately food security.

Basically, the policy cover guarantees easy access to more credit facilities. This is possible as the Insurance Cover could serve as a security to access more loans from banks that offer agricultural loans. Banks such as the Nigerian Agricultural, Cooperative and Rural Development Bank (NACRDB), Union Bank, First Bank, Bank of the North and Habib Nigeria Bank among others, have offered loan facilities to farmers as a result of NAIC reputation in risk management and prompt claims payment.

The high-point of its claim settlement was in 2003 where about 140 rice farmers in Pategi in Kwara State had their claims

meticulously verified and promptly paid.

The year 2004 was particularly most challenging for both NAIC and, its teeming clients across the federation, especially in the northern part of the country that is always prone to natural disasters of all kinds. Last year for example, extensive drought were registered in parts of Bauchi, Zamfara, Sokoto and Kebbi states while quelea birds and locust invasion were devastating in Jigawa, Kano and Borno States. There were also reported cases of floods in parts of FCT, Kebbi and particularly in Gombe state. NAIC claim adjusters have already put the payment in the neighbourhood of a whopping N200 million.

The premium rating in agricultural insurance is relative to the type of business under the Nigerian Agricultural Insurance Scheme. The minimum rate for basic food crops is now 7.5% of the sum insured. The premium rate is less for approved mixed crop farms and they range from 5.25% - 5.80% of the insured total value. The sum insured is always based on the estimated cost of production, therefore

in case of any loss, the client-farmer is indemnified up to the stage of cultivation. The Agricultural Insurance Scheme is not meant to provide cover for crop yield. Therefore, the bench-mark for indemnity is always the initial project costs, which is land preparation, cost of inputs and labour to the stage of loss.

The federal and state governments normally shoulder 50% of the subsidy in the ratio of 37.5% and 12.5% respectively. The balance of 50% is the maximum premium payable by the farmer. This is with a view to making the scheme very affordable and attractive to farmers who ordinarily with many problems sourcing or sparing funds for insurance purpose.

Evidently, Insurance Cover is always an indispensable benefit to farmers who obtain it. Practising farmers reject or ignore it at their own peril, in this universally acclaimed high-risk agricultural venture. Underlining the fact that agricultural business is high risk-prone (at any given stage of cultivation, preservation and marketing) conventional insurance companies are naturally not well disposed to

partake in any form of agricultural insurance. Curiously, it is this phobia for Agricultural Insurance that has over the years given NAIC the exclusive monopoly and specialty in the realm of agricultural business in Nigeria.

By and large, the portfolio of Agricultural Insurance has the huge potentials of contributing tremendously to the rapid development of the agricultural sector, and therefore enhancing the socio-economic and food security of Nigerians.

The National Special Programme for Food Security could synergize with NAIC and therefore engage it as a veritable window and catalyst for actualizing its broad objective of attaining food security and alleviating rural poverty in Nigeria. Ultimately, this would maximize the agricultural potentials as well as enhance greater productivity towards attaining the much touted food self-sufficiency for Africa's most populous country of about 150 million people.

Pemb is Head of Corporate Affairs (NAIC).

# Trust International

## 'Iraqis can take over in 18 months'

Iraq's security forces could be ready to take over fully from foreign troops within 18 months, the country's interior minister has said.

Falah al-Naqib said he was "confident" that Iraq would be able to handle its own security in that timeframe. He was responding to calls within the US and Britain for those countries to announce a timetable for withdrawal.

But Mr. Naqib also said he expected militant attacks to resume after a lull since Sunday's election.

On Tuesday, Iraq's interim President Ghazi Yawer rejected the withdrawal of foreign troops until Iraq's own forces are ready to take over security duties. He said it was "complete nonsense" to ask coalition troops to leave Iraq in the midst of "this chaos" and "this vacuum of power".

But Mr. Naqib was optimistic that it would not take too long to get Iraq's forces up to speed.

"I think our security forces will be ready to take

### ... Self-rule inevitable

#### -Kurds

Kurdish self-rule is inevitable if not imminent, according to Kurdistan Democratic Party chief Masud Barzani.

Commenting on an almost unanimous vote for independence in an unofficial referendum held on 30 January, Masud Barzani said on Wednesday that "when the right time comes, it will become a reality".

"Self-determination is the natural right of our people, and they have the right to express their desires," he added.

Barzani heads one of the two main Kurdish groups which control Iraq's northern Kurdish zone.

The KDP leader was speaking three days after more than 1.9 million Iraqi Kurds - some 95% of those asked - voted for independence in an informal survey conducted by volunteers.

Iraqi Kurds have long pushed for independence, but Turkey, Iran and Syria - all with substantial Kurdish minorities - oppose the establishment of Kurdish state on their borders.

The referendum was held on the day of Iraq's historic elections on Sunday. Its organisers surveyed Kurds as they emerged from polling stations across northern Iraq.

The volunteers handed out postcard-sized cards with two boxes printed on them next to two flags - one Kurdish and one Iraqi. The question "What do you want?" was written at the top of the card and those polled were asked to tick one box.

By Wednesday, more than 2.1 million Kurdish votes had been counted, according to organisers who are still awaiting results from the ethnically mixed city of Kirkuk.

Witnesses said some children filled them in, and there

care of the security of the country within 18 months," he told the BBC during an interview at the interior ministry in Baghdad.

He said Iraqi forces were already succeeding in suppressing the insurgency, and this helped explain the relative calm over the election period.

"In the last six weeks, we have started a major operation against the insurgents and we have been able to capture quite a big number of those people," he said.

"Of course, we still have a lot of things to do, and I would expect more attacks in the next couple of weeks."

He said the future of the rebellion depended to a large extent on the success of the newly elected assembly and government in representing all Iraqis.

"If they did that, the insur-

gency would have no place in Iraq," he said.

The BBC correspondent in Baghdad said interim ministers like Mr. Naqib may actually have no control over Iraq's future, as they are due to lose their posts when the new government is selected in the coming weeks and months.

Meanwhile, 12 Iraqi soldiers have been killed in an ambush near the oil-rich city of Kirkuk amid continued violence around Iraq.

An Iraqi military commander said the soldiers were travelling from their jobs guarding oil pipelines when they were attacked on Wednesday between the villages of Azab and Zaraqiya, 85km west of Kirkuk.

The deadliest single attack since Sunday's election, the ambush served as grim reminder to Iraq's fragile se-

curity situation.

The soldier was killed near a city hospital, some 60km from capital Baghdad.

Aljazeera also learned that four Iraqis working with the US troops were killed and a fifth wounded in Abu Ghraib district, west of Baghdad.

Fierce clashes between armed men and US troops were also reported in the centre of Qayim city. The attacks come as the influential Association of Muslim Scholars (AMS) said Sunday's elections lacked legitimacy, and that the national assembly and the interim government stemming out of it would lack legitimacy too.

In a statement broadcast on Aljazeera, the AMS cautioned the UN and the international community not to lose sight of the pitfalls of "legitimising such an election".



The bodies of some of the 12 newly trained Iraqi National Guards who were killed in an overnight ambush near the village of Zab, 65 kilometres (40 miles), southwest of Kirkuk, Iraq, lying in the back of a truck prior to their funeral in Kirkuk ... yesterday.

## Palestinian state 'within reach' - Bush

US President George W. Bush said the goal of a Palestinian state living at peace with Israel is "within reach" and proposed a new 350 million dollar aid package to promote Palestinian reforms.

In his State of the Union address, Bush singled out Syria and Iran as threats to Middle East stability, and vowed to "confront regimes that continue to harbour terrorists and pursue weapons of mass murder."

He also issued a rare rebuke to two of the United States' main allies in the region, Saudi Arabia and Egypt, challenging them to accelerate their democratic reforms.

Bush delivered his annual speech to Congress at a time when hopes were rising for a revival of the US-backed "road map" for ending the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that has claimed more than 4,700 lives since September 2000.

"The goal of two democratic states, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace is within reach, and America will help them achieve that goal," the president said.

Bush said his new secretary of state, Condoleezza Rice, would discuss prospects for furthering the peace process and developing a Palestinian state when she visits the region early next week in the middle of a European tour.

Palestinian political, economic, and security reforms," Bush said. The administration late last year had already promised some 60 million dollars.

The White House, which had pulled back from the peace process as efforts to implement the road map faltered last year, has raised its profile since Mahmoud Abbas was elected Palestinian president to replace the late Yasser Arafat.

"The beginnings of reform and democracy in the Palestinian territories are showing the power of freedom to break old patterns of violence and failure," Bush said Wednesday.

He also said the United States was committed to spreading democracy throughout the rest of the Middle East and issued new warnings to Syria and Iran.

"Syria still allows its territory, and parts of Lebanon, to be used by terrorists who seek to destroy every chance of peace in the region," he said. "We expect the Syrian government to end all support for terror and open the door to

freedom."

He said Washington was applying sanctions under the Syrian Accountability Act although US officials have said nothing new was immediately in the pipeline beyond a near-blanket ban on the US exports to Syria imposed last May.

The president, who included Iran in his famous "axis of evil" in his State of the Union speech three years ago, said Wednesday the threat from Tehran had not diminished.

"Today, Iran remains the world's primary state sponsor of terror, pursuing nuclear weapons while depriving its people of the freedom they seek and deserve," he said.

Bush said the United States was working with Britain, France and Germany to persuade the Islamic Republic to renounce its nuclear ambitions and end its support for terror.

Bush also preached democracy to Saudi Arabia and Egypt, two of Washington's strongest allies in the region, urging them to lead the way in spreading freedom throughout the region.

## Syria, Jordan hold peacetalks

Syrian President Bashar Assad has held talks with King Abdullah in Jordan on regional peace prospects. Both leaders say the Arab peace initiative is "the only existing and tangible plan to end the conflict", Jordan's foreign minister said

Israel if it returned all land seized during the 1967 war.

Jordan signed a 1994 peace treaty with Israel, but Syria never reached a deal.

Jordan and Syria have had strained relations under their late

## Odd World

### Police offered cash to reject bribes

Malaysian state is fighting fire with fire in the battle against corruption, offering police a cash reward if they reject a bribe.

The reward will be equal to twice the bribe, Pahang state's police chief was quoted as saying by the *New Straits Times* on Wednesday. Police in the central Malaysian state must also arrest the person who offered the bribe to be eligible for the reward.

Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi is leading a campaign against corruption, which has tarnished Malaysia's image in the eyes of foreign investors. Bribes are sometimes used to cut through red tape and persuade poorly paid police to look the other way. "For instance, if a policeman arrests someone offering him 50 ringgit (seven pounds), we will reward him with 100 ringgit," Pahang police chief Ramli Yusoff said, adding that the "double reward" policy only applied for bribes under 200 ringgit. Rewards for turning down larger bribes would be decided on a case-by-case basis.

"I will personally hand over the reward to the personnel concerned," Ramli said.

### 400 car crashes in two years?

Berlin police rejected accusations Wednesday that their high-powered cars made them bad drivers, despite causing nearly 400 collisions, including 21 vehicles totalled, in two years.

Opposition leaders said the sharp accident rise coincided with police, adding 260 high-performance BMWs to their fleet in 2002.

"You can't say Berlin police are bad drivers based on those statistics," a police spokesman said. "You have to differentiate. Some of those incidents were merely a wing mirror breaking off or a dented bumper."

Berlin newspapers suggested the accident numbers were so high because police were insufficiently trained to drive the 177-horsepower cars. Either that, or they were just bad drivers.

### Dumb or Dummer? School eyes name change

Governor Dummer Academy, an exclusive prep school north of Boston founded before the American War of Independence, wants to change its name to one that won't be the stuff of snide wisecracks.

In what headmaster Marty Doggett calls a "name refinement", Governor Dummer Academy is acting on a marketing firm's advice to upgrade to a more prestigious moniker in a bid to lure better students. A new name has yet to be picked.

However, it probably won't include "Dummer", the 18th century Massachusetts governor who gave land and money to the school.

"We're trying to attract the best students we can from an array of backgrounds and locations," Doggett was quoted as saying in Tuesday's edition of *The Boston Globe*.

The school's board of directors voted to change the name, but did not select a new one.

Some alumni are apparently upset by the proposed name change at the 242-year-old institution, and *Globe* columnist Brian McGrory questioned the logic.

"If a kid took a pass on Governor Dummer because of its name, is that the kind of student they really want at their school?" McGrory wrote.

Doggett was not available for comment.

### Man finds leg in father's bag

A hospital that accidentally placed the amputated leg of a deceased patient in a plastic bag with the personal belongings of another patient apologized Tuesday, and a spokeswoman said officials were trying to determine how the error may have occurred.

"We regret that the situation has happened ... and we have expressed our feelings to the family," said Nancy Uzo, a spokeswoman for Central Suffolk Hospital in Riverhead on eastern Long Island. She added that the hospital was investigating how the mistake occurred and would take any corrective action to prevent a repeat.

The gruesome discovery was made on Monday, when Christopher Runyan received the personal belongings of his father Paul, 77, who died at the hospital last week. The bag was given to Runyan by employees of Sinnickson's Moriches Funeral Home, who handled the elder Runyan's funeral and collected the belongings for the family from the hospital.

Suffolk County police Sgt. George Kelly said Tuesday that an investigation determined that the severed leg belonged to a man named James Jordan, 82, of Calverton. Jordan had a history of diabetes and the leg was amputated prior to his death on Jan. 13, police said.

The county medical examiner's office was making arrangements to return the leg to Jordan's relatives, Kelly said. Jordan's body has already been cremated, the sergeant said.

"We believe it was just a case of human error."

### Grandmother confesses to cheating in 1957

A high school graduate has confessed to cheating on an English literature test - 47 years ago. Eagle Valley High School Principal Mark Strakbein said he got a one-page, handwritten letter from a 65-year-old grandmother of five who admitted she and a friend stole the answers to a Shakespeare test in the fall of 1957.

"I know it makes no difference now (after 47 years), except maybe this will keep some students from cheating and help them to be honest - conscience never lets you forget - there is forgiveness with God, and I have that, but I felt I still needed to confess to the school."

# Trust International

## Seven die in blast ahead of Indian polls



Monarchy supporters take part in a demonstration in favour of King Gyanendra as they hoist a picture in his likeness through the streets of Katmandu, Nepal, yesterday.

## Nepal govt calls for peace, Maoists strike

Nepal's new government said yesterday it wanted peace talks with Maoist rebels but clamped down on dissent, banning all criticism of the king's decision to assume power for three years.

Soldiers have been posted in television newsrooms to monitor everything before it is aired, local reporters said.

King Gyanendra's decision to sack the government on Tuesday was condemned by India and the United States, both major suppliers of military aid, and the United Nations, which warned it could play into the rebels' hands.

Gyanendra acted after increasing criticism for his failure to bring political stability and peace with the Maoists.

Gyanendra appointed a 10-man cabinet of loyalists under his chairmanship, and the new government said its first priority was peace with the Maoists.

"To establish peace, we are considering how to go forward with the peace process and the dialogue with the Maoists," Education Minister Radha Krishna Mainali, the

number two in the government, told Reuters.

"Will they come to talks or not? If they do, we can move forward in a certain way. And if they don't, we have to make another choice."

A state of emergency has been declared, ousted Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba and other political leaders placed under house arrest or thrown in jail, and the press strictly muzzled in one of the globe's poorest and most troubled nations.

At least, two political leaders are on the run, local newspapers reported. Yesterday state radio announced all news against the royal proclamation of emergency and sacking the government was banned for six months.

Maoist rebels have been fighting since 1996 to topple the monarchy and establish a Communist republic, based on the teachings of China's Communist patriarch Mao Zedong. About 11,000 people have been killed in the Maoist insurgency since.

The king's move has drawn mixed reactions in Nepal, where many people

say they are fed up with corrupt and incompetent politicians and chronic instability the country has had 13 prime ministers in the past 14 years.

Seven people have been killed in a landmine blast, hours before voting was to begin in the eastern Indian states of Jharkhand, Bihar and Haryana, to elect provincial government officials, police revealed.

The seven six policemen and their driver were killed early on Thursday while on patrol in Jharkhand's Palamau district, one of the many where Maoist rebels hold sway, a police spokesman said.

The explosion was caused by a landmine, police said, adding suspicion fell on Indian Maoist rebels who are said to be active in Palamau.

The district is among 24 seats in the 81-member Jharkhand legislature going to the polls in the first phase which started yesterday.

Both states are affected by a Maoist insurgency and election officials said about 100,000 security personnel were on duty to ensure a smooth ballot.

The rebels last week called for a boycott of the polls, saying elections were no solution to the problems of the rural poor whom they say they represent.

Thousands have died since the 1960s in rural India in uprisings by Maoist fighters. In the Bihar district of Kaimur, police said an overnight patrol team recovered 10kg of dynamite.

Bihar, where caste wars are frequent, has millions of unemployed youth and is considered to be India's poorest and most lawless state.

Also going to the polls was the northern state of Haryana, neighbouring the Indian capital, New Delhi.

Television footage showed people queuing up at polling stations across the state where voting for all 90 legislative seats were being held yesterday, a polling official said.

## UN appoints Clinton as tsunami envoy

Former U.S. President Bill Clinton has been chosen as a special UN envoy to ensure the reconstruction effort for the Asian tsunami victims, the United Nations said on Tuesday.

Secretary-General Kofi Annan said in a statement that "no one could possibly be better qualified for the task" of "sustaining world interest in the vital recovery and reconstruction phase".

Clinton is currently raising money for victims of the December 26 disaster that killed nearly 300,000 people and left many more homeless when a quake and deadly waves struck the shores of Indian Ocean nations.

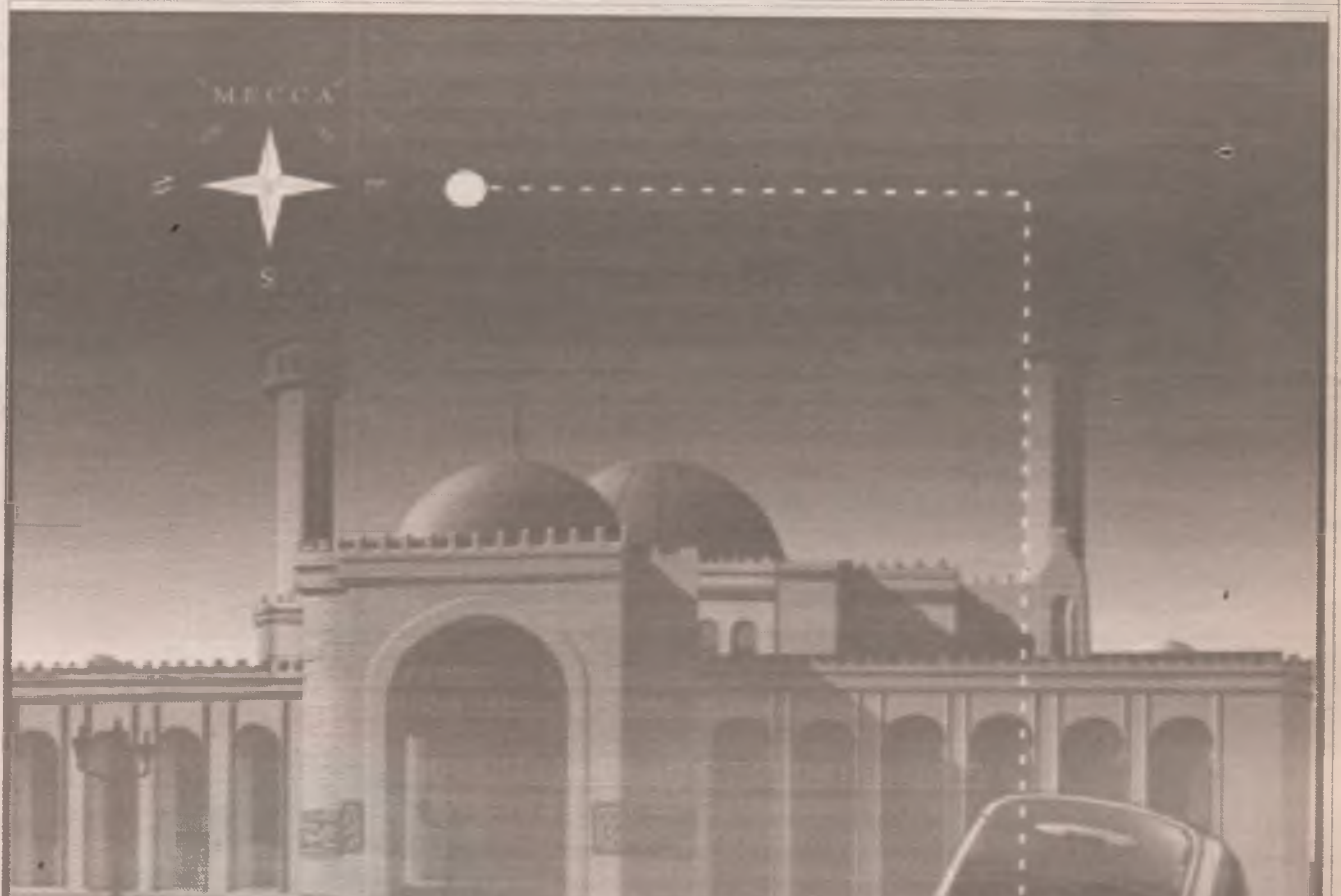
President Bush chose Clinton and his father, former President Bush, to head a non-governmental fund-raising effort in the United States

that has included travelling around the country.

Annan hopes Clinton could also use his political acumen and help resolve seemingly intractable conflicts between separatist rebels and the government in Indonesia's Aceh province and in Sri Lanka, where the Tamil Tigers have been fighting for a homeland since 1983, UN spokesman Fred Eckhard said. Both countries were severely hit by the tsunami.

Annan and Clinton intend to make a formal announcement after Clinton and the elder Bush return from a trip to the Indian Ocean later this month.

The Clinton Foundation last month also launched a \$45 million appeal with the U.N. Children's Fund, UNICEF, to provide clean water and sanitation in tsunami-



### The new LG Quiblah F7100 Phone

#### Specifications

- Main LCD: 1.1" 128X160 pixel, 65K colour STN
- MID: 40 Poly
- Speaker: 170
- Battery: 800mAh Li-ion
- Radio: 900/1800 MHz
- Size: 44x24x21 mm
- Weight: 85g

#### Applications

- Mosaic Indicator (Object)
- Area function (Prayer Areas)
- Internet
- EMS/MMS
- JAVA (MIDP 2.0)
- WAP 1.2
- Sound UI
- Built-in Answering Machine

For more enquiries and product testing: Visit the Product Launch/Dealers' Convention at:

#### ABUJA

- Abuja National Mosque
- Ansa-ru-deen Mosque, West 2
- Lofufofo Mosque, Zone 3

Contact: 0403 303 1529

#### KANO

- Ali Bin Usman Mosque
- BURE Mosque
- Sebon Gari Mosque

Contact: 0802 320 2684

#### DATE

Friday, February 4, 2005

Please note that the launch is strictly by invitation



...Your faithful guide to Mecca

# Trust International

## Gas leak kills Georgian PM

Georgian Prime Minister Zurab Zhvania has been found dead in an apartment in Tbilisi, apparently poisoned by gas from a faulty heater.

Officials said security guards found Mr. Zhvania's body after breaking into a flat owned by his friends several hours after he arrived there.

Mr. Zhvania, 41, was once an ally of former President Eduard Shevardnadze.

But he turned against him and played a prominent role in the 2003 Rose Revolution that ousted Mr. Shevardnadze.

Interior Minister Vano Merabishvili said Mr. Zhvania had arrived at the flat at about midnight local time on Wednesday.

Security guards became suspicious after the prime minister failed to answer his

phone for several hours.

They broke in around 0400 to find Mr. Zhvania dead in an armchair.

The body of his friend and the owner of the flat, named as Krem-Kartli region deputy governor Raul Usupov, was found in the kitchen.

No foul play was suspected, Mr. Merabishvili said, but the body had been taken to the coroner's office for further examination.

David Morchiladze, the general director of Tbilgaz - the company supplying gas to Tbilisi - said there was an Iranian-made heater installed in the flat which broke safety regulations.

"Carbon monoxide was bound to be collected in the flat," he said. His deputy added that the flat, which Mr. Usupov had moved into only a few weeks ago, had no vent for the gas.

Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili held an emergency government meeting which was shown live on Georgian television.

"Georgia has lost a great patriot whose entire life was devoted to tireless and selfless service to our country. I have lost my closest friend, most trusted adviser and greatest ally," Mr. Saakashvili said, addressing his ministers.

"I hope you will stand firm, Georgia will stand firm, and I hope I will stand firm

because it is firmness that we need the most at present."

Mr. Saakashvili said that his thoughts were with "Zurab's wife Nino, his mother Irma and his three most beautiful children".

Deputy Prime Minister Giorgi Baramidze is reported to have been asked to act as prime minister on a temporary basis.

Another Rose Revolution leader, parliamentary speaker Nino Burjanadze, cut short her visit to Italy and is returning to Georgia.

President Bush challenged a hesitant US Congress on Wednesday to take political risks to make Social Security "permanently sound," saying the nation's costliest social program was headed for bankruptcy unless changed. Bush's plan would cut guaranteed retirement benefits for younger Americans but would not affect checks for people now 55 and older.

Bush, in his State of the Union address, pledged to work with Congress "to find the most effective combination of reforms," although he has ruled out some remedies such as raising Social Security taxes.

## Bush delivers State of the Union address

Democrats said that Bush's proposal to divert Social Security revenues into private investment accounts was dangerous and that there were better ways to fix the programme, the 70-year-old centre-piece of the New Deal.

A variety of solutions have been proposed over the years, such as limiting benefits for wealthy retirees, raising the retirement age, indexing benefits to prices rather than wages, discouraging early collection of Social Security benefits and changing the ways benefits are calcu-

lated, Bush said.

"All these ideas are on the table," Bush said. "I know that none of these reforms would be easy. But we have to move ahead with courage and honesty because our children's retirement security is more important than partisan politics."

Bush's speech spanned problems at home and abroad, but it was the first State of the Union address since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks that focused most heavily on domestic issues. Despite Democrats' criticism, he offered no hint of a timetable for a troop withdrawal from Iraq.

He pledged to confront regimes that promote terror and pursue weapons of mass destruction, and singled out Syria and Iran. Returning to his inaugural address' theme of spreading democracy, Bush hailed the success of Sunday's elections in Iraq.

"And the victory of freedom in Iraq will strengthen a new ally in the war on terror, inspire democracy reformers from Damascus to Tehran, bring more hope and progress to a troubled region," he said.

Bush also promised to push forward for Mideast peace, including \$350 million in aid to the Palestinians.

"The goal of two democratic states, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace, is within reach, and America will help them achieve that goal," the president said.

## Mozambique new president assumes office

Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano Wednesday handed power over to Armando Emilio Guebuza, general secretary of the ruling Frelimo Party, and the victor in the 1-2 December presidential election.

In his last address to the nation as Head of State, at the public ceremony in Maputo's Independence Square, Chissano described the inauguration of his successor as "a glorious page in our history" - because, for the first time, "the transition in political leadership is proceeding normally, in a climate of peace and stability".

The two men who preceded him as leader of Frel-

imo, Eduardo Mondlane and Samora Machel, "were not given the chance to bid their people and their comrades farewell", said Chissano. "Theirs were sudden and tragic departures which plunged us all into mourning".

Mondlane, the founder of Frelimo, was assassinated by a parcel bomb sent to his Dar-es-Salaam office by the Portuguese secret police, the PIDE, almost exactly 36 years ago, on 3 February 1969. Machel, who led Frelimo to victory and became the country's first President, died in a plane crash, generally believed to have been caused by the apartheid military, on 19 October 1986.

He called for a minute of

silence in memory of Mondlane, Machel and all the other Mozambican heroes who had fallen so that the Mozambican people could win their sovereignty and independence.

Chissano said he had come "to the end of a long and difficult journey in the service of our motherland", and offered his thanks to the Mozambican people "for the opportunity they gave me to be their servant".

He said that the country's success was due mainly to the determination and commitment of its people who "with perseverance and optimism, were able to take advantage of the prevailing peace and stability, and relaunch the productive process".



Late Georgian Prime Minister, Zurab Zhvania

# Sleek Motorola C115

# @N7,800

## only!

- Longer battery life (9 hours talk time, 330 hours Standby time)
- 24 embedded ringtones
- iTAP predictive text messaging

### Real pocket-friendly price.



Available at these Vstores:

Lagos	• 701, Sanusi Fafunwa Street, V/Island, Lagos • 146, Awolowo Road, Ikoyi, Lagos • Silver Bird Galleria, 133 Ahmadu Bello Way, Victoria Island, Lagos.
Kaduna	4, Yakubu Gowon Way, Kaduna
Abuja	• V-Rock, Plot 374A Adetokunbo Ademola Street, Wuse 11 Abuja • First City Plaza Plot 252 Herbert Marcouley Way, Central business district Abuja
Kano	2, Yolawa Road, Opp. Mallam Kato Sq, Kano.
P/Harcourt	26/28 Onne Rd. GRA Phase II P/Harcourt
Ibadan	National Bank Building, Agodi Secretariat, Ibadan.
Enugu	Plot 6, Ebeano Housing Estate, Independence Layout, Enugu.

\*Hurry! Offer valid while stock lasts



MOTOROLA

Intelligence everywhere



# It's all about you.

# Invest in your future, invest in EIB Shares



Between 1999 and 2004, EIB's average annual growth in key performance indices are:

- Gross Earnings 30%
- Total Deposits 35%
- Total Assets 30%

- Professional and competent management team
- Current market price at The Nigerian Stock Exchange is N2.26
- An 'A-' rating in 2003 by Global Credit Rating Ltd. (GCR), a Securities and Exchange Commission registered rating agency.



**EIB INTERNATIONAL BANK PLC**

***OFFERS FOR SUBSCRIPTION***

## 5,500,000,000

ordinary shares of 50 kobo each at N1.80k per share

**Offer opens: January 31, 2005**  
**Closes: February 28, 2005**

ISSUING HOUSES



Website: [www.eibintlbank.com](http://www.eibintlbank.com)

# Business Trust

International

## Today's flight schedule

### Albarka Air

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

Most airlines operate the same flight schedule on week days.

## JDA signs PSC with three oil companies

The Nigeria-Sao Tome and Principe Joint Development Authority (JDA), on Tuesday in Sao Tome signed a Production Sharing Contract (PSC) with three oil companies that would operate in block one.

The three companies are Chevron-Texaco with 51 per cent equity, Exxon-Mobil with 41 per cent holding and Dangote Equity Energy Resources with nine per cent share.

In the deal Chevron-Texaco is the operator while the two other companies are its technical partners. The PSC the first in the history of the JDZ signalled the commencement of oil exploration activities in the zone.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the block located in the deep off-

shore waters in the gulf of Guinea was awarded to the companies following an intense bidding round in October 2003. With the signing of the PSC the companies paid 123 million dollars as signature bonus to the JDA.

The chairman of the JDA, Mr Carlos Gomes signed on behalf of the organisation while Mr Jay Proy Managing Director, Chevron-Texaco appended his signature for his company and Alhaji Aliko Dangote signed for his company as well as representative of Exxon-Mobil Mr John also signed for the entity.

Speaking at the ceremony, presidential adviser on petroleum and energy, Dr Edmund Daukoru said the pact represented a major milestone in the development of the JDZ,

particularly in the light of the clamour for indigeneous participation in the upstream sector of the oil industry.

According to him, the agreement marked the beginning of oil supply from the JDZ to the rest of the world. He charged the contractors to get first oil from the

block in record time.

Proy had earlier said the that partnership to develop the block began from today and it would move at the desired speed. "We Will do our best to develop the block with all our expertise", he said.

Also speaking, JDA chairman, Carlos Gomes said

all hands would be on deck to realize our aspirations of getting first oil in 2008.

NAN recalls that JDA was set up in February 2001 to harness, develop and manage hydrocarbon and nonhydrocarbon resources in the JDZ on 60/40 basis in favour of Nigeria.®

## FG approves 30% discount on ship, cargo dues

The age long inactivity at the Calabar and Warri ports on the Eastern operational zone at the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) will soon be a thing of the past.

Importers and exporters who patronise the ports for their business would now enjoy a 30 per cent discount on all ship and cargo dues which can also be paid in Naira at

From Adelanwa Bamboye, Correspondent (Lagos)

the prevailing official exchange rate as approved by the minister of transport, Dr. Abiye Sekibo.

The concession granted by the federal government, which took effect from January 13<sup>th</sup> 2005, is designed to encourage patronage by the business community within ports catchment areas as well as stimulate activities in the respective ports.

It is expected that the federal government gesture would assist in decongesting

ports within the Lagos operational area, when importers and exporters within the catchment areas of the eastern parts of the country begin to fully patronise the Calabar and Warri ports, especially with the recent discount granted on their services.

The use of Calabar and Warri ports by importers and exporters within their catchment areas would be more cost effective as freight charges from the ports to the ultimate consumers would be greatly reduced.

## Nigeria/Swiss chamber, others back destination inspection

The president of the Nigerian Swiss Chamber of Commerce, Mr Leo Rossini, and some other international businessmen have said that the proposed introduction of the destination inspection scheme will revolutionise international trade in Nigeria.

Speaking during an inspection tour by the executives of the Nigerian Swiss Chamber of Commerce to RORO Ports in Lagos, where Cotecna ultra modern scanners are located in preparation for destination inspection, Rossini said that the project would invigorate trade business dealings between Swiss and Nigeria.

He commended Cotecna on the quality and capability of the scanners, adding that similar machines were in use in Switzerland, which is reputed to be the hub of import and export trade in Europe.

According to him, the scientific scanning of goods minimizes ports delays and facilitates quality trade and commerce.

In his own contribution during the visit, Cotecna Destination Inspection Managing Director, Mr Noel Holland, said Cotecna was committed to the Nigerian market, adding that "we are here for the long haul and we see our huge investment on scanners and personnel as an investment and not a loss."

Holland said that the scanning machines were not only a great investment to the company, but to Nigeria and that it would contribute immensely to the smooth take off and sustenance of the scheme as soon as the fed-

eral government "gives the go ahead".

He explained that Cotecna had trained many Nigerians, who are already operating the scanners daily, stressing that Cotecna as a company was delighted at their performance.

"The Nigerian operators are comparable in skill, knowledge and confidence to other skilled scanner operators in Europe and other parts of the world," Holland said.

The inspection team included the Swiss Ambassador to Nigeria Dr Pierre Helg, the honourable Consul of the Switzerland Embassy, Mrs. Marlies Allan, and Mrs. Ngozi Anyanso, Commercial Attach, Switzerland Embassy among others.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that Cotecna operates and manages Pre-shipment Inspection and Scanning Risk Management Programmes that were awarded to Cotecna due to its ability to offer new and innovative services to the authorities in Burkina Faso, Comoros Islands, Cote d'Voire, Ecuador, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, Togo, and Venezuela.

With a 30-year record of professionalism as a world leader in innovative inspection services, Cotecna is widely acclaimed as an industry leader with international inspection network of some 4000 personnel in 150 offices in 100 countries worldwide, including Europe, America and Africa.

In most of the African countries where it operates, Cotecna has helped to accelerate customs revenue.



The group managing director of the NNPC, Engr. Funsho Kupoakun (left) exchanging views with the director, Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR), Mr. Mac Ofurhie at the opening exhibition of the Society of Petroleum Engineers...late last year.

## Dollar rises against Yen

The dollar rose against the yen but held steady versus the euro yesterday as investors waited for US jobs data and a Group of Seven meeting this week, following a widely-expected US interest rate rise.

The Federal Reserve hiked its Fed funds rate by 25 basis points to 2.5 percent on Wednesday as expected and its statement after the decision cemented expectations of gradual tightening in the future.

The European Central Bank announces its monetary policy decision at 7:45 a.m. EST but in contrast to the Fed it is expected to leave interest rates at two percent.

Investors are reluctant to make big positions ahead of today's release of key US jobs data and the meeting of G7 rich nations and emerging economies on Friday and Saturday.

"The Fed's statement was the same as the last one...they are just content to keep raising interest rates," said Ian Gunner, head of foreign exchange research at Mellon Bank in London.

"Payrolls will be important because more and more people are talking about the cyclical backdrop for the dollar. There is still a bias for dollar strength and we are still in a downward correction in euro/dollar."

At 5:40 a.m. yesterday, the euro stood at \$1.3032, steady on the day but off this week's high near \$1.31.

The dollar has gained more than six cents since hitting a record low in late December as rate hike expectations helped offset worries about US current account and budget deficits.

The yen fell broadly as Japanese investors bought the single currency for their

purchases of euro-denominated bonds.

The dollar was a third of a percent up on the day at 103.93 yen, while the euro was also higher at 135.47 yen.

The euro zone's dominant service sector expanded at its fastest pace in three months in January, according to a survey of some 2,000 companies.

The concentration of events toward the weekend has left major currencies trading in a tight range this week.

A speech on the current account today by Fed chairman Alan Greenspan is one focus as President Bush offered no details about his plans to cut the budget deficit in his State of the Union address on Wednesday.

"There is a lot of downside risks for the dollar ahead of the weekend and Greenspan's speech," said Todd Elmer, foreign exchange strategist at Barclays.



# South-South Peoples Assemb

A historic gathering of leaders and people of the South-South geo-political zone of Nigeria, shall hold in the Bayelsa State capital on Saturday 5th February, 2005.

The Yenagoa meeting aims to reaffirm the determination of the South-Southerner in the country and in Diaspora. A people willing, ready and determined to forge a formidable platform, chart a common course, destiny and shared vision in a process that will ensure and guarantee equity and justice for its people in the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Those expected at the event and invited to attend include:

- FORMER VICE PRESIDENT ADMIRAL AUGUSTUS AIKHOMU & CHIEF OF GENERAL STAFF VICE ADMIRAL OKHAI AKHIGBE
- ALL GOVERNORS OF THE SOUTH-SOUTH ZONE
- FORMER SENATE PRESIDENT RT. HON. (DR.) JOSEPH WAYAS
- ALL FORMER GOVERNORS (CIVILIAN & MILITARY)
- HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
- DISTINGUISHED SENATORS AND HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (PAST & SERVING)
- NATIONAL CHAIRMEN, VICE -CHAIRMEN & LEADERS OF ALL POLITICAL PARTIES
- MINISTERS OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC FROM THE SOUTH-SOUTH ZONE
- SPEAKERS OF THE VARIOUS STATE HOUSES OF ASSEMBLY AND HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF ASSEMBLY
- ALL FORMER SERVICE CHIEFS AND COMMANDERS
- CHAIRMEN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS & MEMBERS OF FEDERAL COMMISSIONS, PARASTATALS, BOARDS & AGENCIES (PAST & PRESENT)
- ALL AMBASSADORS/HIGH COMMISSIONERS OF SOUTH-SOUTH EXTRACTION
- CHAIRMEN OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCILS
- CHAIRMEN OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHAPTERS OF POLITICAL PARTIES
- ALL VICE-CHANCELLORS AND MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMIA
- ALL ROYAL FATHERS
- ALL PROFESSIONAL LEADERS AND BODIES
- THE CLERGY
- PATRIOTIC AND DISTINGUISHED SONS & DAUGHTERS OF THE SOUTH-SOUTH ZONE
- MEMBERS OF THE PRESS

#### KEY NOTE ADDRESSES:

1. A South-South President: - A Nation's quest for Equity, Justice and Fair Play. By Professor B.I.C. Igeoma
2. The National Political Reforms: - A South - South Perspective. By O.C.J. Okocha (SAN)

Date: Sat. February 5, 2005      Venue: Multi-purpose Hall  
Yenagoa Sports Complex  
Yenagoa, Bayelsa State

Time: 11.00 am

THE SOUTH - SOUTH: ONE ZONE, ONE DESTINY UNDER GOD

ANNOUNCER:

SENATOR ANIETIE OKON  
for: The South-South Peoples Assembly

# Business Trust

## 1ST-TIER SECURITIES

## THE NIGERIAN STOCK EXCHANGE

## REPORT AS AT THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2005

NAME	LClose	Open	High	Low	Close	Change	Trades	Volume	Value
CUTIXI	30	1.30	1.30	1.30	1.30	0.00	3	286,664	372,663.20
<b>Sector Totals</b>									
<b>AGRICULTURE/AGRO-ALLIED</b>									
LIVESTOCK	2.83	2.83	2.83	2.83	2.83	0.00	1	193	546.19
OKITIPUPA	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.00	2	1,420	1,107.60
OKOMUOIL	16.98	16.90	16.90	16.14	16.14	-0.84	27	343,802	5,570,013.87
PRESCO	10.50	10.50	11.02	10.50	11.02	0.52	10	51,300	557,600.00
<b>Sector Totals</b>									
<b>AUTOMOBILE &amp; TYRE</b>									
DUNLOP	2.07	2.08	2.08	1.98	1.98	-0.09	39	1,467,161	2,928,810.40
RTBRISCOE	7.22	7.22	7.22	7.22	7.22	0.00	4	3,565	25,739.30
<b>Sector Totals</b>									
<b>BANKING</b>									
ACCESSBANK	3.42	3.42	3.42	3.42	3.42	0.00	4	38,522	131,745.24
AFRIBANK	6.63	6.63	6.63	6.63	6.63	0.00	24	178,856	1,185,815.28
CHARTERED	3.90	3.90	3.90	3.90	3.90	0.00	2	5,838	22,768.20
FIRSTBANK	24.49	24.30	24.40	24.01	24.30	-0.19	462	2,403,555	58,344,622.89
FSB	1.56	1.50	1.50	1.49	1.49	-0.07	32	1,099,418	1,642,995.01
GUARANTY	11.60	11.60	11.60	11.30	11.30	-0.30	259	2,177,824	25,035,292.49
GULFBANK	0.66	0.63	0.69	0.63	0.69	0.03	38	4,076,912	2,610,074.56
IMB	0.64	0.64	0.67	0.63	0.65	0.01	20	2,431,300	1,618,427.04
INLANDBANK	1.33	1.35	1.37	1.29	1.37	0.04	25	3,269,277	4,355,607.10
INTERCONT	7.81	7.81	7.81	7.81	7.81	0.00	10	124,618	973,266.58
LIONBANK	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.72	0.72	-0.03	13	116,800	85,020.00
MANNYBANK	1.29	1.30	1.31	1.30	1.30	0.01	14	1,276,525	1,660,237.34
NAL	2.80	2.80	2.80	2.80	2.80	0.00	4	22,283	62,392.40
OCEANIC	6.30	6.30	6.30	6.30	6.30	0.00	8	85,450	538,335.00
OWENABANK	1.28	1.22	1.34	1.22	1.34	0.06	18	931,500	1,191,262.30
STB	7.41	7.41	7.41	7.41	7.41	0.00	23	135,195	1,001,794.95
TIB	1.78	1.78	1.78	1.78	1.78	0.00	2	7,000	12,460.00
TRADEBANK	1.35	1.35	1.35	1.35	1.35	0.00	1	150	202.50
UBA	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	0.00	124	4,207,011	42,070,110.00
UBN	20.06	20.06	20.49	19.45	19.45	-0.61	390	3,164,886	63,681,058.05
UTB	0.98	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	-0.04	14	1,452,650	1,365,491.00
WEMABANK	3.93	3.93	3.93	3.93	3.93	0.00	9	23,079,908	90,704,038.44
ZENITHBANK	14.17	13.47	13.47	13.47	13.47	-0.70	170	6,321,644	85,152,544.68
<b>Sector Totals</b>									
<b>BREWERIES</b>									
CHAMPION	4.45	4.23	4.23	4.23	4.23	-0.22	1	100,000	423,000.00
GUINNESS	101.80	101.60	101.80	99.10	99.10	-2.70	146	497,018	50,217,719.38
INTBREW	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.00	1	400	360.00
NB	33.50	33.50	33.50	32.50	32.65	-0.85	474	1,195,542	39,438,812.37
<b>Sector Totals</b>									
<b>BUILDING MATERIALS</b>									
ASHAKACEM	24.00	24.00	24.25	23.51	23.52	-0.48	92	350,502	8,385,219.83
CCNN	7.20	7.20	7.39	7.00	7.00	-0.20	21	277,871	2,000,900.96
WAPCO	11.02	11.02	11.50	11.00	11.30	0.28	32	117,113	1,302,162.32
<b>Sector Totals</b>									
<b>CHEMICAL &amp; PAINTS</b>									
BERGER	5.15	5.15	5.35	5.10	5.35	0.20	19	95,752	499,767.50
CAP	6.65	6.65	6.65	6.65	6.65	0.00	4	15,000	99,750.00
DNMEYER	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.25	0.00	5	19,204	100,821.00
NIG-GERMAN	3.70	3.70	3.70	3.70	3.70	0.00	4	20,000	74,000.00
<b>Sector Totals</b>									
<b>CONGLOMERATES</b>									
AGLEVENT	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.14	1.14	-0.06	6	201,000	230,940.00
CFAO	5.86	5.57	5.57	5.57	5.57	-0.29	3	15,900	88,563.00
CHELLARAM	1.71	1.71	1.71	1.71	1.71	0.00	1	3,499	5,983.29
JOHNHOLT	0.95	0.91	0.95	0.91	0.95	0.00	4	14,855	13,918.05
LEVROS	16.50	16.50	17.00	16.40	16.60	0.10	147	664,720	11,049,253.29
PZ	13.60	13.60	14.00	13.60	13.85	0.25	57	284,521	3,925,549.44
SCOA	1.19	1.19	1.19	1.19	1.19	0.00	4	10,000	11,900.00
UACN	14.17	14.17	14.17	14.17	14.17	0.00	55	1,752,903	24,838,635.51
UTC	1.18	1.13	1.13	1.13	1.13	-0.05	12	241,840	273,279.20
<b>Sector Totals</b>									
<b>CONSTRUCTION</b>									
COSTAIN	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.00	3	3,540	3,186.00
JBERGER	14.62	14.62	14.62	14.62	14.62	0.00	4	2,510	36,696.20
<b>Sector Totals</b>									
<b>ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY</b>									
NIWICABLE	0.85	0.85	0.86	0.85	0.86	0.01	3	27,980	24,033.00
<b>Sector Totals</b>									
<b>FOOD/BEVERAGES &amp; TOBACCO</b>									
7UP	24.00	23.60	25.00	23.60	23.60	-0.40	28	107,712	2,580,980.10
CADBURY	57.00	57.00	58.50	56.01	57.25	0.25	137	188,623	10,788,709.37
FLOURMILL	16.61	16.61	16.61	16.61	16.61	0.00	42	2,178,041	36,177,261.01
NBC	53.75	53.75	54.50	53.75	54.00	0.25	71	120,661	6,510,211.02
NESTLE	146.51	146.52	147.00	146.51	146.53	0.02	101	330,572	48,500,862.17
<b>Sector Totals</b>									
<b>HEALTHCARE</b>									
EKOCORP	1.04	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99	-0.05	1	20,000	19,800.00
EVANSMED	3.30	3.30	3.35	3.21	3.21	-0.09	13	104,960	348,778.00
MAY&BAKER	5.68	5.40	5.64	5.40	5.40	-0.28	4	29,800	162,072.00
PFIZER	3.46	3.63	3.63	3.63	3.63	0.17	9	98,757	358,487.91
SKBEECHAM	8.80	8.80	8.80	8.40	8.80	0.00	34	366,867	3,164,133.25
<b>Sector Totals</b>									
<b>INDUSTRIAL/DOMESTIC PRODUCTS</b>									
FIRSTALUM	1.06	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	-0.02	2	56,200	58,448.00
IGL	2.98	3.00	3.00	2.98	2.98	0.00	3	49,000	146,800.00
VITAFOAM	3.59	3.58	3.59	3.45	3.59	0.00	54	379,258	1,353,078.61
VONO	1.90	1.90	1.90	1.90	1.90	0.00	1	2,166	4,115.40
<b>Sector Totals</b>									
<b>INSURANCE</b>									
AIICO	2.06	2.00	2.16	1.98	2.16	0.10	15	367,950	763,601.00
BAICO	0.93	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.04	2	17,000	16,490.00
CORNERST	1.31	1.37	1.37	1.37	1.37	0.06	1	11,078	15,176.86
CRUSADER	1.02	1.07	1.07	1.02	1.07	0.05	11	291,075	307,200.25
LAWUNION	1.38	1.34	1.34	1.32	1.32	-0.06	2	150,000	200,000.00
LINK ASSURE	1.90	1.95	1.95	1.90	1.90	0.00	6	100,000	194,000.00
NEM	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.00	1	970	834.20
NIGERINS	3.13	3.13	3.28	3.13	3.28	0.15	11	105,000	329,258.25
ROYALEX	4.03	3.85	4.03	3.85	3.91	-0.12	9	123,156	478,768.66
STDINSURE	1.67	1.59	1.59	1.59	1.59	-0.08	1	15,230	24,215.70
UNIC	1.03	1.04	1.08	1.04	1.08	0.05	4	84,256	90,196.48
WAPIC	2.86	2.80	2.80	2.80	2.80	-0.06	5	51,800	145,040.00
<b>Sector Totals</b>									
<b>MANAGED FUNDS</b>									
C&ILEASING	1.61	1.63	1.63	1.61	1.61	0.00	4	127,000	204,710.00
<b>Sector Totals</b>									
<b>PACKAGING</b>									
AVONCROWN	1.16	1.16	1.21	1.16	1.21	0.05	3	20,000	23,700.00
CMB	1.29	1.35	1.35	1.35	1.35	0.06	2	120,000	162,000.00
POLYPROD	0.74	0.74	0.77	0.71	0.77	0.03	7	134,150	98,821.00
VANLEER	2.29	2.29	2.29	2.29	2.29	0.00	1	1,000	2,290.00
<b>Sector Totals</b>									
<b>PETROLEUM(MARKETING)</b>									
AFROIL	0.81	0.77	0.78	0.77	0.78	-0.03	7	178,200	138,951.00
AP	66.40	66.42	66.42	63.09	64.60	-1.80	118	358,005	23,572,119.84
ETERNAOIL	2.04	2.04	2						



Behold  
this  
treasure...

# Behold the prospects...



Do you know that an average of 25% of \$7 billion expended annually in Nigeria's oil and gas upstream sector is on oilfield marine logistics and operations? Do you also know that local content policies make more than 30% of the above spending available to Nigerians now and 70% in the nearest future? Japaul Oil & Maritime Services Plc is positioned to haul in the benefits abounding therein.

Our dream is real, our vision is clear and surely, the future is ours.



**Japaul Oil & Maritime Services Plc.**

Rc 250346

...partnering for results

Head Office: Plot 39 Eastern Bypass,  
Marine Base, P.O. Box 12932,  
Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria.  
Tel: (+234) 84-231622, Tel/Fax: (+234) 84-238030.  
Email: japaulng@japaultd.com, japaulng@yahoo.com  
website: www.japaultd.com





**Federal Republic of Nigeria  
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON PRIVATISATION  
Secretariat: Bureau of Public Enterprises**

**PRIVATISATION OF WARRI REFINING AND PETROCHEMICAL COMPANY  
SELECTION OF PRIVATISATION ADVISERS**

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

The Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN), wishes to engage advisers to assist Nigeria's National Council on Privatisation (NCP) for the privatisation of one of the Nation's Petroleum Refineries:

**Warri Refining and Petrochemicals Company Limited (WRPC):** This refinery is located at Warri in Nigeria's Delta State and was commissioned in 1978. Warri is a complex conversion refinery with a nameplate distillation capacity of 6,250,000 MTA (125,000 bpd). The refinery complex includes a petro-chemicals plant commissioned in 1988 with production capacities of 13,000 MTA of polypropylene and 18,000 MTA of carbon black. The refinery supplies markets in the south and southwest regions of Nigeria.

The scope of work for the selected advisers, to be led by an investment Bank shall include:

- I. Familiarisation with state of sector policy implementation and elaborate analysis of WRPC in areas of: (a) engineering/technical assessment, (b) financial assessment (c) assessment of marketing, human resources and corporate governance.
- II. Assessment of Investor's interest.
- III. Review and development of sales strategy
- IV. Legal services related to preparation and facilitation of transactions.
- V. Preparation of bidding documents and sales prospectus.
- VI. Assisting the NCP in the bidding process (bidding structure, pre-qualification, due diligence, shortlist, negotiation and conclusion of the transaction).

**Submission for Expression of Interest**

The NCP now invites eligible advisers to indicate their interest in providing the above-mentioned services. The advisers required must be in a consortium led by an investment bank, which must include firms with competencies covering the additional range of services contained in the scope of work above. These may include the following:

- Investment Bank (Lead Adviser)
- Legal Adviser
- Accounting Adviser
- Technical/Engineering Adviser
- Environmental Adviser

Expressions of Interest from prospective advisers should specify the following minimum information as basis for qualification.

- Evidence of track record in similar assignments carried out Worldwide and especially in developing Countries and Africa in the past five years including role of firm (if in a joint venture) description of outcome and references of officials in assignments cited.
- Indication of the availability of appropriate skills among staff.
- Adequacy of overall approach to the assignment.
- Details of consortium members and a letter from each member confirming their participation in the Consortium.

The selection and contracting of the advisory firm or consortia will be conducted in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers. January 1997 (revised September 1997 and January 1999).

Expressions of Interest must be submitted in six (6) copies (one original and five copies) in a sealed envelope clearly marked "Expression of Interest: Privatisation of Warri Refinery" and delivered not later than 1700 hours Nigerian time (1600 GMT) on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2005 to the address below.

Dr. Julius J. Bala  
Director General, Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE)  
Member/Secretary, National Council on Privatisation  
Hamza Zayyad House, 1, Osun Crescent, Off IBB Way  
Maitama District, Abuja FCT, Nigeria  
Tel: 234-9-4134670, 4134656, 4134636 - 46  
Fax: 234-9-4134671 - 2  
E-mail: [ibala@bpeng.org](mailto:ibala@bpeng.org)  
**Attention: Director (Project Team A)**

**Late Submissions will be rejected**

**Interested firms may obtain further information at the address above from 8.00 am to 5.00 pm, Monday through Friday (except public holidays) or send an e-mail to:**

**Email:** [ooofwan@bpeng.org](mailto:ooofwan@bpeng.org)  
**Email:** [mlaliyu@bpeng.org](mailto:mlaliyu@bpeng.org)

## Advertorial

# OPEN LETTER TO SENATOR SALEH USMAN DANBOYI (TARABA SOUTH SENATORIAL DISTRICT)

**W**e the concerned indigenes of Taraba State, view with serious dismay the way and manner senator Saleh Usman Danboyi embarked in an unprovoked attack on the person and office of the Executive Governor of Taraba state, Rev. Jolly T. Nyame in one of the weekly News Magazines.

We are disturbed that such an unwarranted provocation could come from you, who had earlier served as Deputy Governor to Governor Nyame between May 1999 and April 2003. That during that period you did not see anything wrong with that administration, which you immensely benefited from. Besides, you could also remember that the circumstances that led to your nomination as Deputy-Governor was very controversial because the people of Taraba South (your Constituency) were overwhelmingly against you.

However, it was by the grace of God and the firm determination of His Excellency that saw you to the Government House Jalingo. Now imagine your embarrassing summersault. Turning against that tide that brought you to prominence. What a pity.

As democrats, we subscribe to your inalienable right to your opinion or criticism, but then, such criticism should not be borne out of organized and deliberate act of mischief.

Though it is not our intention to bring to public domain how much you have benefited from the bottomless generosity of Governor Nyame, suffice it to say that you owe your seat in the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to him. If we may ask, how did you emerge with the Senatorial seat?

It therefore, beat everybody's imagination that the same you, Senator Danboyi, will now turn around to castigate Rev. Nyame without any justification.

We also want to put it on record that it was your failed bid to take a second shot at the Deputy-Governorship after the impeachment of your successor, Alhaji Uba Ahmadu Maigari by the State House of Assembly that informs your current Volta face, then your aggression is evidently misplaced.

You may wish to know it was the same people from your constituency who you short-charged during your days as Deputy-Governor, that stood against your return.

Do you remember the Hajj saga, you were involved in when His Excellency gave you some free slots for your constituency to nominate people for pilgrimage?

What happened to the seats or how were they allocated?

It is even now instrumental that your colleagues in the Senate and Taraba members in the House of Representatives have dissociated themselves from your out-burst. Their disclaimer in the *DAILY TRUST* and *THISDAY* Newspapers of Monday 24 January 2005 is a clear pointer to the emptiness of your claim. It is a clear indication that the commitment and determination of the Nyame administration to move Taraba forward is contained in the hoards of achievements as enumerated by your colleagues in the National Assembly.

In fact, we are deeply constrained to join issues with you, but we are forced to do so because of your determined desire to not only ridicule Governor Nyame, but also your design to incite the people of Taraba state against him.

Be reminded that your desire to vie for Taraba Governorship in 2007 should not blindfold you into embarking on defamatory ego-trips. Remember, power belongs to God and only Him can give it to whomsoever He so desires. Therefore, be advised to take your ambition before God in prayers and supplications instead of chasing shadows in the person of Rev. Nyame.

For this unwarranted provocation, we advice that you tender an unreserved apology to His Excellency, Rev. Jolly Nyame as well as the good people of Taraba State. This is because your attempt to mislead and incite people against the governor has fallen flat on your face.

A stitch in time, it is said saves nine. The earlier you understand the better for you.

Thank you.

We the under signed:

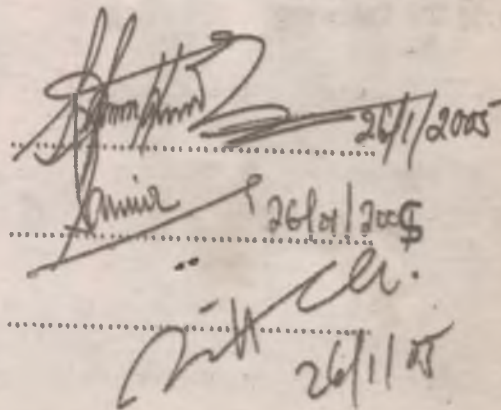
1. Alh. Kyauta Shehu

2. Alh. Salahuddeen Nasir

3. Bitrus Rimamde

Address:

No. 10 Sunkani Street, Sabon Layi, Jalingo.



# STAR FEATURE

Page 20

Daily Trust

Friday, February 4, 2004

## New Hong Kong airport aims to impress

**M**ention Hong Kong's infamous Kai Tak airport to a jumbo jet pilot and you will see a tear form, and hear a gush of nostalgia.

Hong Kong's newest airport runway at Chek Lap Kok just does not offer pilots that white-knuckled "hands and feet" flying the former 73-year-old airport once gave.

A Kai Tak landing was unforgettable: An approaching plane would bank a hard right, enough to send loose baggage skidding across the aisle, and suddenly plunge into Hong Kong's cramped downtown core. The dramatic Runway 13 approach flew so close to the buildings you could see flickering TVs in tiny apartments and shirts pinned to clotheslines flapping in the wind. A few intense seconds after touchdown, your plane is forced to stop when the runway abruptly ends and the harbour begins. The new landing at Hong Kong International Airport on Chek Lap Kok is, well, rather routine.

"Kai Tak was exciting, while the new airport is just another runway," says Canadian Airlines Capt. Joe Holmes, who flies DC-10s. "Frankly, finding our way out of the building to our bus was more of a challenge."

Although pilots worldwide lament the loss of their

By Doug Alexander

beloved Kai Tak, travelers to Hong Kong will praise the new ultra-modern airport facility that boasts a US\$20-billion price tag. The project includes the terminal, highway, high-speed train, the world's longest dual-use suspension bridge and a new town.

Chek Lap Kok aims to impress, from first sight.

Those flying into the facility, 35 kilometres outside Hong Kong Island, are rewarded by a spectacular view of a sea channel pocked with tiny islands and lush terrain of outlying Lantau Island.

The airport rests on a 1,248-hectare man-made island created when Chek Lap Kok and Lam Chau islands were leveled in the nine-year process. Tonnes of sand - enough to fill 148 Empire State Buildings - was shoveled into the ocean to create the rest of the island. The crowning

glory is the immense terminal.

The 1.3-kilometre-long terminal is the biggest in the world - dwarfing even Heathrow airport four-fold. Its Y-shaped layout resembles an aircraft in flight, a simple design that funnels visitors to their destination, whether it's the arrivals lobby or a departure gate. A white canopy with nine ridges - nine is a lucky Chinese number representing forever - towers above the impressive entranceway to this glass and metal creation.

The numbers in this terminal are impressive: 38 gates (with 10 more to come), 288 check-in counters, 350 touchscreen phones, a baggage handling system capable of 20,000 items per hour, 102 elevators, 54 moving sidewalks and a high-speed subway to whisk passengers from one end of the terminal to the other.

The new airport secures



Mrs. Dora Kay at the showcase and display of the new airport.

Hong Kong as the hub for Asian travel - and a gateway for North America.

"The number of immi-

grants into Canada and the U.S. from Hong Kong have really increased quite a bit during the recent years," Airport Authority Hong Kong spokeswoman Dora Kay says. "With west coast airports such as Vancouver, San Francisco and Seattle, I can foresee a lot of people wanting to travel between Hong Kong and North America and the West Coast with the flexibility in the flights we can offer."

Chek Lap Kok is open 24-hours a day and presently serves 35 to 38 million visitors a year. When the second runway opens in November 1998, the airport will handle 87 million yearly visitors - nearly three times Kai Tak's capacity. That's good for business, and business travelers.

"We could fit in a lot more early morning flights and a lot more late evening flights for the business traveler to go to China, do their business and

come back the same day ... that would give them a lot of flexibility in their time," Kay says. "We think a lot of people based in China, which is now having a growing population of foreign business corporations, come into Hong Kong, do their business for the day and then fly on to Europe or North America."

Tourists may also benefit with cheaper flights due to lower airport charges, better arrival and departure times and more services. Departing visitors can even whittle away time at the airport's 143 shops while awaiting flights.

"With our shopping facilities here and with a lot more flexibility in the flights, we can certainly accommodate a lot more leisure travelers."

If you go, Canadian Airlines offers daily non-stop service to Hong Kong. Check with your travel agent for detailed flight information.

Culled from [Travelwise.com](http://Travelwise.com)

***The dramatic Runway 13 approach flew so close to the buildings you could see flickering TVs in tiny apartments and shirts pinned to clotheslines flapping in the wind. A few intense seconds after touchdown, your plane is forced to stop when the runway abruptly ends and the harbour begins.***



Looking through the escalator at the crowds below.

***Travelers to Hong Kong will praise the new ultra-modern airport facility that boasts a US\$20-billion price tag...the new airport secures Hong Kong as the hub for Asian travel - and a gateway for North America.***

**THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
LAUNCHING COMMITTEE**

*Invite The General  
Public to the*

**Celebration of**

**40<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary**

**In The Judiciary**

**&**

**PUBLIC PRESENTATION  
OF THE BIOGRAPHY OF**

**Hon. Justice Salihu Modibbo Alfa Belgore, CON; FNIALS**  
**(Justice of the Supreme Court)**

*Under the Chairmanship of*  
**HON. JUSTICE MUHAMMADU LAWAL UWAIS, GCON**  
*Chief Justice Of Nigeria*

*Special Guest Of Honour*  
**HIS EXCELLENCY ATIKU ABUBAKAR, GCON**  
*(Turakin Adamawa)*  
*Vice-President, Federal Republic of Nigeria*

**Date:**  
**Saturday 5th February, 2005**

**Time:**  
**10.00am Prompt**

**Venue:**  
**Ladi Kwali Hall, Abuja Sheraton Hotel & Towers.**

**Sponsored by**

**GIVANAS NIGERIA LIMITED**

15, Commercial Rd. P.O.Box 1822, Apapa, Lagos. Tel: 01-5454099, Fax: 01-5452297  
E-mail: sajami@givanas.com



# THE HOME FRONT

## FRAGMENTS

By Safiya I. Dantiye, Women Editor  
safiya@dantiyer.com

### Dilemma of a married rape victim

A horrendous thing as a rape could only be imagined, but the victim as the one who goes through the experience knows the real horror and the trauma. And in the instance where she is married, her husband's rejection.

Women believe that they can stand by their husbands even if they are afflicted by some illness or become disabled, like paralysis, unlike men where they abandon their wives with similar illness to their parents. And definitely take other wives where there are none and where there are, then get titled to them to carry on with their life.

In any case, I don't know if rape falls into an 'illness' that men should be considerate about, especially since it is not with the consent of the wife for such wickedness to be meted on her.

But men are not ready to be considerate in such a situation, in fact they will be in the defensive, as if the rape was done to them. And the actual rape victims have to apologise to them.

Well, people may wonder what I am getting at, or how could a married woman get raped. The popular situation is where armed robbers pay a visit to people.

There is now a situation that happened several days ago, where in such an attack the armed robbers tied the husband and raped the wife in his presence. When I learnt of it, my fear was that she might get infected with HIV/AIDS or even get pregnant, so I asked the young woman who told me the story if the victim had gone to the hospital.

But she didn't go, saying she didn't have money, besides, the husband blamed her for compliance, that why didn't she fight the armed robbers? And he also refused to eat food prepared by her, he would take a food flask and go and buy food. If she talked to him he would refuse to answer.

"The marriage is doomed, marriages are usually shaky, and they can hardly stand rape, men always blame the women," I said.

"That is unfair, for instance why did the husband allow the armed robbers to tie him, why didn't he fight them? If I were her, I would just pack my things and go to my parents' house," the young woman said.

One would have thought that the husband would take her to the hospital and give her support, instead of rejecting

*"The victim will now carry the stigma of being raped, while battling with a failing marriage and wonder where she had gone wrong. Little wonder that a victim in a similar situation gave up on life and died after few months."*

her.

He was heard to bitterly said that he wished he were dead than to witness his wife being raped. Apparently, he didn't give a passing thought to the wife who had been raped.

There was also a story where armed robbers were about to sodomise a man and his wife unwisely offered herself in his place. She told the robbers that they couldn't do that to a man. But the husband divorced her after the robbers had left.

"Serves her right, how could any woman in her senses offered herself like that? The husband will always be suspicious of her," I said.

Well, perhaps it was love that had made her to 'sacrifice' herself like that, but as women are more easily frightened than men, I think he could bear the abuse more than she. At any rate, I can never see the wisdom behind what she did. Now her 'gallant' behaviour had caused her her marriage and more.

The point here is how many such victims suffer rejection from their husbands through no fault of theirs? Is it ego that makes them to condemn their wives?

The issue of rape is a delicate one, and this is more glaring where the victim cannot report the 'atrocities' let alone get justice or some kind of respite where the criminals cannot be found as it is usually the case.

So the victim suffers all kinds of nightmare alone, and to add insult to injury, people will be looking at her strangely. In fact a young lady who had visited this particular victim said she was shocked to find her in one piece, and that she kept staring at her.

The victim will now carry the stigma of being raped, while battling with a failing marriage and wonder where she had gone wrong. Little wonder that a victim in a similar situation gave up on life and died after few months.

Such bewildered victims just don't know what to do or where to turn to, and knowing our society, most people will blame them instead of sympathising with them.

But more than a victim needs the support of government through justice and activists, she needs the love and support of her husband, which she hardly gets but reproach and rejection.

The Director-General of the National Centre for Women Development, Mrs. Esther T. Mangzha, has observed that gender inequality retards the economic growth of any nation, resulting in declining living standards of the people. She made the observation at the orientation ceremony of Vocational Skills Acquisition Programme run by the centre as part of efforts to empower the Nigerian women with the necessary skills and training to improve their standards of living.

Mrs. Mangzha reiterated the commitment of her organisation in contributing to the poverty reduction programmes of the present administration, she further emphasised the importance of supporting and encouraging women entrepreneurship to meaningfully realise the principles of the UN Millennium Development Goal (1) eradication of extreme poverty and hunger

### Exhibition for African Union delegates

The Minister of Women Affairs, Obong Rita Akpan, said there was no better place to host the exhibition mounted by Nigerian women than in the women centre, because it was the centre of excellence for gender equity and sustainable women development.

She made this remark at the occasion of hosting of spouses of the African Union Heads of Government to the women exhibition at the auditorium of the National Centre for Women Development (NECWD) Abuja.

She urged the distinguished spouses to appreciate the leadership roles being played by Nigerian women through the various media on display in women hall of fame. And also hoped that such structure, to celebrate great women from their countries would be put in place where there are none to be used, to mentor future generation of African women.

She added that to view the exhibition by Nigerian women entrepreneurs, small scale industrialists and individuals, Nigerian women were industrious as could be seen from the array and display of beautiful indigenous arts and craft, fashion and design.

The minister maintained that African Union Mid-term Assembly was arguably the only international forum where such a diverse group of countries with different levels of capacity, and resources come together as equals to find common positions through consensus.

Mrs. Obong hoped that the spouses of the African Union Heads of Government would use this opportunity to network in order to pursue a common goal of mainstreaming women in to the developmental processes of their respective countries.

## Gender inequality retards economic growth -DG

By Aisha Umar, Reporter  
(Women Affair)

which women are more affected.

The director-general reminded the participants that the vision of the training programme was to equip them to become self-reliant and at the same time, continue to place them in the leading role in the local economy. Mrs Mangzha stressed the need for the participants to cooperate and dedicate themselves to their

capacity building in order to gravitate and contribute their quota in our national life.

She pointed out that, it was only when women is economically empowered that the country could be stable, leading to economic growth and development, that was why the National Centre for Women Development was poised in promoting a sound and workable gender that would lead to sound economic development under the present atmosphere of democratic dispensation.

The director-general highlighted the participants on the mandate of the centre, said the National Centre for Women Development was established to promote the activities of the Nigerian women to national focus, through training, research documentation and advocacy, as well as provide a forum for guidance and counselling for both urban and rural women of Nigeria.

About 220 women drawn from various parts of the country are to undergo various training programmes in economic activities ranging from 6 months to one year.



Children celebrate Eid-el-kabir at Abuja Amusement Park.

Pix: Felix Onigbinde

## Over 6000 children sexually abused in Zimbabwe -Reports

Over 6000 children aged between six months and 17 years were sexually abused last year, a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) has said.

Of the victims, 75 tested HIV-positive while some 43 girls were pregnant after being raped.

The figure, however, only accounts for reported cases as most of such abominable acts go unreported.

The Family Support Trust, an NGO working alongside the Ministry of Health and Child Welfare, said it received about 6000 sexual abuse reports during the period under review.

In most cases, the organisation said, the perpetrators were people well-known to their victims and their families.

The 43 girls who fell pregnant were aged between 14 and 17 and only four were allowed to terminate the unwanted pregnancies.

Out of those who tested HIV-positive, 69 were girls and the remainder boys.

An official of the Family Support Trust said toddlers, aged as young as six months were among the 6000 abused in the period under review.

"Last year we started a programme to give anti-retroviral drugs (ARVs) to

abused children who reported within 72 hours of the abuse," said the official.

ARVs are life-prolonging drugs which are prescribed for those infected with HIV, the virus that causes Aids, and those in the full-blown stage of the incurable disease.

They have the effect of decreasing the likelihood of infection; reducing the viral count in the body for those already infected; and curbing opportunistic illnesses which attack full-blown Aids sufferers because of reduced immunity.

The ARVs were administered to children deemed to be running the risk of contracting the virus.

Children given a high dosage of ARVs had reduced chances of contracting HIV.

"When the doctor's examination confirms the child was raped, they are tested for HIV; and if they test negative, they are put on ARVs for between two to four weeks," the official said.

Last year, 58 children between the ages of 18 months and 16 years were given anti-retrovirals under the programme and two of these were boys.

Of concern was that children were abused by people known to them who, in normal circumstances, should protect

ect the children.

Harare had the biggest number of abuses with about 4187 having been reported, while Chitungwiza and Mutare recorded 1313 and 1055 respectively.

The Family Support Trust has three clinics in the country and about 6555 children in the age under focus either reported or were referred to their clinics last year.

After counselling, the children are tested for HIV/Aids and, in the case of girls who have reached puberty, syphilis and pregnancy.

The official said some teenagers between the ages of 13 and 16, particularly boys, failed to report cases of abuse as they deemed it embarrassing to make such admission.

"We are not seeing half of the numbers of abused children, especially between the ages of 13 and 16 who probably consider it demeaning for them to admit they were abused," said the official.

Ninety per cent of the reports made at their clinics are referrals from police, doctors and the community.

Post-test and pre-test counselling is done to the child and parents for HIV tests. When the child tests positive, they are referred to the relevant organisations that can assist the child in getting treatment.

# THE HOME FRONT

## Binta Masari's effort at being her brother's/sister's keeper

By Lawal Ibrahim,  
Correspondent (Katsina)

It is common in Nigeria, for the electorate to be neglected by the people they have voted into offices. In fact it may not be out of place to say that, the people forget their rightful relationships with politicians.

In any case, while some politicians and their wives have become far removed from the common-man, others like some governors' wives go out of their way to form pet projects, in places where one is not formed, they get actively involved in helping the underprivileged in their societies, such as orphans, widows, youths, children and the like.

Such is the case of the wife of the speaker of the nation's House of Representatives, Hajiya Binta Aminu Masari who has been in touch with her people long before her husband became the speaker, and she has developed and kept a bond of goodwill to especially the people of her community of Katsina State to the best of her ability and within her small resources which no doubt comes to her from one source, being a housewife.

During the just concluded Eid-el-kabir festival, event-hough many people throughout the nation complained of the untold hardships they faced which was why they could not afford to buy the sacrificial rams for the festival, the big-wigs have continued to transport rams in their ever-increasing numbers as gifts after they had also paid for other fares to the pilgrimage to Hajj inspite of the general outcry that the fare as announced was outrageous.

However, while all hopes had been lost by most, especially persons hospitalised for various ailments, Hajiya Binta Masari left for Katsina to extend her gesture of goodwill out of her concern to such persons that include over 40 lunatics at the Katsina Psychiatric Hospital, about the same number at the motherless babies' home where some of the parentless have attained adulthood, 170 Vesico Virginal Fistula (VVF) patients, 57 leprosy patients and 28 tuberculosis infected persons.

Hajiya Binta who was

emotionally touched by the patients' different levels of physical and mental conditions, decided to undertake the visit silently to the psychiatric hospital where she donated 4 rams, 6 bags of rice, bundles of clothing materials used as uniform by the in-mates, and also cartons of toilet soap, detergents and body creams. Such was her way of saying "Barka da Sallah" to the in-mates as well as the other beneficiaries which led to the excitement of one of the lunatics who offered to give a closing prayer at the end of the presentation at the asylum, a development that surprised everyone in attendance, although the offer was turned down as someone else was asked to give the closing prayer.

The same gesture was extended to the other places, Hajiya Masari visited only with some little differences, for at the motherless babies' home, there were in addition, baby's food, like cereals, milk and baby wears in addition to bundles of wrappers for the grown-up girls at the home. Similarly, at the VVF centre on which several newspaper



Hajiya Binta Aminu Masari

articles and television documentaries have been written and presented to the world in order to show the hardships faced by the patients whose husbands, relations as well as the society have abandoned to the mercy of the very little that the

hospital which caters for patients from Katsina and all its neighbouring states, as well as many others from the neighbouring Niger Republic can offer, with little or no concern from the societies where everybody is a stakeholder.

When Hajiya Binta visited the hospital which houses lepers and tuberculosis patients, all those on admission were surprised over the kind of gifts they were presented with because apart from the rams, 6 bags of rice, cartons of toilet soap and detergent. All the patients were given a new wrapper each for use during the festival.

And while the women chanted praise songs at their special visitor of how happy she had made their lives with her kind gesture, she further made it better by giving them undisclosed sums of money each in his or her own envelope.

Hajiya Binta promised to continue to assist the poor, the needy, the sick and the down-trodden to the best of her ability. And to give them a sense of belonging, so that they will feel loved and part of the society which they are otherwise made to feel has neglected and denied them opportunities that calls for governments at all levels, individuals and organisations to come to their support and assistance.

## How to prevent your husband from straying

Many failed marriages are attributed to the non-Challant attitude of the wives, by either neglecting to look after themselves; make themselves attractive to their husbands or by neglecting to take care of their husbands. These and other reasons make men to keep girlfriends or mistresses. And thus makes the marriage miserable.

The Home Front asked experienced and happy married wives advise on how a woman could hold on to her husband, and also added some tips. Excerpt.

Mrs. Eziaku Johnson, a mother of six children who has been happily married for the past twenty years, said holding a man firmly to herself alone took the grace of God and also the man must have the fear of God dwelling in him. It also depends on how he is committed to the work of God the man is, because once he is committed to the work of God, he would not want to engage in any extra-marital affairs, he would feel he was being looked upon for good example.

Being able to satisfy one's husband in bed, was one of the things it takes to hold one's husband firmly, she added.

According to her, a woman should not deprive her husband of sex and should not always complain when it come to making love. She said the issue of sex was a collective agreement between them and her

By Emeahara Nkechi Hope,  
(Intern)

husband has never complained about her sex life, simply because she satisfied him whenever they made love. Sex is ordained by God for husband and wife, she stressed.

Mrs Violet V. Egonkeonye, stated that she did her best to prevent her husband from having extra-marital affairs. She advised that as a woman once your husband started keeping late nights, it was your responsibility as a wife to enquire where he has been all day long, asking the questions in a submissive way.

"If you refuse to enquire about his late nights, he will be pleased to always go to see his mistress outside and he will always count on his wife's weak points to look outside his matrimonial home," she said. She was of the opinion that she can go extra mile to keep her man by satisfying all his needs. Give him love, care and affection and make him feel he is in full control of his family.

Mrs Chinwe Gift Samuel, said to have a good wife was the dream of every man. This is because a good wife determines a good home.

For any woman who wishes to hold her husband firmly without looking outside his matrimonial home for comfort the following tips will be immensely useful:

**Listen to him:** Listen to your husband whenever he is talking. You have a million

*"If you refuse to enquire about his late nights, he will be pleased to always go to see his mistress outside and he will always count on his wife's weak points to look outside his matrimonial home," she said.*

things to tell him, but the moment of his arrival is not the time to say them. Allow him to rest first before you bring up issues.

**Have his meal ready:** The quickest way to a man's heart, they say, is through his stomach. When he comes home, the prospect of a good meal is part of warm welcome he need, making sure his meal is ready at the right time, is one way of warming yourself into his heart.

**Never complain:** Most men got pissed off when their wives nag at them. Do not complain if he is late for dinner or comes home late. Find out what his reasons are. It could be that he had a busy day. Come down and call him what ever endearments you couples call each other like honey, sweetheart, my dear, that is when you know that he is happy or okay to hear from you.

**Take care of the children:** Make out time to take care of your children. Ensure that they look good, bath them, wash their clothes and ensure they are treasured and should be seen and treated as such. Talk to them in a good manner, whether your husband is around or not.

**Prepare yourself:** Always make yourself attractive to him. Take time to freshen up. Apply make-up if necessary and see to it that he finds you irresistible. Let him always tell you that you are looking sweet, keep yourself neat all the time and not everyday your husband will be shouting please 'woman go and take your bath,' it is not good for a woman, rather is the woman who is supposed to say "sweetheart let us go and take our bath."

**Make the evening his:** Never complain if he does not

take you out to dinner or to other places of entertainment. Instead, try to understand his world of strain and pressure and desire to relax. Tell him I love you, you are the most handsome man on the earth. All these things will make him know that you love him and you are proud of him.

**Make him comfortable:** Have him lean back in a comfortable chair, prepare drinks for him. Arrange his pillows. Offer to remove his shoes, carry his brief case and suit inside. Tell him what he like most and remember when he is comfortable that is your own opportunity of telling him anything, then remember that he is the head and don't tell him what will make him uncomfortable. When he comes back from work, tell him "honey you are welcome and I missed you."

**Be submissive:** Learn how to be submissive to him

Release yourself to him whenever he needs you. Do not deny him of your love, because he is entitled to it.

**The food he likes most:** Knowing his best food is very important, and don't allow him to be reminding you to go and prepare the food for him.

**Encouragement:** A good wife encourages her husband in his career, she supposed to believe in his potentials.

**Communication:** Learn how to communicate, be polite to him, don't talk too much, allow him to lead first before contributing politely.

**Understanding:** You must try to respects his opinions and listen to his advice, let him know that he is important to you, compliment his looks, dressing, hair styles.

**Protect:** Protect him from danger and other things that will make him unhappy in his life.

# THE HOME FRONT

## Politics dominate Muslim women workshop

On Tuesday, January 25, 2005, Muslim organisations converged at the Abuja Nicon Hilton to attend a two-day advocacy workshop organised by a non governmental organisation, International Republican Institute (IRI), aimed at improving and empowering the advocacy skills of Muslim women who are working to promote the interest of Muslim women in the country.

The workshop which was funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) featured interactive sessions on fund raising for advocacy and action planning.

Participants at the workshop include representatives from Muslim sisters organisation of Nigeria (women wing) Al-Musbah Women Association, Al-Ihsan Women Organization, Jama'atu Nasril Islam, Concerned Muslim Mothers Association and the Federation of Muslim Women Association of Nigeria (Bauchi State).

The organisers of the workshop noted that issues like building the technical capacities of the Muslim women organisation, to identify and advocate issues affecting Muslim women in Nigeria, are strategic to promoting women participation in the political process.

In her opening remark at the workshop, director of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Dawn Liberi, said that her organisation had worked with IRI to strengthen political party structures in the country as a way of enhancing the credibility of the electoral process and contributing to the sustenance of Nigeria's democratic transition.

Dawn said "Over the last four years, USAID had worked to create opportunities for women to have a greater role in Nigeria's political arena."

According to her, since 2001, USAID has worked with women leaders to develop action plans for implementing reforms in their party constitutions, in order to level the playing field as well as address issues that have prevented greater participation by women.

She pointed out that one of their achievements was the provision that women no longer pay to obtain party nomination forms, adding that parties have also included more women in prominent positions at the national, state and local government level.

Liberi hinted that just after the national elections, IRI hosted a series of women forums that identified challenges to women

By Abubakar Haruna and Aisha Umar, Reporter  
(Women Affairs)

politicians and outlined actionable strategies to enhance the political participation of women.

Liberi said that according to a Gender Audit published by the women advocates' research and documentation centre in 2003, progress has been made in getting women elected for top positions in Nigeria.

The report, according to her, showed that two women, namely, Sarah Jibril and Major Mojisola Obasanjo, won presidential nominations. While Hajiya Mairo Habib and Hajiya Asma'u (African Renaissance Party), won vice presidential nominations.

The mission director who said she was aware of many barriers that women faced in politics which include money, little support from women in general, traditional, cultural and religious taboos also urged the participants not to let these obstacles cripple them.

She further assured USAID's support for IRI's women's programme to ensure successful women participation in the politics.

She urged them to use the workshop to come up with well articulated plan and strategy that would help them as Muslim women, and to come with solutions to issues that have previously sidelined them.

Presenting her paper entitled: "Political Participation in Nigeria: A wake up call for Muslim women" the secretary general of Women's Rights Advancement and Protection Alternative (WRAPA), Hajiya Saudatu Shehu Mahadi, said that an average Muslim woman in Nigeria had a lot to grapple with in her bid for active and quality political participation.

Hajiya Saudatu added that the major issues that prevented women for active participation, in politics include standards of visibility, low level of education and

awareness as well as limited possession of control of resources.

According to her, religious injunctions of obedience to her husband and his wishes erode an average Muslim woman of her natural capacity to reason or choose in all matters including her health.

She pointed out that partisan politics had always been a point of polarisation

contest elective offices, especially at the state and local government levels, the apathy of those who know the challenges in partisan politics, the fear of loss of livelihood and social esteem for those who are intimidated, brought to bear against political life for a Muslim woman.

Saudatu suggested that the unique feature of Muslim women which was the

involvement of women in public life/politics.

d) Shariah implementing governments to sponsor enlightenment programmes that highlight the Quranic provisions, sayings and practices of the Holy Prophet (SAW) and the pious caliphs which underscore the human dignity and worth of women, as well as allow them to be actively engaged in the

inculcate the actions and teachings that elevate the status of women, encourage their participation in public life and admonish those who exclude and inhibit their active engagement in all fields of life.

b. Number of traditional and opinion leaders that openly support girl-child education, appointment of women to positions of



A cross section of participants at the workshop

in families over issues such as which party to join or candidate to support, adding that more critical has been the issue of a wife, daughter or sister contesting for an elective office.

She argued that even among the few women that had made it to the highest representative offices, the Muslim women have done well, giving a good testimony of a wind of positive change.

She also argued that other factors include exposure and economic disposition to

mindset and negative propagation of religious tenets had to be addressed through systematic and focused advocacy targeted at: a) The Ulama who play a significant role in shaping mindsets based on their interpretation and application of religious texts and practices.

b) Women Islamiyya and adult literacy centres.

c) The custodians of culture who use religion as an endorsement of skewed perceptions and benchmarks for the visibility and

development of their communities not limited to their traditional roles as wives, mothers etc.

e) National government to initiate legislation, aimed at fulfilling its obligations in international statutes, through the enactment of enabling laws that define or award proportional representation, especially for women. This would provide a framework for female participation in politics which would in turn boost the number of Muslims women as elected representatives in their communities and upwards.

f) Women and appealing to their self-esteem as worthy members of their families and communities. Women must be brought to appreciate their strategic position and potential contributions for the good of their communities through their active participation in politics.

g) Development partners towards skills training in advocacy and strategic planning for impact in achieving the desired changes in mindsets against women's political participation.

According to her, advocacy benchmarks include:

a. Number of Ulama that

authority in their domains or as representatives of their domains.

c. Numbers of husbands/male guardians supporting their wives, daughters to aspire for recognition and engagement especially at the local levels.

d. High registration of Muslim women as card carrying members of political parties of their choices.

e. Focused support among Muslim women for qualified candidates amongst them from primaries through campaigns and elections.

f. Number of capacity building training opportunities utilised by Muslim women as well as their modest replication of such trainings.

g. Conscientisation of women manifesting in the establishment of formations and platforms for engagement in the affairs of their communities. This would lead to the desire for representation, to cater for their interests and those of the community.

h. Political mentorship for Muslim women by male partisan chieftains and corporate entities as well as support of religious organisations and leaders.

***"She pointed out that partisan politics had always been a point of polarisation in families over issues such as which party to join or candidate to support."***

# ABUJA TRUST

## Police, FCDA lay siege on Wuse Market

Over two thousand armed policemen early yesterday morning stormed and cordoned off all roads leading to Wuse (old) Market as about four bulldozers belonging to the Development Control Department of Ministry of the Federal Capital Territory were seen demolishing structures inside the market. *Abuja Trust*

By Benjamin Auta, (Crime reporter), Maimung Yusuf Reporter Abuja, Yusuf Ibrahim (Intern)

observed that structures most affected were container-shops belonging to some traders, which MFCT authorities categorise as illegal.

The demolition, which commenced Wednesday

evening, saw policemen chasing traders out of the market, while bulldozers destroyed their container-shops.

Some traders who spoke to *Abuja Trust* said that the police surrounded the market and started throwing tear gas at them. Mr Aliyu, a trader in the market, told *Abuja Trust* that the police came with bulldozers and started destroying containers attached to the buildings of the market.

However, some traders acknowledged that authorities concerned forewarned them prior to the demolition exercise. They said the final warning was issued about two weeks ago to container owners who blocked parking spaces and those attached to legitimate stores.

Mr. Osita, one of the victims, said that the authorities should have relocated

traders as they promised earlier, claiming that they were supposed to be relocated to Mabushi or Wuye. He further said that efforts made by their leader, Mr. Hamza Okené, to reach a consensus with the authorities concerned yielded no positive results.

Also speaking, a seamstress who owns a container-shop bemoaned her plight, saying: "Now more criminals and social vices will be hatched with the destruction of people's legitimate livelihood."

The exercise, apart from the adverse effect it had on commercial activities, also paralysed transportation within the city centre. All roads leading to the market from Wuse II, Berger Junction and Maitama were sealed.

As late as 5pm yesterday, *Abuja Trust* observed that vehicles and people plying various routes along the Wuse Market had to take alternative but longer routes while several passengers were stranded.

## Criminal intimidation: Court throws out case against Ogbulafor

By Saidat Tella

A Chief Magistrates' Court yesterday struck out the case instituted by a steward against Prince Vincent Ogbulafor, the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) secretary general, and Chijoke E. Adindu an employee of the party.

The Chief Magistrate said he struck out the case based on a directive from the Chief Judge of the FCT, Justice Lawal Gummi.

In an application for criminal summons brought against the PDP chieftain pursuant to section 143 (E) of criminal procedure code, dated January 19, 2004, and filed by one Moses Oga, it was stated that some time in November 2001, he (Oga) was employed as a steward to Prince Ogbulafor on a monthly salary of N6, 000, which was increased to N18, 000 in 2002.

He claimed that the 1<sup>st</sup> accused person ordered the 2<sup>nd</sup>

accused to be receiving the increment balance without his consent.

The counsel to the accused persons, C.N Nocike Esq. was about to make a notice of preliminary objection to the suit when he was objected to by the counsel to the complainant who said that it was not yet time for hearing of the case.

The court later struck out the matter.



Prince Vincent Ogbulafor, PDP Nat Sec

## Secretary assures Ushafa community of FCT's support

The executive secretary, Social Development Secretariat of the Ministry of the Federal Capital Territory, Ms Bolanle Onagoruwa, has assured the people of Ushafa community in the Federal Capital Territory that government will always identify with them. She made the remark when she paid a courtesy visit to the Etsu of Ushafa, Alhaji Mohammed Baba, in his palace recently. She described Ushafa community as the centre of tourism in the F.C.T.

"Of course, it is evident that Ushafa is our tourist centre. We are proud of the land, and we will always identify with the people of Ushafa. Let it not be that government officials only come here when foreigners visit the community," she stated.

She recalled that Ushafa has been a place where foreign as well as indigenous dignitaries insist on catching a glimpse of, citing the former US president, Bill Clinton, and the Chinese prime minister as among world leaders who have witnessed the beauty of the community.

She used the occasion to urge Ushafa people to embrace for the Community Life Project recently launched in the FCT with Bwari area council as the pioneer centre.

Responding, the Etsu of Ushafa expressed joy over the visit. He called on FCT authorities to provide social amenities to the area as a way of improving the standard of living of the residents.

On the fate of the workers of the Ushafa Women's Acquisition Centre, the Etsu pleaded with Ms Onagoruwa to convert them to permanent staff, and called also for em-

government establishments.

Ms Onagoruwa promised to use her office to fulfil his demands. "Once embargo on employment is lifted, Ushafa people will be considered," she pledged.

# JOHN HOLT



...over six decades of  
**RELIABLE POWER**  
solutions

**FG WILSON**  
Exclusive Distributors of  
F G Wilson Generators.

**JOHN HOLT ENGINEERING**  
A division of John Holt Plc. (Rc. 2662)

Technical Products and Leasing Services  
HEAD OFFICE:

John Holt complex  
25 Creek Road Apapa, Lagos, Nigeria. P.M.B. 21413 Ikeja.  
Tel: 01-5803430-4, 5877872, 08035550007.

Fax: 01-5873726, 5877410.

20, Ozumba Mbadiwe Avenue,  
Victoria Island, Lagos.

Website: <http://www.jhplc.com>

E-mail: [holteng@jhplc.com](mailto:holteng@jhplc.com)

SALES:

D/L: 5875590  
08035550011  
08033035335  
08023153004  
08056557170

SERVICES:

D/L: 5875793  
08056555989  
08056557181  
08033414911

PROJECTS:

D/L: 5871119  
08035550019  
08035550020

KADUNA 062-248910 ABUJA 09-6708926 ENUGU 042-253538 WARRI 053-250766 P/M 084-233490 OREGUN 01-4968000-4

# KANO TRUST

## Kofar Wambai's booming shoe-making industry

**K**ano State, the second largest commercial city in the country after Lagos is highly blessed with various business opportunities that can make individuals or groups to become self-reliant. Interestingly, most of such opportunities are in the realm of small and medium scale, which even the poor class of people can afford to sustain.

One of the famous and dependable business opportunities that is currently booming in the city of Kano is shoe-making. The business according to *Kano Trust* findings was originally dominated mostly by the people of Wambai quarters in Municipal local government area of the state.

According to *Kano Trust* investigation, about 90, percent of the total population of Wambai quarters are makers, dealers or sellers of shoes. The art of shoe-making in Wambai is now so good that it was said that a seven-year-old boy in Wambai single-handedly designed and made a beautiful shoe that it was said could compete with foreign ones.

Our reporter who went round Wambai quarters investigating the origin of shoe-making business found that the business could be traced to 70 years ago with people like Alhaji Dan-Binmi Shamaki as its pioneers.

*Kano Trust* also observed that a lot of people particularly the middle age group are benefiting from the business as they could be seen engaged in one particular activity of shoe-making or the other ranging from designing, smoothening, swinging and painting of shoes.

However, virtually all the activities involved in the business are locally conducted and operated from either their

By Yu'shau Adamu Ibrahim  
(Correspondent Kano)

own homes or shops. In spite of this the business attracts a wide range of customers not only within Nigeria but also from outside the country.

Moreso, shoes that are made in Wambai, according to *Kano Trust* investigation, are in high demand in Zamfara, Kebbi, Sokoto, Borno, Yobe, Gombe, Kaduna, Plateau and Abuja as well as countries like Niger Republic, Chad, Ghana, Cameroon, Sudan and even Saudi Arabia, among others.

Like any other business, varieties and categories of shoes are produced in Wambai ranging from first, second, third class shoes. The first-class or Grade one shoe produced in Wambai with a pure animal skin, *Kano Trust* observed, could not be easily differentiated from the original Italy or China made shoe and interestingly its prices start from 1,000 to 5,000 naira depending on its design.

Other categories include nicked round or robber soled designs, which sell for about 230-330 naira. These categories are mostly purchased by the traders from Niger Republic, Chad and Cameroun. Dan-Dubai and grady shoes, which are imitations of China and Italy products respectively, are also among the shoes produced in Wambai quarters.

However, in any business, there must be pioneers, in shoe-making business in Kano the name of Alhaji Dan-Binmi Shamaki could not be counted out from the pioneers of the famous-business. When interviewed by our reporter, Shamaki said he started the business 60 years ago.

Alhaji Shamaki who said he came into the business since he was seven years old

explained further that they started with shoes like "Bonswway," "Mai Baza," *Kyafi* and in the present era shoes like *Atazu*, and *Paldina* all of which are introduced by China and Italy and who dominate shoe markets.

When asked whether he went through any formal training in shoe-making in a shoe manufacturing company, Alhaji Dan-Binmi said no, stressing that he started locally in Wambai quarters before he went to Lagos and Onitsha where he commenced producing modern styled shoes. He disclosed to *Kano Trust* that hundreds of Yoruba and Igbo received training from him in both Lagos and Onitsha before he came back to Kano where about 2,000 apprentices learned how to make shoes under his supervision in addition to the over 50 people including his own children that are currently assisting him in the business.

Also speaking to *Kano Trust*, one of the major dealers of Wambai shoes, Alhaji Salisu Tata disclosed that he inherited the business from his late father Alhaji Tata Kofar-Wambai. He said people from all parts of the country and the neighbouring states are coming to Kano to purchase the shoes.

Alhaji Tata said further that despite the non-involvement of governments in the business, it is gradually booming, suggesting that supposing government intervenes, the business could serve as an avenue for poverty eradication in the state.

He disclosed that during Babangida's regime a small shoe manufacturing company was established under the supervision of Gidanuniyar Jihar Kano but due to negligence the com-

pany collapsed. He said if such companies could be revive and sustained many people in the state would have become self-reliant.

On his part, Malam Yakubu Argungu, a customer from Argungu, Sokoto State

said he started purchasing Wambai shoes since 1980 with only 100 pairs a week and that he is currently conveying over 2,000 pairs of shoes to Sokoto from Kano every week.

Alhaji Argungu said as a result of its quality even some

people from Niger Republic are usually coming to Sokoto in search of Wambai shoes. He said if Wambai shoemakers could get access to modern machines their products could compete with foreign shoes quality wise.



Abdulsalami and Muhammad in action making pairs of shoes in one of their shops at Wambai Market, Kano.



Varieties of made in Wambai shoes ready for customers.



Kofar-Wambai shoes packaged and ready for export.



One of the shoemakers putting finishing touches on shoes at Kofar-Wambai.

# EKO TRUST

## Ita-oko Island: Where area boys now acquire skill training

**T**ekunle Island located near Ise Village, within the Lekki Peninsula in the Lekki local government area of Lagos State is covered by an expanse of land of about 500 hectares. The use of the Island was first discovered and established by the colonial masters for slave trafficking during the trans-Atlantic slave trade.

After independence and specifically after the fall of the Second Republic, the military government opened up the Island to serve as detention camp for perceived enemies, particularly politicians between 1983 and 1985 and finally abandoned in 1994.

During the dark days of military regime, many politicians, especially public office holders were said to have lost their lives while attempting to run away or due to torture from the military guards on the Island.

It can be accessed through the Lagos-Abijo-Epe expressway via Akodo-Folu-Lekki highway. It is accessible from Ise Village either by a local boat or canoe. Also, it can be accessed via the Lagos Lagoon. Alternatively, it can be accessed directly by a helicopter, which was the main means of bringing people to the Island during the military era. Once you are picked up in your house and taken to the helicopter, you do not know where you are until you get to the Island.

The Island covered by a thick forest and surrounded by the Lagoon occupies about five hectares of the island with the surrounding vicinity being predominantly swampy. The swamp is said to harbour various species of dangerous reptiles.

A visit to the Island's surroundings revealed many dry bones of human beings that were said to have been eaten up by either crocodiles or pythons.

The Lagos State government through the Ministry of Sports and Youths Development has discovered this same Island, for the rehabilitation of street urchins popularly called area boys that have turned themselves to king of the roads within the metropolis and its environs.

To every resident of the state, and visitors, the fear of the area boys is the beginning of wisdom, or else you find yourself where you do not want and lose virtually

By Olumide bajuaye,  
Correspondent (Lagos)

all your possessions to these dreaded human beings when they confront you. Most of their victims are motorists, particularly commercial bus drivers whom they harass without any intervention from any security agents like the police. It was believed that they operated in collaboration with some of the police officers stationed at bus stops or even garages.

They harassed and even beat up their victims all in the effort to extort money from them or dispossessed them of their belongings. Most motorists complained to the state government protesting their incessant harassment. In the past all efforts by successive governments to clear them of the street proved abortive, as they soon return to their post after being

released by their godfathers or sponsors.

During the era of Brigadier-General Mohammed Buba Marwa as the military administrator of Lagos State, the area boys went into hiding, but as soon as the civilians took over in 1999, they reinforced and became more deadly, because they were being used by some politicians who perceived their opponents as obstacles to their progress. They were used to either eliminate such persons or threaten them to withdraw from the race in other to allow their sponsors to win.

During the 1999 general elections, so many polling boots were destroyed by these hoodlums, by a dominant or better still stronger party to prevent all other contending parties to have their way. While they carry out their nefarious

activities, armed policemen are rendered powerless.

Some of these area boys were said to have come to Lagos in company of one relative or friend in other to earn a living, but some how could not and since they must survive, decided to take to street boys.

But in a bid to clear them from the street of Lagos for investors to have a conducive atmosphere to operate, the state government decided to reopen the Tekunle Island for their rehabilitation, where they are expected to acquire various skills to be able to live good lives.

According to the state Commissioner for Works and Infrastructure, Engineer Rauf Aregbesola, the present democratic government in the state, in its characteristic approach to solving the problems of the masses in the state, took the decision to

establish a rehabilitation and skill development centre for youths that otherwise should be gainfully employed but who are roaming the streets of the metropolis aimlessly and terrorising innocent citizens.

The main aim of establishing the centre, Aregbesola explain, was to "rehabilitate and train the jobless youths and miscreants picked up in the metropolis with a view to empowering them through skill acquisition, thereby making them to become useful to the society with resultant reduction in crime rate."

While in the Island, they are to be counselled, to change their negative ways of thinking and be productive. To train them to acquire skill and trade, which will facilitate their sources of livelihood, thereby

preventing them from taking part in criminal activities. It is also aimed at creating opportunities for the stimulation of their interests in the establishment of small business enterprises after their rehabilitation and graduation from the centre. The centre is currently training about 500 youths in various skills.

The centre was said to have been renovated at a cost of about N110 million with such facilities for training in fabrication, carpentry, weaving, and agriculture component (involving snailry, poultry and fish production), detoxification centre for those who are into drugs, clinic, staff quarter and helipad.

There are eight dormitories that can accommodate 15 double deck beds of 30 residents, a workshop, administrative block and staff quarters, kitchen with store and dining hall, toilets and bathrooms, a 250KVA generator to supply electricity to the area and sentry where they are registered before going into the main centre that was fenced round.

Speaking with newsmen shortly after inspecting the centre, Governor Bola Tinubu pointed out that the whole essence of the area is to give a little help to youths who have by one way or the other have turned vagabonds.

"Some of them (area boys) are in need of help. Just a little help to change their life for the better. They are either stranded economically, homeless in Lagos because they are not indigenes of the state. Probably followed one of their relations to Lagos and find them stranded in the streets begging because they have no means of livelihood.

"If you assist them with a little help and empower them, they will find hope in their future. It is skill development centre where they will be tested in various skills."

According to the governor, they (area boys) cannot be "given fish all the time, but teach them how to fish." He advised them to be ready to learn, collaborate with government and be prepared to take their future into their hands.

"While sounding a note of warning that government's gesture if shunned by the area boys will lead to dire consequences, Tinubu declared that anyone who refuses this good gesture and goodwill to offer him a new life must be ready to leave Lagos.



Some of the hostels for inmates of the skill acquisition programme

pix: Oladipo Odunewu

## LASG vows to frustrate FERMA on Falomo motor park

**F**rom the Lagos State government on Wednesday came a re-affirmation that attempt by the Federal Road Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to establish an illegal motor park under the Falomo bridge at Ikoyi would be frustrated.

Transport Commissioner, Muiz Banire who re-affirmed the government's position at a parley with stakeholders and members of the Victoria Island and Ikoyi

Residents Association (VIIRA) foreclosed any compromise on the beauty and security of lives in the highbrow area.

The VIIRA members were in Banire's office to register their displeasure over moves by the federal agency to re-establish the park barely a week after transport operators were dislodged by the state government.

Banire noted that, the purported approval of the under bridge by the Minister

of Works, Senator Adeseye Ogunlewe as alleged by his special implementation assistant in Eti-Osa local government, Wole Badmus is not only illegal but also barbaric and despicable.

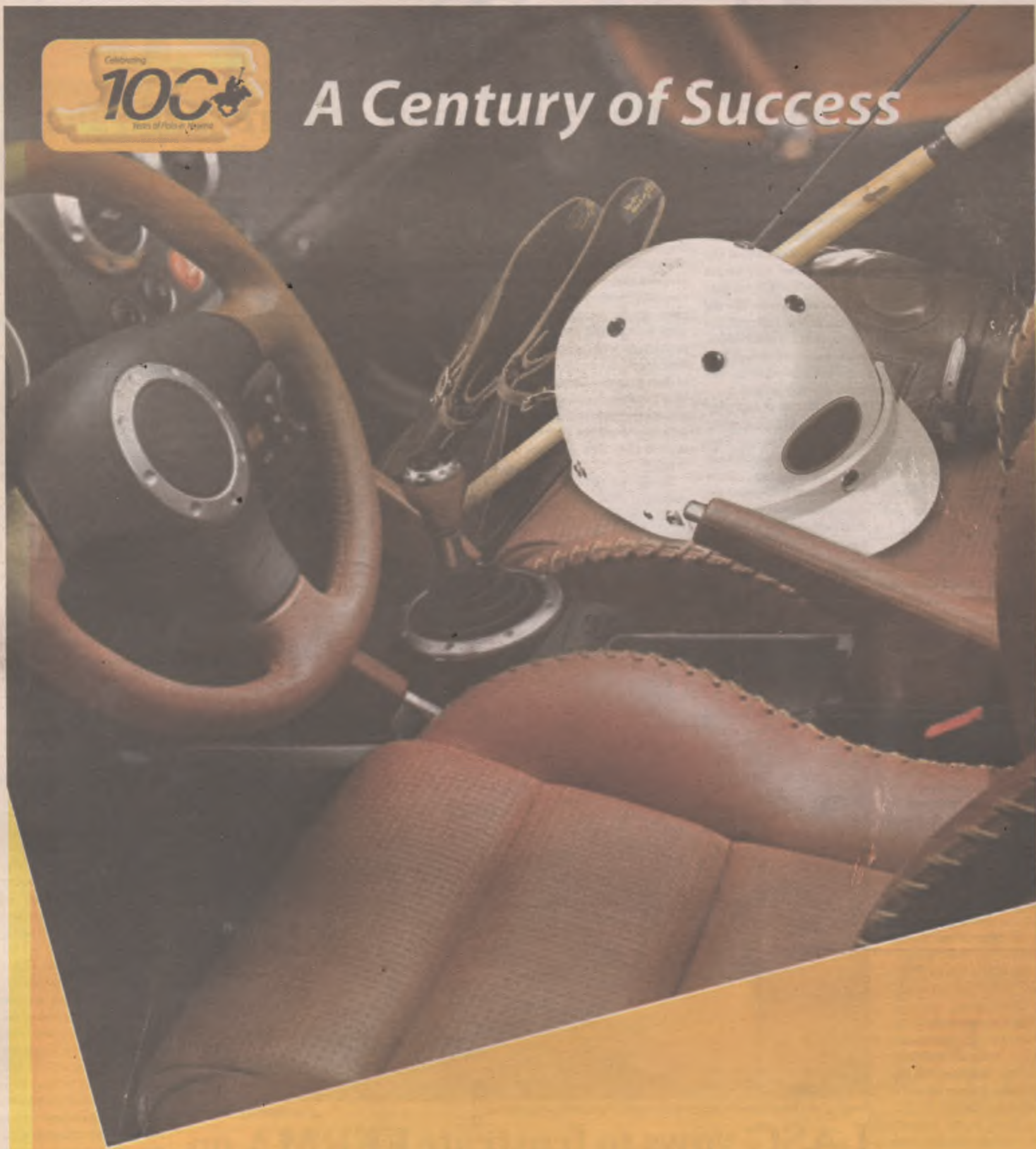
He said as long as section 7, item one of the fourth schedule of the constitution which vests the establishment, maintenance and regulation of motor parks, markets, abattoirs and others in the local government has not been amended by the

National Assembly, the Minister of Works cannot arrogate to himself the power to establish motor park or where one is to be located in any state of the federation.

The commissioner also said that the minister risks commitment to prison because he has been acting contrary to the Supreme Court judgment of 13th June 2003, in the urban and regional planning case in which it was affirmed that the ownership of land does not confer planning power on the federal government.



# A Century of Success



To succeed on the uncompromising playing grounds of the high and mighty demands skill, determination and of course, the right team by your side. At MTN, we share the passion for success that drives the world of Polo. And as we celebrate 100 years of Polo in Nigeria, MTN also celebrates all the players, on and off the field, at the Lagos Polo Tournament.



Sponsor of The Lagos Polo Tournament  
February 5th - 11th, 2005.

# Introducing MTN Daily booster card™



**N19 per minute / 38k per second**

## Load and Save for 24 hours!

To load MTN Daily booster card per minute, send the text message 300 to the number 131 (Costs only N150).  
To load MTN Daily booster card per second, send the text message 301 to the number 131 (Costs only N150).  
\*You may also switch via MTN Prepaid Menu by sending the text message MENU to 131.

MTN Daily booster card reduced tariffs:

Call	MTN booster card per minute	MTN booster card per second
MTN to MTN	N19	38 kobo
MTN to other networks	N23	45 kobo

Only MTN pay as you go subscribers can enjoy this service.



Standard terms and conditions apply. MTN reserves the right to change, modify, supplement or withdraw any of these tariffs. When your MTN booster card expires, you will be migrated automatically to MTN pay as you go per minute at no charge. When on ANY MTN booster card plan, you will have to wait for the expiry of your currently loaded MTN booster card before you can migrate to any other prepaid tariff plan. You might have sufficient airtime in your prepaid account before any migration can be completed. MTN booster card rates are not applicable to international calls.



# INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY ZARIA



IE/GEN/59

24th January, 2005

## APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION INTO FULL TIME AND PART TIME DIPLOMA PROGRAMMES 2004/2005 ACADEMIC SESSION

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for admission into the under-mentioned full-time and part-time Ordinary, Higher and Advanced Diploma Programmes of the Institute of Education, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria for the 2004/2005 academic session.

The Ordinary Diploma programmes on offer, while providing 'A' level quality education, are intended for the production of professional teachers. Candidates who wish to make a career in teaching are therefore encouraged to apply.

The Higher and Advanced Diploma programmes are intended for the production of teacher – professionals including for now; teacher – librarians, teacher-guidance counsellors and teacher- administrators/supervisors. Only candidates with recognized teaching qualifications are encouraged to apply.

Candidates should note that they will be responsible for their accommodation and feeding.

### A. REGULAR (FULL TIME) PROGRAMMES

1. Diploma in Physical and Health Education (DPHE)
2. Diploma in Mathematics Education (DME)
3. Diploma in Physics Education (DPE)
4. Diploma in Integrated Science Education (DISE)
5. Diploma in Adult and Community Development Education (DACDE)
6. Diploma in Arabic Language Education (DALE)
7. Diploma in Islamic Education (DIE)
8. Diploma in Christian Religious Education (DCRE)
9. Diploma in Early Childhood Education (DECE)
10. Higher Diploma in Mathematics Education (HDME)
11. Diploma in Guidance and Counselling Education (DGCE)
12. Diploma in Library and Information Science (DLIS)

### B. PART-TIME (LONG VACATION) PROGRAMMES

13. Diploma in Library and Information Science (DLIS)
14. Diploma in Early Childhood Education (DECE)
15. Higher Diploma in Guidance and Counselling (HDGC)
16. Advanced Diploma in Educational Planning, Administration and Supervision (ADEPAS)

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

#### 1. DIPLOMA IN PHYSICAL AND HEALTH EDUCATION (DPHE)

Candidates must possess:

- a) proven ability and achievement in Physical and Health Education
- b) G.C.E. 'O' Level, WASC/SSCE with at least four (4) credit passes, OR
- c) Grade II Teachers' Certificate with minimum of four (4) merit passes.
- d) the subjects must include English Language and Mathematics.
- e) All candidates for admission will be subjected to motor skills and fitness examination.

Duration: 4 Semesters

Tuition fees: N15,000.00 per session

#### 2. DIPLOMA IN MATHEMATICS EDUCATION (DME)

Candidates for DME must have G.C.E. 'O' level or SSCE/WASC with credit passes in at least 4 subjects, which must include Mathematics.  
Duration: 4 Semesters Tuition fees: N15,000.00 per session

#### 3. DIPLOMA IN PHYSICS EDUCATION (DPE)

Candidates must possess:

- a) at least four(4) credit passes in WASC/SSCE/GCE 'O' level in science subjects one of which must be Physics and
- b) at least a pass in Mathematics. OR
- c) Any other qualification which the University may deem appropriate.

Duration: 4 Semesters

Tuition fees: N15,000.00 per session

#### 4. HIGHER DIPLOMA IN MATHEMATICS EDUCATION (HDME)

Candidates must have obtained:

- a) at least a pass in Mathematics at the IJMB, HSC, and NCE or 'A' Level OR
- b) good pass in Diploma in Mathematics Education with at least one-year teaching experience. OR
- c) Any other qualification which the University may deem fit.

Duration: 2 Semesters Tuition fees: N17,000.00 per session

#### 5. DIPLOMA IN INTEGRATED SCIENCE EDUCATION (DISE)

Candidates for DISE must have

- a) Grade II Teachers' Certificate with at least four(4) merit passes, OR
- b) SSCE/WASC/GCE 'O' Level with at least four(4) credit passes.
- c) merit/credit passes must include at least 2 basic science subjects: Chemistry, Physics, Biology/Health Science, General Science/ Integrated Science
- d) credit in English Language with at least a pass in Mathematics.

Duration: 4 Semesters

Tuition fees: N15,000.00 per session

#### 6. DIPLOMA IN ADULT AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION (DACDE)

Candidates for DACDE must have any of the following:

- a. At least four (4) credit passes at SSCE/GCE 'O' level in subjects including English Language. OR
- b. Grade Two Teachers' Certificate with at least Merit passes in four (4) subjects, including English Language. OR
- c. Any other qualifications which the University may deem fit.

Duration: 4 Semesters

Tuition fees: N15,000.00 per session

#### 7. DIPLOMA IN ARABIC EDUCATION (DAE)

Candidates for DAE must have obtained -

- a. Grade II Teachers' Certificate with at least four (4) credit passes in subjects including Arabic and English Language. OR
- b. S.I.S Certificate with four (4) credit passes in subjects including Arabic and English Language. OR
- c. SSCE/GCE Certificates with four (4) credit passes, including Arabic and English Language. OR
- d. Any other qualifications which the University may deem appropriate.

Duration: 4 Semesters

Tuition fees: N15,000.00 per session

#### 8. DIPLOMA IN ISLAMIC EDUCATION (DIE)

Candidates for DIE must possess any of the following: -

- a) Grade II Teachers' Certificate with at least four (4) credit passes in subjects including Islamic Religious Studies and English Language. OR
- b) S.I.S. Certificate with four (4) credit passes including Islamic Religious Studies and English Language. OR
- c) SSCE/GCE Certificates with four (4) credit passes including Islamic Religious Studies and English Language. OR
- d) Any other qualifications which the University may deem appropriate.

Duration: 4 Semesters

Tuition fees: N15,000.00 per session

#### 9. DIPLOMA IN CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Candidates must have:

- a) at least four (4) credit passes, including Christian Religious Studies, and English Language, in SSCE or GCE OR
- b) at least four (4) merit passes in Teachers' Grade II Certificate, including Christian Religious Studies and English Language.

Duration: 4 Semesters

Tuition fees: N15,000.00 per session

#### 10. DIPLOMA IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (DECE)

Candidates must possess

- a) at least four (4) credit passes, including English Language, in SSCE/ GCE Certificates OR
- b) at least four (4) merit passes in Teachers' Grade II Certificate, including English Language. OR
- c) Associateship Certificate in Education (ACE) OR
- d) Any other qualifications, which the University may deem appropriate.

Duration: 4 Semesters

Tuition fees: N15,000.00 per session

# News

## Minister urges investors to assemble tractors in Nigeria

The Minister of Agriculture, Alhaji Adamu Mohammed Bello, has urged a delegation of foreign investors to assemble tractors in Nigeria.

Alhaji Bello, who received the delegation in his office, remarked that Nigeria is in need of assistance to resuscitate her tractor manufacturing companies.

Apart from supplying new tractors, he advised the foreign investors to endeavour to revive the Styre Nigeria Limited, Fiat Tractor Manufacturing Company in Bauchi and Kano respectively.

He pointed out that the ministry will however advertise for tractor vendors to bid for tractor supply for

## in Nigeria

By Hassan Idris, Senior Reporter (Agriculture)

the time being, stressing that the foreign delegates should avail themselves of the opportunity provided.

The minister appreciated the tractor and sanitation equipment introduced by the foreign delegation, saying that as soon as the Federal Executive Council (FEC) finishes its deliberation, the ministry will order more tractors for the benefit of farmers.

Earlier, the Ambassador of the Republic of Poland, Graegora Willinski who led the foreign investors, had introduced the three compa-

nies which he said shared business operations in Ghana before reaching Nigeria, adding that they will find the ways to bring some machines and the methodology to manufacturing.

Similarly, one of investors, Mr. Daniel Oware of Akos Incorporated, said that the equipment they have in Ghana are 80 horse tractors, stressing that they are powered by Mercy Ferguson Engine and hydraulic system manufactured from Italy.

He added that they are hybrid technology assembled or manufactured in Poland, and such tractors are being proposed for supply and possible manufacturing in Nigeria.

## Benue police arrest suspected robbers, cellphone thief

A three-man robbery syndicate which specialises in hijacking luxury buses enroute Enugu from Taraba State was Tuesday smashed by a team of Benue State police command.

Also acting in a tip off, the police last Sunday arrested one Eze Chukwu, suspected to be a cell phone thief.

The suspects: Chukwu Okoye of Onitsha, Chijoke Njoku of Owerri and Ifenna Uba of Nnewi were, according to the state's Commissioner of Police, Mr. Jones Uzuegbunam, arrested following a tip off from the villagers along Otukpa-Ankpa road.

## cellphone thief

From Hir Joseph, Correspondent (Makurdi)

The police boss said the suspects had confessed boarding a bus belonging to Chukwudi Transport Nig. Ltd in Wukawi, Taraba State, enroute Enugu through Benue State, stating that on getting to Otukpa, they forcefully took over the steering and diverted to Ankpa road where they robbed passengers of cash to the tune of N945,490 and other valuables, including GSM handsets.

Mr. Uzuegbunam said the

robbery suspects alighted from the vehicle after robbing the passengers and ran to the bush where they were caught by the police.

"It was the same syndicate who forcefully took over a luxury bus and snatched AK47 rifle with 30 rounds of live ammunitions in possession of Inspector Sylvanus Gongo while on duty from Yola to Onitsha on August 23, 2004," said the police commissioner, who disclosed further that the robbers had confessed during interrogation to have taken part in so many robberies on buses enroute Enugu through Benue from Taraba State.



## PUBLIC NOTICE

### FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT (FMENV)

#### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESMENT (EIA) OF THE PROPOSED QUARRY PROJECT FOR THE OBAJANA CEMENT COMPLEX BY DANGOTE NIGERIA LIMITED

In accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Act No. 86 of 1992, which makes it Mandatory for proponents of all new major development activities to carry out Environmental Impact Assessment of proposed projects, the Federal Ministry of Environment hereby announces a twenty-one (21) working days Public Notice for information and comments on the draft EIA Report submitted by Dangote Nigeria Limited.

#### Project Description/Location

The proposed project, located near Oyo-Iwa Village, will involve exploitation of abundant limestone deposit required for the Obajana Cement Factory located about 9 kilometres from the quarry.

#### VENUES OF DISPLAY

- Kogi State Ministry of Environment, Lokoja, Kogi
- Lokoja Local Government Area Headquarters, Lokoja, Kogi State
- Federal Ministry of Environment Office, Lokoja, Kogi State
- FMENV Liaison Office, Games Village, Surulere, Lagos.
- FMENV Office, Plot 444, Aguiyi-Ironsi Street, Maitama, Abuja

#### DURATION OF DISPLAY

Date: 12<sup>th</sup> January - 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2005  
Time: 8:00a.m. - 4:00p.m

ALL COMMENTS SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE PERMANENT SECRETARY, FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT ON OR BEFORE 10TH FEBRUARY, 2005.

SIGNED

PERMANENT SECRETARY

## INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY ZARIA

### 11. DIPLOMA IN GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING EDUCATION (DGCE)

Candidates must possess:

- at least four (4) credit passes, including English Language, in SSCE/GCE certificates OR
- at least four (4) merit passes in Teachers' Grade II Certificate, including English Language.

Duration: 4 Semesters

Tuition fees: N15,000.00 per session

### 12. DIPLOMA IN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE (DLIS)

Applicants with any of the following qualifications may be considered for admission into the Diploma in Library and Information Science programme.

- At least four credit passes at SSCE/GCE 'O' level including English Language and a minimum of pass in Mathematics obtained at not more than two sittings. OR
- Grade II Teachers' Certificate with at least Merit passes in four subjects including English Language and a minimum of pass in Mathematics/Arithmetic.

Duration: 4 Semesters

Tuition fees: N15,000.00 per session

### B. 13. DIPLOMA IN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE (DLIS)

Candidates must possess any of the following qualifications:-

- Teachers' Grade II Certificate OR
- Nigeria Certificate in Education (NCE) OR
- Any other relevant teaching Diploma.

Duration: 2 Contact Sessions

Tuition fees: N17,000.00 per session

### 14. DIPLOMA IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (DECE)

Candidates must possess any of the following qualifications:-

- Teachers' Grade II Certificate with at least four (4) merit passes OR
- Nigeria Certificate in Education (NCE) OR
- Any other relevant teaching Diploma.

Duration: 2 Contact Sessions

Tuition fees: N17,000.00 per session

### 15. HIGHER DIPLOMA IN GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING (HDGC)

Candidates for HDGCE must possess any of the following:-

- The Nigeria Certificate in Education (NCE) OR
- A First-degree recognized by the University OR
- Any other qualifications which the University may deem appropriate.

Duration: 2 Contact Sessions

Tuition fees: N17,000.00 per session

### 16. ADVANCED DIPLOMA IN EDUCATIONAL PLANNING, ADMINISTRATION AND SUPERVISION (ADEPA3)

Candidates for this programme must possess:

- the Nigeria Certificate in Education (NCE), with a minimum of two Merit passes in the Major subjects, which must include Education, and
- at least three years post-qualification cognate experience.
- Candidates who are already working in supervisory capacity will have an added advantage.

Duration: 2 Contact Sessions

Tuition fees: N17,000.00 per session

#### METHOD OF APPLICATION

Application forms are obtainable from the Secretary, Institute of Education, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. A non-refundable fee of One thousand Naira Only (N1,000.00) in Bank Draft made payable to "Institute of Education, A.B.U. Zaria" must be sent before application forms would be released. Candidates can also obtain forms in person after payment in cash. Completed application forms must be returned to the Institute by registered post or by hand to reach the Secretary, Institute of Education, not later than 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2005.

(Signed)

# News

## Akume tasks FG on Benue roads

The Benue State Governor, Mr. George Akume, has cried out to the federal government to wake up to its responsibilities by expediting action on rehabilitating the Naka-Adoka-Ankpa road which has been neglected for several years.

Governor Akume, who noted with displeasure the abandoned road contract for Zaki-Biam-Ugba-Buruku road awarded for construction in 1993 but without cash backing, explained to the newly posted federal Controller of Works, Engineer Bannet Ibegbu, that the Naka-Adoka-Ankpa federal road experiences heavy vehicular traffic all seasons.

**From Hir Joseph, Correspondent (Makurdi)**

He said the road, which is in its most terrible condition has caused several accidents.

Governor Akume, who enjoined the federal controller to settle down quickly for the work ahead of him, appealed for a comprehensive report to be made to the Federal Ministry of Works for the timely completion of the abandoned Zaki-Biam-Ugba-Buruku road as well as the rehabilitation of the deteriorating roads in the state.

The federal controller who was in the Government House, Makurdi on courtesy call, said the ministry's main

assignment in the state is the maintenance and development of federal highways, and called for understanding and co-operation of the state government for the success.

He said the federal network in the state covers over 1,600 kilometres comprising over 770 kilometres of asphalted concrete roads, 463 kilometres of surface dressed roads and 413 kilometres of earth roads.

Engineer Ibegbu, who listed areas of joint supervision between the federal and state ministries of works, assured the governor that the problems of accidents caused by unattended potholes are being addressed with utmost vigour.

In a bid to improve professionalism in the Nigerian Police Force, the acting Inspector-General of Police, Sunday Ehindero, has announced the promotion of over 12,000 members of rank and file of the force.

The IGP made this announcement during an interactive session with members of rank and file yesterday in Abuja. He said that the police force is poised to promote selfless and service to the nation while shunning corruption.

Similarly, the IGP has disbanded the monitoring unit of the police force in a major reshuffle of departments.

He said the reshuffle is to make the force responsible to the yearnings and aspirations of the society.

## 12,000 police officers promoted

**From Benjamin Auta, Crime Reporter**

Mr. Ehindero also called on members of the force to apply preventive method of crime solving rather than curative which will go along way in improving the image of the force.

He commented on the failure of the criminal justice system in the country, saying it is the reason they seek other alternatives in settling disputes.

He further lamented the large numbers of inmates awaiting trial in the prison saying, "about 70 per cent of them have no reason being there."

He also ordered that sergeants should be replaced with assistant superintendent of police in the area of prosecution while all cases must be vetted before they are taken to court.

He said all holding cases in magistrate courts should be abandoned so as to save police time.

**Institute for cultural orientation gets new boss**

The Minister of Culture and Tourism, Ambassador Frank N. Ogbuewu, has appointed Mr. J.B. Yusuf as the Acting Chief Executive of the National Institute for Cultural Orientation (NICO) following the termination of the appointment of the former boss, Dr. Charles K. Gonyak.

A statement signed by M.I. Ahmed, the institute's Public Relations Officer, said the appointment took effect from January 10, 2005.

Until his appointment, Mr. Yusuf was a director of planning, research and statistics, and he has since resumed duty.



From left: Governor Ali Modu Sheriff, Baba Ahmed Jida, the Commissioner, Ministry for Poverty Alleviation, Alhaji Mai Sheriff, at a public function in Borno State ... recently

## Elewi's death, great loss to Nigeria

*- Ex-minister*

Former Minister of Communications, Dr. Bello Haliru Mohammed, has described the death of Alhaji Haruna Elewi, one-time Minister of State, in the Ministry of Communication, as a great loss to the nation.

**From Mohammed S. Shehu**

In a tribute to the family of the deceased, Dr. Mohammed described the late colleague as a

visionary personality whose contributions to the communications industry are today manifested in the unprecedented revolution in the nation's telecommunications and postal sectors.

"The late Alhaji Elewi demonstrated uncommon trait as a pragmatic and visionary personality such that our various presentations to the Federal Executive Council (FEC) got tremendous acceptance and endorsement, the outcome of which are manifested today," he said.

According to the tribute made available to *Daily Trust*, Dr. Mohammed said he was shocked over the transition of his colleague whom he said had contributed immensely to the progress of the country.

"I will surely miss the former minister of state whose vast knowledge of grassroots science was brought to bear in the revitalisation of NIPOST and the reshaping of our national courier service system."

## Five corp members get merit award in Jigawa

Five corp members in Jigawa State have won merit award for their selfless service to the downtrodden in the state, with N10,000 monetary award to motivate them.

Commissioner for Information, Alhaji Abba Kukuma also extolled the youth corp members as good

**From Hassan A. Karofi, Correspondent (Dutse)**

ambassadors of their various communities.

He disclosed that at the passing out ceremony of the batch A corp members in Dutse, the Jigawa State capital.

The commissioner revealed that the corp members have distinguished themselves in the areas of drug-free campaign, road safety, mass literacy effort, HIV/AIDS, environmental and sanitation efforts in the state.

While describing the NYSC as the most appropriate response to the nation's aspiration for unity and peaceful co-existence, he said youth remain the bases for a stronger and united Nigeria.

He called on labour employers to sacrifice by absolving the chunk of the youth who have passed out from the service today.



Alhaji Samu Turaki



## THE PRESIDENCY IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE OF THE WHITE PAPER ON THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO THE ALIENATION OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT LANDED PROPERTY CAVEAT EMPTOR

PROPERTY SITUATED AT NO 27 IKOYI CRESCENT IKOYI LAGOS

The attention of the Implementation Committee is drawn to an advertisement for the sale of the above named property placed on page 18 of the Guardian Newspaper of 8<sup>th</sup> November 2004 by a certain firm of legal practitioners. According to this advertisement, this property is said to be owned by a Nigerian registered corporate organization and formerly owned by a foreign Diplomatic Mission.

Members of the general public are hereby warned and informed that the property situate at No 27 Ikoyi Crescent Ikoyi Lagos belongs to the Federal Government and the laws of the country prohibit the alienation of any Federal Government property without the consent of the Minister responsible for land matters.

Anyone who buys, subleases or otherwise claims to have acquired any interest in this property without the consent of the Minister of Housing and Urban Development does so at his/her own risk.

Signed:  
**Prof. P. T. Ahire**  
Committee Secretary

2<sup>nd</sup> February 2005



# Inside Politics

## Confab: Delegates list raises dust nationwide

The list of state representatives to the forthcoming national conference on political reforms scheduled for next month in Abuja has continued to evoke mixed reactions from various stakeholders across the country.

In Kano, one-time Attorney-General and Commissioner of Justice for Kano State, Alhaji A.B. Mahmud (SAN), said individually, the nominees are qualified because they are people of high integrity.

He stated that it is difficult in a place like Kano to be able to get adequately representation of all groups and interest but regretted that women interest was not represented in the actual delegates to the conference. Alhaji A.B. Mahmud noted that although he is not aware of the yardstick used for the appointment but it seem as if adequate consultation was not made.

He, however, said he has no quarrel with the new faces in the Kano team, saying there is no harm in bringing new faces to compete to such debate from Kano. "There is nothing wrong with having some new faces, they can contribute very well to Kano's position, at the conference. It will be wrong to restrict it to the same old faces again," he added.

Another contributor, Sheikh Jamil Mohammed Adamu, who declined to be specific on the nominees described them as being a mixture of good and better, saying that some can do the job assigned them while others can't do it to satisfaction.

Sheikh Adam, who is the Chief Imam of Dorayi Juma'at mosque explained that for anybody to be assigned to represent people at such important meeting should possess lots of qualities which includes knowledge of both Islamic and Western education, knowledge of the conditions of the country and have probity of justice, fairness and truthful.

Others he said are fearless, patriotic and not corrupted of all kind, and that only when we give such calibre of people that they will succeed.

He then called on the government to consider those who have the feelings of the ummah at heart and that difference in political parties and ideology should not be a barrier to selecting qualified citizens who can do the job by giving a proper representation during the conference.

Politician however, kicked against some of the nominees describing them as government favoured candidates. Chairman of Coalition of Opposition Parties in Kano State Alhaji Musa Dan Birni, said although some of the nominated delegates deserve the appointment but half of them were there as government agents.

He stated that politics should not have been applied to the selection, adding that people needed for such assignment should be people who are bi-partisan and knowledgeable on the problem and aspiration of the people of Kano State, and not people who rarely mingle with the common man.

**From Abdul-Azeez Abdullahi, Abuja; Musa Kazaure, Kano; Salisu Maradun, Gusau; Abdul-Azeez Adebayo, Ilorin; Hiv Joseph, Makurdi & Isa Gusau, Maiduguri**

The list of nominees to represent Niger State at the conference was also given a knock by Senator Dangana Ndayako, who said the nominees were not competent to articulate the yearnings of the state.

He said beside the fact that the delegates may pursue an agenda that is in the interest of the present government, the delegates, he added, are not politically experienced enough for such a gathering.

Senator Ndayako, who said Niger state was blessed with capable individuals for the state lamented the self-serving agenda of the organisers of the conference which he said is evident in those nominated to the conference.

He pointed out that at the moment, one of the nominees to represent Niger state at present is being investigated by the Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission and then he wondered why the state government will deem it fit to nominate him to the conference.

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Zamfara State, has also condemned the action of the state government in totality over the nomination of the representatives of the state to the national political reform conference.

Speaking to newsmen in Gusau yesterday, the secretary-general of the party, Malam Bala Bello Maru, asserted that the government of Ahmed Sani had made a great mistake in making the selection which, according to him, was only "based on selfish interest and not on merit or interest of the people of the state."

Said he: "If we want to progress and achieve the goal of moving the state forward and improving the lot of the people of the state, we should keep politics aside or else we will become the laughing stock of Nigeria."

The PDP scribe alleged that those who have been selected "are only Yarima's boys who dance to his tune," pointing out that there are better qualified and credible people to be nominated.

"This is a place where important things (issues) are going to be discussed and therefore it needs the most knowledgeable people who will talk and defend what they say anywhere," emphasised the secretary-general, noting that only Malam Yahaya Abdul-Karim, a former governor of the defunct Sokoto State is a good material out of the six nominees."

Speaking on the six nominees from the three senatorial districts of Kwara state, the state chairman of United Nigeria Peoples Party (UNPP), Malam Nurudeen Imam AbdulRahim, said, "all the nominees are PDP loyalists but Kwara belongs to us all."

Ahmed Tijani, another Kwaran from Kwara central described the nomination as lopsided because "the old PDP was not fully represented while majority of the nominees are too close to government."

A chieftain of the Alliance for Democracy (AD), Barrister Teju Adeyemi also described the selection as purely PDP affair which the party would react to eventually.

In Makurdi, the Middle Belt Forum (MBF), has also condemned the nomination of delegates by President Olusegun Obasanjo and the state governors to the conference.

The forum whose national chairman, Honourable Isaac Shaahu briefed the press in Makurdi, said the national event may come to a nought considering that the delegates are being mostly nominated by the President and his governors and not by the people whose issues would be tabled for discussion.

Honourable Shaahu said with government delegates at the dialogue, the event would only end up with decisions to favour their nominees and not the people.

"We in the middle belt are not satisfied with the criteria of nominating delegates for the dialogue. We want delegates to be elected from their own areas and not nominated by the government," said Honourable Shaahu, adding, "because the nominees can only say what the people who put them there want."

He also queried the non-involvement of National Assembly members as delegates in the dialogue, saying the exclusion of the lawmakers has completely invalidate the event even before it started.

The national vice chairman of the Alliance for Democracy (AD), Alhaji Ahmed Ashemi, has described the non-inclusion of the AD in the composition of the six-man delegates to represent Borno State in the upcoming National Political Reforms Conference.

Alhaji Ashemi made the observation during an exclusive interview with *Daily Trust* yesterday in Maiduguri, Borno State capital.

"Actually, one must commend the state governor on the structure of the six-man delegates. They have people of credibility cutting across both the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) and the NDP among others. But the AD, despite being a big party in Borno was not represented or has nobody from the party," Ashemi said.

"I urge Governor Ali Sheriff to realise that he is a governor that should carry all people along, especially on such important national issues. No matter the grudges the governor has against the AD, the party should have been considered for this national conference," the AD chieftain maintained.

Alhaji Ashemi noted that the composition of the delegates was not expected from Governor Ali Modu Sheriff, giving political scenarios.

"But I was deeply surprised. I think for the first time or so, he acted on very good note. Delegates such as the former governor, Mohammed Goni (NDP), Baba Ahmed Jidda (ANPP), Ibrahim Damcida and Lawan Buba, both of NDP, along with the rest is a group of respected people with political and administrative experience," the AD chieftain said.

However, several efforts to get the views of the state's Peoples Democratic Party chairman, proved futile, as our correspondent reported that the chairman had travelled to Abuja, while several phone calls only secured response from a voice mail, saying that the chairman was not available.

## Group indicts Obasanjo government as most vindictive

A pressure group in Jos under the aegis of Democratic Justice Forum ((DJF) has described president Olusegun Obasanjo led government as the most vindictive and insensitive government ever in Nigeria.

Addressing a press conference in Jos, National coordinator of the Forum, Captain Sam Nimineh (rt) decried the treatment, which had been meted on some state Governors, notably Chris Ngige, James Ibori, Orji Kalu and Joshua dariye.

Captain Nimeneh, who noted that the problem with democracy in Nigeria "is that the dictatorship is wearing the garb of democracy," lamented that the nation's democracy was

## Confab: Madaki, former minister calls for mini-confab

Former minister of state for works, Mr. Charles Ali Madaki has called for a mini-conference in Kaduna state to articulate a joint position for the state at the Political Reform Conference.

Citing the agitation for additional state for Kaduna, he said if the mini-conference agreed to present the creation of more states out of the present Kaduna it should be presented as such to the nations conference but alerted that the process for state creation was

**From Sani Babadoko, correspondent Kaduna**

very tedious.

The former minister, who at a press dialogue by Kaduna state council of the Nigeria Union of journalists (NUJ) insisted that there was a memorandum of understanding in the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) that the governorship candidate in 2007 should emerge from among the central and southern Kaduna.

Mr. Madaki, who is believed to harbour gubernatorial ambition, said the agreement was based on the fact that northern zone has produced the serving governor for eight years and it was the turn of the central and southern zones to do so in 2007.

He endorsed his support for the National conference on the ground that it is through dialogue that we can understand each other and called on delegates to the conference to represent the people diligently in the interest of posterity.

Mr. Madaki denied ever frustrating any project in Kaduna state when he was in office and claimed credit for the construction of the refinery road as well as the award of the Eastern bye-pass road in Kaduna.

He commended Governor Ahmed Makarfi for his performance in the past five years pointing out that, "even those who do not like him have given him credit for his developmental projects in both the rural and urban areas and the sustainable peace in the state."

**From Rakiya A. Muhammed, Correspondent Jos**

under threat with such attitude.

The National coordinator expressed the readiness of the Democratic Justice Forum to defend democracy at all levels of government in the country, saying the forum is "raising the gauntlet and have decided to oppose vehemently any more to interfere in any democratic set up.

He described the recent invitation to the British police to give evidence in court against an incumbent governor, Chief Joshua Dariye as a negation of the spirit and intent of the constitution urging the president to ensure that Nigerian citizens get dividends of democracy and stop being vindictive.



FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA  
ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRIMES COMMISSION (EFCC)

Economic Reforms and Governance Project (ERGP)

Credit No.4011UNI

PROCUREMENT ADVISOR

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The Federal Government of Nigeria has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) for Economic Reforms and Governance Project and the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has been selected as one of the beneficiaries. The EFCC intend to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under a contract for the services of a qualified Procurement Advisor.

The Procurement Advisor will assist EFCC in implementation of the IDA Credit and the EFCC mandate. The selected consultant will provide support to the EFCC. She will provide support in the drafting, preparation and finalization of all procurement activities and the training of EFCC staff. She will submit to the Commission routine and special reports on delays and lapses in the implementation of procurement plans.

The Consultants qualification shall include; As a minimum, the potential candidates shall have

- A university degree or HND in Purchasing, Supplies, Management, Law, Business, Accounting, Economics or Finance;
- Minimum of 7 years post-graduation experience, with 3 years of first hand experience in procurement with development agencies or the Bank guidelines, working with various government agencies, international development agencies or World Bank assisted projects;
- Proficiency in computer applications, such as MS Word, Excel, Power Point and Project, besides proven communication skills; and
- Professional qualification in Purchasing, Supplies, Management or related areas, will be an added advantage.

SUBMISSION OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOIS)

The EFCC invites eligible individual consultants to indicate their interest in providing the services. Expression of Interest from interested applicants should specify the following information as for selection,

- Curriculum Vitae providing full details of academic qualifications and employment history.
- Capability statement from the individual to confirm that the individual is qualified to perform the services
- 3 letters of references reflecting on the past experiences and performance of the individual.

The Consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank Guidelines: Section and Employment of Consultants by World bank Borrowers, May 2004. The contract will be for a period of 6 months, spread over 12 months with the consultant working part-time.

Expression of Interest must be submitted in six (6) copies in a sealed envelope clearly marked "Expression of Interest for Procurement Advisor".

The expression of interest should be addressed and delivered not later than Friday, February 18, 2005 by 5.00pm at the address shown below.

The Commission Secretary  
Economic and Financial Crimes Commission  
1017/1018 Coree Bay Crescent,  
Off Adetokunbo Ademola Crescent,  
Opposite Blackview Hotel, Wuse II P.O.Box 166  
Garki, Abuja.

Interested applicants may obtain further information at the address above from 8.00am 5.00pm, Monday through Friday  
Only short listed consultants will be contacted  
Expression of interest through e-mail or fax will not be entertained.

# Inside Politics

## 2007: Governor Sheriff will break re-election jinx in Borno - Ngulde

**Ibrahim Usman Ngulde, is the executive chairman of Askira Uba local government area in Borno State, and the state's secretary, Association of Local Governments of Nigeria (ALGON). In this interview with Daily Trust, Ngulde speaks on the 2007 gubernatorial elections in Borno State, and the tenure of local government chairmen, among others.**

### Excerpts:

**On Several occasions at public functions and media interviews you expressed supports for Governor Ali Modu Sheriff towards the 2007. Is the Governor going for second term?**

I think the decision of Governor Ali Modu Sheriff to contest re-election in 2007 if God spares our lives, is not my decision, it is not that of whoever may want to campaign for him, it is not even the decision of Governor Sheriff himself. It is a collective decision of the masses in Borno State. Just like in 2003, the people demonstrated their desire to have Governor Sheriff, and as such they voted for him massively. Now the question is, has he lived up to expectation or not? Even you members of the press know that Governor Sheriff has performed creditably well. Look at all that he has done within less than two years in all spheres of our lives. So it is obvious from the manner the public shout his name "SAISAS" all over, especially the common man in rural areas, it is clear that the people want Governor Sheriff back in 2007.

**Has the governor agreed to this, call of the people?**

Well, for a responsible leader such as Governor Sheriff, he sees the path to 2007 or rather the remaining 2-years as capable of recording more successes in developmental projects than even before. So I believe he is busy at the moment with the task of delivering good governance to the people of Borno, haven't voted him in 2003 for a four-year term. So when it is time, the people would cry out louder for Governor Sheriff and as a good leader he should listen to the people, with an ear of wisdom in a desire to improve the lives of the people.

**It is on record that nobody has ever contested re-election successfully in Borno State. Do you see Governor Sheriff breaking the jinx?**

You see, times are different now. You will agree with me that the members of our societies are now more than ever before conscious of their demands, their rights, and the privileges they should enjoy. People now have the capacity to assess the achievements

**From Isa Umar Gusau, Correspondent Maiduguri**

of their leaders. In the past, leaders were more appreciated after their absence in office. But now people make effort to see for themselves what their leaders have been doing, so they appreciate them while still in office. Politics in the rural areas is no longer about words drumming or history of saying you have done this or that. People want to see what you have done. And in this regard, Governor Sheriff has a clear chance. People have seen his 755 housing units in Maiduguri without any loan thousands of people in cities and rural areas have benefited from poverty alleviation items. Infact he has expressed readiness to pay 40 percent amount in a joint effort with local government chairmen to construct 20 houses in every local government area.

**Don't you think some past leaders have performed just as well?**

My concern is the present. Time change. You can not for instance compare the level of human development achieved now, with structural development being emphasised in the past. Of cause, in the past roads and bridges were built. The difference now, is that the same roads are now built, while human beings are developed economically. And that is the policy thrust of Governor Ali Modu sheriff. So governor sheriff will break that Borno State re-election



Ibrahim Usman Ngulde

jinx.

**Do you hope to be one of his campaign officers towards 2007?**

I do not need any appointment to campaign for Governor Ali Modu sheriff, just like I do not need any to clamour for a better Borno State. And I see Governor sheriff as path to a greater Borno.

**Well, most politicians appear to have their wrongs as human beings. What is or are those of Governor sheriff?**

I am an optimist. I talk about someone's wrong in a face-to-face conversation with the person involved, while I say aloud the good aspect of one.

**Chairman, now the issue of local governments funds, do you see the need for autonomy accounts for local government areas?**

Autonomy if I am correct implies absolute freedom,

absolute control, and absolute independence. You see, freedom is a good concept. But One important thing is the capacity to manage freedom. So we need to first of all, develop the capacity to manage free control over finances.

**Are you saying that chairmen do not have the capacity to manage your finances well on your own?**

No, not at all. You see autonomy as this case implies, requires some practical frame work to be able to sustain the concept. Of course, many chairmen can manage it, but you see, sometimes a level of control, no matter how minimal assists in enhancing productivity. For instance, the use of seat belt does not prevent car accident or injuries per say.

But using seat belts introduces a level of control on the driver. The driver would not feel too comfortable, as to

be able to fall asleep while driving, so he or she is kept conscious of the act. Now look at the case of the Federal Ministry of finance, Publishing allocations to state governments. This is a measure of control. So in as much as there is need for autonomous account if there is, there is also a need for supervision no matter how the level is for good governance to be achieved.

**Are you in support of autonomous account for local government councils?**

I am in support of any meaningful policy that would contribute to development at all levels of our societies.

**Chairman, there have been allegations especially from opposition political parties that local governments in Borno were under funded by the state government. As the accounting officer of ALGON, what is the picture?**

Well, I think you have said it all when you said the said allegations came from opposition political parties. Normally in politics, the opposition is all out to discredit you. I remembered that we once invited you journalists to cover one of our monthly fund management meetings, where you saw how transparent chairmen spoke for their local governments, and allocations were made public through you, the press. So I challenge whoever has worthy claims over that to put forward the claims. And I make bold to say that to the best of my knowledge, Borno is one of the few states where local government chairmen hold monthly fund management meetings after which legal deductions are made such as contributions to primary education, emirate councils as provided by constitutional provisions and the laws of Borno State. There is just no way about 27 people will all think in the same line and be subdued. And I give so much

credits to governor Sheriff, he has a seriously carried chairmen along in his tenure, and we fully support him.

**You said we, which implies.**

The local government chairmen.

**Does that include the Jere chairman, from the PDP?**

Politics is about enhancing your acceptability, so if any member of the PDP, AD or even APGA is ready to join the ANPP, we include and accept him to join us in supporting Governor Ali Modu Sheriff.

**There were allegations, that when the state executive of the ANPP went on tour some months ago across some local government areas, there was extortion from chairmen. How would you react to this?**

I think our level of respect for the state executives answers the whole thing. If these executives extort chairmen, they would loose respect. And you see the governor knows that the party may have a porous structure when the executives are not respected. So our party executives have access to the party finances for all their programmes. No chairman has reported any case of extortion to ALGON in this state.

**Could they be afraid?**

Real politicians are never afraid, and we have real politicians, most of whom include our chairmen.

**There are some local government areas, without elected chairmen, as ALGON leaders, have you bothered to address this?**

These are matters already in court. So any attempt on the issues may constitute contempt of court, and we are law abiding.

**Some people think it is because the state government or ANPP prefers caretakers. Like for instance Mobbar local government area is said to have been won by the PDP candidate.**

ANPP at all levels, especially in Borno, is never afraid of elections. It is common to seek judicial redress when elections are controversial. Look infact, the PDP should be described as being afraid for elections in Borno State. The ANPP has been battling for us to have elections in Borno North for the senatorial position as the appeal court judgement ordered, but is clear that such is not the desire of PDP. The PDP is afraid of elections; we are always ready, because we have the support of the people at the grassroots. We do not go to Abuja and rest while we seek elections, with the determined political style of Governor Ali Modu Sheriff, we campaign thoroughly, and we visit every village and

**"You see, times are different now. You will agree with me that the members of our societies are now more than ever before conscious of their demands, their rights, and the privileges they should enjoy. People now have the capacity to assess the achievements of their leaders. In the past, leaders were more appreciated after their absence in office. But now people make effort to see for themselves what their leaders have been doing, so they appreciate them while still in office. Politics in the rural areas is no longer about words drumming or history of saying you have done this or that. People want to see what you have done."**

# Sports

## EURO 2008

### UEFA awards SportFive agency TV rights

UEFA awarded the broadcasting rights for the Euro 2008 finals to the SportFive media agency on Wednesday in a bid to maximise their revenue from the event being co-hosted by Switzerland and Austria.

The move, described as a "major shift in policy" ended UEFA's decades-old relationship with the European

Broadcasting Union (EBU) and will change the way TV viewers across Europe will watch matches in the finals in three years' time.

After a meeting of UEFA's Executive Committee the governing body's chief executive Lars-Christer Olsson said: "This represents a sea-change for UEFA, a major change of policy for us.

The arrangement with SportFive will work in a similar way as the one with TEAM who market the Champions League.

"SportFive will approach each TV market individually and open up a competition for the rights. In the main our preferred partner would be a free-to-air broadcaster.

"By doing this and

changing our policy it means we have control over the production and can oversee the product much more carefully."

Olsson estimated UEFA would earn above 600 million euros for the TV rights in 2008 — "a 20 percent increase over income from last year's finals in Portugal".

A possible scenario is that one broadcaster, for example the BBC in Britain, might show all of England's and Scotland's matches in England or Scotland during the finals but the rest of the competition could be on a Pay TV channel like Sky Sports.

In the past, for example, both the BBC and ITV might have shown England's matches and many other games from the finals as well. That situation will change from 2008 as only one broadcaster will win the bidding war for the rights to show matches rather than take their games from the EBU.

But Olsson stressed that fans would still be able to watch matches played by their own country on free-to-air television. "That has not changed and we are committed to that," he said.

Sportfive is owned by global private equity firm Advent International and European broadcaster RTL. It was formed in 2001 when Canal Plus and RTL's parent Bertelsmann merged their sporting rights with JC Darmon, a French sports marketing firm.

Olsson also said UEFA had signed an agreement with online bookmakers Betfair who would provide UEFA with immediate information whenever unusual betting patterns began developing on matches.

On December 1, irregular betting aroused suspicions over the UEFA Cup match between Panionios of Greece and Dynamo Tbilisi of Georgia, although inquiries

into a fix have so far produced no definite evidence.

Panionios, trailing 1-0 at halftime and 2-1 early in the second half, came back to 5-2 and U.K. betting companies reported unusually heavy wagers on exactly such a scenario occurring in the match.

UEFA's Executive Committee also discussed possible changes to the format of the qualifying rounds for the Euro 2008 finals but decided to postpone a decision on that until their next meeting in April in Tallinn, Estonia.

They also discussed their proposed homegrown policy of ensuring that a set number of young players, produced in either the youth ranks of a club or country, are included in the first team squads of major clubs.

An announcement on that policy is expected after the proposals are discussed by the presidents and general secretaries of UEFA's member associations at a meeting yesterday.

Another decision taken on Wednesday was that the European Under-21 championship will be staged in odd years beginning in 2007.



Atletico Madrid defender Juan Valesco tested positive for banned substance.

### 'Velasco innocent of any doping offence'

Atletico Madrid defender Juan Velasco bears no responsibility for a positive drug test that occurred as a result of treatment for a groin injury, the Primera Liga club said on Wednesday.

The 27-year-old former Celta Vigo player tested positive for the anti-inflammatory steroid triamcinolone after a league match between Atletico and Osasu-

na on December 5 last year.

"In the last two months of 2004 the player was given a series of injections of Trigon Depot (which contains triamcinolone) as part of the treatment for a groin injury," the club said in a statement.

"Once the treatment was

completed a report was sent to the Spanish Football Federation and the Anti-Doping Commission to notify them of the matter. The report was sent before we received any notification of a positive test.

"The player bears no responsibility over this matter given that the drug was administered as part of the treatment given by the club's medical staff."

Atletico said they sent the report on Jan. 3 and were informed of the positive test on January 9.

According to Federation rules, the use of drugs such as triamcinolone for the treatment of injuries is only permitted if the authorities give their approval beforehand.

A doping offence involving such substances usually entails a ban of between three months and two years.

### Dortmund coach bemoans financial problems

Borussia Dortmund coach Bert van Marwijk has blamed the club's financial problems for the team's poor performances on the pitch.

"If you are confronted with it, you simply cannot avoid it, and you are affected," he told the online edition of Spiegel magazine.

The Dutch coach, formerly with Feyenoord, said he would stay on despite his side languishing 13th in the 18-

team standings.

"If you knew me well, you would know that I have always fulfilled my contracts," he said.

Meanwhile, Dortmund, Bundesliga champions in 2002, stepped up their overhaul on Wednesday by firing a number of administration staff.

The club posted the largest debts in German soccer history in 2004 along with record losses.

### Lack of Safin successors worry Russian chiefs

Russian tennis chiefs believe the future is not entirely rosy despite Marat Safin's Australian Open success.

Safin's victory over Lleyton Hewitt on Sunday followed a year dominated by the success of Russia's women players, who won three of the four women's singles grand slam titles in 2004.

"At first glance Russian tennis is successful and we are proud of the victories of our tennis players, but nevertheless...we are already noticing some problems," Russian Tennis Federation vice-president Dmitry Vikharev told reporters.

He said the main problem was a shortage of boys playing on the junior circuit and therefore a lack of potential successors to Safin.

"If you look at the entrants for the boys' junior Australian Open, there was not a single Russian surname on the list of 64," Vikharev said.

It is not for a lack of interest in the game. The sport's enormous popularity is creating a shortage of top-class coaches. Many prefer to coach at private tennis clubs where the money is better, forcing Russia's promising youngsters to look abroad for a coach, if they can afford it.

The passion for tennis is a post-Soviet phenomenon, sparked by ex-President Boris Yeltsin's patronage of the game. A lack of tennis courts has sent hire prices soaring, making it accessible only to the better off.

"In some places courts cost 70 dollars per hour...and correspondingly in some towns the situation with the popularity of tennis is worse

than in Soviet times," said federation chief Shamil Tarpishchev.

The federation has suggested using a Soviet-style centralised training system and hopes to attract private sponsorship so that children can be coached at special centres in Russia without having to shell out huge sums of money.

Anastasia Myskina began Russia's tennis revolution with her win at the French Open last year. Then Maria Sharapova clinched Wimbledon and Svetlana Kuznetsova claimed the U.S. Open.

Fellow Russian Elena Dementieva was runner-up in the French and U.S. Opens.

The Russian women's team also won the Fed Cup last year and currently there are six Russians in the top 12 of the women's rankings.

Safin's Australian Open win catapulted the Russian men back into the spotlight after an absence of grand slam wins since Safin's U.S. Open victory in 2000.

At number four the 25-year-old is the only Russian in the men's top 10, with Nikolay Davydenko at 15 and Mikhail Youzhny at 16 the next highest ranked.

The federation has set a five-year goal of having at least 10 men ranked in the top 100, four or five in the top 50 and one or two in the top 10.



Safin



# PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PDP)

**POWER TO THE PEOPLE**

Motto: Justice, Unity and Progress

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

## PARTY REFORM COMMITTEE

### SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

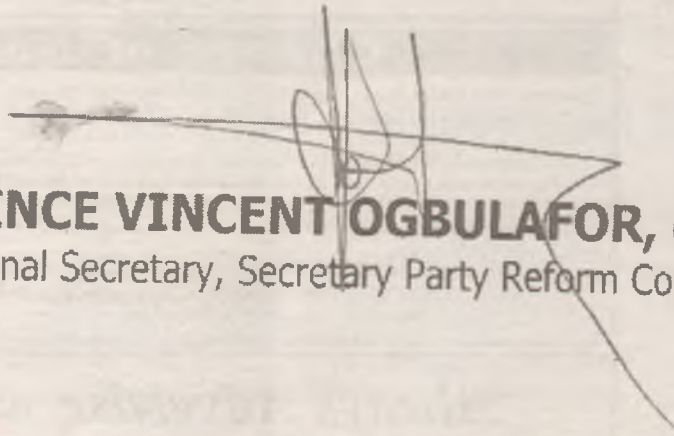
This is to inform all members of the Peoples Democratic Party Reform Committee that the meetings of the Committee have been scheduled as follows:

Day	Activity
Monday, 7 <sup>th</sup> February 2005	Report by the sub-Committee on Party Discipline and Code of Conduct
Tuesday, 8 <sup>th</sup> February 2005	Report by the Sub-committee on Nomination for Elective offices
Wednesday, 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2005	Report by the Sub-committee on Power Devolution and Constitutional Review .
Thursday, 10 <sup>th</sup> February, 2005	Report by Sub-Committee on Manifesto and Party Image.
Monday, 14 <sup>th</sup> February, 2005	Report by the Sub-Committee on Party Funding.
Tuesday, 15 <sup>th</sup> February, 2005	Report by the Sub-Committee on Local Government System, Tenure and Funding.

Venue for all meetings is NICON Hilton Hotel, Abuja.

Time: 8pm each day.

All members should note and attend

  
**PRINCE VINCENT OGBULAFOR, OFR**  
 National Secretary, Secretary Party Reform Committee

United Nations Development Programme

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites expressions of interest from qualified Nigerian individuals and institutions to carry out editorial services in 2005.

**Title of Post:** Editor  
**Post Level:** ICS -9  
**Duty Station:** Abuja  
**Type of Contract:** Special Services Agreement

**DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

Under the direct supervision of the requesting unit and the communications unit, the incumbent performs the following editorial duties as the need arises:

1. Reviews the language of the document to ensure legibility and consistency;
2. Incorporates comments and clarifications received from authors;
3. Ensures consistent and correct use of statistics, references etc.;
4. Revises the language of the document to make it accessible to different audiences;
5. Prepares insightful overviews and executive summaries; and
6. Collaborates with graphic designers to ensure user-friendly presentation;
7. Performs other duties as required

**EVALUATION CRITERIA:****EDUCATION:**

Advanced university degree in Mass Communication, Social Sciences, Humanities or other related fields.

**WORK EXPERIENCE:**

Proven record of achievement with at least 5 years of professional experience in editing works for publication.

**LANGUAGES:**

Fluency in English essential and one other UNDP working language desirable, with ability to convey ideas clearly in writing and verbally towards building consensus on concepts and approaches being presented. Working knowledge of any of Nigeria's main languages is desirable.

**OTHER SKILLS AND ATTRIBUTES:**

1. Professional/ Core competencies
  - **Advocacy:** Ability and willingness to be an advocate for the user.
  - **Design:** Knowledge of information design, presentation of data, language conventions, communication principles and theory.
  - **Execution:** Ability and willingness to apply information design, language, and communication models, theories, rules, and standards.
  - **Innovation:** Ability and willingness to be open to new ideas without sacrificing usability or accuracy.
  - **Use of Media:** Ability and willingness to understand the requirements and uses of different media and to apply them appropriately.
  - **Research Skills:** Ability and willingness to gather relevant and accurate information and analyze it for appropriateness.
  - **Use of support Tools:** Ability and willingness to use appropriate support tools, including computer application software.
  - **Usability:** Understanding of usability, skill in user and task analysis, and the ability and willingness to provide value to the user of the information.
2. Analytical and Conceptual Competencies:
  - **Analysis:** Ability to recognize patterns and relationships.
  - **Logic:** Ability to identify logical fallacies.
  - **Editorial Memory:** Ability to remember the use of words and visual symbols and their meanings and to identify inconsistencies in their use.
  - **Relevance:** Ability to ascertain relevance and usefulness.
  - **Synthesis:** Ability to integrate relevant discrete pieces of data to form concepts and extract procedures and rules.

**METHOD OF APPLICATION:**

Please include a comprehensive CV including phone and e-mail contacts. Application and supporting documentation including three referees should be forwarded to:

Head Human Resources Unit  
 United Nations Development Programme  
 United Nations House  
 Plot 617/618  
 Central Area District  
 FCT, Abuja

**CLOSING DATE:** All application should be received by 4.30p.m two weeks from the date of this advert.

*UNDP is an equal opportunity employer.  
 Qualified women candidates are encouraged to apply.  
 Only short listed candidates will be contacted.*

**Trust Classified****PKF PANNELL KERR FORSTER  
VACANCIES**

Applications are invited from the following categories of people for immediate employment.

1. Chartered Accountants with minimum of five years post qualification experience in a firm of Chartered Accountants.
2. PE II Students
3. PE I Students

Submit applications with your C.V. and photocopies of credentials at the following address not later than 11th February, 2005.

**The Resident Partner**  
**PKP Pannell Kerr Forster,**  
**Chartered Accountants,**  
**Suite 16, Kigoma Street,**  
**Zone 7, Wuse-Abuja.**

**INCORPORATED TRUSTEES OF JESUS VICTORIOUS CHURCH**

This is to inform the general public that the above named Church has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under Part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Act of 1990. The Trustees are:

1. Rev. Dr. Freeseed Onofekohwo - (General Overseer)
2. Pastor Gold Chukwuma Nwachukwu
3. Deacon Michael Omoregie - (General Secretary)
4. Adero Henry
5. Pastor Stella Onofekohwo

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar- General Corporate Affairs Commission, Wuse Zone 5. P.M.B.198 Garki Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

**Signed:**  
**BARR. AZUBUIKE IKENNA JULIUS**  
**DISTINCT CHAMBERS, ABUJA.**

**LOSS OF DOCUMENTS**

This is to inform the general public that the Original Land Document belonging to Mr. Adeolu Charity Odeyinka with plot No. 72 of about 1000 sqm located at Nyanya Phase II Ext., is declared missing.

Whoever transact business with the said Documents does so at his/her own risk.

**Signed**  
**Adeolu Charity O.**

**MISSING DOCUMENTS**

This is to inform the general public that the Original Offer of Occupancy in respect of Plot No. 116 with reference No KAC/FCDA/LP&S/KD-1016 about 1,000sqm at Pasali Ext layout belonging to Zubairu Sambo Aliyu has been reported missing.

If found please contact **SHARIF NASIRU AT ABUJA CENTRE FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN KUJE, ABUJA.**

**THE LIGHT OF MEN MINISTRIES NIG. (SHEDDEUR ASSEMBLY)**

The Board of Trustees of the above named Organisation is seeking for registration under Part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Act of 1990.

The Trustees are:

1. Rev. Ojo Samuel Adepoju
2. Elder (Dr) Kayode Adebayo Babatunde Ogunniyi
3. Mr. Hezekiah Olutoye
4. Mr. Oyelade Taiye Thomas
5. Pastor Adebawale Joseph Ayandeji
6. Mr. Festus Foluso
7. Mr. Oyetoyan Samuel Adebayo

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar- General Corporate Affairs Commission, Wuse Zone 5. P.M.B.198 Garki Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

**Signed:**  
**BARRISTER EJIRO ABADA**

**Change of Names**

I, formerly **NKECHI URAMA**, now wish to be **JOY NKECHI OGBAJI**. All former documents remain valid. Federal Polytechnic Damaturu to note.

I, formerly known as **MR ERUOGUN OSAROBO**, now wish to be called **MR. OKE NATHANIEL OSAROBO OSBERT**. All former documents remain valid. FCDA Abuja and public to note.

Formerly called **FATIMA ABDULLAHI**, now wish to be known and called **FATIMA SALAWU**. All former documents remain valid. Public to note.

I, formerly **MISS CECILIA EDEWEDE OYEMONLAN**, now **MRS CECILIA EDEWEDE OMONUA**. All former documents remain valid. Afritech Mobile Ltd. and general public to note.

*Always Advertise with Daily/  
 Weekly Trust Newspapers*

# Sports

## Siasia to camp F/Eagles in US, Germany

Flying Eagles head coach, Samson Siasia has made known his intention to begin early preparation for the World Youth Championship (WYC) in Holland.

Siasia, who made history as the first man to win the African Youth Championship (AYC) as player and coach, told Trustsport yesterday

By Abdulkareem Aodu,  
Sports Reporter

that the championship which kicks off in June this year will not be an easy competition.

He said the team has to begin preparation in earnest so as to be ready to face the world come June.

The former Eagles striker said the team would begin camp at the end of February

in Abuja and will later move to the United States and Germany before hitting Holland.

"The team's preparation for the WYC will kick off in Abuja at the end of this month or first week of March. The team will be here for three to four weeks before moving to America, from where we will head to France and then Germany we will

drive to Holland," he said.

The America-trained coach added that the Eagles will play friendly games against top teams and countries that have qualified for the junior World Cup to test the strength of the team and the players against their co-qualifiers.

"I'm trying to arrange warm-up matches against

teams from America, Mexico and other nearby countries, before moving to Europe where arrangement are being made to play some friendly games too, we want a lot of friendly matches to prepare the team particularly against other strong teams that have qualified for the championship to assess the strength and weaknesses of the team ahead of the junior World Cup," he added.

Though the coach said there would be no overhauling of the team that won the African fiesta, he however intoned that he would have to beef up some departments of the squad especially the defence.

"There is no need to overhaul the team, you don't change a winning squad but we would beef up some departments particularly the defence.

The injury to David James affected us, also we believe there must be competition in all positions in the team," he added.

## Calabar to host Ramat Cup

Calabar, the Cross River capital, will now host this year's annual Ramat Cup U-16 Boys and Girls International Soccer championships holding from Feb. 19 to Feb. 26, Youth Sports Federation of Nigeria (YSFON) Publicity Secretary, Ben Ekpo disclosed yesterday.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the competition was originally billed for Osogbo. Ekpo said the venue was changed after the Osun government notified YSFON that it could not host the competition "due to lack of funds".

"The Cross River State government agreed to host the competition shortly after Osun State announced its withdrawal due to lack of funds," Ekpo said.

He said it was the second time the Cross River government was hosting the competition.

Ekpo added that the competition previously fixed to hold on Feb. 6 was postponed to Feb. 19 to enable YSFON participate in the 40th day prayers of the late president of the federation, Prince Dokun Abidoye.

The 40th day prayers scheduled for Feb. 5, would hold in Ire, Osun State, the home town of the late president.

## Swedish club demand millions for Justice

Rellegated Swedish club Trelleborg are standing between Eagles World Cup star Christopher Justice and a lucrative move to Russia after they demanded a staggering 250 000 euros (about 43 million naira) as transfer fee for the midfielder.

Justice told KICK OFF

from his base in Sweden: "I have already been to Russia and trained with Rubin, who have offered me a three-year deal. But the problem is that my club in Sweden, who signed me for nothing, insists the Russians have to pay them as much as 250 000 euros. This is what has stalled my transfer."

Justice said he is still hopeful he will finally move. "I just hope things will work out for me because I need to move on with my career."

Justice's loan deal in December with another Swedish club Goteborg was short lived following the arrival of a new coach, who preferred more direct players in midfield

than players like Justice, who hold on to the ball.

The former Antwerp of Belgium ace has struggled to establish himself in Europe despite some stirring performances for the Super Eagles at the 2002 World Cup in Japan.

A serious thigh injury, which needed surgery in Germany, sidelined him for over eight months before he joined up with Trelleborg early last year. Trelleborg finished bottom of the 14-team Swedish top league in October after managing only 13 points from 26 matches.



## Taiwo cannot threaten me

- Udeze

After signing a contract with French giants Olympic Marseille and inspiring the Flying Eagles to their first continental title in 16 years, teenage left back Taye Taiwo has emerged as the hottest thing in Nigerian football and a veritable threat to Ifeanyi Udeze, with whom he will be contesting the Super Eagles left back position.

But speaking to KICK OFF yesterday, Udeze remained unflustered. "The national team is nobody's father's private property," Udeze said. "I am not threatened by Taye. Infact, I welcome him to the team. Competition is what makes all of us play our best and it is up to the coaches to pick whoever is better."

"Taye is a nice young

man and he is always willing to learn and I will encourage him as much as I can. And nothing says both of us cannot play together."

For next month's World Cup qualifier, Udeze said everything is under control. "There is no problem. We are all determined to go to the World Cup and personally, I am ready to give my best at any time when I am called to play. We will qualify."

Nigeria meet Gabon in Port Harcourt in March looking to topple Angola from the top of the standings, and Udeze says no quarter will be given. "That is a match that we need to win and we will not be taking any chances at all."

## Badminton scribe retires

The secretary of the Badminton Federation of Nigeria (BFN), Mrs Patricia Ayinde, has retired from the service of the Federal Ministry of Sports and Social Development after about 17 years.

The retirement took effect from Jan. 20, 2005 after the mandatory three months notice. Ayinde, who is one of the longest serving association secretaries, was at various times secretary of shooting, table tennis and gymnastics associations. She became BFN scribe in 2001.

Meanwhile, Ms Mbora Ikana has been appointed BFN's acting secretary.

## Nigerian handballer dies in Tunisia

A Nigerian handball player, Yomi Farouk, has died in Tunisia while on trials with one of the north African country's clubs, according to competent sources.

The sources told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Lagos that Farouk, who played for Borno Spiders before he travelled to Tunisia, died last week in a gas leak mishap. Another Nigerian player, Gideon Yakubu, who was also a victim of the accident, has just come out of coma after inhaling excessive gas, the sources said.

Officials of the Handball Federation of Nigeria (HFN) declined comments but the sources said they had been formally informed of Farouk's

## Check early exit of players, CAF warns

The Confederation of African Football (CAF) has called on football federations in the continent to check early exit of players to Europe where most of them die due to illiteracy or poor knowledge of contract agreement are gravely exploited.

The passionate appeal was made by the CAF president Issa Hayatou while declaring open a seminar titled YOUTH AND FOOTBALL at the just concluded 14th African Youth Championship held in Cotonou, Benin Republic.

The president enjoined young African footballers to also be careful so that they are not lured out too early adding that they should al-

properly before embarking on such venture. According to him it is criminal for European clubs to lure very inexperienced players in the name of making money but football federations should monitor such movement while the

players should be careful." The players should allow the talents to mature by playing in their local league.

In the past some African players had been enslaved and CAF is not happy about that". He hoped that with the

co-operation of various football federations, there would be orderliness.

Hayatou prayed multinationals, business giants and sports loving individuals in the continent to sponsor leagues to give a face to

the local leagues in the continent and make it interesting too. "We need sponsors for our various leagues so that the local leagues will be interesting too and the mass exodus of our young players will be refused".

## Ikhana plans Enyimba revolution

Benin Zone Premier League play-off winners Kwara United have all it takes to be as formidable as CAF Cup reigning champions Enyimba, according to the Kadiri Ikhana, who has coached both clubs.

Declaring his intention to transform the team into one

try, Kwara United technical adviser Ikhana told KICK OFF: "I can take this team to the level I took Enyimba provided those who gave me the job to handle this team will exercise some patience with me." Ikhana, who made history by becoming the first man to lead a Nigerian side

ons Cup two years ago, said: "At the time I took over Enyimba, we just started from somewhere. This team can go places eventually."

He added: "If the state government continue to encourage the team, as they are doing right now, I think we can go places." Ikhana how-

not have a formidable team at present.

He said: "As a person, I know that we do not have a winning team for now. My employers have to be patient with me. We for now want to sustain ourselves in the League, with the hope that we will eventually have a bet-

This Space is  
for Sale

# DAILY TRUST

FRIDAY COLUMN

Friday, February 4, 2005

## Memo to the Land of Beggars II

By Adamu Adamu

In the short term, whether they do their thing or not, matters may hardly change; because these two [beggars and contractors] are at the mercy of others—street beggars are at the mercy of people's generosity, while contractors are at the mercy of officialdom. At any event, both are but only the symptom of a disease.

But there are other beggars at whose mercy the whole society lies. Their own brand of begging is therefore that much more dangerous and suffocating to society. They are the disease. These are the leadership classes that now wait to be led. And here one can't help but accuse the Native Authority system for facilitating the emergence of the beggarmentality in the people in the North. Northerners are today the grateful victims of the N.A.'s phenomenal success. Indeed, so successful was the N.A. system in providing everything, that Northerners were deprived of the initiative to provide for themselves. In matters in the public domain, they wait for government to do what is needed. And now, even in strictly personal matters, they wait for others. *Allah Ya baku mu samu!* Begging is now in our blood; and we have therefore become beggars by heritage and beggars by choice, because our leaders have not undergone a paradigm shift N.A. days.

This was all a long way off. At this time, the North feels abandoned by all its classes of leadership, the traditional, the religious and the political. Traditional leadership, dignified in origin and steeped in scholarship and engaged in the fight for justice, had been armour for the people against all vicissitudes. Even when the Islamic order had suffered decline and given way to the *sarauta* system, its representatives were still capable of heroic leadership and epic resistance, as typified by the tradition of Sultan Attahiru, who preferred flight and martyrdom to a life of subservience under British occupation. Now it is all quiet on the royal front.

But even today there are exceptions—those who wish to speak out forcefully when matters begin to go wrong, or when their people and land are put at the receiving end of some deceitful policy. Most of these exceptions are royals who remain attached to the religious ideal of their founding, like the recently deposed Emir of Yamaltu, Alhaji Ibrahim Muhammad Bello, perhaps the best specimen Emir for his class; and the Emir of Suleja, M. Awwal Ibrahim and HH Maigwari, Alhaji Zubairu Jibril. Others are still possessed of a mission like the Emir of Dutse, Alhaji Nuhu Sanusi, in the tradition of his father, who always speaks out and has refused to be cowed. There are others ready to lead but, as far as royalty is concerned, it is not done to lead from behind.

All this perhaps might not have been necessary because the prestige with which the institution is still held by the people and the awe with which it used to be regarded even by the government was enough to keep it as the people's armour. But unfortunately, this prestige contrasts sharply with the contempt with which some of the institution's representatives are currently held by the people. And traditional leadership, especially at a time when its relevance is being questioned, cannot continue with either the stiff upper lip or erratic inconsistencies.

Besides being armour to the people, traditional leaders could still have provided leadership in bringing back security to the land. It is very unfortunate that they should wait for local government chairman, state governors or the money that they send. The former local infrastructure for surveillance, monitoring, early warning and investigation are still there intact in the form of the hierarchy of *mai unguwa-dagaci-hakimi* or *uban-kasa* and their network, but these will not be employed for securing society.

Added to the current insecurity in the North is also the devastation of the land by the climate. The traditional institution appears best placed to lead the war against the encroachment of the Sahara Desert, mostly as a result of our environment-unfriendly practices. A greater tragedy is difficult to imagine. Here are a people crushed by poverty, its leadership incapacitated by lack of initiative and its land slowly being eaten up by the desert. In reality, the North today is a vast disaster area, because no physical emergency more devastating than deforestation can face a land; and no crisis more acute can confront a people than the multiplicity of

failures that stare the North in the face.

And one cannot but pity the North when one sees the generations that are coming up to take future leadership—incapable hands tutored in nothing besides the preservation of this beggarly mindset. Their only ambition is to do what they have seen being done—to free themselves and their families from begging on the street and pushing all of us deeper into it.

This leadership must change or be changed; and those who, for their selfish ambition, have given unstinting support to the dispensation that has destroyed everything that is of value to the North and to the nation must be shunned.



President Obasanjo

Religious leaders have taken partial leave of their mission. The *ulama* are said to be the inheritors of the prophets. While some have maintained the dignity of their calling, many who are not even real *ulama* in the first place but just turban-wearers; and, instead of being the inheritors of the prophets, they are really the inheritors of profits. A ticket for Hajj and a hand-out, and soon enough Mallam forsakes and abandons the congregation. The Satiru tradition an the example of Hayat bin Said have been eschewed. Instead of living up to the expectation of the people and the dignity of their own tradition, they elect to adopt the tradition of begging. And those in power know all about chickens and grains.

But the *ulama* ought to have rid themselves of attachment to material things—and this is not impossible because there is a programme for achieving this. And indeed the capacity for abstinence ought always to have been developed along side the effort to acquire theological knowledge. Otherwise, the knowledge amassed, no matter how extensive, will not be used for good. It will not be used for purposes pleasing to God or for the benefit of the people. It becomes an instrument to use to beg for more favours.

And it is not as if the ethical programme is not known. One of the leading members of the *ulama* class has just published a highly-regarded four-volume title on the subject; but, of course, it must be added that the reality of asceticism is not in knowing its theory but in doing its practices.

Meanwhile, Christian clergy who are expected to have made giant strides along the path of John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress* seemed to have been caught up in the Slough of Despond and taken up residence in the vicinity of Lucre Hill.

A ticket to Mecca or Jerusalem, as the price of silence in the face of injustice, or as wage for the endorsement of lawlessness, is indeed a miserable bargain. And when given as alms, it is clearly *infra dig*.

Once Sheikh Dahiru Usman the famous Islamic scholar said there were two types of beggars in Nigeria—the plain-clothed beggars and the uniformed beggars. The plain-clothed comprises the aggregate of all non-*almajirai*, who, by definition, are the uniformed beggars. In this broad definition, the political class has now graduated to uniformed status.

For most of politicians, politics is no longer an opportunity and chance for service. And if by some fat chance, it happens to be for service, the service is no longer for the people; and if it is for the people, it is not for the people who are supposed to have elected the politicians to whatever office they happen to occupy. That, of course, is if they will be allowed to elect at all. In Nigeria, it is not election that legitimizes rulership; it is rulership that legitimizes election. Part of the unwritten powers of the executive at all levels is the power to determine election results. And so, if someone can elect himself into office, why should he feel responsible for anything or be responsible to anyone?

For this reason, most politicians are for sale. Some of their specimen at the lower level in fact used to don auction leaves at conventions or at polling booths. At the higher level, too, they are for sale, and the price, no matter who big it is and whatever name it is called, is alms; often paid in the form of unexplained allowances, bonuses, lodgments or GMG's [Ghana-Must-Go's]. It is still the same *Allah Ya baku mu samu* at a more sophisticated level, appropriate to beggars in the corridors of power.

One politician, a veteran Second Republic old breed, was recently heard to have boasted that money was no longer his problem; his problem was how to spend it; because having received so much alms, he didn't know what to do or buy or build or where to invest. For such people politics is business—zero investment, maximum profit. But since Chief Olusegun Obasanjo took over in 1999 this politician had probably made billions of Naira; but the primary school in Kaita or the elementary school he attended in Katsina had now deteriorated to the same billionth degree.

The Northern spectacle is unedifying: deterioration, despondency and dependence. All because its various leadership classes have elected to beg than provide leadership. Today, the leadership in the North—traditional, religious and political—is in need of a rescue from some of its members. Those that remain true to the dictates of tradition must save the institution from prostitution; while the true *ulama* and the ecclesiastical leadership who are steeped in knowledge and in living lives of example as representatives of their religious traditions must rescue their faiths from the hands of the religious traders, who practice commerce with the Word of God; and the true politicians—if there are any—must come out to take the destiny of this great nation in their hands. Fast.

Otherwise, we will continue to live and die as beggars with our so-called leaders selling our history cheap, blaspheming against God and selling our religious tradition for a miserable price, and then mortgaging the future of everyone. And we become a laughing stock to the rest of the country—and to the world.

This generation, cursing the one before it, prepared to hand over to the next, which would, in turn, curse it and achieve even less. It would produce more beggars at all levels of the society, because it had learnt its lesson very well.

The representative of this next generation had lived a life without purpose; and when they worked, if they worked at all, it was without any clear mission; and when they came to amass and accumulate, they did it without any meaning or sense, especially for someone not likely to live in this world for more than 100 years in full possession of his faculties. That is why there will always be beggars.

Beggars on the streets would stop begging only when those in offices, in palaces, in the madrasas, in the churches and in politics stopped and took out a new leaf. But unfortunately, that new leaf, along with all the vegetation, had been eaten up by the Sahara. In other words, the Northern soul has been sold for mere pittance.

And because everything was only semi-licit, it all came out as the great Aliyu Namangi had said, "*Mai akwai a hana masa godiya; mai babu a hana masa dangana*," meaning: "The affluent, made ungrateful and without contentment; the deprived was to Fate without patience." The whole society sits on a time-bomb, which is fast ticking away and ready to go off at any time. There is nobody to defend the North, because everyone is out begging.