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ADAMAWA 2007



Koiranga Jada

... the bridge builder

NEWS

2007: Senate c'ttee proposes Dec for general elections

• Supports e-voting

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COUNT DOWN TO CENSUS 2006 (21 - 25 March)

54 DAYS TO GO MAKE SURE YOU ARE COUNTED ONCE ONLY



PDP govvs absent from meeting

The leadership of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), yesterday put off its meeting with the 28 state governors elected on its platform, citing on-going membership revalidation as reason.

But there were indications that many of the state governors did not come for the meeting because of the confusion over the meeting's agenda and the tension generated by its linkage with the third term project.

It was learnt that the governors are divided over the third term project and those who support the project are being cautious of possible isolation by the anti-third

By Sufuyan Ojeifo (Special Correspondent) & Emmanuel Bello, Political Editor

term governors. Reports have it that the National Working Committee (NWC), would meet with the state governors over issues bordering on the constitution's amendment and the third term project.

In a swift riposte, the national publicity secretary of the party, Mr. John Odey, clarified Wednesday, that the meeting has nothing to do with the third term project, but was called to discuss "party activities" with the gover-

nors. No governor came for the meeting. Three state governors sent their deputies to represent them at the meeting, which was scheduled for the national headquarters of the

party at Wadata Plaza, Wuse, Zone 5, Abuja.

They included deputy governors of Taraba, Kaduna and Kwara, Armayau Dauda Abubakar, Patrick Yakowa and Joel Afolabi Ogundeji, re-

spectively.

Briefing newsmen on the development, deputy national chairman (North), Alhaji Ibrahim Shema, said the meeting was scheduled to "highlight activities of the party for

the year, especially the registration exercise which has already been extended".

He said the meeting was put off due to the extension

Cont. on Pg. 2



L-R: Alhaji Armaya'u D. Abubakar, deputy governor of Taraba State, Joel Afolabi, deputy governor of Kwara State and Patrick Yakowa, deputy governor of Kaduna State at the PDP national secretariat, Abuja... yesterday.

Pic: Felix Onigbinde.

I know my wife's killers - Rimi

Former Kano State governor, Alhaji Muhammadu Abubakar Rimi, declared yesterday in Kano that he knows the person who sponsored the murder of his wife, Hajia Sa'adatu.

Speaking to Anambra state governor, Dr. Chris Ngige, who paid him a condolence visit, Rimi said that the sponsor is a prominent person in Kano and Abuja.

Though acknowledging that the alleged organiser and killer have been arrested, he said that the "chief sponsor" was yet to be arrested.

Alhaji Rimi maintained that if the sponsor of the killing was not arrested, then justice would not have been done in the case.

"The federal government should not consider my case as that of Harry Marshal, Chuba Okadigbo, Dikibo and others who were simply as-

From Yusha'u Adamu Ibrahim, Correspondent (Kano)

sassinated and yet nothing has been done." Rimi stated.

He called on the police to intensify actions to nab the chief sponsor to enable the federal government prosecute them accordingly.

He urged the police to investigate the case thoroughly and fish out all the culprits involved no matter how highly placed.

Dr. Chris Ngige expressed serious concern over the increasing insecurity of the nation as he condoled the Rimi family.

The governor urged the federal government to improve on security, regretting that many prominent personalities have been killed due to the nation's insecurity.

He therefore called on both the federal and state governments to map out modalities to tackle security issues in the nation.

Niger Delta: Talks with militia in progress - Obasanjo

Whereabouts of hostages unknown - Zamani

Nigeria is making progress in talks with the kidnapers of four foreign oil workers, President Olusegun Obasanjo said on Thursday, playing down

By Abubakar Haruna, with agency report

any impact on investment in Africa's largest oil producer. The four men were ab-

ducted from an offshore oilfield operated by Royal Dutch Shell 15 days ago by militants demanding the release of ethnic Ijaw leaders, more local control of oil wealth and compensation to Delta villages for pollution.

"We are very much in contact with them," Obasanjo said. "Immediately after it happened, we set up a committee ... It's not only in contact, it's making progress."

The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta's five-week campaign of violence and kidnapping has forced Shell to withdraw at

least 500 staff and cut its output by 221,000 barrels a day, or one tenth of Nigeria's exports, adding to fears of a global oil shortage.

Analysts have said the growing insecurity in Nigeria's southern delta, which produces nearly all of its 2.4 million barrels of oil daily, is raising the risks of doing business and scaring off some investors.

The army deployed more troops to key oil installations after armed men stormed the headquarters of Italian oil firm, Agip in the delta on Tuesday, robbing a bank and killing eight policemen and one civilian. Agip is a unit of Italy's ENI.

Asked if he was concerned about the impact on oil investment, Obasanjo told

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PALESTINIAN POLL

Hamas emerges winner

Islamic militant group, Hamas, has won a stunning victory in Wednesday's Palestinian parliamentary elections.

According to preliminary results, Hamas won 76 seats

By Abdu Labaran, Foreign Desk with agency reports

to 43 for the ruling Fatah party, giving them a majority in the 132-seat chamber. The turnout was 77%.

Prime Minister, Ahmed Qurei, has offered to resign and Fatah says it will not join Hamas in government.

A Hamas win will pose a great dilemma for international

Cont. on Pg. 2

News

PDP *Cont. from pg. 1*

of the membership revalidation taking place in all states of the federation, including the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

Alhaji Shema also said that the party discovered that the letters inviting the governors for the meeting got to them late, thus making it impossible for those of them who would have come in spite of the membership revalidation to honour the invitation.

According to him, "we sent letters out to that effect, but unfortunately, some of the governors could not get their letters until late yesterday (Wednesday)".

He expressed the party's apology to the governors for the inconveniences the postponement of the meeting might have caused them.

There have been a number of secret meetings by governors at different levels and at different locations nationwide in the last one week on how to either push through the third term project or scuttle it.

Pro and anti-third term governors have, as learnt, launched into a battle of wits over the issue. The Northern governors are meeting today in Kaduna to discuss the issue of constitution amendment and the third term project with a view to take a formal position on them.

Meanwhile, a *Daily Trust* investigation revealed that although most of the governors were in Abuja, they chose to send their aides to the PDP national secretariat "to find out what is happening. They wanted to know which governor was in attendance but when they were

told that no governor was coming, they decided to stay away," a source revealed.

The source also said that some of the governors were displeased with the handling of the revalidation exercise in which most of them have been excluded. He said that the registration cards are presently with the national chairman of the party, Col. Ahmadu Ali (rtd) and alleged that governors received only a limited number.

Furthermore on the governors reluctance to attend the event, sources said that some of the governors do not want to be associated with the third term plot which was alleged to be the original agenda of the meeting but was shelved when it became obvious that it will generate some heat.

But Alhaji Ibrahim Shema refuted the rumour and maintained that the meeting was only postponed because of the "confusion of activities" embarked on by the party. He told *Daily Trust* that the absence of the national chairman of the party and Chief Bode George also led to the shift in date. Col. Ahmadu Ali is said to be abroad to attend to the medical needs of a family member.

On the revalidation exercise, Alhaji Shema explained that no state of the federation has been shortchanged as they have all been given a hundred thousand cards. He said that the party printed 10 million cards initially and is monitoring their distribution in states to ensure fairness and equity in the exercise.

Aviation fuel scarcity delays pilgrims

return - *Kabo Air*

The airlift of pilgrims back home from Saudi Arabia may suffer more delays as Kabo Air announced yesterday that it may not meet the February 4, deadline due to scarcity of aviation fuel.

Executive Director of Kabo Air, Alhaji Aliyu Aminu, complained bitterly that his airline which handles about 80 percent of the flight operations may not be able to airlift the remaining 18,000 pilgrims before the deadline given by the Technical Committee on Hajj (TCH), if the scarcity persists.

Aminu expressed concern that his aircrafts could no longer refuel in Sokoto, Yola and Kano but only in Abuja.

The development, he said, has increased turnaround period of aircrafts from less than 12 hours to over 18 hours.

He pointed out that one of their aircrafts has been on ground since 6.00 pm on Wednesday at Mallam Aminu Kano International Airport but could not refuel after about fifteen hours. "I am concerned over this dangerous development," he said and called on the federal government to intervene so as to avoid another round of unwarranted national embarrassment.

Kabo Air, he noted, is appreciative of the federal government's efforts to remove some of these perennial hitches associated with hajj

operations, adding that his carrier has also put in its best by chattering three additional aircrafts.

"We are using seven aircrafts, four of which are B747's and three airbuses and now these aircrafts cannot

get fuel to operate," he lamented.

He stressed that this unfortunate development has to be checked so that the poor pilgrims would not be stranded again.

Aminu further complained that more worrisome is the situation in Kano and Sokoto where the bulk of the flight

operations is concentrated.

"We are worried and we are very uncomfortable over the ugly situation and this is not the time for buck-passing," he emphasized, pointing out that only the federal government can save the situation by directing that aviation fuel be made available at the designated respective airports' depot.



President Obasanjo exchanging greetings with the Etsu-Nupe, Alhaji Yahaya Abubakar after presentation of report of the National Mosque rehabilitation committee held at the State House, Abuja... recently.

Pic: Joe Oroye

Niger-Delta *Cont. from pg. 1*

Reuters at the World Economic Forum in Switzerland: "Not really."

The militants have insisted they will not accept money for the hostages' release and promised to stage more attacks to halt exports totally and drive away oil workers.

Obasanjo declined to comment when asked if he believes the crisis would be resolved by negotiations or by force.

"There are two situations, if you like. There's the immediate situation of the hostages and we have to get the hostages released and then there's the situation of criminality in the Niger Delta. That's a different issue altogether."

President Obasanjo also yesterday assured the international community that recent acts of criminality by militia groups in the Niger Delta do not amount to a crisis in Nigeria's oil industry.

He said that while he did not regard the resurgence of militancy in the Niger Delta as unimportant, the government was already taking effective steps to contain the situation.

"I do not believe that our oil industry is under threat. This is an aberration.

"It will come and go. There is an element of terrorism in this and you cannot say we should give in to terrorism," Obasanjo said.

He said that his administration was fully aware of the global importance of the hydrocarbon resources of the Niger Delta

and the Gulf of Guinea and would do everything possible to guarantee their security.

He added that the government was addressing all issues causing tension in the region with a view to providing a lasting resolution.

The President said that although the government was in contact with the militant group claiming responsibility for recent criminal acts in the Niger Delta, it has not offered them any "deal".

President Obasanjo also responded to questions on the crisis in Cote D'ivoire, saying that he still believes that it was "very very resolvable".

Meanwhile, government officials in Bayelsa, said on Wednesday they believe the committee has made a breakthrough in talks to free the American, British, Bulgarian and Honduran captives.

"The hostages are close to being released, but I cannot be specific about a date," said Bayelsa Information commissioner, Nelson Azibolanari.

The release has been complicated by rivalry between Ijaw groups, which has risen since the impeachment of former Bayelsa state governor, Diepreye Alamieyeseigha, one of the two Ijaw leaders whose release is demanded by the kidnappers. The other is Mujahid Dokubo-Asari, on trial for treason.

Villagers have begun to flee the Delta's mangrove swamps and tidal creeks in fear of mili-

tary reprisals against the highly organized, heavily armed group. Oil unions have threatened to pull members out of the region if security deteriorates further, after dozens of people have been killed in recent raids.

Meanwhile, the commander of the joint task force tagged "Operation Restore Hope," Brigadier Elias Zamani, says the whereabouts of the hostages is yet to be known.

Brigadier Elias Zamani told the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), Hausa service monitored in Abuja yesterday, that his men in collaboration with state governments in the Niger Delta region are making effort to trace the hostages.

His words, "since the incident happened, we made collaborative efforts with the governors of Bayelsa, Delta and other governors in the Niger Delta region to know the whereabouts of the hostages but up till now, we have not found them," adding that "we are still making efforts to trace them and we will achieve our aim, by God's grace"

He dispelled rumours that some of the kidnappers have been arrested and killed, saying no arrests have been made and neither the abductors killed by the military.

According to him, violence was not the best option in campaigning for justice and equity as people who have grievances should follow the right channel for the sake of peace and unity in country.

efforts to restart peace talks with Israel, say analysts.

US President, George W Bush, said the US would not deal with Hamas unless it renounced its call to destroy Israel.

"I've made it very clear that the US does not support political parties that want to destroy our ally, Israel," he said.

Mr. Bush said the poll was a "wake-up call" for the Palestinian leadership, but he hopes Palestinian leader, Mahmoud Abbas, would stay in power.

But the Head of the Arab League, Amr Moussa, warned the US not to demonstrate double standards.

"The US can't promote democracy but then reject the results of this democracy," he said.

Meanwhile, Hamas and Fatah supporters clashed in the West Bank town of Ramallah. Shots were fired in the air and some injuries were reported.

The clash which happened after Hamas supporters tried to raise their flag over the Palestinian parliament, was brought under control by police after about 10 minutes.

Election commission head, Hanna Nasser, said 95% of the votes have now been counted and the results could still change slightly.

The 13 remaining seats went to smaller parties and independents, some backed by Hamas.

A victory for Hamas is positive and unsettling at the same time Israel has said it will

Hamas *Cont. from pg. 1*

not deal with a Palestinian Authority which includes Hamas.

The BBC's Richard Miron in Jerusalem says the mood there is one of gloom, with the government staying tight-lipped, although some Israelis see the Hamas victory as an opportunity for peace.

Israel's Foreign Minister, Tsipi Livni, appealed to the EU - the biggest financial donors to the authority - to firmly oppose the creation of a "terrorist government." European leaders echoed the call for Hamas to renounce violence.

"I think it is important for Hamas to understand that there comes a point and the point is now, ... where they have to decide between a path of democracy or a path of violence," UK Prime Minister, Tony Blair, said.

US Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice, will meet UN, European and Russian leaders on Monday to evaluate the result and decide how to proceed with peace efforts.

The BBC's Heba Saleh in Cairo says the Hamas win will also cause Arab governments concern.

The group looks set to become the first ever Islamist movement in the Arab world to be voted into government.

This will almost certainly give a boost to the Islamist oppositions in Egypt and Jordan.

Observers praised the election process, with EU monitoring team leader, Veronique De Keyser, saying the poll was "free and fair under severe restrictions," referring to Israeli measures

to limit voting in East Jerusalem.

The BBC's Jon Leyne in Jerusalem says there is no doubt that the Hamas showing has transformed the Palestinian political arena.

But correspondents say Hamas seems unprepared for its own victory and has not prepared itself to step neatly into government and assume immediate responsibility.

Ismail Haniya, who headed the Hamas election list, said they would consult Fatah and other groups with a view to form what he described as a political partnership.

Hamas official, Mushir al-Masri, warned that Hamas would not hold peace talks with Israel.

"Negotiations with Israel is not on our agenda," he said.

"Recognising Israel is not on the agenda either now."

But another official, Mahmoud Zahar, told AP news agency that Hamas would maintain February's ceasefire if Israel did the same.

"If they are going to continue commitment to what is called quietness, then we will continue," he said.

"But if not, then I think we will have no option but to protect our people and our land."

The outcome of the Palestinian election is the biggest challenge facing Mr. Olmert since he took over from Israeli Prime Minister, Ariel Sharon, who remains in a coma following a massive stroke, on January 4.

News

Oyo govt account: Akala raises preliminary objection to Ladoja suit

Bid by the Governor, Adebayo Alao Akala yesterday raised a preliminary objection to suit by the former governor Rasheed Ladoja asking the federal high court Lagos to freeze state government's account currently being operated by him [Akala] Ladoja last Thursday filed the suit before Justice Tijani Abubakar seeking an order to stop Akala from drawing monies accruing to the state from the Federation account, financial payment, cheques, bank accounts, and other financial instruments.

He also asked for an order restraining Akala from plundering the states accounts of over N3 billion in 10 commercial banks in Nigeria.

From Mohammed Shosanya, Correspondent (Lagos)

But in his notice of preliminary objection filed yesterday by his lawyer, Lateef Fagbemi, Akala contended that Ladoja has no personal right to protect in respect of the public funds of Oyo state and that he had no *locus standi* for the reliefs sought.

He also said the Federal High Court has no jurisdiction to give an advisory opinion on the judgement of a state High court as the basis of reliefs and execution thereof.

He further argued that the Federal High Court lacks jurisdiction in the determination of political question arising from section 188 of the constitution.

Hearing on the applica-

tion of the objection was fixed for Feb. 24.

Daily Trust recalls that Ladoja had in his suit also sued the Minister of Finance, the Accountant General of the Federation and 10 other

commercial banks namely, Skye Bank plc, United Bank for Africa plc, Guarantee Trust Bank plc, Access Bank plc, Platinum-Habib Bank plc and Wema Bank plc.

Others are IBTC Char-

tered Bank plc, First City Monument Bank plc, First Inland Bank plc and Universal Trust Bank plc.

Ladoja contended in the 18 paragraphs affidavit in support of his motion that he

initiated the suit following an information he got that Akala has set in motion the process of changing the mandates and the operating signatures of the various accounts of the state in the 10 banks.



The director general of National Boundary Commission, Alhaji Dahiru Bobbo (right) and NBC Director of Finance Services, Arc. Bala Kangiwa during the commission's conference on disbursement of N866 million for the rehabilitation of projects along border areas in the country held at NBC's premise in Abuja...yesterday.

Pix: Felix Onigbinde.

Senate threatens minister's arrest over N16bn allocation

President of the Senate, Chief Ken Nnamani and chairman of the Senate committee on Special Duties, Senator Sule Yari Gandhi, yesterday threatened to compel the appearance of the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Youth Development and Special Duties, Col Musa Mohammed (rtd), after the minister rebuffed two consecutive invitations.

Mohammed was expected by 2pm at the Senate's hearing room three venue of yesterday's aborted meeting, to defend the N16 billion allocated to his ministry in the 2006 budget.

But after waiting for about one hour, an apparently irked Gandhi threatened to invoke the provisions of the constitution to summon the minister.

Section 88 of the constitution gives the Senate powers to order the arrest of any public official if such person fails to honour invitations.

"This is the second time the minister of special duties has failed to appear before the Senate committee," Gandhi began announcing the minister's repeated shunning of the Senate invitation when Nnamani and some principal officers walked into the meeting venue, inquiring whether there was any problem.

"The only person that is conspicuously absent and is persistently ignoring our invitations is the minister of intergovernmental affairs, youth development and special duties, Col. Musa Mohammed." Gandhi told the

By Habeeb I. Pindiga, Assistant Political Editor

"Ah!" Nnamani exclaimed. "But I have seen him here at the National Assembly yesterday (Wednesday)."

"It's possible, but he did not come to us." Gandhi replied. Apparently taken aback, Nnamani ordered: "Issue him a third invitation. If he doesn't come, we take action!"

At this point, Nnamani, accompanied by Senator Dalhatu Tafida and others left.

Taking a swipe at the minister for keeping the panel waiting in vain, the chairman said this would not be condoned further.

"We want to register our displeasure at the minister. I want to send a strong message to him that the business of the National Assembly is not a football association (Mohammed was minister of sports). It is a constitutional affair that must be respected. As I said, it is not a football association; it is not a voluntary matter like football. It is mandatory!"

"We will send him a third invitation. If he doesn't come, we will take all constitutional measures to summon him here."

If he had come, Mohammed would have briefed the lawmakers on how his ministry intends to spend N16 billion in 2006.

A breakdown of the ministry's budget indicates that N13.8 billion is for personnel cost, N2 billion for overhead cost and N231 mil-

2007: Senate c'ttee wants polls to hold in Dec 2006

Elections that would usher in a new president, state governors and other elected public officers are to be held in December this year using electronic voting machines if recommendations of the Senate standing committee on electoral matters are approved.

The committee yesterday submitted its report on the Electoral Bill with proposals for holding of the next elections six months before the tenure of the present public officers ends.

The president, 36 state governors, National Assembly members and state legislators are to vacate their offices on May 29, 2007.

Based on the 2002 Electoral Act, elections must hold not later than 60 days before the tenure of public officers end, but the Senate committee amended section 31 of the new bill to make it mandatory to hold the next elections in December 2006, six months before the terms of the present elected public officers expire.

Led by Senator David Brigidi, the committee had been working on the bill presented to the National Assembly by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

The idea of electronic voting in 2007 was anticipatorily adopted by INEC long before it got the approval of the National Assembly.

billion has already been proposed to buy the electronic voting machines, while another N5 billion has been earmarked to operate the machines and transmit results after the elections.

Brigidi's committee gave a wholesale approval to the e-voting system by adopting all INEC's proposals on it in section 35 of the Bill. But the budget is yet to be approved by the two chambers of the National Assembly.

It also upped the roof for election campaign spending as follows: N100 million for presidential candidates from N50 million, N50 million for governorship contestants from N20 million; N20 million for Senatorial candidates, N10 million for members of the House of Representatives candidates; N5 million for state House of Assembly candidate; N5 million for local government chairmanship candidate; and N1 million for councillorship contestants.

Also, individuals are barred from making donations beyond N5 million to an election candidate.

Penalties for default of these provisions range up to 12 months in jail. The committee also deleted a proviso that would have stopped the country for slipping into a one party state.

Section 90 of INEC's bill allows merger of parties but with a proviso that says Nigeria must have not less than

time. But the Senate committee deleted the caveat leaving an open proviso for fusion among parties.

The new bill also provides stiffer penalties for election offenders.

Multiple registration, possession of more than one

voters card and buying or selling of voter cards are to attract fines and a five year ban from political activities.

The report was laid before the Senate yesterday but no date has been fixed for debates on the recommendations.

Protest marks auction of Wuse market shops

Few weeks ahead of the commencement of the auctioning of shops at the Wuse market, Abuja, over 100 complaints and protest letters have been lodged with the implementation committee on issues related to the ownership and genuine documentation of some shops by the traders.

Speaking Wednesday while briefing newsmen on the progress of the committee, the chairman of the committee, Mr. Ben Okbo, said the complaints which were mostly received over the weekend were based on the ownership of the shops in the market.

He said some traders who purchased the shops at very high rates previously are protesting against the new policy, adding that the committee was doing its best to address the issues before it begins the auction, saying that over 50 percent of the complaints received from the traders are being treated by

By Hamisu Muhammad, Business Reporter

Over 1,030 shops are billed for auction in the market as recommended by the Federal Executive Council, through the grant of a long lease of 50 years.

The reserve prices of the shops ranges between N1,306,250 per 6.5 square metres to N3,463,125 per 24.35 square metres while the canteen is about N2,178,833.

According to Mr. Okbo, special provisions have been made for traders and occupants of the shops in the auctioning process, with the committee of two categories of people such as traders or occupants who have been given provisional offers and the general public who have interest.

Asked on the ownership of the market between the Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC) and the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA), Mr. Okbo said the market is wholly owned by

CRIME & PUNISHMENT



A box containing black papers, fake dollar bills and a bottle of chemicals recovered from suspected money doublers by detectives from FCT police command...recently.
Pix: Shehu Abubakar

Robbers who strip victims, nabbed by police

By Shehu Abubakar,
Reporter

Some robbery suspects said to have recently robbed and stripped their victims naked near Tipper garage, Abuja, have been arrested by the police.

Briefing newsmen in his office on Wednesday, FCT commissioner of police, Mr. Lawrence Alobi, said three locally made pistols, five live ammunitions and three cartridges were recovered from the gang.

Mr. Alobi who commended members of the public for giving the police useful information that led to the arrest of members of the gang, stressed the treatment meted to victims was stupid and uncalled for.

He said though the act of robbery itself is a condemnable crime, but the stripping of victims by robbers is so dehumanizing that no one will tolerate it. "I wonder what a robber will gain by dehumanizing his victims to that extent. If they must rob to illegally acquire wealth, then why not let the innocent victims go their way?" he asked.

Passengers that boarded a commercial bus at Berger junction on 13th January around 9.10 am to Kubwa were robbed by people who posed earlier as passengers. They forced the driver to divert the vehicle to a bush path where they disposed the victims of their belongings including money, a laptop and GSM handsets. They stripped them naked and escaped in the bus.

Mr. Alobi said one of the suspects, Christopher Mban, was traced and arrested at Sky Chief club, Wuse.

He said Mban who admitted taking part in the attack, assisted the police to arrest other members of the gang and the recovery of their arms and ammunitions.

The FCT police boss said the suspects will be charged to court as soon as investigations into the matter is completed.



IGP Sun... (partially visible)

FCT police arrest 34 robbers, 22 others

By Shehu Abubakar,
Reporter

The FCT police command yesterday announced the arrest of 34 armed robbery suspects and 22 others for various offences including car snatching, trafficking in hard drugs and money doubling.

The commissioner of police, Mr. Lawrence Alobi, speaking while parading the suspects before newsmen in his office said that five armed robbery attempts were also foiled by his men.

Mr. Alobi said the suspects were arrested between 1st and 22nd of January this year while a total of 14 stolen vehicles were recovered from them," he added.

He said though some of the suspects arrested during the robbery operations engaged his men in serious gun battles, the police he said, succeeded in arresting all the suspects alive to ensure that they were given fair hearing in courts.

Items recovered from the suspects included 19 locally made pistols, two pump action guns, 39 ammunitions, 16 cartridges and some foreign currencies.

Mr. Alobi who lamented the continued involvement of youths in crime, advised parents to ensure that they closely monitor the activities

of their children and wards to make sure they were not allowed to develop bad habits.

He advised criminals to

leave the FCT, adding that his men are now more equipped to challenge any gang that tries to attack innocent citizens.

He said government has recently provided his command with additional vehicles and communication equipment to combat crime.

He explained that when the CCTV camera for the monitoring of people's movements and activities is finally installed in Abuja, his command will ensure a crime free territory.

The Minister of Police Affairs, Mr. Brodrick Bozimo, announced recently that the

contract for the installation of CCTV cameras in Lagos and Abuja have been awarded.

He said the contractors have been given up to March this year to complete the installation.

Work on the project has since started.

Father, daughter in police net over dead of boyfriend

By Bola Ojola,
Lagos

The police in Lagos have arrested a man and his teenage daughter whose boyfriend allegedly died in her room shortly after a night outing.

The deceased simply identified as Mallachi, *Daily Trust* learnt, went out with some friends to drink in a bar at Masha area of Surulere and returned to his girl friend's place thereafter.

The incident occurred on Tuesday in Ibe area of Lagos where the girl lives, *Daily Trust* learnt that the teenage girl named Helen, reportedly went out to buy candle only to return to meet Mallachi writhing on a the floor. He was rushed to a nearby hospital where he was pronounced dead on arrival.

The Lagos state police spokesman, Mr. Olubode Ojajuni, who confirmed the story to *Daily Trust*, said the corpse has been deposited at the public mortuary awaiting autopsy. He said efforts were being made to contact some

of the deceased friends as they may have useful information that may assist the police in their investigations.

Also same day at Maroko, Lagos Island, three young men alleged to be members of an armed robbery

gang narrowly escaped being mobbed after they were fingered by a security guard as the gang who attacked residents earlier that day.

The suspects namely James, Wale and Biodun, were rescued by a team of policemen who came to the scene.

Staff dupes National Hospital N3.7m

By Sunday Ejike Benjamin,
Senior Reporter

not in the account.

The statement explained that the staff in question was given the sum (N3.7m) to lodge in the hospital's account with the United Bank for Africa when she allegedly perpetrated the act.

According to him, the female staff, in the course of interrogation by a panel set up by hospital authority, confessed to have defrauded the hospital of the amount and that she has so far paid back N1.2 million to the hospital.

A female staff of the National Hospital Abuja, (names withheld), is being quizzed by the police for allegedly defrauding the hospital of the sum of N3.7 million.

A statement made available to *Daily Trust* by the public relations officer of the hospital, Mallam Yahaya Ozi Sadiq, said the hospital's Chief Medical Director (CMD), Dr. Zacheaus, discovered the fraud when Ajuwon Cheques to the hospital's bank were returned on account that such money was

The statement quoted the CMD as saying that strict measures will be put in place to prevent reoccurrence of such incidence.

He also said that one of the female staff of the hospital recently involved in certificate scandal will soon face a disciplinary committee.

On the stolen radio therapy equipment by a staff sent to claim the items from DHL, a courier company, the statement said the equipment has been recovered and the police is investigating the matter.

Crime & Punishment

Board alerts public on fake, stolen vehicle

The Anambra State Board of Internal Revenue has alerted the public over the existence of fake, old and stolen vehicles and motorcycle plate numbers in some markets in

the state.

The Chairman of the Board, Comrade Charles Onyeagba, gave the warning "yesterday in Awka in an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN).

Onyeagba said the board discovered that the fake numbers have flooded the Nnewi and Onitsha markets from Imo, Enugu and Ebonyi States.

He said that fake receipts and licences were being issued to unsuspecting motorists and motorcycle riders by a syndicate behind the shady deal.

"These fraudsters hope to flood the markets with their fake products so as to compete with genuine ones brought in by the Board of Internal Revenue to kickstart the new financial year revenue drive," he added.

The chairman said that the fake plate numbers were sold with either "computer-washed receipts or outdated government revenue receipts with an inscription "ANTF book 6A".

He said that the plate numbers were sold at less than the official prices with fake receipts to unsuspecting customers.

Onyeagba said that law enforcement agencies would soon commence a statewide verification and enforcement action on the plate numbers.

He warned that anybody using plate numbers that were not printed by the Federal Road Safety Commission and marketed by motor licensing offices would be arrested and prosecuted.

Man in court for store breaking, theft

By Usman A. Bello

One Mr. Adeyemi Samuel of Mabushi village, Abuja, has been arraigned before an Abuja magistrate court, Wuse Zone 6, charged with burglary and theft.

According to the first information report (FIR), January 18, 2006, the accused broke into a shop belonging to Mr. Chukwu Obonaya at Mabushi and made away with many items.

These include three dozens of milk, 13 bottles of Bomm drink, 17 bottles of Bacchus wine, seven packets of sugar, one carton of genman, 11 bottles of big size of petals, some cream and pomade, some powder and perfume. Others are 40 toilet rolls, five packets of mosquito coils, two cartons of squadron and two packets of curry powder, all valued at N49,670.

When the charge was read to the accused he pleaded not guilty. However, the magistrate, Mrs. Rosemary Kayip, adjourned the case to February 6, 2006 for hearing and ordered the accused be remanded in prison custody.



Bags of substance suspected to be Indian hemp allegedly transported from Delta state and intercepted by detectives from FCT police command...recently. Pix: Shehu Abubakar.

Police Emergency Phone lines

Route/coverage area numbers	Telephone
Apo (Gudu) Legislative Mechanic Village	0806 580 3210 0804 231 5582
Asokoro/Maitama District	0806 580 3206 0804 490 7942
Central Business District (Construction and Independence Avenues)/City Gate Giri Junction	0806 580 3203 0804 490 7939
Garki I & II	0806 580 3205 0804 490 7941
Jabi/Utako/Gwarimpa I & II/Karmo/Gwagwa	0806 580 3207 0804 490 7943
Karu/Nyanya	0806 580 3208 0804 491 1520
Kubwa/Bwari/Zuba/Dei-Dei Route	0806 580 3209 0804 491 1496
Roving Unit	0806 580 3211 0804 491 1526
Wuse I & II	0806 580 3204 0804 490 7940
Zuba/Giri/Kwali/Abaji Highway (1)	0806 580 3201 0804 491 1523
Zuba/Giri/Kwali/Abaji Highway (2)	0806 580 3202 0804 491 1524
Other Hot Lines	
Compol/DC OPS Numbers	
FCT Police Commissioner's Director Line	09-2341470
Office of FCT Police Commissioner	09-2341800
FCT Deputy Police Commissioner (operation)	09-2341811
Co-ordinator MOPOL Visiting Units	0802 301 9123 0805 591 7706
Others	
0803 200 3913, 09-2341199, 09-2341198, 09-5238711	

Police tighten security on Sokoto-Gasau road

The Sokoto state police command has reinforced security along the Sokoto - Gasau road which has come under seige by armed robbers recently.

Speaking to newsmen in Sokoto yesterday on the identity of the police officer killed on Monday while escorting accident victims to a hospital in Sokoto, the command's public relations officer, ASP Mohammed Umar, said Constable Joseph Tawani was attacked by the bandits while he was arranging to escort accident victims of a 911 truck which was on its way to Jos from Illela but ended up at Bisalam village in Dange Shuni local government area of the state.

ASP Mohammed Umar confirmed that Constable Joseph Tawani who hailed from Kaduna state was attacked with machetes along with his colleague, Constable Dantani Galadima, who is currently receiving treatment at the Specialist Hospital in Sokoto.

According to him, the two police officers were not armed at the time of the incident "because constables do not carry rifles which is a rule in the service".

ASP Mohammed Umar said the police was yet to find out the number of the armed robbers as nobody has been arrested yet "but we are still on our guard to track them".

The police public relations officer revealed that a 24-hour patrol has now been

From Aminu Mohammed, Regional Editor, (Sokoto)

introduced along the Sokoto - Gasau road which has been recording several cases of robberies

Apart from the 24-hour patrol, ASP Mohammed Umar further stated that the police

has come out with new devices to checkmate activities of armed bandits. "but we will not disclose it for now until we are fully convinced that it is working".

Meanwhile, the remains of late Constable Joseph Tawani were expected to be taken home yesterday while the

police is working to give his family his entitlements.

In another development, the Sokoto state government has donated N100,000 to the victims of the road accident which claimed the lives of five passengers whose corpses Constable Joseph was escorting.

STB staff jailed 14 months for cheating

A staff of Standard Trust Bank's guest house has been sentenced to 14 months in prison by an Abuja senior magistrate for impersonation and cheating.

The convict, Adamu Abdullahi, was alleged to have told one Miss Nnechuroyo Chinwe, the complainant, that he had a boys quarter for rent and allegedly collected N330,000 from her only to disappear.

The accused person who is standing trial for criminal breach of trust and cheating pleaded guilty to the charges and urged the court to temper justice with mercy.

Abdullahi told the court that he was desperate for money when he approached her and that he has spent all the money.

He told the court that he would pay N3000 every month to upset the money he owes since he did not have the money in bulk to pay back.

The prosecuting police officer, Sylvester Sunday, told the court that although the accused was a first time offender, he should be tried

By Ruby Rabi, Senior Reporter

summarily in order to serve as a deterrent to others.

Senior magistrate Zainab Bashir in her ruling, sentenced the accused to 14 months in prison without an option of fine and ordered that he refund in full to the

complainant the sum of N330,000.

The complainant, told the court that the accused had taken her and a friend to a boys quarter at Zaria Crescent and after they had paid the sum of N330,000, they discovered that the house did not belong to him.

Immigration officer faces court over tenancy rate

An officer with the Nigeria Immigration Service, Ola Gbadamosi, has been arraigned at an Abuja senior magistrate court sitting in Karu, for allegedly refusing to pay tenancy rate since 2004 for a two-bedroom flat he occupies in Jikwoyi, Phase 2, Abuja.

In a 12-point statement of claim submitted before the court, Barrister Alleh S. Okpoh, counsel to the plaintiff, Mr Ella Joseph Agbamu, averred that Mr Gbadamosi is a yearly paying tenant at the said premises whose annual tenancy rate is N140,000 adding that the last rent paid

by the defendant was for the period between October 1, 2003 to September 30, 2004.

According to the plaintiff, Mr Gbadamosi has been served all required notices pleading that he settles all outstanding rates as well as relinquish the said premises but all proved abortive. He is therefore asking the court to grant him leave to recover the said premises from the defendant, the arrears and current tenancy rate as well as all utility rates owed by him.

The case has been adjourned to February 1, 2006 for hearing.

News



Mr. Akinsanya Sunny-Ajose, head of service, Lagos State and Chief (Mrs) Oluremi Tinubu, first lady, Lady State at the pens down ceremony for the state's permanent secretaries ...recently.
Pix: Oladipupo Odumewu

NBTE commends Obasanjo, NASS over parity in polytechnics

President Olusegun Obasanjo and the leadership of the National Assembly Committees on Education have been commended for their efforts to remove the career progression barrier in the polytechnic sector.

The Executive Secretary of the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE), Engr. Dr. Nuru A. Yakubu, who expressed the Polytechnic sector's gratitude during the budget defense exercise at the National Assembly, said the pronouncement by Mr. President has removed a twenty year burden weighing down the Polytechnic sector.

Dr. Yakubu who was optimistic that with the presidential pronouncement, the sector will become more vibrant and contribute meaningfully to national development, expressed hope that the Chief of Staff to the President and the Head of Service of the Federation who were directed by Mr. President to work towards actualizing the pronouncement would do a good job.

The Executive Secretary who was at the National Assembly to defend the budget of the Board and the 17 Federal Polytechnics, said a N22.6 billion budget was presented for the National Board for Technical Education and 17 Federal Polytechnics.

The amount he explained was made up of N19.06b for personnel, N820m overhead; N720m for direct teaching and laboratory cost and two billion naira for capital projects.

He noted that the budget was presented in conformity with the directives of the Federal Ministry of Education regarding ceiling approved for the Board and the Federal Polytechnics, pointing out however, that the ne-

eds of the sector was far in excess of the ceiling.

The executive secretary stated that two major policy issues informed the need for

more funds this year: enforcement of the carrying capacity for polytechnics all of which he observed would mean less internally generated revenue. He said the institutions

NASS tasked on voting rights for Nigerians in Diaspora

The United States chapter chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Dr. Tex Wariboko, has called on the National Assembly to consider the expeditious passage of the bill for the voting rights of Nigerians in the diaspora.

Speaking with *Daily Trust* in Abuja, Dr. Wariboko stated that the campaign for the passage of the bill, which has passed the first reading, would be sustained, stressing that once it is passed into law, it will integrate Nigerians outside the country into the political process.

He said, "I think it is about the second reading now. I do not know if it is going to be dropped or not, but we are hoping that it stays on and we have public hearings. The PDP in the USA has organized a public hearing in Houston, the first of its kind outside the shores of Nigeria and a lot of Nigerians attended."

"They were very concerned about the passage of the Bill and really thought it is something that will tell Nigerians outside that they are not forgotten in the political process."

He said the prospects of passing the bill appears to be good at the outset, pointing out that he held series of discussions with the Senate Committee on Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), which, according to him, has made some recommendations on the bill.

Wariboko reminded that "Nigeria must not forget that we are an example to the rest

By Sufuyan Ojeifo, (Special Correspondent)

of the world, the black nation and especially Africa. Nigeria is truly the giant of Africa. And if it has to lead this crusade as a progressive democracy, it must be careful and do things the right way.

"There is no reason why its citizens outside cannot be involved in the electoral process: there is no reason why every Nigerian should fly back to vote here. Why? Other countries are doing it, even in Africa, Ghana, Togo and South-Africa. Haiti is doing it. That is seemingly the poorest country in the world. Iraq just did it; so, Nigeria can do it."

"If Nigeria believes that it can take the seat in the Security Council in the United Nations, then it definitely can amend the constitution and allow its citizens to vote outside the country."

"So, this fight to make sure that Nigerians vote outside the country is not over and I call on all Nigerians, even those that reside in Nigeria, to make sure they talk to their congresses, their Assemblymen and women because to amend the constitution, you have to go two-third and two-thirds of all the State Houses of Assembly, because it promotes the good image of Nigeria."

"I would commend and actually implore the Obasanjo administration and the PDP to make sure that it does whatever it can to pass that Bill for the voting rights of Nigerians in diaspora."

Omoruyi tackles Ribadu on past leaders

Former Director General of the defunct Centre for Democratic Studies, (CDS), Professor Omo Omoruyi, has tackled the chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Mallam Nuhu Ribadu, for accusing a generation of past Nigerian leaders of corruption, saying the attempt to discredit them was a disservice to the present administration of President Olusegun Obasanjo.

Ribadu had at the 3rd Annual Trust dialogue in Abuja last Thursday, taken swipes at some former Nigerian leaders, including Alhaji Shehu Shagari, General Ibrahim Babangida, the late General Sani Abacha and General Abdulsalami Abubakar whom he said made corruption the guiding principle of their administrations.

But in a riposte, Prof. Omoruyi said in an interview with our correspondent in Abuja that Ribadu's attack on these former leaders was in

bad taste.

According to him, "the attempt to discredit former leaders is a disservice to the present administration because Ribadu is not competent to make any pronouncements on the integrity of former leaders of Nigeria. At his level, he was not in a position to know what happened in the past to write off a generation of Nigerian leaders."

"Unfortunately, what he was quoted to have said was not contained in the address he was supposed to have delivered. It is difficult to hold him responsible for *obicta dicta* (a statement you make that is not contained in your reasoned paper)".

Omoruyi reminded Ribadu that he is holding a responsible position and warned against using the position to attack established Nigerian institutions, to wit: former Heads of State.

He said his bit on Alhaji Shagari that it was during his administration that politicians started using private jets was not true, as according to him, "we were using private jets before 1979. He said an Igbo politician in the defunct National Peoples Party (NPP), got a private jet for the presidential campaign of the late Dr. Nnamdi Azikwe in 1978".

Omoruyi said that Ribadu should not use his position at the EFCC to run a campaign of name calling, noting "that is not what the EFCC asked him to do. Those who set up the EFCC are well-meaning

and never in the history of democracy will a Gestapo type of institution be used to undermine democracy".

He said with particular reference to former President Babangida that the EFCC boss should leave his (Babangida's) future to the Nigerian people, stressing that "when Babangida comes out and wants to be president, Ribadu can vote against him if he wants to; he can also campaign against him. But he should not use his position as EFCC chairman to run a campaign of name calling against him".

"Nigerian people are the voters. He should allow them to exercise their judgement. I dare to say that Ribadu is one of the *third terms* because in one breath, he dismissed Shagari, Babangida, Abacha, etc. and in another breath he said Obasanjo is providing answers to Nigeria's problems."

"It is not for one person to begin to make that kind of statement. Why don't you allow our constitution to run and our voters to exercise their rights? Babangida is a candidate on sale. Ribadu may not buy him. I, Omo Omoruyi, will buy him. He has his rights whether to buy him or not, just as I have the right to buy him whether he (Ribadu) continues to sing: "corruption." Nigerians who have decided to buy him are there and those who will not buy him are there, not because of what Ribadu says", Omoruyi stated.

KATAGUM COMMUNITY BANK NIG. LIMITED

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Ninth Annual General Meeting of the members of Katagum Community Bank Nig Limited will be held at the Conference Hall, Zaki Local Government Secretariat, Katagum, Bauchi State on the 12th day of February 2006 at 10.00am to transact the following businesses:

ORDINARY BUSINESS

1. To receive the Report of the Directors, the Balance Sheet together with the profit and loss Account as at 31st December 2004 and the Report of the Auditors thereon.
2. To declare Dividend
3. To reappoint Auditors.
4. To authorize the directors to fix the remuneration of the Auditors.

SPECIAL BUSINESS

5. To consider and if thought fit, to pass the following resolution as ordinary resolution:

Increase the authorized share capital of the Bank from ten million naira divided into ten million ordinary shares of one naira each to twenty-five million naira divided into twenty-five million ordinary shares of one naira each by creating additional fifteen million ordinary shares of one naira each to rank equally with the existing ordinary shares.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
DATED 22ND JANUARY, 2006

News

Senate pledges support for FERMA

The Chairman, Senate Committee on Works, Senator Idris Kuta, has pledged to provide the latitude to do what is right in order to keep the federal road network in good condition at all times, saying that roads are for the general use and serve the interest of the people of Nigeria.

Senator Kuta made the statement when the chairman of FERMA board, Engineer (Dr.) Emmanuel Iwuanyanwu, led his board to discuss issues relating to road development with the Senate Committee on Works.

Senator Kuta revealed that to demonstrate the commitment of his committee on roads maintenance, the committee had before now made a formal request to the agency, to provide them with a list of all roads, pointing out the worthiness of each for the works committee's

attention.

Earlier, the chairman had informed the committee that FERMA operates within the context of existing laws and the development objectives of the country to pursue the various programmes aimed at turning Nigerian roads around.

He disclosed that the board specifically intends to step up the agency's direct labour operations, in which the Chief Maintenance Engineers (CMEs) in all states of the federation are in charge.

Already, the Chief Maintenance Engineers are on massive repair of failed portions of roads all over the country. He was quick to add that this measure may be palliative and a bit far between what is required, "but if we are constantly on the road, we could intervene in a manner that could help in

easing traffic, while attention is gradually turned on construction and rehabilitation by the federal ministry of works."

The board as part of its initial programme of action has since toured the length and breadth of the country to assess the current state of the nations' roads. He noted that the agency had achieved notable success in transforming a number of roads, which hitherto could not be traversed without horrible experiences.

While acknowledging that the available resources have many interest and sectors competing for government funding, he informed the committee that the normal annual budgetary allocation appropriated to the agency has proven to be grossly inadequate for sustainable road maintenance activities.

2007: Revalidate your PDP registration – Goje urges

Members of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), who could not revalidate their membership in the last registration and revalidation exercise in Gombe State have been advised to do so in the current mop-up exercise if they wish to contest the 2007 general elections.

Governor Mohammed Danjuma Goje who gave this advise while receiving members of the exercise on Thursday, said those who refused to revalidate their membership should take advantage of the current one to enable them actualise their dreams in 2007.

Governor Goje said these politicians should not blame him or the party if they fail to contest in the coming elec-

From Muhammad Abubakar,
Correspondent (Gombe)

tions because, according to him, there was no way they could contest under the party if they are not duly registered in their wards.

"Every politician must respect his party which is the bedrock of his government, because not doing so is undermining its success. I call on those politician in Abuja who feel too big to come and register to do so in their own interest," said the governor.

In her address, the leader of the revalidation exercise team, Senator Joy Emordi, who expressed satisfaction with the harmony that exists between the party and the government, said the current

exercise was meant to give opportunity to those dissatisfied with the earlier exercise to register.

She said about 20,000 membership cards would be distributed in all the eleven local government areas of the state in the three day exercise assuring those interested in revalidating their membership or joining the party of "enough cards to go round."

It will be recalled that the first exercise held in October last year was boycotted by some powerful party members in the state who claimed to have been registered by the Ambassador Yerima Abdullahi-led exercise which was cancelled by the national headquarters of the PDP.

KATAGUM COMMUNITY BANK (NIG) LTD

THE ABRIDGED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 2004

	2004 N	2003 N
ASSETS EMPLOYED		
Cash	1,723,478	2,551,128
Balance with other banks	16,136,296	10,001,138
Loans and advances	2,322,282	6,029,576
Other assets	562,851	233,013
Fixed assets	1,303,643	1,405,540
Total assets	22,048,550	20,220,395

FINANCED BY

LIABILITIES

Deposits, current & other accounts	9,384,901	9,429,672
Other liabilities	3,362,138	3,231,134
	12,747,039	12,660,806

CAPITAL AND RESERVES

Share capital	6,262,900	5,000,000
Statutory reserve	956,749	625,155
General reserve	2,081,862	1,934,434
Shareholders fund	9,301,511	7,559,589
	22,048,550	20,220,395

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 2004

Gross earnings	6,288,995	5,872,124
Profit before taxation	1,725,312	1,459,093
Taxation	(620,000)	(550,000)
Profit after taxation	1,105,312	909,093

APPROPRIATIONS

Transfer to statutory reserve	331,594	272,728
Proposed dividend	626,290	500,000
Transfer to general reserve	147,428	136,365
	1,105,312	909,093

Approved by the Board on 3rd April, 2005 and signed on its behalf by:

[Signature]
Abdullahi Yerima
(Chairman)

[Signature]
Abdullahi Yerima
(Chairman)

REPORT OF THE AUDITORS (ABRIDGED) TO THE MEMBERS OF KATAGUM COMMUNITY BANK (NIG) LTD.

We have examined the financial statements of Katagum Community Bank Nig. Ltd which have been prepared on the basis of the accounting policies set out therein.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF DIRECTORS AND AUDITORS

The bank's directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements, while it is our responsibility to form an independent opinion based on our audit of the statements and report our opinion thereon.

BASIS OF OPINION

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. An audit includes examination on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the directors in the preparation of the financial statements and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the bank's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give a reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material mis-statement, whether caused by fraud, other irregularity, or error. In forming our opinion, we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements and assessed whether the bank's books of accounts have been properly kept.

OPINION

In our opinion, the bank has kept proper books of account and the financial statements are in agreement with the books. The financial statements drawn up in conformity with the generally accepted accounting standard in Nigeria give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the bank as at 31st Dec. 2004, the profit and cash flow for the year ended on that date and have been properly prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Bank's and Other Financial Institutions Act, 1991, Community Banks Act, 1992, Prudential Guidelines and other circulars issued by the Central Bank of Nigeria, and Companies and Allied Matters Act, 1990.

[Signature]
Olu Olanipekun & Co.



ALHAJI GARBA AMINU

Magajin Garin Bauchi

Alhaji (Dr) Ahmadu Adamu Mu'azu,
Executive Governor of Bauchi State,
Government House,
Bauchi.

Your Excellency,

LETTER OF COMMENDATION

I write in my capacity as an elder statesman to voice my thoughts over some recent happenings within and outside the state.

I must start by commending your tireless effort in the recent Hajj operations, where you worked day and night to make sure that at least about two thousand, five hundred pilgrims from our state were able to undertake a trip to the Holy Land in order to fulfill their spiritual obligations, which is one of the five pillars of Islam. I was made to understand that without your physical involvement in the whole operations, almost all the intending pilgrims from Bauchi State would have lost the chance to perform the Hajj operations, as witnessed in other states where very few or even none could travel to the Holy Land due to one logistic problem or the other. You are indeed the best among equals.

Also worthy of note is the life-saving measure you took in the Holy Land by bailing out about 29 pilgrims by giving them a token amount of N2,000,000 to save them from any calamity that may befall them. It is indeed your personal intervention, as well as your determined resolve to ensure that our pilgrims return to Nigeria safely and hassles free.

Your Excellency, the Hajj issue just goes a long way in vindicating my long-term assessment of your administration as the best thing to happen to our dear Bauchi State since its creation in 1976. With due respect to our past governors, viz Col. Bello Khaliel (1976-78), Col. Garba Duba (1978-79), the late Alh. Abubakar Tatari Ali (1979-83), Brig. Sani Sami (1983-85), Col. Chris Abutu Garuba (1985-88), Col. Joshua Madaki (1988-90), Col. Abu Ali (1990-91), the late Alh. Dahiru Mohammed (1991-93), the late Wing Comm. James Yana Kalau (1993-94), Navy Captain Rasheed Adisa Raji (1994-96), Col. Theophilus



Alhaji (Dr) Ahmadu Adamu Mu'azu,
Executive Governor of Bauchi State

Bamigboye (1996-98), Wing Comm. Abdul Adamu Mshelia (1998-99), for all their cumulative efforts towards developing the state, none of them can boast of achieving one-tenth of what you were able to achieve in the six years of your dynamic administration.

The contribution of your government to the development of Bauchi State cannot be over emphasized. In a spate of six years, Bauchi has sprung from the image of just another state to that of a model state worthy of emulation by all the 36 states of the federation. You have been able to impact on the lives of all and sundry in all the facets of human endeavour. Significant projects implemented include roads construction, agricultural development, housing development, rural electrification, water supply and so many countless projects which are invaluable to humanity.

One good thing that gladdens my mind is the fact that the world is not oblivious of your strenuous efforts towards leaving our state better than you met it through a dint of sacrifice, self-consciousness and progressive spirit. It is therefore no surprise that you have been honoured with various awards by prominent international organizations over the last six years in



Alhaji Garba Aminu
(Magajin Garin Bauchi)

recognition of your selfless efforts. In the same vein, within a period of two months, you were honoured with honorary Doctorate Degrees by three reputable universities, namely Igbenideon University, Okada; University of Maiduguri and Federal University of Technology, Akure. These are aside others already bagged during the first dispensation. The feat is indeed unrivalled by any public figure in Nigeria today.

Similarly, the traditional institutions are not left out in recognizing your indelible footprints in the development of Bauchi State; nay Nigeria by honoring you with various traditional titles all over the country.

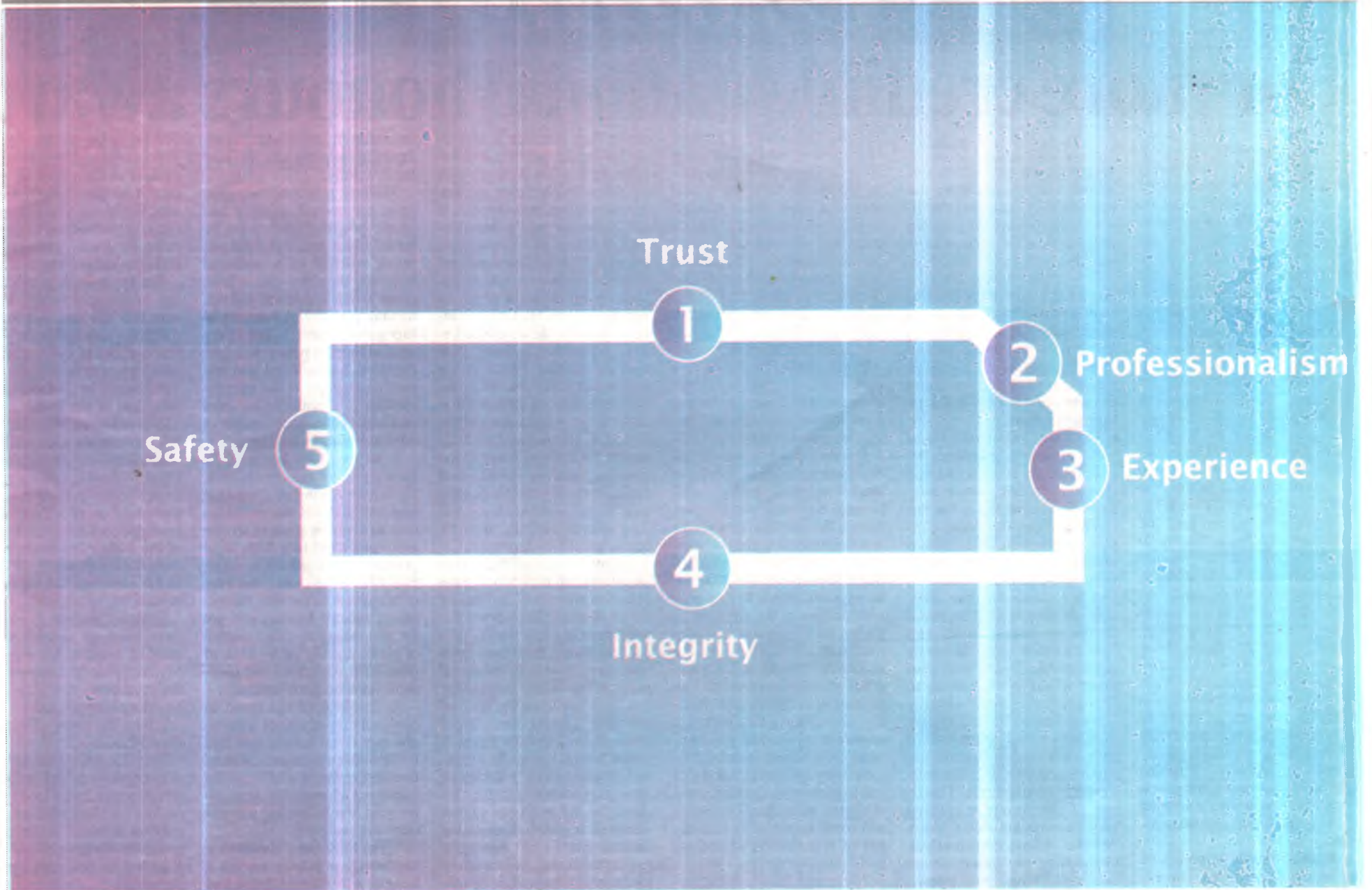
I therefore hope that you will not relent in your dogged commitment to realizing the full potential of Bauchi State as the *numero uno* among all the 36 states of the federation, thereby paving the way for greater aspirations.

Barka da Sallah.

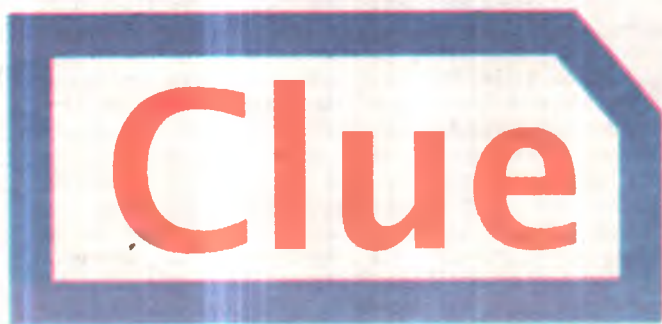
Yours faithfully,

Signed

Alhaji Garba Aminu
(Magajin Garin Bauchi)



Trust is a five letter word.
We are a **five-sided** organisation.
Who are we?



Our organization is built on an unshakable foundation of **Trust**



Opinion

For more credible national honours award

It sometimes beats one's imagination how even those issues which ordinarily should not be smeared with controversy easily become subjects of doubt and suspicion in a country like Nigeria where human resources are so abundant and outstanding efforts are clearly manifested by great achievements of individuals, groups or communities. The truth is that we have taken corruption, sycophancy and perpetration of mediocrity, and the so-called "God-fatherism" to such ridiculous levels in our national life that we have become easily blinded by sentiments even in situations where the merit criteria is in our best interest as a nation. This is the way one can explain how the selection of a list of Nigerians for national honours became recently smeared in controversy as a result of perceived (for whatever reason) questionable characters among those listed. Although among those eventually confirmed and conferred, there are quite some credible and worthy individuals; the initial controversy generated could have been avoided if only to uphold the sanctity of a national honours list through clearly-stipulated criteria, which could have been strictly adhered to in a most transparent manner.

In every civilised nation of contemporary times, the essence of such an exercise as honouring citizens with classified national honours is to reward sacrifice to the nation and humanity, and to more importantly, motivate every other citizen with potentials for outstanding contributions for nation-building. The idea is also to create a league of national heroes and mentors for the younger and future generations. When, however, a nation unconsciously or consciously subjects national honours to mundane criteria such as ethnic or geopolitical quota repre-

By Ibrahim A. Kolo

sentation, the connection syndrome, elite manipulation, corruption by "cash and carry" methods, and partisan politicisation, then the merit of such honours would have been thrown to the winds. The consequence is that such a nation would have bastardised the merit culture as a yardstick for striving for national development by citizens and would be creating corrupt and fraudulent elements as role models for future generations.

How the 2005 initial list of national honour awardees degenerated to such scorn and discredit of public opinion commentators in Nigeria is not far-fetched from the issues explained herewith. The list was replete indeed with names for which commentators could either not vouch for their credibility to have merited the award or whose backgrounds and characteristics were obviously questionable. There were also those whose contributions to the nation were either virtually non-existent or so insignificant that honouring them would have amounted to bastardising any reasonable criteria for meriting the nominations. This is one of the strongest reasons why individuals like Chinua Achebe, whose contributions to the Nigerian nation towers over and above most known national honour awardees, had to refuse his own nomination.

Even though in previous years, opinions had always varied on the criteria used for nominating and selecting awardees, the 2005 list initially drew so much ire that whatever credibility remained of the criteria used was almost completely jettisoned. Unfortunately, apart from newspaper adverts calling for nominations on the basis of the curriculum vitae and write-ups on citizens considered worthy of the awards, every other aspect of the procedure of se-

lection was shrouded in such secrecy that hardly could the entire process have been subjected to any credibility and meritorious test. What we saw at the end was just a list of people conferred with some conjectured citation of claims of achievements and contributions to the nation.

And indeed, this is not to suggest that lists year after year had been made up of people who did not merit the award. It's just that over the years, the dominance of those who do not merit it have become more glaring and overbearing.

It is time that Nigerians revisited whatever existing criteria are used in selecting both national honours and merit awards even though the latter for now seems to still bear some significant level of credibility. But if the musings that followed even the 2005 national merit awards to four eminent professors are anything to go by, then even this category ((national merit) needs to have its criteria straightened out and made more transparent. The essence of revisiting and restating the criteria for national awards in my opinion will be to make them reflect more of contemporary universal standards and to protect the credibility and integrity of national honours and merit awardees as custodians of role models of nation-building.

There are four universally-acclaimed criteria for citizens making national awards of either the honours or meritorious service of academic/professional accomplishments.

These are outstanding or meritorious service commitment, innovations or discoveries of significance to national development, outstanding mobilisation inputs for nation-building and impact creation on the lives of citizens and humanity. In most cases, a minimum of two of these criteria are essential for consideration for nomination in the first place and

where final selection is considered a serious business, accomplishments in the third and possibly fourth criteria are applied. In each criteria, consideration is also given not only to transcendent qualities of achievement, but also to conformist and rebellious tendencies which impact on nationhood at given periods of time. That is why citizens of the radical, conservative, moderate, rebellious elite and the masses divide in the nation can make the list without recourse to sentiments. Once these criteria are not the basis for nominations and selection for national awards, the exercise loses its validity and credibility and inflicts a dangerous trend on the national psyche to the worship of mediocrity, indolence and fraud.

To me, a disciplined, principled and nationally-committed politician who stood and fought for an ideology for national development is more worthy of a national award than those who have used their opportunity of public office to loot the treasury and have mastered the trick of cleverly covering their tracks while pretending to be pious. A citizen who is known for persistent opposition to policies of those in government and for his stand for the truth (no matter whose ox is gored) deserves the national award more than some opportunist in government whose stock-in-trade is propaganda with nothing to show for it. A civil servant whose record of service is untainted and served conscientiously to become a reference point of exemplary service is the one more deserving of a national honour, and not the one who served a long number of years and made no difference in his or her own personal career nor that of others. An academic who propounded some tested theory most useful to the lives of the citizens is the one deserving of a national merit award and not some career academic who af-

ter attaining professorship relapses to mere teaching and textbook-writing.

Military personnel who have gone on several military and peace-keeping operations on behalf of the country is the one more worthy of a national honours than the one whose career is mainly political and diplomatic postings. A minister or top government functionary who initiates a policy that precipitated fundamental and impacting changes is the one deserving of a national honours and not one whose tenure is only to make up the numbers.

A justice of the law with the track record of incorruptibility is the one deserving of a national honours and not the one who only through his years of service was catapulted to a high legal position. The legislator initiating bills which will change the lives of Nigerians is the one deserving of national honours and not the one raising so-called matters of primordial sentiments and oversight function gratifications.

In the face of the trend in bastardising national awards and persistent scepticism that is becoming a permanent feature threatening the credibility of the exercise and awardees year after year, the following suggestions are pertinent:

* The Presidency should as a matter of urgency set up a League of National Awardees for both the honours and merit categories to appraise existing criteria and to update them to become more universally-acclaimed ones acceptable to most Nigerians. The league should be selected from eminent and credible awardees of the past and mandated to carry on the function subsequently.

The league should operate with a board which will be responsible for searching for and collating future nominations with a view to verifying claims of nominees from all segments of national development efforts.

The board would also make its procedures and the selection process of the league as transparent as possible in such a way that those who eventually make the list will be of unquestionable character and outstanding achievements.

For the protection of the image of the country and to ensure that the national awards role is for now and in the future not in doubt to the present and future generations, all lists from 1960 should be subjected to the minimum of the stated criteria. Those who do not meet the minimum of the universally-acclaimed criteria should be delisted forthwith. I suggest that even the present over-politicisation of honorary fellowships and doctoral degrees in the higher institutions and universities should be treated in the same way as suggested herewith.

National awards in Nigeria have been so abused to the level of insult to the Nigerian psyche. This is dangerous to the psychology of efforts in re-branding Nigeria and in safeguarding the place of merit in nation-building.

That one has served in whatever capacity in the public or private sector for so many years or that one has attained high position in public office are no guarantee for the persons to be selected as national honour awardees.

The innovations, sacrifice, impact, mobilisation and change created in nation-building resulting from such long years of service or occupation of such positions qualify one more for national awards. There is no doubt today that the procedure for nomination and selection of national awardees in Nigeria requires reforming. In the spirit of NEEDS, let such a reform be one of national psychology angle of the reform agenda in the country.

Prof. Ibrahim A. Kolo is the Provost of Niger State College of Education, Minna.

Assessing Niger State's information commissioner

By Hassan Marafa

A successful government is that which steers the people through its policies towards the attainment of social, moral and economic greatness, as well as the achievement of political stability. You will find such governments very transparent and their operative organs very determined, honest and trustworthy. These governments identify and associate themselves with the plight of the general public. Such governments also have very vital links, systems and machineries that get their policies to the people for their positive response toward the achievement of the desired objectives and goals.

The vital operative organ of the government which carries out policies for the people, mobilise them to understand the policies, make them respond positively to the policies for the benefit of all is known as and called the Ministry of Information, sometimes of Tourism and Culture. Thus, it serves as the vital link between the government and the governed.

After careful appraisal and consideration, I picked the Niger State Ministry of Information under the able commissionerhip of Alhaji Umaru Abdullahi Ragada as the most effective vital link between the government and the governed in Nigeria for many rea-

sons.

To start with, the Niger State Commissioner of Information, Alhaji Umaru Abdullahi Ragada on whose shoulders rests the responsibility of disseminating all the necessary messages from the government to the governed and feed Governor Kure's administration with the peoples' responses, is an intelligent and honourable man. He carries out his duties diligently, honestly and wisely. His initiatives and actions, making Niger State a good place to live in as the most peaceful, stable and progressive state in Nigeria, are always applauded and respected by both the state government and the populace.

It could be recalled that it was the commissioner who pioneered the participation of commissioners in the phone-in Hausa programme "HANNU DA YAWA" of the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria, FRCN, Kaduna, and answering questions from listeners without fears, doubts or favours. Today, many states including Kano, Zamfara, Kaduna and Nasarawa states are enjoying from the fruits of his initiatives. I am sure that many more states will follow suit as more people are more aware of their rights and many, nowadays, wish to know or hear about how they are governed from the horse's mouth.

Peaceful co-existence

Alhaji Umaru Abdullahi Ragada, the Niger State Commissioner of Information, has been the catalyst to His Excellency, Engineer Abdulkadir Kure's policy and priority over the maintenance of peace and has worked tirelessly towards the realisation of good working relationship between the government of his home state and the federal government on the one hand and the rest of the state government in the federation on the other. The commissioner has also ensured the existence of reciprocal/mutual relationship between the Niger State government and its traditional institutions, non-governmental and religious organisations, youths and women development association, etc. And all these are contributing immensely to the developmental drive of the Niger State government today.

My choice of Niger State as the most stable, peaceful and progressive state in Nigeria is indeed based on these facts coupled with political stability in the state. These successes must also be credited to Governor Kure's ability to choose people of integrity as members of his cabinet; because it is the present administration that created the stepping stone towards the realisation of this relative calm and peace now being enjoyed in Niger State. Today in

Niger State, businesses, religious practices, politics and all other human endeavours are being conducted without molestation or hindrances despite the differences in tribal, religious and ethnic backgrounds of the people.

You must agree with me that no meaningful development could be achieved without peace and stability. And peace does not come easily but efforts must be made to mobilise the people on the importance of and the necessity to give everyone his rightful rights. People must also be made to appreciate the virtues of kindness, understanding, forgiveness and tolerance, so that each and everyone could live with one another with respect and love. Thanks to Alhaji Ragada and his able team, because they have not failed Governor Kure's trust in this direction. They have indeed put in place the necessary mobilisation process and machinery that have been seeing Niger State through in respect to being a very peaceful and stable state in Nigeria. For these reasons, many developmental activities and the provision of the necessary facilities and infrastructures are being executed in the state silently and smoothly for the fulfilment of the yearnings and aspirations of the people.

Put your searchlight in the right direction and you will dis-

cover that many or almost all the other states in the federation have gone through one violence or the other based on either religious, tribal or boundary conflict to the detriment of peaceful co-existence; none of such dirty things could be said to have happened in Niger State for a very long time. In fact, Niger State is a model of peace in Nigeria. No wonder it has produced two of the most popular and respected presidents of the Federal Republic of Nigeria namely the former heads of state in the persons of General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida and General Abdulsalami Abubakar.

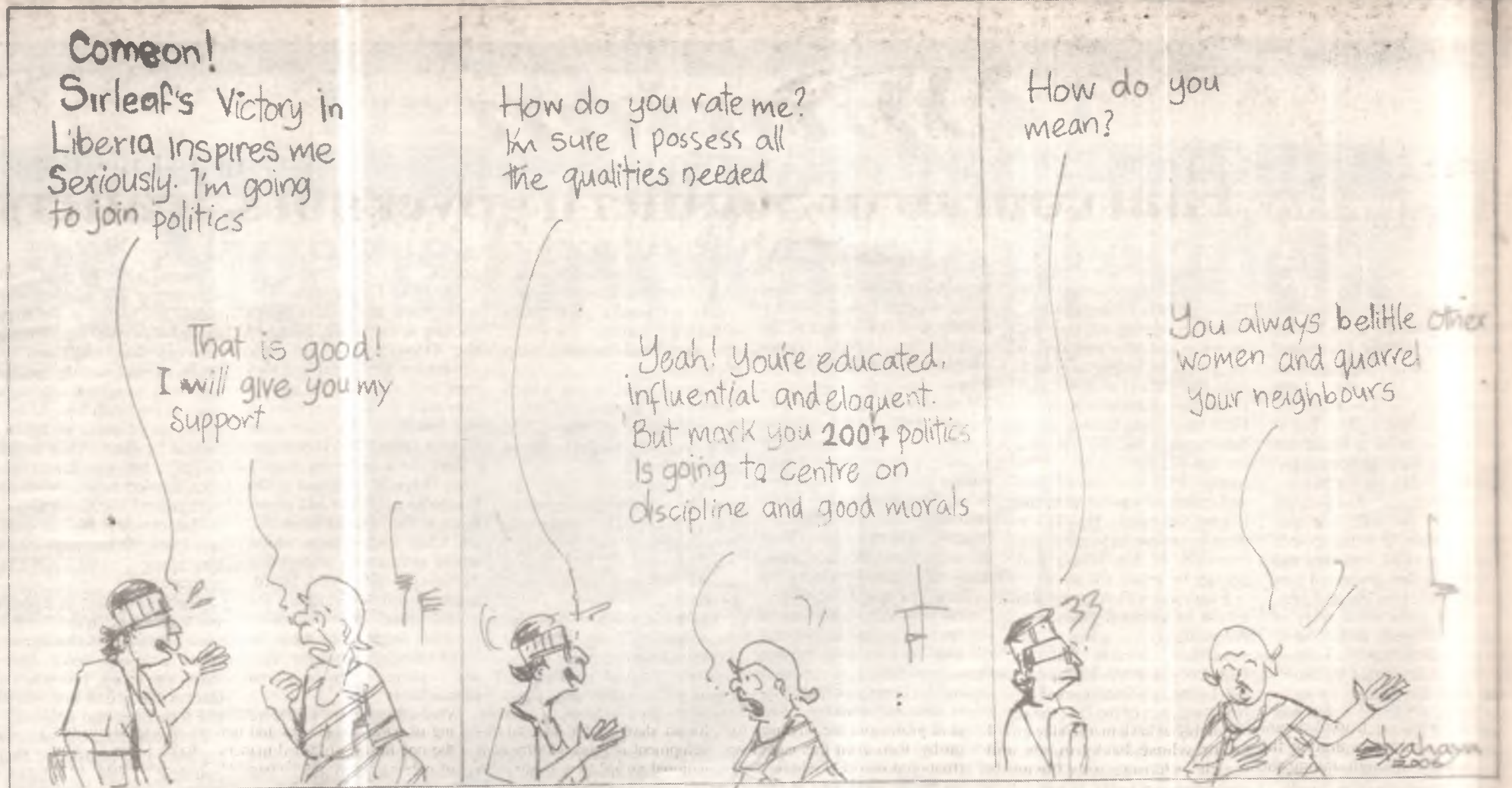
Political stability
In this era of democratic dispensation, conducive political activities are very necessary for the electorate to make good choices, choices that will ensure the voting-in of charismatic, respectable, transparent, honest, trustworthy and above all, hardworking leaders for the uplift of the living standards of the people. Political stability is very essential and must be said to be real in Niger State, where all the political parties live and interact with one another peacefully. In Niger State, all the politicians of the different political parties believe and play politics as a game. They accept victory or otherwise as their God-given status without rancour or hard feelings. The Ministry of Informa-

tion has played a significant role in the achievement of this political harmony, because it does not show bias or discrimination against any political party in carrying out its duties.

What makes Alhaji Umaru Abdullahi Ragada, the Niger State Commissioner of Information tick? What is behind his successes?

The most fundamental factor is the unprecedented support and trust he enjoys from the Executive Governor of Niger State, Alhaji (Engineer) Abdulkadir Kure. For this trust, the Information Ministry and indeed Alhaji Ragada have been given the free hand and all the necessary requirements to enable him and his team discharge their duties as expected. Engineer Kure must be given the credit for the right choice, which is the appointment of this dynamic, energetic, dedicated, humble and loyal gentleman, Alhaji Umaru Abdullahi Ragada as the state Commissioner of Information. Governor Kure has many intelligent, honourable men of wisdom in his stable to choose from, but Alhaji Ragada is one choice that the governor looks at with pride and the sense of satisfaction as he's steering Ragada's roles of informing and educating the citizenry of Niger State to the letter.

Hassan Marafa wrote in from P. O. Box 898, Zaria, Kaduna State.



YOUR LETTERS

In recent times, the issue of power shift has taken the front seat in the affairs of many Nigerians. In fact, as far back as 1999, it was stated that power would be rotated in the political affairs of Nigeria. Unfortunately, recent events have shown that all will not be well in the political arena.

The shift of power is not really what the masses of Nigeria want. The common man in Nigeria is just looking for any competent person that would lead him to a very good destination, not the issue of regionalism. Ethnicity cannot lead us to anywhere except crisis. Politicians are always trying to make the common people look at the shift of power as something good. We know that regional power shift is not all out for the interest of the common people in the country. So it's only politicians that want the shift of power among them. They want it so that they can have access to the resources of the country, particularly oil and budgets.

I'm calling on the youth and the people of Northern Nigeria that we have to be very careful; these politicians are not fighting for the interest of the common man residing in the region. They are just on their own and are fighting for their own interest and benefits.

There is nothing that President Obasanjo is executing without the consent of our legislators at the National Assembly and they are our representatives from every constituency.

So, we should come back to our senses and think well about this situation of the shift of power.

I think it is not really what

Power shift and Nigerian masses

we should be worried about. We have to look at Nigeria as a single entity, not Nigeria as a different region and tribes - Hausa,

Fulani, Yoruba, Igbo and others. We just need someone who will look at the masses and give them a better life; one that will ensure

security for the people of Nigeria; one who will create job opportunities for the innocent in the country.

Meanwhile, the same people that are fighting for the power to shift to the North help nobody, neither their closest relations nor

their neighbours, talk less of the entire people of the North.

Jafar Abubakar, (Baba-jaho), Katsina.

The day was 25th December, 2005, it was supposed to be an ordinary day made worse by the celebrative significance that it denoted for the inmates of Ekiti State prison, but for the kindness of the action governor, Ayo Fayose of Ekiti State, who went to celebrate with them, gave them their Christmas food, hope and courage to endure.

It was really touching to see the mood of these abandoned, almost forgotten inmates. About 253 of them are still awaiting trial of which the governor promised to alert the necessary authorities about their plight. The state of their cells moved him to pledge N2 million naira for the renovation of the prisons.

The prisoners were agog; it was really a great Christmas for them; they were singing and praying for the man that brought smiles to their faces. He definitely imprinted it on their hearts that they are meant to be reformed. As if that was not enough, he went to the state hospital where the state had just been blessed with three kids, one boy, and two girls on Christmas day. He rejoiced with the family and thanked God for his blessings. Prior to that time, he observed that Ekiti State Prisons Board had no bus. He gave them one in addition to the sum of N1.6 mil-

Fayose's 'konko below'

lion naira and Xmas hampers.

No, the governor was not literally digging it to the ground like Lagbaja (the Afrobeat musician) sang in one of his songs, Konko below. Governor Fayose was rather, improving, touching and affecting the lives of the people at the grassroots. He has started it already, because identifying with the people goes a long way in understanding their plight.

The picture here is that of a young vibrant politician, with so much energy to change the course of history, to better the lives of his people. It's a picture of a man that has been disturbed and disappointed at the lacklustre performance

of past administrations in the state that have gone down in the book of history as those that impoverished the people they were supposed to serve. They destroyed the state they were supposed to develop; alienated themselves from the youths they ought to have encouraged. These developmental strategies are not restricted to the party faithful. In the words of Chief Olu Falae, former ANPP presidential aspirant, he wished that Governor Fayose and he were in the same party. He must have been impressed by the way Ayo Fayose has been carrying Ekiti State people along.

From pensioners to wid-

ows to market women, his impact has been felt in numerous ways. According to USAID's end of the year 2005 report, Ekiti State was declared as the fourth best state in Nigeria.

In just over two years, the governor has succeeded in bringing about peace and harmony in the state. He collaborated with the traditional rulers to move the state forward. Enoch Adebayo of the R.C.C.G. in a courtesy visit prayed that other leaders could take a cue and learn from Fayose. He has encouraged the youth and made them come to the realisation that politics is not all about the dirty that some neat players play around. That it is with

commitment, dedication and service, hard work, as portrayed by his administration.

I will like to use this opportunity to implore the governor to invest in more revenue-generating schemes for the state so that more youths can be empowered and more productive benefit for the state.

The traditional rulers could also be involved in sensitising villagers against the spread of HIV/AIDS in the state. Kudos, big brother! We are proud of you while we await yet more developmental projects that will herald the U.N.M.D.G's in the state.

Fadeyi Olubunmi, Plot 04 Amawbia Street, Bayezhin Kubwa, Abuja.

Open letter to Governor Abdulkadir Kure

I wish to draw the attention of Governor Abdulkadir Kure of Niger State to the deplorable state of roads in our rural areas. I hereby appeal to the executive governor that he should assist in rehabilitating the roads in Bida metropolis, especially Banghara, Dokoza and other areas. When driving through some roads in Bida metropolis, you would think that you are already out of the state.

The question that comes

to one's mind is whether the rural dwellers pay taxes at all. If the answer to this question is in the affirmative, then the state government should strive to rehabilitate the roads without further delay.

The roads are in such deplorable conditions that the people who live in these areas find it difficult to venture out of their domains. If this situation is allowed to continue, especially with the coming rainy

season, those areas could be cut from the other ones. I'm, therefore, through this medium appealing to the state governor not to allow the coming rains to demolish our houses. We do not want some parts of the state to be left in quandary, as the people there will be rendered incommunicado.

Engineer Abdulkadir Kure, we know that you are a hardworking governor who's carrying out

people-oriented programmes that bring peace and progress to the people. Please, let the rehabilitation work commence now because during the rainy season, it will be difficult to do it.

I hope the government will heed to this clarion call by coming to the aid of the rural dwellers without further delay.

Usman A. Audu, Umaru Majigi, Gudunasa Area, Bida, Niger State.

Opinion

That confab of Southern governors, leaders

By Abubakar B. Tsav

The recent conference of governors and other political and community leaders in the South held in Enugu which turned out to be a PDP affair, was historic no doubt. In convening the conference, those responsible for the gathering thought that they were merely exercising their fundamental rights as entrenched in the 1999 Constitution, by demanding for their so-called rights, but it turned out to be a venue for expressing their ignorance and endemic dislike for the North.

However, the discussions held and the communiqué issued amounted to treasonable threat. One of the important and sensitive issues discussed was power shift. One speaker after the other spoke extensively of injustice allegedly meted out to them by the North.

They claimed that the North had ruled this country for up to 35 years, while the South had only ruled for about nine to 10 years. In the communiqué, they insisted that power must shift to the South-East or South-South failing which they would boycott the 2007 general elections and break away from Nigeria. The issue of power shift is essentially a matter for the political parties except and unless the conveners of the conference no longer have faith in their political parties. Government and indeed tribal associations should have nothing to do whatsoever with power shift. That should be left for the political parties to resolve. Nigeria is a difficult country to rule, and besides, it is currently going through its teething problems in terms of development. What we require now is not a tribal president but a detribalised president who is experienced, strong in will and character and capable of running this country impartially. Honourable Justice Chukwudifu Oputa endorsed this position during the recent confab. Neither he nor Professor Wole Soyinka attended the Enugu conference. They are great minds who wish Nigeria well.

I remember when General

Obasanjo was military head of state; he violated human rights with ignominy. It was during his time that soldiers invaded the house of Fela Anikulapo-Kuti with arms injuring and maiming his wives and other members of his group including a French lady. His (Fela's) mother, Chief Funmilayo Ransome-Kuti, an Egba chief, was thrown down from upstairs and she fractured her arm. No one was brought to justice. Fela was defenceless and unarmed except with his tongue and music. He did not provoke anyone as to justify the invasion of his house and privacy by armed soldiers.

Everyone condemned the action of General Obasanjo. Accordingly, when he contested election for the Presidency in 1999, his people, the Egbas, rejected him. The North and part of the East stood very firm behind him and he won the presidential election. The people who rejected him yesterday are today not only singing his praises to the high heavens, but are also persuading him to perpetuate himself in office.

What an irony! If we go by what the South is now demanding, then Obasanjo's second tenure is an illegality, because he was once a military head of state, but the Supreme Court has decided on a similar case involving Rev. Jolly Nyame of Taraba State and Prince Abubakar Audu, the former governor of Kogi State. The claim that the North ruled for 35 years and is therefore not qualified to take over the Presidency in 2007 only exposes the ignorance, greed, impatience and selfishness of the people canvassing this position.

Military governments are not democratically-elected. They come into being through the barrel of the gun. In military politics, it is the officer who leads or heads the coup that takes over power or voluntarily surrenders power to the most senior officer at his discretion. Major Chukwuma Kaduna

Nzeogwu who staged the first military coup in this country initially took over power as the commander but later surrendered it to General Aguiyi-Ironsi as the supreme commander. In order not to open healed wounds, I will not go into the details of that coup, but suffice it to say that it was mutinous, selfish and one-sided. This coup led us to an unfortunate civil war which the Nigerian military fought to keep the country one. In the process, many officers and men including civilians lost their lives.

Other officers who staged subsequent coups in Nigeria decided to take over power themselves. Many officers died during the coup process while others who attempted but failed faced the firing squad. Those who are now accusing the North of retaining power for 35 years should blame their sons in the military for cowardice, but not the North as an entity. Their sons were not only cowards, but also took part in running and benefiting from the military governments of those years. Even some civilians who are today making noise also served and benefited from the various military administrations which brought them into prominence.

Even some of our present-day politicians are still benefiting from the creation of the military. They are governing and stealing from states created by the military. "Monkey dey work, Baboon dey chop." We know how difficult and what time it took the civil government of Balewa to create the old Mid-Western State. Chief Bode George who is so bitter about power shift to the North was a military governor. Commodore Ebitu Ukiwe was a vice president in a military administration even though he was not the most senior officer in the Navy at that time. Oh, how people forget so soon! They are simply ungrateful for the fairness that was extended to them. The best

we can do is to forget the years of military rule and move ahead. We should start counting the years of power shift from Obasanjo's tenure. This is the only useful and reasonable thing to do now.

Certain vital issues which some of our brothers and sisters from the South have not realised is a carefully-laid scheme to deceive them.

The convener of the conference and governor of Enugu State, Dr Chimaroke Nnamani is a brilliant, hardworking, intelligent, ambitious and flamboyant person.

Outwardly, people will hail him for developing Enugu State, but we should not forget that Enugu was the capital of Eastern region. Drs Nnamdi Azikiwe and Michael Okpara did their best to develop Enugu as the Eastern Regional headquarters. Dr Chimaroke Nnamani has only added a little to what Dr Azikiwe and Dr Okpara did and recently invited EU ambassadors to Enugu State to see what he had been doing or had done. The idea was to advertise him to the world as a good leader capable of ruling Nigeria in future. Another deceit is that when adverts for the meeting were placed in the print and electronic media, only Chief Awolowo's picture was shown as a nationalist from the West. The pictures and names of past Western politicians as leaders like Sir Adesoji Aderemi, Alhaji Adegbenro, Chief Akintola, Alhaji Adelabu, Chief Bode Thomas, Chief Anthony Enahoro, etc., were conspicuously and deliberately left out, while those of Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, Dr Michael Okpara, Chief Mbonu Ojike, Jaja of Opobo, Sir Francis Ibiem, Dennis Osadebe, Chief Alvan Ikoku, etc., appeared on the map of Nigeria in the Ibo-speaking areas as nationalists. What that means is that only these past Eastern leaders fought for the independence of this country. You can see the mentality and

discrimination of some of these people.

However I understand why some people are afraid of power shifting to the North. Some of the 419ners who are now governors have realised that their time will soon be up and they want power to remain in the South, so that they may receive favour and protection. Others like Chief Tony Anenih who allegedly received N300 billion to construct and repair roads in the East but never did, and Chief Bode George whose tenure as chairman of Nigerian Ports Authority, NPA board, mismanaged N80 billion, are afraid that any Northern president might probe them. To Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, they are sacred cows and untouchable.

What we require in Nigeria are tested and honourable noble leaders who can rule this country impartially and honestly; be they from any part of the country, not just a representative of his people. Those who are insisting that the Presidency should remain in a particular part of the South do not wish this country well. When Obasanjo contested election in 1999, did his people not oppose him? Today, they find him to be a superstar and are asking him to elongate his tenure. The conference in Enugu was a tribal affair designed to serve a particular group. This is dangerous. Chief Femi Fani-Kayode, the vocal Special Assistant to the President on Public Affairs was visibly excited each time a speaker at the conference attacked the North. He cannot even hide his emotions. The self-styled leader of the Yorubas at the meeting, Chief Kunle Olajide even asked for the release of their sons (Ganiyu Adams and co.) who are being held in custody for treason. None of the speakers mentioned the case of Gen I. Bamaiyi and others who have been in custody for up to seven years awaiting trial. What country is

this?

I heard one of the participants demanding that another state should be created in the South to balance the equilibrium between the North and the South, while another speaker ignorantly wondered why some states in the North have 42 local government areas as against eight in the South. These people forget what was taken into consideration before the LGAs were created. We are yet to unite in this country. We are poles apart despite the inter-ethnic marriages and NYSC programmes.

The conference, as I see it, was a challenge to the North to wake up from its slumber and speak with one voice. Many things are wrong. It is time our leaders discarded that selfish lust for money and position.

Northern leaders must come together irrespective of their cultural and religious differences and speak with one voice. It is not enough to always talk of the legacies of the late Sir Ahmadu Bello, the *Sardauna* of Sokoto. We must strive to imbibed his policies, unstained integrity and exemplary leadership qualities. Anything short of this is a disservice to the memory of this great leader. We must continue to extend the hands of fellowship to our brothers and sisters in the South. There are many good people in the South as there are many bad people in the North. We require one another for the survival of this great nation. We must not allow our personal and selfish interests to divide us as a people. We require a capable and detribalised person as president and not the representative of a people.

Life is temporary. Let us strive to build and leave good and enduring legacies for the future generations.

Alhaji Abubakar B. Tsav (NPM), former Commissioner of Police (Rtd) wrote in from Badawa New Layout, P.O. Box 1167, Kano.

Justifying Nigeria's rising crime rates

By Maxwell Kyon

As the days go by and the years creep in on each other, many a careful observer will agree with me that our beloved country is becoming more and more a haven for murderers, thieves, cheats and all manner of criminals whose number has increased beyond any geometric proportion known in mathematics.

In the last few years, Nigerians have witnessed an alarming rise in politically-motivated assassinations, bizarre ritual killings, high-tech bank robbery cases and a general drift into such criminal behaviours, which were until recently completely unheard of within the shores of our land.

There was a time in this country when certain criminal actions were rarely, if even heard of, and even for those acts that were experienced once in a while, the space of time between them and the geographical distance between such events were so far apart that it was possible to live through a year without hearing about some of the criminal acts that were committed within our shores at

Today, so much has changed, so much so that within a period of less than three years, Nigeria has seen the assassinations of its chief law officer, chieftains of political parties and wives of political bigwigs, including the recent assassination of the wife of Alhaji Abubakar Rimi, a foremost politician within the leading People's Democratic Party (PDP). Some of such dastardly acts have in recent times been executed in such cruel fashion as to leave many an officious by-stander to wonder if the devil and all of his demons have not been given free residence within the borders of our country.

Yet, when one takes a closer look at the emerging trend, it is clear to even the not-too-vigilant that the state of affairs in our country today is not unusual to expect, particularly when the circumstances around which these decay and rise in crime have grown and assessed even if casually so.

More and more, political power has become so important in Nigeria that it is so easily transferred from one power, so much so that

unscrupulous breed of politicians that have risen from the ashes of the long years of military misrule are willing to do just anything to acquire it.

Human life which at one time was regarded as precious and sacred in our society is being taken very easily today without as much as a casual thought being given to it for as small a position as the chairman of a local government council.

Dissenting opinions which should be the true test of a growing democracy have today become all that is needed for many a Nigerian politician to order for the assassination of a fellow Nigerian.

In those days when I was growing up, cases of armed robbery, particularly those that ended up costing victims their lives, were so few and far apart that they could be termed at the time; forgive me, as very negligible. Today, however, hardly a day goes by without a case of armed robbery being reported in almost every major town and even not so major towns across the country.

When we decide to tell ourselves the truth, we will come to the obvious conclusion that the state of affairs in our country today will rather than get curtailed explode into proportions that are better imagined than experienced until and unless the government initiates

been bezzled into the pockets of a few get-rich-at-all-cost Nigerians; many of whom the rest of us queued up to cast our votes for in elections that turned out to be mainly rigged.

Not a week goes by in today's Nigeria without a case of ritual killing and other such bizarre happenings making their way into our national dailies and electronic media.

A lot of us will prefer to pretend that the happenings in our country today cannot be rationally explained except to say that they are coincidental occurrences. We all know the truth, however, and that truth is that the upsurge in crime in Nigeria has been systematic and progressive and has come about as a natural consequence of the greed of the already criminally-rich few.

When we decide to tell ourselves the truth, we will come to the obvious conclusion that the state of affairs in our country today will rather than get curtailed explode into proportions that are better imagined than experienced until and unless the government initiates

given a chance to allow him make an honest living for himself.

Government continues to create the impression that the poverty situation in Nigeria has yet to get to a level where it should become its major if not sole priority. We know better, however, as it is in my view safe to say that in today's Nigeria, no less than 90% of our population can be said to be merely surviving than living.

I'm not making excuses neither am I an advocate for the growing number of petty thieves and armed robbers that today populate most of our major cities and towns. I, however, know one thing for sure; until and unless jobs are created for the ever growing number of jobless Nigerian youths, the trend will rather than get reversed become worse than it already is.

Our youth will continue to allow themselves to be used as agents of powerful politicians to bring death to the doorsteps of their opponents as long as they are assured of the reward of a few hundred naira notes which unemployed and poverty

will not allow most of them to see but once in a long while.

Until we get to that point where we can evolve a system of governance wherein it is possible to check the level of unwholesome practices now prevalent and openly so in government circles, more and more Nigerians will do anything to acquire political offices at the expense of the generality of the public.

Until we are able to consciously begin to think of making use of government office as a means of impacting and bettering the lives to our teeming population by bringing the basic necessities of housing, food, clothing and education to our people, we will continue to live in fear.

Politically-motivated assassinations will continue to rise in our country until that day when political office ceases to be a tool for use in the hands of those who wield it to steal government funds and get away with whatever evil machinations that the mind of the wielders of such power can conjure, because of the immunity from prosecution which some of these offices enjoy.

God help Nigeria!
Maxwell Kyon is a legal practitioner based in Kaduna.

Trust International

World Report



Donald Rumsfeld said the military was capable and battle hardened

US military 'at breaking point'

The US military has become dangerously overstretched because of the scale of its operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, two reports have warned.

One, by former officials in the Clinton administration, said the pressure of repeated deployments was very corrosive and could have long-term effects.

The second, ordered by the Pentagon and yet to be released, reportedly calls the army "stretched to breaking point".

The US defence secretary dismissed the claims as out of date or misdirected.

About 138,000 US troops remain in Iraq, on top of deployments to Afghanistan and Kosovo.

The study commissioned by Democratic members of Congress listed former Defence Secretary William Perry and former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright among its authors.

It said the US military had performed admirably in recent operations but was under "enormous strain".

The studies warn of future problems in recruitment

and retention

"This strain, if not soon relieved, will have highly corrosive and potentially long-term effects on the force," it stated.

The report predicted problems recruiting new troops and retaining current ones in the face of repeated overseas tours and shortfalls in vital equipment.

It accused the Bush administration of having failed adequately to assess the size of force and equipment needed in post-invasion Iraq, creating "a real risk of 'breaking

the force'."

The report also warned that the lack of a credible strategic reserve "increases the risk that potential adversaries will be tempted to challenge the United States".

The second study, conducted for the Pentagon by military expert Andrew Krepinevich, suggested that the military at its current rate of deployment might not be able to outlast the insurgency in Iraq.

Saddam to sue Bush, Blair

Saddam Hussein's chief lawyer said Thursday that the deposed Iraqi president wants President Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair tried on allegations of committing war crimes.

Khalil al-Dulaimi said Saddam wants to sue both leaders, along with Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, for allegedly authorizing the use of weapons such as depleted uranium artillery shells, white phosphorous, napalm and cluster bombs against Iraqis.

"We will sue Bush, Blair

Bush taking Bin Laden threat seriously

President Bush, defending the government's secret surveillance program, said Wednesday that Americans should take Osama bin Laden seriously when he says he's going to attack again.

"When he says he's going to hurt the American people again, or try to, he means it," Bush told reporters after visiting the top-secret National Security Agency where the surveillance program is based. "I take it seriously, and the people of NSA take it seriously."

It was Bush's first comment about bin Laden since the al-Qaida leader warned in a tape aired last week that his fighters are preparing new attacks in the United States. Bin Laden offered a truce, without specifying the conditions, and the White House responded that the United States would never negotiate with the mastermind of the Sept. 11 attacks.

Bush's NSA visit was part of an aggressive administration effort to defend the surveillance program. Experts

and lawmakers from both parties have questioned whether it's legal for the government to listen to conversations in the United States without a warrant, which the administration could get through the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court.

Four leading Democratic senators wrote Bush Wednesday saying they support efforts to do everything possible within the law to combat terrorism, but that the NSA program is an "apparent violation of federal law."

"If you or officials in your administration believe that

FISA, or any law, does not give you enough authority to combat terrorism, you should propose changes in the law to Congress," wrote Sens. Harry Reid, Edward Kennedy, Richard Durbin and Russ Feingold. "You may not simply disregard the law."

Reporters traveling with the president were only allowed to see a few minutes of Bush's NSA tour, as he walked through the high-tech Threat Operations Center where intelligence experts monitor Internet traffic. He spoke to reporters from a podium set up in a hallway after completing his tour, but did not take questions.

Kosovo masses grieve for Rugova

Large crowds have been gathering in the Kosovo capital Pristina for the funeral of President Ibrahim Rugova, amid a new row with Serbia.

Rugova, a familiar figure on the world stage, died on Saturday from lung cancer at the age of 61.

Weeping onlookers threw flowers at his flag-draped coffin as it was moved in procession from parliament.

Serbia's president has criticised the authorities in Kosovo for refusing him permission to attend the funeral.

President Boris Tadic, whose country once governed Kosovo, said the decision missed a chance to improve relations between the two sides.

"My wish was to pay respect to the man who thought differently from me, who devoted himself to the peaceful realisation of his ideas and who was a representative of Kosovo Albanians, with whom we share a living space," he said in a written statement.

Rugova spearheaded a non-violent campaign by Kosovo's ethnic Albanian majority to end Serbian rule. Despite being eclipsed by Kosovan guerrillas in the late 1990s, he remained a figurehead for ethnic Albanians.

Kosovo's parliament held a special session to pay its respects on Sunday and 15 days of mourning were declared.

Regional leaders, including the Albanian president and prime minister, Alfred Moisiu and Sali Berisha, and the European Union's foreign policy chief, Javier Solana, joined thousands of ethnic Albanians who had been paying tributes at the parliament building since Sunday.

On Thursday, the coffin was carried to a ceremonial hall where the dignitaries are expected to attend a funeral at midday, before his burial in the Tomb of the Martyrs memorial complex in the Velutina district of Pristina, where Rugova had lived.

Rugova has been the defining element of politics in Kosovo for so long that it is hard for us to imagine Kosovo, and Kosovan politics, without him

Soren Jessen-Petersen, head of UN mission administering Kosovo

Talks on the future status of Kosovo were scheduled to begin this week but have been postponed.

Ethnic Albanians, who make up 90% of the population of Kosovo, hope the talks will lead to full independence from Serbia - an outcome opposed by Belgrade.

Kosovo has been a United Nations protectorate since a Nato bombing campaign forced Serb forces to halt operations against ethnic Albanian separatists in 1999.

Serbia insists Kosovo should remain a part of its territory but the ethnic Albanian majority in Kosovo is demanding full independence.

Soren Jessen-Petersen, head of the UN mission administering Kosovo, described Rugova as "the defining element of politics in Kosovo".



President Bush

Auto crash kills seven siblings

A car full of siblings headed home was crushed between a truck and a stopped school bus, killing the seven adopted children just two miles from where they lived.

Everyone in the car was killed Wednesday, including the 15-year-old girl who was driving illegally. Tina Mann told CNN that her niece, who had a learner's permit, had dropped off another child and was taking her siblings home "to get ready to go to church."

The victims in the car were identified by authorities as 15-year-old driver Nicki Mann; Elizabeth Mann, 15; Johnny Mann, 13; Heaven Mann, 3; Ashley Kenn, 13; Miranda Finn, who was either 8 or 9-years-old; and Anthony Lamb, who was almost 2 years old.

The other four were taken to area hospitals. It was believed that they were treated and released, said Lt. Mike Burroughs of the Florida Highway Patrol.

The bus driver, Lillie Mae Perry, was transferred to a Gainesville hospital where she was in stable condition, hospital officials said.

"In a small county you get to know the kids," he said. "A lot of the administrators and myself actually taught the parents of some of these kids. It's a very close knit community."

"We want to know why he didn't see a big, large school bus," Burroughs said.

Burroughs said a sample of Wilkerson's blood-alcohol level has also been collected.

The National Transportation Safety Board will investigate the crash.



Ibrahim Rugova will be buried in the district where he lived

Trust International

Odd World

Hiccups lead to two deaths

A Colombian man accidentally shot his nephew to death while trying to cure his hiccups by pointing a revolver at him to scare him, police in the Caribbean port city of Barranquilla said on Tuesday.

After shooting 21-year-old university student David Galvan in the neck, his uncle, Rafael Vargas, 35, was so distraught he turned the gun on himself and committed suicide, police said.

The incident took place on Sunday night while the two were having drinks with neighbors.

Galvan started to hiccup and Vargas, who works as a security guard, said he would use the home remedy for hiccups of scaring him. He pulled out his gun, pointed it at Galvan and it accidentally went off, witnesses told local television.

"They were drinking but they were aware of what was going on," one witness said.

Police: Man prefers 'church bandit'

Frank Zdanowski Jr. didn't like being known as the "Church Burglar," police said. He preferred the "Church Bandit."

Either way, Zdanowski, 38, of St. Louis, faces charges for allegedly committing more than 15 church burglaries over the past few months. He faces 26 charges, 23 in the city and three in St. Louis County.

Police described Zdanowski as a career burglar with several prior felony convictions. He allegedly told detectives he targeted churches late at night to avoid confrontation.

"He didn't want to run into a pastor on the property," St. Louis County detective Ron Keilholz said.

Another potential reason: Zdanowski told detectives he is a Catholic.

Most of the items taken were cash, electronic gear and other items the suspect could easily trade for crack cocaine, police said.

Investigators said Zdanowski tried to use a credit card taken Jan. 14 from Bayless Baptist Church in south St. Louis County. A surveillance



Michael Jackson, center, wearing a traditional Arabic women's veil and all-covering gown called an abaya, holds the hand of one of his children, also veiled, as they walk toward his car on Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2006, behind a Manama, Bahrain, shopping mall. Jackson is a reclusive resident of the Gulf island country since being cleared of child molestation charges.

Michael Jackson spotted in robe and veil

Pop star Michael Jackson was spotted shopping in a Bahrain mall on Wednesday, hiding his face behind a veil and donning a black robe traditionally worn by women in the Gulf.

He was with three children, apparently his own, who also had their faces covered by dark scarves. An unidentified woman accompanied them.

The pop star, who seems to be settling in the Persian Gulf, was seen leaving Marina Mall in the Bahrain capital, holding a child by the hand. On the way out a back door, he shook hands with security guards.

The woman — also dressed in the black robe called an abaya, jeans and a scarf that partially covered her face — had the two other children. All three children were wrapped in black scarves and wore yellow shirts and sweatpants or khakis without robes.

Since his June acquittal on child molestation charges in California, Jackson has made several trips to Bahrain as a guest of Sheik Abdullah bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the son of Bahrain's king. He reportedly was negotiating a position as a consultant with a Bahrain-based company that plans to set up theme parks and music academies in the Middle East.

On the mall outing, Jackson wore an abaya, pants, a white shirt and men's shoes. His head and face were wrapped in a black veil and he also wore black gloves.

The veil, abaya and gloves were of a style typically worn by conservative Bahraini women.

The woman asked photographers to respect their privacy and told them they were scaring the children before they left in a white car with

ned by Ahmed Abu Bakr Janahi, said it wants to hire the 47-year-old Jackson to give advice on setting up entertainment businesses. He reportedly is building a home in Bahrain, an island nation in the Persian Gulf linked to Saudi Arabia by a bridge.

In November, Jackson stirred controversy in the United Arab Emirates by entering the ladies room in a shopping mall. His publicist

said Jackson, who arrived in Dubai as the guest of a champion rally driver, did not understand the Arabic sign on the door and left the bathroom when he realized his mistake.

But local newspapers reported that the performer was applying makeup in the woman's toilets in a Dubai mall. Jackson's host, Mohammed bin Sulayem, dismissed the story as rumor.

Thailand couple with creepy passion to wed

It was love at first sight for Thailand's Scorpion Queen and Centipede King. The couple with a soft spot for creepy crawlers — and publicity stunts — is planning a Valentine's Day's wedding at a haunted house, and to consummate their vows in a coffin.

Kanchana Ketkaew, 36, who set a world record in 2002 for spending 32 days in a glass cage with 3,400 scorpions, plans to wed 29-year-old Bunthawee Siengwong — who set a Thai record for enduring 28 days with 1,000 centipedes.

Kanchana's world record was beaten in 2004.

The couple met while performing their respective stunts at a snake farm on the resort island of Koh Samui, said Somporn Naksuetrong, the general manager of the Thailand's Ripley's Believe it or Not Museum, which is sponsoring the wedding.

knot Feb. 14 in a group ceremony dubbed "Til Death Do Us Part" at Ripley's Haunted Adventure House, in the southern resort town of Pattaya, 80 kilometers (50 miles) south of Bangkok.

They will wear bloodstained wedding clothes and

Alleged crack dealer uses business cards 32 minutes ago

The business cards got a response, but surely not what their owner had in mind when he had them printed up.

They came to the attention of Leavenworth police, who used them to make a drug arrest last week.

Sylvester J. Williams, 21, of Leavenworth, was charged Monday with possessing crack cocaine with the intent to sell it. Maj. Patrick Kitchens of the Leavenworth Police Department said.

Kitchens said Williams remained in custody Wednesday on \$75,000 bond.

He said police had heard for some time that Williams had been selling drugs in the area. "Then we heard that he was handing out business cards," the officer said. "In the course of our investigation we were fortunate to come up with one, and we gave him a call."

Kitchens said the business card had an image of what appeared to be an alarm clock being hit by a boxing glove and said: "For a quick hit on time call the boss."

"When he answered, we agreed to buy some crack from him, we went up there, and we arrested him," Kitchens said.

The arrest was made Friday.

"It makes our job considerably easier when they advertise and let us know where to get ahold of them," Kitchens said.

Male student wins fight to wear skirt

A male high school student can wear a skirt to school after the American Civil Liberties Union reached an agreement with school officials.

The ACLU announced the deal Tuesday. It will allow a Hasbrouck Heights School senior to wear a skirt to protest the school's no-shorts policy.

The district's dress code bans shorts between Oct. 1 and April 15, but allows skirts, a policy 17-year-old Michael Coviello believes is discriminatory.

"I'm happy to be able to wear skirts again to bring attention to the fact that the ban on shorts doesn't make sense," Coviello said in a statement.

The Hasbrouck Heights superintendent, Joseph C. Luongo, did not return telephone messages left Tuesday seeking comment.

Coviello first wore a costume-style dress but high school officials told him to go home and change. The district's superintendent then advised the Coviello to purchase everyday dresses and skirts at a retail store, which Coviello did, the ACLU said.

But after a few days, he was sent home with a note from his principal saying if he wore a dress, kilt or skirt, he could no longer attend school.



Kanchana Ketkaew, 36, left, holds and is covered with scorpions next to her 29-year-old fiance Bunthawee Siengwong during a news conference announcing their upcoming wedding on Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2006 in Bangkok. Kanchana holds a world record for staying in a plastic cage with 3,400 scorpions for 32 days.

Trust International

International reaction to the Palestinian legislative elections

ACTING ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER EHUD OLMERT

I hope that after elections results are in, and after our election results are in, that I will be able to enter into negotiations with Abbas... on a final status agreement between us and the Palestinians.

ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER TZIPI LIVNI

The elections were meant to give power and strength to dismantle the [militant] organisations and not create a situation where those organisations sit in the parliament and then become part of the executive authority.

ISRAELI LIKUD PARTY LEADER BENJAMIN NETANYAHU

Sooner or later [Hamas] will be in the hills over Tel Aviv airport and terrorism could again be a monumental threat to Israel.

ISRAELI NATIONAL RELIGIOUS PARTY MPEFFIE EITAM

It's beyond any shade of doubt that Ehud Olmert is dividing Jerusalem [by allowing Palestinian residents to vote].

Bear in mind that, [if] there were elections in Washington for al-Qaeda, would any American administration, would any American citizen accept that?

US EMBASSY IN TEL AVIV SPOKESMAN STEWART TUTTLE

As a matter of policy, we don't deal with Hamas. If Hamas members win seats... we are not going to deal with those individuals.

EU EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMISSIONER BENITA-FERRERO WALDNER

I hope that these elections will... bring two leaderships that are ready and able to inject new vigour into this peace process.

BRITISH PRIME MINISTER TONY BLAIR

It's very difficult for us to be in a position of negotiating or talking to Hamas unless there's a very clear renunciation of terrorism.

FORMER US PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER, HEAD OF INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS

The US government is prepared to continue dealing with the Palestinian Authority with Hamas members in the parliament.

If Hamas becomes part of the executive branch that is, if it holds portfolios, then the Americans, the way I understand it, will preclude the United States doing business with the Palestinian Authority. So we do not know what choices will be made by the Palestinians.

HEAD OF EU OBSERVER MISSION VERONIQUE DE KEYSER

The Palestinians have given us a lesson [in] democracy in the sense that to have such elections with pluralism, so many parties here, in [such a] difficult situation, it's a good lesson.

Now I really hope that everything will be quiet, not only today, but at the announcement of the results. And after that we will see but really I hope the Palestinians [get] the peace and democracy they deserve.



Election campaigns have been a new departure for Hamas leaders



Senior Hamas leader

Who are Hamas?

Hamas influence has grown during the intifada

Hamas appears to have translated its widespread popularity among Palestinians into a dramatic win in the Parliamentary elections.

Its new-found political status does not make it any less controversial, however.

Branded a terrorist organisation by Israel, the US and the EU, it is seen by its supporters as a legitimate fighting force defending Palestinians from a brutal military occupation.

It is the largest Palestinian militant Islamist organisation, formed in 1987 at the beginning of the first intifada, or Palestinian uprising against Israel's occupation in the West Bank and Gaza.

The group's short-term aim has been to drive Israeli forces from the occupied territories, through attacks on Israeli troops and settlers in the Palestinian territories and - more controversially - against civilians in Israel.

It insists that the withdrawal of Israeli settlers and troops from Gaza last year was a victory for this policy.

It also has a long-term aim of establishing an Islamic

state on all of historic Palestine - most of which has been contained within Israel's borders since its creation in 1948.

Since the death of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, it has taken part in local elections and won many seats in areas like Gaza, Qalqilya and Nablus.

But its biggest triumph follows this week's parliamentary elections, in which the group appears to have won enough seats to form the next Palestinian government.

The grass-roots organisation - with a political and a military wing - has an unknown number of active members but tens of thousands of supporters and sympathisers.

Up to 40,000 people rallied in Gaza City in December 2002 to mark Hamas' 15th anniversary where they heard the group's spiritual leader, the late Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, predict Israel's destruction by the year 2025.

Huge crowds also took to the streets after his assassination by Israel in 2004 and that his successor Abdel Aziz al-Rantissi later that year.

Hamas is divided into two main spheres of operation: social programmes like build-

ing schools, hospitals and religious institutions militant operations carried out by Hamas' underground Izzedine al-Qassam Brigades.

It also has a branch in exile, formerly in Jordan - where one of its leaders, Khalid Meshaal, was the target of a bungled Israeli assassination attempt in 1997.

Sheikh Yassin was released from an Israeli jail following the attempt on Meshaal

King Hussein tolerated Hamas' presence but his successor, King Abdullah II had the group's headquarters closed down and senior figures expelled to Qatar.

Hamas came to prominence after the first intifada as the main Palestinian opponent of the Oslo accords - the US-sponsored peace process that oversaw the gradual and partial removal of Israel's occupation in return for Palestinian guarantees to protect Israeli security.

Despite numerous Israeli operations against Hamas and clampdowns by Yasser Arafat's Palestinian National Authority, Hamas found it had an effective power of veto over the process by launching suicide attacks.

In February and March

1996, Hamas carried out several suicide bus bombings, killing nearly 60 Israelis, in retaliation for the assassination in December 1995 of Hamas bomb maker Yahya Ayyash.

The bombings were widely credited with turning Israelis off the peace process and bringing about the election of hardline right-winger Benjamin Netanyahu who was a staunch opponent of the Oslo accords.

In the post-Oslo world, most particularly following the failure of US President Bill Clinton's Camp David summit in the summer of 2000 and the second intifada which followed shortly thereafter, Hamas gained power and influence as Israel steadily destroyed the infrastructure of the secularist Palestinian Authority.

In towns and refugee camps besieged by the Israeli army, Hamas organises clinics and schools which serve Palestinians who feel entirely let down by the corrupt and inefficient PNA.

Israel has paid a price for Hamas' dislike of the peace process.

It also summarily executed Palestinian collaborators with Israel and dished out vigilante

punishments for "immoral behaviour".

Many Palestinians cheered the wave of Hamas suicide attacks (and those of fellow militants Islamic Jihad and the secular al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade) which followed.

Many Palestinians saw "martyrdom" operations as the best way to avenge their own losses and counter Israel's unchecked settlement building in the West Bank.

There have been efforts to unite the various Palestinian factions, with Cairo hosting a series of meetings since 2002 to negotiate a suspension of terror attacks.

But Hamas has always shied away from signing up to a permanent ceasefire while Israel occupies Palestinian territory and its troops are responsible for the deaths of Palestinians there.

"The killing of civilians must be punished by the killing of civilians," Mahmoud al-Zahhar, a senior member of Hamas, said.

As well as inflicting by far the most casualties on Israelis - with attacks that are generally better-planned and executed than those of other militant groups - Hamas has lost many members of its leader-

ship in Israeli assassinations and security sweeps.

Its founder Sheikh Yassin was killed in a missile attack on 22 March 2004, after an unsuccessful attempt on his life six months before.

Election campaigns have been a new departure for Hamas leaders

Following the killing of Sheikh Yassin, Mr Rantissi emerged as Hamas leader in Gaza before he too was assassinated on 17 April 2004. Khalid Meshaal, now based in Syria and Lebanon, is the group's overall leader.

Prominent Hamas officials killed by the Israelis include Ismail Abu Shanab, in August 2003, and Izzedine al-Qassam Brigades leader Salah Shehada, in July 2002.

Shehada's successor, Mohammad Deif - whom Israel blames for the 1996 bombings - has escaped several attempts on his life.

But Hamas attacks on Israel have continued thick and fast, with suicide bombings and armed assaults claiming hundreds of lives. Three Hamas supporters were even convicted of an unsuccessful attempt to poison Israeli diners at a Jerusalem restaurant.

Trust International

Palestinian poll in Pictures



The Islamic resistance movement Hamas appears to have crowned its first parliamentary election campaign with a shock defeat over mainstream rivals Fatah.



Supporters of the radical Islamist movement have taken to the streets to celebrate the group's apparent victory.



Hamas supporters keeping track of the results via mobile phones and computers.



Exit polls after the ballot centres closed had suggested a lead for Fatah, but that began to change as votes were counted.



In school classrooms around the West Bank and Gaza, votes were being accumulated by the Hamas list.



Rival supporters gathered outside polling stations, but as the exit polls came out the mood among



Fatah supporters had celebrated the exit polls in the mistaken belief that they had held off the Islamist

JAIZ INTERNATIONAL PLC



This is to inform our esteemed shareholders listed below that their unclaimed share certificates returned from the post office are still with our registrars. They can contact the registrars directly or our office in Abuja for collection. The shareholders with similar complaints are also to contact the under-listed officers.

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UBA Securities Ltd
Raymoud House
No. 97/105, Broad Street
No. 0803-536-0633
Tel:- 01 - 4612376 & 01 - 4612373, Ext. 1061

COMPANY OFFICER

Ibrahim Madawaki
Jaiz International Plc
3rd Floor
Plot 785 Herbert Macaulay Way
Tel:- 09 - 2343078, Fax:- 09 - 2347614
0803 - 359 - 5406

S/ NO	ACCT. NO.	CERT. NO.	NAME	ADDRESS	S/ NO	ACCT. NO.	CERT. NO.	NAME	ADDRESS
1	19648	19648	A. ALIYU, ZAREWA ABUBAKAR	P.M.B. 177, MINNA	75	2233	2233	ADELEKE, MOTUNRAYO	C/O U.B.A SEC 97/105, BROAD, STR LAGOS
2	20897	20974	A.SALISU, ABDULRAHAMAN	C/O UBA SECURITIES LTD, 97/105 BROAD STREET	76	2243	2243	ADEMOLA, RIDWAN	P.M.B 5435/IBADAN, IBADAN
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7	21558	21635	ABDUKAREEM, AMINAT	C/O FBN MERCHANT BANKERS LTD, P.M.B 12715 LAGOS	81	2542	2542	AFOLABI, SULAIMAN	P.O.BOX 4966, LAGOS
8	260		ABDUL MALILA, BASIRATU	C/O UBA SECURITIES LTD, 97/105 BROAD STREET	82	2730	2730	AHMAD S., GWOB ABDULLAHI	C/O UBA SECURITIES LTD, 97/105 BROAD STREET
9	308	308	ABDULLAHI, ABDUL-FATAI	ODO ONA ELEWE,	83	2659	2659	AHMAD, AUWALU	C/O UBA SEC 97/105 BROAD STREET, LAGOS
10	838	838	ABDULLAHI, BASHIR BAWA	PMB 302, ABUJA	84	2710	2710	AHMAD, DANBABA AISHATU	P.O.BOX 622,
11	323	323	ABDULAZEEZ, KEHINDE H	E7 1656A OLUYONU ALADORIN, IBADAN	85	2668	2668	AHMAD, HALIMA	C/O UBA SEC 97/105 BROAD STREET, LAGOS
12	322	322	ABDULAZEEZ, MUKAILA G	C/O UBA SEC, P.O.BOX 6492, LAGOS	86	2753	2753	AHMADU, MOHAMMADU D/IGE	P.M.B 2346 SOKOTO, SOKOTO
13	326	326	ABDULAZEEZ, SIRAJUDEEN	C/O UBA SEC 97/105 BROAD STREET, LAGOS	87	4313	4313	AHMED, AL HASSAN	WORLD HEALTH ORGAN, BAUCHI
14	20732	20809	ABDULAZIZ, UMMA SADE	P.O.BOX 10260,	88	2854	2854	AHMED, ALIYU S,	NO, 22, KATURU,
15	384	384	ABDULHAMID, ISHAKA	C/O UBA SEC, BROAD STREET	89	18575	18575	AHMED, KHADIJAT	75, ILE ASO, IPATA, ILORIN,
16	18524	18524	ABDULKADEER, AISHATU	HOUSE NO A92 BAYAN PADA, BAUCHI	90	2873	2873	AHMED, KOKI SALISU	P.O.BOX 1004,
17	19027	19027	ABDULKADIR, HAFIZU	C/O UBA SEC, 97/105 BROAD STREET	91	22420	22497	AHMED, NAZIRU KUFU	UBA SEC.LTD., 97/105 BROAD STREET
18	19029	19029	ABDULKADIR, RAMLATU	P.O.BOX 3550, BAUCHI	92	19552	19552	AHMED, S. USMAN	P.O.BOX 143,
19	20072	20150	ABDULKARIM, N GRACE	C/O FBN PLC, KANO	93	2928	2928	AILARA, RASHEED TAIWO	C/O UBA SEC LIMITED, 97/105
20	522	522	ABDULLAHI BOLARI, BABAYO	C/O UBA SECURITIES, 97/105 BROAD STREET	94	21597	21674	AISHA, AMINU	C/O UBA SECURITIES LTD., 97/105, BROAD STREET, LAGOS
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22	825	825	ABDULLAHI, BATURE	BD3 ZARIA KAWOKO, KADUNA	96	22127	22204	AJALA, HABIBAT Y	P.O BOX 22420, U.I
23	884	884	ABDULLAHI, HASSAN	C/O UBA SECURITIES LTD, P.O.BOX 6492	97	2970	2970	AJANI SEMIU	C/O UBA SECURITIES LIMITED, 97/105 BROAD STREET
24	21897	21974	ABDULLAHI, HASSAN ABDULLAHI	STANDARD TRUST BANK, MINNA	98	2990	2990	AJAYI, KEHINDE AFUSAT	C/O UBA SECURITIES LIMITED, 97/105 BROAD STREET
25	21895	21972	ABDULLAHI, HASSAN ZUNGERU	ABUBAKAR SADUQ HASSAN, STB PLC	99	3017	3017	AJIMATI, TAJDIN BOLADE	C/O P.O BOX 4039, IBADAN
26	21028	21105	ABDULLAHI, JABIRU	C/O UBA SEC LTD, P.O.BOX 6492, MARINA, LAGOS	100	3018	3018	AJMOTI JIMOH, JIMOH ODEKUNLE	C/O UBA SECURITIES LTD, 97/105 BROAD STREET
27	21856	21933	ABDULLAHI, LATEEFAH	C/O UBA SEC. LTD., 97/105, BROAD STREET, LAGOS	101	3024	3024	AJUMAWA, YUSUF IDRIS	C/O UBA SECURITIES LTD, 97/105 BROAD STREET
28	631	631	ABDULLAHI, MOHAMMED	P.O.BOX 34, BORNO LGA	102	3039	3039	AKANBI, MAJEED OLADELE	C/O UBA SECURITIES LTD, 97/105 BROAD STREET
29	21756	21833	ABDULLAHI, MYDASSIR	C/O SALISU ABBAS P.O.BOX 4852, KANO,	103	3037	3037	AKANBI, MOSHOOD A.	FAJUJI HALL MOSQUE, O.A.U. ILE IFE
30	19975	20053	ABDULLAHI, NASIRU	C/O DEPT OF BUSINESS ADMIN, BAYERO UNIVERSITY	104	19876	19854	AKANDE, MUSTAPHA	C/O UBA SECURITIES LIMITED, P. O. BOX 6492, MARINA
31	21452	21529	ABDULLAHI, SULAIMAN	C/O UBA SEC. LTD., 97/105, BROAD STREET, LAGOS	105	21344	21421	AKANJI, RASHEED	E7/966A OKE/BADAN, AGUGU, IBADAN
32	713	713	ABDULLAHI, SULEIMAN	C/O UBA SECURITIES LTD, 97/105 BROAD STREET	106	3103	3103	AKINBAMI, FATIMOT	C/O UBA SEC 97/105 BROAD STREET, LAGOS
33	18658	303309	ABDULLAHI, UMAR ISMA'ILA	P.O. BOX 6793, JOS,	107	3116	3116	AKINBORO, ABIODUN	I.I.T.A., IBADAN, IBADAN
34	521	521	ABDULLAHI, YAKUBU	C/O UBA SECURITIES, 97/105 BROAD STREET	108	20428	20605	AKINWALE, FAWZAH	UBA SEC.LTD, 97/105 BROAD STREET
35	20402	20479	ABDULLAHI, YARKASUWN SALISU	UBA SEC.LTD., 97/105 BROAD STREET	109	20959	21036	AKINWALE, MUFTAU KARIM	5 MANDELA CLOSE, AUSTRALIA ROAD
36	986	986	ABDULRAHAM, SADIQ SANI	P.O.BOX 1274,	110	3179	3179	AKINWALE, TAOFEEK B	C/O MR. I.A SALAWU, CMS DEPT, THE POLY, IBADAN,
37	1004	1004	ABDULRAHMAN, HAFIZ	C/O UBA SECURITIES,	111	3210	3210	ALAAYA, JAMAL	P.M.B. 5022, DUGBE, IBADAN
38	1073	1073	ABDUSALLAM, HASIYA	CBN QUARTERS, GARKI	112	21686	21763	ALABI, ABDUL FATAI	C/O UBA SEC LTD, 97/105 BROAD ST.
39	1083	1083	ABDULWAHAB, LAWAL	C/O UBA SEC, 97/105, BROAD STR, LAGOS	113	3212	3212	ALABI, HASSAN	2, IGBONA MKT., OSOGBO
40	1079	1079	ABDULWAHAB, RAIHAWAT	C/O UBA SECURITIES, 97/105 BROAD STREET	114	21687	21764	ALABI, SAFURAT A.	C/O, UBASEC
41	8256	8256	ABDURRAHAMAN, ABUBAKAR	I.C.B. PLC, GUSAU	115	3254	3254	ALADE, SEKINAT	P.O. BOX 24656, MAPO, IBADAN
42	1094	1094	ABDURRAHMAN, ABBA	P.O. BOX 135334, KADUNA	116	3258	3258	ALAGBO, LATEEF OLUFEMI	P.O.BOX 36253, IBADAN
43	19874	19952	ABIOLA, ASHIRU	P. O. BOX 2226, IBADAN	117	3276	3276	ALARAN, SHAFII T.	C/O UBA SEC. LTD, 97/105 BROAD STREET
44	1189	1189	ABU, AMINU	P.O.BOX 6972, BENIN CITY	118	3273	3273	ALARAPE, ABD AZEEZ TIAMMY	P.O.BOX 225, IBADAN
45	1187	1187	ABU, MARIAM	C/O UBA SEC. LTD., 97/105 BROAD STR.	119	3290	3290	ALASIRI, SALIFAT	12 ALAKIJA STR., OFF IMALE ALAFIA ROAD
46	1635	1635	ABUBAKAR, ISAH	P.O.BOX 676,	120	3300	3300	ALAYANDE, MUHYDEEN	P.O.BOX 35894, AGODI
47	1638	1638	ABUBAKAR, KUDU MUHD	NAGARI COLLEGE,	121	20515	20982	ALH RAUFU, ADIATU	C/O UBA SECURITIES LIMITED, 97/105 BROAD STREET
48	21768	21845	ABUBAKAR, ABUBAKAR IBRAHIM	UBA SECURITIES LIMITED, 97/105 BROAD STREET	122	22403	22480	ALH.MUHD., BELLO ABDUL HAKEEM	C/O UBA SEC,
49	1569	1569	ABUBAKAR, AHMAD	ADMIN & GS DEPT,	123	19907	19985	ALHAJI, MUHAMMAD ALIAJI	C/O MAL MUHD ALHAJI, AL-NOURY HOSPITAL, NO 1 IYAKA RD
50	1226	1226	ABUBAKAR, ALI WUDIL ALI WUDIL	C/O HABIB NIG BANK, KANO MAIN BRANCH	124	3445	3445	ALI BIU, ABDULLAHI	BIU LOCAL GOVT SECRETARITE, BIU
51	1294	1294	ABUBAKAR, ALIYU ABUBAKAR	P.O. BOX 4000,	125	3444	3444	ALI, ABDUL SAMAD	BIU LOCAL GOVT.SECRETARIATE, BIU
52	13883	13883	ABUBAKAR, AMINA S	C/O ALH. ADAMU N. 3 AKWALI RD, TAWADA, ZARIA	126	3471	3471	ALI, DOGO MUSA	C/O FIRST BANK OF NIG, FUNTUA
53	21841	21918	ABUBAKAR, DABOH	OFF OF THE HEAD OF CIVIL SER OF THE FEDERATION, FED. SECRETARAT PHASE I/ABUJA	127	3417	3417	ALI, SALE INUWA	C/O CHEM. DEPT, B.U.K., P.M.B. 3011
54	3328	3328	ABUBAKAR, DAUDA HARUNA	F.G.C., P.M.B 103 MINNA	128	3400	3400	ALI, SHAMAKI FAIZA	P.O BOX 10684, KADUNA
55	21090	21167	ABUBAKAR, ISAH BAUCHI	P.O. BOX 12827, WUSE, ABUJA	129	3480	3480	ALIMI, ASANAT	P.O. BOX 36129, AGODI-IBADAN
56	1336	1336	ABUBAKAR, MAI TAKALMA MOHD	DITANKARI ROAD,	130	3495	3495	ALIMI, AYUBA ISHOLA	ILE DOBGA SANGO SAKI, OYO
57	20272	20350	ABUBAKAR, MARA ADAMU	1832, RI/ WAIKA, KANO,	131	3481	3481	ALIMI, KHADIJAT	P.O. BOX 36129, AGODI-IBADAN
58	1369	1369	ABUBAKAR, MAWASHI AISHAT	66, SULLUBAWA ROAD, U/SARKI	132	21763	21840	ALIMI, YEKINI TOLA	P.O. BOX 30 ABIGI 122003, OGUN,
59	1401	1401	ABUBAKAR, MODIBBO MUSTAPHA	C/O GIDAUNIYA, P.O.BOX 14427	133	3720	3720	ALIYU, ABUBAKAR IBRAHIM	P.O. BOX 32,
60	20294	20372	ABUBAKAR, MOH BELLO	C/O UBA SECURITIES LTD.	134	3739	3739	ALIYU, ADAM RABIU	C/O UBASEC, P.O. BOX 6492
61	21346	21423	ABUBAKAR, MUNCHIGARI IBRAHIM	ADAMU S. JIRGI GOVT SEC. SCH. K/IDI, BAUCHI	135	3756	3756	ALIYU, FAKI YUSUF	MG 10 MAGAJI SAMBO RD MOTOR, KAURA KADUNA
62	1586	1586	ABUBAKAR, MUSTAPHA ABUBAKAR	P.O. BOX 5043, KANO STATE.	136	21842	21919	ALIYU, IBRAHIM A.	C/O UBA SEC.LTD., 97/105, BROAD STREET, LAGOS
63	1311	1311	ABUBAKAR, TUKUR	C/O UBA SECURITIES LIMITED, 97/105 BROAD	137	3722	3722	ALIYU, IBRAHIM ARAF	N.R.C, ZARIA
64	1511	1511	ABUBAKAR, ZAINAB	TRIPLTD JALINGO,	138	3558	3558	ALIYU, KABIRU	146 HERBERT MACAULAY, EBUTE-METTA
65	20740	20817	ADAMU AHMED, HASKE	C/O UBA SEC, P.O. BOX 6492,	139	21603	21690	ALIYU, LARAI	C/O UBA SECURITIES LTD., 97/105, BROAD STREET, LAGOS
66	1890	1890	ADAMU, ALIYU	C/O UBA SECURITIES LTD, 97/105 BROAD STREET	140	3630	3630	ALIYU, MAGAJI	C/O UBA SEC. LTD, 97/105 BROAD ST. LAGOS,
67	18170	18170	ADAMU, HARUNA	C/O ALH. BELLO M.C.O. AJALINGO, TARABA	141	3637	3637	ALIYU, MOHAMMAD	PMB 2019, KADUNA
68	1985	1985	ADAMU, SABO BANAKO	C/O UBA SEC. LTD, P.O. BOX 6492	142	3744	3744	ALIYU, MUSA SALIHU	C/O, UBASEC
69	2083	2083	ADEDEJI, RAHEEM ALABI	C/O UBA SEC. LTD, P.O. BOX 6492, MARINA	143	3774	3774	ALKALI, HALIMA	P.O. BOX 2452, SURULERE
70	18421	303303	ADEDIRAN, ABDUR-RAHIM	C/O UBA SEC., P.O. BOX 6492, MARINA	144	19989	20067	ALKALI, ALI	C/O UBA SEC, 97/105 BROAD STREET
71	2108	2108	ADEDIRAN, ABDUR-RAZQA	C/O UBA SECURITIES LTD, P.O. BOX 6492	145	3785	3785	AL-KASSIM, ZAKARIYYA KAMAL	P.O. BOX 12946, WUSE
72	2167	2167	ADEJUMOBI, MUSTAPHA	C/O UBA SEC. LTD, 97/105 BROAD STR	146	19592	19592	ALLI, SHAKIR IDOWU	BOX 30785, SECRETARIAT, IBADAN
73	2210	2210	ADELANA, TAOFIQ	C/O P.O BOX 12946, WUSE	147	3808	3808	ALSHITTA AROWUJEKA & SONS	ALMSHITTA AROWUJEKA & SONS, OKE-SUNNAHSAKI IBADAN
74	2215	2215	ADELEKE, FATIMO	C/O U.B.A SEC. 79/105, BROAD STR, V/ISLAND	148	21001	21078	AMEEN, SHEREEFAH	203, NISBET HSE, HOMERTON HIGH ST., LONDON, E9, 55A,

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149	20718	AMINU, GARBA DANEJI	P.O. BOX 126, DUTSIN MA	220	530	BIOBAKU, BASHIRU	FINANCIAL OFFICE, 48K
150	3976	AMIRU, TASFU RIMIN GADO	P.O. BOX 3145, KANO	221	530	BIRNIN-TUDU, SHEHU YUSUF	ADAMU NGI COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, ARGUNGU
151	4005	AMOO, MODANUOLA ADESOJA	U.I. BOX 14354, IBADAN	222	530	BISIRIU, NASIRDEEN	BLOCK 328, FLAT 2, JAKANDE ESTATE
152	4015	AMTAI, INUWALI	P.O. BOX 1305 GOMBE	223	5431	BUGAJE, HAUWA ARSU	P.O. BOX 1228, KANO
153	4015	AMUSAT, MUMNIA	BIO. DEPT. OYO STATE COLLEGE OF EDUC.	224	5431	BUSARI AYINLA, MOYIN	7 GIDDONASO, DMC, MARINA
154	4043	ANGO, DIMA BALA	P.O. BOX 126, DUTSIN MA	225	5431	BUSARI AYINLA, MOYIN	THE NIMLAMI FUNTUA
155	4043	ANGO, SAIDU ABDULRAHMAN	A.T. 3, KONTAGORA, NIGER	226	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	C/O FIRST BANK NIG PLC, SAKI BRANCH
156	4319	ANWUALU, GARBA GARBA ANWUALU	KANO STATE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, KANO	227	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	FINANCIAL OFFICE, 48K
157	4319	ARAROMI, MOSQUE	2, OKE-ODO ARIN STREET, ILUPEJU	228	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	C/O FIRST BANK OF NIG PLC, AMINIGUN, IBADAN
158	4113	AREMU, OTUN'S MOSQUE	C/O A.H. SHITTU FOLARANMI, OTUN CENTRE, OTUN SAKI	229	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	P.M.B. 307, KANO
159	4113	ARIREMAKO, YAHAB	C/O TRANS INTERNATIONAL BANK PLC, AGODI BRANCH	230	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	C/O UBA SECURITIES LTD, P.O. 8492, MARINA
160	4136	ARMYIAU, MADA KHUMRAN	NO. 1 JABO RD, TUDUN WADA, P.M.B. 2390	231	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	WRA 319A, PHA. PHASE 3, KUBWA
161	4149	AROUNDGEBE, ADEBAYO SAHEED	10F OMOJU LANE, OJO	232	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	P.M.B. 442 GARKI
162	4199	ASHIRU, SHAKIRULLAH	P.O. BOX 5933	233	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	P.O. BOX 1745 BAUCHI
163	4220	ASHIRU, SHAKIRULLAH	P.O. BOX 2941	234	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	PLOT 24 CLINICAL LAYOUT, CPP C.B.N. QUARTERS KARU ABUJA
164	4243	ATITEBI, KAFILAT OMOTAYO	P.O. BOX 8948 KADUNA	235	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	NO 106118, BAUCHI ROAD
165	4256	ATTAH, MOHAMMED GARBA	P.O. BOX 10 HADEJIA, JIGAWA	236	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	NGUWAN HAUSA WAZANGO BWARI, AREA COUNCIL
166	4266	AUDI, ARMAYAU	U.I. BANK KADUNA	237	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	NO 22 UWA AVE, UEG/O, ABUJA
167	4303	AUWAL, ABUBAKAR EL WAZEER	AN. VARUL ISLAM U/SANUSI KADUNA	238	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	P.O. BOX 307, KANO
168	4305	AUWAL, HASSAN MAMMAN	J.J. 2 V.I.S. AMPER BOX 4, KANKE	239	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	T.S.D. MIN. OF COMMUNICATION ABUJA
169	4312	AUWALU, DAUDA MOHAMMED	YAKANSI 799B	240	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	P.O. BOX 13614 KANO
170	20762	AUWALU, IBRAHIM MUSA	C/O UBA SEC. P.O. BOX 6492, MARINA	241	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	C/O UBA SEC. 97/105 BROAD STREET
171	4341	AWOSANMI, IBRAHIM	C/O UBA SECURITIES LTD. 2. MACARHY STREET ONIKAN	242	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	C/O UBA SEC. P.O. BOX 6492
172	4353	AWWAL, YAHAYA	C/O FIRST BANK NIG. PLC, KANO MAIN 10 LAGOS STREET	243	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	C/O UBA SECURITIES LTD. MIN. OF HEALTH
173	19955	AYINDE, MUBEEN	C/O UBA SECURITIES LTD. P.O. BOX 6492, MARINA	244	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	(D.E.S) F.C.D.A. P.M.B. 307
174	4385	AYINLA, BADERA	C/O FIRST BANK OF NIG. PLC, IJEBU ODE BRANCH	245	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	P.O. BOX 001, HADEJIA
175	4387	AYOADE, JIMOH ADEBAYO	P.O. BOX 4292, IKEJA	246	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	24, SAWYER STREET
176	4386	AYOADE, MULIKAT OLUBUKOLA	P.O. BOX 4292, ABULE EGBA	247	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	P.O. BOX 55, KUTIGI
177	4401	AYUBA, AMIRU	T.D. N. MALAMAI FUNTUA	248	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	P.O. BOX 19766, IBADAN
178	4436	AZEEZ, OLUWATOYIN	SF 44 OKE-ODO, IBADAN	249	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	8 BIODUN BODUNDE ROAD, BASORUN, IBADAN
179	4437	AZEEZ, WASIU	SF 44 OKE-ODO, IBADAN	250	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	BOX 7459, KADUNA
180	4429	AZEEZ, WASIU	C/O WEMA BANK PLC, AGODI BRANCH	251	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	P.O. BOX 53
181	21726	BABA, 2ND ADAM	C/O FIRST BANK PLC, ZOO ROAD	252	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	P.M.B. 2118, IJEBU-ODE
182	4462	BABA, ABDULBADI ALHASAN	IS 3 DEPT., P.M.B. 3045, FCE, KANO	253	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	40 IDORUWO STR., LAGOS ISLAND
183	4484	BABA, ADAMU MAIMUNA	M.P.S GROUP, KM 15, ZARIA ROAD	254	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	C/O UBA SEC LTD, 97/105 BROAD STR, LAGOS
184	4480	BABA, UMAR	C/O FINMAL FINANCE CO. LTD. P.O. BOX 12946 WUSE	255	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	C/O UBA SECURITIES LTD, 97/105 BROAD ST
185	4466	BABA, YUSUF SULE	P.M.B. 2180, KADUNA	256	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	C/O UBA SEC, 97/105 BROAD STREET,
186	4533	BABALOLA, AZEZAT MODUPE	C/O PREMIUM SECURITIES LIMITED, 27/29 KING GEORGE V RD ONIKAN	257	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	C/O UBA SEC, BROAD STREET LAGOS
187	4532	BABALOLA, WASILAT ABIOLA	C/O PREMIUM SECURITIES LTD, 27/29 KING GEORGE V RD ONIKAN	258	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	186B MOSHOOD OLUGBANI, V.I
188	16999	BABANDO, KAMALU ALIYU	C/O TRIP LTD., P.M.B. 1071, JALINGO	259	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	B 84, FLAT 4 LSDPC, IPAJA
189	4572	BABURA, BELLO MAHMOUD	C/O UBALTD 97/105 BROAD	260	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	COMMISSION ROAD, KANO
190	4576	BADA, BELLO	USMAN DANFODIO UNIVERSITY, SOKOTO	261	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	UBA SECURITIES LIMITED, 97/105 BROAD STREET
191	4621	BADMUS, AASHAT OYINLOLA	SW8/1000, IMALE FALAFIA, OKE-ADO, IBADAN	262	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	19/21 APATIRA STR, LAGOS ISLAND
192	4622	BADMUS, ABDULHAKEEM	SW8/1000 IMALEFALAFIA IBADAN OYO,	263	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	P.O. BOX 5282, TOTO RD., ABEOKUTA
193	4659	BAKARE, IBRAHIM ADEBAYO	P.M.B. 5317,	264	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	C/O UBA SEC, P.O. BOX 6492, MARINA
194	20064	BAKRE, ISMAIL ADEPOJU	C 280 AYETORO MARKET, LAGOS	265	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	PHYSICS DEPT., B.U.K., P.M.B. 3011, KANO
195	4744	BALA, AFAKA HALADU	MINISTRY FOR LOCAL GOVT., KADUNA	266	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	C/O UBA SEC. LTD., 97/105 BROAD STREET, LAGOS
196	4752	BALA, SHEHU SHEHU	A.A.C.O.E., ARGUNGU	267	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	C/O TRANS INT'L BANK PLC, AGODI
197	4778	BALARABE, GARBA YAKUBU	C/O FIRST BANK OF NIGERIA, SAMARU ZARIA	268	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	P.O. BOX 219, SAKI, OYO
198	4773	BALARABE, MAIMUNA	P.O. BOX 13175, KANO	269	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	UBA ADO BAYERO, KANO
199	20306	BALKISU, MIJINYAWA	C/O UBA SECURITIES LTD,	270	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	C/O UBA SEC LTD, P.O. BOX 6492, MARINA
200	21643	BALOGUN, AMINU R. NIHINLOLA	16, JOHNSON STREET, CEMENT-IKEJA, LAGOS STATE	271	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	NLNG PMB 12774, LAGOS
201	4824	BALOGUN, BABATUNDE	C/O PREMIUM SECURITIES LTD., 27/29 KING GEORGE V RD ONIKAN	272	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	BLOCK 23 FLAT 3 PHASE II, ADENIJI ADELE ESTATE
202	4806	BALOGUN, ISMAIL AYINLA BABATUNDE	8 MOREMI ROAD, NEW BODIJA, IBADAN	273	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	P.O. BOX 344, IKEJA
203	4825	BALOGUN, MAYOWA	C/O PREMIUM SECURITIES LTD., 27/29 KING GEORGE V RD ONIKAN	274	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	BOX 3275, MAPO-IBADAN
204	4817	BALOGUN, SAKIRAT A.	C/O ARILESE RE J.I., BURSARY DEPT, U.I.	275	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	N.T.D.C, 1, ZARIA ROAD
205	4826	BALOGUN, SIKIRULAI	P.O. BOX 3691, LAGOS	276	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	C/O UBA SEC, P.O. BOX 6492, MARINA
206	4860	BAMIGBADE, B. ADEDIJI	C/O UNION BANK, IKIRUN BRANCH	277	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	DSS HQ, ADD EKITI
207	4862	BANAU, KAMBA SANI	C/O FIRST BANK OF NIG PLC, BIRNIN KEBBI	278	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	P.O. BOX 3070, MAPO-IBADAN
208	4875	BANKOLE, SAHEED	P.O. BOX 1933, U.I.	279	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	P.O. BOX 660, MARINA
209	3340	BAPPA, DIJA	AHUN BEHIND, P.M.B. 0018,	280	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	P.O. BOX 3070, MAPO
210	20584	BASHIR, AMINU	P.M.B. ZONE 1, KANO	281	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	C/O UBA SEC, 97/105 BROAD STREET,
211	4945	BASHIR, ASMAU	P.O. BOX 2623, KANO	282	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	P.O. BOX 1074, KANO CITY
212	5037	BAWA, ABDULRAHMAN AMINU	B.V. PLC PMB 2116, SOKOTO	283	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	C/O UBA SEC 97/105 BROAD STREET LAGOS
213	5024	BAWA, HARUNA USMAN	ASKARI LEA KASTINA STATE	284	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	C/O MODU BUKAR MIN OF WORKS & HOUSING DAMATURU
214	5035	BAWA, JUMMAI	C/O MAIMUNA YUNUS ARMY DAY, SOKOTO	285	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	P.O. BOX 7070 WUSE, ABUJA
215	5253	BELLO, ABDULAH KIRFI	C/O Y.B. KIRFI, INLAND BANK NIG PLC	286	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	C/O UBA SEC LTD, 97/105 BROAD STREET, LAGOS
216	5112	BELLO, ABUBAKAR	KARMANJE INT. KANO	287	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	C/O FINMAL FINANCE CO LTD, P.O. BOX 12946 WUSE
217	5238	BELLO, ABUBAKAR HAUWALU	P.O. BOX 675, KADUNA	288	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	EMIR'S PALACE, P.O. BOX 1
218	5139	BELLO, GARBA KANKAROFI	P.O. BOX 96, KANO	289	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	C/O ALHAJI DANIDI, P.O. BOX 353, KANO
219	5163	BELLO, IBRAHIM SAIDU	P.M.B. 2052, KATSINA	290	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	C/O HABIB NIG BANK LTD, BAUCHI BRANCH
220	5097	BELLO, JUBRIL ONNOTU	P.M.B. 0248, ATBU	291	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	C/O FINMAL FINANCE COMPANY, P.M.B. 12946 WUSE
221	21141	BELLO, KAOSARATA	C/O FBN MERCHANT BANKERS, P.M.B. 12715 LAGOS	292	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	C/O MUSA AMINU PRISONS,
222	5095	BELLO, MAIRO MOHAMMED	C/S, ATBU	293	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	C/O INLAND BANK NIG PLC, 40, ALI AKILU MASKA ROAD
223	5299	BELLO, MHD JAMIU	72 ABRAHIM TAIWO ROAD, KANO	294	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	C/O UBA SECURITIES, 97/105 BROAD STREET,
224	5198	BELLO, MUNIRAT OZOHU	C/O UBA SECURITIES, 97/105 BROAD STREET	295	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	C/O UBA SECURITIES, 97/105 BROAD STREET,
225	5067	BELLO, NASRUDEEN A.	10, SABA COURT, LAGOS ISLAND	296	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	C/O P.O. BOX 427,
226	5267	BELLO, RILIWANU K.	EBESE IVBIARO, VIA AUCHI	297	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	C/O FINMAL FINANCE LTD, 785, HERBERT MACAULAY WAY C.B.I.
227	19841	BELLO, SA'AD	NITEL INTERNET, ABUJA	298	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	C/O TRANS INT'L BANK LTD
228	5206	BELLO, SABIT FOLARANMI	C/O FBN (MERCHANT) BANKERS, 9/11 MACARTHY STREET	299	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	C/O FIRST BANK NIG, MAIDUGURI MAIN BRANCH
229	5158	BELLO, SALEH	C/O UBA SEC LTD 97/105 BROAD STR., LAGOS	300	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	C/O UBA SEC 97/105 BROAD STR, LAGOS,
230	5177	BELLO, SARATU I	P.O. BOX 200,	301	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	C/O UBA SECURITIES, 97/105 BROAD STREET,
231	5279	BELLO, USMAN	C/O FINMAL FINANCE CO. LTD, P.O. BOX 12946 WUSE	302	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	COMONUMENT SECURITIES AND FIN LTD, P.O. BOX 127980 MP
232	5279	BELLO, USMAN	C/O MAHIMU, P.O. BOX 3961	303	5431	BUSARI ISIAKA	C/O TRANS INT'L BANK LTD, WUSE, ABUJA BRANCH

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317	7319	7319	HASSAN, KEHINDE	C/O TRANS INT'L. BANK PLC AGODI	401	18219	18219	JIBRIL, LAWAN	BOX 410., BUKURU.
318	7353	7353	HASSAN, KURFEJI MUHAMMAD	HABIB NIG BANK LTD, KANO BRANCH	402	8811	8811	JIBRIL, USMAN	P.O. BOX 14733, KANO,
319	7330	7330	HASSAN, LAMINU	CORSTANWONCIBABUADIGUNANBRANCH	403	8904	8904	JIMOH, A. LATEEF	P.O. BOX 53,
320	7237	7237	HASSAN, MAHMUD	C/O FBN MERCHANT BANKERS, 10 LAGOS STREET KANO	404	8883	8883	JIMOH, ISMAIL ADEBAYO	C/O FIRST BANK OF NIG. PLC., MOLETE
321	7276	7276	HASSAN, MAIKALAGE SHUAIBU	C/O FINMAL FINANCE LTD. BOX 12946 WUSE	405	8879	8879	JINANI, AHMAD RUFAI	C/O FBN MERCHANT BANKERS, 10, LAGOS STREET
322	7314	7314	HASSAN, MANSAR MIKAILU	C/O FBN MERCHANT BANKERS, 10, LAGOS STREET KANO	406	8955	8955	JUNAD, KAMOL ABIODUN	6AYOOLA COKER ST, GAR
323	7269	7269	HASSAN, SAMIHA	C/O UBA SECURITIES, 97/105 BROAD STR,	407	8957	8957	JUNAID, TAJUDIN RUFAI	C/O AFRIBANK PLC, OJUELEGBA BRANCH
324	7240	7240	HASSAN, WAJIAH	C/O UBA SECURITIES, 97/105 BROAD STREET,	408	21629	21706	JUNAID, KUBURAT A.	C/O UBA SECURITIES LTD., 97/105, BROAD STREET LAGOS
325	7389	7389	HUSSAIN, ABDULLAHI	P.O. BOX 1452,	409	19732	19782	JUNAIDU, ISMAIL	NERDC P.M.B. 91 GARKI,
326	7406	7406	HUSSAINI, MUHAMMAD	C/O NAL BANK PLC, 20 MARINA	410	8972	8972	KABARA, ALI YUSUF	C/O HABIB NIG BANK LTD, KANO MAIN BRANCH
327	7442	7442	HUSSEINI, BARIYA	C/O FINMAL FINANCE LTD, P.O. BOX 12946 WUSE	411	9037	9037	KABIRU, INUWA	B/KASUWA SULEJA/BB MARKET, LAGOS LINE STORE
328	7445	7445	HUSSEINI, MOH'D ZAINAB	C/O NUB INT'L BANK LTD, VICTORIAL ISLAND	412	21760	21837	KADIRI, YASAU ABIDEKUN	P.O. BOX 22, ABIGI,
329	7458	7458	IBHAGUI, EIMIEENWANLAN	C/O UNION BANK OF NIG PLC, SURULERE	413	9132	9132	KARIMU, MALUM LASSA	P.O. BOX 50, LASSA, BORNU
330	7461	7461	IBIKUNLE, WAIDI A WAIDI	BOX 24028, MAPO HILL	414	22130	22207	KASSIM, OMOLARA BILQIS	C/O FBN MERCHANT BANK LTD, P.M.B 12715
331	7863	7863	IBRAHIM, DANJUMA	C/O FIRST BANK OF NIG PLC, JALINGO BRANCH	415	18437	18437	KONTAGORA, MUHLAWAL	C/O UBA SEC. LTD., 97/105 BROAD STR,
332	7663	7663	IBRAHIM, ABDULBASID	C/O TIDDO SECURITIES LTD, P.O. BOX 3185	416	19904	19982	KWAIKANGA, UMARU	P.O. BOX 12942, WUSE
333	22497	22574	IBRAHIM, ABDULKADIR IYA'U	C/O UBA SECURITIES LTD, 97/105 BROAD STREET	417	17984	17984	LAGUNJU, ABULFATTAH	CHILDREN'S HOME SCHOOL, CHALLENGE, IBADAN
334	7611	7611	IBRAHIM, ABDULLAH A	C/O FINMAL FINANCE LTD, P.O. BOX 12946 WUSE +D2213	418	19737	19787	LAMBA, ABUBAKAR	FED. POLY., PMB 1006,
335	7967	7967	IBRAHIM, ABDULLAHI ALIYU	C/O BANK OF THE NORTH LTD, JALINGO BRANCH	419	21539	21616	LAWAL, KAFILAT ADEBUSAYO	UNION BANK OF NIG PLC, IKIRUN
336	7775	7775	IBRAHIM, ABDULLAHI IBRAHIM	C/O FBN MERCHANT BANKERS LTD, 10, LAGOS STREET	420	21067	21144	LAWAL, A. MOSHOOD	C/O UBA SEC., P.O. BOX 6492, MARINA
337	7632	7632	IBRAHIM, ABDULWAHAB	P.O. BOX 103 DUTSE-ABUJA,	421	9584	9584	LAWAL, AFUSAT	C/O UBA SEC 97/105 BROAD STR, LAGOS,
338	7693	7693	IBRAHIM, ABUBAKAR	C/O UBA SEC. LIMITED, 97/105 BROAD STREET, LAGOS	422	9565	9565	LAWAL, MIFTAU A	C/O UBA SEC 97/105 BROAD STR LAGOS,
339	8032	8032	IBRAHIM, AHMED	C/O FINMAL FINANCE LTD, P.O. BOX 12946, WUSE	423	21804	21881	LAWAL, MOSHOOD	UBA SECURITIES LIMITED, 97/105 BROAD STREET
340	20361	20438	IBRAHIM, ALHAJI DAYYABU	C/O, UBASEC	424	9583	9583	LAWAL, MUHAMMAD	18, AKANJI ODUTOLU LAGOS,
341	7666	7666	IBRAHIM, AMINU	C/O FINMAL FINANCE LTD, P.O. BOX 12946 WUSE	425	21148	21225	LAWAL, RAMON BOLAJI	11 IKPOH STREET S/LAGOS, LAGOS
342	3344	3344	IBRAHIM, AUDU ABDU	C/O P. O. BOX 1240., MAIDUGURI	426	18263	18263	LAWAL, RASAQ	PZ INDUSTRIES., PCC ADMIN,
343	7664	7664	IBRAHIM, AWWAL MOHAMMED	C/O TIDDO SECURITIES LTD, P.O. BOX 3185	427	9668	9668	LAWAL, ZAKARIA A. ALIYU	C/O B.O.N., D/MA
344	7997	7997	IBRAHIM, BAFFA	C/O FIRST BANK OF NIG PLC., KANO MAIN, SANI ABACHA WAYI	428	22434	22511	LAWAN, SADIQ	NO 453 SANI MAINAGGE.
345	20735	20812	IBRAHIM, BALA	C/O UBA SEC, P.O. BOX 6492.,	429	21708	21785	LIMAN, BABA	C/O, UBASEC
346	7532	7532	IBRAHIM, BUHARI MARYAM	C/O INLAND BANK NIG PLC. 40 ALI AKILU/ MASKA RD	430	21050	21127	LIMAN, YAKUBU	C/O UBA SECURITIES, 97/105 BROAD STREET
347	7985	7985	IBRAHIM, DANLADI ISAARIKYA	FED. MIN. OF AGRIC AND RURAL DEV., P.M B 135 AREA II GARKI,	431	9785	9785	LUBA, SHEHU	C/O UBA SEC LAGOS,
348	8023	8023	IBRAHIM, DAUDA	BOX 902, FUNTUA	432	9802	9802	LU'UMAN, IBRAHIM	P.M.B 202, KATSIA
349	7726	7726	IBRAHIM, DUTSINMA MANNIR	C/O FINMAL FINANCE LTD, 10, IJORA CAUSEWAY, IJORA	433	19872	19950	MAGAJI, RILWANU K	P. O. BOX 371, FUNTUA
350	7924	7924	IBRAHIM, FATIMAH	C/O AHMED SHUAIBU - GARA, P.O. BOX 444.	434	20680	20757	MAHAMMAD, ZAKARIYYA	NO 46 TAFAWA BALEWA ROAD,
351	7500	7500	IBRAHIM, GARBA HUSSAINI	C/O HABIB NIGERIA BANK LTD, KANO MAIN BRANCH	435	9925	9925	MAHE, IYAL MALUMFASHI	P.M.B. 2401, KADUNA
352	7975	7975	IBRAHIM, IMAM ABDULKADIR	P. O. BOX 1775, SOKOTO	436	20387	20464	MAI-MALA, MUHAMMAD	ABER DEPT. FMF,
353	7653	7653	IBRAHIM, ISAFASIMATU	C/O FINMAL FINANCE, BANK OF THE NORTH BLDG	437	10060	10060	MAINA, MOHAMMED M.	C/O UBA SEC, P.O. BOX 6492, MARINA
354	7774	7774	IBRAHIM, ISMAILA	C/O FBN MERCHANT BANKERS, 10 LAGOS STREET KANO	438	10137	10137	MAJALIS GLOBAL VENTURES LTD,	WA 241 ZOO ROAD, HOUSING EST. PHASE III, KANO
355	7764	7764	IBRAHIM, J. MILI	C/O FBN MERCHANT BANKERS, 10 LAGOS STREET KANO	439	10169	10169	MALAM, ADELAKUN MUSLIM	KANNAKANNA COMPOUND, IYAJI QRTS, P.O. BOX 3460
356	7976	7976	IBRAHIM, LAWAL	BANK OF THE NORTH, JALINGO	440	19747	19797	MALKUDI, KARAH	THE NIGERIAN POLICE FORCE, FORCE C.I.D., FORCE HQS
357	4887	4887	IBRAHIM, MAIAHU AHMAD	UDU, SOKOTO, PM B. 2346	441	21930	22007	MALLAM, BUKHRI T OYEWALE	C/O P.O. BOX 6492, UBA SEC LTD
358	8044	8044	IBRAHIM, MANU GADAM	C/O FINMAL FINANCE, P.O. BOX 12946 WUSE	442	15828	15828	MALLAM, SULEIMAN MUH'D. ZARIA	C4-KANAW, ROAD-UNGWAN KANAWA, KADUNA
359	21479	21556	IBRAHIM, MUHAMMAD KWAMBAI	PO BOX 1111, KANO	443	10209	10209	MAMMAN, ABDU	KTARDAZONE, FUNTUA
360	7665	7665	IBRAHIM, MUYIDEEN	P.O. BOX 316 JOS,	444	10298	10298	MARUF-LAWAL, UMMULKHAYR	FCDA AREA ABUJA FCT,
361	7608	7608	IBRAHIM, SALAMATU	NO 276 KAURA,	445	20889	20966	MASUDEL JIBRIL, BALARABE	C/O UBA SECURITIES LTD, 97/105 BROAD STREET
362	7839	7839	IBRAHIM, SIKIRULAHI	P.O. BOX 2460, GARKI	446	5530	5530	MESRS COMXEL, NIGERIA LIMITED	1B, KASUR RD, U/SARKI
363	7888	7888	IBRAHIM, TIJJANI	C/O FATIMA TIJJANI., FBN PLC, P.M.B 3077 FAGGE	447	18292	18292	MIFTAUDEEN, ABEEBLLAHI	122 LAGOS STREET, EBUTE METTA, OYINGBO
364	7667	7667	IBRAHIM, UMAR	ABU ZARIA, ZARIA	448	20768	20845	MOH, GHALI LAWAL	C/O UBA SEC. P.O. BOX 6492, MARINA
365	7684	7684	IBRAHIM, UMAR	C/O FINMAL FINANCE LTD, P.O. BOX 12946 WUSE	449	21846	21923	MOHAMMAD, SALISU MUSTAPHA	C/O UBA SEC LTD., 97/105, BROAD STREET, LAGOS
366	20838	20915	IBRAHIM, YAHAYA	P.M.B 3284, KANO	450	10516	10516	MOHAMMED, ABDULLAH	C/O UBA SEC, 97/105 BROAD STREET
367	7776	7776	IBRAHIM, YUSUF BULAI	C/O FBN MERCHANT BANKERS LTD 10 LAGOS STREET	451	18322	18322	MOHAMMED, DANASABE	C/O UBA SEC, 97/105 BROAD STREET
368	8065	8065	IDOWU, NAFIU IYOLA	P. O. BOX 1467, ILESA	452	10557	10557	MOHAMMED, GIDE ABDULWAHAB	C/O UBA SEC, 97/105 BROAD STREET
369	8185	8185	IDRIS, ABDULAZIZ	C/O FBN PLC, KANO FAGGE TAKUDU BRANCH	453	10655	10655	MOHAMMED, HALIMA	C/O UBA SEC. LTD 97/105 BROAD STR., LAGOS
370	8076	8076	IDRIS, AMEEN	C/O UNION BANK OF NIG PLC, BANK ROAD BRANCH	454	20832	20909	MOHAMMED, MARYAM	C/O ILIYASU MAMUD., PAN LTD KADUNA
371	8126	8126	IDRIS, AMIRA ZAINAB	P.O. BOX 8447, KADUNA	455	20771	20848	MOHAMMED, MUSA	P.O. BOX 23, BAKORI,
372	8192	8192	IDRIS, BELE BUHARI	C/O FIRST BANK OF NIG, FUNTUA	456	10581	10581	MOHAMMED, NALADO	C/O UBA SEC., 97/105 BROAD STREET
373	8094	8094	IDRIS, FADILAH	C/O FBN MERCHANT BANKERS LTD, PLOT 777 CENTRAL AREA COMASSHE HOUSE	457	20683	20760	MOHAMMED, SAGIRU	MTNN KANO BRANK,
374	8092	8092	IDRIS, NANA AISHA	C/O FBN MERCHANT BANKERS LTD, PLOT 777 CENTRAL AREA COMASSHE HOUSE	458	19289	19289	MOHD, DANDAGO HUSSAINI	P. O. BOX 2623, KANO
375	8074	8074	IDRIS, SANI (DAN ALJANNA)	C/O HABIB NIG BANK LTD, KANO MAIN BRANCH	459	10869	10869	MOHD, SANI HUSSAINI	C/O FINMAL FINANCE, P.O. BOX 12946
376	8197	8197	IFEBAJO, BOLANLE O	C/O WEMA BANK PLC, SAGAMU	460	10867	10867	MOHD, SHEHU GWANDU	C/O FIRST BANK PLC, BENIN KEBBI BRANCH
377	8221	8221	IKRAMAH, AISHA	PMB 2272., KADUNA	461	10882	10882	MOHD, UMAR ALI	C/O UBA SECURITIES LTD, P.O. BOX 6492
378	19906	19984	ILA, AHMED NAZIFI	P. O. BOX 409, KANO	462	15663	15663	MOMODU, AMANI	P.O. BOX 51204, IKOYI
379	8270	8270	ILYAS, BABA ABUBAKAR	P.O. BOX 880, ZARIA	463	10904	10904	MORAKINYO, F OLUBUNMI	NO 32 MIKE OJOSHERI OSUN,
380	8274	8274	ILYAS, MOUSA KUDAN	C/O INTERCITY BANK PLC, KAD BRANCH, 1 INTERCITY BANK ROAD, OFF AHMADU BELLOWAY	464	19796	19846	MUAZU, HARUNA	NNPC, PIHARCOURT, P. O. BOX 585 PIHARCOURT
381	22380	22457	IMAM, JUNAIDU SALISU	C/O UBA SEC.	465	11003	11003	MUFUTAU, MUHAMMAD A	P.O. BOX 278, EPE
382	8276	8276	IMAM, LUBNAH	C/O UNION BANK NIG. PLC, BANK ROAD	466	11285	11285	MUHAMMAD IBRAHIM, BIRMA	P.O.B 12946 WUSE, F.C.T
383	8288	8288	IMAM, NUHU UMAR	P.O. BOX 10609, KANO	467	22492	22569	MUHAMMAD, ABDUSHESHE	C/O UBA SECURITIES LTD, 97/105 BROAD STREET
384	8339	8339	INUWA, ISALIYA	C/O FINMAL FINANCE, P.O. BOX 12946 WUSE	468	11057	11057	MUHAMMAD, ABUBAKAR	9A KOSOKO STREET, LAGOS ISLAND
385	21511	21588	INUWA, TIJJANI ADAMU	C/O UBA SECURITIES LTD, P. O. BOX 6492, MARINA	469	11259	11259	MUHAMMAD, AHMAD	C/O UBA SEC LTD, BROAD ST
386	21536	21613	ISA, YUNUS Z	C/O UBA SECURITIES LTD, P. O. BOX 6492, MARINA	470	20933	21010	MUHAMMAD, ATTAHIR	C/O UBA SECURITIES LTD, 97/105 BROAD STREET
387	21747	21824	ISA, MIKAILA	P.O. BOX 3273, BAGAUDA LAKE, KANO.	471	11118	11118	MUHAMMAD, BABA	P.O. BOX 875, GOMBE
388	8495	8495	ISAH, BASHIR SHARIF	9111 MACATHY, LAGOS	472	11282	11282	MUHAMMAD, ILYASU	C 622 L/MAHMOOD ST. BAKARO QTS, BAUCHI
389	8481	8481	ISAH, IBRAHIM LAU	C/O FINMAL FINANCE LTD, 10, CAUSE WAY, IJORA	473	19456	19456	MUHAMMAD, INUWA SALIHU	P.O. BOX 4889, PIHARCOURT,
390	8478	8478	ISAH, YUSUF	C/O UBA SEC, 97/105 BROAD STREET	474	11345	11345	MUHAMMAD, ISA ALI	P.O. BOX 4956
391	8517	8517	ISAHK, ISA	C/O HABIB NIGERIA BANK LTD, WARRI	475	11038	11038	MUHAMMAD, ISAAATIKA	P.O. BOX 4956,
392	8532	8532	ISHAKA, BUBA HAFSATU	FINANCE DEPT PASS LG.	476	11343	11343	MUHAMMAD, ISAHAMZA	P.O. BOX 4956,
393	8543	8543	ISHAQ, RIMI ADAM	C/O LION BANK OF NIG PLC, LAFIA	477	11040	11040	MUHAMMAD, ISAH SHAMSUDDIEN	P.O. BOX 4956,
394	8552	8552	ISHOLA, AOLATU	C/O TRANS INTL BANK PLC, AGODI BRANCH	478	11344	11344	MUHAMMAD, ISAH UMAIL	P.O. BOX 4956,
395	8581	8581	ISIYAKU, HUSSAINI	P.O. BOX 22,	479	11225	11225	MUHAMMAD, KABIR JIMADA	C/O UBA SEC LTD, BROAD ST,
396	19730	19780	ISLAMIC EDUCATION, TRUST MINNA	ILMI AVENUE, P.M B. 229	480	11338	11338	MUHAMMAD, KASIM	A.A.C.O.E.,
397	21489	21566	ISMAIL, MAKAMA AHMAD	P.O. BOX 13614, KANO	481	11233	11233	MUHAMMAD, KHALEED ALHAJI	C/O MAL MUHAMMAD ALHAJI, AL-NOURY HOSP, NO 1
398	8709	8709	JAAFARU, SUWAIBA	C/O INTERCITY BANK PLC, KAD. BRANCH, 1 INTRECIY BANK RD	482	11431	11431	MUHAMMAD, MAI BURUJI	C/O UBA SEC, 97/105 BROAD STREET
399	8713	8713	JAGI, IA AHMED	P.O. BOX 85, MOKWAT	483	11122	11122	MUHAMMAD, MUH'D ABDULLAHI	NNASSUKA HANWA, ZARIA KADUNA STATE
400	8781	8781	JARMAI, LAWAL	NO 3 TAFOKI RD., FUNTUA	484	11088	11088	MUHAMMAD, MUSA NAMU	NAMU DISTRICT QUAAAN-PAN L.G.A PLATEAU STATE

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485	11413	11413	MUHD., MAIBASUKUR MAYANCHI	SABON GARIN, DAMBA	569	14409	14409	SALIHU, S. ISHAQ	UBA SECURITY, 97/105 BROAD STREET
486	11556	11556	MUHAMMED, BALA	C/O UBA SEC 97/105 BROAD ST. LAGOS.	570	18384	18384	SALIHU, SA'ADIYA IMAM	P.O. BOX 176, FUNTUA
487	11517	11517	MUHAMMED, BUKAR BANA	C/O UBA SEC. 97/105 BROAD STREET	571	20322	20400	SALISU ABDULLAHI, AMINU	P.O. BOX 4956, KANO
488	20869	20946	MUHAMMED, FAROUK	C/O HABIB BANK JALINGO, JALINGO	572	20759	20836	SALISU, IBRAHIM	C/O UBA SEC., P.O. BOX 6492, MARINA.
489	11572	11572	MUHD, BELLO ABBAS	P.O. B 12946, WUSE	573	14577	14577	SALLAU, HASSAN	C/O UBA SEC. 97/105 BROAD STREET
490	11579	11579	MUHD, MUWASHIDI YAKUBU	C/O UBA SEC 97/105 BROAD STR. LAGO.	574	20567	20644	SAMAILA, MOHAMMED ARI II	MORULI DISTRICT OFFICE,
491	13373	303292	MUKHTAR, ZAHRAH	C/O ABBA RUFA BOX 10109, G/POST OFFICE KANO	575	21781	21858	SAMAILA, UMAR	B. B. A. 9,
492	11648	11648	MULIMA, ARDO YAHAYA	CUSTOMS, MAIDUGURI	576	14615	14615	SAMBO, SHEHU BOLAJI	C/O UBA SEC. 97/105 BROAD STREET
493	19625	19625	MUSA, JAMILU	P.M.B. 3261, KANO	577	14654	14654	SAMUEL, BABATUNDE	P.O. BOX 5319, GARKI ABUJA FCT
494	20494	20571	MUSA, JEMILA	PAO-QIN, SPDC, LAGOS	578	14871	14871	SANI, SHEHU	P. O. BOX 11398, KANO
495	19795	19845	MUSITAFU, ABADUNRIRO TIAMIYU O.	P. O. BOX 166 SAKI TOWN, OYO	579	15001	15001	SANUSI, ATINUKE SUBAIDAT	C/O UBA SECURITIES LTD, 97/105 BROAD STREET
496	12041	12041	MUSITAFU, WAIDI	P. O. BOX 391, OTUN SAKI	580	14971	14971	SANUSI, FAUSAT	25 OGUNBANWO STREET, KETU
497	12049	12049	MUSLIM COPERS, ASSO. OF NIG.	GOMBE BRANCH [MCAN SECT.], P.O. BOX 1376, BOLARI	581	22139	22216	SANUSI, KAFAYAT	P.O. BOX 67715, AGODI
498	12043	12043	MUSLIM, SAHEED ADEWALE	25 OLABIRAN STREET, LAGOS	582	15010	15010	SANUSI, LAMIDO	UBA PLC, 57 MARINA STREET
499	12074	12074	MUSITAFU, A. YUSUF	C/O UBA SEC., P.O. BOX 6492,	583	14945	14945	SANUSI, MUIBAT ABIMBOLA	C/O UBA SECURITIES LTD, BOX 6492
500	12175	12175	MUSTAPHA, A. KUSFA	C/O ANG ZARIA NO 13 ZARIA, KADUNA STATE	584	15002	15002	SANUSI, SADIQ ANWO	4 SOUNAJAGUNGBADE AVENUE, BODIJA, IBADAN
501	21828	21905	MUSTAPHA, ADAMU	C/O UBA SECURITIES LTD., 97/105. BROAD STREET, LAGOS	585	19785	19835	SAULAWA, LAWAL YUSUFU	P. O. BOX 250 KADUNA,
502	21868	21945	MUSTAPHA, BABA AMINA	C/O UBA SEC. LTD., 97/105, BROAD STREET, LAGOS	586	15091	15091	SHA'ABA, HASANA	39 SEBIOTIMO STREET, MANGORO
503	12136	12136	MUSTAPHA, ISA ALAO	C/O UBA SEC BROAD ST. MARINA LAGOS STATE	587	15109	15109	SHAKUR, AHMAD RUFAL	D.P.R., P.M.B. 399
504	12205	12205	NA ABBA, MOHAMMEDU	SARARI QTRS KANO, KANO	588	15224	15224	SHEHU, ALIYU	U.D.U.S., P.M.B. 2346, SOKOTO
505	12243	12243	NAFIU IMRAN, ADESINA	P.O. BOX 2405, KANO	589	15194	15194	SHEHU, KUTA	EQUITY BANK OF NIGERIA, 109/113, BROAD STREET, LAGOS
506	12256	12256	NA'IBI WALI, SAFIYA	PMB 3193, KANO	590	15242	15242	SHEHU, MOHAMMED MURTALA	GANJUWALOCAL GOVT. AUTHORITY
507	12258	12258	NAJI, GARBA	C/O UBA SEC LTD, 97/105 BROAD STREET	591	20786	20863	SHEHU, MUHD. SIRAJUDEEN	P.M.B 2021, POLY KAD.
508	12355	12355	NDAMAN, AMINA-LARAI	C/O UBA SECURITIES LTD, P.O. BOX 6492	592	15285	15285	SHIN-ABA, FAWAZ ADEDISUN	P.O. BOX 525,
509	18356	18356	NIYOI, MUDI	C/O UBA SEC, 97/105 BROAD STREET	593	15294	15294	SHITTA, BEY QUREEB	NO 31 BRANO STREET,
510	12389	12389	NOJEEMDEEN, ABD. FATAI A.	C/O UBA SECURITIES LTD, P.O. BOX 6492	594	22251	22328	SHITU, BASHIR	C/O UBA SEC., 97/105 BROAD STREET,
511	12457	12457	OBAKUNLE, SAFURAINI	NO2 ADIJAT STR EET.	595	15439	15439	SHUAIBU, MUHAMMAD. A	GARKI POLICE BARRACKS ABUJA, ABUJA
512	21612	21689	OBIDA, IBRAHIM	C/O UBA SECURITIES LTD., 97/105, BROAD STREET, LAGOS	596	15400	15400	SHUAIBU, SA'ADATU	P.O. BOX 3094 BAUCHI, BAUCHI
513	12554	12554	ODUYE, OLADIPO ABIB	C/O UBA SEC 97/105 BROAD ST, LAGOS	597	22123	22200	SHUAIBU, UMAR H	C/O UBA SEC. LTD 97/105 BROAD ST,
514	12566	12566	OGUN, MUIAT OLUBUKUNOLA	C/O UBA SECURITIES, 97/105 BROAD STREET LAGOS	598	15471	15471	SHUIBU, MUDI	P.O. BOX 846, MAIDUGURI
515	12576	12576	OGUNBOWALE, OLUWASEGUN	C/O UBA SECURITIES, BROAD STREET	599	15523	15523	SOLANKE, SAMULE TEMITOPE	UBA OGBOMOSO, OYO, OYO
516	12607	12607	OGUNLAJA, NOSIRU	1 ABEBI CLOSE, OFF OLATUNJI STR.	600	15553	15553	SOYEMI, HAMEED	P.O. BOX 2626 SOMOLU, SOMOLU LAGOS
517	21048	21125	OGUNRINU, KUDIRAT	C/OUBA SEC LTD, P.O. BOX 6492., MARINA, LAGOS	601	15645	15645	SULAIMAN, WALI NA'IBI	P.M.B. 3193,
518	12658	12658	OJENIYI, CLEMENT OLUGBENGA	P.O. BOX 81, NEPA	602	22147	22224	SULEIMAN, IDRIS UMAR	P.O. BOX 649,
519	12681	12681	OKE, BASHIR	C/O UBA SEC., 97/105 BROAD STREET	603	15815	15815	SULEIMAN, JUMMAI FATI	P.M.B. 2392, KADUNA
520	12711	12711	OKETAOLEGUN, SULAIMON O.	P.O. BOX 6322, AGODI-IBADAN	604	15739	15739	SULEIMAN, RISIKAT	C/O UBA SECURITIES LTD, 97/105 BROAD STREET
521	12762	12762	OKWARA, BARNABAS NNAJI	C/O, UBASEC	605	15811	15811	SULEIMAN, RUQAYYA	C/O MUKHTAR MOHD CITY EXPRESS BANK, MAITAMA,
522	12804	12804	OLADEJO, YUNUS DELE	SW8/1950C 13 SUBUBDE STREET, LIBERTY ROAD	606	15887	15887	SURU, HUSSANI UMAR	C/O UMAR SURU, SURU, KEBBI STATE,
523	21589	21666	OLADUNNI, BADMOS	P.O. BOX 716, OTA	607	15934	15934	TAHIRU, JIDDA	18, YAKUBUN FACHA ROAD, BAUCHI,
524	19245	19245	OLAJIDE, RASAQ	P. O. BOX 23957, MAPO, IBADAN	608	19797	19847	TANKO, KOFA BELLO	P. M. B. 2340 KADUNA,
525	12908	12908	OLALERE, KOYUM	C/O UBA SECURITIES LTD, P. O. BOX 6492, MARINA	609	16035	16035	THE PEN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL,	PW MOSQUE KUBAT, P.O. BOX 8494
526	22414	22491	OLANREWAJU, GANIYU TAWO	UBA SEC. LTD., 97/105 BROAD STREET	610	20017	20095	TIAMIYU, ABDU-LATEEF	G.P.O. BOX 38459, MR SUMONU G. IBADAN
527	20833	20910	OLAYINKA, MOHAMMED KAZEEM	P.M.B 2058 IBARA, ABEOKUTA	611	18523	18523	TIJANI, RAZAQ OKANLAWON	21 RAMOTU STR., MAKOKO
528	13172	13172	OMEIZA, MOHD-JIMOH	P.O. BOX 4146,	612	16118	16118	TIJANI, HUDA WARU	P.O. BOX 84,
529	19244	19244	ONAH, OSAYI EDESHI	P. O. BOX 223, KEFFI	613	22496	22573	TIJANI, SULE	C/O UBA SECURITIES LTD, 97/105 BROAD STREET
530	13230	13230	ONI, ABDULWAHAB B.	11, OLAWAYE STREET, AGO TAYLOR, ODO-ONA	614	16167	16167	TIJANI, ZUBARU	P.O. BOX 1238, ABUJA CUTY
531	13233	13233	ONIFADE, HASSANAH	P.O. BOX 1770, IKORODU	615	16223	16223	TUKUR, HADIZA B.	C/O UBA SECURITIES LTD, P.O. BOX 6492
532	13242	13242	ONIKOYI, HAKEEM O.	10, OLADIPO SOYEBO CLOSE, OMOLE ESTATE	616	16258	16258	TURAKI, USMAN ALIYU	C/O UBA SEC., 97/105 BROAD STREET
533	13251	13251	ONU, RAYMOND U.	U.N.T.H. ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT,	617	16321	16321	UMAR, ABDULLAHI	C/O UBA SEC., 97/105 BROAD STREET
534	13324	13324	OSHOALA, YAHYA OLOLUNOSHEBI	P.O. BOX 64 IKORODU LAGOS,	618	22527	22604	UMAR, ABUBAKAR	133C, BADUAWA QRTS, KANO
535	13361	13361	OTHMAN, FATIMA TALATU	P.O. BOX 1224, KANO	619	16485	16485	UMAR, ALIYU	P.O. BOX 292
536	13538	13538	POPOOLA, AHMED B.	BOX 73691, VICTORIA ISLAND	620	16465	16465	UMAR, AMIN ABUBAKAR	FED. POLY. NASARAWA
537	6852	6852	RAHEEM, OLA	P.O. BOX 166, SAKI,	621	16548	16548	UMAR, B M D B	P.O. BOX 9167, KADUNA
538	13687	13687	RAHEEM, AKEEM AYINDE	CIVIL ENGR. DEPT., LAUTECH, OGBOMOSHO	622	16443	16443	UMAR, BABA KABIR	C/O SARKIN HAUSA PALACE, NYANYA
539	20069	20147	RAJI, A O	P.O. BOX 7083, SEC	623	22584	22661	UMAR, BELLO MOHD Y.	C/O UBA SEC. LIMITED, 97/105 BROAD STREET, LAGOS.
540	13760	13760	RAJI, ABDULWAHEED BAYO	P.O. BOX 20215, U.I, IBADAN	624	16584	16584	UMAR, BUN KHATTAB ISLAMIC CENTRE	NIKALURU CLOSE IN PAWAHIB INDEMBERSERVESTATION
541	13738	13738	RAJI, MOJEED A.	35 KEKEREOWO STREET, ILASAMAJA	625	18407	18407	UMAR, DAN'AGAJI SHAAIBU	C/O UBA SEC., P.O. BOX 6492, MARINA.
542	13785	13785	RAJI-LAWAL, RAMAT	C/O UBA SEC., P.O. BOX 6492.	626	16333	16333	UMAR, FUTUK MOHD SANI	C/O UBA SEC., 97/105 BROAD STREET
543	15882	15882	S., SURAJO NAFISATU	P.O. BOX 5804 MARINA LAGOS,	627	16371	16371	UMAR, KABIR BEN	P.O. BOX 11928, KANO
544	19723	19773	SAA INVESTMENT, LTD	P.O. BOX 2845,	628	16577	16577	UMAR, M. D. B.	BOX 9167, KADUNA
545	13898	13898	SAAD, SALISU DANBATTU	P.O. BOX 10711, KANO	629	16330	16330	UMAR, MOH. GONI	C/O MANAGING DIR. YOBE INVES., COMPANG LTD P.M.B. 1042
546	13910	13910	SAADU, ABUBAKAR AMINU	ISANYAWA NEW STATION, KANO	630	16315	16315	UMAR, MUHD SANI	P.O. BOX 2070, SOKOTO
547	13981	13981	SADA, UMMULKHAIR Y.	C/O YM SADA, FBN PLC, NIGER HOUSE UNIT,	631	20982	21059	UMAR, RAKIYA BASHARI	DEPT. OF EDUCATION SUPP., FEDERAL MIN. OF EDUCATION
548	14014	14014	SADISU, FATIMA ZAHRA	C/O UBA SECURITIES, BROAD STREET	632	16334	16334	UMAR, SUMAILA UBA	BOX 11, SAHCOL
549	14015	14015	SADISU, MAIMUNA	C/O UBA SECURITIES, BROAD STREET	633	16942	16942	USMAN, ABBA G	HOUSE 24 NEPA CLOSE, JIMETA
550	14017	14017	SADISU, MARYAM	C/O UBA SECURITIES, BROAD STREET	634	16876	16876	USMAN, ABDULLAH RABIAT	P.O. BOX 12946,
551	14016	14016	SADISU, MUHAMMAD	C/O UBA SECURITIES, BROAD STREET	635	22571	22748	USMAN, ABDURAHMAN	F.B.N.M.C. FINANCE, B/KEBBI
552	14087	14087	SA'ID, MUSTAPHA	P.O. BOX 4412,	636	16876	16876	USMAN, BABA GANA	P.O. BOX 846,
553	14136	14136	SA'IDU, GANI BALARABE	P.O. BOX 446,	637	16936	16936	USMAN, BUBA ASMAU LADI	C/O UBA PLC KANO
554	14168	14168	SAIDU, HADEJIA UMAR	C/O ESTABLISHMENT JIGAWA STATE,	638	19944	20022	USMAN, SHUAIB	P.O. BOX 88, ODEDA
555	14166	14166	SAIDU, KAJURU IDRIS	PMB 2083 KADUNA,	639	16955	16955	UTHMAN, KHALIFA BAKAREBE	P.O. BOX 458, MAIDUGURI
556	14156	14156	SAIDU, SULE AHMED	DEPT OF RADIOLOGY UDUTH SOKOTO STATE,	640	16960	16960	UWAI, MARYAM	PMB 5049, ABUJA
557	14206	14206	SALAAM, OYETUNJI MUZZ	18 BISHOP HUGLE AVE IFAKO-IJAYE LAGOS,	641	17291	19870	WALI-OMAR, NAFISAH	P.O. BOX 2155, NACRDB LTD
558	14221	14221	SALAKO, H A	TRADE AND EXCHANGE DEPT. C.B.N.	642	17024	17024	WARU, MAIGARI	P.O. BOX 2833, KANO
559	19987	20065	SALAU, IBRAHIM	BOX 10127, IBADAN	643	19909	19987	YAHAYA, BADRIYYA	P. O. BOX 11781, KANO
560	19984	20062	SALAU, MUNIR	BOX 10127, IBADAN	644	19768	19818	YAKUBU, ERENA	P. O. BOX 3185 ABUJA.
561	19985	20063	SALAU, MUSUMOT	BOX 10127, IBADAN	645	19429	19429	YAKUBU, ERENA	UMANDU BELLE, JIGAWA, ONGUWAN KANO
562	14276	14276	SALAU, RASAQ	BOX 19741, UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN	646	17380	17380	YAMUSA, MUSLAMA	D/O UBA PLC, PMB 2083 OGBOMOSHO
563	19983	20061	SALAU, SAIDAT	BOX 10127, IBADAN	647	16942	16942	YUNUS, MUTA	P.O. BOX 520, KANO, KANO.
564	14231	14231	SALE, FATIMA	C/O UBA SECURITIES, BROAD STREET	648	20948	20948	YUSUF, ABUBAKAR	C/O UBA SEC., 97/105 BROAD STREET,
565	14235	14235	SALISU, ABDULLAH	P.O. BOX 4412,	649	20948	20948	YUSUF, ABUBAKAR	C/O UBA SEC., 97/105 BROAD STREET,
566	14374	14374	SALISU, ABDULLAH	P.O. BOX 4412,	650	20948	20948	YUSUF, ABUBAKAR	C/O UBA SEC., 97/105 BROAD STREET,

Business Trust

'Good insurance companies "II market their shares'

From Abdulwahab Isa, Business Correspondent, Lagos

Insurance operators have expressed confidence in the ability of viable companies in the sector to have their shares fully subscribed in the current recapitalization exercise.

Canvassing this view while speaking with *Business Trust* in Lagos, Rasheed Bolarinwa the head, brand management of Cornerstone Insurance Company said good branding will be used by investors as yardstick.

According to him insurance firms that have good brand need not harbour any fear. Tasked to comment on the seeming public apathy towards insurance stocks, he said: "it may not be true. Now that Nigerians are appreciating the reform efforts, people buy shares for different reasons.

"If someone has money and wants to buy shares, no trick on him will dissuade him on the premise that insurance stocks are not always attractive."

"Now that mandatory percentage of local content is granted, if you invest in company that has brand, it will be a wise investment. The insurance stock will appreciate because after the reform, all players will play big."

They will underwrite special risks with higher returns. In post consolidation, insurance will play big", Rasheed said.

Cornerstone insurance Plc, he said will acquire some insurance firms but cautioned that the company will conduct proper due diligence on such firms to ascertain areas of synergy.

According to him the firm was under public pressure to roll out its shares for subscription noting "that people are eager to buy our shares. Institutional investors are waiting form. When you are a good brand, non-release of detailed palliative guide line will never be a hindrance. During the consolidation exercise of the banking sector, before CBN released detailed guideline, the likes of UBA/STB had already completed their irrigation.

The insurance sector should not be an exception," he further said.

He advised insurance firms to forge ahead with merger and acquisition talks while awaiting detailed palliative guidelines from the National Insurance Commission (NAICOM).

ICPC returns N75m to national treasury

ICPC says it has return N75 million as unspent 2005 budgetary allocation to the national treasury. Chairman of the commission, Justice Emmanuel Ayola disclosed this while defending the commission's budgetary allocation for 2006 before the House of Representatives committee on anti-corruption in Abuja.

Ayola said that the money was earlier earmarked and released to the commission for the payment of salaries of 170 staff the commission recruited in 2005.

"Knowing that we were going to recruit 170 staff, we made provision for their salaries in 2005 budget. But because of our disagreement with the Federal Character Commission, the recruitment could not be done in January as planned but in October 2005," he explained.

The money, he said, was saved as it was released by instalment before it was returned to the treasury. On the 2006 budgetary allocation, Ayola said that the N1 billion allocated to ICPC was inadequate compared with the mandate

of the commission. Out of the N1 billion, the sum of N370 million was earmarked for personnel cost, N414 million for overhead cost and N215 million as capital expenditure.

In her remarks, the deputy chairman of the committee, Ms Binta Koji, charged the

commission to prioritise their budgetary demand in line with the approved ceiling by the budget office.

Koji queried the N2.5 million allocated for the installation of DSTV cable satellite in the commission's zonal offices, saying the money should have been earmarked for more important projects.



ICAN President, Otunba Abdulateef Owoyemi (middle), being decorated by Mrs Ibronke Osiyemi and Basirun J. K. Randle at the investiture as ICAN's 41st president in Lagos.

BPE urges estate valuers to improve

Director General of the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE), Irene Chigbue has urged estate surveyors and valuers to deepen their knowledge base.

Delivering a paper at the 12th J. W. Ekpenyong Memorial Lecture in Abuja, Chigbue said that they "must deepen their knowledge if they want to remain relevant in the privatisation process of the economy."

In the paper entitled "Liberalisation, Concessioning and Privatisation in a Contemporary Nigerian Economy: The role of Estate Surveyors," Chigbue also asked them to improve on their technical and managerial skills. "Because as valuers

and estate surveyors, you are the first to be contacted in the process of sales of government properties and structures.. So you must be able to have innovation and new skills on estate valuation and management to improve efficiency," she said.

Represented by a director in the bureau, Mr Charles Ibe, Chigbue said that the BPE was committed to working with them in the honest, timely and transparent implementation of the on-going public enterprise reform programme.

Also speaking, the chairman of the House of Representatives committee on Housing and Urban Development, Mr Osita Izunaso, challenged estate surveyors to re-define their role.

According to him this was necessary for them to compliment government's privatisation programme. He further challenged them to be committed and transparent in advising government and investors, who are the key players in the economic reforms.

"You must do something about your colleagues who cut corners and connive with some government officials to

inflate prices of properties thereby making government lose millions of naira," he said. He said it was no longer business as usual and professionals must rise up to the occasion of nation building or be shown the way out.

President of the Nigeria Institute of Estate Surveyors and Valuers (NIESV) Chief Charles Adebisi, said that this year's lecture was

organised to honour the institute's first President, J.W. Ekpenyong. Ekpenyong was also the first Nigerian estate surveyor.

This year's honorary awards were conferred on former Vice President Alex Ekwueme, former Lagos State governor, Alhaji Lateef Jakande and the chairman board of directors of the FMBN, Prof. Akin Mabogunje.

Customs target N197bn in 2006

By Anas A. Galadima, Business Reporter

The Nigerian Customs Service (NCS) has set a target to generate a total of N197billion in 2006. Comptroller General of the service, Jacob Gyang Buba has said.

Speaking during a press luncheon to mark this year's International Customs Day in Abuja yesterday, the Customs boss who was represented at the occasion by Assistant Comptroller General (ACG) Baritor Kpagih said the figure represents a shortfall from what was generated last year by the Service.

He said the adoption of the Common External Tariff (CET) regime by all ECOWAS countries had brought down the rates of customs duties, stressing that this would

unavoidably lead to a drop in Customs revenue in 2006.

The implementation of CET began in West African countries in the second quarter of 2005 as a way of unifying tariffs so as to discourage smuggling activities within the sub-region.

The CG explained that the service was working hard to ensure that smuggling activities are minimised in the nations borders, pointing out that a lot of seizures of contraband goods have been made in recent times.

Business Trust gathered that three trucks loaded with prohibited goods were seized in Abuja recently, while the service is still investigating

NUBIFIE tasks banks on unionism

unfettered employees' right to belong to the Union," he said.

He said the appeal had become necessary because the ongoing reforms in the nation's banking sector had impacted negatively on its membership strength.

Ahobi expressed the hope that the situation would improve if workers in the 25 banks were allowed to join the union.

"We believe that the right of employees to freely exercise their fundamental rights of freedom of association as enshrined in the 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria is sacrosanct," he added.

He explained that NUBIFIE had at the beginning of the banking consolidation exercise envisaged that some of its members would be affected and expressed happiness that the Union was able to assist those affected.

"True to our time-honoured tradition of collective bargaining and regard for negotiated labour agreement, the Union had no difficulties in negotiating the benefits of workers in the unionised banks," he added. Ahobi also asked managements of insurance companies to always carry the Union and workers along in their re-capitalisation plans.

Insurance companies in the country have up till December to recapitalise to the tune of N20 billion.

"The just concluded consolidation exercise in the banks has actually exposed to all stakeholders in the finance industry, the unexpected aftermath of re-capitalisation and its consequences on job security," he said.

the matter.

The CG observed that the Destination Inspection regime which took effect from January 1, 2006 would lead to a "reduction in time used in the clearing of goods which hitherto had to wait for the arrival of CRIs"



Irene Chigbue, DG BPE



Jacob B. Gyang, CG

Business Trust

Analysis



Irene Chigbue, BPE boss



Atiku Abubakar, NCP Chairman



Cornelius Adebayo, Communications Minister

Is NITEL sale finally on course?

The second attempt by the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) to sell Nigerian Telecommunications Limited (NITEL) has generated huge public debates. As it is to be expected, some Nigerians are blaming the National Council on Privatisation (NCP) and its implementation agency, the BPE, for the failure of this renewed bid to privatize the company. But the BPE Director General, Mrs. Irene Chigbue, at a press briefing she addressed on Monday, has dismissed such insinuations. According to her, "the BPE followed laid down procedures in undertaking the NITEL transaction. As such, the process was open, transparent and competitive".

It would be recall that following advertisement and receipt of 22 Expressions of Interest (EOIs) from prospective core investors, the Bureau issued pre-qualification procedures letter and preliminary information on NITEL to enable them formally apply for pre-qualification. Ten prospective investors applied accordingly.

The pre-qualification applications were then evaluated. The Secretariat and its privatisation advisors BNP Paribas developed a quantitative benchmarking system that used financial, corporate and telecom-related criteria to identify suitable firms for pre-qualification.

The advisers and the secretariat were said to have

By Anas A. Galadima,
Business Reporter

of the applications to the pre-qualification criteria. Subsequently, six firms were short-listed for the bidding stage. They include: MTN Group Ltd; Newtel International Ltd; Telkom SA Ltd; Orascom Telecom Holding; Celtel international BV; and Jazuc Group/Huawei Technologies.

The six firms were granted access to data room for due diligence, site visits of NITEL facilities and management presentations. The physical due diligence lasted six weeks while virtual data room was open from August 2005 until the submission of bids.

After the due diligence exercise, the prospective investors were given six weeks to prepare and submit technical and financial bids. By the deadline for the submission of technical and financial bids, only Orascom and Newtel submitted bids. Based on their technical competence, financial capability and business plan, the two firms were qualified for the financial bids opening.

The four other firms that withdrew, did so for various reasons. The MTN group withdrew because the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) gave an indication that it would not grant another licence to an already existing operator in the industry unless the said operator was ready to forfeit its former licence. The MTN considering its market share in the industry, felt it could not afford to relinquish its

The Vodakom/Telkom consortium was also alleged to have withdrawn partly because Vodakom was bidding for a majority stake in V-mobile. As a result of NCC's policy of "no double licences" for any operator, Vodakom/Telkom withdrew its bid. The controversy over the SAT 3 cable, whether it was to be sold or not to be sold along with NITEL was also reported to have contributed to its withdrawal.

Following the withdrawal of these two companies, four companies were left namely, Orascom, Newtel, Celtel International BV and Huawei/Jazuc technologies.

But at the expiration of deadline for the submission of financial and technical bids on December 16, 2005 only Orascom and Newtel submitted bids. This meant that Huawei/Jazuc and Celtel automatically pulled out of the race. There were reports in the dailies that the two groups allegedly pulled out due to the controversy over the SAT 3 Cable.

The SAT 3 cable generated a lot of controversy during the last three months before the

financial bids of NITEL were open. The BPE advocated for the sale of NITEL together with the cable while the ministry of communications wanted the cable not to be sold along with NITEL. In the end, after presenting a logical argument to the federal government, President Olusegun Obasanjo was said to have agreed with the BPE that the cable be sold along with NITEL so that the privatization exercise would be complete.

But with the withdrawal of the bids by the four companies, there was no way the BPE could force them to return into the race. A staff of the BPE who pleaded anonymity told *Business Trust* "that you see these companies just withdrew from the race. Most of them did not even give us any notice. And you know we work by the laid down rules. The deadline for submission of bids was over and only two firm submitted bids. There was nothing we could do."

"Even if the deadline was not over then", he continued, "the BPE cannot

force anybody to come and buy NITEL. The best we can do is to advertise the company by marketing it which we did and were later able to pre-qualify interested bidders only for four out of the six pre-qualified firms to later withdraw."

"Even at the opening of financial bids in the last week of December, you were there when bidders were asked to go and review their bids after the 1st round. But Newtel refused to submit bids in the second round leaving only Orascom to bid for NITEL. A combination of all these reasons is responsible for the low price that was offered for the company. This is because at the last stage, all the competitors had left for one reason or the other."

However, speaking during a press conference on Monday in Abuja, Mrs. Chigbue revealed that the entire process would be revisited to allow in more competitors so that the government would get a better offer.

"The government has decided to revisit the entire transaction process Due to the limited competition at the

close of the presentation, we are working with our advisers BNP Paribas to introduce further competition in order to get a more robust financial bid exercise", she said.

Considering the circumstances surrounding the low bid price of \$256 million offered by Orascom, analysts believe that this decision remains the most logical one to be made in order to get a good offer for the nation's national carrier.

"The decision by the BPE to allow other competitors to participate is the only way forward," a senior staff of NITEL who pleaded anonymity, told *Business Trust*.

Already, some Nigerian investors like Transnational corporation and business Mogul Barrister Jimoh Ibrahim have been reported to have indicated interest in buying NITEL by making better offers should the sale process be reviewed.

Business Trust reported on Tuesday that Jimoh Ibrahim had confirmed that his company V.G.C communications is currently in partnership talks with British Telecom and Erikson with the objective of teaming up to acquire NITEL.

With the renewed interest in NITEL both from Nigerian and foreign investors, there are growing signals that the reintroduction of competition by the BPE in the sale process, would eventually pay off. This would enable the government to get a good offer for the firm thereby

"Even at the opening of financial bids in the last week of December, you were there when bidders were asked to go and review their bids after the 1st round. But Newtel refused to submit bids in the second round leaving only Orascom to bid for NITEL. A combination of all these reasons is responsible for the low price that was offered for the company. This is because at the last stage, all the competitors had left for one reason

BUSINESS TRUST

Cocacola, Cadbury battle child obesity

Global drinks firms including Coca-Cola and Cadbury Schweppes, have unveiled a European initiative aimed at tackling the problem of obese children.

The Union of European Beverages Association, Unesta, said it would limit youth advertising, control

sales in schools and encourage healthier choices. It also plans to limit the amount of drink sugar-free and low-calorie drinks.

The European Union has singled obesity out as a major threat to public health. Markos Kyriakou, the

European Union (EU) commissioner for health and consumer affairs, said the plan is to help children and young adults to live more healthy lives.

He called on drinks and food companies to team with themselves, as well as health and consumer groups, and take

steps towards finding a solution.

Stephen K. Lee, chair of the Unesta Task Force that will monitor the implementation of the plan, and an executive at PepsiCo Europe, called the proposals a "significant move by the industry."

"This is the first time ever

that the major beverage producers in Europe come together to jointly define their commitments related to responsible sales and marketing practices, especially to children and schools," he explained.

As part of the proposals, Unesta members have undertaken to not to put "any marketing communication in printed media, websites or during broadcast programmes specifically aimed at children under the age of 12".

It also will "avoid any direct appeal to children under the age of 12 to persuade parents or other adults to buy beverages for them".

Unesta members will also co-operate in primary schools, unless otherwise requested by school authorities, to educate secondary

schools "a full range of messages will be made available in appropriate materials allowing for portion control only after consultation with parents and educators."

Unesta members will also brand and will promote healthy and active lifestyles as well as balanced diets.

Nutrition labels on cans and bottles will be made available to consumers so they are drinking more healthily and controlling their calorie intake.

One drinks company representative in the UK said BPC that the industry force behind the campaign were the consumer groups, many of whom were demanding healthier products.

As a result, the major calories being drunk by consumers in the UK has dropped, he explained.



Viju Industry's stand at the last Lagos International Trade Fair.



Pix: Oladipupo Odunewu

Microsoft to open access to operating system

Microsoft will open access to its operating system to rival companies, a move that will help to reduce the dominance of the Windows operating system.

The company said it will allow other software makers to develop applications that run on its operating system, a move that will help to reduce the dominance of the Windows operating system.

It came three weeks ahead of the EU's compliance deadline, which threatened fines of 200 euros (141,100 \$) a day.

The code will help rivals make their software compatible with Microsoft's.

"Today we are putting our most valuable intellectual property on the table so we can put technical compliance issues to rest and move forward with a serious discussion about the substance of the case," said Microsoft's legal chief, Brad Smith.

The compliance deadline was set in December when the European Commission said that Microsoft's offer of 12,000 pages of documentation and 500 hours of free technical support was not adequate.

The EU issued 2004 ruling and the world's biggest software company was guilty of abusing its position and the Microsoft will report 497m euros fine, telling it to open up its operating system.

Microsoft said that the latest concession went "far beyond" the 2004 decision.

It maintains that it has tried to comply with the EU's demands, but says that Brussels keeps changing its guidelines.

The EU's second highest court, the European Court of Justice, has ruled that Microsoft must open up its operating system.

... may face EU fine

The European Commission has threatened to fine Microsoft 200 euros (141,100 \$) a day until it gives rivals access to its system. The company said the fine would be imposed if the company had failed to provide adequate information on its server programs.

Microsoft has freedom to provide improved software before the penalties are imposed.

But the company said it would contest the EU's "unjustified" demands by whatever means possible.

"We will contest the statement to the full extent permitted under EU law, including a full oral hearing on these issues," Microsoft's legal chief Brad Smith said in a statement.

I have been left with no alternative other than to proceed via the formal route to ensure Microsoft's compliance.

Nicola Krages, EU Commissioner for Competition, said he had led the charge with the EU's demands. Brussels kept changing its guidelines.

"We've stopped the version of Windows that we provided (unrestricted access to Microsoft's code) to promote interoperability with other industry standards," Mr Smith added.

"In total, we have responded to more than 100 requests from the Commission."

Niger Delta, Iran crisis trigger oil price hike

Oil prices are higher in Asian trade on continued worries over security and political tensions in key producers Nigeria and Iran, dealers said.

During the week, New York's main contract, light sweet crude for March delivery, was up 74 cents to 369.18 a barrel from its close of 368.24 in the United States on Friday. London's Brent crude, which is widely traded in Europe, was up 60 cents to 354.75 a barrel. Africa's biggest producer, Nigeria, has already diversified production in Africa's biggest producer, while some other major oil-producing nations like the West African nations have also diversified production.

"In the short-term, it is all about geo-political tensions," said Victor Shum, an analyst with energy consultancy PricewaterhouseCoopers.

"The short-term issue is Nigeria and the long-term issue is Iran," he said.

Militants have threatened to shut down the oil

to fire rockets into Nigerian oil terminals and over talks aimed at securing the release of hostages taken by rebels in the Niger delta region.

Violence in the Niger delta and the threat of more than 20 fires which has been shut down for the first time in a long time.

Saudi Arabia and other OPEC members may fill Nigeria's oil gap.

The OPEC members may fill Nigeria's oil gap.

The world's fourth biggest oil

"This morning the price crept upwards so the market continues to be driven by the short-term geopolitical (pressures) primarily in Nigeria," Shum said.

Iran, the second biggest crude producer in the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, has also asked the cartel to reduce its oil production quota by one million barrels per day (bpd) from April to prevent a seasonal slump in prices in the second

quarter of the year.

The comments came as a crisis simmers over Iran, with Tehran warning the West that UN sanctions over its controversial nuclear programme could provoke a world oil crisis.

OPEC's production ceiling stands at 28 million bpd. At its last meeting in Kuwait on December 12, the cartel decided not to raise an offer of 200 million bpd emergency additional output.

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The comments were made by the Nigerian Energy and Mineral Minister, Uba Sani, who said he did not expect OPEC to cut output because this would increase upward pressure on prices.

The cost of oil is at a level unseen in real terms since the 1979 Iranian revolution and consumer nations are worried their economies will suffer.

The world's fourth biggest oil

The Arabs

Of Brazil's 186 million inhabitants, an estimated nine million, or five percent, can point to roots in the Middle East. Brazil has more citizens of Syrian origin than Damascus, and more inhabitants of Lebanese origin than all of Lebanon. Of the nine million, some 1.5 million are Muslims; the majority are Orthodox Christians and Maronites. Yet none really stands out as a distinct ethnic minority in this Portuguese-speaking nation of sun, sand, soccer and samba.

"As Arabs, we have been able to integrate very easily into Brazilian society," says businessman Faisal Saleh, a third-generation Lebanese Muslim, whose heritage also includes Portuguese and Polish elements. "We are a very hardworking community. Arab people came here because of wars and instability in their own countries of origin, but—like all ethnic groups in Brazil—we try to maintain our culture, especially our social customs and cuisine."

Saleh was born and raised in Foz do Iguaçu, which is famous as the gateway to Iguazu Falls, one of South America's biggest tourist attractions. It also has one of Brazil's largest Arab populations.

Saleh commutes several times a week across the Ponte Internacional de Amizade—the International Friendship Bridge—to Ciudad del Este, Paraguay. There, he runs an electronics shop just down the street from La Petisquera, a duty-free shop owned by another Brazilian-Lebanese businessman, Mohamad Said "Alex" Mannah.

Unlike Saleh, Mannah was born in Lebanon, in the Bekaa Valley village of Ba'aloul. He and his brother came to Brazil in 1970; first settling in the southern state of Santa Catarina.

"I resettled in Foz do Iguaçu because my aunts and uncles were already living there," says Mannah, who today owns three retail stores in the tri-border area where Brazil, Paraguay and Argentina meet. "There is no discrimination against Arabs. In Brazil, discrimination is a crime, but in any case we have never felt like foreigners. The young people, those under 30 or 40, don't even speak Arabic."

That's ironic considering that some 100 Arabic words have found their way into Portuguese—arroz (rice), alface (lettuce) and açúcar (sugar) are examples. Yet Mannah is right: According to Mamede Jarouche, Professor of Arabic and head of the University of São Paulo's Department of Oriental Studies, only 50 or so students at the university—one of Brazil's largest—are majoring in Arabic studies, and of that group, only a handful are of Arab origin.

This scarcity of Arabic speakers came to light in May when President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva hosted an unprecedented summit among 12 South American countries, the 22 member states of the Arab League and 1250 entrepreneurs—and found that Brazil could produce only three native-born interpreters. To meet the need, 22 more were flown in from Egypt.

The Syrian-Lebanese Hospital (Hospital SírioLibanês) in São Paulo, is one of the leading legacies of the Arabs of Brazil. Founded by women from the Syrian-Lebanese community, its original building was constructed in 1940, but three years

later it was requisitioned by the government to house military cadets. In 1959, it was returned to the founders. It was not until 1965 that it was officially inaugurated. It then grew to become one of the most capable and respected hospitals in Latin America, and in 1992 expanded to become one of the largest in Brazil. Since then it has become a technological leader as well, carrying out the first telesurgery in the southern hemisphere in 1999 and, in 2004, launching an interdisciplinary program for preventive medicine. Today it employs some 2500 professionals in 60 specialties, and can carry out some 50 surgeries daily.

According to historians, the first Muslims in Brazil were not Arabs but West African slaves brought by the Portuguese, who began colonizing Brazil in the early 1500's. Arabs from what are today the countries of Syria and Lebanon didn't begin arriving until about 1880, at the height of the Amazon rubber boom that figures so prominently in Hatoum's novels.

Settling first in Manaus, Belém and other Amazon port cities, the Arab immigrants also worked as itinerant peddlers, hawking their wares from door to door, much as they did in Chile, Honduras, the United States and elsewhere in the Americas. In 1897, the first Arabic-language newspapers appeared in São Paulo; the same year, an Arab charitable organization known as the Sociedade Maronita de Beneficencia was established.

By the early 1900's, many



The Syrian-Lebanese Hospital (Hospital SírioLibanês) in São Paulo is one of the leading legacies of the Arabs of Brazil from the Syrian-Lebanese community.

Arab immigrants were settling in Brazil's southern provinces, especially in Rio de Janeiro, Minas Gerais and São Paulo. The latter city grew to become home to some 38 percent of them by 1920, and by 1940 the proportion was up to nearly 50 percent.

Many of these immigrants settled in São Paulo's Rua 25 de Março district, where they typically set up small textile and dry-goods shops. The most successful entrepreneurs among them eventually moved out to the better neighborhoods of Vila Mariana and Avenida Paulista.

Like other immigrant groups arriving around the same time, the Arabs made every effort to send their children to the best Brazilian schools, and they went on to become some of the country's top doctors, lawyers, business leaders and politicians.

This accounts for the country's most important Arab institution: the Arab-Brazilian Chamber of Commerce (CCAB is the acronym in Portuguese), headquartered on the 17th and 18th floors of a skyscraper along Avenida Paulista, in the heart of São Paulo's financial district.

rural areas of Syria and Lebanon. They were not educated, but they worked very hard and were very good salesmen," says Paulo Atallah, a civil engineer and former president of the CCAB. "Their dream was that their children would be doctors, lawyers or engineers."

The CCAB, founded in 1952, today has 3000 members, representing companies in agribusiness, banking, manufacturing, petroleum, retail sales, textiles, tourism and telecommunications. It runs a bi-

lingual news agency, Agência de Notícias Brasil-Arabe, which it created "to fill the communications gap between Brazil and the 22 Arab countries that are represented by the chamber."

Like the 47-year-old Atallah, many other first-, second- and third-generation Brazilian Arabs have become prominent economic and political leaders. These include Silvio Santos, owner of SBT, Brazil's second-largest television network; Abilio Diniz, CEO of the Pão de

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of Brazil



and was founded by women

ar supermarket chain; Antônio Skaf, president of São Paulo State Federation of Industries, and Faisal Hammoud, founder of the goods conglomerate Monalisa. Hammoud, 59, moved to São Paulo in 1968 and, in four years, had established Grupo Monalisa's first store and earned enough to support his five brothers. It wasn't long before the company opened its first centralized distribution office and established Home Deco, an in-house store. **Brazil were not just Portuguese, who came from what you didn't begin with Amazon rubber and peddlers, hawked by did in Chile, in the Americas. ers appeared in le organization ciencia was es- immigrants were cially in Rio de ter city grew to y 1920, and by ent.**

company for manufacturing showroom furniture.

In the early 1990's, the Hammoud brothers inaugurated an overseas office in Miami, and launched the Aphrodite Boutique chain of luxury retail shops, of which there are now eight in three South American countries. Hammoud has been among the leading financiers of the post-civil war rebuilding of Beirut.

"For those people who came to Brazil during Lebanon's civil war, it was much more difficult to integrate. The war not only destroyed property, but people's minds as well," he says. "But people who came a generation or two ago, or at the beginning of the century, are totally integrated. We don't feel any difference between ourselves and other Brazilians."

In 1997, then-President Fernando Henrique Cardoso awarded Hammoud one of Brazil's highest honors, the Order of Rio Branco, for his involvement in negotiations leading to the founding of the Montevideo-based southern common market, Mercosur, of which Brazil is a founding member.

Asked how he became so successful, Hammoud replies matter-of-factly, "Because I am hardworking and honest. When I'm alone in a room with the door closed, I can look in the mirror and be happy."

Other Brazilians with roots in Lebanon have risen in politics, including Ibrahim Abi-Ackel, who served as justice minister under President João Figueiredo, and Osmar Chohfi, Brazil's former deputy minister of foreign affairs. (The list also includes Paulo Salim Maluf, former mayor of São Paulo and governor of São Paulo state, who is currently in prison on charges of embezzlement.)

One highly visible, nationwide company with no real Arab connections, although many Brazilians mistakenly think otherwise, is the popular fast-food restaurant chain Habib's, which serves Arab-style *esfihas* and other traditional cuisine, at more than 260 franchises across Brazil.

An outdoor market runs through the heart of downtown Rio de Janeiro's Sahara district, settled by Arab immigrants.

To be sure, the Arabs were hardly the only immigrants to discover Brazil. Millions of Portuguese, Germans, Italians, Spaniards and Japanese also

20th centuries. Today, more Japanese live in São Paulo than in any other non-Japanese city in the world.

Yet unlike the Japanese-dominated São Paulo neighborhood of Liberdade, with Japanese shops and restaurants and Japanese-language street signs, the closest thing to an "Arab neighborhood" is the lively Sahara district of Rio de Janeiro, which is home to many Arab-owned shops, groceries and a famous open-air market.

Rio is also home to Brazil's ambassador to the United States, Roberto Pinto Ferreira Abdenur, whose father was from the Lebanese town of Hamdun. (His mother's family came from Portugal.) He grew up in the days when the spectacular beachfront city was still Brazil's capital, and at 21 he joined the foreign service, beginning a string of overseas assignments, which has included ambassadorial posts to Ecuador, China, Germany and Austria, before he presented his credentials in Washington in April 2004.

"I am a career diplomat with no political affiliation," Abdenur says. "Our foreign ministry was never politicized, even during the military dictatorship. I am not a member of any political party and never will be."

Nevertheless, Abdenur, 64, makes no secret of his admiration for the policies of President Lula. Though elected in 2002 on a platform of protectionism, worker rights and anti-globalization, Lula has since focused more on boosting Brazil's export-driven economy.

"Brazil is deeply committed to opening its borders and becoming more engaged in world trade," says Abdenur. "Although Brazil is one of the 10 biggest economies in the world, we have only one percent of world exports, which is ridiculously low."

To that end, in December 2003 Lula toured Syria, Lebanon, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Libya, becoming the first Brazilian head of state to visit the Middle East, since emperor Dom Pedro II traveled the region in the 1870's.

That trip led to this year's unprecedented summit in Brasília, co-hosted by Lula and Algerian president, Abdelaziz Bouteflika. Never before had so many Arab and Latin American

room, all aiming to strengthen an interregional political and economic bond that many say has been long overdue for attention.

The summit proved good for business: Over the 12-month period ending in August, Brazilian exports to the 22 member states of the Arab League climbed by 25 percent to \$4.7 billion, and imports jumped 49 percent to almost \$5.2 billion. This translates into annualized regional trade of nearly \$10 billion.

"For years, we have talked of the potential of the Arab market, and it is satisfying to see that the numbers show this reality," says the current president of the CCAB, Antônio Sarkis, Jr.

Yet retailer Faisal Hammoud says great challenges lie ahead for Brazil. "It's not easy, because the Arab world has a lot of money to spend, and countries much more competitive than Brazil are also aiming for this market," says the entrepreneur. "They want the best, and Brazil cannot compete in quality. But for cheaper goods, Brazil can compete, even against China."

At present, Brazilian companies that have invested in the Middle East range from state oil giant Petrobras, which recently signed a contract to drill for



An outdoor market runs through the heart of downtown Rio de Janeiro's Sahara district, settled by Arab immigrants.

petroleum in Libya, to furniture manufacturer Americanflex, based in Ribeirão Preto, which has opened a showroom in Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates. Poultry giant Dour Frangosul, based in Porto Alegre, ships 40 percent of its monthly chicken exports to the Arab world, about 15,000 tons. Rio de Janeiro-based jewelry retailer H. Stern, with more than 160 outlets throughout Latin America, the United States and Europe, recently opened fran-

chises in Dubai and Bahrain. O Boticário, a company that makes perfumes and cosmetics in the southern city of São José dos Pinhais, just inaugurated its first outlet in Egypt. (It already has one store and 30 points of sale in Saudi Arabia, as well as 20 points of sale in the United Arab Emirates and 60 in Jordan.)

Going in the other direction, Saudi entrepreneur Omar al-Idrisi wants to open up a foreign-trade brokerage in Brazil, something that will really take off, he says, once UAE-based Emirates Airlines inaugurates nonstop service between Dubai and São Paulo near the end of this year.

Perhaps most significant, the Arab League in September approved the opening of an office in Brasília.

"We have been thinking of promoting regular business meetings, like the one held in São Paulo soon after the May summit," al-Idrisi said in a press release. "We would like this kind of event to repeat itself, alternating between an Arab and a South American city. We also support all initiatives towards opening air links between the two regions."

"Trade is something you do when the opportunity is there and the price is good. It's the first level of a relationship," says Atallah. "Now we have to move to the second level. We want the Arabs to know more about Brazil, and we want Brazilians to know more about the Arab world."



In Rio de Janeiro, the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation has been instrumental for more than a century in the battle against epidemic diseases; its headquarters, completed in 1905.

Lagos holds two coys over environmental damage

The Lagos State Environmental Protection Agency (LASPEA) has said that two companies which have been abusing the environment will pay for the cost of remedial work done to the damaged environment.

This was disclosed in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed in Lagos by LASPEA and representatives of the two companies, LASPA general manager, Mr. Adesina, and the first company, a manufacturer, because it was operating without licence. The environmental agency said the company was not the first to be fined for such an offence.

Mr. Adesina said that the company had been fined for operating without licence for the first time.

He said that the company had been fined for the first time for operating without licence for the first time.

discharge effluent has constituted a grave health hazard to the community." It also accused the company of using a source of fuel from this energy source because of the decision being made by the residents of the area.

LASPEA also pointed out that the companies must carry out all the conditions and terms of the signed MOU between them and six months from the date of execution.

Adesina added that he had to direct that the factory plant should be closed while awaiting the 24-hour surveillance to ensure that the company does not operate the plant.

Coys develop alternative fuel from vegetable oil

A research project by two Northern Nigerian engineers has resulted in the development of a vegetable oil-based fuel for use in diesel engines.

The project was led by Mr. Yusuf, who said that the fuel was developed from a mixture of vegetable oil and alcohol.

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Australia to invest in Osun

Australian investors are expected to invest in Osun State, Nigeria, to develop the state's long neglected mining sector.

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1ST-TIER SECURITIES

THE NIGERIAN STOCK EXCHANGE

REPORT AS AT THURSDAY, JANUARY 26 2006

Company Name	No of Deals	Quotation(N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares
ADSWITCH PLC.	5	1.57	6,500	10,205.00
CAPITAL OIL PLC	4	0.34	7,000	2,380.00
Sector Totals	9		13,500	12,585.00
AGRICULTURE/AGRO-ALLIED				
LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC.	1	1.90	15,000	28,500.00
THE OKOMU OIL PALM COMPANY PLC	4	17.20	3,720	63,984.00
PRESCO PLC.	13	11.75	31,950	372,382.50
Sector Totals	18		50,670	464,866.50
AUTOMOBILE & TYRE				
DUNLOP NIGERIA PLC.	39	2.72	157,040	433,620.62
R. T. BRISCOE PLC.	11	6.00	22,325	133,950.00
Sector Totals	50		179,365	567,570.62
BANKING				
ACCESS BANK PLC	204	2.60	8,376,463	21,700,717.90
AFRIBANK NIGERIA PLC.	15	9.10	1,366,000	12,430,600.00
FIRST ATLANTIC BANK PLC	2	3.41	737,618	2,515,277.38
COOPERATIVE BANK PLC.	1	1.92	1,500	2,880.00
DIAMOND BANK PLC	3	7.75	2,880	22,320.00
FIRST CITY MONUMENT BANK PLC	2	5.11	350,500	1,791,055.00
FIDELITY BANK PLC	5	2.93	833,865	2,443,224.45
FIRST BANK OF NIGERIA PLC.	562	32.90	5,210,306	171,936,377.73
FSB INTERNATIONAL BANK PLC.	1	1.14	17,000	19,380.00
GTBANK PLC.	322	13.70	9,335,613	125,716,134.50
INVESTMENT BANKING	23	4.57	1,459,811	6,671,336.27
INLAND BANK (NIGERIA) PLC.	1	1.81	20,200	36,562.00
INTERCONTINENTAL BANK PLC.	148	8.90	2,059,512	18,470,205.23
NAL BANK PLC	24	2.80	10,454,650	29,273,020.00
OCEANIC BANK PLC	84	5.83	1,107,929	6,495,018.05
PLATINUM BANK PLC	1	2.60	1,000	2,600.00
UNITED BANK FOR AFRICA PLC.	108	12.81	694,360	8,936,620.98
UNION BANK NIGERIA PLC.	107	25.48	1,250,451	31,861,491.48
WEMA BANK PLC.	16	3.74	2,633,146	9,847,966.04
ZENITH BANK PLC	23	19.64	114,897	2,256,577.08
Sector Totals	1,652		46,027,701	452,429,364.09
BREWERIES				
CHAMPION BREWERIES PLC.	2	1.86	30,000	55,800.00
GUINNESS NIGERIA PLC.	104	103.50	191,008	19,399,685.49
NIGERIAN BREWERIES PLC	295	36.53	1,008,970	36,818,290.71
Sector Totals	401		1,229,978	56,273,776.20
BUILDING MATERIALS				
ASHAKA CEMENT PLC.	68	34.00	1,024,656	35,178,973.42
BENUE CEMENT COMPANY PLC.	4	6.50	7,374	47,931.00
CEMENT COMPANY OF NORTHERN NIG. PLC	9	7.15	62,380	447,932.20
WEST AFRICAN PORTLAND CEMENT CO. PLC.	140	16.30	711,658	11,721,114.10
Sector Totals	221		1,806,068	47,395,950.72
CHEMICAL & PAINTS				
BERGER PAINTS PLC.	21	4.01	171,525	683,222.59
CAP PLC.	12	8.88	16,425	145,741.21
D. N. MEYER PLC.	1	3.80	333	1,265.40
NIGERIA-GERMAN CHEMICALS PLC.	2	4.10	4,418	18,113.80
Sector Totals	36		192,701	848,343.00
COMPUTER & OFFICE EQUIPMENT				
NCR (NIGERIA) PLC.	9	1.33	23,989	31,905.37
Sector Totals	9		23,989	31,905.37
CONGLOMERATES				
A. G. LEVENTIS NIGERIA PLC.	2	1.18	19,140	22,585.20
C.F.A.O NIGERIA PLC.	7	3.57	6,060	21,634.20
JOHN HOLT PLC.	9	1.54	61,966	95,427.64
P. Z. INDUSTRIES PLC.	53	16.20	156,211	2,530,618.20
U.A.C. NIGERIA PLC.	86	16.20	331,063	5,389,060.54
UNILEVER NIGERIA PLC	113	20.53	481,715	9,886,174.91
U.T.C. NIGERIA PLC.	5	0.73	108,010	84,847.30
Sector Totals	275		1,164,165	18,030,347.99
CONSTRUCTION				
CAPALBETO	4	14.00	17,250	241,500.00
COSTAIN (W.A.) PLC.	6	1.14	116,100	131,499.00
JULIUS BERGER NIGERIA PLC.	13	21.50	14,400	313,205.00
Sector Totals	23		147,750	686,204.00
ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY				
NIGERIAN WIRE AND CABLE PLC.	2	0.70	12,990	9,093.00
Sector Totals	2		12,990	9,093.00
FOOD/BEVERAGES & TOBACCO				
7-UP BOTTLING COMPANY PLC	27	26.60	27,193	721,481.76
CADBURY NIGERIA PLC.	125	66.20	298,253	19,936,288.36
FLOUR MILLS NIGERIA PLC.	84	25.65	266,754	6,891,098.09
NIGERIA BOTTLING COMPANY PLC.	66	67.00	421,249	28,067,355.70
NESTLE FOODS NIGERIA PLC.	44	190.00	89,927	17,077,912.50
NORTHERN NIGERIA FLOUR MILLS PLC.	4	16.25	10,001	162,516.25
Sector Totals	350		1,113,377	72,856,652.66
FOOTWEAR				
FOOTWEAR & ACCESSORIES MAN. PLC.	1	0.29	10,000	2,900.00
Sector Totals	1		10,000	2,900.00
HEALTHCARE				
CHRISTLIEB PLC.	1	0.56	2,000	1,120.00
EVANS MEDICAL PLC.	5	2.56	37,188	95,082.28
GLAXOSMITHKLINE CONSUMER NIGERIA PLC	51	10.00	697,822	7,049,821.60
MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC	2	5.36	20,150	108,004.00
NEIMETH INTERNATIONAL PHARM. PLC.	3	3.23	34,486	111,389.78
PHARMA-DEKO PLC.	1	4.55	2,200	10,010.00
Sector Totals	63		793,846	7,375,427.66
INDUSTRIAL/DOMESTIC PRODUCTS				
ALUMACO PLC.	1	1.18	120,000	141,600.00
B.O.C. GASES PLC	4	3.05	60,000	183,000.00
NIGERIA ENAMELWARE COMPANY PLC.	1	3.46	300	1,038.00
FIRST ALUMINIUM NIGERIA PLC.	6	0.67	456,000	304,700.00
VITAFOMO NIGERIA PLC.	74	4.93	1,056,044	5,190,026.94
VONO PRODUCTS PLC.	6	1.21	136,774	165,771.19
Sector Totals	92		1,829,118	5,986,136.13
INSURANCE				
ACEN INSURANCE COMPANY PLC	1	0.58	15,000	8,700.00
AIICO INSURANCE PLC.	15	2.39	383,840	917,377.60
CORNERSTONE INSURANCE CO. PLC.	32	1.45	1,809,220	2,691,451.75
CRUSADER INSURANCE PLC.	10	1.70	100,000	170,822.50
LAW UNION AND ROCK INSURANCE PLC.	4	1.00	230,000	232,600.00
N.E.M. INSURANCE CO. (NIG.) PLC.	1	0.58	1,920	1,113.60
NIGER INSURANCE CO. PLC.	29	2.78	944,834	2,513,889.72
PRESTIGE ASSURANCE PLC.	8	2.13	407,833	877,264.95
ROYAL EXCHANGE ASSURANCE PLC.	9	3.00	72,881	213,395.85
UNIC INSURANCE PLC.	16	1.24	1,261,800	1,570,250.00
WEST AFRICAN PROV. INS. COY. PLC.	15	3.06	302,808	937,662.88
Sector Totals	140		5,530,136	10,134,528.85
MANAGED FUNDS				
C & I LEASING PLC	8	1.18	193,370	229,114.20
Sector Totals	8		193,370	229,114.20
MARITIME				
JAPPAUL OIL & MARITIME SERVICES PLC	10	1.86	298,900	567,725.00
Sector Totals	10		298,900	567,725.00
PETROLEUM(MARKETING)				
AFROIL PLC.	5	0.50	224,200	118,143.20
AFRICAN PETROLEUM PLC.	85	45.00	192,603	8,538,702.37
CONOIL PLC	109	91.00	108,338	9,759,244.23
ETFRNA OIL & GAS PLC.	15	2.65	136,660	368,149.00
MOBIL OIL NIGERIA PLC.	34	156.78	62,540	9,774,191.79
OANDO PLC	136	91.55	230,005	21,080,897.70
TEXACO (NIGERIA) PLC.	44	116.00	304,486	35,447,676.26
TOTAL NIGERIA PLC	12	184.00	8,166	1,493,218.48
Sector Totals	440		1,266,998	86,580,223.03
PRINTING & PUBLISHING				
LONGMAN NIGERIA PLC.	5	3.34	17,700	58,488.00
Sector Totals	5		17,700	58,488.00
REAL ESTATE				
UACN PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT PLC.	51	9.95	734,609	7,331,426.47
Sector Totals	51		734,609	7,331,426.47
TEXTILES				
AFPRINT NIGERIA PLC	6	0.38	100,343	38,130.34
UNITED NIGERIA TEXTILES PLC.	12	2.15	155,322	321,631.65
Sector Totals	18		255,665	359,761.99
Overall Totals	3,874		62,892,596	628,232,390.48

TOP 10 TRADES AS THURSDAY

SYMBOL	VOLUME	VALUE	TRADES
UNIC	1,261,800.00	1,570,250.00	16
AFRIBANK	1,366,000.00	12,430,600.00	15
IBTC	1,459,811.00	6,671,336.27	23
CORNERST	1,809,220.00	2,691,451.75	32
INTERCONT	2,059,512.00	18,470,205.23	14
WEMABANK	2,633,146.00	9,847,966.04	16
FIRSTBANK	5,210,306.00	171,936,377.73	562
ACCESS	8,376,463.00	21,700,717.90	204
GUARANTY	9,335,613.00	125,716,134.50	322
NAL	10,454,650.00	29,273,020.00	24

TOP 10 GAINERS

SYMBOL	LASTCLOSE	FRIDAY'S CLOSE	CHANGE
TOTAL	1.00	184.00	+3.00
NBC	4.05	67.00	+2.95
GUINNESS	01.00	103.50	+2.50
AP	43.61	45.00	+1.39
OANDO	90.51	91.55	+1.04
TEXACO	115.00	116.00	+1.00
MOBIL	156.03	156.78	+0.75
GUARANTY	13.18	13.70	+0.52
NB	36.27	36.53	+0.26
PRESCO	11.51	11.75	+0.24

TOP 10 LOSERS

SYMBOL	LASTCLOSE	FRIDAY'S CLOSE	CHANGE
BERGER	22.50	21.50	-1.00
ADBURY	67.00	66.20	-0.80
SHAKACEM	34.70	34.00	-0.70
GLAXOSMITH	10.40	10.00	-0.40
BETAGLAS	6.84	6.50	-0.34
FLOURMILL	25.85	25.65	-0.20
WAPIC	3.20	3.06	-0.14
ETERNAOIL	2.77	2.65	-0.12
LIVESTOCK	2.00	1.90	-0.10
PRESTIGE	2.23	2.13	-0.10

Shell pleads for understanding of host communities

The Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) says it will continue to take measures to forge a mutually beneficial working relationship with host communities.

Addressing newsmen in Port Harcourt on Tuesday, Shell Corporate External Affairs Manager, Mr Don Boham, lamented, however, that in spite of the company's efforts at explaining its status in Nigeria, most host communities still saw the company as exploitative.

He said that while the federal government controlled 55 per cent equity share in oil business, Shell maintained 30 per cent, while Elf and Agip had 16 per cent and five per cent respectively.

Boham said that contributions to the national purse were also made in accordance with the equity share holding, adding that from its 30 per cent controlling interest, Shell pays 85 per cent petroleum profit tax. He said the company also spends 20 per cent on royalty, while the rest were for operational cost.

The manager announced that Shell paid 2.3 billion dollars to the federal government in 2004, in addition to supporting government's projects from the profit it made, in spite of the fact that the oil producing states received 13 per cent derivation monthly.

Boham listed some areas of the company's intervention to include education, health, electricity, roads, agriculture and rural infrastructure, sports development and skills acquisition programmes in its operational areas.

"SPDC spends more than 60 million dollars annually to fill the gap created by government in the process," he added.

He listed problems facing the oil company in its host communities to include local leadership tussles, collapse of local economies and reparation on operational impacts.

Others, he said, were social amenities, exploitation, marginalisation and agitation for resource control. Boham said Shell had succeeded in effectively managing its crises points, noting that conflicts involving the company and its host communities in 2005 were reduced to 159 incidents from 340 in 2004.

KANO TRUST

Kano's 2006 hajj in the eyes of a pilgrim

It is always best for a journalist to undertake a journey independently without the watchful eyes of officials who sponsor such trip. Because they will ensure that you see only what you are expected to see or interpret things they way they want it reported. Such trip could be religious, sight seeing or tour of facilities. You get the freedom of seeing things as they are and experiencing first hand what people involved in such trip go through in their quest for a successful spiritual endeavours. That is what happened to me during this year's Hajj, so my observations are that of an Alhaji who paid and performed the Hajj from Kano State.

Preparations.

I had wanted to avoid the usual late hour rush characteristic of every Nigerian Hajj pilgrimage, so I paid through the first local government that was slated to take off from Kano, Bebeji local government. The preparation, quite frankly by the Kano State government was encouraging. The state governor did everything to ensure a successful Hajj. Right from the day he received the 2005 Hajj Report by the proscribed Hajj Task Force headed by the former commissioner of information, Alhaji Garba Yusuf, Governor Ibrahim Shekarau directed that accommodation for 2006 Hajj be procured to forestall the problem of accommodation that bedevilled the last Hajj. To beat the much taunted 'late preparation syndrome' the governor offered to pay any difference of money between the old and new rate for Hajj as announced by the federal government to any pilgrim who paid before the announcement of the new Hajj Fare by the federal government. And he fulfilled that promise by paying N12,000 for such pilgrims. He also went the extra mile of paying the N250 charged pilgrims for conveying them from the Camp to Airport and back. He even provided fund for the feeding of Kano pilgrims at Muna, Arafat and Jiddah on their way back home because of the difficulty of obtaining good food during those period. He took the trouble of going to inspect the houses hurriedly procured for Kano pilgrims though we later learnt that he was only taken to the good ones that are close to the Haram.

Madina

Although we were slated to leave first, the Pilgrims Welfare

By Musa Umar Kazaura
(who was in Saudi Arabia)

Board decided that Doguwa Local Government Pilgrims should go first for some administrative reasons. That was a blessing because while Doguwa Pilgrims spent two days in Hajj Camp before leaving, we were lucky to leave within six hours of the announcement inviting Bebeji Local Government pilgrims. The four and half hour flight by KABO Air to Jiddah was without much hitch apart from stubborn pilgrims who refused to heed to the Pilgrims Board appeal not to take more than the hand luggage. Some had up to three hand luggage stuffed with Kolanuts, Rob, ointment and all sorts of contrabands which were seized by the Saudi Customs at King Abdul-aziz International Airport. As the actual Hajj Rites would not begin until the 8th of Zul Hajj equivalent to 8th January 2006 (We arrived on 20th Dec. 2005), we were taken straight to Madina to visit the Prophet Mosque and other places of religious importance around Madina. The accommodation in Madina was good with three to five people in one room, some with their toilets inside the room. The only problem was that the location of the accommodation was about 45 minutes trek to the Prophet's Mosque and there were no taxis or bus plying the route as in Makkah. So we have to always leave our houses at 3.30 am to be able to reach the Mosque on time and perform the early morning prayers with the chilling cold weather of Madina. Some of the pilgrims, including some doctors that were slated to stay with us in the building and wives of some Permanent Secretaries used their connections to get a much more closer accommodation, but we looked at it as a blessing in disguise because of the Prophet's saying that "every step taken in the cause of doing a good deed is rewarded by Allah" even though some of us who are "fat" like myself had our legs swollen for trekking the distance three to five times a day. We spent the first eight days in Madina, praying, meditating and sometimes we slept at the Prophets Mosque and occasionally visit to Islamic historical sites and shopping in between, despite advise from Hajj officials to wait for the last days of the Hajj to avoid exhausting our \$500 Dol-

lars BTA which is equivalent to 1750 Saudi Riyals.

Accommodation in Makka

For us the early arrivals, the accommodation was very good in terms of quality and facilities. Though seven to eight people were crammed in a room of 14 by 14 square feet, the lift was working and toilets, water and air conditioners were all working as well. The only snag however was that there was a little partiality on the part of the Kano Pilgrims Board officials in Makkah. One would expect that accommodations are allocated on first come first serve basis. But the closest houses at Sharamansur were reserved for senior government officials and government sponsored pilgrims like House Number 15 and others, while pilgrims who paid with their hard earned money were pushed farther to Sharu-sittin which is about two kilometres to the HARAM, and most pilgrims, especially the elderly and sick ones who could not trek had to pay four Riyals for transportation, to and fro, to go for daily prayers at the HARAM which is very important to any pilgrim, even though not obligatory. I had the opportunity to visit one of such Preferred Pilgrims houses at Sharamansur where DPMs of local governments and some senior government officials were housed. They had even television and cable for entertainment and only about four to five people in each room.

But the worst hit in terms of accommodation were those who came later from Kano metropolitan local governments. House number 36 at Sharamansur, for example, was terrible. Some of its occupants invited me to see things for myself, and the sight was horrible. 40 people packed into an uncompleted building which from all indication was hurriedly renovated. They had only two toilets, and the women were also packed into similar hall. Water was licking all over the toilet. There were also houses at Sharu-Sittin that were overcrowded with pilgrims, with as much as 10 pilgrims per room of 14 by 14 square feet. "You don't even have a place to put your feet between each bed," a frustrated pilgrim from Kura local government stated.

The accommodation, according to the Executive Secretary of Kano State Pilgrims Welfare Board, Alhaji Sani Kofar Mata, in a Freedom Hausa Radio pro-

gramme, were procured as an alternative after the procurement of the one booked earlier. But competent sources close to the Pilgrims Board hinted me that infighting and the lucrative kick-backs associated with the procurement of accommodation in the Holy Land for pilgrims was responsible for Kano's failure to secure good accommodation this year. The governor who took the trouble to visit Makkah during his vacation in Ramadan, was only taken round the good houses that were closer to the HARAM

shopping, leaving many stranded pilgrims to their fate. There was the case of a lady pilgrim from Yobe State who spent three days perambulating around the Holy Mosque, lost, confused, hungry and traumatized. Communication barrier did not allow her to ask or seek help until she broke down in tears and some Nigerian pilgrims who recognized her from her attire came to her rescue. Many such cases of missing persons occurred because none of the Guides are seen around the Mosque despite being sent on

for Kano Shemas

it was a chaotic scene the first day, until the Speaker, Kano House of Assembly struggled to secure additional Tents from the Katsina side who could not bring all their pilgrims.

The behaviour of some Kano state pilgrims at Muna calls for a serious and deliberate pilgrims re-orientation before they leave for the Holy Land just as it was done on how to perform the Hajj pilgrimage itself during the BITA (orientation) exercise. The BITA really helped in preparing Kano



Pilgrims outside their tent at Muna

to inspect, the source said, adding that most of the houses at Sharu-Sittin were procured four months before the commencement of Hajj, whereas the governor had directed that accommodation for Kano pilgrims be secured since February 2005.

Investigation conducted revealed that accommodation problem was not restricted to Kano alone. The Abuja pilgrims who were accommodated around Sharu-Sittin also had bad experience. One of such accommodations a ten storey building had no water and the lift was not functioning. The pilgrims had to go looking for places to take their bath every morning, and most of them found such assistance from Kano pilgrims who were their neighbours. There was also a case of some Abuja female pilgrims who were accommodated in kitchens because some men who were not happy with the accommodation provided for them, have hijacked the accommodation meant for the women which was better. According to an Abuja Pilgrim official in Makkah, Alhaji Muhammadu, the men threatened to beat up the caretaker of the house if he refuses to allow them stay in the rooms.

Guides and responsibilities

Most countries while sending their pilgrims for Hajj normally attach experienced people as guides to assist the pilgrims, especially the first-timers. At the Holy Mosque and other religious places, you see other country's guides holding flags or any other means of identification to assist and guide their pilgrims, but it was not so for Nigerians. Nigerian Guides, dressed in their White Caftan with Green Stripes, including that of Kano, are only visible during preparations for Hajj take off and sometimes at the Airport in Jiddah. After that you do not see them again. They are mostly busy either window shopping or doing the actual

Tax-payers Money to help pilgrims in the Holy Land.

Medical assistance

The medical Team from Kano State were very helpful this year because I heard from those who performed the last year hajj that the Medical Team were not visible last Hajj. They paid regular visits to houses where Kano pilgrims were accommodated in Madina and Makkah, and even set up an Emergency Clinic for pilgrims at Number 6 Sharu-Sittin where most of Kano pilgrims were accommodated, allowing sick pilgrims to visit them after Isha prayers. They even admitted about 3 Kano State Pilgrims for operations on various ailments and according to the Medical Team Leader, Dr. Muhammad Daiyabu, the team of doctors numbering about 26 treated over 2500 pilgrims on various ailments in both Madina and Makkah. At Muna and Arafat they had their tents which was always besieged by patients, some of them just going to collect drugs because it was all free of charge.

Muna and Arafat

Frankly, the arrangements for Kano Pilgrims at Muna was unfortunate. Right from home, Kano Pilgrims officials had been singing that 7000 pilgrims will be going for the pilgrimage from Kano, so if they know their number why the shortages of Shema (tents) for Kano pilgrims at Muna which forced many genuine pilgrims to be sleeping outside in the cold? Although investigations revealed that some of those who occupied the allocated tents for Kano were either International Pilgrims or from other states, Kano Pilgrims officials, having experience and knowledge of these things, should have insisted that all Kano pilgrims come with their Identification badges, and anyone without the ID should not be allowed to enter the Kano Tents like other states did. But

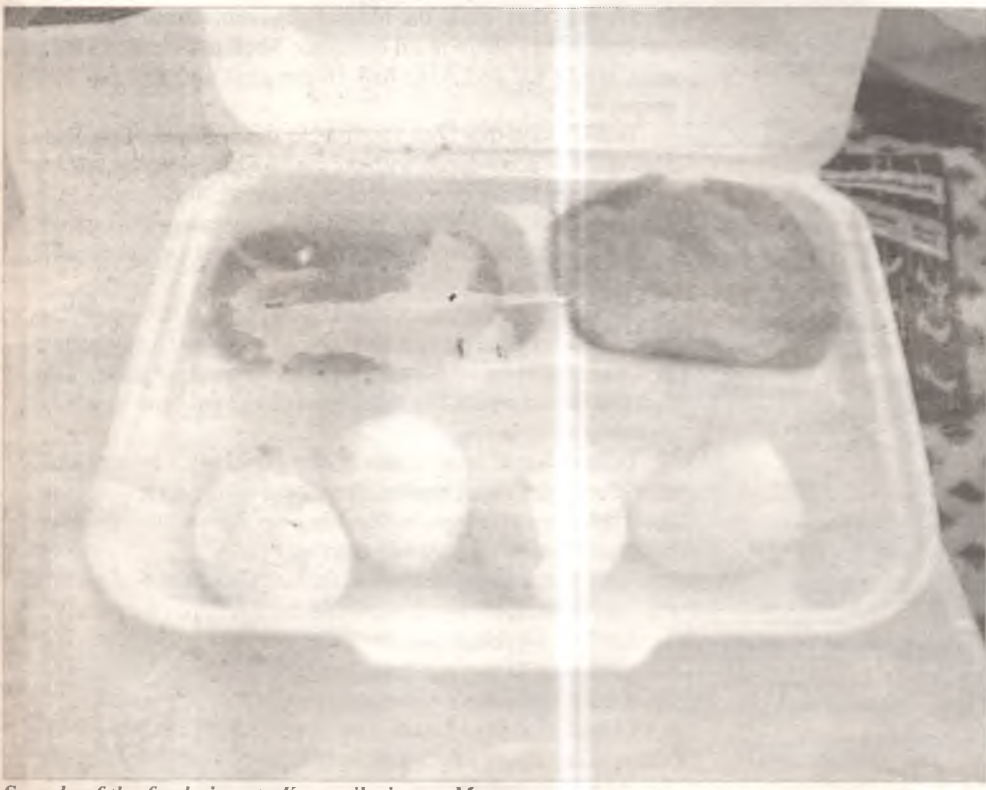
State pilgrims on how to actually perform the pilgrimage, eliminating irreligious attitudes and actions by pilgrims at worship sites. The sensitization forum organized by Kano Pilgrims Board which began six months before the Hajj, really prepared the state pilgrims. According to a first-timer pilgrim from Garun, Malam, "I already know what to do at each place during the Pilgrimage from home even before I set foot in Makka, because the Preachers really enlightened us on what is expected of a pilgrim during the pilgrimage."

On sanitation, hygiene and intra-personal relationship, more need to be done for the pilgrims. The use of toilets, respect for rules and regulations as given by officials and government of Saudi Arabia and above all respect of the rights of other pilgrims should be included in the sensitization to minimize the ugly behaviours exhibited by some Kano State pilgrims in the Holy Land. A pilgrim suggested that a sample of modern toilets should be taken to centers for such sensitization especially in the local government areas because most of the sanitation and hygiene rules are broken by pilgrims from the rural areas.

Transportation at Madina, Muna, Arafat and Makkah

The vehicles secured for the transportation of Kano state pilgrims in Jiddah were good even though not the best (Sokoto, Borno, Yobe had better transportation). Similarly the buses that conveyed the pilgrims from Madina to Makkah were good but those secured to take the pilgrims from Muna to Arafat were of poor quality as many broke down on the way and many pilgrims had to trek the rest of the journey on foot to Arafat. Similarly the buses that conveyed the pilgrims back to Jiddah airport were of lower quality.

Controversial feeding of pilgrims at Muna, Arafat &



Sample of the food given to Kano pilgrims at Muna

KANO TRUST

Kano's 2006 hajj in the eyes of a pilgrim

Jiddah

So much has been written and said about the failure of Kano State Pilgrims Board to fulfill the promise of the Governor to provide food for Kano pilgrims during the obligatory stay at Muna, Arafat and at Jiddah Airport when the pilgrims are on their way home. The rationale behind this, according to sources close to the governor, was to ease the problem pilgrims usually face in these three places where food is either scarce or not hygienic enough for consumption as was the case during last year's Hajj. Money was budgeted all right but pilgrims never saw the food during their first days in Muna and at Arafat. More baffling was a confession by one of the board members of Kano State Pilgrims Board, Alhaji Tijjani Bala Kalarawi at Arafat that six vehicles loaded with food for Kano State pilgrims have disappeared into thin air. Worst still, the only vehicle that found its way into the Kano area No. 20, was loaded with rotten food that and not good for consumption. All the journalists who travelled with Kano's pilgrims saw the rotten food, and some fruits that accompanied them. After Sheik Tijjani Bala Kalarawi's revelation, Kano Pilgrims Official made frantic efforts to get a better alternative for the pilgrims when they returned to Muna the following day. At least the pilgrims were given food twice. One was a set of four eggs, two doughnuts and one drink estimated at three Saudi Riyals. What happened to the money budgeted by the governor for such feeding?

According to Dr. Bashir, a member of the Pilgrims Feeding Committee to this year's Hajj, five feeding exercises were slated for Kano state pilgrims during this year's Hajj, two meals at Arafat, two at Muna and one at Jiddah. One Lazizi Restaurant was given the feeding contract at Muna and Abdallah was given that of Arafat, and each meal was to cost 10 Saudi Riyals for the 7500 pilgrims to this Hajj. Dr. Bashir added that the contract covered preparation and distribution of the cooked food at Muna and Arafat by the contractors and the food was to be prepared at Arafat not taken from somewhere else. He stated that 40 per cent of the amount was paid to the contractors with a promise that the balance will be paid to them later. What happened according to Dr. Bashir was that there were two vehicles carrying food to pilgrims on Arafat day, one had fruits and the other had food and other cooking utensils. He said that one of the vehicle, the one carrying food and utensils missed his exit and had to go round again to make a second attempt and by the time he was able to get to Kano state area, it was almost 5pm and the food they carried had been contaminated. He said the food in the vehicle was meant for only 2000 pilgrims, adding that the Food Committee had cancelled the contract and the contractor has promised to refund the remaining amount of money not used for the feeding which will be returned to government coffers in Kano. He however said the sum of three Saudi Riyals will be paid the contractor for the fruits supplied.

Following the feeding scam at Muna and Arafat, the officials decided that the Jiddah Airport feeding be cancelled and 50 Saudi Riyals be handed to each Kano pilgrim to feed himself at the airport. Some local sources...



The Sharamansuro Nigeria market in Mecca

his local government area and Bebeji Chairman who gave 25 Riyals to pilgrims with lower BTA.

Information and Ulama

The Information Unit and Ulamas should be commended for a good job especially at Muna and Arafat. The Ulamas provided preaching sessions during the three day stay in Muna and at Arafat too which was most beneficial to pilgrims, in addition to what they had done at home (Kano) before pilgrims, departure at the Sensitization forum, BITA. They were also instrumental at stopping majority of Kano pilgrims from going to the Jamrat (Stoning of the Devil) early on the last day of Muna stay when the stampede occurred. They all stayed behind alerting the pilgrims on the development at the Jamrat, while the stampede was going on. Despite this effort, many pilgrims defied their advice and went on with the stoning which caused them sufferings and some even lost their lives.

The Information Unit also deserves commendation for their role especially in linking families, friends and announcement of lost and found items. Many families who lost contact after the Arafat rush were able to trace their relatives via the public address system mounted at the Ulamas Tent. An exceptional and commendable attitude of Kano State pilgrims especially during the stay in Muna was their compliance with Shariah dictates on missing and found items. Jewellery, handbags, including monies were found and taken to the announcers to be returned to their owners. A lady picked a purse filled with jewelry worth over 3000 Riyals, but returned it. Also a man found 300 US Dollars and returned it to its owner. Over 50,000 Riyals worth of property, items and goods were found and returned, a spirit which was highly commended by the Ulamas, including the *Waziri* of Kano, Sheik Isa Waziri.

The stampede

What was described by Saudi authorities and newspapers as stampede was not actually a stampede per se, but a massive standstill. Eyewitnesses who were in the midst of the standstill narrated how Saudi military personnel abruptly stopped the sea of people moving towards the Jamrat to ensure that the pilgrims do not get into the area of the Jamrat. The pilgrims were not allowed to go to the Jamrat until the military personnel had cleared the area. The pilgrims were then allowed to go to the Jamrat and perform the stoning. The pilgrims were then allowed to go to the Jamrat and perform the stoning.

be on the side of the Jamrat when the soldiers cut off the surging crowd, forced the surging crowd of pilgrims to a standstill while at the same time more pilgrims were pushing from behind them without knowing that the people in the front were not moving. This standstill and the push from behind created human jam, that caused many, especially the elderly and weak ones, to suffocate. By the time the military personnel allowed the crowd to continue in their surge towards the Jamrat, the pressure of the surging crowd was too great that many of the soldiers could not get out and were trampled us. That also explained the 18 casualties of military officers from the Saudi Security Agencies. Over 360 people lost their lives in the standstill, with Nigeria recording 10 casualties while some were injured.

Return journey

With the completion of the Hajj Rites after the last Jamrat rite, Kano State pilgrims, especially those who came early and had visited Madina, began preparation for the journey home, while those who came later prepared to go for the *Ziyarah* visit to Madina. The luggage for Kano pilgrims which was ordered from China, according to Pilgrims Board officials, was very good. It was big enough to accommodate most gifts purchased by any reasonable Alhaji, not the businessman Alhaji. Fortunately for the first two local governments, Doguwa and Bebeji, the pilgrims showed maturity in adhering to the advise and warning of Kano State Pilgrims Welfare officials that no additional items should be attached to the baggage as was the practice in the past. This time, only the luggages were allowed, and the pilgrims complied, this according to Kano State Pilgrims Welfare officials was as a result of an agreement entered into with the Airline Carrier, KABO Air, that only one checked in luggage of 40 Kg without attachment and one hand luggage of 10 kg will be allowed.

The disappointments however began to rear its head at Jiddah during the return journey. Though we were not a witness to the confusion, chaos and crisis that trailed the Hajj at the tail end of the exercise, but the manner KABO Air started its return flight left much to be desired. The flight was delayed for several hours and the passengers were left in a state of confusion and frustration. The flight was delayed for several hours and the passengers were left in a state of confusion and frustration.

the aircraft, a practice that is not allowed in the aviation industry anywhere in the world. Some pilgrims who were in the aircraft said the aircraft had problems taking off and had to abort and return to tarmac for the excess passengers to be disembarked, a claim which Kano officials denied.

A fact which I was a witness to in our flight on the night of the 16th January was the inclusion of International pilgrim passengers in the aircraft despite the fact that we as passengers from Bebeji were about 480. As a result, some passengers who could not get a seat in the economy class were given first class accommodate.

It should also be noted that Kano Air was very strict in compliance with its earlier warning that it would not accept anything in excess of 10 kg in hand luggage, or beyond the official pilgrims and luggage given by Kano Pilgrims Welfare Board. This was implemented to the later, as many stubborn pilgrims who are used to the old rowdy scenes of *cawa-cawa* at Jeddah were surprised at the stern compliance by Kano officials. Many lost their valuable items, especially gifts in the process, as they were discarded with impunity by Kano officials. Although some state Pilgrims Welfare Board officials especially Kebbi, Sokoto and Nasarawa made arrangements for such thrown away items to be returned via cargo to their owners, Kano State also joined in such gesture after we were boarded in the aircraft when an official announced that Malam Ibrahim Shekarau heard of the excess luggage problems, and has ordered that they be carried as cargo along with the pilgrims, an announcement that was greeted with 'Allah Ya Maimaita'. But the Secretary of Pilgrims Board warned that such magnanimity would not be extended to any pilgrim in future who flout official rules on hand luggage.

Nigerians as beggars on Makkah Street

A rather pathetic and disturbing scene that should be mentioned with the hope that Nigerian diplomatic officials in Nigeria and Saudi Arabia may do something to redeem our country's image in Saudi Arabia, is the issue of Nigerians, mostly from the northern part, who are involved in street begging in Makkah. At the end of every prayer at HARAM, you come across dozens of women, children, girls of marriageable age, handicaps and even able bodied persons, sitting in the middle of the streets leading out of the Holy Mosque beg-

ging for alms. Worst of all and the most disheartening is the sight of a women using her newly born babies to beg. A woman who said her baby was just 6 days old said she had to come to beg for the babies because the authorities in Makkah would not allow them to come out and earn a living. When asked why she cannot return home to Nigeria with her baby to her relatives who she claimed were from Katsina, she said they heard all sorts of bad news about the poor economic condition at home. It is really pathetic and inhuman for a baby of just six days to be exposed to such conditions. The situation may be bad at home, but allowing such ugly attitude among we northerners in particular is un-Islamic as it is inhuman.

It is high time Nigerians, especially northern extraction, should liaise with Nigerian authorities in Saudi Arabia to ban such begging on the street during Hajj. There many such Nigerians from the North who are involved in hawking along the sidewalk in both Makkah and Madina, and always having a running battle with the police who try to disperse them. That at least is more dignifying than begging.

Conclusion

It has practically become a norm in our national life in this country that we approach every problem, every issue and every event with fire brigade approach. Most of the time these actions are intentional because that is how people make quick money from public funds. For Hajj, it has become an annual disaster. Past failures have always been blamed on late preparation. But what excuse has the National Pilgrims Directorate this time because it began preparation early enough and even closed collection of Hajj fare three months before Hajj.

If we must succeed as a nation, as a people and as a responsible society we must change our attitude towards any national assignment as a means of getting quick money. Prof. Gwandu was allowed to continue to head the Directorate because he was a honest man, but are others working under him the same? Until God fearing people are allowed to lead the annual Hajj pilgrimage from the states to national level, until Hajj season is not seen as another lucrative season, and until those found wanting in the discharge of their responsibilities during Hajj are brought to book to serve as deterrent, Hajj operations from Nigeria will continue to be business as usual.



EKO TRUST

LASG gives AP 7-day ultimatum on road rehabilitation

In an effort to ensure free flow of traffic on the roads of Lagos State and remove any impediment which may compound traffic problem, the Lagos State government has given a seven day ultimatum to African Petroleum to open up and rehabilitate the service lane which the oil marketer blocked with her perimeter fence.

The Commissioner for Transportation, Dr. Muiz Banire, made the declaration while briefing newsmen in his office on the outcome of the tour of some traffic black spots which constituted impediments to free flow of traffic and security in the state by stakeholders in the transportation Industry.

The commissioner said the stakeholders unanimously agreed that African Petroleum should be given a seven day ultimatum to remove her perimeter fence which has been hindering road users from having access to the already existing service lane, and to also

By Olumide Bajulaiye,
Correspondent (Lagos)

make the truck road passable for tanker drivers.

Banire also directed that Texaco and Conoil should within seven days clear their frontage and rehabilitate the road and the drains around their loading stations.

In addition, the Depot and Petroleum Products Marketers Association (DAPPMA) Ibru Port Complex popularly referred to as Ibafor Petrol Depot should also as a matter of urgency, evacuate all their oil tankers parked indiscriminately on the roads, open the service lane

He pointed out that rather than parking at unapproved places, independent oil marketers in the State should comply with the Directorate of Petroleum Resources guideline which stipulates that adequate parking lots which will at least accommodate 50 trucks or tankers be provided for their trucks which are used for haulage business.

Banire warned oil marketers to comply with the directive of the Stakeholders Committee or be prepared to face the full wrath of the law, adding that government would not condone any act of indiscipline or lawlessness on the road or an act whereby tanker drivers constitute a menace on the road thereby endangering the lives of other road users.

The stake holders meeting was chaired by the Honourable Commissioner for Transportation, Dr. Muiz Banire and other members,

including the representative of the Local Government Chairmen, Pastor Ojelabi, the Lagos Sector Commander, Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC),

Mr. Ayobami Omiyale, Secretary of the National Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers (NUPENG), Chief Joseph Akinlaja, Secretary of the National Asso-

ciation of Road Transport Owners (NARTO), Barrister E.B Kanawa, the Vice Chairman of the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW), Alhaji Saka

Saula, representative of the Nigeria Police, Superintendent of Police, Francis Ekanem and Nigerian Army representative, Lt. Col. Ove Lawrence.



Former Gov. of Bayelsa State, Dieriyi Alamiseigha amidst EFCC tight security at the Federal High Court, Ikoyi facing a laundering charge... Wednesday
Pix: Oladipupo Odunewu

PHCN instals prepaid metres

By Mohammed Shosanya,
Correspondent (Lagos)

The Power Holdings Company of Nigeria (PHCN), Ikeja Distribution, zone has announced the commencement of installation of prepayment metres at Ayao and Magodo Estates in Lagos.

A statement from the Principal Manager, Public Affairs of the zone, Pekun Adeyanjo, recently explained that the installation is part of the proactive drive of the zone to improve its services to numerous electricity customers.

"With the prepayment metre scheme, our valued customers will begin to enjoy various advantages as estimated billings; disconnection of supply will no longer exist. Customers are to also benefit from the pay-as-you-go consume transparency in electricity consumption management and instant history of transaction request," the statement added.

It further stated that a total number of 1,000 single and three phase prepared metres are to be installed in Magodo, while 1,300 numbers will be installed Ajao Estate.

Aja crisis: NURTW factions clash again

While efforts have been made by the Lagos State government to ensure that peace returns to Ajah, two factions of the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) clashed again. Over the weekend, a faction of the union which casualties in a bloody clash at the weekend

launched a reprisal attack on its rival on Tuesday.

Confirming the incident, Lagos State Police Public Relations Officer, Olubode Ojajuni, stressed that the rival group, numbering over 30 and wielding dangerous weapons such as cudgels and cutlasses overran Ajah Motor Park and the adjacent

Ade Road.

They attacked members of the rival group who were the alleged aggressors in the January 16 bloody clash which claimed seven lives. Ojajuni observed that the quick response of a team of anti-robbery policemen from Ajah Division and Police Mobile Force (PMF) to the

scene of the clash prevented the situation from degenerating.

In another development, the police have arrested two members of a five-man armed robbery gang responsible for the attack on two residents of Mushin, Lagos during which three mobile handsets and N24,000 were stolen.

Briefing newsmen on the success recorded by the police, Ojajuni noted that the two suspects, Gbenga Adebayo and Kazeem Agunbiade, were arrested by a team of anti-robbery policemen, who were on patrol along Iyala Street, Mushin on Sunday.

According to him, immediately the suspects were arrested, two victims, Ama Badmus and Akinyemi Slakino, both residents of No. 36, Iyala Street, Mushin came to Mushin Division, where they identified their assailants.

The three mobile handsets and N24,000 were recovered from the suspects.

15,000 turn up for limb deformity correction

No fewer than 15,000 people have so far turned up for screening under the free limb deformity correction surgery programme of the Lagos State Government.

Officials of the Ministry of Health disclosed this as the fourth round of the programme was kicked-off at the Lagos Island General Hospital, Broad Street Lagos on Monday. They said about 1,000 out of this figure have had their deformed limbs successfully corrected. Commissioner for Health, Dr. Leke Pitan, who was at the hospi-

tal on Tuesday to oversee activities at the point of operation, said each round attracts as many as 3,000 people with deformed limbs who come for screening.

He, however, added that about 300 are operated per each round, which, according to him, adds up to not less than 1,000 corrective surgeries for the four rounds so far.

Pitan pointed out that that of the total number of people that turned out for the screening, a significant number are given clutches or wheel chairs, leaving the others with the option of surgery.

He stressed that the programme is free, as the follow-up treatment and care for those successfully operated upon are also free.

The commissioner, who went round the wards to see the state of some of those operated upon under the programme, also noted that eligibility for the programme is free and required no bureaucracy. "The selection criterion for eligibility for the programme is for the person with a deformed limb to just walk out of his house and come to the screening centre," Pitan said.

Dr. Dolapo Fasawe, coordinator of the programme who spoke on the feat achieved so far by the group of surgeons and other medical experts with the limb deformity correction programme, said 100 per cent success rate has been achieved so far with no case of death.

"About 90 per cent of our patients are discharged a day after the surgery, some are still under going follow-ups while others are recuperating very well. I must say it has been without any case of fatality so far," Fasawe said.

Inside Politics

South can't intimidate North with oil resources

Alhaji Gambo Magaji is the secretary of the ANPP's Board of Trustees (BOT). A former delegate to the defunct National Confab, the astute politician discussed the Nigerian situation. He decries the blame heaped on the North and concludes, that the South can not continue to intimidate the North with oil resources. He contends that power must have to shift to the North. Commenting also on the government's anti-corruption war, he said it is a mere charade. He spoke to Political Editor, Emmanuel Bello. Excerpts:-

In the last Trust Dialogue the issue was that of corruption, and the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) Chairman, Malami Nuhu Ribadu clearly blamed politicians, even as he exonerates this government of complicity in corruption. Do you share his views?

Corruption exist in three facts: spiritual, moral and material corruption. EFCC is only dealing with one level of these. The material corruption can not be completely wiped unless and until you deal with the first two. The other corruption stems out of the spiritual corruption and once you deal with it, you're getting to the root of the matter.

Nuhu Ribadu, in his limited resources has tried to handle the physical corruption, because he has at least, instill fear (not discipline) in the modus Operandi of the public sector. He needs to go into the private sector as well. But his success is limited unless he deals with the spiritual and moral corruption.

Even the one he is fighting he still has a long way to go. He's limited as well. Take contracts for example. Today, if you see an advert, don't ask for it, don't apply. This is my experience. If you do it, you won't get it because before the advert is out, the contract has been given out. The surprising thing is that when you go to the Ministries, you will be informed that the top echelon has shared out the contract even before the advertisement. So what happened to due process? This is the material corruption. But again, it is the moral corruption that has led to this.

How do you fight the spiritual and moral corruption?

It is the leadership that could begin to mop up that sort of corruption. Credible leadership with cases examples to lead back to

that even Ribadu said it openly. Ribadu is doing his best, but if the leadership is not committed there is no way the EFCC can succeed.

Is the president out of the other two types of corruption? Is he spiritually and morally upright? That is the question. Because Buba Galadima challenged Ribadu to look into issues: One, Buba Galadima challenged him to find out what happened to eight billion dollars left when Gowon was toppled. Two, to find out who is constructing a presidential villa at the Mambilla Plateau. So these are part of the problems of corruption. We need a leadership committed to wiping out the stigma of moral bankruptcy. A leader who can say yes and stick to it or No and do same. It has to do with leadership and the sincerity attached to the office. Ribadu is doing his best, but so long the leadership is not honest in its fight against the menace. But when you have a leadership which says one thing and does another, a leadership that can not even stick to the budget, you then have a problem. It is a moral burden. I don't know why anyone should present a budget and then fails to implement it.

You make a promise to renege on the promise, that is a moral problem.

Are you not satisfied that the EFCC has gone out to arrest top members of the government such as the former IG of police, a state Governor and ministers. Is this not an indication of commitment?

Before ICPC and EFCC, there were other institutions. But because they were not given the necessary supports, they became irrelevant. In fact, some of the functions being performed by the EFCC are duplications of the other agencies. They should be merged to stop the duplications. At the moment, you have four agencies doing the same thing. It is a waste and a drain. Just rationalize them.

On the issue of Tafa Balogun and others, well, fine. But how much of that

us what is happening. We ought to know how many governors have been petitioned against and to know what they have done with them. Because I know of certain governors who have been petitioned against every year. Many of them and Ribadu is not telling us. He should speak up to stop all the rumours. Next time, you'll see a newspaper report saying so-so number of governors have been indicted. It is up to Ribadu to clarify these issues. He must tell us how much he has done. We ought to know. People have sent petitions and have complained about certain governors, and nothing is been done. This is why some say the whole thing is selective. If he wants to remove the toga of selectiveness, he should do something about the petitions.

Do you think the EFCC boss can probe the president?

He has a moral problem here, because the president appointed him. The only way he can wriggle out of that entanglement is to amend the Act establishing EFCC and make it responsible to the National Assembly. Then he can investigate anybody. But the current situation where his employer is the executive he can't do much and I sympathised with him.

Southern leaders are beginning to say that the North prompted the current build up of southern opposition to the issue of power shift. Do you agree with their position?

They said North is meeting in various fora. What's wrong with that? They failed to remember that in 1967 when states were created, Northern states come under ICSA (Interim Common Services Agencies); the South Western state and Lagos and Mid-West; Rivers, Cross Rivers and the South East.

Now because of ICSA, the North learnt to move as one entity. There were common services: Bank of the North, NNDC. When more states were created, then we had the Odua group in the South West. The South

Up till today, the Northern states have common services. Because the common services requires our meeting for purely economic and social purposes. But you can't divorce politics from these issues. No one ever complained about those meetings.

But because the North has now rightly demanded that power should shift to this place based on the understanding reached, we

- Gambo Magaji

NPP too in the government. When the government was toppled, it was the military, not civilians. The same military continued until the present dispensation.

Now, the North did not put the military in power. The Military is a constituency of itself and in military practice

in the North seas (where the oil is from) in the United Kingdom ruled Britain. Have you ever heard of Scottish prime minister? In Russia, the oil is in the North. How many Northerners have ruled Russia? Oil has never been the basis for political power. So, they should stop fooling people in the country. It is not an issue of resource that you want control. This is leadership. So we should stop the parochialism, statism and the rest of it.

If they insist they rule, then we would insist they insist on confederation, and I have said it before, they should please, for goodness sake, come out and tell us about it. Then we can use five years to break it up peacefully. The whole thing being heaped on the North: We are parasites, we are this and that, laziness. Who are more lazy? Who is producing the oil? Is it the people themselves? The oil is produced by foreign companies. Oil wealth all over the world is national wealth, not belonging to one section. If they want to make it a state wealth, fine!

Are you saying the North is not threatened by a confederal arrangement in which the region will have no oil to live on?

The issue is simple. You are talking about confederation or whatever it is, you have to change the constitution. And when you go beyond the constitution, you go for referendum. If they even want to break up the nation, lets go for a referendum.

The truth is that we are fed up and do not care if the nation breaks up. We are tired of being accused everything in this country is too much. We can't just back and get accused for all the woes of the country as if we are the people in this country. We are not sharing the problem and solving it together. Let's us solve it together and stop all the blame game. But we are tired of being insulted and accused everyday.

Take South-South for example. Their troubles with their own leaders who squander all their allocations. It is not the fault of the North. It is their selfish leaders. It is common man in the South. South today is not better than his Northern counterpart. Those Southern



Alhaji Gambo Magaji

have all these drama. There was an understanding which came from PDP. We in the ANPP also went along with the agreement since the clamour then was that the North has dominated power for years. We said, okay, let it go down South for the civilian slot.

The North was so generous, so magnanimous to allow for the power to shift. We were concerned about the unity and survival of this country to the extent we gave out the leadership of this country on a platter of gold. And it is only fair for the South to reciprocate, this time to the North. But now the South wants to keep the power perpetually because, according to them, the North has held power for 35 years.

But if you look at it, the North has not held power alone. In the first republic it was a coalition government of NPC and NCNC. Tafawa Balewa was killed and a Southerner took over. Later on, the soldiers disagreed and a Northerner emerged.

And this continued up to the time, another Northerner

the leader of the coup leads the government. No one asked the southerners not to lead a coup. Who prevented them? It happened that the Northerners were perhaps more courageous and by providence led coups and become leaders. But the North was not urging the soldiers to take over. So they should not be blaming us. Take Governor Oyinlola Olagunsoye who is also blaming the North. Was he not a beneficiary of a military coup? He was a military governor. So should we say because he was a military governor he should not rule as a civilian governor? Should he vacate the Osun state government house? So what applies to him should be the same, even as when he was a military administrator and now governor. The military is not a Northern concept, so don't blame us for the coups.

They should blame the military, not the North. We are talking of civilian regime and in that situation the vote counts. If they win, they continue. Even in American

Inside Politics

2007: Gov Bukar Abba's burden and the ANPP in Yobe

With all the talk, and fears, of a third term in office for current political office holders, Yobe politics has begun to thicken in preparation for 2007, as politicians with eyes on the Government House, Damaturu throw the kite to test the political waters.

The contest for governor of the state may probably turn out to be one of the most complex and interesting in the country, considering the sheer number of people from the two main political parties, namely the All Nigeria People's Party (ANPP) and the People's Democratic Party (PDP), who have begun to show interest in making themselves available as candidates.

While there is strength in numbers in a democracy, however, the numbers this time might turn out to become a burden for the state Governor, Alhaji Bukar Abba Ibrahim.

The Governor, who will be completing his second term in office in 2007, has now to contend with the difficulty of choosing who to support from amongst several of his key political allies, who have shown interest in running for governor under the umbrella of the ANPP.

Not that there is a problem in producing a flag bearer for the party. The truth is that the choice will not be an easy one, considering the intrigues and realities on ground.

There are three senatorial zones in Yobe State comprising 17 local government areas, and Zone A, the Governor's own senatorial zone, has produced the governor since 1999. Politically, the next candidate for governor in the ANPP would then have to come from either Zone B, comprising of Potiskum, Fika, Fune, and Nangere local government areas or from Zone C, which consists of Bade, Jakusko, Nguru, Yusufari and Machina local government areas.

Among the people widely assumed interested in running for governor under the ANPP, three come from Zone B, namely Senator Mamman Ali (MAL), Alhaji Baba Ba'aba, current Secretary to the Yobe State Government and the Deputy Governor, Alhaji Aliyu Saleh Bagare. In Zone C, two persons are known to be interested in running for governor also under the ANPP and these are Senator Usman Albishir and the party Chairman, Alhaji Sidi Karasuwa.

All five possible candidates are close confidants of Governor Bukar Abba Ibrahim, except Senator Mamman Ali, whose relationship with the governor was said to have taken a turn for the worse recently, for reasons that are still largely unclear.

From Abdullahi Bego,
Regional Editor (North East)

differences between them, it is as yet unclear who will ultimately pick the ANPP ticket between Senator Albishir, seen widely as Bukar Abba's political godfather,

else. Although he's been in the Senate since 1999, his inability to influence the federal authorities to effect much-needed repairs on the completely washed out Nguru-Hadejia highway has greatly irked his people, who always use the road to travel

All these possible candidates must have to take into account the presence of Senator Mamman Ali. Relations between the second time Senator and the Governor Bukar Abba may not be good at present but MAL, as he is popularly

Abba Ibrahim, because he had picked one of their own, Aliyu Saleh Bagare as his running mate. Now that Bagare the Deputy Governor may be inching to place his candidature too, it would be trite to say that his people are certain to remain with him.

A, with the magnanimous acquiescence of the other Senatorial Zones, and a candidate who could appeal to all the constituencies in the state is picked and supported to carry the party to the hustings.

Sources said that this candidate could possibly be Mallam Garba Maidugu, current commissioner of finance in the state. Maidugu had been a gubernatorial contender in 1999, and had previously worked as a senior administrator in the state civil service. He was also former Chairman of Damaturu local government.

However, while Maidugu himself is widely regarded as very open and generous politician, his critics say that this disposition could prove to be a costly weak point, if he allowed it to detract from his attention to seriously attend to issues.

Without doubt, these are difficult choices that the ANPP in Yobe State must address, because everyone in the party knows that the challenge from the rival PDP is certain to be formidable and great.

The PDP is Yobe's largest opposition party. In both the 1999 and 2003 elections, it was the biggest challenger to Governor Bukar Abba Ibrahim's ANPP, which formed the government. Its candidate in the 2003 polls, Alhaji Adamu Waziri may still return to contest the 2007 polls, according to sources, although there are several other persons who may also decide to contest for governor.

Although details are as yet sketchy as to how the PDP plans to organize itself for the election, given the split within its ranks which led to the formation of two rival leaderships in the state currently, its capacity to use its historical experience to re-adjust itself and to exploit any contentious issues within its main rival, the ANPP cannot be underestimated.

Still, the ANPP and indeed the PDP may have spanners thrown in their works if the alleged attempt of Governors to support a third term in office for themselves and the President sails through.

Without doubt, Governor Bukar Abba would have no hesitation continuing as Governor, if the opportunity avails itself. On a number of occasions in the past, the Governor had spoken ambivalently about third term, saying President Obasanjo had not said he wanted to continue beyond 2007 but that if it is the wish of Nigerians that there should be a third term in office for current political office holder, so be it.

Complex issues in Yobe politics which only time could determine and tell. But all said, politics is increasingly becoming more 'palpable' as the people of the state yearn for a person, any person, who can turn the fortunes of the



Governor Bukar Abba

Baba Ba'aba, current SSG and the governor's close confidant, Bagare, who is described as a loyal Deputy Governor and Karasuwa who heads the party in the state.

Daily Trust investigations show that while ANPP supporters in Yobe State would weigh a lot of factors in deciding who to support among these candidates, the Governor's influence cannot be discountenanced, especially considering the fact that, like many of his governor colleagues whose second term tenure will end in 2007, he would wish to ensure the emergence of a close ally, who will further and protect his legacy and not desecrate it.

So, is it going to be Albishir for both Governor Ibrahim and the ANPP supporters in the State? It is difficult to say. Senator Usman Albishir representing Yobe Zone C in the Senate is a long standing politician and businessman with extensive contacts across the country. He has established a scholarship programme for Yobe State students, which has been upheld as a great fillip to the education sector in the state.

But Albishir carries a public relations baggage that can be a great burden to any politician. He is seen by many people, especially in his own Nguru hometown, as a 'capitalist' whose main

to Kano and other parts of the country for their business and social activities, and who are generally wont to lampoon him as 'tight-fisted'. If Albishir's opposition should begin from his own home base, his task of galvanizing support for a gubernatorial project would be a hard one indeed.

For Alhaji Baba Ba'aba, who has been the SSG in Bukar Abba Ibrahim's administration between 1992 and 1993 and since 1999 following the return of democratic politics, the road to Government House Damaturu may be strewn with even more potholes.

Clearly, Ba'aba is a seasoned technocrat highly versed in the inner workings of government. But many people say that he lacked the political acumen and reach needed to carry people along in a gubernatorial campaign that seems certain to be tough and challenging. In addition, the SSG has the general reputation of being the 'engine room' of the outgoing Bukar Abba administration. For better or worse, public perception of the administration would bear heavily in how he is received by the people of the state.

The Deputy Governor, Aliyu Saleh Bagare and party Chairman, Sidi Karasuwa are relatively less active public 'quantities' than Albishir and Ba'aba, but it is anybody's guess if they have the



Alhaji Baba Ba'aba, SSG Yobe State

known, is a political figure of no mean standing in Yobe.

Like Albishir, Senator Mamman Ali has also floated a scholarship scheme under the MAL Foundation and to date, thousands of Yobe State students have been benefiting from the scheme. His quite, unassuming dispositions as well as the scholarship scheme, among other factors, have endeared him to many people, especially the youths in the state.

While these are some of his greatest political strengths, tribal politics in the senatorial zone where he hails from could prove to be one of his Achilles' heels. Yobe Zone B has one of the most complex cultural mixes in Yobe State. The Senator comes from the Ngizim tribe, which is predominant in the Pataskum emirate. Other tribes in the Zone B area include Bolewa and Karai-Karai. Although politics in Yobe State is not completely a function of which tribe a candidate comes from, the Bolewa are still unlikely to root for Mamman Ali if they have Baba Ba'aba, who is one of them, as a candidate. It is also the case with the Karai-Karai, who have traditionally demonstrated a 'block-voting' tendency, where ordinary Karai-Karai voters were always mobilized by their political elite to vote for one single candidate of their choice.

Clearly, the above scenario may or may not be the case. If it turns out to be the case, it seems that the three possible ANPP candidates from Zone B would have to make do with a 'split constituency' where the votes may go in several directions.

And this may be Governor Bukar Abba's dilemma. It is true that the ANPP would want to retain the governorship position, which can be filled with the party's candidate either from Zone B or Zone C, according to its political arrangement. But what happens if candidates from either of the two zones were dogged by separate political deficiencies as to compromise the party's chances at the polls?

Daily Trust learnt that senior stakeholders of the ANPP in Yobe State have begun discussions as to how the various positions can be harmonized to achieve the supreme party objective of forming the next administration in the state. These discussions would certainly take time to achieve a consensus, as the interests get more entrenched and the stakes grow higher.

But one possible option being discussed, our correspondent learnt, is for the ANPP to field a 'compromise' candidate if any of the other candidates previously identified could not be made flag bearer of the

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Living: Can Nigeria have female

Tips on how not to embarrass your partner

By Habiba Adamu

It does not matter how long you have been married, but how happy are you during that period. The moment you and your partner becomes husband and wife, both of you shoulder the responsibility of everything in the house.

Probably due to human nature or lack of proper upbringing some people don't respect their partner instead they embarrass and humiliate them. This comes in form of insult, scolding or disparaging remark.

It is very wrong for a man to shout at his wife or scold her in the presence of her children, friends, and relatives, strangers, at his or her work place or even in a crowd. I mentioned men specifically here because most of them are fond of this habit because women hardly do such things.

Whenever your partner

offends you the first thing to do is to keep calm. This is because you may say or do something you may regret.

Find a suitable time and place, where both of you can settle the matter amicably.

It has become a habit to some couple to quarrel or even fight in the presence of their children. This is bad because by doing so you are instilling bad habit on them.

The fact remains that some women continue to repeat the same mistake.

Remember that as the head of the family and as a man you are supposed to respect your partner no matter what. This shows your sensibility and maturity. The day will come when your spouse will realise that you respect her even her shortcomings and whether you are there or not she will realise and appreciate you more.

Always bear in mind that two wrongs cannot make a right as the saying goes, therefore, do not resort to embarrassment and humiliation just because you want to make your spouse realise that she offended you. You might change her for worst because as you continue to embarrass her she may revert to the same method and this could end the marriage or relationship.

Below are some tips by an expert on relationship, Jennifer Good, on how not to embarrass your partner so as to increase the love and understanding between both of you. A successful relationship is a two way compromise, so take note.

1. Never disparage your partner

Most people in relationships are usually looking forward to returning to that feeling you have when you first fall in love." From my personal experience, the loss

of this feeling comes from each partner losing the respect they had for the other when they first met.

Remember your partners are not perfect, but that does not mean they don't deserve your respect and love. Don't try to make your partner over "too" better. You loved them exactly the way they were when you first met. Don't let time change that.

2. Never let your partner disparage you

Personal integrity is valuable asset. Lose that and you lose your identity as a being. Every one deserves to be treated with value and love. If you have a partner who does not respect you, talk to them about it. Let them know how you feel. If it's not something they are willing to change, find some one else. It may not seem like it now, but you will be happier in the long run.

3. Keep your romance alive

Contrary to popular opinion, romance does not just exist. After some time you do have to put in effort to keep it alive. It does not have to be much. In fact, the most romantic people I know just take the time to do the little things to make their partner feel special. Make a commitment to do something romantic at least every day. Remember, even taking the time to really listen to how your partner's day went can be considered romantic.

4. Always be honest

Nothing can damage a relationship more than dishonesty. In every case, honesty is the best policy. This also means.... Don't put yourself in situations you feel the need to lie about. Relationships are built on trust. Once broken, it is very difficult to rebuild. Avoid, at any cost, falling into this trap.



THE HOME FRONT

Fragments

By Safiya I. Dantiye, Editor, *The Home Front*
safiyadantiye@yahoo.com

Marrying for wrong reasons

For most people marriage is based on love apart from other reasons like wealth, beauty, good behaviour and family background. Even if the marriage turns sour at least you knew you went into it for love. But surprisingly some people, especially women go into marriage just to be classified as married women, and therefore, they cannot wait to get out of the marriage. If they have a child the more reason to get out of the marriage and hope to marry for love in the future.

It is what I call marrying for the wrong reasons and it is also very deceptive of such women. In other words they use the men to achieve their own ends.

In any case, why do women endanger their happiness in false marriage, so to say? One woman said that it was mainly because such ladies want to get married at all cost, adding that besides, their biological clock is ticking; therefore they are frantic to have a child.

Two years ago I did not take it serious when one woman told me that she just wanted to get married, have a child or two and get out of the marriage to take care of her children. But with recent events I am inclined to believe such a possibility. Are women getting the last laugh, because it seems they are using men and dumping them, as against what usually obtain where men use women and dump them?

All the same, these women are very selfish because people attend their marriage ceremony without knowing that it is a 'staged' marriage. If they knew that they were wasting their time, most of them wouldn't have attended.

A closer look may reveal that these women are under pressure from their parents, relatives, friends and their communities. Therefore they pretend to love any man that comes their way even if they hate the sight of him. One of such young women married somebody below her status and later blamed her mother for pushing her into the marriage, because according to her, her mother insisted she should marry anybody. Needless to say, she refused to stay with him after a few months, saying that at least she has been married.

Friends who went into marriage earlier tend to put pressure on their friends to also do so, some even look down on their mates, feeling that they have attained a certain status, and therefore, are beyond such unmarried mates. They also flaunt

"Friends who went into marriage earlier tend to put pressure on their friends to also do so, some even look down on their mates, feeling that they have attained a certain status, and therefore, are beyond such unmarried mates. They also flaunt their husbands and children to their unmarried friends. All these may make them to marry just anybody."

their husbands and children to their unmarried friends. All these may make them to marry just anybody.

People hardly mind their business and either out of envy or malice they always want to know who is married or not. This is more so if the young woman in question has attained a high level of education or has a good job.

One Mallam had once told his female students in a weekend Islamiyya School that no matter how bad a marriage may be it is better than not to be married even if the woman would be the one to feed the family! It is as if it is the woman that is marrying the man instead of the other way round. Any woman that goes into a marriage knowing she will be the provider of the family knows that the husband will treat her any how; after all did she not love him enough or want to marry him to accept to shoulder his responsibilities?

In spite of such pressures some women still persevere and wait until they get the man of their choice, not just anybody for the sake of just being married. Marriage is meant for life, so why should one go into it intending to be divorced later?

To me, marrying for the wrong reason is like committing suicide, because how could you sacrifice yourself like that? Besides, if the husband realizes that he is being duped and you want to dump him after achieving your purpose, he may refuse to grant you the divorce for months or even years.

Therefore, women should endeavour to marry for the right reasons. As a friend once told me, every woman would eventually get a husband



Some of the Key members of the children's parliament at the children's New Year party, held currently at International Conference Centre, Abuja.

Children and moral decadence

By David Thoronka Banjul

It needs urgent attention because its consequences are catastrophic. They transcend political, economic, health and social domain. In all this, the children suffer most.

The two schools of thought, modern and conservative moralists have pondered upon this subject repeatedly. They have brainstormed, streamlined, outlined and strategised mechanisms to curtail the tempo of the moral erosion in our societies. This moral erosion is likened to the fierce battle raging on between virtues and vices. Thus, everyday unfolds new terrors and honours of this invisible battle. This is demonstrated in the way people are acting vile and adopting cannibal style.

Our children need to be protected from bad moral practices. Nevertheless, for this campaign to be successful, they need to take the lead in defending themselves from moral decadence simply because their attitude will determine whether they are prone to abuse, exploitation and violation.

Moral decadence is hard to tackle, as it is not easily detected. It can be perceived as the negligence or

abandonment of society's moral values, cherished customs and beautiful usages, which are threatened with extinction. In our case, the threat of destruction of moral fabric is so impending that urgent measures are needed to be taken to rescue the future of young and innocent generation. The children are virtues, trapped between the cross fire of the battle between morality and immorality.

Modern moralists perceive morals as dynamic, which evolve rapidly to embrace new emerging realities. They argue that evolution of morals is not sudden and visible but is constantly in motion. And for people to live peacefully and happily, they should be allowed to choose the lifestyle they wish to adopt. This affords them the opportunity to exploit their inherent rights and liberty. They resent the clause "moral decay." They believe that morality is incorruptible and the only way it can pass on is by evolution to give room for better morals to emerge.

Conservative moralists, on their part staunchly criticised modern moralists. They see societal

values as cherished treasures, which people find hard to part with. If that is the case, then it rebuts the presumption of the modernists who claim that values are constantly evolving. The immoral upsurge in our society should be solely blamed on modern moralists. They are accused of creating a society where all morals will be perceived as acceptable, which will eliminate the difference between morality and immorality. If this is achieved then there will be no distinction between right and wrong, good and evil. What a world it will be if this happens?

When there is moral sanity the population live in peace, love and harmony.

When people abide by the moral decency left by their ancestors, then society will experience progress, development and prosperity. If society lost its moral sanity, it will experience the negative sides of immorality as we see on the beach.

However, we will endeavour to examine certain fundamental morals, which are threatened. Chastity was once considered with sacred respect. A girl was expected to chaste until

she gets married. However, this is no longer the case.

Very young girls lost their innocence and some are proud of it. The issue of boyfriend and girlfriend amongst teenagers has compounded the problem.

Discipline and decent dressing are other basic morals, which have been seriously affected by modern moralist ideologies. Today, children are wearing clothes that their parents would not have contemplated in their youth such as short, transparent and revealing dresses have come to fashion. Such indecent and immodest dresses create an opportunity for a child to be sexually abused or exploited.

Children no longer use certain etiquettes such as 'thank you' 'forgive me' or 'I am sorry, when something good is done or when somebody is offended.

Polite vocabulary such as please or excuse me are almost eroded from their minds. For us to protect the moral public of our nation, children should take the lead. They should not be porous to all modern theories for some are self-destructive which will in turn be destructive to the nation.

Culled from allafrica.com

THE HOME FRONT

Health interactive

With Dr Aminu Magashi

Q and A

HIV AND ANTI RETROVIRAL DRUGS

Please provide some information to me about HIV drugs
Someone living with HIV/AIDS

HIV drugs also called Anti retro viral drugs are drugs taken mainly to suppress the multiplication of HIV virus within the white blood cells, to help avert more destruction of white blood cell (CD 4 cells) which are responsible for providing protection to the body.

The drugs are not eliminating or killing the virus, but reversing or stopping the process of multiplication. There is an indication for using the drugs, even if someone has the infection, is not automatic for that person to commence using the drugs. The yard stick is to measure the level of CD4 cells count, which in some centres, if the count is below 500 / cubic meter or others use below 300 cubic meters as a yard stick.

Some of the drugs are protease inhibitors such as saquinavir and reverse transcriptase inhibitors such as zidovudine, lamivudine and nevirapine. An infected person with HIV and low level of CD4 cells as mentioned above will be taking the drugs on daily basis, till when the CD4 cell count has risen to an appreciable and tolerable level.

What is window period?

Please, Doctor, can you shade more light about window period, because I attended a workshop recently in Abuja, where we were taught about it, but I still don't understand it.

Thanks a lot
Muhammad Ali

Window period is usually between 6 weeks to 6 months and that depends on the immune status of that individual. It is a period when the body that is infected with HIV, will develop antibodies against the virus. Some people's bodies take some time to develop the antibodies. During the window period if an HIV test is conducted (Elisa test), it is going to reveal negative even if the person is infected with the virus, because at that time his/her body has not developed the antibodies that the test will identify.

Re: What is safe period?

From your last edition of your column, I read a discussion on safe period; please I will like to know which approach is more dependable for preventing pregnancy.

Khairullah Kaduna

As I mentioned last week Safe period is the time when matured egg is released from the ovary and enters into the fallopian tube to wait for a matured sperm for fertilization and implantation. That period is in the middle of the menstrual cycle, assuming the person has a regular menstrual cycle. If a woman has a 28 days menstrual cycle, it means that on 14th day, that is her expected ovulation period and a range is provided, two days before and two days after.

Using safe period as a means of contraception has a lot of failure rate because, some women don't have regular menses and others still get the calculation wrong.

Other reliable methods are:

1. Use of Intrauterine Contraceptive devices (IUCD)
2. Use of injectables
3. Use of oral contraceptive pills
4. Use of condom

Before you make a decision on what to use, please visit a family planning clinic for a proper counselling and making an informed choice.

Please reproduce your write up on Hair Loss

I am a regular reader of your column, and sometime about two years ago, you did a write up on Hair Loss and I am experiencing similar problem and did all my best to trace the edition but to no avail. Please can you reproduce such write up for the benefit of your readers?

Blessing from Gombe

Loss of hair, also called Alopecia requires detailed history taking, careful scalp examination and complete physical examination. Examination should enable confident diagnosis.

There are two type hair losses

Non Scarring type, this is the type that easily regenerates and can respond to topical or intra lesional steroid. This type is classified into two

Localized (hair loss confined to one area)



Women are actively involved in HIV/AIDS campaign.

hair)

3. Fungi Infection

Diffuse type (hair loss covers wide area)

1. Nutritional problems, (like deficiency with vitamin E and others)

2. Diabetes mellitus

3. Post partum (just after pregnancy)

4. Hypothyroidism or Hyperthyroidism

Scarring type (it hardly regenerates)

Localized

1. Idiopathic (unknown cause)

2. Infection with herpes zoster

Diffuse which is cause by Radiotherapy and a condition called Discoid Lupus Erythromyotosis.

Other causes among women would be mycotic lesion (it is possible that dandruff may cause the loss hair and equally the anti dandruff agent may abet the loss)

Drugs such as cytotoxic drugs for treatment of cancer, anti thyroid drugs and also oral contraceptives.

Investigations will be tailored towards doing full blood count, ESR, urea and electrolyte, thyroid function test, liver function test, hair pluck test. I will advise you to visit your physician to assess your condition in line with some of the likely causes itemized above and other relevant techniques and investigation.

Small male organ; my dilemma

I am in my mid thirties and I feel embarrassed to approach a woman for a relationship. My problem is that I have a small male organ .I need solution to this problem to enable me have a normal sexual life and can my organ be enlarge?

Aminu Bala.

I will like to tell you that nothing stops you from leading and having a normal sexual relationship with a small male organ. Yours is not the first, as many people are also having small organs and still able to marry and reproduce. It all depends on your stamina. All you need to do is to identify a woman that you love and vice versa, understanding and caring and settle down with.

You may have come across a lot of adverts that say 'male

enhance erection, not the size. I will not discourage you to visit such outfits, but be careful so that you will not be cheated.

Normally, male organ, as someone settles down in a relationship, will increase in size, due to muscle hypertrophy (increase in size) although people may not really appreciate that increase. Be self motivated and carry on with your life.

My advice to you is to wait until you are married and see whether you are capable of reproducing or not. For now try and accept the way you are and go into a relationship with an open mind.

Pregnancy and frequent urination

I am about 8 months pregnant. Of recent I am having frequent urination day and night and find it difficult to sleep well. Thanks and God bless

Florence, Jos

As pregnancy progresses, the womb (pregnant uterus) presses on the urinary bladder and that creates a back pressure and it presents with increase in urinary frequency and even after evacuation, some urine will remain and still lead to urgency to pass urine. That is normal, however, some women used to develop what is called gestational diabetes during pregnancy and that also can present with urine frequency. The way to differentiate the two mentioned problems is to explain to your obstetrician during antenatal visits.

HIV/AIDS and Kissing

Can someone be infected when kissed by an HIV infected person that is not having boils on his/her mouth?

- Usman Abubakar

The risk attach to getting HIV infection due to kissing is minimal, but however, if kissing result to bruising of the oral mucosa (mouth) and exchange of blood between the partner, there is the tendency for the HIV virus to get absorbed through the damage capillaries (bruised area)

Write in confidence to healthinteractive@hotmail.com or

THE HOME FRONT

FASHION AND STYLE

Beauty tips for acne prone skin

A huge number of our men and women starting from adolescence-or even as early as age 12 suffer from acne. Unfortunately each of these victims is often too quick to resort to self medication. This phenomenon has given rise to the increase of so-called acne medication in our chemists. The truth is 50% of the solution to acne prone skin is within the reach of the victims if only he or she will adhere to these simple rules.

Keep your hands off your face: Your hands, after touching so many things, opening the door, picking up a bag, things we do everyday, are covered with bacteria. The last thing you want is to put those bacteria on your face. Touch your face often with your hands, or worse still, pick those pimples with your fingers and you will see the pimples multiply.

Keep your hair off your face: If you have oily skin, you probably have oily hair. Oily hair brushing against your face adds to the oil. Oil, sweat and skin debris are a great way to clog the pores in your skin, leading to more pimples. If you notice pimples appearing on your

By Jane Oslo-Dotun

forehead, or your cheek and chin, typically where your hair might brush against, your hair could be the culprit. Wear a hair-band, use hair clips to keep your hair off your face, tie it into a pony tail, or get a hair cut.

Wash your face 3 times a day with good acne cleaner: I got that tip from a doctor. I washed my face when I wake up in the morning, at lunch time and at bedtime with a cleanser that is meant for skin that has acne. My skin cleared when I stuck to the routine and used only skin care products meant for skin with acne. A bar of soap meant for washing your face does the trick just as well.

Stick to acne skin care: Every time I stray from the point, I always end up with a major acne outbreak. Every time I see my pals with exceptionally radiant skin, I want to use whatever they use, I would switch to richer, anti aging skin care as a preventive measure, worried about wrinkles appearing when I get older. That backfires every time, I end up with more pimples. Stick to good acne skin care products.

Relax: Did you notice how pimples tend to appear more before a stressful

event? Pimples can also pop up due to hormonal imbalances, like just before

your period.

Sleep: Your skin heals itself when you sleep. Your

entire body heals itself in your sleep. A night without sleep may lead to more pimples. Make it a habit to leave your worries behind and get a good night's sleep. Work out earlier in the day; get some exercise before evening. It helps.

Stay away from pressed powder compact: Yup. You hear me right. I got this tip from a friend. Her friend used a pressed powder compact to hide her acne. Instead, the more she used it the worse it got. By mid day, your skin gets oily. You take the powder compact, and use that powder puff to apply pressed powder on your face. Now, your face would already have dirt, bacteria and oil on it. Pat you with that powder puff and now that puff picks up the dirt, bacteria and oil. You put it back into the compact. The bacteria happily bred in there. Then you take out the compact again and pat more powder, mixed with oil, dirt and bacteria onto your face, picking up more gunks, putting in more gunks into your compact. The cycle goes on. A better bet would be to use blotting paper to blot off the excess oil instead. Then you can throw the paper away after use.



Acne free face

The art and style of beauty

What makes a woman timelessly beautiful?

Why does an immortal beauty have great style?

Princess Diana, Julia Roberts, Gwyneth Paltrow, Naomi Campbell, Lucy Liu, Jackie Kennedy Onassis, Isabelle Adjani, Marilyn Monroe, to name a few, are so irresistible to men and envied by women the world over.

They are great beauties. More importantly, they have great style. Over the centuries, women have sought to be beautiful.

To be beautiful means to have confidence and self-esteem, strength and intelligence, good grooming and good health. And most importantly, to be truly beautiful is to have great

style.

Style is a potent thing to have.

Style commands respect, attention, and adulation.

Even when a woman is not beautiful in the classic meaning of the word, a style lifts her above the rest.

Style is not just about beauty, wealth or even keeping up with the latest fashion.

Style is intrinsic to a woman's knowledge of herself, her ability to develop an image that is truly hers, being brave and daring enough to project that image.

No matter who you are, where you live, and no matter what your budget is - you too can be irresistibly beautiful.

You too can have great style.

Culled from www.angelfire.com

On the Use of Powder

About this powder puff thing, make it a point to wash your powder puff and all your make up brushed regularly, with soap and water. Then dry them completely before you keep them. Guess that would make it an 8th tip right?

Oily, acne prone skin needs a lot of care. The bright side is that oily skin is slower to show signs of aging than dry skin. Take care of your skin and you will probably look younger than your peers as the decade go by.

Many adolescents suffer from acne. However, adults also suffer from acne. People begin to suffer from acne from as early as 11 years old and many do not get rid of the problem even as they enter adulthood. With so many people suffering from acne, it is hard to know how to treat it. Acne care has come a long way in recent years. There are many different ways to go about acne care, so let us discuss them to see which form of acne care is best for you.

The truth about acne care is that everyone is different

and not all acne care methods are right for everyone. Many people have acne caused by various reasons. Some is hormonal, others by stress. Other people have acne because of hereditary reasons. Some people just have poor eating and cleansing habits. Each of these reasons can cause acne, so now that you know; you can start trying to treat it.

The first part of your acne care regiment should involve your lifestyle. You should always wash your hands and avoid touching your face where the acne is. Cosmetics should be avoided as many can cause acne breakout. You should also eat properly by avoiding eating greasy and salty food. You should also wash your bed linens frequently and your hair each day as well.

Many people with acne often think they should wash their face several times a day. However, most doctors recommend that you only wash your face once in the morning and once at night. Washing your face too often

can irritate it further. You should also be sure to use a mild soap to wash so that you don't irritate your face.

Several types of over the counter acne care treatments can be used. There are some in the forms of astringes, soaps, face washes, and creams that you leave on your face. These acne care products are products that are usually made of salicylic acid, sulphur, or Benzoyl peroxide. Some of these can make your face worse if your skin is sensitive, so be careful.

For those of you with a severe acne problem, you should see a dermatologist. The dermatologist can then prescribe you an oral or topical acne medication. Most doctors prefer for you to use a topical acne care treatment. Side effects are common so be careful when going this route. Be sure to report any side effect to the dermatologist.

Benzoyl peroxide is probably the common acne fighting ingredient found in over the counter topical gels, creams and ace washes. This chemical mixture can be fairly

effective topically in treating very mild acne in my opinion, but it doesn't work in cases of more severe acne that is usually related to hormonal imbalances or high stress levels. This more severe and "deeply rooted" cystic type acne is much more stubborn and usually requires a more aggressive oral treatment aimed at calming hormones and cleansing the skin from the inside.

Benzoyl peroxide is a solution that acts as an antibacterial agent, and helps prevent further infection and growth or acne cysts and pustules. Neutrogena acne spot treatment gel helps dry out blemish, and seems to keep it from reforming a white head effectively. The drawbacks to Benzoyl peroxide are: increased redness and irritation, excessive dryness and flaking.

Many times these side effects override the benefits, since dry, flaky, red skin can look just as bad if not worse than the acne itself!

Courtesy: African hair and beauty magazine

THE HOME FRONT

LIVING

Can Nigeria have female president?

The whole world stood still, so to speak, when Africa's first female president was sworn in on Monday, January 16, 2006, the president of Liberia. This historic event raised hopes about the possibility of female president in other African countries. But the immediate question when watching the unprecedented inauguration was, can Nigeria also have a female president?

Mallam Sa'adu, a businessman, expressed optimism for such a possibility, according to him; things are changing in the world. He noted, "Besides, women would not be involved in fraud like men.

By Safiya I. Dantiye

And they are more diligent, therefore I would welcome a female president in Nigeria." Even though men seem to have failed, they should be given more time, said Mr. Umar who works in an oil company. He pointed out that women cannot run affairs of the country, saying that Nigeria is not Liberia.

As for Mrs. Jennifer, a teacher, it is high time we have a female president. She cited the examples of Professor Dora Akunyili, the Director-General of NAFDAC, and Mrs. Ngozi Okojo-Iweala, the Minister of Finance as

achievers and a clear indication that a woman could become a president and do a good job.

possibility on gender performance, not as a male chauvinist, reiterating that the performance of Professor

out that the 30 per cent affirmative action women are calling for would not be to their advantage, because it will encourage them to contest; they would become less competitive, it will lessen their strength and therefore diminishes the good of politicking.

Nigeria cannot have a female president for years to come, because our society is not as organized as that of the Liberian in spite of being in civil war for years, according to Mallam Nasir AbdulAziz, a civil servant. He maintained that Nigeria needed a tough man for a president because the political scene is too chaotic for a woman until things stabilised. He also dismissed the idea that women like Mrs. Okonjo-Iweala could do the job.

"Having only managed a fraction of the institution that made up Nigeria does not qualify them to manage the country, we need tough men for now," he said.

Women are more compassionate and therefore less likely to be involved in thuggery and political assassination, noted Mrs. Halima, a business woman. The compassion, she said, would therefore make them embark on people oriented programmes that will help the

poor people. She therefore called on men to support women based on their ability to hold the highest position in the country and not to feel threatened by the women.

"But it is going to be difficult, because our men are not used to it, some still see women as inferior to men," she lamented.

Asked if women would support their fellow women, judging by reports that women don't support fellow women politicians and some would do everything to undermine them. Mrs. Halima explained that it might be because of the belief that a woman cannot do well in leadership position, even the women believe it. With more awareness, women will rally behind their fellow women instead of disparaging them, she noted.

But Mr. Solomon Audu, cautioned that though a female president may be good for Nigeria, Nigerian men may not support that, because according to him, they will feel challenged for a woman to rule them.

"By the way, I think we need that change, the men are trying to disintegrate the country by having regional associations all clamouring for the presidency in 2007 in the so-called power shift. Therefore, a female president may bring positive changes to Nigeria," he added.



Dr. Sarah Jibril, presidential candidate in 2003 election.

"We need the support of the men and it is a great task because Nigerian men don't seem to think we can do it, they would rather we are kept at the background. But we will achieve it one day", she added.

Mohammed Bello, a journalist, stated that he would support such a

Dora Akunyili and the like have proven that they could do the job. He also maintained that Nigeria, has been ruled by men, and that the men should give women a chance to rule, emphasising, "men are not courageous any more, men have failed."

In spite of his optimism, Mohammed Bello, pointed

"But Mr. Solomon Audu, cautioned that though a female president may be good for Nigeria, Nigerian men may not support that, because according to him, they will feel challenged for a woman to rule them."

Women: Dangers in neglecting responsibilities

Women are saddled with the sole responsibility to run the home affairs, they see to the welfare of the husband and children, and everybody else in the household. The husband's food should be warm and ready when he wants it and the children can always rush to their mothers with one demand/complain or the other. In other words, the wife or mother can always be counted on to provide succour in the home.

By Sa'adatu Ovosi

home they make the house girls serve food to their husbands, which she said, may not portend well for the wives.

"Such women don't know that they are digging their own graves by literally throwing the house girls at their husbands. Some men have affairs with the house girls or even marry them, apart from that, women should critically scrutinize their children's behaviour when they are at home, because they may be learning bad habits from the house girl."

In order to avoid a situation where her husband may have affair with her house girl, Mrs. Rosaline Icha, stopped having house girls despite the fact that she has the means of paying them. According to her, the disadvantage is more than the advantage, except for the fact that a God-fearing husband can take care of his wife with

finding comfort in the house girl.

Mrs. Rosaline, explained that some women become too engrossed in their work that they don't tend to notice what is happening around them, usually when it is too late that they would find out their mistake. One woman, she said, would leave the house girl to serve breakfast and dinner, even lunch on weekends, in fact the husband became so attached to the house girl that if he needed anything he would ask the house girl even if the wife was around. It was only when the house girl became pregnant that the woman realized what was going on.

Since women chose to neglect their responsibilities, they should be brave to face the consequences, admonished Mr. Lawal Umaru, saying that women have insisted on working like men, which the pointed out will be more difficult for them, because, in addition to their

care of their husbands' needs and their children's too.

"Some of these women look down on their husbands, feeling too big or important to even serve them water. Though no matter, what I don't approve of men having affair with their house girls, such action is to the extreme, after all if you must do it, there other girls outside?", he maintained.

On the consequences on children, Mr. Lawal stated that some children become wild, because their mothers are not around to monitor their activities and they may not take corrections from the house girls.

Hajiya Maimuna, a house wife and mother of two, said even though she is a full time house wife she used to delegate her responsibilities to her house girls, until she noticed her children's upbringing had changed for the worse. She added that, she also observed that when husband didn't like the house girl's cooking, while standing

and a mother.

Greed, negligence and laziness are what make women neglect their marital responsibilities, according to Mallam Abdullahi Salisu. Explaining further, he said women are too busy acquiring wealth, some do multiple jobs to the detriment of their homes, by so doing neglect their homes.

He blamed men for their laxity, saying that they should be firm in saying what they want or what ought to be right. "My wife will not dare allow a house girl to serve me food if she is around, women don't know that these things they neglect as unimportant as they seem, are the things that draw them closer to their husbands," he noted.

Mrs. Sarah Peter, an accountant and a mother of four, said that she kept a house girl not for the fun of it but to take care of the children and tidy up the house from Monday to Friday, while during the weekend she stays at home to do her domestic

work.

She, said she goes to work by 8 am and comes back by 8 pm very tired and therefore could not do house chores but only to sleep early in preparation for the next day.

"I wake up very early and prepare breakfast, bath the children, drop them at school before seven thirty and proceed to work. But I try as much as possible to make up to be with them at the weekend," she added.

Grace Daniel, a student and a house wife with two kids stated that leaving the household chores to a house girl was not because of neglect, but necessity. Apart from being a student, she said, she also has a shop which makes her very busy and she had no choice but to employ a house girl to take care of her children.

"With my busy life I need a house maid so I can have "my time" where I can relax for an hour or so. Delegating responsibilities to house girls is risky but I need them and I try to do what I can to take care of my family," she stated.



NIGERIAN EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

INVITATION TO A

WORKSHOP ON STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (SPED) 2ND AND 3RD FEBRUARY, 2006

BACKGROUND

The Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council (NERDC) is a Parastatal of the Federal Ministry of Education established in 1988 by an enabling decree No.53 (now Act 53). This Act gives NERDC the mandate to provide the required building blocks for strategic planning, research and development that will guide the formulation and effective implementation of related educational development policies in Nigeria.

Educational development efforts, at all levels, in Nigeria have not been supported by a well thought out Strategic Plan. This has rendered the full attainment of targets in the sector a wide dream. It is not enough to formulate a National Policy on Education (NPE); the completeness is to prepare sustainable short, medium and long range Strategic Plans for educational development.

There does not exist at the moment any widely accepted by consensus strategic plans for educational development either at the Federal, State or Local levels. The absence of a strategic plan is compounded by lack of common consensus among professionals, practitioners and other critical stakeholders on the focus and direction educational development should follow. Thus, it is often difficult to identify and agree on priorities which would have led to systematic planning and development in line with global reforms.

The current culture of reforms within the NEEDS context and the Millennium Development Goals calls for the need to identify short, medium and long range development priorities in education at Federal, State and Local levels. This process should also be grass-roots driven in order to broaden the process of planning and policy formulation. There is therefore the need to impart the skills of strategic planning for educational development on the critical operators at Federal, State and Local Government levels. This is the core rationale underlying this *Workshop being organized by the Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council as part of its contributions to Government reform initiatives.*

OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

Participants will be exposed to skills for Strategic Planning for Educational Development. Specifically, this will cover the following:

1. Analysis of the current status of educational development.
2. Identification of the gaps in policy implementation in the development context.
3. Identification of development priorities in the NEEDS context.
4. Presentation of broad strategies of implementation that should drive development efforts for various levels.
5. Preparation and adoption of Medium Term and Long Term Strategic Plans for Educational Development (SPED) frame work.
6. Preparation of next Steps of Action

TARGET PARTICIPANTS

- Federal Ministry of Education.
- National Universities Commission
- Universal Basic Education.
- National Commission for Colleges of Education.
- National Library of Nigeria
- Teachers Registration Council
- National Commission for Nomadic Education
- National Commission for Mass Literacy, Adult and Non-Formal.
- National Teachers Institute.
- Education Trust Fund.
- Joint Admission and Matriculation Board
- National Board for Technical Education.
- National Technical and Business Education Board
- National Institute of Nigerian Languages
- National Institute for Educational Planning and Administration
- Nigerian French Language Village
- Nigerian Arabic Language Village
- WAEC
- NECO.
- National Mathematical Centre.
- Director Department of Education, FCT.
- Executive Chairman Universal Basic Education
- States Ministries of Education
- State Universal Basic Education Boards
- National Union of Teachers
- Professional Associations
- National and International Development Partners
- NGOs

NERDC will provide support for:

- Resource Persons
- Special Guests
- Training Facilities
- Lunch
- Snacks
- Participants are not expected to pay any Course fee but will cater for their accommodation and transportation.

Eminent Resource Persons include:

1. Prof Nicolas Nwagwu, President, Nigerian Academy of Education.
2. Prof. Placid Njoku, National Universities Commission
3. Prof. Owoicho Akpa, Director, Academic Planning, University of Jos
4. Prof. U.M.O. Iwovi, Former Executive Secretary, NERDC.

VENUE: NERDC Conference Centre, Lokoja- Kaduna Road Sheda, FCT Abuja. Duration: 2nd & 3rd February, 2006 (Two working Days)
Time: 9.00 am Daily

The Honourable Minister of State for Education, Arc. Halima Tayo Alao, will declare the Workshop open while Prof. Pai Obanya will deliver the Key Note Address.

For further information, please contact:

Mrs. S. A. Oroge
Director of Policy and Programmes
Office of the Executive Secretary 0802313 53 38; 09 8822202; 09 8822204

SIGNED
PROF. GODSWILL OBIOMA
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) TO BE OPERATORS/PARTICIPANTS UNDER THE ABUJA GREEN CABS SCHEME.

Pursuant to the reforms in the transportation sector embarked upon by the Federal Capital Territory Administration, the Abuja Leasing Company Limited (ALC), the managers of the Abuja Green Cabs scheme is desirous of expanding the fleet of the Abuja Green Cabs (Taxi).

In this regard, ALC invites Expression Of Interest (EOI) from interested persons and institutions to participate as operators under the Abuja Green Cabs Scheme.

OBJECTIVE

The purpose for this advertisement is to invite interested operators, drivers and owners to register their interest to participate in the scheme. The registration form the basis for providing assistance and support for operators in the scheme.

ELIGIBILITY TO EXPRESS INTEREST

To qualify for this scheme, applicants are required to provide evidence of the following:

1. Professional experience as drivers, owners or operators.
2. Current driver's license and registration with associations or unions.
3. Ability to read and write, and have a reasonable command of English language.
4. Provide evidence of financial capability to invest a minimum of N350,000.00 (three hundred and fifty thousand naira only) in this venture and meet the monthly repayment following a Lease agreement.
5. Individual applicants must be at least 25 years of age.
6. Demonstrate a strong commitment to the development of transportation system in the F.C.T.
7. Exhibit capacity to manage and maintain the motor vehicle/s.

METHOD OF APPLICATION

EOI forms are obtainable after the payment of a non refundable fee of N6,500.00 (Six thousand five hundred naira only). Bank draft from Standard Trust Bank/UBA, First Inland Bank payable to Abuja Leasing Company Limited.

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION

Applications must be delivered to Abuja Leasing Company Limited not later than 14 days from the date of this publication:

The Managing Director/CEO
Abuja Leasing Company Ltd.
3rd Floor, Tofa House
Plot 770, Central Business District,
Abuja-FCT.
Attention: Tunji Tolani.

Application shall be duly evaluated and **only** those considered to have met the minimum criteria shall be contacted for further screening. Persons that had undergone training under the Abuja Green Cabs scheme are encouraged to apply.

Please note that this application is only to Taxi Drivers/owners/operators. Also, payment can be made either in cash or by bank draft to Abuja Leasing Company Limited.



News

Attah tasks communities on security of projects

Communities that exhibit laxity in security and preservation of projects within their domains in Akwa Ibom State should consider themselves disqualified for any meaningful government assisted projects in the future.

This was made known recently by the Akwa Ibom State Governor, Arc. (Obong) Victor Attah, while commissioning nine projects executed by Inter-Ministerial Direct Labour Committee at Essien Udim local government area of the state.

The state governor, who was represented by Commissioner of Agriculture, Dr. Trenchard Ibia, said rather than lose the hard earned projects to thieves and unscrupulous elements, communities should form vigilante groups in affiliation with the police for protection and preservation of the projects.

He said that in order to have an uninterrupted water supply, communities that benefit from mini-water projects should generate fund for the servicing and maintenance of generators, and that waiting for the government was an indication that such communities were not capable of maintaining the projects.

"The benefiting communities should however, not see the facilities as govern-

From Edet Ekanem, Uyo

ment projects per se, but they should embrace them as theirs and protect them from theft and vandalism. The benefiting communities should liaise with the police in their areas to form vigilante groups in order to protect the facilities," he said.

In his remarks, the head of council of Essien Udim, Mr. Peter Okon Ekere, thanked the state government on its effort to better the condition of life of the rural people through the provision of necessary amenities in the area.

He said in addition to what state government has done, he has also provided borehole water, graded roads and the enthronement of peace in the area, while promising to do his best in the protection of the projects commissioned.

He also appealed to state government to continue in its good works to provide other amenities that are lacking in the area.

Speaking in an interview with *Daily Trust*, the PDP chapter chairman of the area, Mr. Anictic Udo, lauded the efforts of the state government for bringing dividend of democracy to those at the grassroots and pledged his readiness and willingness to assist in the proper handling of the project.



Prof. Albert Ozigi saying the opening prayer at the 3rd Annual Trust Dialogue held in Abuja...recently.

Pix: Kennedy Egbom...

Water now flows in Gombe

Gombe State governor, Alhaji Muhammad Danjuma Goje, has test run the Gombe Township Water Supply Scheme on Wednesday, putting to end decades of shortage of portable water supply to Gombe town and its environs.

The governor said the multi-billion naira project meant to supply water to the state capital and 15 villages along the route from Dadin Kowa Dam was initiated in the

From Muhammad Abubakar, Gombe

early 1980s, but was not completed due to neglect by previous governments until now.

He said the major facilities of the scheme include a water treatment plant with a capacity for 50 million litres per day, high lift booster pumping stations at Dadin Kowa and Tabra, giant reservoirs at Dadin Kowa with over 200km of pipelines as pumping and distribution mains.

Governor Goje stated that his administration made the completion of the project its top priority and to fulfil his electioneering campaign promises to provide clean and safe drinking water to the people by re-awarding the contract at a revised sum of N7.79 billion.

According to one resident of the state capital, who was elated with the development, Malam Inuwa Magaji Sarkin Kasuwa, "we thank God. Gombe town had suffered from shortage of portable water since its movement from Nafada to where it is now in 1919."

Makurdi records first rain

Respite came the way of residents of Makurdi, the Benue State capital and its environs, yesterday, with several hours of rain, blowing cool breeze.

The rain which covered a large area within the state, particularly in Makurdi and other major towns of Otukpo and Gboko, first fell twice before day break. While the first down pour lasted for about an hour, beginning from 11pm of Wednesday and ending about past 12am of yesterday. The second which stated one hour later, lasted till about day break before it ceased.

While the down pour was heavy in Makurdi and adjoining areas the distant towns of Otukpo, Gboko and Katsina-Ala only witnessed drizzles which were however, accompanied by several hours of wind which blew in dust and dirt from all areas.

In Makurdi, residents

From Hir Joseph, Correspondent, Makurdi

who hitherto slept outdoors as a result of extreme heat which took the place of harmattan, yesterday, slept indoors against the cold wind that blew in throughout the period it lasted.

Residents spoken to said

the change in weather condition was a welcome development as they did not only enjoy a soothing and cooling effect, but also collected some buckets of water.

"We slept well, nobody slept outdoor again. Besides, we collected enough water at least to flush our toilets," said one Priscilla Iyortyee, a resi-

dent of Kwararafa Quarters who recalled that the past two months were those of extreme heat.

However, further observations showed that in spite of the happiness which the rains attracted, it also compounded the environmental problems in the Makurdi metropolis.

War College organises workshop

By Abubakar Haruna, Reporter

The National War College has organised a one-day workshop entitled: "The Media and The Military" scheduled to hold on Tuesday, January 31, 2006 at the college auditorium.

According to a press release signed by Lieutenant Commander S. Dahun for commandant of the college, the workshop will be discussing the strategies for military operations and exercises, media affairs tips for senior officers and commanders,

press briefing and interview techniques and journalism in the field.

The statement said Professor Fred Onyeoziri of the University of Ibadan will be delivering the lead lecture followed by contributions from media representatives, including the military.

Thereafter, the release added, there will be a study group session to be held in smaller groups in syndicate

rooms and a final session for general discussions. It further indicated that other resource persons expected at the workshop include, Mr. Jimmy Atte of the NTA, Managing Director of Channels and AIT, Editors of the *Guardian*, *New Nigerian*, *Vanguard*, the *Sun*, *Thisday*, *Comet*, *Punch*, *Tribune*, *Daily Independent* and *Champion Newspapers*. Others include public relations and information directors from the armed services.

AAWUN calls for increased budgetary allocation to agriculture

Kaduna State government has been urged to improve the state budgetary allocation to agriculture in order to ensure adequate food production and sustenance of agro-based industries.

Chairman of Agricultural and Allied Workers Union of Nigeria (AAWUN), Kaduna State council, Comrade Jolly Nairi, who made the call in his welcome address yesterday at the second Quadrennial States Delegate Conference,

From AbdulRaheem Aodu, Correspondent, Kaduna

said with over 10% of the population being subsistent farmers, agriculture remains the mainstay of the state economy and means of livelihood of the people.

Comrade Nairi stated the state farmers do not only produce food for the people in urban and rural areas, but also feed the surviving industries with raw materials and produce for export. He added that there still exist a wide gap in agriculture between extension workers and farmers.

"Agricultural technologies should be extended to the farmers for adoption and for use in order to effect changes in the total outlook of production and living standard. Farmers must also be educated and taught on the use of these technologies. There is also need to increase the recruitment of additional qualified agricultural personnel for a better agric extension services coverage in the state.



Gov. Makarfi of Kaduna State

News

Impeachment: Ngige decries roles of Oyo CJ, legislators

Governor Chris Ngige of Anambra state has condemned the actions of the Oyo acting Chief Judge, Justice Afolabi Adeniran and the legislators in the impeachment of former Governor Rasheed Ladoja.

Fielding questions from newsmen at the Presidential Wing of the Murtala Muhammed Airport on Wednesday, Ngige described the impeachment as "a dangerous omen for democracy in Nigeria".

He said the actions of the acting chief judge and the leg-

islators were a breach of the country's constitution and a mockery of the democratic institution.

The governor declared: "It is like a farmer going into his farm, destroying everything."

The constitution is the legal document. It is the supreme law of the land.

"It is the same constitution that even created the state legislature. So, if they say that the constitution is no longer in existence, then I don't see them being there."

"The issue is not about

Ladoja. It is about constitutionality. The impeachment of a governor should be done in accordance with section 188 of the constitution."

Ngige also reiterated his earlier call for the decentralisation of the police force in the country, stressing: "I am for the state police."

Eighty per cent of the personnel should be drawn from their states of origin."

NAFDAC officials in Enugu on Wednesday sealed up two pharmaceutical retail outlets at the Ogbete Market for allegedly selling fake and expired drugs.

Head of the agency's operations in the state, Udoekpo Ekpo, told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) that NAFDAC raided the shops following a tip off by some concerned individuals.

He said the owners of the shops fled when they sighted NAFDAC operatives who, after searching the shops found stocks of an unregistered and fake drug, Methocarbamol in 100 and

NAFDAC seals shops, impounds drugs

500 packs.

Another shop, he said, was found to be selling an expired drug, Centruim, which expired in 2001, but whose date of manufacture was altered to read 2004 with expiration in 2007.

Ekpo said that Methocarbamol was a skeletal muscle relaxant, while Centruim was a multivitamin drug.

He expressed regret that in spite of federal government's efforts to

sanitise the drug industry, some unscrupulous dealers were still bent on circumventing government's good intentions.

Ekpo restated the determination of NAFDAC to continue to wage war on the sale of fake and substandard drugs to protect the health of the people.

He said the owners of the two shops would be fished out, and the shops would remain sealed while investigations continued.

Makama allays fear of traditional ruler

Chairman of National Population Commission (NPC), Samu'ila Makama on Wednesday made a giant stride in his advocacy efforts when he convinced the traditional ruler of Awka that there was no hidden agenda in the 2006 census.

The traditional ruler, Eze Uzu II of Awka, Chief Gibson Nwosu, had earlier complained during a courtesy visit that his subjects still did not understand why ethnicity and religion were not among questions to be canvassed in the 2006 census.

According to him, "there was a strong feeling that there was a hidden agenda" for excluding the two, adding that each time his subjects ask question him on the issue, he will never give the right answer.

"A lot of people believe that there is a hidden agenda that is why I need an explanation so as to know what to tell my people, especially the elderly ones," he said.

Although Makama gave explanations in his prepared speech, the monarch said that these were not satisfactory and that he needed to arm himself with something more convincing and more educative.

Makama, who took up the challenge to explain why the two variables would not be canvassed, told Nwosu that going by the three reasons why census was conducted, the two issues were not very necessary.

Makama said there was no government hospitals, roads, schools and other social amenities that were provided based on religion or ethnicity.

He therefore called for the understanding of all Nigerians on why the two variables were expunged.

Makama appealed to Nigerians nursing the intention of boycotting this year's census, to have a rethink on their decision since there was more to gain in being counted.

Following the explanation, Nwosu said: "I am satis-

fied with the explanations. Makama is well trained for the job."

"I will do my best to explain it the way Makama has done and will pass on the message to our parents. The town union will support me in doing this," he said.

The South East has been in the forefront for the inclusion of ethnicity and religion in the 2006 national population and housing census, billed to take place from March 21-25.

Meanwhile, the traditional ruler of Aguleri, Igwe Christopher Idigo, has called on the people of the area to support census workers during the exercise.

He said that census had positive implications for the development of the community, adding that it was the responsibility of all members of the area to ensure that they were counted.

Idigo assured that the community would provide all the logistics necessary to make the exercise a success in the town and its surrounding communities.

Makama in his response during the visit assured that the NPC would give the country a credible, reliable and acceptable census in 2006.

At NPC office in Awka, Makama expressed delight that Anambra was the first state that was fully prepared and ready for the 2006 census.

"This is the most pleasant news I have heard since I have been touring round this country on advocacy visit," he said.

He called on NPC staff in Awka to ensure that nobody was left out during the five days of enumeration in the state.

Earlier, the Federal Commissioner in the state, Alhaji Tijani Kaura, had appealed to Makama to give serious attention to NPC office building in Awka, as it was dilapidated and lacked furniture and storage facilities for census documents.



From R-L, Abuja Markets Management Secretary, Mr. Audu Maikori, Director General of Abuja Markets Management, Mr. Michael Okpo and Mr. Kosamat Anibilowo during their press conference on the outcome of their meeting with banks on the selling of Wuse Market shops, held in Abuja... yesterday.

Renal failure on the increase

The Nigerian Association of Nephrology has expressed concern over rising cases of Renal failure across the country, the association has resolved to embark on awareness and

sanitization campaign.

A press release signed by Dr. F.A. Arogundade, said the association considered it a responsibility to educate Ni-

gerians on factors promoting renal disease in our environment and ways of attaining excellent kidney health.

The association, the statement said, needs Nigerians, philanthropists, corporate or-

ganizations for assistance to be able to realize their goals and to support renal disease awareness and sensitization campaign which is scheduled to hold in Abuja February 9, 2006.

Port Harcourt roads wear new look

Most roads and streets in Port Harcourt, the Rivers State capital, are now wearing new looks as government's road rehabilitation work spreads to several parts of the metropolis.

Already, some of them, including Nzimiro and Kaduna streets, Olusegun Obasanjo Road, Isaac Boro Park roundabout and the TransWoji/ Elelenwa roads have been completed with asphalt overlay.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that rehabilitation work is progressing on some other streets and highways.

The state Commissioner

for Works, Mrs. Felicity Ovai, told newsmen on Wednesday shortly after inspecting some of the roads, that the rehabilitation exercise was being carried out on zonal basis.

The measure, she added, was to ensure that every part of the city and state felt the presence of government.

Ovai said the exercise was in fulfillment of the state government's promise to give roads in the state a facelift, adding that about 95 per cent of the job had been completed.

She advised people living in areas where the exercise had not commenced to be patient, promising that it would affect every part of the state.

ABUJA NEWSPAPERS VENDORS ASSOCIATION

Newspaper Distribution Centre, Area 1, Cadestral Zone A1 Opp. Game Village, Along Nnamdi Azikwe Express Way, Garki-Abuja

The general public is hereby informed that the above named association has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 1990.

The Trustees are:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Mr. Edmund Arikpo | - Chairman |
| 2. Mr. Onwe Gabriel O. | - Secretary |
| 3. Mr. Abraham Ojogbanc James | - Treasurer |
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| 7. Mr. Victor A. Felix | - Member |
| 8. Mallam Awalu Sani | - Member |
| 9. Mr. Etim Iwara Eteng | - Member |
| 10. Mr. Salvador Eko Yemi | - Member |

Aims and Objectives:

- To identify all vendors residing in Abuja and its environs
 - To seek for and protect the interest of newspaper vendors in Abuja.
- Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar - General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 565, Ndola Square, Wuse Zone 5, P.M.B. 189, Abuja, within twenty-eight (28) days of this publication.

SIGNED:

Edmund Arikpo
Chairman (ANVA)

News



Governor J.C. Dariye (centre) flanked by Amb. Fidelis Tappun, Minister of Industries, Deputy Senate President, Alhaji (Dr.) Ibrahim Nasiru Mantu, Rev. John Adamu Longhor, member, House of Representatives and the Deputy Governor, Chief Michael Botmang (right) singing at the funeral service of late Amb. Gershon Guyit, at ECWA Plateau Church, Jos... recently.

Plateau youths call for Dariye's removal

Plateau Progressive Youth Alliance has urged the state House of Assembly "to redeem the image and integrity of the people of the state by removing Governor Joshua Dariye from office."

Briefing newsmen on the political situation in the state, the coordinator of the Alliance in Abuja, Mr. Levi Ladan, also called on the lawmakers to put religious and ethnic considerations aside and act justly.

"We also call on prominent Nigerians to intervene in the current situation in the state." The House of Assembly appears confused and needs to be encouraged.

They have over the time maintained silence and indifference until the recent prompting by the EFCC," he said.

The coordinator also called on the PDP to comple-

ment the efforts of the EFCC to entrench sanity and healthier financial transaction in the conduct of the public business by the state government and its agents.

The coalition commended the PDP and the federal government for suspending Dariye and freezing the state government's accounts, respectively.

"Further legitimate actions are required to compel compliance with civilized stan-

dard of public expenditure and morality," Ladan said, but urged for a special arrangement for workers' salaries to be paid as and when due.

He further said that there were many issues that bordered on legality and morality involving the governor, including alleged physical attack on EFCC operatives.

"We must not sit back and watch, something must be done to restore our integrity," he added.

Kuje pupils get free school uniforms

Pupils in Kuje Area Council of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) are to get free school uniforms this academic session.

The chairman of the area council, Alhaji Jibrin Wowo, disclosed this Wednesday at Kuje in an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria.

Wowo said that the distribution of the uniforms commenced last year and that the gesture was aimed at reducing the hardship faced by parents.

According to him, the council has also been paying common entrance examination fees for all primary six pupils in Kuje.

"I believe in the slogan

that education is power so the sector has great priority in our administration," the chairman said.

He said the learning condition were also not left out as the council had embarked on the renovation of facilities, adding that furniture and exercise books would also be distributed free.

"We want basic education in our area council to be in proper shape," Wowo said.

The chairman said that the uniforms were for 35,000 pupils and that already 15,000 uniforms had been distributed, while the remaining ones would soon be distributed.

UBE commends FG over teachers' training

The Executive Chairman, Anambra State Universal Basic Education Board, Barrister Jessie Balonwu at the seminar for Principals of Junior Secondary Schools (JSS) yesterday at CANA House, Awka, expressed his gratitude to the federal government and the UBE commissioner for assisting in the training and retraining of teachers for effective teaching and learning.

Jessie Balonwu maintained that teachers are the arrowheads of the success or failure of any educational programme.

"The roles teachers play in the educative progress are central to basic education particularly in the third world countries. And in the advanced countries, there are substitutes for teacher's roles in the forms of teaching machines, computers, etc. with programmed instructions, but in countries like Nigeria, teachers remain the managers of knowledge", adding that training and retraining of teachers should be the foun-

From Beatrice Onuchukwu, Correspondent (Awka)

dation of quality education at all levels.

While expressing UBE concern on construction of new school blocks, renovations of dilapidated ones, provision of books and materials with significant attention to capacity building focused on teachers, Balonwu emphasized on the report of a seminar by the Nigeria Educational Research Council in 1980, which stated that teachers are

the main determinant of quality in education. (if they are apathetic, uncommitted, uninspired, lazy, unmotivated, antisocial, she said, the whole nation is doomed, adding that if they are ignorant in their different subject areas and impact wrong information, they would not only be useless, but also dangerous.

She further said that the kind of teachers trained and posted to the schools may well determine what the new generation will be and to maintain high standard in our JSS,

the UBE would provide for teachers training and retraining.

"I am confident that the erudite scholars carefully selected as resource persons to present papers at this workshop will uplift the quality of teaching in schools".

Gov advocates review of political office holder salaries every 5 years

Governor Ahmed Sani of Zamfara has advocated the review of the remuneration of public office-holders every five years.

He made the call on Tuesday in Gusau when the Federal Commissioner in the Revenue Mobilisation, Allocation

and Fiscal Commission, Mr. Otumba Oluwatobe, paid him a courtesy visit.

Sani said the review of the remuneration of public office-holders every five years would prevent such officers from indulging in corrupt practices.

The governor, who was represented by the Secretary to the State Government (SSG), Alhaji Abubakar Hussani, said the state government would set up a committee to look into the issue and propose an acceptable remuneration package for such officers.

"We will soon set up a committee to be headed by the state commissioner for justice to look into the issue," he said.

Sani assured the commissioner and his team of the state government's support and cooperation to enable them to achieve their goal.

Earlier in his remarks, Oluwatobe said the commission decided to review the remuneration of the public and political office-holders as well as judicial officers in line with the changing economic realities.

The team was in Zamfara state to obtain inputs from the

Catholic Church frowns at emphasis on condom

Although Nigeria has concluded plans with Thailand to start the production of condoms in Nigeria, the Catholic Church has said that is not the country's priority.

The Catholic faith has consistently been against the use of contraceptives for family planning practice, including the use of condoms, but insists on either abstinence or the natural means called 'Billing method.'

"Government should fight poverty, sicknesses and make efforts to provide social amenities instead of fighting AIDS with condom production", the Catholic archbishop of Lagos, Anthony Cardinal Olubunmi Okogie, said in a

government should channel its efforts towards the eradication of poverty, hunger and the provision of social amenities that are lacking in the nation.

He said that use of condom and production was "immoral, promotes irresponsible sex and promiscuity, adding, "I wonder if government is aware of the danger the production of condoms will do the country and the youths.

The cardinal expressed regret about the policy, noting that "it is unfortunate that while other embassies are promoting trade and bilateral relations, we are encouraging cheap money and cheap production of condoms to an

In tomorrow's



...pick of the week

Zamfara

When politics clash with Sharia

● I did not give musicians 63 cars--governor

Rimi: Mystery of a murder

● Police parade suspects next week

Kalu speaks on links with Buhari, IBB and Atiku

Female major battles Army

News

Kwara reads riot act on Due Process

From Abdulrazaq Adebayo, Correspondent (Ilorin)

Kwara state government Wednesday read out riot act on due process and corruption to public office holders with a warning to state commissioners to abide by the policy or throw in the towel.

At a press briefing at the Government House, Ilorin, the state Commissioner for Information, Alhaji AbdulRahim Adedoyin, said government has strengthened its anti corruption and due process stance with sanctions to be invoked on erring commissioners who flout the policy.

He told journalists that a summit on government policy would come up next week aimed at sensitizing public functionaries on the process and sanctions provided.

The commissioner, said a committee has also been put in place to go round the state ministries and enlighten officers on the new dispensation which among other things requires submission of reports on contracts and scrutinizing payments vis-à-vis certificates issued in respect of projects executed.

Reports are also required to be submitted to supervisors approving projects for payments, just as the state executive council has directed commissioners to do a check list on due process before payments are approved by them.

Governor Bukola Saraki, according to the commissioner, has directed all commissioners to go back to their constituencies and find out the dire needs of their people and inform the council as part of the determination to make a meaningful impact on their lives.



The president of the newspapers distributions association, Mohammed Yahaya, making his remarks at the 3rd Annual Trust Dialogue dinner held in Abuja...recently. Pix: Kennedy Egbonodje

Delta elections: Supreme Court throws out Ibori's suit

The Supreme Court yesterday struck out a suit by the, Chief James Onanefe Ibori's suit on the 2003 State gubernatorial election on the ground that such cases terminate at the Court of Appeal.

The court addressing Ibori's counsel, Chief Milton Owovhoriole, a (SAN), suit wondered why he did not advise his client against bringing matters arising from the 2003 Delta state gubernatorial elections to not Supreme Court in spite of the clear wordings of Section 246 (3) of the 1999 constitution.

It provides that "the decisions of the Court of Appeal in respect of appeals arising from election petitions shall be final."

The Seven justices expressed dismay that a Senior Advocate of Nigeria could advise his client to file an appeal on governorship elections matter at the apex court saying they would not be a party to such a charade.

Justice Dahiru Musdapher, looked directly at Owovhoriole who was addressing the court and exclaimed, "What do you take this court to be? For an election that took

By Ruby Rabiu Senior Reporter

place in 2003, you want us to hear this case when another election will take place in 2007?"

"As a very very old and seasoned lawyer, you should know that he cannot appeal to this court on election matters."

At this stage, the court presided over by Sylvester Umar Onuh, called on Malam Yusuf Ali (SAN), counsel to the President of the Court of Appeal who was sued alongside Chief Great Ogboru to move the preliminary objection he filed challenging the jurisdiction of the court to entertain the matter.

Ali told the court that there have been several appeals on the matter.

He said that the court of appeal in July, ruled that a new governorship election tribunal be constituted to try whether Ibori was disqualified from contesting as governor in view of the fact that he was alleged to be an ex-convict.

He told the court that rather than allow the President of the Court of Appeal

to constitute a new panel; the governor procured an order from a high court in Asaba restraining the president of the court of appeal from constituting the new panel.

Ali told the court that it lacked the jurisdiction to hear the appeal because of section 246 (3) of the constitution.

Chief Gani Fawehinmi (SAN) who represented Ogboru, also urged the court to throw out the case because it was a mere ploy to buy time.

He said, "It is not right for a counsel to expose the judiciary to ridicule. My Lords, this country needs a comment from this court on this issue to prevent lawyers from exposing the judiciary to ridicule."

At this juncture, Owovhoriole objected but the jus-

tices ignored him. Justice Akintola Ejiwunmi could also not hide his disgust.

He said, "It is unfortunate. We take positions as if we are not bound by the rules of law."

He rejected the claim by Ibori's lawyer that the trial before the tribunal would amount to a double jeopardy because the governor had been tried on the same issue before an Abuja High Court.

Justice Ejiwunmi asked, "The petition before the tribunal is a criminal case? What jeopardy does anyone have in this case?"

"If you are not satisfied with the decision of the court of appeal, go and beg the lawmakers to amend the constitution."

Justice George Oguntade reminded the team of lawyers

hired by Ibori that the court of appeal was the final court in governorship election matters.

He said, "If you are not satisfied with the court of appeal's decision, you can only go home and pray to God but not appeal to this court."

At this juncture, Justice Musdapher urged Owovhoriole to withdraw the case.

He said, "You are a very senior lawyer. We do not have to tell you that we do not have jurisdiction."

Reluctantly, Owovhoriole agreed to withdraw the appeal. He said, "These seven wise men cannot be wrong. If it is my Lords' decision that I withdraw it, I will do so."

He withdrew the appeal following which Justice Onuh struck it out.

Gov. Saraki charges public officers on honesty

Governor Bukola Saraki, has charged public officers in Kwara state to make hard-

work, honesty and commit-

ment to duty their watchword. Speaking at the swearing in ceremony of a new commissioner, Mr. Segun Olawoyin, for the Ministry of Environment in Ilorin, yesterday Governor Saraki, asked him to carry along officers of the ministry and eschew acts capable of retarding progress of the state.

He expressed the belief that the resources of the state should be used for optimal service of the people and advised commissioners and permanent secretaries to work harmoniously.

Governor Saraki, while stressing that due process, transparency and prudent fi-

nancial management would continue to be the guiding principles of the state government, tasked public officers to abide by the letters and spirit of their oaths and work hard to justify their position.

The governor, who is just back to the country having been guest of Confederation of African Football (CAF), for the opening of the on-going African cup of Nations in Cairo, took time off to inspect the almost completed new terminal building at the Ilorin International Airport.

He expressed satisfaction with the project which is expected to be completed in the first week of February.

Former IGP blames insecurity on FG

The former Inspector General of Police, Alhaji Ibrahim Aliyu Attah, Wednesday blamed the federal government over insecurity in the country saying that the support it gives the police was not enough.

Alhaji Attah, who was speaking to newsmen in Kano recently advised the federal government to come up with modalities especially for recruitment and training of

From Yusha'u Adamu Ibrahim, Correspondent (Kano)

police officers as, according to him, the present situation of the police force could not allow it to operate effectively.

"Police cannot tackle the nation's insecurity when they do not have equipment such as vehicles, communication gadgets, among other things and therefore FG should do

more for the police."

He regretted that the entire security of the nation was left in the hands of police alone, pointing out that the nation's security was a collective responsibility of all Nigerians.

Alhaji Attah, stated that having gone to various countries around the globe and "in most of the important countries, the government and the people support

the police in the discharge of their primary responsibilities but in Nigeria the issue is not the same."

He stressed that Nigeria has capable hands in the police force but nobody including the government is ever ready to help them to discharge their duties effectively.

He noted that if care is not taken it will go to an extent that criminal will be trained in the Nigerian police force.

SPORTS

EGYPT 2006 AFRICA CUP OF NATIONS

Eto'o eyes goal-scoring record

Samuel Eto'o's scintillating goalscoring form continued at the African Nations Cup finals on Wednesday with his fourth in two games, edging closer to the tournament's all-time record.

Eto'o scored the first as Cameroon overcame World Cup finalists Togo 2-0 in their Group B match in Cairo to clinch a quarter-finals berth but Eto'o said

his goals were not as important as team success.

"I'm very pleased with the way things are going but I'm more pleased for the team than for myself," Eto'o told Reuters.

"We have reached our first target which was to get to the next round. We now have the pressure off us in the next match."

Eto'o hit another stunning

drive that brought crowd to its feet when he broke the deadlock in the 68th minute of Wednesday's match.

It followed a hat-trick of high quality goals for Cameroon in their opening game against Angola in Cairo on Saturday.

Eto'o, playing in his fourth

Nations Cup finals tournament, has now scored 10 goals since his first appearance in 2000, and matched his own four-goal tally from that event.

He is now four goals shy of equalling the record of 14 goals scored by Ivory Coast's Laurent Pokou in the 1968 and 1970

tournaments.

If his goal scoring form continues Eto'o also has a chance to match the record of nine goals in a single tournament set by Mulumba Ndaye of Zaire, now known as the Democratic Republic of Congo, in 1974.

Angola to appeal Yamba Asha ban

Angola are to appeal to FIFA for a reduction in the nine-month ban handed to defender Yamba Asha earlier this week.

The left back was banned, backdated from November, for a drugs offence by world football's governing body on Monday and cannot play again until August.

Coach Luis Oliveira Goncalves said Angola respected the decision but

would ask FIFA to reduce the ban in order to allow the player to compete at the World Cup finals in Germany.

Yamba Asha, who was the only player to compete in all matches of Angola's successful World Cup qualifying campaign, has already missed out on the African Nations Cup finals

Asha ban

because of the ban.

"We know FIFA has its rules and regulations and we abide by them but it is a tough ban.

"He is a person whose life is football, who earns his living from football and we hope they will understand this," the coach told Reuters on Wednesday after his side's 0-0 draw with the Democratic Republic of Congo.

FIFA did not give any details of the drug offence when announcing the ban on Monday. Angolan officials said Yamba Asha had taken a flu remedy which contained a banned substance.

Olivier Goncalves said Angola faced going to the World Cup without two key players - Yamba Asha and Gilberto, who had an operation on an Achilles tendon injury in Germany this week.

"It's a big blow for a country like ours to lose these players for Germany," he added.

We 'll win Nations Cup, says Mido

Egypt will win a record fifth African Nations Cup claimed star striker Mido. The 22-year-old Spurs striker said despite the hosts needing at least a point from their final Group A match with the already qualified Ivory Coast he was confident that they would take the trophy. "Will we win? Yes of course we will," said Mido, who scored in the opening 3-0 victory

over Libya but did not even have a shot on goal in the 0-0 draw with Morocco on Tuesday.

However Mido put his peripheral performance as being down to him being a marked man.

"I was one guy being marked by four and sometimes five players. So it was very difficult for me," said Mido, who was replaced 10 minutes before the end.



Eto'o edges closer to the tournament all-time record

We must avoid Cameroon at all costs, says Michel

Ivory Coast must come top of its group if they are to avoid a likely African Nations Cup quarter-final with Cameroon, their coach Henri Michel told AFP.

The Elephants are already through to the last eight - thanks to their 2-1 victory over Libya on Tuesday - but they need to avoid losing to Egypt in their final group match to avert Michel's nightmare scenario.

Ivory Coast have six points from their two matches while hosts Egypt also need a draw to assure themselves of making the last eight as

they are on four with Morocco on one - but the latter play pointless Libya in their last match.

"The Elephants must put the fact they have already qualified out of their minds and at least get a draw, so we finish top of the group," said the 57-year-old Frenchman.

Michel, who guided Ivory Coast to their first ever World Cup finals spot, denied that it was neither because he feared Cameroon - who look like topping Group B - or that it was down to the poor form his side has shown thus far.

"We don't fear anyone but as I have said before it is important to avoid the stronger teams in the quarter-finals," said Michel, who coached Cameroon at the 1994 World Cup finals.

"It is not about fear. It is simply tactical. If it falls badly for us then so be it, we will have to cope with it."

Michel, who coached France to the 1984 Olympic title and the senior side to the 1986 World Cup semi-finals, admitted that his side had not yet shown their proper form

in the win over Libya and the 1-0 victory over Morocco.

"Because we came here having already achieved an historic World Cup finals place we were classed as among the favourites for the title. "I think a mixture of that tag and some nerves hasn't helped us express ourselves, thus we haven't really played like we can.

"However there is an upside in that if we play badly and win matches, all the better for us and a shame for

Kanu charges young Eagles

Nwankwo Kanu will again have to be content with a place on the bench against Zimbabwe today here in Port Said but the West Bromwich Albion star has insisted that the youthful team will be gunning for the full points against the Warriors from Harare.

"The experienced players in the team like me are here to encourage the younger players many of whom are only appearing at this tournament for the very first

time," he said.

Michel, a former PSG coach but has not had a job in France since 1994, could not say when or if his much missed striker Aruna Dindane would return after the Lens marksman had to return to France when one of his twin daughters died last week.

"We haven't spoken since he left," said Michel. "All I said to him when he left was that if he wanted to come back here there was a place for him always in the squad."

"We are disappointed that we will not be playing at the World Cup but the Nations Cup is an equally important tournament and even though we did not make it to Germany, we are in Egypt determined to win the Nations Cup."

The 29-year-old forward added: "It is therefore very important that we beat Zimbabwe and book our ticket to the quarterfinals even before our last group match against Senegal."



Michel and Cote d'Ivoire will do everything possible to avoid Cameroon





NIGERIAN EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL

EXPORT EXPANSION GRANT (EEG) SCHEME EXPORTERS' EEG RATE DETERMINATION ALGORITHM

Following the completion of the Redesigned EEG Scheme and for purposes of transparency, we hereby publish for exporters' information the new EEG Rate Determination Algorithm as provided by the Federal Government appointed Consultants-Messrs PriceWaterhouseCoopers.

Manufacturing					
EXPORTER EEG RATE DETERMINATION TEMPLATE					
	Exporter Score (data)	Source	Threshold	Weight (%)	Score
Local Value added	5%	Finstats	20%	20%	5.00%
Local Content	7%	Finstats, Prodn records	35%	20%	4.00%
Empolyment Generation	300	Finstats, Prodn & Payroll	500	20%	10.00%
Priority Product/Sector	yes	FGN, FMOF	yes/no	5%	5.00%
Export growth	15%	Finstats	20%	30%	22.50%
Investment growth	5%	Finstats	10%	5%	2.50%
Total Exporter Score				100%	49.0%
Exporter EEG Rate					20.0%

Table 1	Score achieved	EEG Rate
	score >= 70%	30%
	score >= 50% but < 70%	25%
	score >= 25% but < 50%	20%
	score >= 5% but < 25%	15%
	score < 5%	0%

Manufacturing
[processed - finished goods]

Semi-Manufacturing					
EXPORTER EEG RATE DETERMINATION TEMPLATE					
	Exporter Score (data)	Source	Threshold	Weight (%)	Score
Local Value added	40%	Finstats	20%	20%	20.00%
Local Content	40%	Finstats, Prodn records	35%	20%	20.00%
Empolyment Generation	500	Finstats, Prodn & Payroll	500	20%	20.00%
Priority Product/Sector	no	FGN, FMOF	yes/no	5%	0.00%
Export growth	30%	Finstats	20%	30%	30.00%
Investment growth	5%	Finstats	10%	5%	2.50%
Total Exporter Score				100%	92.5%
Exporter EEG Rate					15.0%

Table 2	Score achieved	EEG Rate
	score >= 70%	15%
	score >= 50% but < 70%	10%
	score >= 25% but < 50%	5%
	score < 25%	0%

Semi-manufacturing
[processed - semi finished products including commodity producers]

Merchant Exporters and Exporters of primary products (commodities/solid minerals)					
EXPORTER EEG RATE DETERMINATION TEMPLATE					
	Exporter Score (data)	Source	Threshold	Weight (%)	Score
Local Value added	10%	Finstats	20%	20%	10.00%
Local Content	10%	Finstats, Prodn records	35%	20%	5.71%
Empolyment Generation	2	Finstats, Prodn & Payroll	500	20%	0.00%
Priority Product/Sector	no	FGN, FMOF	yes/no	5%	0.00%
Export growth	20%	Finstats	20%	30%	30.00%
Investment growth	5%	Finstats	10%	5%	2.50%
Total Exporter Score				100%	48.2%
Exporter EEG Rate					5.0%

Table 3	Score achieved	EEG Rate
	score >= 70%	10%
	score >= 50% but < 70%	7.5%
	score >= 25% but < 50%	5%
	score < 25%	0%

Merchant Exporters

The processes of determining the EEG rate were properly addressed and explained during the various interactive seminar held with the exporters for this purpose. However, for more information please contact NIGERIAN EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL, Export House, Block 312, Kumba Street, Wuse Zone 2, P.M.B. 133, Garki-Abuja. E-mail: enquiry@nepc.gov.ng Website: www.nepc.gov.ng Tel:09-5230933.Or PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS.

SIGNED:

Mrs. G.M.Sasore

Special Adviser to the President/CEO

SPORTS

EGYPT 2006 AFRICA CUP OF NATIONS

LeRoy's passion for African game endures



Claude LeRoy sinks into the sofa in his hotel lobby, his eyes twinkling with enthusiasm as he begins a discourse on African soccer, its highlights and foibles in front of an eager audience.

After more than two dec-

ades, the Frenchman is one of the elder statesmen of the African game.

LeRoy first took charge of a side at the tournament 20 years ago when Cameroon finished runners-up the last time the event was held in Egypt.

He won the title in 1988 with the Indomitable Lions and took Senegal to the semi-finals in 1990 and the quarter-finals two years later.

Now at the helm of the Democratic Republic of Congo, this is his fifth tournament in charge of a team, a record for a coach at the Nations Cup.

"I'm happy about that. I like these kind of statistics. They are very interesting," LeRoy said.

"After 20 years I can still say soccer in Africa is my passion. I have not changed. I have seen an exponential growth in its development and a dramatic change from 20 years ago when I first came to the cup in Egypt. We had just two stadiums then, no TV coverage. Things were a lot different then."

LeRoy says he thinks the 2006 tournament will be won "by the team with the best goalkeeper".

"The keeper that can neutralise the super offensive talents will win it for his team. There are so many

good strikers here that the goalkeepers are key."

It is the cue for a story on his own goalkeeping woes and a tale from his vast repertoire of African football tales which make LeRoy a sought-after raconteur.

"I am the only coach in the world who has picked his side at the airport," he suddenly pronounces.

"When we travelled to South Africa (for a World Cup qualifier in Durban last October) I had a lot of problems with my squad. Some players did not get tickets sent to them in Europe, others did not have visas in time and I arrived with 13 players.

"There was a big contingent of Congolese fans waiting to meet us at the airport and I was talking about my problem when they told me there were two good players in the crowd who had also come to say hello."

One was the teenaged striker Blaise Mbele, a leading scorer this season in the South African premier league, and the other goal-

keeper Francis Chansa, both from leading club Orlando Pirates.

"I told them both to join us and while we flew to Durban, they drove their cars down from Johannesburg (a five-hour journey). They both looked quite good in training and I chose them for the bench. Mbele even came on for a few minutes near the end of the match."

Both also made the 23-man squad for the Nations Cup finals in Egypt. "I bet no other coach has been able to do that," LeRoy said.

Then there is the case of Grimsby Town midfielder Jean-Paul Kamudimba, who played at the Nations Cup in Tunisia in 2004 but then drifted into obscurity because of a case of mistaken identity.

"I learned that a player called Kamudimba Kalala had scored the winning goal in a cup game against Tottenham Hotspur. I thought that sounds like a Congolese name so I phoned the club and they confirmed it.

"Of course, I knew Jean-Paul Kamudimba when he played at Nice but the English are using his name the wrong way round, so I had no idea. He's in my squad too."

The Congolese side are famed for their administrative and financial problems.

LeRoy expresses his weariness over constant battles to instil a sense of professionalism into the squad but also seems to draw a perverse reserve of energy from the struggle to overcome the endless obstacles.

"I am going to take a grand holiday after this and then choose a big team to coach. Since we beat Togo in our first game here I have had so many offers, it has been crazy. Such a good feeling for me."



Congo's French coach Claude LeRoy is one of the eldest statesmen of African football.

Amun petitions FIFA over Galadima

Acting Secretary General of the Nigerian Football Association, NFA, Fanny Ikhayere Amun, has said that he has written a petition against chairman of the soccer house, Alhaji Ibrahim Galadima, which he has forwarded to world football governing body, FIFA. Amun said his petition is on Galadima's insistence to run the NFA for a second term.

"I am going to do everything possible in ensuring that Galadima does not return in his second term bid.

"Galadima has forgotten

that it was government who made him the Chairman of the NFA in the first place, but now he wants to stay on through every possible means despite the illegality of the Kano Congress," Amun informed Nigeriansportsonline.com in his Room 532 at the Eagles Helnan Hotel here in Port Said.

"I have petitioned FIFA about this and I am still going to send a follow-up letter because that election in Kano was a clear violation of the guidelines," insisted the former Golden Eaglets coach.

"The statutes clearly do not permit the Secretary General to vote, but I voted in Kano. And this is a clear breach of the rules," Amun emphasized.

Obiefule reflects on collapse

Super Eagles Denmark-based midfielder, Paul Obiefule has stated that the collapsing incident that hit him in training last weekend has taught him another big lesson about life.

The Eagles camp was set into apprehension, when the Viborg SC of Denmark star collapsed and lost consciousness last Saturday during a training session.

The 20-year-old former Iwuanyanwu Nationale player

has taken a look back at the scary moment, and stated that the episode has now changed his outlook about life forever.

Obiefule also revealed that the incident affected his parents, who initially thought he had suffered a heart attack.

Incidentally, the team's assistant captain, Nwankwo Kanu, who underwent heart surgery in 1996, said he was in total shock, the moment he saw Paul Obiefule lying motionless on the pitch.

Kanu said: "I know what I went through myself so I can

tell you that it was hard on me to watch him on the floor."

perfect strategies for Friday's important cracker against the Warriors of Zimbabwe.

After beating Ghana on Monday, the Eagles are second on the group B table behind the Teranga Lions of Senegal, who lead by virtue of more goals. They beat Zimbabwe 2-0 while the Eagles

won 1-0.

Victory for the Eagles on Friday would take them to the quarter finals, with the match against Senegal on Tuesday still to come.

"We needed to do things that are related to strategy. That was why we locked up", one of the coaches told us.

Eagles train behind close doors



Sports

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Gutsy Henin ousts Sharapova to reach final

Eighth seed Justine Henin-Hardenne put injury concerns aside to overpower Russian Maria Sharapova on Thursday and reach the Australian Open final.

The Belgian, who was unable to defend her 2004 Melbourne crown last year through injury, ground fourth seed Sharapova down to win 4-6-1-6-4, stretching her winning streak in Australia to an extraordinary 20 matches.

Henin-Hardenne will play third seed Amelie Mauresmo in Saturday's final after second seed Kim Clijsters was forced to retire due to an ankle injury in their semi-final.

"I think it was a great match, very intense physically and mentally," a delighted Henin-Hardenne told a news conference after her two hour, 26 minute battle on Rod Laver Arena.

"Maria, she played a great match, the best I've seen her play in a long time," she said.

The win was especially sweet for Henin-Hardenne, who has had to overcome a long battle with injuries.

She was unable to defend her 2004 title last year because of a knee injury but returned to win the French Open, only then to suffer a hamstring injury that cut short her 2005 campaign and

threatened her visit to Australia.

But she shrugged off her injury woes to win the Sydney International two weeks ago, just as she did in 2004, installing herself as a firm favourite with bookmakers to win her second Australian title and her fifth grand slam.

"When I arrived here I was coming to play a couple of matches and get my confidence back," Henin-Hardenne, said.

"It's been tough for me to be injured for such a long time and then coming back in my first grand slam, being in the final again, I think it's just an amazing feeling."

Injury denies frustrated Clijsters again

A battered and bruised Kim Clijsters limped out of the Australian Open on Thursday after yet another injury scuppered the Belgian's tilt at a grand slam.

Second seed Clijsters was forced to retire from her semi-final against Amelie Mauresmo of France after rolling her ankle in the deciding third set.

Third seed Mauresmo had her nose ahead 5-7-6-2-3-2 when Clijsters retired, setting up a final against Justine Henin-Hardenne on Saturday.

"It's very frustrating, because

Henin-Hardenne admitted she had a score to settle after missing the tournament last year but said she first wanted to enjoy the win before starting to think about Saturday's opponent.

"I think I had maybe a little bit of revenge on my mind to come here," she said.

The Belgian had to come back from a set down for the second match in a row after she fought back to down top seed Lindsay Davenport in the quarter-finals.

Sharapova, beaten by eventual champion Serena Williams at the same stage last

year, battled hard but could not match the Belgian's tenacity and killer backhand.

The Russian drew Henin-Hardenne into long rallies and used greater shot variety to wrong-foot her opponent early, claiming the first set when Henin-Hardenne sent a forehand sailing wide.

But Henin-Hardenne gradually took control and broke the frustrated Russian twice towards the end of the second set to force the decider.

Sharapova fought to the end, breaking Henin-Hardenne as the French Open champion served for the match at 5-3.

But the Belgian came back strong and sealed victory on Sharapova's serve, claiming the match with a blistering backhand winner down the line.

"I'm very proud of myself

because I kept fighting during the whole match, even the points that were very long. I ran like probably I never ran in the past on the tennis court."

Henin-Hardenne said.



Henin-Hardenne

TRUST CLASSIFIED

DISCHARGED AIRMEN WELFARE ASSOCIATION (DAWA) PLATEAU STATE, JOS

The general public is hereby informed that the above named association has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 1990.

The Trustees are:

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Davo Thomas | 2. Akka Ibrahim |
| 3. Turba Solomon | 4. Pada Titus |
| 5. Hassan Stanley | 6. Dassam Hycinth |
| 7. Bako Thomas | 8. Bula Obed |
| 9. Osan Michael | |

Aims and Objectives:

1. Foster unity, welfare of members and other incidental matters
2. Serve as an authorized channel of communication and interaction between the association and other associations or other relevant organisation or authorities.
3. Serve as an impartial body to speedily resolve dispute amongst the members.
4. Assist members financially or otherwise if considered necessary by the Association in case of sickness, death or any other serious or predicaments

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar - General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 565, Ndola Square, Wuse Zone 5, P.M.B. 189, Abuja, within twenty-eight (28) days of this publication.

SIGNED:
TURBA SOLOMON

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE OF KANO STATE OF NIGERIA

WHEREAS the person whose names are set out in the first column and hereunder died interstate on the date and at the place specified in the said column,

AND WHEREAS the person whose name and address are set out in the second column (hereinafter called claimant claims relationship to the deceased person named in the first column and has applied to the High Court of Justice, Kano State, for the grant of letters of Administration of the personal property of the said deceased.

NOW THEREFORE NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that letters of administration will be granted to the claimant "UNLESS A NOTICE TO PROHIBIT" the grant is filed in the Probate Registry of the High Court of Justice, Kano State within TWENTY-ONE (21) DAYS of the publication of this NOTICE

DECEASED
BALA IBRAHIM HALILU LATE
OF KNARDA ROAD HOTORO G.R.A
DIED ON 22ND OCTOBER, 2005
AT LISA AIR CRASH.

APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT
LAWUNMI MAIMUNA B. HALILU,
SULLIMAN I. HALILU,
HAIYYA HADIYA S. WALI AND
ALI IBRAHIM HALILU ALL OF
NO. 3, MASASSAKA AVENUE HAUSAWA
QTRS, KANO, THE PROPOSED
ADMINISTRATORS
OF THE SAID DECEASED.

DATED THIS 24TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2006.

SIGNED:
LAWAN WADA MAHMOUD
PROBATE REGISTRAR.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that management of Sikon Securities and Investment Trust Ltd. has requested dealership registration. Sikon Securities and Investment Trust Ltd will henceforth function as a broker.

CHANGE OF NAMES

1. formerly known as KINGSLEY ONWUABUFOR, now wish to be called KINGSLEY ANOKA. NNPC, Enugu State University of Science & Technology and the general public should please take note.

1. formerly known as Miss Okwuchi Nkeiruka Osuagwu, now wish to be called Mrs. Okwuchi Nkeiruka Mhali. All former documents remain valid. The general public should please take note.

1. formerly known as ESTHER NHAWE MALLA, now wish to be known as ESTHER NHAWE MANSOP. National Assembly and public to note.

1. formerly DR. (MISS) NKOYO AKPAN EKOP, now wish to be addressed DR. (MISS) UWAWABASI ESTHER EKOP. Former documents remain valid. Public to note.

1. formerly known as MISS FATIMA BAKURA BAABA, henceforth, wish to be called MRS. FATIMA BAKURA BAABA. All former documents remain valid. Nigeria Law School, Bwari, Abuja and the general public should please take note.

OGUGUA STANLEY NDIDI wishes to be known and addressed as AGUGUO STANLEY NDIDI. Federal Polytechnic Nekede, Owerri and the general public should take note.

1. formerly MISS MARGARET JWAKSHAK, now to be MRS MARGARET SHADRACH DASKYAKAR. Former documents remain valid. Plateau State Ministry of Health and general public to note.

1. formerly ZAINAB DANDUTSE, wish to be known and called MRS. ZAINAB DANDUTSE MOHAMMED. All former documents remain valid. Bayero University Kano to take note.

1. formerly known as ADEREMI APATIRA, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. ADEREMI ADE-OJO. All former documents remain valid. General public please note.

ANOFI & GRACE GUOBADIA FOUNDATION

This is to notify the general public that the above named Organisation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) for registration under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 1990.

The Trustees are:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| 1. Chief Anofi Guobadia | - Chairman |
| 2. Chief David Dankaro | - Member |
| 3. Rev. Osa Osaro Ogbomo | - Member |
| 4. Dr. Tamunoemi Opudabota Briggs | - Member |
| 5. Mr. Omorogbe Guobadia | - Member |

Any objection to the application should be forwarded to the Registrar - General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 565, Ndola Square, Wuse Zone 5, P.M.B. 189, Abuja, within twenty-eight (28) days of this publication.

SIGNED:
Dominic Ajele
Secretary

LOSS OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & RECEIPT OF PAYMENT

The general public is hereby notified that the original copy of the acknowledgment issued by AGIS Abuja for the re-certification of certificate of occupancy NO. FCT/ABU/MS. 4019 belonging to Sunny Guest Inn as well as the deposit slip in the sum of N10, 000 issued by Intercity Bank Plc being payment for the re-certification are missing. If found please contact AGIS, Plot 416E, Kumasi Crescent Wuse II, Abuja, or the undersigned:

Signed:
Gbenga Olubajo Esq.
2 Sokode Crescent, Wuse Zone 5, Abuja.
08033139320

Sports

EGYPT 2006 AFRICAN NATIONS CUP

Feindouno scores late winner for Guinea

Pascal Feindouno grabbed a last gasp winner to hand Guinea a 2-1 victory over Zambia yesterday in their Group C African Nations Cup clash, just as Tunisia recorded their second win to book a ticket into the quarter-finals of the championship.

Guinea's win followed their 2-0 defeat of South Africa last Sunday and puts them on the cusp of the quarter-finals.

Feindouno scored two minutes into stoppage time, hitting his shot on the underside of the bar and just over the line.

The St Etienne striker had earlier equalised with a 74th minute penalty after Fode Mansare had been brought down by Zambia's goalkeeper George Kolola.

The penalty came after a sustained period of pressure from the stronger Guinea side for whom German-based midfielder Pablo Thiam squandered three excellent chances.

Zambia, who had suffered a 4-1 defeat in their opening match at the hands of champions Tunisia, started the game strongly and had Guinea's defence stretched on several occasions with their pacy

● Dos Santos leads Tunisia into last eight

attack.

The Zambians took the lead in the 34th minute when captain Elijah Tana headed home from a corner by James Chamanga, jumping unchal-lenged to steer the ball into the net.

The defender had earlier gone close with a free kick that whistled over the top of Guinea's crossbar.

Chamanga also had a chance for a goal for Zambia in the first half but after

By Ismaila Umaru Lere,
Assistant Editor, with
Agency Reports

breaking free of the opposing defence hit his shot into the side netting.

Guinea began to show signs of a revival near the end of the first half when Stoke City striker Sambegou Ban-goura had two opportunities but squandered both.

In the second half,

Thiam contrived to shoot wide on three occasions after working himself behind Zambia's defence, the most glaring miss of which came just after Feindouno had equalised from the spot.

Also yesterday, Brazilian-born striker Francileudo Dos Santos steered holders Tunisia into the African Nations Cup quarter-finals in a 2-0 win over South Africa.

Dos Santos, who scored a hat-trick in their 4-1 rout of Zambia, struck a 32nd minute shot that squirmed beneath keeper Calvin Marlin in the driving rain on a cold night at the Harras El-Hedoud Stadium.

Midfielder Slim Benachour swept home Tunisia's second in the 58th minute to secure a convincing win for Roger Lemerre's African champions.

Eguavoen sticks to Ghana battlers

Besides the inclusion of John Utaka, Eagles coach Austin Eguavoen is expected to stick to the same team that pipped rivals Black Stars of Ghana 1-0 for their decisive Group D tie on

Friday against Zimba-bwe.

Victory on Friday will take the Eagles through to the last eight of the tournament even before their clash with the Teranga Lions of Senegal on Tuesday.

The Eagles rounded up their training at 8pm local time yesterday at the Port Said Stadium as their match on Friday against the Warriors of Zimbabwe will come up after the Senegal vs. Ghana clash.

The Eagles will again be without skipper Austin 'Jay Jay' Okocha, who is still nursing a thigh injury but Rennes forward Utaka returns to the starting line-up in place of Lille forward Osaze Odemwingie.

...upbeat as Eagles set for Zimbabwe

Super Eagles chief coach, Austin Eguavoen said Wednesday that his troops are battle ready for Friday's game against the Warriors of Zimbabwe at the Stade El-Masry in Port Said.

The 42-year old trainer told hotspotslive.com at the team's Helnan Port Said Hotel that the squad has put behind it the 1-0 win over Ghana's Black Stars on Monday and fully focused on the tie with the World

Cup qualifying series victims.

Nigeria beat Zimbabwe 3-0 in Harare and 5-1 in Abuja during the qualifying race and most people are expecting the two-time champions to flay the southern Africans on a cold evening in Egypt's fourth city.

But Eguavoen, who saw the Super Eagles' World Cup hopes vanish in the arid climate of Abuja despite the team scoring 10 goals in their last two qualifying games, said the Nigerians have learnt never to under-rate any team in any competition and would put their feet firmly on the throttle from the first blow of the referee's whistle.

"You would agree with

me that we saw why not to under-rate any team during the World Cup qualifiers. Zimbabwe qualified for this competition because they are a good team. You have to be among the best in Africa to qualify for the Cup of Nations. So, we are not even thinking about our wins against them in the World Cup race.

"We are going for a win with all our strength and with our best legs".

However, it was gathered that team skipper Jay-Jay Okocha, who sat out Monday's win over Ghana, could still be on the bench against Charles Mhlauri's Warriors. He did not train on Wednesday.

Kuffour doubtful for Ghana

Ghana Black Stars and AS Roma of Italy defence strongman, Samuel Ossei Kuffour, is a big doubt for the Ghanaians make or mar cracker against the Teranga Lions of Senegal on Friday.

The stopper copped a muscle sprain in the thigh in the Black Stars' opening Group D clash with Nigeria's Super

Eagles and has consequently remained a big doubt for their next match with the Senegalese Lions on Friday.

Kuffour, it was gathered, has undergone a medical test, aimed at ascertaining whether he could still shrug off the injury for Friday's fixture.

The Ghana, Senegal encounter comes up ahead of the Eagles second match with

the Warriors of Zimbabwe same day.

If effectively ruled out of the next match by the fitness test, Kuffour's absence will be a big blow to Ghana's ambition to qualify from Group D of the competition, after the World Cup qualifiers went down to the Eagles in their first match on Monday.

Keshi: I will keep my job

Despite his team losing their first two games at the Nations Cup here, Togo coach Stephen Keshi has said he is confident he will take the team to the World Cup in the summer and see through his contract.

Keshi has come under pressure here in Egypt as the

Hawks have failed to fly, losing both to DR Congo and Cameroon and prompting talks that he may not be the man in charge when the team feature at their first-ever World Cup finals in Germany in June.

"My contract with Togo runs till June after the World Cup and I will see it through," said Keshi.

"After the World Cup we will see whether I stay or take up another offer."

His much publicised face-off with star player Sheyi Adebayor has also not enhanced his future.

"That problem is past tense. Keshi insisted on Thursday: 'I don't want to talk about that again.'"



Mhlauri talks tough

Zimbabwe coach Charles Mhlauri has vowed to give the Super Eagles a run for their money ahead of their Group D game on Friday.

According to Mhlauri, the Zimbabwe Warriors are not under pressure facing a big powerhouse like Nigeria.

"It's true we lost to Nigeria in both games in the qualifiers but this will be a different ball game," Mhlauri told KICK OFF at the Helnan hotel of the team, in Port Said.

"Nigeria is blessed with so many talents, we respect them but we are not afraid of the stars they parade.

"We are approaching the game like every other game. I've said it several times that we are not here to make the numbers, but to make a great impact", he added.

Senegal went into their African Nations Cup match against Zimbabwe last Monday harbouring dreams of a goal-feast but found themselves struggling to overcome the weakest team in Group D.

Although Senegal won 2-0, Mhlauri said if the team can repeat their Monday performance against Nigeria, he would be a fulfilled man.

"I think we did well against Senegal, if the team can play as well as they did on Monday, then it will be a nice day," Mhlauri concluded.



Super Eagles forward John Utaka will return to the starting line-up after serving out his one-match suspension

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP

Yesterday's Results

Zambia 1, Guinea 2

Tunisia 2, South Africa 0

Tunisia, Guinea qualify for
quatre-finals

Today's Matches

Guinea vs Senegal 4.15 pm

Nigeria vs Zimbabwe 7.00 pm

EDITORIAL

New Nigerian at 40

As the Northern governors meet, we want to draw their attention to an issue that may or may not be on their agenda. The New Nigerian Newspapers Limited, a fore-runner in the newspaper publishing business in the North, turned 40 this month; and fittingly, it is commemorating the occasion, albeit in a low key manner. Established in 1966 at a time when there was a need for a journal to purvey the views of the North and redress the imbalance in the incidence of newspapers and, therefore, the flow of information across the country, the *New Nigerian* has discharged its assignment creditably. It served as the voice of the North, giving expression to the region's aspiration and championing its cause. All these, it did in the best tradition of the journalism profession serving in the process to raise a corps of seasoned and dedicated journalists who have gone ahead either to establish and run other media or doing well for themselves in other professions.

We are pained to report, however, that today; this feat achieved by the organisation can only be recalled in nostalgia. The once vibrant and must-read journal has turned into a shadow of its former self; a point poignantly underscored by its former editor and managing director, Mallam Adamu Ciroma who in a special edition noted that the paper has "stopped being current, being relevant and stopped appearing in the market."

To what factors then can the decline of the *New Nigerian* newspaper be ascribed? The first is its acquisition by the federal government in 1975. It was an act that whittled down the paper's independence; as its top management became government appointees, it increasingly grew into a mere megaphone of the government of the day. The result was that it lost its readership along with the revenue accruing from it, which paved way for the decline of its operations. This situation was further made worse by unimaginative and bad leadership. The workers have had to bear the brunt of all these, as their wages and salaries, pensions and gratuities have remained unpaid. Indeed, unpaid emoluments and other staff entitlements constitute a huge burden on the company. To alleviate the sufferings of the working staff and those that have retired, it is the duty of the federal government to make funds available to settle these entitlements.

So, in its anniversary, the proper question to ask is how should the company be revitalised? To be sure, there is no shortage of measures toward this end. At one time the Bureau of Public Enterprise (BPE) was instructed to prepare it for privatisation; apparently this did not materialise. The federal government, according to reports, has now given it back to the Northern state governments - its former owners - many of whom have their own newspaper companies. In the face of competing demand for scarce funds, it is difficult to see how they can mobilise funds to undertake NNN's revitalisation. Even so, the committee raised by the state governors to study the operations of the company and make recommendation has submitted its report. Its implementation is being eagerly awaited. The Northern state governments should embark on a two-pronged action. In the interim, the state governors should establish a trust comprising seasoned journalists with established record of managing not only newspaper organisations, but also other companies. This body should be given five years to put the company on a sound economic footing after which it will be prepared for eventual privatisation. It should be done in such a way that its ownership would reflect its origin and purpose of its creation.

DAILY TRUST

FRIDAY COLUMN

Friday, January 27, 2000

Obasanjo and the Same-Sex Nonsense

By Adamu Adamu

I never thought that there could be anything on earth that could make me even temporarily forget the disaster of *tazarce* waiting to happen. But something did. After more than six years of witnessing planned chaos take over the polity, it came as a pleasant and joyful surprise to many of us last week that the government could send a bill to the National Assembly asking for a law to ban homosexual and lesbian marriages in Nigeria.

You were not surprised that it was not done well or on time. You were surprised that it was done at all. Wasn't it curious that the same government that was only recently trying to force an even more destructive Comprehensive Sexuality Education scheme into the nation's curricula, which would teach that human sexuality was a matter of free choice, was now trying to stop what would have resulted directly from it?

There was little doubt that if that ill-conceived and undigested scheme had found its way into the curricula of our secondary schools, increasing promiscuity, free-choice in the so-called sexual orientation—including homosexuality, lesbianism, bestiality and a host of other unmentionable perversions and a general weakening of the moral fibre of future society would have been the direct result.

I also failed to understand the logic of a regime that would seem to have so enthusiastically supported the abolition of the death penalty in the name of copy-copy modernity, but would now turn its back on the latest queer Avant-garde fashion from the cultural metropolis. For another, it just didn't sound like the government that only recently promoted and supported the ill-fated carnival.

Obviously, whoever would support that document on sexuality or spend hard-earned money to prepare for a carnival or be opposed to the death penalty would not be someone unduly worried by questions of morality.

According to Edward Gibbon, the famous author of the magisterial *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, the decline of Rome set in at precisely the time Roman women abandoned the home; and the fall began when Roman men began running after each other. The evidence for this last debauchery is today there for all to see in the volcanic tomb at Pompeii. What this means is that there is a direct causal relationship between standards of morality and the life of a civilization.

In ancient times, when there was Hellenic, or the semblance of scriptural, morality in place up to the Middle Ages, homosexuals, like heretics, were burnt at the stake. Many believe that the open, explicit and public indulgence in homosexual practice led to the end of Rome; and it was not improbable that the volcanic eruption of Mount Vesuvius that completely covered the cities of Pompeii, Herculaneum and Stabiae in 79 AD came in the form of divine punishment for the very practices that the city dwellers were engaged in as have covered them. Archaeological excavations seemed to have corroborated this and those cities today stand as symbols and testimonies to the coming of the wrath of the Lord.

Condemned by all revealed religions, even though Christian theology is unofficially undergoing extensive revision to make it in accord with the new gay culture, and shunned by all decent folk, homosexuals have always operated in the dark.

Since Roman times, homosexuality had come a long way. Always derided by all societies, succour would soon come to them through the liberalizing effect of the subtly anti-divine cultural and intellectual movements of 19th century Europe, notably the works of the self-proclaimed Godless Sigmund Freud. Under the influence of the theories of psychoanalysis, what was a sin suddenly became an unresolved psychological situation.

Homosexual feelings became not the fault of the human person but due to the effects of the blind forces of an unresolved Oedipus Complex for males and an unresolved Electra Complex for females. Later, they said it not the result of these complexes but it was all there in the genes from the beginning as a sexual orientation pre-ordained. Yet they still talk of 'free choice' even when they keep insisting that it is all in genetic. In other words, it could be due to anything other than the will of the person committing the act. Freud provided the Western World with a 'scientific' excuse—and an ever-changing moral code—to evade responsibility for the [im]moral choices that men or women make.

But what exactly is it? Is it a madness or a disease or is it, in fact, a sin deliberately committed by perverted minds? It may all sound so strange that despite all the masterful help Freud had given to the world of sexual perversion, they were still not sure what to make of it. For instance, it was only in 1973 that the American Psychological Association Board of Trustees removed homosexuality from its official diagnostic manual of mental disorders.

They said no replicated scientific study supporting any biological etiology has been made for it; and no psychosocial dynamic has been identified for it. In other words, it is not a disease and it is not a madness. And even if it is a sin, the world is secular. Thank you very much. And, therefore, emboldened by this new science that takes away responsibility for immoral acts, homosexuals began to 'come out.' Deviance had become fashion and the world will begin to taste one of the consequences of dismissing religion from everyday life.

With the Gay Liberation Front of 1960's New York, the so-called gay politics began in earnest to demand equal rights and an end to discrimination. Equal rights with who and discrimination from what? There was no answer, but by 1967 homosexuality had ceased to be illegal even in conservative Britain. By 1989, the way to gay marriage

was opened wider when Denmark gave gay men in registered partnerships all the rights enjoyed by couples in real marriages. Two years later all of the European Union, with the sole, heroic exception of the Isle of Man, had decriminalized homosexuality.

In 1994 Britain lowered the age of consent from 21 to 18; and ten years later the judiciary in the United States allowed same-sex marriages; and it was only a matter of time before it was copied here. But even there it was not so much as accepted.

And the first to cry out was President George Bush himself. "After more than two centuries of American jurisprudence, and millennia of human experience, a few judges and local authorities are presuming to change the most fundamental institution of civilization. Their action has created confusion on an issue that requires clarity."

Charles Colson, a Christian activist who had argued that legalizing gay marriage will lead to more family breakdown and crime, went on to explain what the president meant by that.

"Marriage is the traditional building block of human society, intended both to unite couples and bring children into the world. Tragically, the sexual revolution led to the decoupling of marriage and procreation; same-sex 'marriage' would pull them completely apart, leading to an explosive increase in family collapse, out-of-wedlock births—and crime. How do we know this?"

In nearly 30 years of prison ministry, I've witnessed the disastrous consequences of family breakdown—in the lives of thousands of delinquents. Dozens of studies now confirm the evidence I've seen with my own eyes. Boys who grow up without fathers are at least twice as likely as other boys to end up in prison. Sixty percent of rapists and 72 percent of adolescent murderers never knew or lived with their fathers.

Even in the toughest inner-city neighborhoods, just 10 percent of kids from intact families get into trouble, but 90 percent of those from broken families do. Girls raised without a father in the home are five times more likely to become mothers while still adolescents. Children from broken homes have more academic and behavioral problems at school and are nearly twice as likely to drop out of high school. Certainly, children need a stable family environment to grow into healthy wholesome adults; and society too depends on strong, stable families. And even if there is no divine moral law, the so-called same-sex marriages can not serve the three-fold purpose of normal wholesome marriages—that is, legitimate procreation, life of chastity and sanctification.

And even for those who do not believe in God [and how unfortunate and miserable their lot!] the grim statistics from a life of homosexuality is daunting. According to Christl Vonholdt, paediatrician and president of the German Institute of Youth and Society, 66% of homosexuals die of diseases related to their sexual preference.

Even for the nation-state as actor, the issue of sex has enormous implications for its future. It was not for nothing that the divine scripture counsel restraint. A 1934 study by the Oxford anthropologist, Professor J. D. Unwin, has established a link between restraint on sexual behaviour and development. For this reason free sex, even if it is heterosexual—pre-marital or even if post-marital between unmarried couples, is as unacceptable as homosexuality is, and its long-term effect on society nearly as deadly.

Yet it is from these people that we copy ever so enthusiastically even in those areas where we can teach them; and that includes everything about life and living as one should. We believe there is purpose to life. Most of them don't believe or don't care. Their society thinks that man is on earth for the sake of pleasure, while for us life means a religion of personal moral commitment to fight and control our desires. Because they have built the biggest material system, they think they also occupy the highest moral ground of civilization. They don't, and we should stop copying from them.

And though the Western World—America and Western, and even Eastern, Europe—sees itself as such, the truth is that, the West is really not a civilization. It is merely a very successful technological revolution. As an entity, the West is culture-distorting in its effort; and in essence, it is anti-civilisational. The mere fact that it has successfully penetrated and culturally polluted the world doesn't in any way make it a civilization. Even for world powers, there is a difference between being civilized and being dominant. And as is already seen, adopting their moral code is a sure ticket to decay and not to development. But even if it is, I am sure there are many people in this country who will rather we remain painfully poor and undeveloped than that we sink into this decadence in order to become developed.

The ball was kicked here by a group trying to hold an annual general meeting of gays either with the theme or under the name of Changing Attitude in Nigeria, CAN, perhaps in a deliberate and disrespectful parody of the real CAN, the Christian Association of Nigeria. They wanted to drum up support for their deviant behaviour—these people whose death is better than their life.

Following their aborted meeting the Federal Government announced its intention to seek for legislation to ban homosexuality and lesbianism in the country. It is probably not an exaggeration to say that in the entirety of the life of this Administration, it has not accomplished any act that has the merit of this bill. We salute President Olusegun Obasanjo and his cabinet for taking such a hard stand in favour of morality—a stand that for once sees them standing in the same rank with the people in whose name they govern this country.

We hope the president will face the other moral choice in front of him of whether to attempt to extend his tenure or whether to allow sanity and constitutionalism to prevail with the same resolution with which he confronted the homosexuals.