

# DAILY TRUST

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VOL. 13 NO. 4 THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 2006 DHUL-HIJAH 19, 1426 A. H. N80

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Justice Bola Yusuf of Ibadan High court, yesterday directed the reinstatement of Chief Rasheed Ladoja as governor of Oyo State pending the determination of the motion brought by 18 lawmakers challenging the jurisdiction of the court to entertain the substantive suit brought by the impeached governor. "The status quo should

## OYO CRISIS Ladoja remains gov - Court

From Olumide Bajulaiye, Correspondent in Ibadan  
remain with Chief Ladoja returning as the state governor till the 30th of January when the court will rule on a pend-

ing case before it on whether it has jurisdiction to entertain the case in the impeachment saga", Justice Yusuf said. The same judge had earlier declared the impeachment of Ladoja as null and void.

Reacting to the ruling, Lekan Latinwo (SAN) and member of the anti-Ladoja defence team faulted the ruling, saying the new governor, Adebayo Alao-Akala, was duly and constitutionally

sworn-in hence he remains the governor of Oyo state. Also reacting, former NBA national chairman, Wole Olanipekun (SAN) and a member of Ladoja's defence team, insisted that the rule of

law must prevail, adding that Ladoja is not the cause of the present agitation going on over the impeachment of the governor per se, but that the rule of law and respect for the constitution must prevail. According to him, since there has been a breach of the law and the constitution, all other things that have  
Cont. on Pg. 2

# EFCC: Court freezes Plateau govt accounts

As part of efforts to prove charges of alleged financial impropriety against the Plateau state governor, Chief Joshua Dariye, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), has secured a court order freezing the accounts of the state government.

The order is sequel to an application by the EFCC to the federal high court, Lagos, to freeze 33 accounts of the Plateau state government in four commercial banks.

The order was signed by Mrs. S.O. Ogundele, an Assistant Registrar of the court. It stated that the order was for the immediate freezing of the said accounts pending

From Andrew Agbese, Correspondent (Jos)  
the conclusion of investigation of the activities of persons linked with the acts. Following the order, the EFCC has written to all the banks concerned to stop payments from the accounts of the Plateau state government.

The banks in question are; Diamond Bank, Lion Bank, Allstates Trust Bank and Union Homes.

The petition also indicted the Chief of Staff to the governor, Chief Alex Molwus, the state's Commissioner of Finance, Mr. Emmanuel Agati, the Accountant General and many others.

But in a swift reaction to the development, the Plateau State government, through the Commissioner of Information, Honourable Yakubu Dati, said justice has in this particular case been misapplied as it was the state governor that was being accused of wrong doing and not the

people and government of the state. The commissioner said the timing of the injunction is suspect, coming at a time when the state governor is making efforts to deliver democracy dividends to the people adding that the state government would appeal the

order. "We will definitely appeal, we will appeal against the order because it will greatly affect the good people of Plateau State," he said. The EFCC in December 2005, re-submitted a petition to the Plateau state House of Assembly indicting the gov-

ernor as well as other officials of the state government for financial misdeeds. The petition listed about five banks and financial institutions through which the alleged financial transactions were carried out. The petition claimed that  
Cont. on Pg. 2

## Trust Dialogue holds today

The third edition of the Trust Annual Dialogue, a yearly event organised by the Media Trust Limited, publishers of Daily Trust and Weekly Trust newspapers holds today at Ladi Kwali Hall, Sheraton Hotel, Abuja.

The theme for this year's dialogue is "Corruption: The

Trouble With Nigeria" and will feature the chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) Malam Nuhu Ribadu, as speaker. Others are Gen. Ishola Williams (rtd) and Pro-

fessor Attahiru Jega, Vice Chancellor of the Bayero University, Kano. The occasion will be chaired by Major Gen. Garba Ali Ahmed (rtd) and the emcee is Alhaji (Dr) Auko Dangote. The book to be launched is entitled "Reforming Nigeria: Which

Model?," a publication containing the papers delivered in the previous edition of the dialogue during which astute academics expounded on the nation's economy. This year's topic is coming on the heels of the renewed anti-corruption crusade.  
Cont. on Pg. 2

## Drug addict kills father

A 25-year-old drug addict, Ado Inusa, has been arrested for allegedly killing his father in Kankia, Katsina state.

The suspect was alleged to have murdered his 65-year-old father, Mallam Inusa Sani, who had been advising him against drugs.

The incident happened at about 9 pm at the weekend

when the victim returned from the mosque.

The accused was alleged to have smoked Indian hemp and attacked his late father with a sword.

Eyewitness accounts alleged that before Sani could get assistance, he had been inflicted with deep cuts which caused his instant death.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), reports that neighbours reported the case to the police who later arrested the accused.

The mother of the suspect, Malama Sa'adatu Sani, told NAN on Tuesday that she was asleep when the incident happened.

She said: "I really don't know how it happened and I was not even able to see his body."

Sa'adatu confirmed that  
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Malam Nuhu Ribadu



Prof. Attahiru Jega

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# News

## Air crashes: Senate c'ttee threatens arrest of aviation official

By Habeeb I. Pindiga,  
Assistant Political Editor

The Senate standing Committee on Aviation probing the circumstances of the Bellview plane crash has threatened to compel the appearance before it of the director of the Accident Investigation and Prevention Bureau (AIPB), of the aviation ministry.

Issuing the threat yesterday in Abuja at the opening of a public hearing on the crash of a Bellview airliner October 22 last year, chairman of the committee, Senator Mohammed Ibrahim, said the panel had asked the director to appear yesterday but since he refused with no known reason, the last option was to compel his attendance.

Ibrahim cited section 88 of the constitution to prove that the panel has powers to summon any official and order his arrest if he fails to honour summons.

Trouble began when Ibrahim asked the Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA), to tender certain documents relating to the crashed airliner but the NCAA boss said such materials were in the custody of AIPB which incidentally did not appear at the hearing.

Earlier, acting permanent secretary of the aviation ministry had informed the panel that the AIPB director could not come because the information at his disposal was too sensitive for public consumption and apologised on behalf of the director.

This irked the senators who argued that there was no information that they cannot

temptuous of the legislature and urged that the committee take a firm decision.

Summing up contributions of the lawmakers, Ibrahim said the committee would meet to discuss invoking the powers of enforcing appearance of officials as granted by the constitution.

Giving testimonies on the Bellview crash, managing director of the Nigeria Airspace Management Agency (NAMA), Mr. Rowland Iyayi, said the radar equipment was off for maintenance work at the time the ill-fated Bellview plane crashed. He, however said this could not have led to the crash but may partly be responsible for the delayed location of the crash site.

Iyayi said the radar had to

be switched off during weekends for maintenance when air traffic was low. The radar at the Murtala Mohammed International Airport, Lagos, according to him had been installed in 1978 which "is light years behind what is acceptable today."

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Prof. Babalola Borishade,  
Aviation Minister

be switched off during weekends for maintenance when air traffic was low. The radar at the Murtala Mohammed International Airport, Lagos, according to him had been installed in 1978 which "is light years behind what is acceptable today."

## Four killed as unrest heightens in Ivory Coast

By Abdu Labaran  
Malumfashi, Foreign Desk  
Editor, with agency reports

French and UN peacekeepers have pulled out of a camp in western Ivory Coast after clashing with supporters of President Laurent Gbagbo, with the Ivorian forces doing little to prevent street protests.

Four of the protesters were killed after a UN base in Guiglo, 300km (187 miles) from Abidjan, was attacked.

After three days of protests, the crisis is escalating with youths surrounding UN and French buildings in Abidjan, the main city, a BBC correspondent said.

Gbagbo's supporters are angry at attempts to dissolve parliament.

International mediators this week recommended that parliament, whose mandate has expired, be discontinued.

The BBC's James Copnall, in Abidjan, says the national assembly is one of Mr Gbagbo's last power bases in divided Ivory Coast.

Following the mediators' move, the ruling party pulled out of the transitional government and UN-backed peace talks and called on the 10,000

keepers were being withdrawn to the demilitarised zone further north. Capt Combarieu said.

Our correspondent says the *Young Patriots* are also now in control of virtually all the main streets in Abidjan.

For a third day, youths are stopping cars and checking identity papers at roadblocks. There is little public transport and debris from Tuesday's unrest is strewn across roads.

Despite a ban on street demonstrations, the Ivorian security forces have not acted to stop the protests. There have been few violent incidents but Abidjan and several other cities are paralysed.

International mediators were appointed by the UN to help steer the country towards elections due this year.

But the ruling Ivorian Popular Front (FPI), accused the international community of carrying out a "constitutional coup d'etat".

A spokesman for the rebel New Forces which hold the north, responded: "There is not a future for Ivory Coast if the FPI succeeds in making a putsch against the peace process. That means war."

The UN decided to abandon the base and the peace-

### EFCC Cont. from pg. 1

"a Diamond Bank cheque for N204 million was cleared into Ebenezer Retnam accounts on the instructions of Dariye.

The EFCC also said it discovered that "between December 11, 2001 and April 27 2004, N31.7 million was paid from the Plateau state government account "called account payable maintained at Lion Bank Plc to Dariye company at Allstates Trust Bank."

One of the officials who spoke to *Daily Trust* on condition of anonymity, said nobody is sure when the order will be lifted.

But the state's commissioner of information expressed surprise that the EFCC which was given an opportunity to prove its case before the House of Assembly, could fail to turn up only for it to go and obtain a court order.

"Since they do not have a case with the state government, it shows that their target all along is not the governor but the good people of Plateau State," he declared.

Meanwhile, chairman of the Economic and Financial Crime Commission EFCC, Mallam Nuh Ribadu, yesterday, left members of the Plateau state House of Assembly waiting for over three hours as he failed to appear before the House committee investigating allegations of graft against the Plateau State governor, Chief Joshua Dariye.

The EFCC chairman was expected to appear before the panel at 10.00 am yesterday to clarify issues on the petition submitted to the House alleging various cases of financial impropriety against the governor.

But after waiting for over an hour, the committee decided to go on break.

Some few minutes after 11 a.m while agreeing to reconvene at 12 noon to enable the EFCC chairman and his team enough time to get to the venue of the probe.

When it was 12 noon, chairman of the committee, Alhaji Usman Zumunta Musa, announced to the members that there was a need to give the "EFCC man more time and asked that the committee break again to reconvene at 1.30pm.

But by 1.30 pm when it was evident that the EFCC team was nowhere near the premises of the State Assembly, the committee adopted a motion to adjourn the sitting to 12 noon today.

Chairman of the committee informed media men that the EFCC has not communicated with them and that the committee has decided to adjourn to the next day.

He explained that the timing will not clash with the expected appearance of some of the members of Dariye's cabinet, stressing that precedence would be given to EFCC if they should come since the EFCC is the petitioner in the case.

"The priority will go to the petitioner if the EFCC should appear at the same time with our invitees tomorrow," he promised.

Zumunta Musa who con-

their inability to honour the invitation, said he is not going to pass judgment on them "as they may have good reasons for not coming."

But in a telephone chat with *Daily Trust* shortly after the committee adjourned sitting, Head of Public Affairs of the EFCC, Mr. Osita Nwaja, expressed surprise that the EFCC did not turn up for the probe as according to him, a team had already left Abuja to meet with the committee.

He said the team may have been held up due to "transportation problems" as according to him, the EFCC was not sure of the time they were supposed to meet with the committee yesterday.

Nwaja further confirmed that the EFCC chairman will not make an appearance as he (Ribadu), is supposed to defend the budget of the commission at the National Assembly.

"But the EFCC has good representatives in the team they have sent to Jos," he added.

### Ladoja

Cont. from pg. 1

happened since the impeachment is an aberration.

Meanwhile, fear continues to reign supreme in the city as residents of the embattled state continue to stay indoors following increased opposition to the new administration in the state.

Unsure of the next political development following the removal of Governor Ladoja by loyalists of Alhaji Lamidi Adedibu, most workers have refused to resume work at the state secretariat while parents have also held back their children from going to schools.

Investigations by our correspondent revealed that most of the public schools in the state were deserted with no sign of pupils and teachers.

In the Ibadan metropolis, most of the markets were also shut while there were no traders at the roadsides stalls. The roads were also deserted as commercial bus drivers withdrew their vehicles from the roads in solidarity with Ladoja.

Despite assurances by the police and the new governor of the state, Alao-Akala, to workers and residents to resume their normal activities, most residents expressed apprehension at the unfolding political crisis in the state and have decided to be cautious.

The situation was not helped by the deployment of hundreds of heavily armed anti-riot policemen on the roads and strategic points in the city.

In a statement by the UAD's convener, Abiodun Aremu, the group has mapped out series of mass protests to force out the new administration, warning Akala to stop parading himself as the substantive governor of Oyo State.

He urged the Inspector-General of Police, Sunday Ehindero, to return Ladoja's security details to him to enable him perform his constitutional duties as governor of

### Drug

Cont. from pg. 1

her son was a drug addict. The state police public relations officer, Mr. Adamu Yusuf, confirmed the incident.

The suspect, he said, would be examined by medical doctors to ascertain his mental condition.

### Trust

Cont. from pg. 1

sade of government and the growing controversy surrounding the exercise.

The previous edition had centred on the economy with renowned economist, Professor Sam Aluko, delivering a paper entitled, "Reforming Nigeria: the Economic Dimension," in which he examined the centrality of the lower rung of society and its survival in stimulating growth.

Malam Sanusi Lamido Sanusi also delivered a dissertation on the importance for the anti-corruption crusaders to live above board if their efforts will have any significance.

Dignitaries expected to grace the event include HRH Alhaji Sulu Gambari, Emir of Ilorin, who is also the royal father of the day. Others are Chief Ken Nnamani, Senate president and special guest of honour, Alhaji Bello Masari, Speaker, House of Representatives and Hon (Dr) Zephaniah B. Jisalo, AMAC



The Emir of Zazzau, Dr. Shehu Idris (left), and the Etsu-Nupe, Alhaji Yahaya Abubakar during the presentation of the National Mosque rehabilitation committee report to President Umaru Yar'Adua.



# MEDIA TRUST LTD.

**Presents**

## 3RD TRUST ANNUAL DIALOGUE

- Topic:** → CORRUPTION: The Trouble With Nigeria  
**Speakers:** → Malam Nuhu Ribadu, Gen. Ishola Williams (rtd) and Professor Attahiru Jega  
**Date:** → Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2006  
**Venue:** → Ladi Kwali Conference Centre, Abuja Sheraton Hotel & Towers, Abuja  
**Time:** → 10:00 a.m. Prompt

### PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

1. 9.00-9.15 am - Participants and invited guests arrive
2. 9.15-9.25 am - Arrival of speakers, discussants, chairman of the occasion (Major Gen. Garba Ali Mohammed (Rtd) and chief launcher (Alhaji (Dr.) Aliko Dangote con.)
3. 9.30 am - - Arrival of Royal father of the day (HRH Alhaji Sulu Gambari, *Emir of Ilorin*)
4. 9.40 am - - Arrival of chief host, Chairman, Abuja Municipal Area Council (Hon. (Dr.) Zaphaniah B. Jisalo)
5. 9.50 am - - Arrival of Special Guest of Honour, Chief Ken Nnamani, Senate President, Federal Republic of Nigeria
6. 9.55 am - - Arrival of Speaker, Fed. House of Reps (Alh. Aminu Bello Masari) and All State Governors National Anthem
7. 10.00 am - - Opening prayers
8. 10.10-10.20 am - Introduction of guests by MC
9. 10.20-10.30 am - Welcome address by the Chairman Board of Directors of Media Trust Limited
10. 10.30-10.40 am - Opening remarks by the chairman of the occasion
11. 10.40-10.50 am - Remarks by the Chief Host, Hon. (Dr.) Zaphaniah B. Jisalo
12. 10.50-11.00 am - Remarks by the Special Guest of Honour, Chief Ken Nnamani
13. 11.00-11.10 am - Book review by Abubakar Sanusi
14. 11.10-11.30 am - MC announces launching of book by the Chief Launcher, Alhaji Aliko Dangote & Co-launchers
15. 11.30-11.50 pm - MC announces book sale to audience
16. 11.50-12.10 pm - Presentation of first paper
17. 12.10-12.30 pm - Presentation of second paper
18. 12.30-12.50 pm - Presentation of third paper
19. 12.50-1.20 pm - Comments and Questions on the papers presented
20. 1.20-1.30 pm - Vote of thanks by Alhaji Isiaq A. Ajibola, Executive Director, Media Trust Limited
21. 1.30 pm - - Closing prayers

**THIS SERVES AS INVITATION TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC.**

Signed:  
 Management  
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 08033202211, 08033202210

## NEWS

## NDP kicks against confederal system

The National Democratic Party (NDP) has raised alarm that the recent call for a confederal system of government by a political pressure group, the Southern Forum, is a plot to drag Nigeria to war and rent the country apart.

The Party however called on Nigerians to bury their differences and unite against the plots, which it said is targeted at destroying the corporate existence of Nigeria as an indivisible entity.

The Deputy National Chairman of NDP, Prince Chudi Chukwuani who gave the party's position at its secretariat in Abuja said the NDP believes in the oneness of Nigeria and does not subscribe to the call for a confederal system of government as advocated by the Southern Forum because it is not only strange to the constitution of the country, but that

By Hammeed M Bello

such calls are allegedly sponsored by enemies of the country to create a war situation for their selfish interest. This, he said, is unacceptable to the opposition party, which has been underground for sometime.

While making reference to the position paper (communiqué) issued by the Southern Forum as signed by Ambassador M T Mbu who is chairman of the Forum, in which the Forum want the country to adopt the confederal system of government, and the threat by the recent Southern stakeholders meeting in Enugu to pull out of the country should the presidency not remain in the south in 2007, Chukwuani said the country is greater than a group of individuals, and that nobody can change

the constitution just to achieve selfish interest.

"We will not have a stable democracy with frequent constitutional changes, and those evil men and women who want to throw the country in turmoil should visit Iraq and see the unbearable situation in that once peaceful and enterprising country; Nigeria is one nation and does not need war," he said.

He said the sordid experience of the Nigeria civil war is still fresh in the minds of people, and urged Nigerians

to throw stones at anybody who want to drag the nation to another undesirable war for selfish reasons because such people are enemies of Nigerians.

He said the NDP rejects any third term for any public office holder, and challenged the Independent Electoral Commission (INEC) to immediately come up with a credible voter register and polling centres to address the doubts by Nigerians as to the sincerity of government to conduct a free and fair elec-

tion in 2007. He also called on members of the National Assembly to move against plots to amend the constitution to extend the tenure of the government.

Also, he said the NDP is opposed to plans by INEC to adopt the electronic voting system because it is prone to rigging, adding that bulk of the Nigerian electorate live in the rural areas, and that their level of literacy cannot cope with the electronic voting system.

He said the NDP rejects the suspected third term agenda; and supports a credible transition from the current government to another through a credible election.

## Jigawa offers to return indigenous immigrants

From Hassan A Karofi, in Mecca

The Jigawa state government has offered to return all indigenous immigrants resident in the kingdom of Saudi Arabia as a register for interested immigrants have been opened at the state office in Mecca.

Daily Trust reports that already 30 immigrants have registered at the office to indicate their willingness to return home.

While explaining the rationale behind the offer, secretary to the Jigawa state government Lawan Yau Roni told our reporter that the gesture was to enable interested Jigawa state indigenes resident in the kingdom to return home as government is ready to finance their return apart from possible rehabilitation through skills provision.

He also revealed that the immigrants had visited Governor Ibrahim Turaki where they expressed their wish to be returned home and the Governor kindly accepted there wish.

"When they came and expressed their wishes, the Governor graciously accepted to help return them home, he therefore asked them to bring anybody interested to return and that is why we open a register for those wishing to return home," he added.

Daily Trust reports that most the immigrants have no travel documents to facilitate their return home and this forces the state government to initiate moves in conjunction with the Nigerian authorities to acquire passports for the willing returnees.

One of the returning immigrants Muktar Sani informed our reporter that he was lured into coming to the holyland by some people in Kazaure after he paid them over N100,000.00.

He disclosed that parents are paid between N200,000 to N2250,000 to let their children be taken to holyland mostly for begging and other petty jobs.

"What happen is that when you are brought by this people they sold you to a particular woman who then carry you to interested households for petty domestic chores and in some cases if you are unfortunate to fall at the hands of dubious characters you are used to steal or prostitution in the case of girls," he revealed.

Muktar however said they decided to utilise the opportunity given by Governor Turaki because according to him they are tired of the dehumanizing ways they are being treated in the holyland.

As you see me I have been severally arrested by the police but I always escaped at times with broken limbs," he added.

The returning immigrants are expected to be rehabilitated and offered available jobs to ensure that they do not return to the holyland.

## Fire guts Sabon Gari market

Mysterious fire has gutted the busiest part and heart of the Main Market of Sabon-Gari Zaria in Kaduna state leaving no iota of item in the 327 shops affected and in which property of unquantifiable millions of naira were destroyed.

The source of the fire which was noticed at about 2.40am Monday, according to the chairman of the market committee, Alhaji Ibrahim D. D. Umar, has not been ascertained up to the time of filing this report, but independent investigations by Daily Trust revealed that the incident might not be unconnected with the usual tempering of light by the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) which often results in the destruction of users' electrical appliances.

The chairman of the market committee who informed Daily Trust that this incident is the third since the market was constructed in the sixties, the second of which was last year when thirty nine shops were razed with property worth several millions of naira lost to the fire.

Alhaji Umar lamented that what is more mysterious about the latest fire incident in the market, is the area involved. "This incident happened at the heart of the market and the shops affected are those owned by the wealthiest businessmen in the market who apart from the property worth several hundreds of millions of naira that were lost, had a lot of money kept in the shops" he revealed.

The chairman also lamented that considering the time the fire incident occurred, men of the underworld and miscreants took advantage of the incident and broke into people's shops, particularly provision stores, where they carried with a lot of valuables and money.

One of the victims and the worst hit by the fire incident, Alhaji Kamaludeen who was reported to have fainted when he saw the extent of

From Waziri Isa Gwantu, Correspondent, Zaria

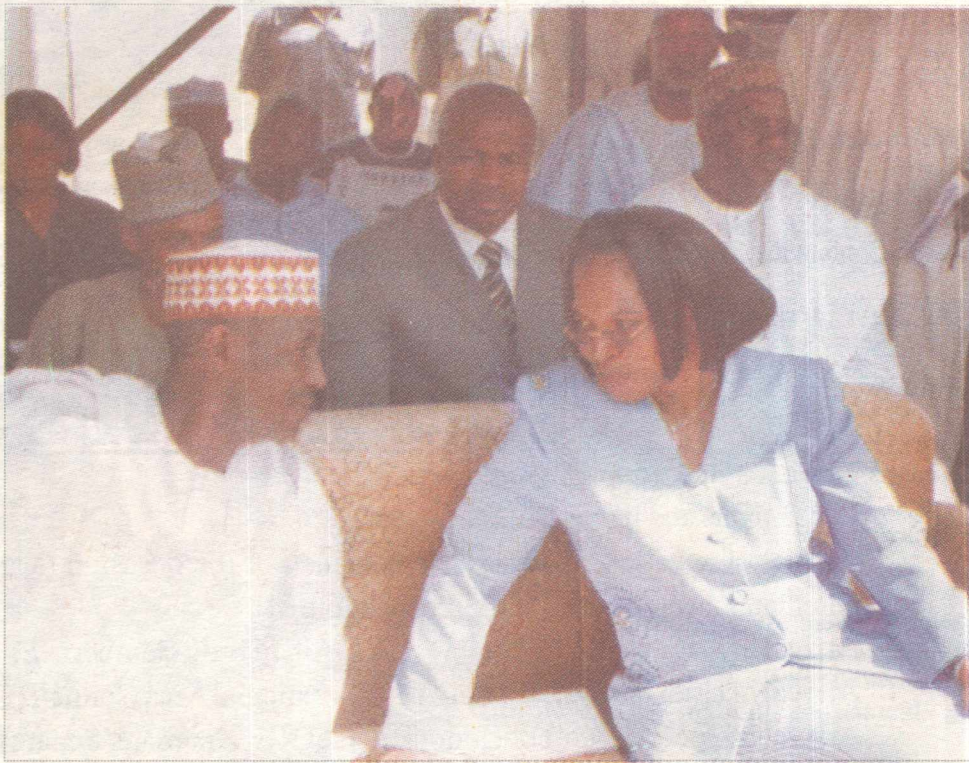
destruction by the fire and the amount of money lost to it, was unable to speak to Daily Trust owing to the state of shock in which he was.

However, relation of another most affected victims, Alhaji Yunusa who is away in Saudi Arabia for Hajj, told Daily Trust that he (Alhaji Yunusa) has had a total of eight shops completely destroyed by the fire.

Commenting on the incident, the Deputy Governor of Kaduna state, Mr. Ibrahim Patrick Yakowa who was at the scene of the incident to commiserate with the victims, assured them that the Kaduna state government would set up a committee to look into the source of the fire, assess and see how it would assist the victims.

Also, the Emir of Zazzau, Alhaji (Dr) Shehu Idris who commiserated with the victims assured that he would work hand-in-hand with the government to ensure that the Government came to their assistance and to also look at the possibility of building a new market to supplement the present one which is over populated and lacked fire fighting equipments to be used to contain such incidences.

Mallam Isa Ahmed, Head of Fire Service Unit of the Ahmadu Bello University, (A.B.U.) Zaria who was at the forefront of bringing the fire under control decried that lack of access road into the market was what led to the consumption of the 327 shops out of 4000 in the market by the fire. "When we came in to combat the fire, there was no single road for us to enter into the market, what we did however was to bulldoze our way so we could get a strategic position from where we could arrest the situation and that was how we were able to bring the fire under control with the help of Kaduna State fire service", Mallam Isa noted.



Kaduna State Commissioner of Agriculture, Alhaji Lawal Samaila Abdullahi (left) discussing with the Director General of Bureau for Public Enterprises (BPE), Mrs. Irene Chigbue, at the formal handing over ceremony of Federal Superphosphate Fertilizer Company Limited, Kaduna to Hekio Consortium.

Pix: Shehu K. Goro

## 2007: Parties should determine power shift - Awoniyi

By Emmanuel Bello, Political Editor

Chairman of the Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF) and Aro of Mopa, Chief Sunday Awoniyi, said political parties should be allowed to determine the direction of power shift in 2007, observing that it is not a constitutional matter.

He decried attempts by President Obasanjo to make the issue a national one with the potential of pitching the North against the South in a perpetual strife for power.

"This we must guard against. 2007 should not be allowed to divide us as a people because it is a divisive issue and one that has the potential to polarise the nation," Chief Awoniyi said in a telephone interview with Daily Trust yesterday.

It was not worth it for the north to fight or engage in a clash with our southern brothers, he said. "This is what President Obasanjo wants: Moving a purely political issue into the public arena and using it as a convenient weapon to pitch the North against the South. It is a ploy and it is an evil one," he said.

Chief Awoniyi also cautioned Northern politicians to refrain from "blanket attack on their southern friends. "Because 2007 is an issue which mature politicians can tackle, once the manipulative hands of the president are removed."

He also explained his remarks at the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Sardauna's death in which he said that the president, in conjunction with the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), has perfected plans to continuously enmesh the North and the South in a skirmish over the politics of succession.

He said that rather than play into the hands of their traducer, Northern politicians should work anonymously with their southern partners with a view to foster unity.

"We must not do or say anything to wreck the anonymous relationship which has been developed over the years at schools, in the universities, in the public services, in the professions in business and in politics.

"These are the building blocks with which great nations are built. We must not allow Obasanjo to destroy them. No single southerner that I have spoken to supports this dangerous game of South versus North," he reiterated.

## Former defence minister dies at 75

From Abdulrazaq Adebayo, Correspondent (Ilorin)

Former Minister of Defence and Walin Ilorin, Alhaji Mahmoud Akanbi Oniyangi died in the early hours of Tuesday at the age of 75.


Alhaji Oniyangi passed on at the University of Ilorin Teaching Hospital after a brief illness. He was buried according to Islamic rites at his residence, Agba Dam quarters, Ilorin at about 1 p.m.

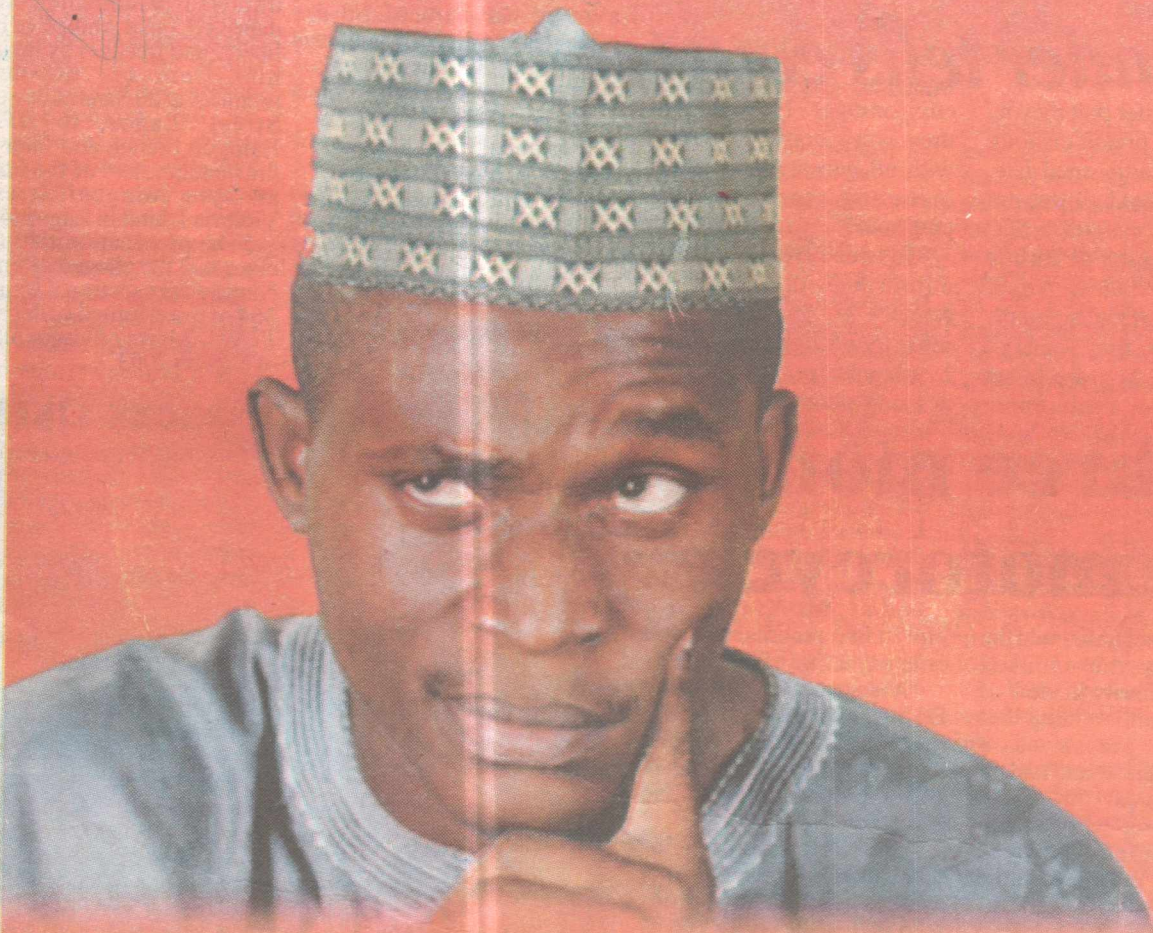
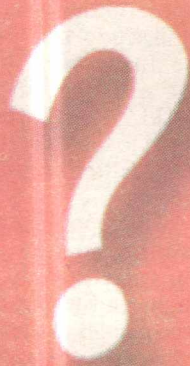
Alhaji Oniyangi, a lawyer also served the Shagari administration as a Communication Minister. He was one of the founders of the first community school in Ilorin, emirate, Ilorin United School in the early 1940s.

He gained prominence as

youth leader and lawyer and served in various political offices at state and federal levels under the military rule until the advent of partisan politics in 1978.

The Chief Imam of Ilorin, Alhaji Mohammed Bashir, led the funeral prayer which preceded the burial and was attended by top state government officials including the secretary to government, Alhaji Ibrahim Adelodun, Chief of Staff to Governor Saraki, Alhaji Ganiyu Cook Olododo, Commissioner for Health, Dr. Femi Ogunshola, friends, relations, and political associates.

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# CRIME & PUNISHMENT



A cross section of some MASSOB youth who are facing trial along with their leader at the Federal High Court Abuja Tuesday 17 of January, 2006. Pix: Felix Onigbinde.

## I'm not guilty of treason

—MASSOB leader tells court

By Ruby Rabiū,  
Senior Reporter

The leader of the Movement for the Actualisation of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB), Chief Ralph Uwazurike, has asked the federal high court to dismiss the treason charges preferred against him by the federal government on the grounds that there are no sufficient evidence to prosecute him.

Counsel to the accused, Chief Mike Ahamba (SAN), who made the application, also alleged that his clients were maltreated by the State Security Services (SSS) officials for the past two months despite the court order that they be kept in a humane environment.

He told the court that the accused were kept in chains.

Chief Mike Ahamba (SAN), had moved his motion for the bail of the seven accused persons noting that even though they are being arraigned for treason, it was a bailable offence.

Ahamba argued that the capital nature of the offence does not cripple the authority of the court to grant bail since the information before the court has not yet preferred any charges against his client.

He said, "I would like to draw the court's attention to the burden of information and other papers before it, we submit that the process was neither a formal charge nor an information with which a reasonable charge can be filed before the court".

"The issue creates a 'prima-facie' doubt about the case and so it is at the discretion of the court to grant bail".

He said that since the accused persons had denied

their innocence; it was the duty of the prosecution to bring forward some proof of evidence to prove to the court that they have enough evidence to try the accused persons.

Ahamba asked the court

to make an order that they be remanded in prison custody until the next adjourned date, in the event that bail was not granted.

The Director of Public Prosecution, Sahilu Aliyu, asked the court to discard the remarks by the accused persons that they are being kept under inhumane

environment. He said that they were being provided with all necessary facilities including access to their counsel.

Justice Binta Nyako adjourned the case to January 23, for the State to reply to the arguments made by Ahamba for the bail of the accused persons.

## Man bags three months for stealing motorcycle

An Abuja magistrate court has sentenced one Etudaiye Sam to three months in prison for stealing a Jincheng motorcycle valued at N18,000.

The accused person was found guilty by magistrate Audu Dogo who however gave him an option of N3,000 fine.

The complainant, Mr. Moses Luke, told the court that he was on his way to repair his motorcycle recently when the accused and his friend accosted him and forcefully collected the bike from him along Tipper Garage road.

Mr. Moses Luke said he immediately lodged a complaint at the police station nearby which led to the arrest of the accused person.

Earlier, the accused person who pleaded guilty, told the court that he did not accost anyone but that he stole the bike as it stood at the road side and when he was arrested by the police he admitted the offence.

He urged the court to temper justice with mercy, as it was the economic situation that pushed him to the act.

ctor Emmanuel Lafet, told the court to try the accused person summarily in view of his plea of guilt, adding that the accused person was a first time offender and had no criminal records.

The Chief Magistrate Usman Shauibu sentenced the accused person to three months or to pay a fine of N3,000.

Meanwhile, one Dalhatu Musa was jailed two months for stealing the handset of a police officer.

The accused person who was convicted of theft was said to have entered an office at Total filling station at Wuse Zone one and took away Sergeant Yusuf Ewansiha's Nokia handset while it was being charged.

The prosecutor, Corporal Ahmed Ameh, told the court to try the accused person summarily since he had pleaded guilty to the charges.

The accused person pleaded for leniency, urging the court to temper justice with mercy.

Chief Magistrate Usman Shauibu, while giving his ruling, said the accused person had shown remorse for his action and sentenced

him to two months in prison or to pay a fine of N1,500.

Also one Mr. Stanley Ebere also appeared before the magistrate court for allegedly stealing a handset and a video compact disc player.

The stolen items belonged to one Peter Anosike and is valued at about N25,000 by the police.

The accused person who is being charged with theft contrary to section 288 of the penal code pleaded not guilty to the charge.

The prosecutor, Corporal Ahmed Ameh, told the court that the complainant, Mr. Peter Anosike had reported that the accused person had removed the said items from his room without his consent.

Corporal Ameh asked for a date to enable him produce witnesses to prove his case. He however did not oppose the bail application of the accused person.

The magistrate, Audu Dogo, granted the accused person bail in the sum of N50,000 with one surety in like sum and adjourned the case to January 31, for hearing.

## Two in court over embezzlement of N2.3m

By Halima S. Sale

Two persons have been dragged before an Abuja magistrate court for allegedly spending over N2.3 million meant to execute the construction of a Dam at Kilankwa, Kwali local government council, Abuja.

The accused persons, Bello Abdulkareem, who is said to be a staff of Wema Security and Finance Plc, Abuja and Stanley Chiedozie, who is the engineer at the construction site, were alleged to have conspired and converted the money to their personal use.

The first information report indicated that Jude Chukwude had petitioned the Inspector-General of Police, that the first accused, Bello Abdulkareem, was asked to disburse the loan of N2.3 million awarded for the project.

The report stated that on getting to the site, he conspired with the site engineer, Stanley Chiedozie who resides at plot 4, FCDA quarters, Kubwa, Abuja.

The report alleged that they "jointly and criminally averted the sum of N1.4 million out of the N2.3 million to their personal use.

The two suspects who are being charged with joint act, criminal breach of trust and cheating, pleaded not guilty to the charges.

The prosecutor, ASP Ojubo Godwin, urged the court to grant him an adjournment to enable him assemble witnesses for the hearing.

The magistrate Audu Dogo granted the two accused persons bail in the sum of N2.5 million each with two sureties in like sum and adjourned the case to January 30 for hearing.

## Kidnapping: Two UBA staff in court

From Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

Two staff of the United Bank for Africa (UBA) group have been docked before an Ebute Metta magistrate court on a charge of kidnapping.

Julius Okhveleigbe and Omoruyi Festus Osaze, according to the charge sheet, were alleged to have sometimes in January last year at the Standard Trust Bank, Balogun branch, Lagos, kidnapped one Tasiu Ahmed.

They were alleged to have unlawfully confined and deprived Tasiu Ahmed of his liberty and freedom by taking him from his business premises at 20 Sanni Adewale Street, Lagos, to STB, Balogun branch and later to the headquarters of the bank at Oyin Jolayeni Street, Victoria Island in Lagos.

The prosecution told the court that the alleged offence contravenes section 516 and 364 of the criminal code, cap 17 Vol. 2 laws of Lagos state of Nigeria 2003.

### POLICE EMERGENCY PHONE LINES

Route/coverage area	Telephone numbers
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, 09-2341499, 09-2341498, 09-5238741

Daily Trust Hotlines: 08039686854 and 08056418945

# CRIME & PUNISHMENT

## Car snatching on the increase in PH

Cases of car snatching is on the increase in various parts of Rivers state although police say they are doing their best to bring the spate down even as they announced the recovery of brands of various stolen vehicles.

Various cases of car snatching were recorded during the festive period and the police have been on the trail

From Ikenna Emeka Okpani, Bureau Chief, Port Harcourt

of most of the missing vehicles without success. Our investigations revealed that a case occurred on the Port Harcourt-Aba expressway where a man lost his Prado jeep with a special plate number to armed robbers who were said to be dressed in police uniform.

Our reporter gathered that the robbers stopped the man in the jeep and he pulled over only for them to ask him to come down from the vehicle at gunpoint. The robbers boarded the vehicle and took off and that was when the man realised they were fake policemen.

He has since reported the matter to the police and as at the time of this report, the car

has not been recovered while promises have been made to anybody who can assist with information leading to the recovery of the car.

Police said a Peugeot 406 saloon car with registration number CL 610 PHC, Engine No. PSARG 10H ICE 83001553 and chassis No. VF 38 BRG E80663696 belonging to one Florence Ishire was snatched from her while she

was about to park.

Our reporter gathered that the four armed robbers who snatched the car from her pretended to be helping her get a perfect parking space before they struck. The car was ash in colour and has not been found yet.

Meanwhile, the police said they have recovered a Toyota Hiace Bus with registration number EDO XA 323 AFZ, white in colour with inscriptions Discoop Motors suspected to have been abandoned after an armed robbery operation. The vehicle has been taken to Eleme bus stop. The police said a patrol team along Oyigbo/Agbonchia road recovered the vehicle.

## Robbery averted in Adamawa

From Hamza Idris (correspondent Yola)

The Adamawa State police command has revealed that the command recently made two major armed robbery arrests and averted several robbery attempts by the men of the underworld.

The state's commissioner of police, Muhammad Sambo, who disclosed this to newsmen in Yola on Thursday, hinted that a syndicate of 17 armed robbery suspects were nabbed by the police while over 100 herds of cattle including six prohibitive fire arms, three motorcycles and several GSM handsets were recovered from them.

Commissioner Sambo also said that his men have through intelligence report, uncovered a notorious gang led by one Hammadu Sule alias Ruwa and Umaru Muhammad alias Mbala in a hideout at Karewa, a suburb of Yola.

He said that the two armed robbery suspects have confessed to be the brains behind several robbery cases in Yola and its environs. He said that in the course of interrogations, the police recovered two single barrel guns with eight live cartridges and two motorcycles as well as an unspecified amount of money from them.

Police commissioner Sambo stated that his men recently aborted another robbery incident involving two suspects namely John Williams and Ugochukwu Samuel from Ariaria commercial area in Abia state. He said that the duos were intercepted by the police at Dung motor park in Numan local government. According to him, after full interrogation, the two suspects have admitted that their intention was to attack the luxurious buses that ply from Yola to the eastern part of the country.

He said that items recovered from them included four double barrel pistols with eight live cartridges adding that all the armed robbery suspects have been charged to court in Yola.

In another development, hundreds of policemen have been deployed to the streets of Yola, the Adamawa State capital. Briefing newsmen on the sudden security alert in the state capital, police commissioner Sambo explained that it is part of the preparations for the wedding ceremony of two children of vice president Atiku Abubakar slated for Friday through Sunday.

According to him, "we have drawn two operational order for the wedding ceremony. From the information we received, we are expecting all former heads of state here. This is in addition to governors and members of the national assembly. In fact, the possibility of Mr. President coming to this town cannot be overruled."

"All security apparatus have been put in place and the inspector General of police has directed that two units of about two hundred mobile policemen be deployed to the state so as to augment what we have on ground," he revealed.



Peugeot car with registration No. CY 766 ABJ in which the MASSOB leader, Ralph Uwazurike was brought to Federal High Court Abuja for his trial on Tuesday 17th of January 2006. Pix: Felix Onigbende.

## Police shoot one, arrest five on alleged murder mission

The special Anti Robbery Squad (SAR), in Rivers state, shot one man in Isiodu village in Emohua local government area and arrested five others said to be on their way to eliminate one Mitchel Nwoka of Omuoku Allu village.

Police Public relations officer in Rivers State, DSP Ireju Barasua, said the police on a stop and search duty at the Ogbakiri junction sighted a motorcycle with two passengers and flagged them

down.

In the process, one of the passengers on the motorcycle allegedly in possession of an AK 47 rifle, opened fire on the police prompting the police to return fire which led to the death of one of the hoodlums who was later identified as Emeka Emesioibu, while the others fled into the nearby bush.

Police later combed the bushes for the fleeing two other suspects during which one of them, Chinyere Igwe,

was arrested with one AK47 rifle NO3H7012 with eleven rounds of live ammunition.

It was during interrogation that Chinyere confessed that they were on their way to eliminate one Mitchel Nwoka whom he said had been having problems with the youths in the area.

The suspects also helped the police to arrest four others. Those arrested are Godspower Aleru, Christian Nnam Ogor, Victor Amadi, alias Komb and Obinnachi Wordi

all of Okporowo community in Ogbakiri.

Police recovered one locally made pistol with live cartridge from one of those arrested.

In a related development, the police at the Okirika division of the Rivers state police command, have arrested eight suspected cultists belonging to Greenlanders secret cult.

A statement from the police said the cultists were arrested following a recent

cult activity in the area where people were attacked and injured.

A combined team of police and the army was sent to the area and it chased the cultist away arresting eight of them in the process. One of the fleeing suspects was said to have jumped into the sea in a bid to escape and got drowned. The drowned man was identified as Isaiah Iwo. The police are still investigating the matter.

# Idang Alibi on Thursday

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## A vote for Abuja property tax

The announcement that the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) intends to introduce property tax before the end of year 2006 should be sweet music to all progressive and forward-looking Nigerians. Those who are aware of the past history and contemporary trends in property ownership in Abuja would appreciate the economic logic, social justice and political sense in

to a situation where there is artificial scarcity of rentable buildings in Abuja while so many buildings constructed with Nigeria's scarce national resources and revenue are left empty, disused is clear that the introduction of property tax would force property owners to rent them out if only to get enough money to pay the mandatory property taxes and related levies. The needless waste

legal and justifiable forms of revenue that could be internally generated. Given the financial worth and monetary value of the properties in the Abuja metropolis in particular and the Federal Capital Territory in general, there is no doubt that the property tax would be a veritable source of revenue generation.

Moreover, the property tax would be a means of redistribution of income from the high-net worth individuals to the less-privileged residents of the FCT. This is because the substantial amounts of revenue that would be realised from property tax can be ploughed into the infrastructural development and advancement of Abuja. Property taxes would mean more and better roads, greater access to potable water and sanitation facilities, as well as regular electricity for all in the FCT. Thus, following the time-honoured principle of "from all according to their economic ability", the property tax would help to transfer resources from the well-to-do to the not-so-well-to-do.

Furthermore, in a society where the wealthy are reluctant to give anything back to the society that has wittingly or unwittingly made them so rich, the property tax is a kind of enforced social responsibility strategy.

It is against this backdrop that one urges Mallam el-Rufa'i to make good his promise to work towards the introduction of Property Tax to the FCT before end of year 2006. In the same vein, one urges the National Assembly to facilitate the speedy enactment of the enabling law for the introduction of the property tax in Abuja. The enactment of the Property Tax edict should of course go hand-in-hand with the enactment of a law establishing an Internal Revenue Board to facilitate general collection and coordination of revenue in the FCT. It goes without saying that the property tax must be graduated to ensure that very rich and high-net worth property owners pay high rates commensurate with the value of their properties while owner-occupiers pay only nominal rates.

The proposed property tax for Abuja is definitely an idea whose time has come. It is an idea that should be endorsed and saluted by all progress-loving and justice-seeking citizens and

***"This culture of waste and perverted values have led to a situation where there is artificial scarcity of rentable buildings in Abuja while so many buildings constructed with Nigeria's scarce national resources and revenue are left empty, disused is clear that the introduction of property tax would force property owners to rent them out if only to get enough money to pay the mandatory property taxes and related levies. The needless waste involved in tying down huge revenues on idle properties would be drastically reduced."***

the introduction of property tax in Nigeria's FCT.

First and foremost, the introduction of property tax will most probably compel many landlords who are currently leaving their high-value and high net worth buildings empty and tenantless to rent them out at reasonable rates. At the moment, many houses in Abuja are tenantless because the owners are waiting till they could get governmental bodies or international agencies who can afford their outrageous rent demands. I am told that it is considered a mark of prosperity, "financial arrival" and status symbol to leave one's houses empty and tenantless in Abuja. It is also asserted that the more the number of houses that are left empty and tenantless and the longer the period, the more financially secure the property owners are considered.

involved in tying down huge revenues on idle properties would be drastically reduced.

Secondly, the charging of appropriate property taxes would sanitise the anomalous property market in Abuja. At the moment, some properties in the Abuja metropolis are offered and bought at outrageous prices that defy economic sense. Properties are sold for amounts of money that the new owners can never hope to recoup in two life-times. Property taxes and levies would help to reduce the currently high incidence of such prestige and vanity purchases.

Thirdly, the introduction of property taxes is a legitimate source of revenue generation for the FCT. The FCT, as a new capital territory, needs all the funds it can get for its many development programmes, projects and activities. Building a befitting modern

# Opinion

## Imperatives of courageous leadership

By Uchenna Ossai

Governance in Nigeria suffers from chronic lack of political will to do what is right. Decisions are taken against what is considered economic wisdom because of a predilection to satisfy the interests of a few powerful individuals. These individuals, popularly called sacred cows, have become almost bigger than the state and their interests often take precedence over national interest.

But recent developments in the polity have shown that with courageous leadership, quantum positive change is possible in a society as complex as ours. The current revolution in the banking sector, for instance, wouldn't have been imagined some years ago. That is not to say that the sector had suddenly gone under and required a radical reform policy to turn it around. If anything, the sector had been in a state of emergency for decades but no one was courageous enough to wield the big stick and damn the powerful provided the economy remained the greatest beneficiary of the desired reform.

So when in July 2004, the Central Bank of Nigeria Governor, Professor Charles Soludo, announced a raise in the minimum shareholders' funds of banks, not many thought it could work. It was bizarre at the time to share Soludo's optimism that banks could recapitalise from N1 billion to N25 billion in 18 months. This skepticism made sense then given that only three of the 89 operating banks had a capital base over the new capital regime being proposed by the apex bank. Today, however, the story is different. That lofty ambition, call it wishful thinking if you may, has come to pass. At the end of the December 31, 2005 deadline, 25 banks emerged in a process that witnessed unprecedented partnerships in terms of mergers and acquisitions hitherto alien to an economy characterised by sole proprietorships.

The problem of fake and adulterated food and drug products seemed intractable until Professor Dora Akunyili became the Director General of the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC). There were several Director Generals before her but she brought awesome courage, such that you don't expect from a woman, and has been making a phenomenal progress in the fight against those she described as merchants of death. In the process, she has made many enemies, escaped an attempt on her life in addition to other personal sacrifices she continues to make for the common good. What is important here is that we are celebrating her achievements because of her extraordinary courage to do the right thing.

That a sitting governor can be impeached on allegations of corruption was a pipe dream particularly in the contemplation of the authors of the immunity clause enshrined in the 1999 Constitution. Now with the impeachment and prosecution of Diepreye Alamieyeseigha, the former

new chapter has been opened in Nigeria's politics. No matter how critical some are about the process leading to Alamieyeseigha's end game, the fact remains that executive rascality, and profligacy of people in authority are fast becoming unfashionable.

Perhaps un-Nigerian, yes un-Nigerian because of our antecedents, was the dismissal, arrest and conviction of the former Inspector General of Police, Mr. Tafa Balogun, on charges of financial crimes. When you recall how he helped the ruling PDP to rig the 2003 elections and his role in the abduction of Governor Chris Ngige of Anambra State, you would then appreciate the courage behind the decision of the government to prosecute him. In the Nigeria of not-too-long-ago, the worst punishment would have been to retire him with full benefits and appoint him as a member, if not Board Chairman, of a lucrative parastatal to use his "wealth of experience" to still serve the fatherland.

The arrest and detention of retired General Buba Marwa, a PDP bigwig touted as a possible replacement to President Obasanjo because of his perceived closeness to Aso Rock, speaks volumes about the possibilities of courageous leadership. To think about such possibility alone, one would have risked a charge of treasonable felony were there any art by which the mind's construction can be read on the face. The Nuhu Ribadu-led Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has demonstrated in word and action that nobody is above the law. The future of Nigeria's anti-corruption campaign has become synonymous with EFCC and the fear of Ribadu is the beginning of public service wisdom.

What else could explain the spate of demolitions in Abuja pursuant to government's commitment to restoring the city's master plan except courage? Although I am not a fan of the FCT Minister, Mallam Nasir el-Rufai, whose arrogance and I-too-know (read ITK) style of administration negates every conceivable ethics of governance, I admire his guts. Understandably, the minister is cleaning up the mess created by his predecessors in office who could not dare the mighty and shun the blinding influence of bribery to do what was lawful. Even as I sympathise with him on this score, I insist that in carrying out his mandate to restore the Abuja master plan, he should realise that people must live in Abuja. As such, he should make land and other social infrastructures

available at new satellite towns so that the city can develop evenly.

We expect the same story in the transport sector where the railway system has been neglected in order to protect the interests of haulage and long distance transport operators who are known to frustrate government's plan to develop that sector. Road and air transportations have become a national nightmare with increasing accidents, yet nothing serious has been done to develop an alternative means for the travelling public. This has to stop in the interest of the generality of the population.

We expect that Engineer Ernest Ndukwe, the Vice Chairman of Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) to be more visible and firm in the regulation of GSM service providers so that Nigerians can get value for their money—so that we can pay for services rendered only.

We expect Professor Maurice Iwu, the Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to conduct a free and fair election in 2007 by resisting whatever temptations to rig the polls in favour of any political party or interest group. Courage is also expected from the leadership of the National Population Commission (NPC) to ensure a credible census later in March this year. Like other public officers we now celebrate for distinguished services to Nigeria, Dr Sumaila Makama, the NPC Chairman, should convince the federal government to include such variables as religion and ethnic identity in the census questionnaire since revenue allocation is not based on these considerations. Nigeria will not break if Muslims are more in number than Christians and vice versa. Nothing will happen if more animists or atheists make up Nigeria!

Everyone is called to drop those parochial attitudes that have characterised our national life and which have made Nigeria a model of a resource rich but poor country. Nigeria can improve if the people in leadership positions resolve to do the right thing. If they fearlessly discharge their duties in good conscience and in the overall interest of the country, we will definitely realise our potentials as a people. In the final analysis, only great courage and an abiding faith in God by our leaders would stimulate national development on a sustainable basis.

Uchenna Ossai, National Action Committee on AIDS, Plot 823 Ralph Shodeinde Street, Central Area Abuja.

***"We expect the same story in the transport sector where the railway system has been neglected in order to protect the interests of haulage and long distance transport operators who are known to frustrate government's plan to develop that sector. Road and air transportations have become a national nightmare with increasing accidents, yet nothing serious has been done to develop an alternative means for the travelling public."***



## YOUR LETTERS

# Taraba 2007: Let the central zone produce next governor

The Taraba Central Senatorial District can be described as the heat of the state. Located at the centre of both the northern and the southern parts of the state, the central zone is the toast of politicians from every part of the state.

Any candidate who fails to get hold of the support and goodwill of the people of this zone may likely not make it to Government House, Jalingo. This is due to the fact that the zone has more population than all the other two senatorial districts.

Comprising Bali, Gassol, Gashaka, Kurmi and Sardauna local government areas, the people of this zone have always been known to speak with a united and unflinching voice whenever issues of political choice or elections are to be taken.

This is why politicians aspiring for elective positions chase political leaders of this zone like brides.

In spite of its unique position, the central zone has never produced a governor. This is not for lack of political muscle or want of credible and electable candidates. Rather, it was the interest of unity and spirit of comradeship that candidates from other zones are supported for the exalted office of governor of Taraba State.

However, the central zone come 2007 should produce the next occupant of the Government House, Jalingo. This must happen in the interest of fair play

and justice, and the preservation of our fragile peace.

This is not just a vain statement as analysis will show that since the return to democracy in 1999, the northern zone has been producing the one and only governor. It has also produced a minister of state and later a full min-

ister. On its part, the southern part of the state has produced two ministers and is always producing deputy governors for the state.

On the other hand, the central zone, which is actually the hen that lays the golden egg, is always consigned to the office of SSG. In all cases, these SSGs

get fired as soon as they settle down in office.

Power, just like resources, must also be equitably distributed so that no part of the state will feel alienated.

In any political setting, there is nothing wrong with rotation. If it can be done at the federal level, there is no reason

why it cannot be done in Taraba State.

No part of the state has the exclusive right to produce the state's governor. The office should simply be rotated and this time, it belongs to the central zone.

All the good people of Taraba State are enjoined to join hands with the cen-

tral zone to produce an effective, God-fearing, people-oriented and progressive leadership for the state come 2007.

This is a novel idea that is for the benefit of all peoples of Taraba State.

**Joseph Galadima,**  
Kurmi Local Government Secretariat, Baissa, Taraba State.

## Of Bawa, Kamal and Dariye

Above are names of three rulers who, each in his time and domain, signed our Islam and Muslims as his only enemy under the sun. Bawa was an eighteenth century Hausa king who unsuccessfully tried tooth and nail to stop a religious revival started by Shehu Usman Danfodio, the founder of the defunct Sokoto Caliphate. Measures Bawa and his son and successor took to stop the spread of Islam in their Gobir kingdom include:

(a) Prohibiting Islamic preaching; (b) Ordering that people who

converted to Islam must revert to traditional religion; (c) Dressing like a Muslim was outlawed; (d) Female should wear no veil; and (e) The Shehu was expelled and finally a war of extermination waged against him and his followers.

Kamal, who was popularly known as Mustafa Kamal Ataturk, was the one-time ruler of modern Turkey. In addition to measures similar to those taken by the Gobir rulers, Kamal closed down all Islamic schools and converted mosques to entertainment centres. He outlawed the

use of Arabic language even in performing Islamic religious rites. He made European dressing the national dress of Turkey.

Bawa and his kingdom were dead and perhaps forgotten or known to only a few today. Kamal died but Turkey still exists though as an enslaved nation at least from 1920 to date and always willing to do America's errand.

Returning home, Dariye is a living ruler whose life ambition seems to be the stamping-out of Islam and Muslims in his temporal domain during his temporary tenure. For even a ca-

sual reader of national dailies could recall the following events or incidents:

(a) Occasions when lorry loads of arms and ammunition were severally intercepted but disappeared in his domain; (b) The existence and perhaps prevalence of United States of America arms smugglers such as the Tom Thatchers; (c) The unprovoked mass massacre of Muslims and destruction of their property; (d) The restrictions on use of microphones in mosques under his domain; (e) The

'discovery' of al-Qaeda elements among the Muslim youths in his state and (f) A return to mass murder and annihilation.

Ride on, Dariye! The Bushes and Blairs are more than supportive of your actions, with a good execution of this seemingly pre-planned agenda, the prediction of the break-up of Nigeria in 15 long coming years might come just in a matter of three.

**Lawan A. Gadanya, c/o Masallacin Gado-damasu, Fanshekara, Kumbotso LGA, Kano.**

## That Gbenga Obasanjo's outburst

Surprise they say, will never end. Such is the way I viewed the outburst of Dr Gbenga Obasanjo in an alleged interview recently with a magazine in the United States of America (USA).

As far as I am concerned, the young man cannot be faulted in the sense that being a son of

the president and a man with ears to the ground, his utterances should not be taken for granted: Third term agenda, Atiku Abubakar, Nasir Ahmed el-Rufa'i, corruption, etc, all this must have been discussed at very high

quarters in the presidency. My grouse with Dr

Gbenga Obasanjo is how he lambasted the vice president, Alhaji Atiku Abubaka in a vitriolic way. In Africa, elders are highly respected no matter the circumstance. For Gbenga to have ad-

ressed the vice president in the manner he did is, to say the least,

preposterous.

Former President Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida will be remembered for not allowing his children to partake or comment on goings-on in his government.

I suggest that all incoming presidents, children take a cue

from IBB's children who are well-cultured.

For now, I urge Atiku, Nasir el-Rufa'i, to disregard the young man's utterances and move on with their various assignments.

**Prince Patrick Nnaji, Barnawa, Kaduna.**

# Opinion

## The police we deserve

About 33 years ago, John C. Alderson, a Queen's policeman of the London Metropolitan Police edited an epic work with the same title as the one above. Some of the prominent contributors to the work included Sir Robert Mark, *primus inter pares* of the British police, and Chief Constable Walter Stansfield.

The work is truly epic and I have found its content very rich. My interest in it is more than academic. Specifically, I am interested in the work because the same men that offered John Alderson and Sir Robert Mark, et al. rudimentary policing operation tutelage also laid the foundation for our own police force. The foregoing point is exemplified by the fact that the first ten Inspectors General of the Nigeria Police Force (NPF), from C.W. Duncan (1930-1935) to J.E. Hodge (1962-1964), were British officers. The status quo was only altered in 1964, about 42 years ago, four years after Nigeria's Independence, when Louis Okon Edet, a Nigerian, took over the leadership of the force. Since then, there have been twelve indigenous Chiefs of Police including Sunday Ehindero, the present Inspector General of Police.

Though the NPF is a product of British colonial authorities, there are marked differences between both systems of policing with regards to responsibility, which essentially was a deliberate colonial design. While the British authorities

designed their police system to be independent of the central government, those designed for her colonies were made a part of the executive arm of government. In Britain, the police discharged and still discharge its statutory responsibility to citizens under parliamentary authority. But in British colonies, of which Nigeria is one, the police discharge responsibility to the people on the authority of the executive arm of government. It was convenient for the colonial authorities to adopt a different system of policing in her colonies. Functionally, the police was used as an instrument of oppression to subjugate the people in furtherance of colonial interests.

It transpired that the same foundation that was laid by the colonial masters has remained the guiding principle of the character of the Nigeria Police Force over 45 years after independence. Whereas men like John C. Alderson, Sir Robert Mark and Walter Stansfield were determined to draw the faculty of available resources to them to carve a new character for the British police, our own chiefs of police appear to have been content with perpetuating the colonial order. While those men worked tirelessly, sparing nothing to build an enduring philosophy of law enforcement

By Rekepene E. Bassey

excellence as encapsulated in "The Police We Deserve," our own police chiefs seem to have been satisfied with super-incumbency; an attitude that can best be described as onerous, close to the brink of outrage.

Comparatively, it would not be such a contestable point to posit that the British police can be counted among the very best in the global police community. Sadly, the same cannot be said of our own police force. For an institution that has been in existence since 1914, or even before, one would wish to ascribe to it not only mastery of law enforcement, but also a metamorphosis to excellence by now. It is unfortunate, indeed, that instead of utilising the authority and safeguards provided in the constitution for the enhancement of the quality of lives of every individual in the country by lessening the fear of crime, ordinary Nigerians have grossly lost confidence in the force.

And why should Nigerians repose implicit confidence in the police, when instead of protecting citizens, some elements in the force lend themselves happily to snuffing out innocent lives under the perfidious pretext of "killing armed robbers," as in the case of the Apo six? Why not when members of the force could gas our innocent mothers silly recently, for standing up, without weapons, against incessant air crashes that have sent generations of our future great men and women needlessly to their early graves? The current situation calls for a new era of policing in the country. The police we deserve is such that will have the capacity in terms of human factor and structural measures to provide modern law enforcement services based on

democratic principles and respect for human rights. The police we deserve must necessarily evolve along the lines of statutory manpower, logistics and operational review.

There is the need to carefully re-examine, review and/or update them in reflection of the realities of modern times. A comprehensive empirical assessment of the effectiveness of all the statutory provisions upon which the NPF derives its law enforcement authority would be an appropriate component of any meaningful reform agenda in the system.

To this end, manpower is one of the most critical elements. Adequate manpower is the key to a comprehensive change of policing strategy. Improved manpower is not only an integrated asset of quality police management, but also a predicate of effective operational performance.

Review of the present top hierarchy of police administration is expedient; more so given the nature of the influence of hierarchy on command and operational orders. It is possible that some of those who constitute the bulk of membership of the top leadership of the force presently have lost touch with the dynamics of modern policing. On the other hand, inadequate professional police education not in the academic sense of basic entry qualification among the lower ranks appears to be one of the problems of the force. This, essentially, is responsible for poor professional performance and the attitudinal outlook of its personnel at that level. To effectively match the changing pattern of crime and criminality, therefore, there is more than urgent need for the professional training and retraining of our police personnel.

The operational functions of

the Nigeria Police Force are technically dependent on our legislative and criminal justice system. The prevailing operational style is not only legalistic, but also reactive for the most part. It follows that most of the force's operational structures, methods and facilities have become obsolete, and in desperate state of disrepair, needing prompt upgrading.

It will also be worth the consideration to remove the police from the executive arm, as is the case in Britain. If this is done, the National Assembly will have to perform oversight function over the police, which will then derive its funding from the consolidated revenue to discharge its responsibility.

The NPF could aside from the Mobile Police Force Unit set up special security units to deal with strikes, labour disputes, student disturbances, natural disasters and hazardous material accidents. Such units may be used for quelling civil disturbances in the hinterlands, in penal institutions and for diplomatic security, explosion and bombing incidents handling, etc. Another matter worth considering is the establishment of National Crime Reduction Council. This if given full cabinet backing will enhance effective crime problems analysis and the integration of law enforcement services. All these require proficient security intelligence back-up.

Besides improved welfare package, the effectiveness of any police force anywhere is also determined by communication and mobility among some of the factors already identified. A policeman that is isolated and is always afraid of physical hazard is bound to be cowardly and incapable of performing his duties courageously. Consequently, the procurement of logistics in the mode of

communication facilities and mobility must be accorded priority attention in the force. More patrol vehicles, boats, bikes and aircraft are not only required urgently, but must all be fitted with communication gadgets. Police personnel should also be equipped with cell phones. Such equipment will enhance their performance of duty.

The NPF also needs computerisation of its operations. It cannot be too emphasised that effective, secure and powerful automation in the mode of information systems are integral to efficient law enforcement. What the force needs in this wise is state-of-the-art user-friendly communication automation, taking our erratic electricity supply situation into account.

The force as a matter of necessity must upgrade its weaponry. The force should be able to establish a mechanism for the effective control of weapons against trafficking by its personnel.

Let me make a brief note here on community policing. The content and operational pattern of community policing in a proper sense, not Tafa Balogun's type, with all due respect to him, can be developed by the country to best suit the social needs of our communities.

Finally, the police we deserve are the type capable of stemming the tide of crime; the type that can effectively check the numerous challenges to our national security; and working in collaboration with other segments, ensure the peace and unity of a virile Nigeria.

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**"Finally, the police we deserve are the type capable of stemming the tide of crime; the type that can effectively check the numerous challenges to our national security; and working in collaboration with other segments, ensure the peace and unity of a virile Nigeria."**

In the life of a nation, especially a developing one like Nigeria, there are times when it is obviously unacceptable and inglorious to accept the notion of silence in the wave of a prejudiced distortion and reconstruction of facts about reality. It is in this light that I reply the writing of Ujudud Shariff of the *Daily Trust* of Tuesday January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2006.

In the said write-up, the writer raised several issues. One of such fundamental issues has to do with the alleged manhandling of the Minister of Inter-Governmental, Youth Development and Special Duties, Colonel Musa Mohammed (retired) by some political thugs in the palace of the traditional ruler and senior district head of Nafada, Alhaji Dadam Hamza.

In fact, the writer of the piece went straight to publish the entire petition of the minister to the Inspector General of Police, including the reference number of the protest, partly to demonstrate his intimacy with the cause at stake, and of course, to show that he has been objectively reported and dissected the topic of discussion.

However, if these were the intentions and spirit of the foremost back page columnist, it may have failed. It indeed failed on several grounds and I am surprised that a writer of Ujudud's standing should come short of the basic ethics of the practice of journalism. I need not reiterate that one of the outcomes of this intimacy is the declared bias of the entire write-up. It showed that the writer was given

## Still on bad news from Gombe

By Abdulkadir Garba Abu

a picture of the incident by the minister. And the minister alone, as no effort was made to balance the allegations contained in the petition by hearing from the state government. Indeed, the writer simply offered the minister the back page of the esteemed paper for what many say, is without regard to the integrity and credibility that the paper had earned over the years.

With regards to the fundamentals of the accusation, it is a pain that a person of the minister's standing could stoop so low as to lie publicly. To whom much is given, much is expected, the saying goes. But I guess this hardly applies to Col. Musa Mohammed.

His account of the incident is faulty, falsified and disastrously embodied and embellished to sound sweet and true. On the contrary, what is true of that incident is that the minister was already set for trouble even before coming home for the Christmas holiday. He sensed it to the extent of petitioning some authorities ahead of his visit.

Moreover, he must have been sure of trouble, partly because he had prepared for one, and also because he has a band of troublemakers in his payroll. We cannot be deceived by the fact that he was the first to cry wolf. For indeed, nothing stops him from petitioning and yet constructing the conflux of conflict.

The second interesting point to

this debate is that the minister opted to ignore the line of protocol on that occasion. Protocol is a sign of respect and the respect is not necessarily to the person, but to his office. In this case, to the office of the governor of Gombe State. Protocol demands outright that the minister should sit at a particular position and the governor sits at his own point. Any attempt to disregard this is an affront on the people of Gombe State and I am not surprised that it is the people that responded and not even the governor or his officials.

Apart from this point, other pertinent issues can be derived from this. It is a matter of deep significance to note that the minister has no right to take for granted the office of the governor or to hate and deride him for that matter. For it is Allah that gives power. All he could have done is to wait for 2007 and if it pleases Allah. He would give him the privilege of leading the people. Anyway, if Col. Musa Mohammed does not respect the governor today, how would he expect to be respected if in the future, he ever gets to such a position?

My friend and colleague, Ujudud Shariff must be told the truth about the simple requirement of a good essay piece. An informed analysis not only states the obvious but also seeks to explain the

remote and unstated variables. In this matter, and for purpose of a critical work, where do we trace the present disagreement to?

My nearest guess goes beyond now to the past. We all know that in the race to the exalted position, both Governor Danjuma Goje and Col. Musa Mohammed had locked horns. As expected, one man must win the race. Col. Musa comprehensively lost the polls at the primaries. And since then, those who are intimate with his antics swear that he has never cured himself of the desire and urge of his failed expectations. Even when the governor in his show of magnanimity availed him the position of the minister representing Gombe State, he was not satisfied, and has continued to live with his unquenched fire of hatred against the innocent governor.

The part only recently stirred the highpoint of this deep bitterness. This was during the recent re-registration exercise of the Peoples Democratic Party. In the first instance, the minister was among the group that was to distribute new registration cards of the party in the state. This was however upturned after the minister's team made a shoddy display of such an exalted handing over to the governor and his regime.

There is no doubt that this was what broke the camel's back in their already soured relationship. Whatever the minister has done since then in the state has demonstrated

the same line of anger, disaffection and disregard for peace and stability in the golden city of Gombe. Hence, when he started writing petitions to President Obasanjo and everybody that counts in the polity, the real motive was to depict the state in such bad light. And to show like Ujudud Shariff had stated that the state like Anambra State and Oyo State has joined the league of states where you can easily be greeted with the act of state terrorism and political hooliganism. In my view, that is a desperate act, a kind least expected of a man who still engages in the fantasy of ruling the state in future. His action questions his credibility as a leader and forecloses the chances of allowing him to be part of a great party like the PDP.

For long, there has been this sad suggestion that the government has a hand in the political activities of the *Yan Kalare* militia group. This suggestion is unfortunate. And expectedly, Col. Musa lacking credible excuse speedily associated and exploited this rumoured possibility. Interestingly, one of the claims of his petition, to buttress that the state government is a sponsor of the *Yan Kalare* group was built on the fact that some officials of the government double as members of the militia thugs.

He had claimed that one Habu Mauzu is a member of the *Yan Kalare* group; in fact, the youth

leader of the militia group. Nothing is as painful as that. For to the best of all intents and purposes, here is a perfect gentleman and politician whose track of performance speaks volume about his worthiness and value. In all ramifications, Habu cannot be anything else and yet be occupying the position of a member of the National Disciplinary Committee of the Peoples Democratic Party. Or is he also implying that the PDP employs a militia and a thug to occupy such a responsible position?

To make such insinuation is a sacred abuse against a man of good conscience and purpose. Habu, if it must be stated, is a prince of Kashere who used his wealth and experience to bring succor to the poor and to serve the state and the federal government in several portfolios, including his current responsibility as a member of the NNDC.

In conclusion, my advice to Col. Musa Mohammed is to evaluate his position once again as the 2007 race comes close. Many great politicians have won followers by playing by the rules. Nobody has anything against his moves and aspirations, as democracy in the final analysis rests with the people.

Abdulkadir Garba Abu writes from Bolari Quarters, Gombe, Gombe State.

# Trust International

Middle East & Asia

## Sharon's breathing tube replaced

Doctors have said Mr Sharon faces months of recovery

Doctors treating the Israeli Prime Minister, Ariel Sharon, have replaced his breathing tube.

They said Mr Sharon's condition continues to be critical but stable following the major stroke he suffered two weeks ago.

Mr Sharon underwent a tracheotomy operation on Sunday to allow him to breathe without a respirator.

He remains in a coma and has shown only minor responses to stimuli. His deputy Ehud Olmert has been named interim PM.

A spokesman for the Hadassah hospital in Jerusalem, where Mr Sharon is being

treated, said the procedure to replace the breathing tube was carried out overnight because of a technical issue.

## US officer tried over Iraqi death

The court-martial of a US officer charged with murdering an Iraqi general who was being held in custody has begun in Colorado.

Chief Warrant Officer Lewis Welshofer Jr denies murdering Maj-Gen Abed Hamed Mowhoush in 2003.

Prosecutors say Mowhoush was bound, placed head-first in a sleeping bag and died with an officer sitting on him.

The trial opened with a

military judge rejecting a defence lawyer's request to dismiss the case.

The trial is expected to last a week.

It is one of a number of deaths of prisoners in Iraq and Afghanistan that the US military is investigating. Defence lawyers called a witness who claimed he had overheard a juror coming under pressure from a senior officer, and applied for the case to be dismissed because

of "unlawful command influence".

But the judge rejected the request.

It is thought the defence may cite reports, published in the Washington Post newspaper, that said the general had been assaulted by CIA-sponsored Iraqi paramilitaries two days before his death.

Mowhoush died while being held at al-Qaim in Iraq, near the Syrian border.



Ariel Sharon

## Pakistan confirms militant deaths

The attack has resulted in more pressure on Gen Musharraf

Pakistan government officials have said as many as five foreign militants were killed in last week's US air strike on a village near the Afghan border.

Eighteen people were killed in Damadola village last Friday in an attack which has sparked anger across Pakistan.

The US strike was reportedly aimed at assassinating Ayman al-Zawahiri, al-Qaeda's number two, but it does not appear that he was hit.

The Pakistani prime minister has warned against any more such strikes.

The US, which believes that al-Zawahiri and al-Qaeda leader Osama Bin Laden are living in the Afghan-Pakistan border region, says it will continue to target militants.

Washington insists relations with Pakistan remain good.

Local officials had already said a statement that at least four to five "foreigners" were killed in the attack, but their bodies were removed from the scene.

The officials also said 10 to 12 "foreign miscreants" had been in the village prior to the attack.

The statement did not name them or mention al-Zawahiri.

A government spokesman said Prime Minister Shaikat Aziz would raise the

issue with US President George W Bush when he meets him in Washington next week.

## Women killed in Sri Lanka attack

Unidentified gunmen in northern Sri Lanka have shot dead three women from a family which supports Tamil rebels.

One of the women killed in the Jaffna peninsula attack was actress Brojan Renuka, who played a leading role in a rebel propaganda film.

The actress's sister and mother also died, and her father and brother are being treated for gunshot injuries.

The pro-rebel TamilNet website blamed army paramilitaries for the attack, which comes amid escalating tensions.

A spokesman for the Sri Lankan army said he had heard of the killings but denied that the military had been involved.

In other violence on Monday, one man was killed near Jaffna and two Tamil youths were shot dead south of Batticaloa, officials said.

Fears that Sri Lanka's civil war could resume are high after a series of attacks which have strained a truce between troops and Tamil Tiger rebels.

More than 100 people have been killed, including dozens of members of the security forces and civilians.

The rebels have denied involvement in the attacks on troops, although few in Sri Lanka believe them, the BBC's Dumeetha Luthra in Colombo says.

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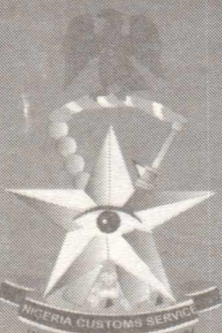
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# Trust International

Africa

## Ivory Coast on the brink of war

### Protests spread



President Laurent Gbagbo of Ivory Coast

Ivorian rebels have warned the country is on the brink of war as protests spread and the peace process faltered.

The ruling party pulled out of the transitional government and UN-backed peace talks and are calling on French and UN troops to leave.

France's defence minister has appealed for calm on a third day of unrest in government-controlled southern cities.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan has urged an immediate end to "orchestrated violence" in the divided nation.

The country has been split in two since a failed coup attempt in 2002, with some 10,000 UN and French peacekeepers patrolling between the rebel-controlled and government areas.

The African Union still needs to be ready to accept the sanctions... I think that the time has now come

"There is not a future for Ivory Coast if the FPI succeeds in making a putsch against the peace process. That means war," New Forces rebel spokesman Sidiki Konate told the BBC's Network Africa programme.

Mr Konate said the rebels, who have controlled the north for three years, remained committed to the transitional government under the leadership of Prime Minister Charles Konan Banny.

The BBC's James Copnall in Ivory Coast's main city, Abidjan, says youths supporting President Laurent Gbagbo - the "Young Patriots" - now control virtually all the main streets there.

For a third day, youths are stopping cars and checking identity papers at roadblocks. There is little public transport and debris from Tuesday's unrest is strewn

across roads.

Despite a ban on street demonstrations, the Ivorian security forces have not acted to stop the protests. There have been few violent incidents but Abidjan and several other cities are paralysed.

Mr Gbagbo's supporters are angry at international mediators calling for the dissolution of the parliament, which largely backs him.

The mediators were appointed by the UN to help steer the country towards elections, due this year.

The Ivorian Popular Front (FPI) accused the international community of carrying

out a "constitutional coup d'etat".

Its leader, Pascal Affi N'Guessan, said the seven FPI ministers would withdraw from the government of national unity set up under UN auspices.

He said a "government of liberation" should be set up, to kick out the rebel New Forces in the north.

Our correspondent says this is the biggest test Prime Minister Konan Banny has faced since his appointment last month.

Gbagbo supporters say

foreigners want to gain control.

The demonstrations in Abidjan are much smaller than the protests 14 months ago, when 8,000 Westerners were evacuated as Young Patriots were attacking French citizens, our reporter says.

French defence minister Michele Alliot-Marie, said it was vital that the peace agreement be adhered to.

France's army chief of staff Gen Henri Bentegeat has gone further calling for UN sanctions and saying the international community was losing patience.

### Anti-UN demonstrators on rampage

UN peacekeepers battled attackers Wednesday before withdrawing from a western Ivory Coast town along with military observers and other UN staff, officials said.

Capt. Gilles Combarieu, a UN military observer, said the Bangladeshi troops exchanged fire with attackers trying to enter their compound in the government-held town of Guiglo before evacuating all UN employees from the city.

"They had to defend themselves," he said, adding that 200 to 300 UN peacekeepers and staff were headed north toward a more heavily guarded buffer zone separating government and rebel fighters.

Combarieu said he had no details on the number of dead or wounded. A doctor at Guiglo's main hospital said two bodies with bullet wounds lay at the morgue and there were reports of three more corpses in the streets.

The doctor, reached by telephone, spoke on condition of anonymity, saying he was not authorized to speak to reporters. His account cou-

ldn't be immediately verified.

A third day of street protests roiled civil war-divided Ivory Coast's government-held south as President Laurent Gbagbo's supporters blocked streets across the west African nation's main city.

Businesses shut down across Abidjan amid fears of a return to all-out violence in a country divided between government and rebel control after a 2002 through 2003 civil war.

While Gbagbo has officially banned street demonstrations, his security forces appeared to do little to disperse

government supporters erecting burning barricades in streets and besieging UN offices across the cocoa-rich south.

The French Army Chief of Staff Gen. Henri Bentegeat called for UN sanctions against Ivory Coast on Wednesday on Europe-1 radio, saying for three years both sides have shown that they are unwilling to resolve the conflict.

France retains economic interests in Ivory Coast, its former colony, and has peacekeepers in the country alongside a UN force.

### UN mission wary of 'confidence zone'

"The confidence zone in the west is a particular problem," admits the deputy leader of the UN mission in Ivory Coast, Alan Doss.

"I am not saying the rest of the confidence zone is like a holiday camp, far from it.

"There is no doubt living in the confidence zone has made peoples lives far more difficult.

"But it is in the west that there are the biggest problems."

The west is an ethnic tinderbox, with ethnic Guere militias running wild to the south of the confidence zone.

Conflicts between Guerres and Yacobas, which were exacerbated by the war in Liberia, just over the border, have been part of life in the region for many years now.

The presence of Dioulas - seen as outsiders in the area - and foreigners, such as those from Burkina Faso, has also increased tensions, many of which centre around control of the west's rich cocoa and coffee plantations.

One aid worker says the militias, which support President Laurent Gbagbo, are being used to provoke the New Forces in the north into breaking the ceasefire.

Whether this is true or not, robberies, rapes, murders, and even attacks on entire villages are common in the west of the confidence zone, which has become an area of huge insecurity.

So why are the UN and their French military allies unable to keep the peace in the confidence zone?

The main problem is one of manpower.

The peacekeepers have about 3,000 men patrolling a territory that is 1,200km long and sometimes approaching 100km wide.

### 'Zone of no-confidence'

Ivory Coast's confidence zone ought to be the safest place in a notably unsafe country.

These Dioulas fled their homes after being attacked

The 1,200km-long strip of land is patrolled by heavily armed United Nations and French peacekeepers, who are there to ensure the loyalist army to the south and the former rebel New Forces in the north do not come to blows.

No weapons or Ivorian soldiers are allowed in this band of neutral territory, which runs from the Liberian border in the west, to the frontier with Ghana in the east.

In those circumstances, the people who live in the confidence zone should be able to go about their lives in complete security.

Yet human rights abuses, UN officials admit, are a daily occurrence.

On a recent trip to the central part of the confidence zone, I came across several victims of inter-ethnic conflict.

Members of the northern and Muslim Dioula ethnic group, showed me fresh scars caused by machetes and other agricultural weapons.

Supporters of President Laurent Gbagbo accuse the Dioulas of backing the rebels.

Peacekeepers provide reassurance - when they are present

The Dioulas say they had been chased from their village, Boli, which is not far from the New Forces capital, Bouake.

Yacouba Sakho explained how a squabble between a Dioula youth and a young man from the Christian Baou-

le ethnic group had turned nasty in Boli.

"They burned our houses, and attacked us. I will never go back," he said.

Mr Sakho has sought refuge in the nearby town of Raviart, where relations between the Baoule and the Dioula are more harmonious, and where there is a permanent contingent of French soldiers.

A few kilometres along a track which bore little resemblance to the road marked on the map took us to another small town, Bangbossou.

As we attempted to leave the town, our path was blocked by a hastily deposed tree trunk, and dozens of excited villagers, many of them brandishing hunting rifles.

They said people from the village had just been robbed by ethnic Dioulas, who were still on the road ahead.

"Armed men came out of the bush," a polite young man named Alain Kouadio Koukou explained.

"They stole their money and their motorbikes. I think the thieves were [Dioula] rebels from the New Forces.

"It happens all the time here, and the UN always arrive too late."

We were more fortunate and UN troops arrived to escort us on our way.

These incidents are, thankfully, not that common in the centre of the confidence zone, where Baoules and Dioulas generally live in something approaching harmony.

The situation in the west of Ivory Coast is far more serious however.

We are caught in this transitional situation, and we hope it won't last



A woman's placard reads Members of Parliament of Ivory Coast, stay calm during a protest in Abidjan

# Trust International

## Odd World

# Vampire seeks governor's

## job

Minnesota (USA) voters, who eight years ago elected a former professional wrestler as their governor, may find a self-proclaimed vampire on the ballot for the office this year.

"Politics is a cut-throat business," said Jonathan "The Impaler" Sharkey, who

said he plans to announce his bid for governor Friday on the ticket of the Vampires, Witches and Pagans Party.

Like Jesse "The Body" Ventura, who was elected governor as an independent in 1998, the 41-year-old Sharkey once was a wrestler, although he spent his time "The Unholiest of Kings: Tarantula" on obscure professional circuits.

"I'm a Satanist who doesn't hate Jesus," Sharkey told Reuters. "I just hate God the Father."

However, he claims to

respect all religions and if elected, will post "everything from the Ten Commandments to the Wicca Reed" in government buildings.

Sharkey also pledged to execute convicted murders and child molesters personally by impaling them on a wooden pole outside the state capitol.

Sharkey told the Minneapolis Star Tribune that he's a vampire "just like you see in the movies and TV."

"I sink my fangs into the neck of my donor ... and drink their blood," he said, adding

that his donor is his wife, Julie.

The field for the governor's race in Minnesota is far

from complete. Republican incumbent Tim Pawlenty is widely expected to seek another term in November and his Democratic opponent has not

been determined.

Sharkey said he planned to announce his candidacy Friday — the 13th — because that was "my lucky number."

# Man kisses dangerous snake

A Malaysian snake charmer said he will attempt to break the world record by kissing a poisonous snake 50 times in 10 minutes.

Shahimi Abdul Hamid said his attempt would be televised for the popular television show "Ripley's

Believe It Or Not" at the Genting Highlands hill resort on March 11.

The current record is held by an American who kissed a snake 30 times.

Shahimi, 33, said he hopes to get the full support of Malaysians in his record-breaking endeavour.

"I intend to prove that Asians can be champions in this field too," he was quoted as saying by the Bernama news agency.

Shahimi demonstrated his touch in Malaysia's northern Kedah state on Wednesday, kissing a deadly three-metre-long King Cobra 21 times.

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# Trust International

## World Report

### Police probing alleged kidnap plot

A British newspaper and a rights group founder say police are investigating an alleged plot by disgruntled activists to briefly abduct Prime Minister Tony Blair's 5-year-old son Leo to highlight their cause.

The Sun newspaper claimed the plan was made by a

group campaigning for better rights for fathers denied access to their children.

The British Broadcasting Corp. reported that police said they knew of suggestions of such a plot, but were not convinced that those involved had the ability to carry it out. The BBC said there was no kidnapping attempt and no

arrests made.

Blair's Downing Street office told The Associated Press "we are not going to comment on this story." London's Metropolitan police said "we are not prepared to discuss matters of security of this type."

The Sun, quoting an unnamed security source, claimed

police officers had uncovered the plot while probing activities of members of the Fathers 4 Justice movement.

That group's founder told the AP that the purported plot has "definitely nothing to do with the official group."

Matt O'Connor said that anti-terrorism police had been investigating some former members of his group.

"I was made aware in December that anti-terrorism branch were involved and when I checked, that was correct," he said.

"If there are extremists on the fringes who could undermine all the work we have done, we would have to consider our positions and perhaps think about winding the group up."

Blair and his wife Cherie also have sons Euan, 21 and Nicholas, 20, and daughter Kathryn, 17.



Tony Blair, British Prime Minister

### Bush challenged on spying

#### policy

Two civil liberties groups in the US have taken legal action to block President George W. Bush's domestic spying programme.

The groups want an immediate halt to the "illegal and unconstitutional" eavesdropping on US citizens.

The federal lawsuits were filed in New York and Detroit by the Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR) and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU).

The president has defended the policy as critical to the war against terror.

Mr Bush signed a secret presidential order following the 11 September 2001 attacks, allowing the National Security Agency (NSA) to track the international telephone calls and e-mails of hundreds of people without referral to the courts.

Previously, surveillance on US soil was generally limited to foreign embassies.

The ACLU and CCR are seeking an injunction preventing the government carrying out electronic surveillance in the US without warrants.

Mr Bush and the head of the NSA, Keith Alexander, are named in the legal actions.

The head of ACLU, Anthony Romero, described the current monitoring of US citizens as "a chilling assertion of presidential power".

CCR legal director Bill Goodman said: "This illegal activity is cloaked in the guise of national security."

"In reality, it reflects an attempt by the Bush administration to exercise unchecked power without the inconvenient interference of the other co-equal branches of the government."

Other plaintiffs include Greenpeace, the Council on American-Islamic Relations and UK journalist Christopher Hitchens.

The New York Times, which leaked information about the spying policy last month, reported on Tuesday that much of the domestic spying

was unproductive and led federal agents to dead ends or innocent US citizens.

#### Two UN soldiers killed in Haiti

Two Jordanian peacekeepers serving with the United Nations in Haiti have been shot dead in a volatile district of the capital, Port-au-Prince.

A third UN soldier, also from Jordan, was injured in the attack on a checkpoint in the Cite Soleil district.

The deaths come a day after protesters demanded the UN take action against crime before the 7 February elections.

Peacekeepers were sent to Haiti after President Jean Bertrand Aristide was ousted in 2004.

Cite Soleil is a sprawling slum area of Port-au-Prince regarded as fiercely loyal to Mr Aristide.

The area is often blighted by violence and controlled by gangs loyal to the ousted president.

How Latin America's political landscape could be redrawn

The BBC's Simon Watts says the Jordanian troops in Haiti have one of the toughest assignments on a very tough mission.

Restoring order in the shantytowns is vital for security in Haiti, our correspondent says, but the UN mission has had major problems with strategy.

He says that using strong-armed tactics inside places like Cite Soleil has angered residents, while not going in hard has sparked protests by business leaders who want the UN to do more to tackle violent crime.

The latest incident comes as peacekeepers try to improve security before the elections next month.

Haitian and UN officials said the shooting would not derail plans for the vote.

However the US Ambassador to the UN, John Bolton, described the situation as "very, very disturbing".

The polls are being held to elect a permanent government to replace the transitional government installed when Mr Aristide's fled the country.

### Republicans unveil lobbying curbs

Republicans in the US Congress have unveiled a package of anti-corruption reforms in the wake of a scandal spawned by a powerful lobbyist.

The plans put forward in the House of Representatives would ban most gifts and privately-sponsored travel.

Democrats criticised the reforms as inadequate. They are due to propose their own measures on Wednesday.

The moves come after the guilty plea on corruption charges by lobbyist Jack Abramoff, who had ties to Republicans.

Under the terms of a plea bargain, Abramoff will cooperate with a probe into alleged corruption among Congress members.

Some Democrats are also said to be implicated in the case, which correspondents say is an unexploded bomb under both houses.

Correspondents say Tuesday's move was a pre-emptive strike from a party accused by opponents of presiding over a culture of corruption.

House of Representatives Speaker Dennis Hastert promoted laws that would stop lobbyists paying for lunches, or arranging "fact-finding" trips for politicians to warm-weather resorts.

"A member of Congress should be able to accept a baseball cap... from the proud students of a local middle school, but he... doesn't need to be taken to... dinner by a Washington lobbyist," he said.

Democrats hit back that

the measures were like sticking a "Band-Aid on a gaping wound".

"For more than a decade... House Republicans have benefited from their systemic culture of corruption at the expense of the American people," House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi said.

Democrats believe the issue can win them votes in November's mid-term elections, says the BBC's James Coomarasamy in Washington.

The proposal comes after embattled Republican politician Tom DeLay relinquished

his bid to reclaim his post as majority leader of the House, earlier this month.

The politician - who has long-term ties to Abramoff - denies laundering corporate contributions for use in Republican campaigns in the state.

The US justice department is believed to be investigating as many as 20 members of Congress and aides implicated in the lobbyist scandal.

Abramoff is accused of using gifts of money, foreign trips and lavish meals to buy political influence.

### Bolivia president sacks army head

Bolivia's outgoing President Eduardo Rodriguez has sacked the army chief and ordered a probe into the destruction in the US of some 30 missiles in October.

Mr Rodriguez said he had been told the ageing Chinese missiles posed a safety risk and had authorised American help with their decommissioning.

But, he said, the army should not have sent them out of the country.

At the time, Evo Morales - who will take office on Sunday - had called it a US plot to weaken Bolivian defences.

Mr Morales' party had threatened to impeach President Rodriguez over the deactivation of the surface-to-air missiles, but correspondents

says it has backed away from the threat recently.

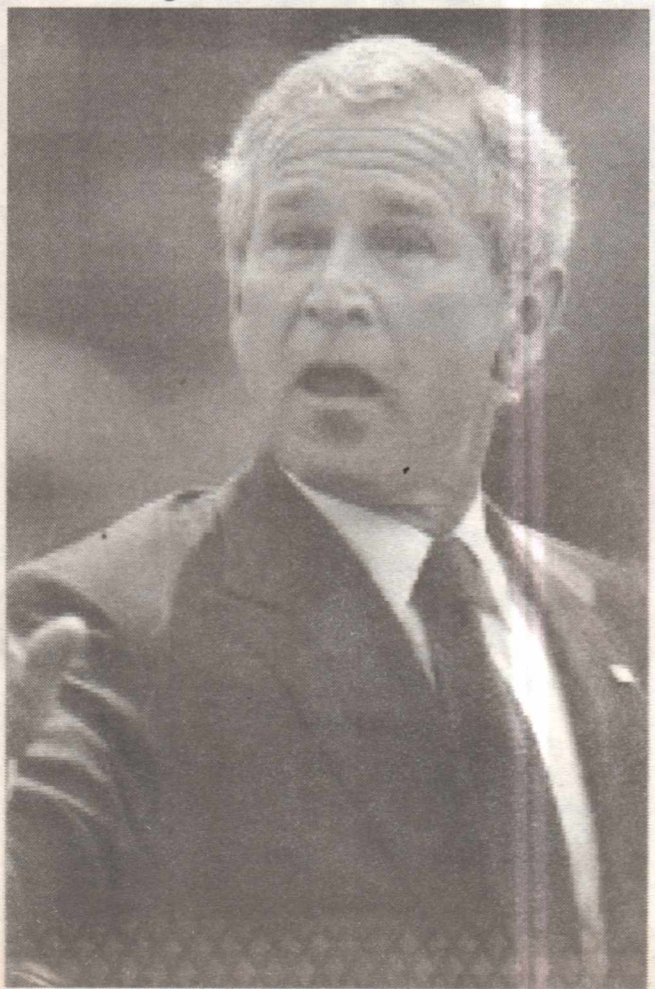
President Rodriguez said on Tuesday he would seek clarification from Washington about the episode.

Defence Minister Gonzalo Mendez has resigned so his role can be investigated.

Army chief General Marcelo Antezana will face disciplinary proceedings after he published a letter in several newspapers, demanding that the government release the documents pertaining to the decommissioning.

In October, he had issued a declaration saying he was the sole person responsible for the decision.

But last week, he appeared to reject any responsibility and hinted that there had been American pressure for the missiles to be taken to a US base.



President George W. Bush

# Trust International

## Foreign & Diplomatic

### Chile: Another woman triumphs in Santiago

By Charles Onunaiju,  
Senior Reporter (Foreign Desk)

Thirty two years ago, after the CIA-inspired coup that toppled the popularly elected Chilean Socialist President, Allende Salvador and brought General Augusto Pinochet to power, she along with her widowed mother were prisoners, of the neofascist junta. They were blindfolded, beaten and denied food for five days while their cell mates were raped. Their crime were to have been the daughter and wife of former airforce general, who was arrested and tortured to death for having opposed the 1973 coup.

The former 22 year old medical student whose ordeal and her mother's were recounted briefly above, is now the 54-year-old pediatrician, twice-divorced mother of three children and the third woman to be elected directly to the highest office of executive presidency in Latin America.

Her name is Ms Michelle Bachelet, whose stunning victory at last Sunday's run-off polls in Chile ensured that the centre-left coalition called concertacion retained power for the fourth time in a row, since democracy was restored in 1980. She won 53% in the Sunday run-off to see off the wealthy conservative businessman, Mr. Sebastian Pinera who trailed with 46% of the final vote. The election consolidated the left wing trend in Latin American politics, following quickly in the heels of the mammoth victory of the former anti-establishment figure and coca grower, Mr. Evo Morales in Bolivia just about three weeks ago. The victory of Ms Bachelet is more stunning when taken against the background that Chile is strongly Catholic

and socially conservative and the most unlikely place for a twice-divorced single mother to scoop election victory to the highest office in the land.

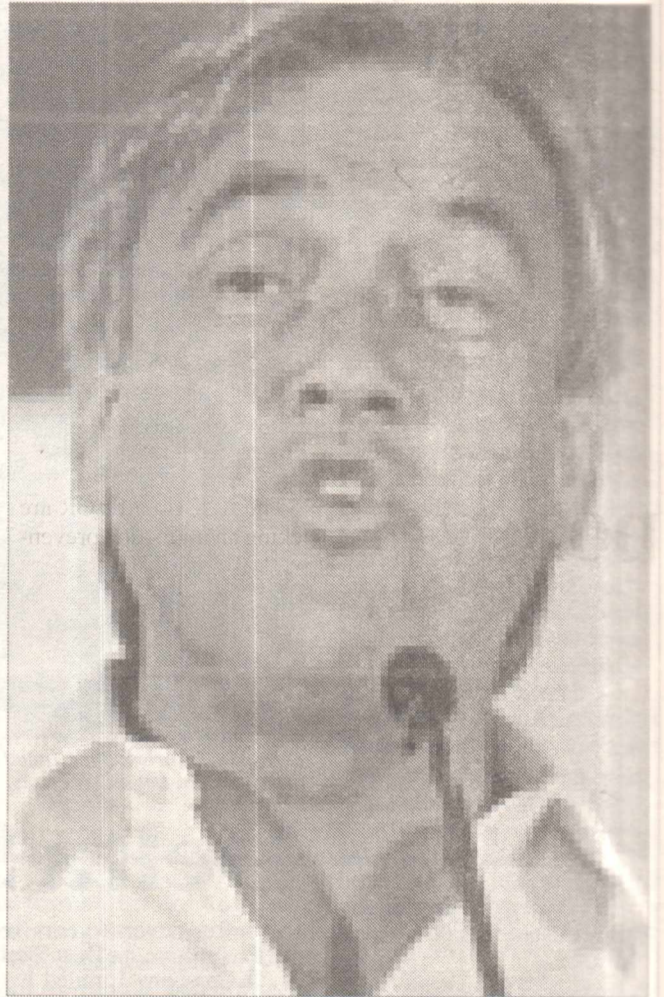
Even the president-elect was almost sure footed of the enormous constraints. "I was a woman, a divorcee, a socialist, an agnostic... all possible sins together," she said recently. But what she even purported as her weakness counted as her political strength. The Chile military establishment from where General Pinochet Sprang his infamous Washington inspired coup is largely discredited and are held responsible for the "night fall in Santiago." General Alberto Bachelet, the father of the president-elect was among few pro-democracy officers, who were incarcerated and eventually died in prison of heart attack, as a result of torture. Ms Bachelet who will be inaugurated as president on the 11<sup>th</sup> of March was sure that the ice of male dominated society has been irrevocably broken. At a mammoth celebration of her victory in Chilean Capital, Santiago she said, "who would have said 10, 15 years ago that a woman would be elected president."

While the solid pedigree of Ms Bachelet surely had its impact on her election fortunes the socialist platform on which she stood accounted largely for the stunning victory.

Chile was under a punishing and neo-fascist dictatorship from 1973 to 1990, when the General Pinochet's regime made a grudging concession



Ms Michelle Bachelet



Mr. Sebastian Pinera

to the trends of democratic renewal in the region. But Pinochet and his military henchmen wanted to install a regime that was by all intents and purposes, an image of their junta. And to assure themselves of continuous influence in the country, General Pinochet and the closet of henchmen awarded themselves life senators in a bid to draw an iron curtain across their past misdeeds. But the victims of their cruel and corrupt regime including Ms Bachelet were unrelenting in their campaign to bring them to justice.

Early in the new century,

the campaign paid off, when a Spanish judge issued a warrant of arrest for General Pinochet, who was on medical vacation in Britain. For many months, General Pinochet was held in Britain while the legal row went on whether to extradite him to Spain to answer charges of crimes against humanity.

However, the Chilean managed democracy did not stay too long in the hands of the junta. For sixteen years, the centre left has held power and eight years ago, since Mr. Richardo Lagos presidency, Ms Bachelet's star has been rising steadily in Chilean politics.

After all her ordeal, which she doesn't want to talk about, except to say that she and her mother were, "physically mistreated," and claims to harbour no malice, because she has "a political understanding of why those things happened," she and her mother were forced into five year exile. They went to first, Australia and later to the former communist East Germany where she married a fellow Chilean exile. They later separated and she had a third child from a new relationship which also collapsed later. At news conference in Santiago during the heat of campaign, a correspondent reportedly asked her if she would be marrying again, she queried the journalist if he could have asked a man the question. However, she said that taking charge of the highest office in the land is a serious affair,

that may not leave her with any room for matters of the heart.

However, in Chile after her exile, Ms Bachelet worked underground with other leftist exiles, quietly advancing in the socialist party and became a well known figure in the centre-left coalition that has ruled the country since 1990. Current out going President Mr Ricardo Lagos, who was constitutionally barred from seeking re-election made her his health minister, then in 2002 named her defence minister. She won accolades for helping to heal division between civilians and military left overs from the dictatorship.

Ms Michelle Bachelet who after inauguration on 11 March would join the rank of other Latin American leaders like President Hugo Chavez of Venezuela, Evo Morales in Bolivia has pledged to work with them. "Chavez, Morales, they are presidents elected by their peoples. Chile must have relations with them," she said.

On the General Pinochet question, the president elect turns more serious when she discusses the 90 year-old former dictator. He is however under house arrest and has been fighting legal battles for years. He has lost his immunity and faces charges of tax fraud and other crimes related to secret multi-million dollar bank accounts, many of them with the Washington-based Riggs bank. Ms Bachelet says the general is now irrelevant as a political actor. How-

ever, under Chilean protocol he would be entitled to a state funeral as a former president. There is a strong chance he could die while she is running the country. "I would respect all the laws and decrees, but frankly I would say it would be very violent for the Chilean conscience to give a state funeral to someone who has been involved, not only in human rights violation process but also a scandal like the Riggs Bank," she said.

Unlike the outgoing president Richard Lagos who is a member of the socialist party, does not make much issue out of it, Ms Bachelet is very enthusiastic to discuss her socialist roots. "I would say I am a socialist, of course, but I wear many hats" but added "I was not a minister of the socialists; I was a minister of all the Chileans. I will be president for all the Chileans," Ms Bachelet who is long known, for having put the trauma of the dictatorship in which she suffered personally behind her said, "because I was the victim of hatred. I have dedicated my life to reverse that hatred and turn into understanding, tolerance and - why not say it - into love," words that would have earned the approval of another legendary hate-victim, the venerable Nelson Mandela.

He rival, conservative businessman Sebastian Pinera have congratulated her saying that she represents, "the struggle of million of women to reach the position they deserve."

***"However, in Chile after her exile, Ms Bachelet worked underground with other leftist exiles, quietly advancing in the socialist party and became a well known figure in the centre-left coalition that has ruled the country since 1990. Current out going President Mr Ricardo Lagos, who was constitutionally barred from seeking re-election made her his health minister, then in 2002 named her defence minister. She won accolades for helping to heal division between civilians and military left overs from the dictatorship."***

# Business Trust

## Briefs

### First Inland Bank unveils new logo

From Bright Ewulu,  
Deputy Business Editor

The First Inland Bank Plc Monday unveiled its new logo, saying that its resuming business with a N70 billion deposit base.

Speaking at the logo unveiling ceremony, its chairman, Alhaji Muham-madu Danmadami said at the event graced by the managing director, Mr Okey Nwosu and other top directors that the bank is truly a Nigerian bank and intends to take its operations outside the country in the near future. He said that the bank made up of IMB Bank, NUB Bank, Inland and First Atlantic Bank Plc is primed to take banking to new heights in the country.

On the strength of the bank in the market place, he posited that "this has produced a timely pan-Nigerian bank with wide national spread across all geo-political zones of the country. We are proud to inform you that your bank is today represented in 31 states, 72 towns and municipalities, with 146 business offices.

### First Bank opens Festac branch, relocates Yaba

First Bank of Nigeria Plc has added another branch to its expansive network. The new branch, located on road 32, Festac town, Lagos brings to 387 the number of the bank's branches across the country. It is open for operations effective yesterday.

According to the bank, the new Festac branch and about 306 others are already hooked on the bank's finacle software platform which provides its on-line branches throughout the country. In other words, customers can access their accounts from branches other than their own.

Meanwhile, the bank has moved its Yaba, Lagos branch located on \$322 Herbert Macaulay Way, to 32 T. O. S Benson Avenue (formerly Commercial Avenue) Yaba.

The relocation is in line with the bank's drive to operate in a modern and more conducive environment.

### Sanusi now First Pensions Fund chairman

The immediate past Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Governor, Chief Joseph Sanusi has been made the pioneer chairman of First Pensions Fund Custodian (FPFC).

According to First Bank of Nigeria (FBN) head, Image Management, Mr Jide Ogunde, Chief Sanusi's appointment to head the bank's pension management subsidiary has been approved by the National Pensions Commission (PENCOM).



L-R: Mr. Charles Oben, head, Brand & Communications (UBA) and Mr. Chika Mordi, executive director, Retail, at the grand draw of the MoneyGram year end promotion in Lagos...recently.

## Delta Steel Coy begins production

By Anas A Galadima,  
Business Reporter

After several years in comatose, the Delta Steel Company Limited has begun full commercial production of steel products. Managing Director of Global Infrastructure, managers of the steel firm, Lalit Kumar Sehgal made this known to pressmen in Abuja yesterday where he said production started after several facilities in the plant where renovated while some machineries were replaced.

His words: "Delta steel is producing liquid steel as at

today, right now, everyday, since December 29, 2005, from indigenous resources. It is currently producing liquid steel. The plant has swung into full commercial production of liquid steel and its subsequent conversion into billets"

He noted that the management of the company has set a target of producing 800,000 tons of steel per annum from the plant as away of maximizing the productive potentials of the

company, pointing that when Ajaokuta steel begins full time production in the middle of the year, the country's steel requirement would be met by the two steel plants which are to be supplied with raw materials by the Nigerian Iron Ore Mining Company (NIOMCO).

The MD observed that some of the major problems that may impede effective production of steel in the county are lack of sufficient infrastructure like railway lines and as well as raw materials.

NIOMCO which is supposed to supply the two plants with raw materials has been bedeviled by certain problems, he said.

"Some of the previous NIOMCO contractors who were being owed by the federal government over their services at the mines are still holding unto the equipment and substations. They locked up the substations and they are constituting a major impediment to the productivity of the mines. Till these things are resolved, it will be difficult to

make much progress at the mining company. They were contractors to the federal government and we expect them to solve these problems".

He explained that "Within the next few months that we have to commission Ajaokuta, we would like the federal government to resolve those issues, so that not only will we take over those mines but another line could be opened so that we could bring the plants to full capacity. We have another mine at Ajabanoko. Ajabanoko and Itakpe are two sister mines which are part of NIOMCO and mining is going to start there very soon".

He regretted the fact that the total reserves in both Itakpe and Ajabanoko sites of NIOMCO can only serve the country for only six years, stressing the need for activities to begin in other mines across the country.

"What we need to do is to urgently move into other mines that are near-by and can be easily blended. We have therefore suggested to the government that we should begin to mine at those sites at the earliest possible time. Some amount of exploration which needs to be carried out now so that we can start blending and prolong the life of NIOMCO as a whole. That means there will be at least three mines in Kogi state, one in Enugu and what we need is to identify four or five mines which can be blended so that we can take the lifespan of the ASC to at least 25 years".

## Nigeria to get two more refineries – Kupolokun

By Hamisu Muhammad,  
Business Reporter

Plans have been concluded for the construction of two new refineries in the country, the Group Managing Director of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), Engineer Funsho Kupolokun has said.

Speaking yesterday at the NNPC Headquarter in Abuja while briefing newsmen on the activities of the corporation last year, kupolokun said the two refineries will be established in the eastern part and western part of the country.

According to kupolokun, by next month the study for the specific locations of the two refineries will be concluded and work will commenced as soon as the study is over.

He said the project is a joint venture between NNPC and the five oil majors in the country which include Shell, Chevron, Elf, Agip and Texeco.

He said the two new refineries with export focus are being evaluated by key operators of the upstream oil industries and have the capacity to produce 150,000 and 250,000 barrels per day respectively.

"Already, feasibility studies for the establishment of two green field refineries by the oil majors are on going. Although NNPC will be part owners of these

refineries, majority shareholding will be vested in the industry following the NLNG model". Kupolokun said in his speech.

He said the project is part of a variety of downstream projects being evaluated this year by the corporation and its strategic partners in the sector.

In addition, Kupolokun said

a mini refinery with 30,000 barrals per day capacity will be built at escravos by the NNPC/Chevron JV, aimed at providing fuel for boats, helicopters fixed wing aircraft among others.

The group managing director also said the the corporation is already building 25 mega stations "12 of these have been commissioned whilst the remaining 13 are being constructed".

"In the Niger Delta, 6 floating filling stations are being developed by NNPC the first will be commissioned in the first quarter 2006 while the others will come on stream through later part of the year". he said.

In the upstream sectors, the GMD NNPC said the target is to achieve growth in the crude oil reserves to 40 billion barrel and production capacity to 4.5 million barrels per day by 2010.

## Insurance firms may be reduced to 50

From Abdulwahab Isa  
Business Correspondent (Lagos)

There are strong indications that the current over 103 operating insurance firms might be reduced to 50 by 2007 when the on-going reforms and recapitalization exercise is completed.

Experts in the insurance sub-sector though acknowledged the pains and stress that come with the announced recapitalization, however acclaimed the government's decision as the best that will put the insurance sector in its rightful place in the economy. Managing director of Sovereign Trust Insurance Plc, Mr. Seun Ajayi in an interview with *Business Trust* applauded the government

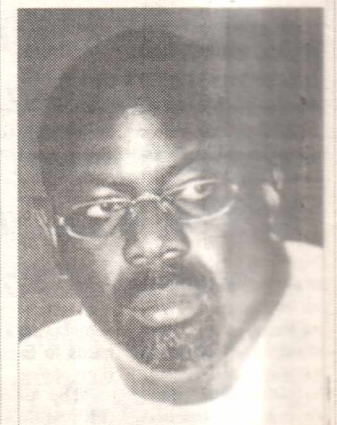
initiative, adding that the sector will be much stronger and better at the end of the exercise.

In what is seen as a replay of the trend in the banking sector where a hitherto existing 89 banks were streamlined to 25 through a N25 billion capitalization exercise, opinions are already formed that the insurance sector will witness real active underwriters of risks at the end of the exercise.

Meanwhile, shareholders and board of directors of Sovereign Trust Insurance Plc at the company's extraordinary general meeting in Lagos have endorsed a

resolution giving the directors the go-ahead to list the company's shares on the Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE) and there after make a public offering of the company's unsubscribed shares in such proportion and consideration at a time deemed desirable in the interest of the company.

Also, the board and shareholders have also approved the resolution to increase the company's authorized capital from N1 billion to N3.5 billion by way of creation of additional five billion ordinary shares of 50 kobo each with such shares to rank in all respects with the existing ordinary shares in the capital of the company.



Liyel Imoke, minister, power & steel

# Business Trust

## Privatisation Update

### FG yet to decide fate of NITEL

The federal government is still yet to decide on the fate of Nigerian Telecommunications (NITEL) and its mobile arm, Mtel, three weeks after interested investors failed to meet its reserved price.

A reliable source close to the transaction told *Business Trust* yesterday, that the advisers to the government on the sale, BNP Paribas, are yet to present their recommendations to the government for consideration.

The source who pleaded anonymity said the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) is still waiting to get the submission of the advisers on the sale of NITEL so that it can compare it with its own opinion then present it to the National Council on Privatisation for consideration.

Orascom group of Egypt had emerged winner for the sale of 51 percent federal government

By Anas A. Galadima,  
Business Reporter

shares in the company at the opening of financial bids on December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

The company offered to pay a total of \$256 million (about N33.3 billion) to emerge as the winner while the other bidder, Newtel International failed to submit its bid in the second round of bidding.

The sale was consequently declared inconclusive by

chairman Technical Committee of NCP, Mr. Akin Kekere Ekun because the price offered was far below the government's reserved price.

Top government officials have there after condemned the low price offered by the group because it was considered to be far below the \$1.1 billion offered by Investors International London Limited (IILL) during the initial attempt to sell NITEL/Mtel in November 2002.

As uncertainties still becloud the sale of the Nigerian Telecommunication Limited (NITEL) to Orascom of Egypt, the management and staff of the government-owned telecoms company have been urged not to do anything that will adversely affect the privatization process.

Making the call in his 2006 message to NITEL staff in Abuja recently, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NITEL, Mr. Albert Mashi said rather than do anything that will rock the boat of privatization, the staff should

### ...as CEO tasks staff on privatization

From Zakariyya Adaramola  
in Lagos

work towards the successful completion of the exercise.

According to Mr. Mashi, privatization of NITEL will be in the overall interest of all stakeholders as the company will soon emerge as a strong and market driven telecoms company. The NITEL CEO, message published in the current edition of NITEL news, urged staff and management to marshal out plans that would confront the big challenges in the telecoms market.

His words: "You will recall that I had cause to write you about two months ago. That message contained all the key information on the current position of our company.

"Despite that however, I like to reiterate that we must all work hard to ensure the continued survival of our company. This calls for consistency in the performance of our respective duties or responsibilities. The situation in the telecommunications market today poses big challenges to NITEL. We must marshal out plans and work towards confronting these challenges. That will be the beginning of our collective resolve to turn a

new lead as we begin a new year aimed at doing whatever we can to ensure that NITEL not only survives the competition but emerges as a strong and market driven company.

"As the Bureau of Public Enterprises implements the programme to privatize our company, let us not do anything that will rock the boat or adversely affect the process.

Rather, we should work towards the successful completion of the process which will be in the overall interest of all stakeholders."

The NITEL boss, who believes that the company has great potentials and bright future, advises the staff to work collectively to position the company in a good shape.

### Kaduna Refinery for sale this year

The federal government has slated the Kaduna Refinery and Petrochemical Company (KRPC) as one of the public enterprises to be sold this year. Chigbo Anichebe, head of Public Communications at the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) told *Business Trust* in Abuja yesterday that the company would be sold before the year runs out.

He said, "At the appropriate time, we would call for expressions of interest from all investors who would like to bid for the company."

Mr. Anichebe however did not give information about the time the privatization of the firm would commence.

The refinery, which was commissioned in 1980 to supply petroleum products to Northern Nigeria, had an initial capacity of 50,000 barrels per day. Its capacity was later expanded to 100,000 barrels per day and later, again, it was further expanded to its current nameplate capacity of 110,000 barrels per day.

Some of the facilities of the refinery include crude distillation Unit (CDU), Vacuum Distillation Unit and Asphalt Blowing Unit.

Others are kerosene hydro heating, Neptha Hydro treating and fluid catalytic cracking amongst others.

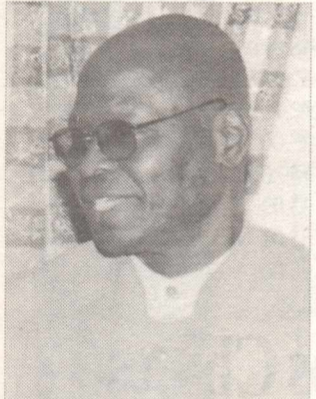
Meanwhile, the interested investors in Port Harcourt Refinery Company Limited

(PHRC) have revalidated their bids for the company.

Anichebe, who also confirmed the development to *Business Trust*, said companies that revalidated their bids for PHRC have also conducted due diligence on the company.

The BPE had last month nullified the technical bids submitted by the five interested bidders for the firm on grounds that they all failed to score the minimum points required in their technical bids.

The four consorting that initially submitted bids for the firm are Chrome/Chinese/Essan oil, Shell/Oando consortium, Refinee Petroplus Consortium and the Transitional corporation.



Cornelius Adebayo, comms. minister



Irene Chigbue, DG, BPE

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### B.L. HARBERT (NIGERIA) LIMITED

R.C 465232

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to section 468 (2) of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 1990 the Final General Meeting of the above Company will be held at 991/992 Zakariya Maimalari Street, Central Business District on February 6, 2006 at 10:00am for the purpose of laying before such a meeting the final accounts of the Company on and of giving any explanations thereof.

Dated this 16<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2006.

By Order of the Liquidator.

Signed:

Innocent T. Isichei

Liquidator

**Business Trust**

REPORT AS AT WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18 2006

## 1ST-TIER SECURITIES

## THE NIGERIAN STOCK EXCHANGE

Company Name	No of Deals	Quotation(N)	Quantity Value of Shares
<b>Traded</b>			
ADSWITCH PLC.	4	1.38	42,090.00
CUTIX PLC	2	3.10	30,900.00
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>40,500</b>	<b>72,990.00</b>
<b>AGRICULTURE/AGRO-ALLIED</b>			
OKITIPUPA OIL PALM PLC.	2	0.88	56,800.48
PRESCO PLC.	6	11.55	277,950.00
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>89,046</b>	<b>334,750.48</b>
<b>AUTOMOBILE &amp; TYRE</b>			
DUNLOP NIGERIA PLC.	16	2.71	227,421.59
R. T. BRISCOAE PLC.	4	5.71	29,130.00
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>89,746</b>	<b>256,551.59</b>
<b>BANKING</b>			
ACCESS BANK PLC	101	2.88	22,392,639.47
AFRIBANK NIGERIA PLC.	14	9.10	832,204.10
DIAMOND BANK PLC	3	7.75	32,578,907.50
EIB INTERNATIONAL BANK PLC.	1	2.26	2,214,800.00
FIRST CITY MONUMENT BANK PLC	4	5.11	516,110.00
FIRST BANK OF NIGERIA PLC.	194	32.00	30,227,008.00
GTBANK PLC.	195	13.00	44,539,994.87
INVESTMENT BANKING	14	4.57	6,282,068.24
INTERCONTINENTAL BANK PLC.	57	8.35	5,033,167.26
NAL BANK PLC.	56	2.80	121,608,799.20
OCEANIC BANK PLC	60	5.99	9,218,933.40
TRADE BANK PLC.	2	2.60	50,700.00
UNION BANK FOR AFRICA PLC.	61	12.65	7,478,545.81
UNION BANK NIGERIA PLC.	42	25.48	9,396,616.32
UNIVERSAL TRUST BANK PLC	1	0.69	1,425,742.17
WEMA BANK PLC.	4	3.74	54,514.24
ZENITH BANK PLC	16	19.64	2,422,927.88
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>826</b>	<b>67,617,503</b>	<b>296,313,265.86</b>
<b>BREWERIES</b>			
CHAMPION BREWERIES PLC.	2	1.70	6,800.00
GUINNESS NIGERIA PLC.	57	98.00	93,982,843.40
NIGERIAN BREWERIES PLC.	215	38.12	30,886,797.14
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>1,782,269</b>	<b>124,876,440.54</b>
<b>BUILDING MATERIALS</b>			
ASHAKA CEMENT PLC.	44	33.03	55,994,052.42
CEMENT COMPANY OF NORTHERN NIG. PLC	12	7.20	215,952.00
WEST AFRICAN PORTLAND CEMENT CO. PLC.		48	609,197
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>2,375,398</b>	<b>66,422,646.84</b>
<b>CHEMICAL &amp; PAINTS</b>			
BERGER PAINTS PLC.	7	4.09	27,503.99
CAP PLC.	2	8.95	30,398.20
D. N. MEYER PLC.	2	4.08	47,736.00
NIGERIA-GERMAN CHEMICALS PLC.	3	4.30	54,180.00
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>34,415</b>	<b>159,818.19</b>
<b>CONGLOMERATES</b>			
A. G. LEVENTIS NIGERIA PLC.	5	1.30	78,200.00
C F A O NIGERIA PLC.	4	3.60	24,652.80
JOHN HOLT PLC.	5	1.47	6,002.01
P. Z. INDUSTRIES PLC.	46	16.20	3,059,985.60
U.A.C. NIGERIA PLC.	70	16.45	56,564,784.26
UNILEVER NIGERIA PLC	68	20.30	3,109,190.30
U.T.C. NIGERIA PLC.	4	0.81	75,736.72
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>4,089,138</b>	<b>62,918,551.69</b>
<b>CONSTRUCTION</b>			
JULIUS BERGER NIGERIA PLC.	5	22.00	440,000.00
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>440,000.00</b>
<b>ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY</b>			
NIGERIAN WIRE AND CABLE PLC.	1	0.68	598.40
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>880</b>	<b>598.40</b>
<b>FOOD/BEVERAGES &amp; TOBACCO</b>			
7-UP BOTTLING COMPANY PLC	17	26.00	1,064,940.00
CADBURY NIGERIA PLC.	45	65.02	6,511,978.29
FLOUR MILLS NIGERIA PLC.	52	25.80	8,101,912.68
NIGERIA BOTTLING COMPANY PLC.	16	62.50	1,022,635.90
NESTLE FOODS NIGERIA PLC.	18	187.00	893,891.00
NORTHERN NIGERIA FLOUR MILLS PLC.	3	14.75	866,223.25
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>534,461</b>	<b>18,461,581.12</b>
<b>HEALTHCARE</b>			
EVANS MEDICAL PLC.	4	2.62	52,400.00
GLAXOSMITHKLINE CONSUMER NIGERIA PLC	13	10.40	487,301.66
NEIMETH INTERNATIONAL PHARM. PLC.	1	3.23	1,938.00
PHARMA-DEKO PLC.	1	4.55	500
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>68,646</b>	<b>543,914.66</b>
<b>INDUSTRIAL/DOMESTIC PRODUCTS</b>			
B.O.C. GASES PLC	8	3.00	304,085.00
VITAFOAM NIGERIA PLC.	29	4.93	778,732.77
VONO PRODUCTS PLC.	8	1.45	2,917,958.25
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>2,267,446</b>	<b>4,000,776.02</b>
<b>INSURANCE</b>			
AICO INSURANCE PLC.	2	1.81	29,302.09
CORNERSTONE INSURANCE CO. PLC.	10	1.50	268,418.58
CRUSADER INSURANCE PLC.	2	1.72	1,895.44
GREAT NIGERIA INSURANCE PLC	2	1.38	34,500.00
LAW UNION AND ROCK INSURANCE PLC.	4	1.11	227,550.00
NIGER INSURANCE CO. PLC.	5	2.76	275,711.48
PRESTIGE ASSURANCE PLC.	3	1.92	2,576.00
ROYAL EXCHANGE ASSURANCE PLC.	13	2.89	705,275.69
STANDARD ALLIANCE INSURANCE	2	1.40	56,560.00
UNIC INSURANCE PLC.	10	1.30	552,783.40
WEST AFRICAN PROV. INS. COY. PLC.	11	3.30	710,298.78
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>1,433,275</b>	<b>2,864,871.46</b>
<b>MARITIME</b>			
JAPPAUL OIL & MARITIME SERVICES PLC	3	2.00	99,628.00
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>49,914</b>	<b>99,628.00</b>
<b>PACKAGING</b>			
AVON CROWNCAPS & CONTAINERS PLC.	2	1.12	11,200.00
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>11,200.00</b>
<b>PETROLEUM(MARKETING)</b>			
AFROIL PLC.	2	0.48	9,036.00
AFRICAN PETROLEUM PLC.	75	48.20	20,509,094.33
CONOIL PLC	20	92.15	5,912,327.74
ETERNA OIL & GAS-PLC.	13	3.10	6,907,605.50
MOBIL OIL NIGERIA PLC.	21	159.00	1,654,254.31
OANDO PLC	50	96.06	2,109,775.36
TEXACO (NIGERIA) PLC.	13	114.00	633,108.00
TOTAL NIGERIA PLC	22	187.00	2,164,551.00
<b>PRINTING &amp; PUBLISHING</b>			
LONGMAN NIGERIA PLC.	1	3.04	6,232.00
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2,050</b>	<b>6,232.00</b>
<b>REALESTATE</b>			
UACN PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT PLC.	20	8.90	553,740.00
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>62,650</b>	<b>553,740.00</b>
<b>TEXTILES</b>			
AFPRINT NIGERIA PLC.	3	0.38	18,901.20
UNITED NIGERIA TEXTILES PLC	9	2.17	95,978.53

## TOP 10 TRADES YESTERDAY

SYMBOL	VOLUME	VALUE	TRADES
OCEANIC	1,563,920.00	9,386,653.40	62
ASHAKACEM	1,740,341.00	56,094,282.42	46
VONO	2,008,657.00	2,917,958.25	8
UTB	2,066,293.00	1,425,742.17	1
ETERNAOIL	2,228,195.00	6,925,484.50	16
UACN	3,591,201.00	56,675,899.56	74
DIAMONDBNK	4,203,730.00	32,578,907.50	3
GUARANTY	5,164,051.00	67,208,399.59	241
ACCESS	8,090,831.00	23,293,383.75	108
NAL	43,431,714.00	121,608,799.20	56

## TOP 10 GAINERS

SYMBOL	LAST CLOSE	YESTERDAY'S CLOSE	CHANGE
GUINNESS	97.00	100.00	+3.00
TEXACO	112.00	113.00	+1.00
NNFM	14.05	14.75	+0.70
WAPCO	16.53	16.89	+0.36
VITAFOAM	4.93	5.17	+0.24
GUARANTY	12.82	12.99	+0.17
PRESCO	11.40	11.55	+0.15
OCEANIC	5.86	6.00	+0.14
DUNLOP	2.60	2.71	+0.11
BERGER	4.01	4.09	+0.08

## TOP 10 LOSERS

SYMBOL	LAST CLOSE	YESTERDAY'S CLOSE	CHANGE
NESTLE	190.00	187.00	-3.00
AP	49.70	48.00	-1.70
NBC	63.70	62.50	-1.20
CONOIL	93.20	92.15	-1.05
7UP	26.01	25.00	-1.01
MOBIL	160.00	159.00	-1.00
ASHAKACEM	33.60	33.03	-0.57
CADBURY	65.45	65.01	-0.44
OANDO	96.50	96.06	-0.44
CAP	9.31	8.95	-0.36

**Borishade woos Chinese businessmen to Nigeria**

Minister of Aviation, Professor Babalola Borishade has advised Chinese businessmen to take advantage of the enabling environment created by the present administration to invest in Nigeria's aviation sector.

The minister made this call when a delegation of Nigeria-Chinese business community led by Sir Elvis Emecheta visited him in his office in Abuja. Professor Borishade was impressed that the delegates were made up of airline operators, businessmen and people from the cultural sector of the economy. The minister charged them to take advantage of the enabling environment created by this administration to invest and develop cargo business in Nigeria.

The delegates were informed by Professor Borishade that six (6) cargo terminals would be built within the shortest possible time. The need to build maintenance hanger was also stressed by the minister to facilitate the servicing of airlines.

The minister also requested the Nigeria-Chinese business delegation to properly package their proposal on Enugu, Calabar, Port-Harcourt and Lagos International Airports for urgent consideration by the federal government.

The delegates were equally advised to take some laudable steps needed to actualize their objectives. Some of them include the establishment of Bilateral Air Services Agreement (BASA) between Nigeria and China, registration of their companies/businesses with the corporate affairs commission and application for Air Transport License (ATL).

Professor Borishade promised that a high powered implementation committee with members from both countries would be drawn to work out the details for the successful implementation of their agenda. Sir Elvis Emecheta, chairman of Link Global logistics (Nigeria) Limited on behalf of the delegates said that the meeting was a follow up to a similar one by the Nigerian delegation and the resultant signing of memorandum of Understanding between Nigeria and China.

Sir Emecheta stated that the purpose of their visit was to garner necessary information needed to invest in civil Aviation and airport operation. He equally disclosed that his delegation intends to find a place in Africa especially Nigeria to serve as a transit camp for both passenger and cargo flight like what obtains in some developed nations of the world. For instance Chicago and New York serve as transit camp for United States, Dubai for Middle East and Tokyo

# Business Trust

## Glo to give free mobile lines to workers

**G**lobacom Nigeria limited has gone into a partnership with the federal government which allows the company to supply all federal government employees across the country free Glo sim packs as a way of connecting the workers.

Under the scheme, a total of about 1.1 million sim packs would be given out free to all federal employees. A total of 105,947 packs will go to workers in the presidency and all federal ministries while 902,000 will be given to workers in the various federal parastatals.

Speaking after some of the packs together with 5000 telephone directories were presented to the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Obong Uffot Ekaette, the company's Senior Co-ordinator, Special Projects, Francis Imanluhe said the scheme was introduced by the company to enable public workers across the country get connected.

He said the company had invested a lot of money into the scheme because it believes that it would bring benefits to the firm in the long term.

The company, which currently has a customer base of 4.5 million, has already launched the scheme in the presidency and six states of the federation namely: Edo, Ogun, Imo, Bauchi, Osun and Kwara.

"The scheme, which is tagged "Glo-Federal government joint communication initiative" is an off-shoot of a request by the federal government that telecommunications companies in the country provide workers with accessible means of communication," said Imanluhe.



Cornelius Adebayo, minister of communications

By Anas A. Galadima, Business Reporter

Over 2000 packs were presented to the SSG while an undisclosed number was presented to the ministry of agriculture for onward distribution to workers in the ministry and its parastatals.

Mike Gituboh, the company's executive director, special duties, who presented the items on behalf of the firm, said the company has established a high capacity call centre to enable

it attend to customers' complaints that may arise in the course of using the company's services.

Receiving the sim packs and directories on behalf of the SSG, Alhaji Bala Maitambari, Permanent Secretary, Special Service Office expressed the government's gratitude for the company's gesture, even as he commended the firm for what he described as remarkable achievements in the telecom sector.

**T**he British Airways has pledged to assist, the ministry of aviation in the area of emergency response services by providing skilled manpower to review the country's current situation in aviation and make recommendations for specific actions to counter the problem.

A press statement made available to *Business Trust*, from the ministry yesterday stated that a letter sent to the minister of aviation, Prof. Babalola Borsihade from Mr Robbie Baird said the British Airways would maintain and improve aviation infrastructure and regulations, particularly those listed for execution by the minister.

According to Mr. Baird, "we intend to help define

## British Airways pledges assistance in aviation emergencies

By Austine Odo, Business Editor

what emergency response involved and the inter-relation between response plans of the emergency services, airport management and airlines."

The release further said that some of the areas of assistance by the British Airways include screening and recruitment process to secure world class airport managers, emergency response and the control of bird strikes.

The release also said that the minister was also

informed that Messrs Henry Seymour and Shatsyed of the British Airways have been dedicated to facilitate the implementation of the programme to achieve desired results.

Earlier, the minister intimated officials of British Airways during a visit on his determination and commitment to the safe town project, up grading of the Lagos runway 18L, airport terminals, fire services, improvement of aviation security and other necessary infrastructure.



## FIRSTBANK ANNUAL SECONDARY SCHOOL QUIZ COMPETITION

The Preliminary Test for the FirstBank Annual Secondary School Quiz Competition (2005 Edition) shall hold at the underlisted centres in the 36 States and Abuja on Saturday, January 21, 2006. Accreditation starts at 8:00 am prompt.

The preliminary written test will qualify participating schools for the Zonal Quiz stage of the competition.

All schools that have applied to participate in the competition should come to the test centre in their respective states with the best two (2) students from their school (whose details were supplied in the registration forms).

Applicant schools that are yet to receive their invitation letters should also come to the test centres with their registered candidates. Candidates should attend the test with a letter of identification from their school principal, School Identity Card with the Principal's due authentication, and an HB Pencil.

### VENUES

1. **ABA**  
Hall FW2 Abia State Polytechnic, Owerri Road, Aba
2. **YOLA**  
School Hall Gen. Murtala Mohammed College, Yola
3. **UYO**  
Connelly Conellia College Afagha -Oku, Behind University of Uyo
4. **MAKURDI**  
School Hall, Mt. Gabriel School, Makurdi
5. **MAIDUGURI**  
School Hall, Federal Government College, Maiduguri
6. **ASABA**  
College Lecture Theatre, Federal College of Education (Technical), Asaba
7. **ABAKALI**  
SANS HALL, CHS Campus Ebonyi State University, Abakaliki
8. **BENIN**  
School Hall, Imaguero College, Benin City
9. **ADO-EKITI**  
State Primary Education Board, Ado-Ekiti
10. **ENUGU**  
Lecture Theatre Hall, University of Nigeria, Enugu Campus, Enugu
11. **ABUJA**  
Assembly Hall, The Nigerian Law School Bwari, Abuja
12. **GOMBE**  
School Hall, GSSS, Gombe

13. **OWERRI**  
Multi-Purpose Hall, Alvan Ikoku College of Education, Orlu Road, Owerri
14. **JIGAWA**  
College Theatre Hall, Federal Government College, Kazare
15. **KADUNA**  
School Hall, Rimi College, Kaduna
16. **KANO**  
School Hall, Rumfa College, Kano
17. **KATSINA**  
School Hall, Government College, Katsina
18. **LOKOJA**  
Kogi State Polytechnic, Lokoja
19. **LAGOS**  
Yusuf Grillo Hall, Dept. of Arts & Printing, Yaba College of Tech.
20. **LAFIA**  
Nasarawa State Polytechnic, Lafia
21. **MINNA**  
New Lecture Room 1, Federal University of Technology, Minna
22. **ABEOKUTA**  
Oba Lipede Multi-Purpose Hall, University of Agriculture (UNAAB) Alabata, Abeokuta
23. **AKURE**  
School of Agriculture, Akure
24. **OSOGBO**  
School Hall, Government Technical College, Iwo Road Near NUJ, Osogbo
25. **IBADAN**  
Faculty of Law Auditorium, University of Ibadan, Ibadan

26. **JOS**  
Federal College of Forestry, Opposite Unijos, Jos
27. **PORT-HARCOURT**  
College Hall, Rivers State College of Arts & Science Rumuola, Port-Harcourt
28. **TARABA**  
School Hall, Federal Govt. Girls College, Jalingo
29. **AWKA**  
University Auditorium, Nnamdi Azikiwe University (Permanent Site), Awka
30. **ILORIN**  
St. Anthony's Secondary School, Off Offa Road, Ilorin
31. **BIRNIN-KEBBI**  
CST Hall, College of Science & Technology (CST), Waziri Umaru Polytechnic, Birnin-Kebbi
32. **CALABAR**  
The Conference Centre, State Library Complex, Calabar
33. **BAUCHI**  
Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi
34. **SOKOTO**  
City Campus Hall, Usmanu Dan Fodiyo University, Sokoto
35. **YENAGOA**  
St. Jude's Girls Secondary School Amarata, Yenagoa
36. **DAMATURU**  
Federal Polytechnic, Damaturu
37. **GUSAU**  
Sambo Secondary School, Gusau

## Maiduguri, where businesses are run b

**M**aiduguri is noisy. The quality of air is bad. Power generators have taken over from the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) as the chief source of power supply. Small businesses are dying slowly and becoming more expensive. Inflation is on the rise again. Neighbours are quarrelling because of perennial complaints over the noise coming out of generator sets... (And there is social tension...)

The picture painted by Maiduguri residents, in interviews with *Daily Trust*, on the situation of electric power supply and how it is adversely affecting economic and social activities couldn't be grimmer.

For long, Maiduguri, which has become an international market centre where people from the Republics of Cameroon, Chad and Niger come to do business on a daily basis, has had to contend with the perennially poor electric power supply. Although the city has grown phenomenally since the old Maiduguri was merged with Yerwa (to the north) to become the new capital of the Borno empire during the reign of Shehu Umar Garbai in 1907, there is no commensurate expansion in power infrastructure, as electric supply fluctuates between low and very low, while the distribution network remains choked with ever increasing demand.

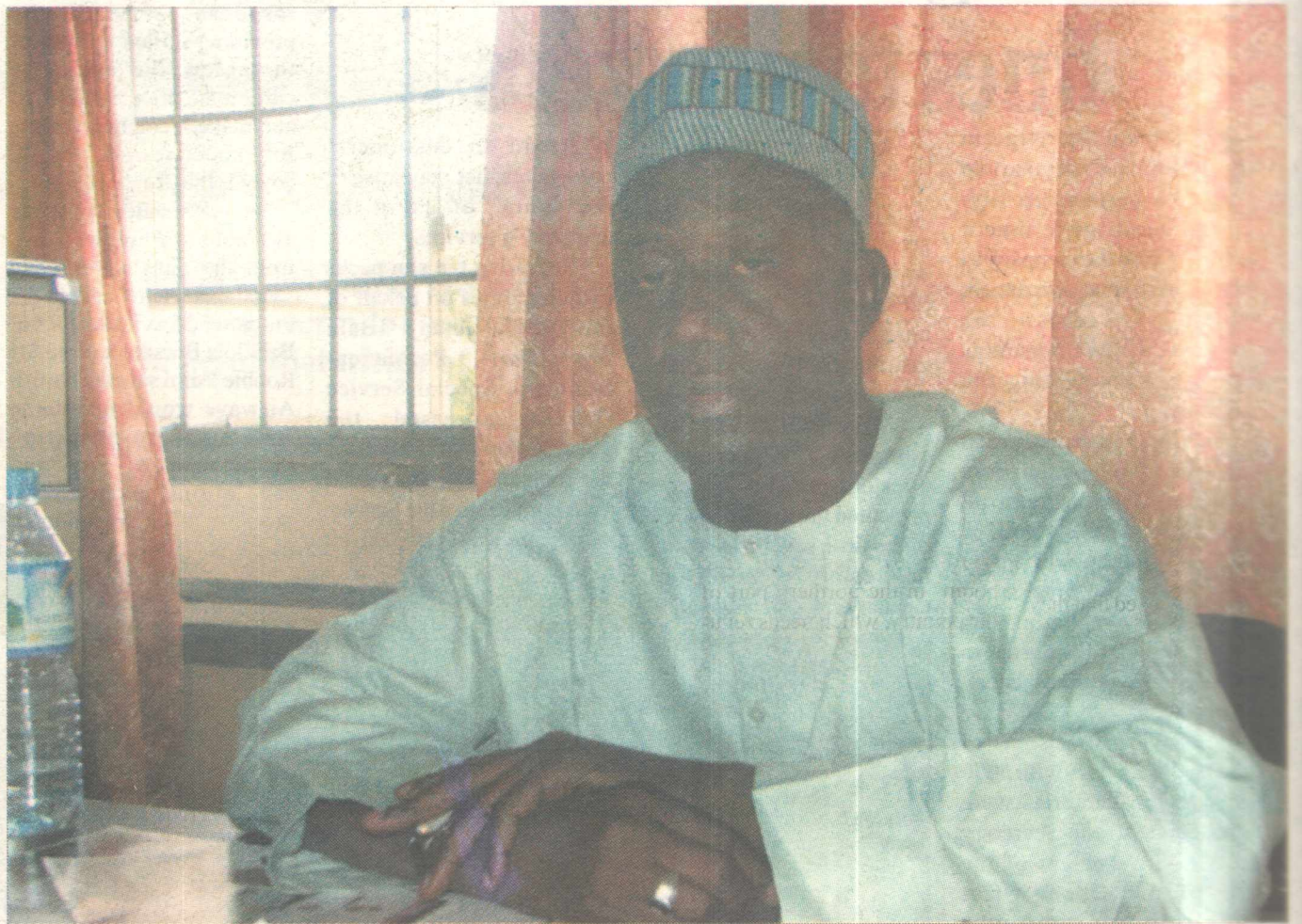
Although the Obasanjo government has claimed taking significant steps to address the numerous problems that have dogged the power sector, its failure to address holistically the chronic problems associ-

**From: Abdullahi Bego, Regional Editor (North East)**

ated with both the generation and transmission of electric power across the country, has dealt a severe blow to whatever attempt was made to tackle youth unemployment, among other nagging social concerns. As our correspondent's checks in Maiduguri showed, epileptic electric power supply is gradually sending many youths out of business, multiplying frustration in an economy already depressed by rising inflation.

According to *Daily Trust* findings, Maiduguri and environs currently require between 50 to 55 megawatts of electricity per day. If this were available, the growing number of banks, fast food chains, restaurants, cyber cafes, business centers and several small businesses, which need electric power supply to thrive, would have had no reason to complain about the 'discouraging business environment', which makes business more expensive and almost indefinitely reliant on diesel powered generator sets. Indeed, the turnover of these business concerns would probably have been higher, because the cost of buying expensive diesel would have been defrayed.

But current electric power supply to Maiduguri is a discouraging 15 megawatts per day at best, and this 'peak' regularly oscillates back to ten megawatts or less. There are around 17 feeder lines used by the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) to distribute electricity throughout the city.



**Dr. Danjuma Gambo**

With only 10 to 15 megawatts or less of electricity supply per day, only around five feeder lines or less out of the 17 available, could get electricity at any given time; meaning there has to be a lot of 'load shedding' to circulate or distribute the meagre supply of electricity to all parts of the city and its environs. This discouraging scenario has now made organisations like the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) branch, Coca Cola plants, NNPC, Maiduguri Flour Mills etc to permanently stop using 'public' electricity from PHCN as a result of 'supply inconsistency and low voltage'.

While these organisations can afford to rely on diesel powered generators to carry on their business activities all day, however, not so is the welder or battery charger or business centre on the next street.

In a chat with *Daily Trust*, Alhaji Song who runs Atag Batteries, a battery supply and maintenance outfit along Baga Road, Maiduguri said poor power supply has so affected his business, that when the cost of buying diesel to power his generator is added to other running costs, 'there is no gain at the end of the day'.

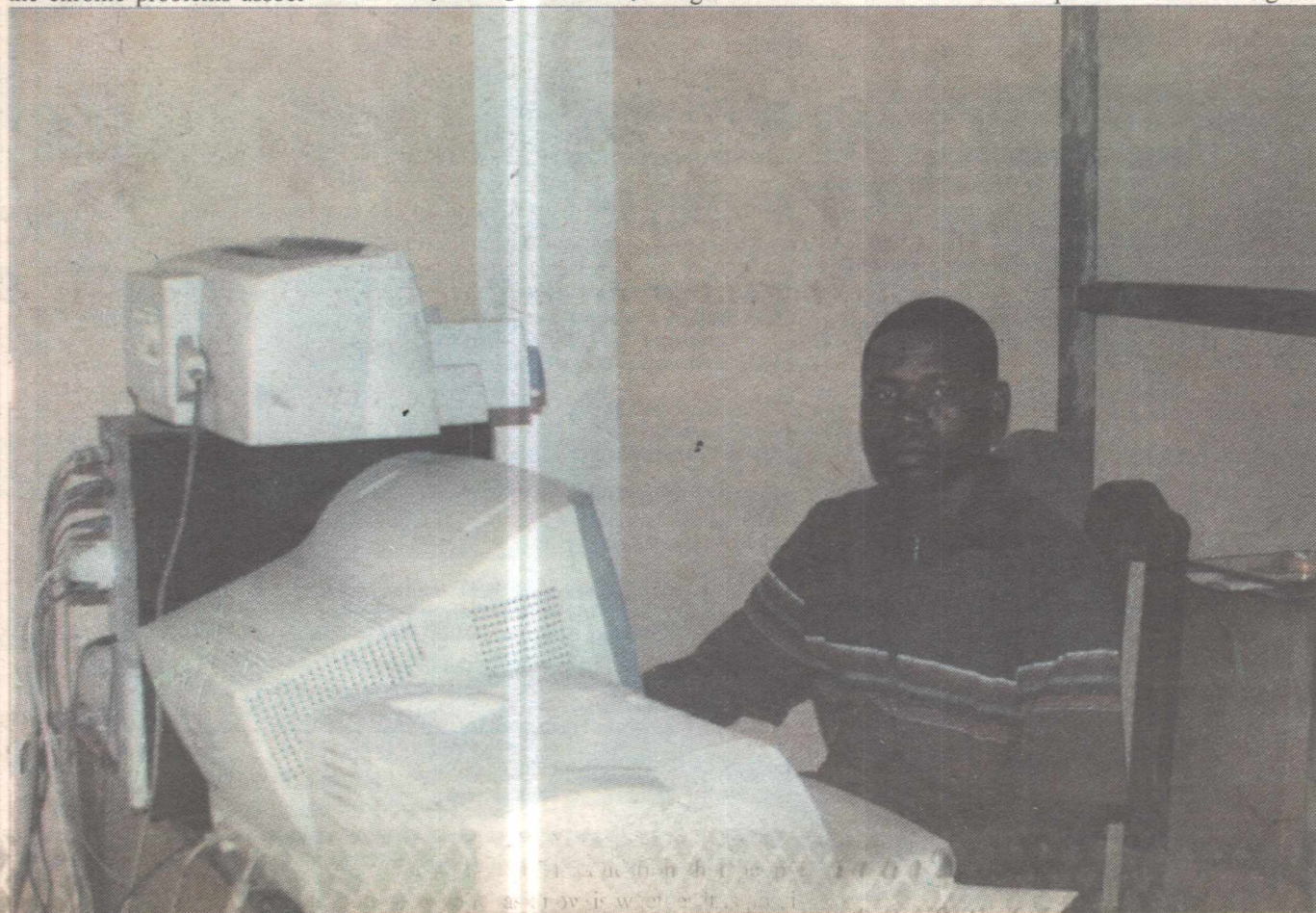
Alhaji Song explained that he spends half his earnings on

diesel, which he buys at the cost of N85 per litre. "We exhaust as much as 30 litres of diesel on our generator set per day. The cost doesn't add up if you look at other costs we have to bear to run the business... The government must thoroughly reform the power sector if it wants the economy to work", he said.

Bukar Helempa, who runs a small computer business centre on Shehu Laminu Way, agrees. According to him poor power supply has sent many people out of the business centre business. "We rely on power generators. We spend a lot to buy diesel. It is discouraging

because it leads to increase in our prices, which makes our clients to complain regularly. For instance, we charge N50 for typing and printing a page on the computer if we use power supply from PHCN. But we have to increase the rate to N70 if we use our generator set, because of the high cost of diesel", he said.

On his part, Tope Ola of Vine Technologies, an internet service and computer maintenance outfit also along Shehu Laminu Way in Maiduguri, the situation is 'frightening'. "We use more than five drums of diesel in a month to power our generators to do our work. It is



**Alhaji Hong, making do with battery sales and repairs without adequate**

## Power generators

noisy to have to depend on generators indefinitely, and it is costly for us and our clients", he said.

The PHCN Business Manager in Maiduguri, Engr Mohammed Musa Gumel, who confirms that Maiduguri and environs need at least 50 megawatts of electricity per day for normal power supply, regretted that the supply situation is beyond the control of the local PHCN office, and told our correspondent in a telephone chat that his office regularly reports the matter to higher authorities at the PHCN North East Zonal center in Yola.

Engr Gumel added that they were doing what was possible locally to ensure that people in Maiduguri enjoy electricity since it is through the bills that people pay that we even get our salaries' but observed that unless the quantum of supply is increased from the national grid, the situation may not change much.

For Dr Danjuma Gambo, head of the department of mass communication, University of Maiduguri, power sector reform must go beyond the perfunctory, because 'power supply is central to every economy in the world'.

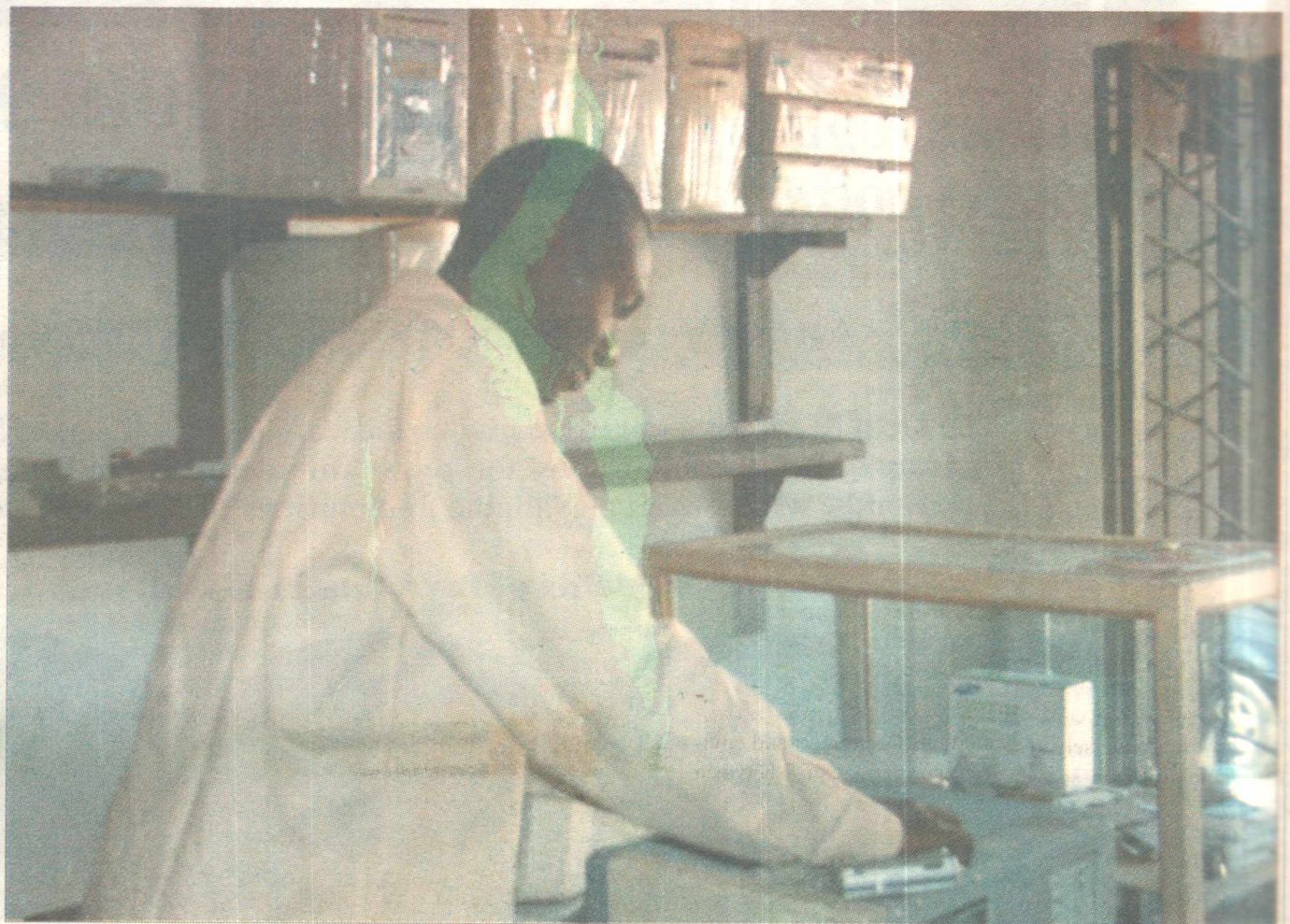
In a chat with *Daily Trust* in Maiduguri, Dr Gambo observed that the Obasanjo administration has failed to keep promises it has made to improve power supply in the country. "The government has succeeded in forcing the minds of Nigerians to accept a situation in which they have to rely on power generators for electricity. This has a lot of implications on the quality of people's life", he said.

The University Don, who stressed that 'no nation can claim to be modernizing or reforming without radically addressing its power sector', also said that the Nigerian economy is not moving as a result of poor electric power supply. "The economy is not moving. If there is any indication that the economy is growing, it is growing on power generators and a lot of social crises", he lamented.

Dr Gambo observed that the government has concentrated power supply on the cities of Lagos and Abuja, and was oblivious of the 'economic boom' in the northern part of the country, which needs regular and better power supply to endure.

"There is no justifiable defence as to why government should not develop resources that are available in all parts of the country, particularly the Mambila Electric Power Project, which has been on the drawing board since the 1970's... There is substantial evidence to show that the northern part of the country is suffering more than other parts of the country, because government has taken much of the electricity to Lagos and Abuja, despite the economic boom in the north, especially the rising volume of trade that takes place between Borno and the Republics of Chad, Niger and Cameroon", Dr Gambo said.

Dr Gambo therefore called for a radical reform of the power sector, advocating for the involvement of private and even foreign firms to revitalize the sector. "The government has reformed the telecoms sector by involving private and foreign



Tope, in his computer repair shop. "It is noisy to have to depend on generators indefinitely, and it is costly for our clients and us"



Power generators like this one have filled Maiduguri, as people cover them with metal burglar proofs to prevent theft

firms. There is no reason why it cannot allow private foreign participation in the power sector, if this is what it will take to reform the sector", he said.

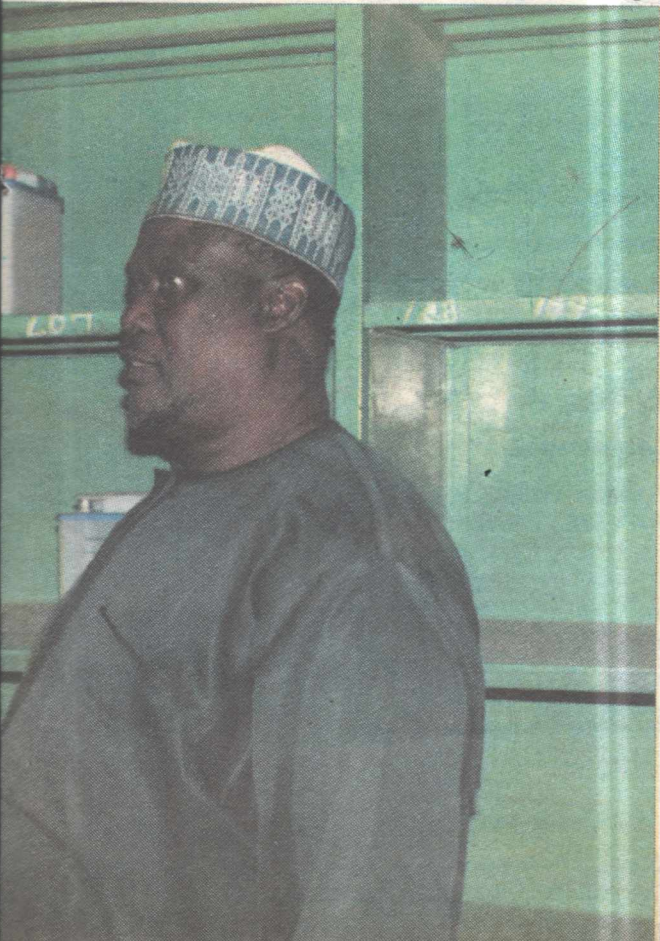
Now, as Nigerians wait to see if magic would happen as far as improving power supply is concerned, it is 'bumper harvest' for generator dealers in Maiduguri, many of whom, *Daily Trust* learnt, sell several units of power generating sets every day, because people have moved over to them, literally.

Ironically, even this story has to be written on a computer powered by a Yamaha Power Generator, since there was no power supply from PHCN.

The question that people ask now is whether it is possible to achieve the 10 percent

economic growth that the Obasanjo administration has projected, given the epileptic and near comatose state of the power sector, and its negative impact on small, and indeed business enterprises.

**In a chat with *Daily Trust* in Maiduguri, Dr Gambo observed that the Obasanjo administration has failed to keep promises it has made to improve power supply in the country. "The government has succeeded in forcing the minds of Nigerians to accept a situation in which they have to rely on power generators for electricity. This has a lot of implications on the quality of people's life", he said. The University Don, who stressed that 'no nation can claim to be modernizing or reforming without radically addressing its power sector', also said that the Nigerian economy is not moving as a result of poor electric power supply. "The economy is not moving. If there is any indication that the economy is growing, it is growing on power generators and a lot of social crises", he lamented**



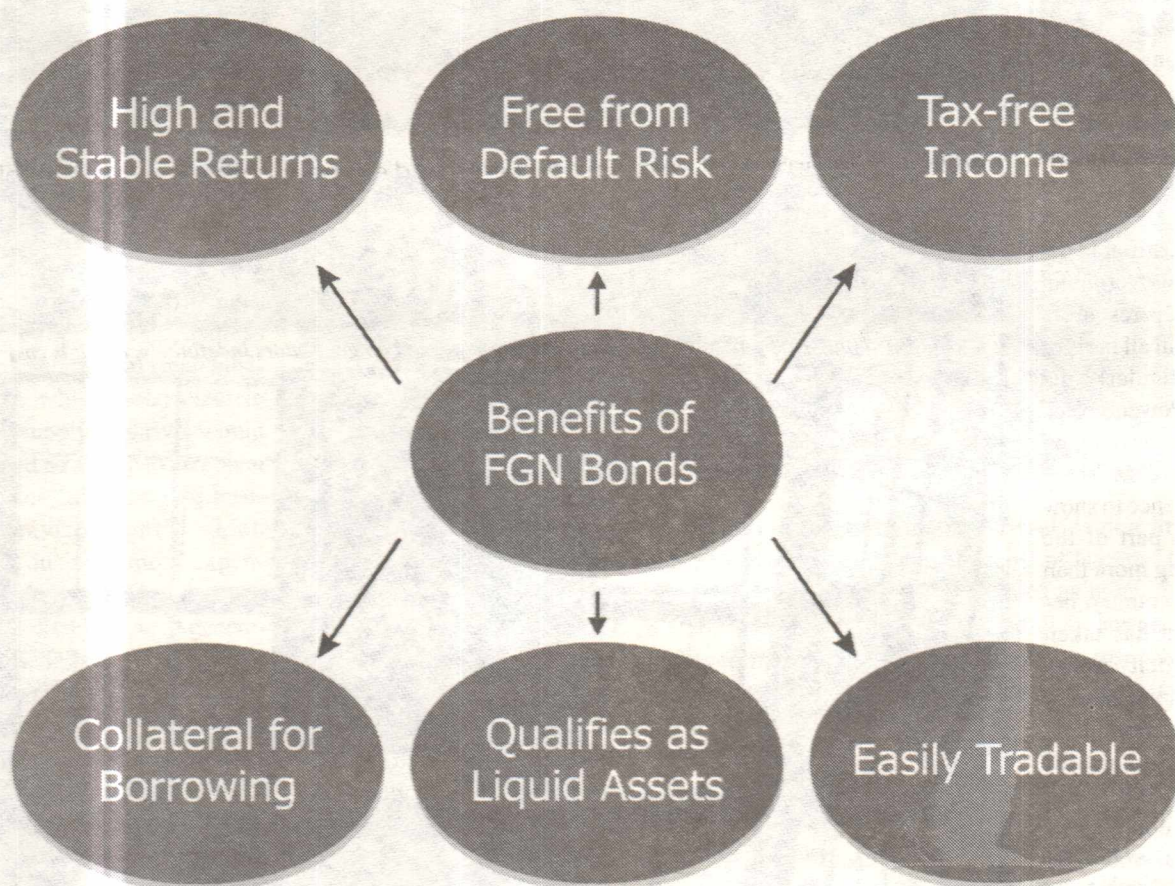


## DEBT MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ABUJA

### Attractive and Reliable Investment Opportunities

The Debt Management Office invites individuals as well as organizations to take advantage of the opportunity for long-term investment in Federal Government Bonds, which will be available in maturities of 3, 5 and 7 years in 2006.

#### Benefits of Investing in FGN Bonds



Issuance Calendar for Investing in FGN Bonds – First Half of 2006\*

Month	Tranches	Opening	Closing
January 2006	N25,000,000,000 3rd FGN Bond 2009 Series 1 (3-Year Tenor)	23rd January 2006	25th January 2006
February 2006	N10,000,000,000 3rd FGN Bond 2009 Series 2 (3-Year Tenor) N20,000,000,000 3rd FGN Bond 2011 Series 3 (5-Year Tenor)	20th February 2006	22nd February 2006
March 2006	N10,000,000,000 3rd FGN Bond 2009 Series 4 (3-Year Tenor) N20,000,000,000 3rd FGN Bond 2011 Series 5 (5-Year Tenor)	27th March 2006	29th March 2006
April 2006	N10,000,000,000 3rd FGN Bond 2009 Series 6 (3-Year Tenor) N20,000,000,000 3rd FGN Bond 2011 Series 7 (5-Year Tenor)	24th April 2006	26th April 2006
May 2006	N20,000,000,000 3rd FGN Bond 2011 Series 8 (5-year tenor)	22nd May 2006	24th May 2006
June 2006	N20,000,000,000 3rd FGN Bond 2013 Series 9 (7-year tenor)	26th June 2006	28th June 2006

\* The issuance will continue during the second half of the year; the issuance programme for the second half of the year will be published in due course.

**Where to Collect Application Forms:**

- ❖ CBN Branches
- ❖ Banks
- ❖ Discount Houses
- ❖ Stockbrokers

**Where to Submit Application Forms:**

- ❖ CBN Branches
- ❖ Banks
- ❖ Discount Houses
- ❖ Stockbrokers

**FOR FURTHER ENQUIRIES CONTACT:**

**DIRECTOR, PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT  
DEBT MANAGEMENT OFFICE  
1 ST FLOOR, NDIC BUILDING, CONSTITUTION AVENUE  
CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT, ABUJA  
TEL/FAX: 234-9-5237403**



## FEDERAL INLAND REVENUE SERVICE

# Invitation for Expression of Interest

The Federal Government of Nigeria is reforming the public sector within the economic development framework articulated in the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) policy document. This has the long-term goals of poverty reduction, wealth creation, employment generation and value re-orientation.

The Federal Government of Nigeria has obtained an International Development Association (IDA) credit for its Economic Reform and Governance Project (ERGP), in which the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS), among other Ministries Departments and Agencies (MDAs), is involved. FIRS is the operational arm of the Federal Board of Inland Revenue (FBIR), a statutory organisation established under the Companies Income Tax Act of 1961, as consolidated in 1979 and amended by Act No.3 of 1993. The headquarters/ mailing address of the FIRS is at Revenue House, Plot 522 Sokode Crescent, Wuse Zone 5, P.M.B 33, Garki Abuja. Her mission is to operate a transparent and efficient tax system that optimizes revenue collection and voluntary compliance.

FIRS will draw on the IDA credit for the purpose of engaging qualified and experienced persons in the following roles:

### BUSINESS ANALYST ADVISOR

#### Objectives

The Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) seeks to retain persons to assist with developing and implementing a new integrated taxation administration system (ITAS). This individual working with Nigerian counterparts will work within the framework of the modernization project overseen by the FIRS Modernization Steering Committee.

#### Scope and Timing of Required Services

Activities begin just prior to the implementation of ITAS and will be completed within 12 months. It is envisaged that this Advisor might possibly be contracted to assist with further implementation phase of ITAS for a further 6 months.

FIRS management seeks to develop an integrated tax administration system that is consistent with international standards but also meets the specific needs of the Nigerian tax system and supports the evolution and business needs of the FIRS. It is anticipated that FIRS will begin software identification and selection of a provider as soon as practical and obtain computer hardware as required (beginning in 2006). Thus, Advisors will engage in the following activities, working with the Modernization Steering Committee and Nigerian counterparts to:

- develop processing procedures and manuals, including payment procedures for the banking interface developed by Project FACT;
- develop appropriate internal forms for all taxes;
- design generic tax return / payment forms for all taxes;
- map workflows and procedures, and design the transactions to support registration, payment and assessment in ITAS;
- assist the information technology advisor in the analysis

and design of system support needs to be provided through ITAS;

- support the implementation of ITAS; and
- provide capacity building and training to staff on new procedures and systems.

#### Specific Output Expected from Advisor

At the end of the 12 months it is expected that that the following will exist or have occurred:

- processing procedures and forms, internal and external, will exist for all taxes migrated to ITAS;
- manual for procedures for all business processes integrated into ITAS;
- training package and training delivered for processing people operating ITAS; and
- two counterparts trained to take over responsibilities.

#### Advisor Qualifications and Experience

- At least 10 years operations experience within a revenue administration.
- Proven experience in the design of forms, methods and procedures to support revenue administration.
- Experience in the specification of system requirements to support revenue administration.
- Strong analytical and problem solving capacity.
- Excellent communication skills proven in a cross-cultural context.
- Ability to deliver capacity building and training programs to local staff of a developing country revenue administration
- Knowledge of commercially available integrated taxation administration software systems is desirable.

### BUSINESS PROCESS RE-ENGINEERING ADVISOR

#### Objectives

The Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) seeks to retain an advisor to assist with developing and implementing a new integrated taxation administration system (ITAS). These individuals working with Nigerian counterparts will work within the framework of the modernization project overseen by the FIRS Modernization Steering Committee.

#### Scope and Timing of Required Services

Activities begin just as soon as contract signed and will be completed within 6 months.

FIRS management seeks to develop an integrated tax administration system that is consistent with international standards but also meets the specific needs of the Nigerian tax system and supports the evolution and business needs of the FIRS. It is anticipated that FIRS will begin software identification and selection of a provider as soon as practical and obtain computer hardware as required (beginning in 2006). Thus, these individuals will engage in the following activities, working

with the Business Analyst, IT Specialist/Advisor and Nigerian counterparts to:

- work with relevant project teams with business process reengineering
- map workflows and procedures, and design the transactions to support registration, payment and assessment in ITAS;
- assist the Business Analyst and IT advisor in the analysis and design of system support needs to be provided through ITAS;
- assist in the development of processing procedures and manuals;
- support the implementation of ITAS; and
- provide capacity building and training to staff on new procedures and systems.

#### Specific Output Expected from Advisor

At the end of the 6 months it is expected that that the following will exist or have occurred:

– CONTINUE ON NEXT PAGE



## Invitation for Expression of Interest

### **BUSINESS PROCESS RE-ENGINEERING ADVISOR contd.**

- core business processes for ITAS mapped and subject to reengineering exercise;
  - training delivered to processing people operating ITAS;
  - manual for procedures for all business processes integrated into ITAS; and
  - two counterparts trained to take over business process reengineering work.
- Proven experience in mapping work processes and in reengineering business processes in a tax administration.
- Proven experience in the design of forms, methods and procedures to support revenue administration.
- Experience in the specification of system requirements to support revenue administration.
- Strong analytical and problem solving capacity.
- Ability to deliver capacity building and training programs to staff.

#### **Advisor Qualifications and Experience**

- African national.

### **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SPECIALLIST**

#### **Objectives**

The Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) seeks to retain an advisor to assist with developing and implementing a new integrated taxation administration system (ITAS). This individual working with Nigerian counterparts will work within the framework of the modernization project overseen by the FIRS Modernization Steering Committee.

#### **Scope and Timing of Required Services**

Activities begin as soon as contract is signed and will be completed within 12 months. It is envisaged that this Advisor might possibly be contracted to assist with the implementation phase of ITAS for a further 6 months.

FIRS management seeks to develop an integrated tax administration system that is consistent with international standards but also meets the specific needs of the Nigerian tax system and supports the evolution and business needs of the FIRS. It is anticipated that FIRS will begin software identification and selection of a provider as soon as practical and obtain computer hardware as required (beginning in 2006). Thus, the IT Specialist/Advisor will engage in the following activities:

- Work with the Modernization Steering Committee and business process reengineering teams to develop the specifications for ITAS,
- Identify potential providers of ITAS and complete a Request for Information (RFI),
- Evaluate the responses to the RFI and recommend the company to whom a Request for Proposal (RFP) be sent,
- Evaluate the existing level of computerization of any tax function and software employed,
- Establish, if necessary, an interim system for the proposed taxpayer identification number (TIN)

system,

- Propose communications protocols that are consistent with the decentralized structure of FIRS,
- Propose network systems that are flexible and that can evolve both with respect to changes in technology and in the development of the tax administration, and
- Make proposals for ensuring data integrity and security.

#### **Specific Output Expected from IT Specialist/Advisor**

Outputs should include a series of reports, proposals and preparation of material in relation to software providers. Reports and materials include:

- Specifications for ITAS
- Preparation of Request for Information (RFI)
- Identification and recommendation of ITAS provider
- Preparation of Request for Proposal (RFP)
- Implementation plan for ITAS (including training)
- Analysis of existing hardware and software and a needs analysis for initial actions
- Proposed security systems
- Proposed communications and data transfer systems (including secure communications with other institutions such as the banking sector), and
- Proposed hardware configurations.

#### **Specialist/Advisor Qualifications and Experience**

- A minimum of fifteen (15) years experience developing and managing information systems in a tax administration environment, at least five (5) of which is at the management level and experienced with process change.
- Three (3) years experience working in the IT area of tax assistance programs in emerging economies (with a preference for experience in Africa).
- Experience in the development of an Integrated Taxation Administration System for a taxation administration in an emerging economy.

### **HUMAN RESOURCES ADVISERS**

#### **Objectives**

The Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) seeks to retain one person to work with FIRS counterparts and a DFID funded project to develop or conduct:

- The HR capacity of FIRS
- the staffing profile for offices including the appropriate levels for officers
- generic competencies for each level and additional specific competencies for specific technical positions
- training of FIRS Human Resource people.

Individuals will work within the of the modernization project overseen by the FIRS Modernization Steering Committee.

#### **Scope and Timing of Required Services**

Activities will begin as soon as contract is signed and

should be completed within a six month period.

Working with counterparts, the Advisor will perform a number of tasks, including:

- Develop detailed organizational structures and manning levels as required for a manpower plan to support the modernization plan
- Develop generic competency models and additional specific competencies for specific technical positions
- Develop a staff selection process to select staff for the new FIRS
- Train individuals, likely senior managers, in selection based methodologies
- Mentor selection panels on process
- Staff counseling process for unsuccessful applicants

– CONTINUE ON NEXT PAGE



# Invitation for Expression of Interest

## HUMAN RESOURCES ADVISERS Contd.

- Develop the capacity of Human Resource people in FIRS
- Advise on the modification of rules/regulations for personnel practice and management.

Working with a counterpart and DFID Advisor, the Advisor will have input to the following:

- The desired staffing profile for each function, the levels of staff and numbers of staff required
- Examine the desirability of a flatter structure but with incremental levels of remuneration for a number of years depending upon performance
- Recommend a performance evaluation process for assessing staff suitable for incremental advancement within each level.

**Specific Output Expected from Advisor**

- A trained counterpart

- Generic competency models and specific competencies for technical positions
- Selection process for staff selection to the new FIRS
- Staff counseling process for unsuccessful applicants
- Training package for staff selections including delivery
- Modified rules/regulations for personnel practice and management in FIRS

**Advisor Qualifications and Experience**

- Minimum of fifteen (15) years experience in a human resource environment, at least five (5) of which is at the management level.
- Proven experience in developing competencies and staff selections or in organizational models and work values.
- Three (3) years experience working with assistance programs in emerging economies (with a preference for experience in Africa) or a Nigerian citizen.

## TAXPAYERS' SERVICE ADVISOR

**Objectives**

The Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) seeks to retain a person to assist with developing and implementing comprehensive strategies and procedures for taxpayers' education and public enlightenment at all operational levels. This individual working with Nigerian counterparts will work within the framework of the modernization project overseen by the FIRS Modernization Steering Committee.

Management's objective is to establish a culture of taxpayer service which would include establishing training programs in taxpayer service delivery.

**Scope and Timing of Required Services**

Assignment will begin as soon as contract is finalized. The initial phase will last no longer than one year. The Advisor may be retained for an additional (further implementation) phase upon successful completion of assignment.

Advisor will perform a number of tasks, including:

- Identify the present culture in FIRS and the developing a program of cultural change for the reorganized FIRS
- Identify the communication channels available to FIRS and develop methodologies for taxpayer service delivery
- Advise FIRS management on the structure required for taxpayer service delivery in the operational offices, including the desirability of establishing key client account managers in the Large Taxpayer Unit
- If agreed with FIRS management, establish an

operational framework for key client account managers together with an operations manual

- Advise on the balance between service and enforcement in developing compliance strategies
- Due regard should be given for internal procedures (management and monitoring) and for taxpayer rights.
- Building capacity of the Headquarters function of Taxpayer Service and Education.

**Specific Output Expected from Consultant**

Working with FIRS counterparts, outputs will include:

- A suite of communication products and a strategy document for implementation
- Recommendations on how to address cultural change in FIRS to emphasize a focus on service
- Paper advising FIRS on a workable structure for manning taxpayer service and education function at the operational level
- Paper providing advice and recommendations on the desirability, or otherwise, of introducing key account managers for the largest taxpayers in the Large Taxpayer Department

**Consultant Qualifications and Experience**

- Minimum fifteen (15) years, at least five (5) of which is at the management level.
- Proven experience with taxpayer service in developing and implementing taxpayer service programs at the national level, as well as operational knowledge of the role of key account managers in a tax administration
- Three (3) years experience working with tax assistance programs in emerging economies (with a preference for experience in Africa).

## TRAINING ADVISORS

**Objective**

The Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) seeks to retain up to four persons to assist in building the in-house training capacity of FIRS. Management's objective is to develop and implement training programs that will drive the modernization program and enhance the professional qualifications of staff as well as to provide for professional advancement.

**Scope and Timing of Required Services**

Activities will begin as soon as contract is signed and should be completed within a one year period renewable on an annual basis for no more than three years.

Advisors will perform a number of tasks, including:

- Developing the in-house training capacity of FIRS
- Evaluate existing staff training levels, materials and facilities.
- Develop criteria for determining training needs relative to the reorganized FIRS (including cultural change aspects relative to

developing a service ethic) and based on the new competencies developed,

- Work with FIRS staff and other Advisors to determine training needs relative to various functions (taxpayer service, audit and collection for instance), and management and training relative to personnel criteria for professional advancement within the FIRS. This should include change management requirements and treatment strategies
- Determine staffing, required materials and other resources necessary to develop a viable training function within FIRS,
- Survey local resources (colleges and technical institutes) for courses and other expertise that might be used by FIRS for certain types of training (accounting, auditing, general management, public relations for instance),
- Develop a plan for initial training including a program for training the trainers.

- CONTINUE ON NEXT PAGE



# Invitation for Expression of Interest

## TRAINING ADVISORS contd

- Organize change management workshops for all staff and where practicable preparation of staff approaching selections for the new organization
- Commence delivery of train the trainer programs for amongst others change management, basic computer skills etc

### Specific Output Expected from Advisor

- A complete needs analysis, including proposals for initial training and capacity building efforts,
- One seminar on the organization and development of training for professional advancement in a tax administration,
- References and materials that can be used to develop a training library and training materials (including options for non-resident non-classroom computerized training [including classrooms without walls training via the internet]),
- A representative set of training projects for specific skills and management, and

- A proposal for developing a "train the trainers" program,
- Counterparts trained to take over responsibilities of in-house training.

### Advisor Qualifications and Experience

- Minimum fifteen (15) years experience in a training environment, at least five (5) of which is at the management level preferably in an area related to tax banks, management consulting, accounting and audit
- Skills to develop and deliver
  - Change management
  - Basic computer literacy skills, including Word and Excel
  - Strong analytical and problem solving capacity
- Proven facilitation skills dealing with major change in a large and complex organization preferably change projects involving IT projects
- Ability to deliver capacity building and training programs to staff.

## PROJECT MANAGEMENT TRAINERS & FACILITATORS

### Objectives

The Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) seeks to retain two qualified persons to assist with the management of all phases of organizational and management reform of the FIRS. These individuals working with the Resident Advisor/Team Leader and with Nigerian counterparts will assist with planning and implementing administrative reforms, including developing a management plan, and assisting with the coordination of the work program with a team consisting of FIRS staff, local experts and expatriate experts. Management's desire is to develop project management capabilities within FIRS.

### Scope and Timing of Required Services

The experts should be available immediately upon the completion of contract negotiations. Contract term is for 6 months with residence Abuja

Advisors will be required to become integrated into the existing institutional reform group, train and facilitate the business process reengineering project teams and other reform project teams, train members of the Project Office in project management and facilitation, assist in prioritizing the timing of projects, develop an individual work program in the experts' specialized area.

It is contemplated that FIRS will soon evolve into a semi-autonomous organization with own source financing and self management capabilities. The experts will play an integral role in assisting with the transition to this new structure

### Specific Output Expected from Advisor

- At the end of the six month period it is expected that:
- roles of the Modernization Steering Committee, Project Office and Project Teams will be clearly understood by all;
  - project methodologies will be clearly understood and used by the above;
  - project training and facilitation skills will be transferred to Project Office members;
  - project teams will have delivered the outputs described in the respective project plans for the period.

### Advisor Qualifications and Experience

- Nigerian citizenship or another African country
- Tertiary level or post graduate qualifications in training/facilitation
- Proven project management and project facilitation skills dealing with major change in a large and complex organization (preferably change projects involving IT aspects)

## LARGE TAX COMPLIANCE ADVISORS

### Objectives

The Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) seeks to retain four persons to develop capacity in the Large Tax Offices, Audit and Investigation Departments as it pertains to improving tax compliance amongst Large Tax Payers. These individuals working with Nigerian counterparts will work within the framework of the modernization project overseen by the FIRS Modernization Steering Committee.

### Scope and Timing of Required Services

Assignment will begin as soon as contract is finalized. The initial phase will last no longer than four months. Advisors may be retained for an additional (further implementation) phase upon successful completion of assignment. (The requirements for the generalist are the same as for industry specialists but exclude requirements relating specifically to one industry)

### Working with counterparts:

- Design compliance programs based on risk principles for a specific industry and develop different products to be used e.g. company profiling, client risk reviews, specific issue audits, strategic document review, record retention review, transfer pricing, rulings and industry watching briefs as opposed to comprehensive audits
- Taxes to be covered by the compliance procedures include: Companies Income Tax, Value Added Tax, Education Tax, Withholding Tax, Personal Income Tax [to the extent relevant] and various taxpayers paid by non-residents, including those taxes withheld at source.
- Industries include: Oil and Gas (both upstream and downstream including oil services), banking and finance, general manufacturing, telecommunications and mining

(other than oil and gas)

- Design modalities for relationship management of clients
- Develop training needs and provide training to staff within the Large Tax, Audit and Investigation Departments
- A new audit manual has been drafted (January 2005) and an Investigation manual is being developed. The Advisor will work with FIRS counterparts to advise on any changes required for a specific industry (or industries) related to the individuals' area of expertise.

### Specific Output Expected from Advisors

Working with FIRS counterparts, outputs will include:

- Industry specific risk selection criteria and a suite of products for addressing industry risks
- Related training programs for the compliance products developed
- Report on the desirability of instituting a key client account manager program and the framework for implementation
- An updated audit and investigation manual, including procedures for the particular industry and in the context of a computer systems environment

### Advisor Qualifications and Experience

- Minimum fifteen (15) years compliance experience with a tax agency, including at least five (5) of which is at the management level and eight (8) years dealing with large taxpayers.
- Three (3) years experience working with tax assistance programs in emerging economies (with a preference for experience in Africa).



# Invitation for Expression of Interest

## RESIDENT ADVISOR/TEAM LEADER

### Objectives

The Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) seeks to retain a qualified person to assist with all phases of organizational and management reform of the FIRS. This individual working with Nigerian counterparts and the IMF Fiscal Advisor will assist with planning and implementing organizational and administrative reforms, including advising on the implementation of a modernization plan, developing a management plan, building capacity in FIRS, assisting with the coordination of the reform work program with the FIRS Modernization Steering Committee, and assisting with coordination of financial assistance from international donors.

### Scope and Timing of Required Services

The resident should be available immediately upon the completion of contract negotiations.

The term is one year residence in Abuja, Nigeria --- (renewable for up to three years)

Work will be divided into the following categories:

**Orientation and Planning:** Become integrated into the existing institutional reform group and work as counterpart to the Modernization Director, to advise the business process reengineering project teams and other reform project teams (including the taxpayer identification project), assist in prioritizing the timing of projects, review existing institutional changes in the context of the new FIRS organizational structure, comment on work programs, assist with development of management systems, assist with coordination of other advisory activities, assist with developing a project library/reporting system, develop an individual work program in the Advisor's specialized area and assist with planning implementation of the longer reform program.

**New Organizational Management:** It is contemplated that FIRS will soon evolve into a semi-autonomous organization with own source financing and self management capabilities. The resident will play an integral role in assisting with the transition to this new structure, including: planning for change, designing and implementing new personnel policies, providing immediate response to implementation issues as they arise, developing infrastructures for training and coordinating the activities of other World Bank funded Advisors.

**Continuing Implementation:** Advisor will assist implementation of on-going institutional change, including: advising on reform project management issues, assist in developing budgets for projects, incorporating completed modernization projects into 'business as usual', developing revisions to work programs, providing input into terms of reference for additional local and expatriate Advisors, monitoring implementation and developing special projects in the Advisor's area of expertise.

### Specific Output Expected from Advisor

The Resident Advisor/Team Leader is required to ensure delivery of

the following:

- Expert advice on appropriate implementation strategies.
- A single integrated project plan that comprehensively covers:
  - a) all components of the revenue administration reform project, and highlights inter-dependencies and priorities;
  - b) clearly defines key sub-components, including their scope, objectives, deliverables, schedules, milestones, deadlines, risks and budgets; and
  - c) provides a user-friendly overview that is suitable for communication with all key stakeholders, including the modernization steering committee, FIRS senior management as well as external stakeholders.
- Successful implementation of proven methodologies and tools for:
  - a) resource estimating and budgeting;
  - b) monitoring and reporting on progress against the integrated project plan; and
- assessing and responding to project risks, including the preparation of contingency plans.
- Expert advice on appropriate project structures - including formation of project teams, task forces and steering committees.
- Successful implementation of processes and procedures for resolving issues and getting critical decisions made quickly.
- Successful training and coaching of senior managers, steering committees and project team leaders in how to perform their project-related roles.
- Successful implementation of a training program for project team members that are involved in project planning, monitoring and reporting.
- A user-friendly project management handbook and procedures for maintaining it.

### Advisor Qualifications and Experience

- Minimum fifteen (15) years tax administration management experience, preferably with experience in managing organizational change
- Minimum three (3) years experience working with tax administrations in emerging economies (with preference given to Africa)
- Thorough working knowledge of the operations of a modern revenue administration
- Proven record of successfully managing a large and complex modernization project
- Minimum five (5) years experience in one of the following specialized tax areas:
  - Auditing
  - Collection
  - Tax information systems

## PLEASE NOTE

### Specific Inputs to be provided by the Client

- a) Office space.
- b) Secretarial and administrative support
- c) Communication services, including telephone and internet facilities

Candidates will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers (current edition).

Expression of interest is required to be delivered in hard and/or soft copy not later than three weeks from the date of this advert to the address below, with the envelope marked "Subject: EXPRESSION OF INTEREST AS (NAME OF POSITION)".

Late submission will not be entertained.

**Director Modernisation  
Federal Inland Revenue Service  
Plot 522, Sokode Crescent  
Wuse Zone 5, Abuja  
Nigeria.**

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Email: [gochuke@yahoo.com](mailto:gochuke@yahoo.com)



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# Impeachment will spread to other states - Gambo Magaji

By Emmanuel Bello, Political Editor

Oyo State will not be the only state in the federation to have its governor suffer the fate of impeachment. This observation was made by the All Nigerian Peoples Party, Board of Trustees secretary, Alhaji Gambo Magaji who told *Daily Trust* that the ouster of

the former governor of Oyo State, Senator Rasheed Ladoja is a condemnable act. "I, Gambo Magaji condemn it in totality the undemocratic action taken by the faction of Adedibu and his ilk. The impeachment is not good for democracy and this country.

It is a bad omen, and unless it is checked and stopped, such things will spread into other states and if care is not taken we would move into anarchy."

Although, he said, his was a personal opinion, the ANPP's chieftain said, that the Oyo crisis has the poten-

tial of short-changing democracy in Nigeria, saying that impeachment of Ladoja should be reversed "If this impeachment is sustained we should all pack our bags and baggage and leave because democracy is gone and we will not get it again."

Describing it as illegal, Alhaji Magaji said, that the

nation's constitution was unequivocal on the issue of impeachment which provides that a two-third majority was required for the purpose of proper procedures. According to him, the 18 members of the Oyo State House of Assembly do not constitute a two-third majority.

On the allegation of Governor Saminu Turaki's defection to the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Alhaji Magaji called for investigation into the matter by the National Secretariat. "It is left for the National Secretariat to investigate and confirm the truthfulness or otherwise of the allegation, because this is coming from Jigawa itself. I saw it today but I believe you guys saw it before today (18th January, 2006) since you published it in your paper."

The Jigawa State branch of the ANPP had, in a paid advert, published in yesterday's edition of *Daily Trust*, distanced itself from the upcoming NEC meeting of the party to be hosted by the state's governor.

According to the statement signed by Barrister Sani Hussaini Gamn Gabbas, state secretary to the ANPP. "The All Nigerian Peoples Party, Jigawa State chapter wishes to dissociate itself from the National Chairman's decision and strongly opposed any plan or arrangement to host the said NEC meeting by the Jigawa State governor, His Excellency, Alhaji Ibrahim Saminu Turaki, for the following reason.

a) His Excellency Alhaji Ibrahim Saminu Turaki, regis-

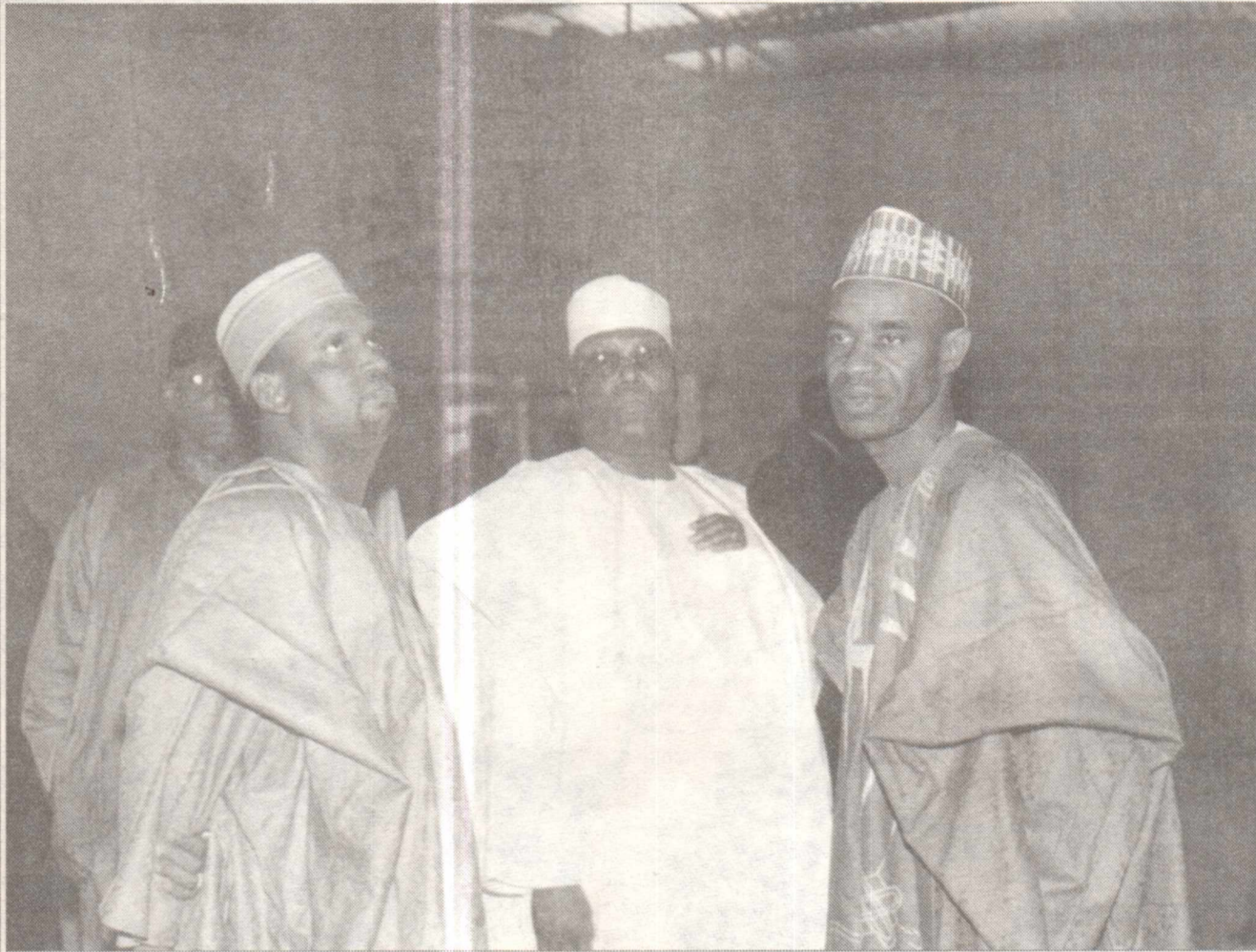
tered with the PDP with card no. 148, at Anguwar Gabas ward, Kazaure, Jigawa State in the just concluded re-registration exercise of the PDP.

b) The governor also directed all members of his cabinet, Special Advisers, Special Assistants, Members of the State House of Assembly and Members of the National Assembly to defect from the ANPP to the PDP.

c) Following the above, the governor sought to have control of the leadership of the PDP in Jigawa State by attempting to make some of his commissioners state party executives, but when he lost out to a more stronger faction of the PDP, he is now struggling to make a detour to the ANPP through the National chairman.

The statement continued that the governor has been suspended from the state's chapter of the party with appropriate disciplinary action to be taken by a six-man committee.

But Alhaji Magaji said, the matter is still largely at the level of allegation. "As far as I'm concerned, what I have seen here is an allegation by the Executive of the party in Jigawa and I believe the best thing the National Secretariat should do is to immediately constitute, either secretly or openly, a committee to find out the truthfulness or otherwise of these allegations. Based on the fact the committee will come out with, then one can say whether the man is still in the ANPP or not," he said.



Vice President Atiku Abubakar (Centre) in company of governor Boni Haruna and his deputy Alhaji Bello Tukur inspecting the newly constructed Banquet Hall at the Government House, Yola.

# Okonjo-Iweala tasks Laura Bush on Nigerian image abroad

Elkanah Chawai, Foreign Desk Reporter

The Minister of Finance, Dr Ngozi Okonjo Iweala, yesterday tasked visiting United States First Lady Laura Bush to help change the image of Nigeria from less developed countries that always ask for assistance, saying Nigeria is strong to handle its problems.

During an interactive roundtable session comprising Nigerian women leaders and the Laura Bush, Dr Okonjo-Iweala said Nigeria has surpassed the persisting image of poor countries begging for assistance, adding that Nigerians are taking a hold of their lives and urged support for Nigeria.

Dr Okonjo Iweala, while explaining her leadership role in government as the head of the Nigerian Economic team in a roundtable meeting on Nigerian Women Leaders and their Contribution to Nigerian Development, added that Nigeria has made tremendous change during the current regime with reform programmes aimed at turning the economy around and fighting corruption.

She said that Nigeria has overcome obstacles in fighting corruption and added that the government is managing finances effectively to channel resources to the provision of basic amenities.

In response to the Finance Minister, Laura Bush said that the image of African people abroad is not the image of people asking for assistance but of people needing assistance. She said that the US is working with established institutions and government initiatives to bring aid to Africans while stressing African governments' efforts in solving their problems.

Laura Bush's visit to Nigeria specifically focused on the

US-Africa partnership to embrace education, both academic education and health education especially empowering girls and women through literacy and HIV/AIDS treatment.

In the interactive session moderated by the Chairperson

of the House of Representative Committee on Women Affairs, Hon Saudatu Sani and attended by the Minister of Women Affairs, Hajia Mariam Ciroma, Laura Bush stressed the need to address access to global funds for the fight against HIV/AIDS.

In her speech on the occa-

sion of her visit to the Centre of Women Development, she said that it is increasingly common for African women to be leaders in their government, citing the ascension of Ellen-Johnson Sirleaf to Liberia's presidency as evidence: "President Sirleaf is an example for young women around

the world of a woman who has risen to the top of her society through hard work, faith in democracy, and belief in the power of education."

She said that the way to ensure the development of the next generation of women leaders in Africa is education: "Educated children grow up to be adults who have more opportunities to work, to support their families, and to fully participate in the life of their communities."

"Education is our greatest ally. Educated girls and boys are more likely to know what HIV is and how to avoid infection. Girls who are educated have more economic and social resources to rely on, and therefore have more power to negotiate their own sexual lives," she said.

She revealed that President Bush's African Education Initiative will make available 600 million dollars to provide books, scholarships, school uniforms, and teacher training to enhance children access to education.

She also revealed that about 29, 000 people in Nigeria have

benefited from US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief which has also supported treatment for more than 400, 000 men, women and children in 15 focus countries.

"In 2004, the United States provided Nigeria with almost 71 million dollars through President Bush's Emergency Plan to help people prevent, treat, and manage the affects of HIV/AIDS. In 2005, we provided more than 110 million dollars. I'm pleased to announce that in 2006, the United States is providing more than 163 million dollars to overcome HIV/AIDS in Nigeria," she said.

Laura Bush, during her tour in Nigeria, visited Saint Mary Hospital in Gwagwalada to meet HIV/AIDS victims and Model Secondary School in Abuja to see girls who have benefited from the Ambassador Girls' Sponsorship Program run by the US state Department through the US embassy in Nigeria.

Laura Bush and her daughter, Barbara left Nigeria yesterday.

# NASS restricts visitors

• Its not a village square - Sgt at arms

By Habeeb I. Pindiga, Assistant Political Editor

Visitors wanting to meet lawmakers or officials at the National Assembly would now be subjected to stringent conditions before gaining entry to the legislative premises.

The Office of the Sergeant at Arms has introduced new guidelines that bar visitors' from the assembly complex on Wednesdays and placed time schedules for visits on other days. Also, visitors would only be allowed in if they were on appointments to "lawmakers or top management staff."

Based on the new restrictions, visitors could gain access into the legislature on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays between the hours of 2pm and 5pm.

On Wednesdays and weekends, no non-staff or other accredited persons would go into the assembly.

Signposts bearing this information have been placed at different locations, particularly at the first and second gates as well as at the front and back entrances,

to the main complex.

The new measures, according to the Sergeant-at-arms of the National Assembly, Col. Emeka Okere (rtd), were to enhance security and give the lawmakers ample opportunity to work.

He said the legislative complex were not a village square where people can troop in at will and that senators and members of the House of Representatives had been complaining of harassment by unauthorized visitors, a development that prompted his office to action.

"In line with parliamentary security the all over the world, what I saw in Ghana, South Africa, Kenya, we realised that our security is below the normal, in view of certain lapses that we have noticed, where people come with different motives. Therefore we have to do something. People feel that yes, money flows here, and so even bad people come in. And if we allow

this, the entire legislature is at risk. If you destroy this institution, it will affect all Nigerians.

"We are doing this to protect the lives of the lawmakers and the building, which is an edifice. It is not a village council hall. It's a pride of the nation. Besides all this, the lawmakers are complaining of harassment and embarrassment by people who come here with all sort of motives. So we did not take this action unilaterally or arbitrarily. We are taking orders from the management, the clerk and the leadership of the National Assembly in the interest of the lawmakers." He said.

Okere explained that the decision to bar visitors on Wednesdays was because the Senate sits between 10am and 2pm while the House convenes from 2pm. On Tuesdays and Thursdays both chambers sit at 10am while plenary sessions does not hold on Mondays and Fridays, thus the decision to allow accredited visitors from 2pm on these days, the official added.

# Senator Tsauri sick, flown to Germany

By Habeeb I. Pindiga, Assistant Political Editor

Senator Umaru Ibarahim Tsauri of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) from Katsina state has been flown to Germany after he fell sick last month.

Announcing this at the beginning of yesterday's session of the Senate, President of the upper chamber, Chief Ken Nnamani said the lawmaker was recuperating at a German hospital after an operation.

An official source close to the Tsauri told *Daily Trust* yesterday that the lawmaker fell

sick late last year leading to his hospitalisation at the National Hospital, Abuja.

Unconfirmed report says the senator has had a stroke.

Tsauri's troubles, according to a reliable source, may not be unconnected with strain he developed from gymnastics.

After a brief stay at the National Hospital, the lawmaker was taken to Abuja Clinics before being flown to Germany this month.

# NEWS

## What sparked Gombe crisis - Yarima

By Shehu Abubakar, Reporter

A frontline Gombe politician and former Nigeria's envoy to Malaysia, Ambassador Yarima Abdullahi has shed light to the Gombe crisis.

The Ambassador who specifically commented on the recent political crises in the state between Governor Danjuma Goje and the Minister of Inter Governmental Affairs, Youths and Special Duties, Col Musa Mohammed, who is also from the state says, there is need for peace between the two contending parties.

"Certainly, many of us can not be reduced to conductors; we would also like to contribute to the development of our state and the nation. But you know you can't do it if those in-charge are being rude or in-polite to you. I think that was the main cause of the disharmony. Whe-ther or not some people want to be governors, I don't know. Nobody told me so, though there is nothing wrong in that," he said.

Tracing the genesis of the averted clash in Nafada where armed thugs attempt to assault the Minister, Ambassador Abdullahi who claimed to be an eye witness, said the governor would have avoided the embarrassments caused on the guests if he had wanted.

"I was present when everything happened. It was at the wedding of my grand daughter. The wedding took place in the house of the senior district head of Nafada who happened to be an uncle to the girl. The boy marrying her was also our relation. The Minister happened to be a personal friend of the father of the girl. I think the governor was also their friend.

"The Minister arrived the venue about one hour before the governor. When the governor finally arrived, I saw the deputy chairman of the council whisper something to the Minister. But I was told later that he was asked to come and inform the Minister to move to another room. The Minister apparently refused. We were told that many people were asked to move out of the hall. Some of us were allowed to remain."

"In the process, I saw the Yan Kalares (armed thugs) trying to come into the hall but they were stopped by the security personnel attached to the Minister. There was certainly a very big uproar. We were sitting watching. I also saw some people who were certainly not officials but were part of the entourage of the governor shou-

ting and using very terrible abusive words against the Minister," he said.

Ambassador Yarima Abdullahi, said window glasses were removed, doors destroyed and the furniture in the hall were vandalized by thugs. He said, the canopies outside the hall were also broken and brought down on people while the Yan Kalares were allegedly seen with bottles of alcohol drinking and chanting war songs.

"Eventually, they could not be able to remove the Minister. But later, the Minister decided to change his sitting position and so the marriage took place. It was indeed a show of shame by a person who is supposed to be the leader of a people," the Ambassador said.

He observed that since after the PDP governorship primaries of 2003 in the state in which the Minister contested against the governor, the relationship between the two has not been cordial. "Since then, its not to my knowledge if any other

personal grudge is between the two leaders, but certainly they have not been seeing eye to eye. There has been disagreement with the governor and the way he handle matters."

The Ambassador, is very optimistic that the differences between the two could be resolved through dialogue.

Col. Musa Mohammed had recently alleged that the governor was threatening his life. A special police investigation team from the force criminal investigation department (FCID) set up by the Inspector General of police, Mr Sunday Gabriel Ehindero is currently investigating the cause of the feud in the state.

Meanwhile, last week the commissioner of information of Gombe state, Alhaji Umar Abubakar told *Daily Trust* that the governor is very concerned about the safety of lives and property of the Gombe people.

He however, dismissed claims made by Ambassador Yarima that the governor was silent about it, adding that it is a crisis between the minister and the Gombe people.

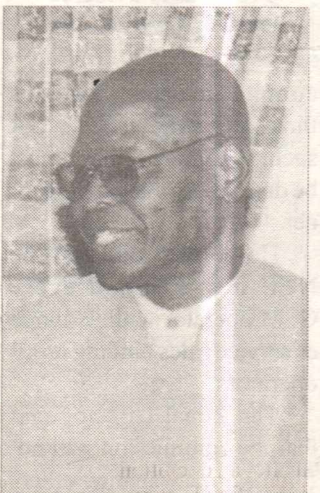
## NBC threatens to withdraw licences of DBN, Channels, others

By Abdullahi M. Gulloma, Reporter

The National Broadcasting Commission (NBC) yesterday threatened to withdraw the operational licences of ten private stations in the country if by they fail to pay their financial obligations to the commission.

The stations are DBN Television in Lagos and Abuja, Channels Television in Abuja, Galaxy Television in Ibadan and Lagos, Universal Broadcast Service (Super screen), Murhi International Limited (Star FM) in Lagos and Minaj Television in Obosi, Lagos, Port Harcourt and Abuja amounting to N750 million.

Others are Minaj Radio in Obosi, MG Communications



Chief Cortius Adebayo, Communications Minister

Limited in Kaduna, Radio Jeremi in Warri and Silverbird Radio (Rhythm FM) in Abuja and Port Harcourt.

Director General of NBC, Dr. Silas Babajiyi Yisa, who made this known to newsmen in Abuja, said that the decision to suspend the affected stations was in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs eight and nine of the third schedule of the NBC Act number 38 of 1992 as amended.

He said that the commission has already conveyed its decision to the affected stations, including the conditions under which they may be considered for resuming transmission.

He said that the affected stations would only resume transmission if they ensure full redemption of all their outstanding debts within three months without any rebate.

"Any person or organisation that does business with any of the stations whose licences have been suspended, during the period of suspension, does so at his or her own risk, as the commission will invoke the full weight of the law on such stations," he said.



His Royal Highness, the Emir of Lere, Alhaji Umaru Mohammed on horse back during the traditional Hawan Daushe to mark the Eid-el-Kabir sallah festival in Lere last Friday.

## Media outfit present gifts to handicapped children

By Nasir Imam, Abuja Property Editor

A media organisation, the Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN) yesterday donated food items and clothing to the FCT Centre for Handicapped Children, Kuje Kuje area council of the FCT.

Regional Director of CBN, Mr. Felix Oisamoje, who led a three-man delegation to present the gift item at the centre, said the CBN is a Christian media organisation saddled with the social responsibility of being concerned about people who can't make ends meet.

Mr. Oisamoje said that though government's activities in the area of provision of amenities for the less privileged is laudable, the private sector should assist government in the regard.

Also speaking at the occasion, Director Operations, CBN World Reach International, Mr. Kim

Mitchell, an American citizen, who said he first came to Nigeria in 1997, said his organisation is not only involved in producing Christian TV programmes like the 700 Club and Turning Point, said CBN is also into humanitarian services especially as it affects the less privileged.

Manager Operation, Blessing, the CBN's humanitarian arm, Rev. John Kalma, also at the occasion, said his organisation have produced several hand pump boreholes to several communities speed across the country, and also trained Nigerian women in the areas of soap making, yoghurt making and the production of petroleum jelly.

Items donated to the centre include rice, clothing materials, blankets, detergent etc.

Presenting the items on behalf of the centre, director of the social development secretariat, Ms Bolanle Onagoruwa, said the centre was established to cater for the needs of handicapped and disabled children in the FCT.

Ms Onagoruwa said the project was conceived in February 1994 by the late Mrs Julie Useni, wife of a former FCT minister, immediately after a party she hosted for about 150 disabled children in the FCT.

She said the centre, which presently has 41 children, was commissioned on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1999 by Justice Fati Lami Abubakar, the then first lady, and caters for education and volitional skills acquisition, and also serves as a consulting and an assessment centre for the handicapped and disabled children.

# KANO TRUST

## Aide challenges CFAO on employment

The Kano State commissioner of commerce, Alhaji Ahmed Yakasai has expressed concern on the growing spate of unemployment among youths in the state, even as he canvassed the participation of CFAO Nigeria Plc in solving the problem.

Alhaji Yakasai, who made the appeal when he received a pioneer CD motorcycle manufactured by CFAO Nigeria Plc, observed that by establishing assembly plant in the state the unemployment rate could be drastically minimized.

He noted that the crusade for elimination of unemployment among the teeming youth could only yield fruitful results through collective collaboration between government and private investors.

The commissioner explained that as a proactive device to actualize the dream of eradicating unemployment,

**From Jamila Nuhu Musa, Correspondent (Kano)**

government has so far issued license to four companies for the establishment of assembly plants.

According to him, government has also unveiled modalities to ensure rapid completion of Free Trade Zone, expressing optimism that by the end of first quarter of this year, internal road network would be constructed to facilitate easy movement of vehicles at the Free Trade Zone.

In his remarks, the Northern commercial manager of the company, Mr. J.A Usman, who presented the pioneer motorcycle, urged the government to patronize the company.

Mr. Usman said the machines are suitable for Nigerian roads, adding that the spare parts are available, as they are being assembled in Lagos.

## Jimeta, Yakasai caution FG on security

As more people continue to condole Alhaji Abubakar Rimi over the death of his wife, former Inspector-General of Police IGP Alhaji Muhammadu Gambo Jimeta has called on government at all levels to "de-emphasize the use of security operatives for political gains".

He said that the time has come for government at all levels to focus attention on the protection of lives and property in the country.

Alhaji Muhammadu Gambo Jimeta

Alhaji Gambo Jimeta, who was speaking while condoling Alhaji Abubakar Rimi at his residence in Durbin Katsina road, called on the federal government to pump more funds into security votes with a view to upgrading security situation of the country.

In the same vein Alhaji Tanko Yakasai also called on government to buy more equipment for security personnel as, according to him, "the increase in population implied that there would be increase in the level of crime in the society and for government to be able to tackle the problem more funds should be used to improve security

status of the country in order to deal with the rise in crime."

Earlier the Emir of Kano Alhaji Dr. Ado Bayero had also condoled Alhaji Abubakar Rimi on the death of his wife, describing it as an unfortunate incident.

The emir prayed for the repose of the soul of Hajiji Sa'adatu Rimi and called on members of the society to give useful information that would lead to the arrest of the culprits.

Prayers were also held for the family of the bereaved. Responding Alhaji Muhammadu Abubakar Rimi thanked the emir for the honour done to him.

He said "I thank the Emir and members of the Emirate council for the rare privilege done to us; I express gratitude to the Emir on behalf of myself, my parents, Sa'adatu's mother, my political associates and my family."

Others who have also condoled Alhaji Abubakar Rimi include Chief Nwobodo, Hajiji Fatimah Muhammad, Senator Sani Hanga, the Governor of Kaduna state Alhaji Ahmed Muhammed Makarfi, Professor Buba Bajoga and the wives of Governor Ibrahim Shekarau of Kano state.

The Global System Mobile (GSM) Company has within two years in service captured about five million subscribers in Nigeria, the regional director (North) Zone of the company Mr. Ibrahim Fadipe has said.

The regional director, who was speaking to newsmen in Kano pledged that the company will maintain its status in providing effective services to its numerous customers across the nation.

Fadipe explained that so far, the GLO had distributed 26 cars to various winners of the GLO promo between the

## 'GLO nets 5 million subscribers in two years'

November 2005 to date, stating that the first phase of the promo will end this month.

He added that apart from the cars set aside for the promo the company also handed over houses to another set of winners of the promo, saying that the promo cost the company the sum of N350 million.

He then stated that the aim of the GLO promo is for the company to show its appreciation to its customers by way of paying them back through the promo.

Speaking also at the oc-

casional, the Kano state commissioner of commerce, Alhaji Ahmad Ibrahim Yakasai expressed gratitude to the company for organizing the promo, saying that it was a socially-oriented initiative which, according to him, will greatly boost the company's business by way of attracting more customers.

The commissioner who tasked Glo to carry the project further, said that the state government will collaborate with the communication outfit to initiate more ways of providing job to the teeming

youths of the state.

One of the winners, Chijioke Cletus Ani who spoke to *Kano Trust* said that "when I was called through my GSM and told that I won a Volks Wagen via GLO promo I couldn't believe it. I thought that it was 419 tactics not until the person who called me insisted that I should come to Tahir Investment Palace for the car."

Mr. Chijioke who appealed to the company to continue with the promo, also pledged to continue patronizing the GLO.



Gov. Orji Kalu of Abia State in a tete-tete with Alhaji Abubakar Rimi when the former paid condolence to the latter recently

## Saudi did not impound our aircraft -MD Kabo Air

The management of Kabo Air Limited has debunked allegation that its 747 aircraft has been impounded by the Saudi Arabian government during this year's hajj operations.

Speaking to newsmen in Kano, the managing director of the company, Captain Sa'idu Muhammed (Rtd) said that the Saudi authority did not impound Kabo aircraft nor did it fine the company throughout from 2005 till date, in connection with the hajj exercise.

He explained further that the management of the company were only heard the rumour making the rounds. His words: "the only thing I knew was that our aircraft, which took off from Kaduna state at late hours of the closure date was called back after it has crossed chord."

It was recently rumoured that Kabo aircraft has been impounded by the Saudi authorities over the company's alleged violation Saudi's laid down rules at the King Abdul-Azeez International Airport during the hajj exercise.

The managing director who expressed dismay over the hitches recorded during the 2006 hajj exercise stressed however, that "Kabo Air, on its part, has done its best to ensure that all the intending pilgrims have been airlifted to the holy land."

He pointed out that the company had to invest over three million dollars to hire five more aircrafts for airlifting the pilgrims in spite of

which about 10,000 intending pilgrims allocated to Kabo Air were left stranded in Nigeria.

Captain Sa'idu said that if not for the pressure mounted on Kabo management by various personages, the stranded pilgrims would have been airlifted to Saudi Arabia before the closure of the Saudi airport.

While sympathizing with the stranded pilgrims, he pledged that such would not

happen in future hajj exercises, assuring that proper arrangements would be put in place before next year's hajj.

Turning the returning of the pilgrims back to Nigeria, captain Sa'idu said that the exercise has begun smoothly and will be completed within the stipulated time.

He said Kabo Air has arranged for five flights everyday, for it to be able to complete the return of the pilgrims "without any hitch".

## NCC tasks GSM operators on operations

The Nigerian Communication Commission (NCC) has called on the Global System Mobile (GSM) operators in the country to always operate within the range of services provided for them by the commission.

The Kano Zonal Director of the Commission, Alhaji Adamu Amshi made the plea at the 3<sup>rd</sup> presentation of cars to the winners of GLO promo in Kano.

Alhaji Adamu Amshi said that the primary duty of the NCC is to ensure spread of

**From Yusha'u Adamu Ibrahim, Correspondent (Kano)**

communication services throughout the country but such, according to him, must be done in an organized manner.

He pointed out that the NCC has provided every GSM operator with its range of service rules binding on all operators.

The Zonal Director said that the commission will not fold its arms watching others interrupting others network services without punishing

them, while warning the operators to desist from such in order to avoid being sanctioned by NCC.

He also stressed the need for obtaining official permission before embarking on any communication business, emphasizing that the NCC is ever ready to punish any illegal operator.

Turning to the GLO promo, Alhaji Adamu Amshi who gave a nod to the GLO Company said that the promo has assisted in boosting the services of the company across the country.

# EKO TRUST

## Tinubu allays fears over land reforms

Property owners in Lagos were on Tuesday assured by Governor Bola Tinubu that the government's land reform by way of computerisation was not a deliberate attempt to deny prospective land buyers and willing land investors the right to acquire property.

The measures, according to him, are to guard against the abuse of the Lagos versions of the "Black Gold" and retain the authenticity of such property.

Speaking at the official launching of the Electronic Document Management System (EDMS) for the Lands Registry, he explained that the modern method of administering lands in the State would not only check the excesses of land vendors within the state but also eliminate land speculation.

The disclosed that a process would produce digital-based maps capable of supplying accurate and up-to-date information that would in turn encourage environmental management.

He went on to say that the computerization of the land registry would enhance an up-to-date land registration as well as promote better road and traffic management.

He added that the proposed land registry court would be computerized in line with the EDMS to ensure easy access to case files, just as properties which are subject of litigation in the various court rooms would be

Stories by Olumide Bajulaiye Correspondent (Lagos)

adequately reflected on the litigation database already being created.

Tinubu reiterated the state government would intensify efforts through the land registry, to set up a website to address Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) on line from lawyers and the general public alike.

His words: "By this we would have succeeded in proffering solutions to a myriad of problems confronting our people, especially as it relates to land registration and allied matters."

The governor also stated that the Management Information System (MIS) has been decentralized for the purpose of information dissemination to the general public through tele-kiosks.

The tele-kiosks, he added, would be provided at various locations across the state, even as he added that the MIS has been adequately equipped to effectively provide archival services for easy retrieval and processing of request and records on all title documents in the land registry.

The project, as Tinubu explained took off in January 2005 with over 2.2 million pages of data already captured into the system, which has the capacity to scan and capture data into a searchable and interlinked database.



The new Alhajas that arrived the Hajj camp Lagos after their pilgrimage to Mecca...recently

## 4 years after: LASG to enforce ban on Molue

Four years after the Lagos State government mooted an idea phase out the popular Lagos luxury buses - Molue and replace them with modern high capacity buses, the planned bus service reforms introduced by the Lagos Metropolitan Area Transport Authority (LAMATA) is kicking off this year.

The small and medium capacity buses due to hit Lagos roads before the middle of this year are expected to phase out the rickety and out-of-fashion Molue from Lagos roads and restrict the serv-

ices of the mini-buses to feeder routes.

The public transportation project, according to the government, was specifically to reduce the number of operators in the city's transportation business to about 100 corporate operators.

Each of the operators to be franchised to ply dedicated routes by the state government, must have in its fleet at least 20 high capacity buses, as government's plan is to kick-start the programme with at least 200 high capacity vehicles.

LAMATA's managing di-

rector, Dr. Dayo Mobereola who spoke on the development at a news conference yesterday said governor Bola Tinubu has already consented to the agency being the franchise regulator in the state.

Appraising the operations of the World Bank-assisted agency in the last two years, Mobereola said that roads, like the Ikorodu road, Western Avenue among others would be franchised to credible operators with operational and financial capacity to operate with a minimum of 20 high capacity buses.

His words: "Small/medium capacity vehicles, such as Danfos, will be prevented from operating on these roads and will instead be restricted onto feeder routes that will take passengers to bus parks/garages inter-changing with the franchise corridor".

Two routes have been identified in the pilot phase, according to the managing director. They are the Ogba to Victoria Island and Iyana-Ipaja to Ikotun routes. He hinted of government's plan to procure 200 high capacity buses for an experiment on the Ogba-Victoria Island route.

The LAMATA boss described the 10-kilometre Iyana-Ipaja - Ikotun scheme as one of the cardinal projects of the state government.

According to him, the bus surveys along the corridor and other logistics necessary

for planning have been completed.

He said: "The route planning itself, during which the size of fleet needed to service the corridor will be determined together with the strategy for financing the purchase of buses will be completed in the first half of 2006.

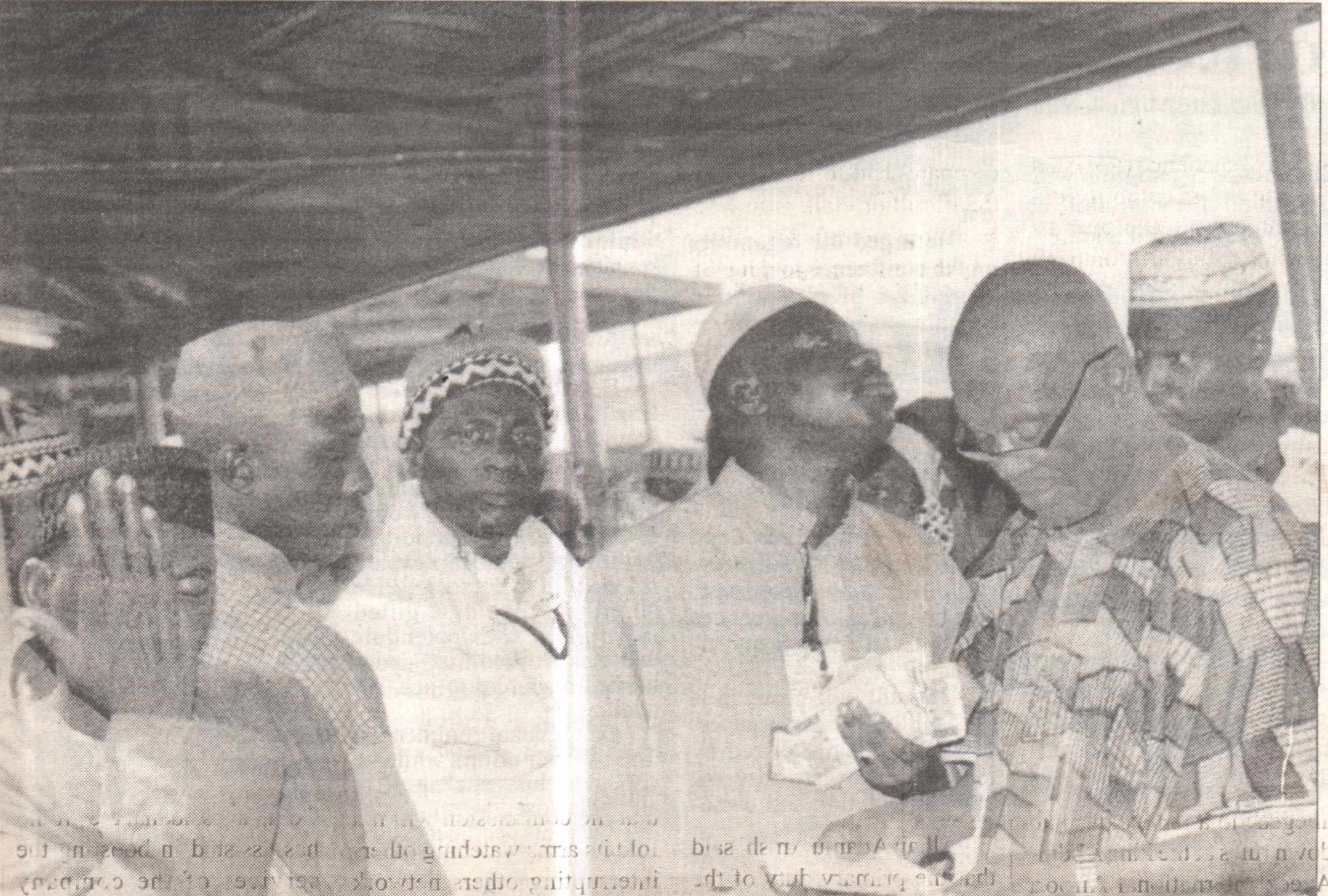
"Construction of necessary infrastructure and tendering for the operation of services along the route will then follow", he added.

Mobereola said that in the last two years, the authority has repaired 176 roads of a distance of about 514 kilometres across the Lagos metropolis.

He informed that LAMATA intends to work on 38 roads under its periodic and rehabilitation maintenance programme this year even as he noted that the road rehabilitation programme of LAMATA is in preparation for the mass transit system the authority intends to develop for the metropolis.

Mobereola said: "LAMATA is pioneering in sub-Saharan Africa a holistic strategy involving the overall improvement of not only the road mode, but also the rail and water mode of transportation in the Lagos metropolis.

"The plan is to place systems such as Rapid Transit (BRT), Light Rail, Transit and moye a large number of commuters at the same time"



Pilgrims cross checking their documents at Lagos Hajj camp on arrival from Mecca...recently Pix: Oladipupa Oduwenu

# News

## Taraba donates N50m drugs to hospitals

As part of efforts to cater for the health care needs of the rural populace in Taraba State, its Local Government Councils have jointly procured and distributed drugs, worth N50 million to various clinics and healthcare centers in the state.

Presenting the drugs for distribution to the various local government councils recently, the Commissioner for Local government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Hon. Mustapha Hamman Gabdo said, the project under the local government drugs revolving fund scheme was aimed

From Ado Adamu,  
Jalingo

at augmenting the state government effort towards provision of healthcare services to the people.

According to the commissioner, the drugs were purchased through competitive bidding in compliance with due process requirement and that the state government would also continue to invest massively in the health sector.

Hon. Gabdo, further stated, that the present administration in the state is

committed to efficient, reliable and sustainable healthcare delivery services as part of dividends of democracy

He said, machineries have been put in place to sustain the existence of the scheme, warning that operators of the programme should desist from malpractices such as purchase of fake drugs or swamping of genuine drugs with fake ones, adding that any one found wanting would be seriously dealt with.

In his vote of thanks, the chairman, Bali local Government council who is also the chairman, Association of Local Government of Nigeria (ALGON), Taraba state Chapter, Hon. Abubakar Mahmoud, commended the effort of the state government towards ensuring provision of health facilities in all nooks and crannies of the state.

According to the ALGON boss, Governor Jolly Nyame has fulfilled the yearnings of the Taraba people especially in the area of health sector. He said, the local government drug revolving scheme was initiated by the local government councils in conjunction with the Ministry for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs.

Hon. Mahmoud, stated that the Local Government Council in the State have already put in place the required manpower to manage the success of the scheme and its sustainability and that the Local Government councils were ready to venture into any profitable venture that can bring smiles to the faces of the people

## Foreign account: Kalu asks Tribunal to dismiss charges

Governor Orji Uzor Kalu of Abia State has asked the Code of Conduct Tribunal sitting in Abuja to dismiss the order of summons issued against him to appear before it to answer charges over non-assets declaration and operation of foreign bank accounts.

The Governor had hitched his arguments on the fact that the Code of Conduct Tribunal has no requisite jurisdiction to entertain the suit and that the summons was incompetent.

The Code of Conduct Bureau CCB had dragged Kalu before the tribunal claiming that the governor breached the code of Public officers which prompted the summons cited as CCT/NC/ABJ/KW/03/05.

In a written submission to the motion challenging the summons in Abuja, Governor Kalu's lawyer Livy Uzoukwu SAN contended that the summons on his client amounted to a clear breach of section 308(1)(a) of the 1999 constitution which shields a serving governor from criminal trial.

He further attacked the summons stating that it was inconsistent with due process and in violation of CCTRP rules.

"The purported criminal summons or 'charge' was never served on the applicant (Kalu) personally as there is nothing on the record of the court to the contrary."

According to the counsel, the governor's summons contravened an interim restraining order of the Abia state high court Umuahia in suit HU/50M/2005 in which both the Attorney General of the Federation, CCB and CCT were respondents.

When the matter came up yesterday, Jude Onwuharaonye holding brief for Uzoukwu urged the tribunal to compel the code of conduct tribunal to lay bare its prove of evidence in the allegation against the governor. According to Jude the

Bureau is duty bound to serve the defendant with its written address.

However, Thompson Olatigbe, counsel to the Bureau queried the absence of governor in court and urged the Tribunal to order his physical appearance at the next sitting in Kaduna.

The three-man panel of the CCT led by the Justice Basir Sambo however adjourned the case till February 15, 2006 when former governor of Bayelsa state Dieprieye Alamiyesigha is expected to appear.

Alamiyesigha who is facing an 18 count charges over "false declaration" of assets and operation of foreign banks account was absent at the tribunal yesterday.

## Pension: Use Trustfund, NLC urges workers

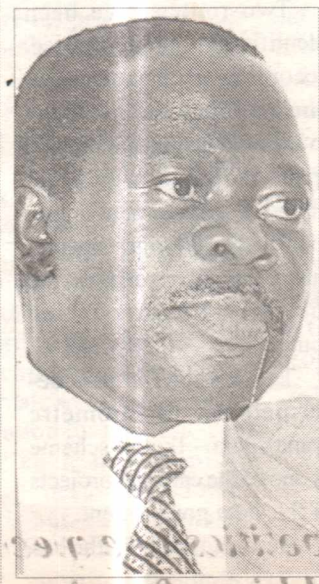
Leaders of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) Trade Union Congress of Nigeria (TUC), and Confederation of Free Trade Union (CFU), have called on workers to

By Abdullahi M. Gulloma,  
Reporter

commence registration with Trustfund Pension PLC as their pension fund administrator.

Speaking at different for at Abuja yesterday, president of the NLC, comrade Adams Aliyu Oshiomhole, and his TUC and CFTU counterpart, comrade Peace Obiajulu and Princewell Ojeh, said that the company is the strongest as far as pension fund administration in the country is concerned.

Oshiomhole told newsmen in Abuja that labour decision was predicated on the fact that Trustfund addresses the social concerns of Nigerian workers unlike other PFAs, whose main interest is profit maximization



Comrade Adams Oshiomhole



Director-General of NAFDAC, Prof. Dora Akunyili discussing with the visiting Thailand Deputy Minister of commerce, Mr. Preecha Laohopouchana when the latter paid her a courtesy visit in Abuja... recently.

## Lack of values mar Africa's dev - Obasanjo

President Olusegun Obasanjo, has said, that the development of African Nations have been truncated by perversion in value, leadership deficit and economic distress.

He also blamed conflicts, human rights abuses, violent crimes, human trafficking, protests and jail breaks and extra-judicial killings by law enforcement agents for the continents inability to develop its potentials.

The president who was represented by the Executive Secretary of NAPTIP, Mrs. Carol Ndaguba, at a pre-regional conference and capacity building workshop with a theme: Bridging the gaps in security, peace and human rights strategies in Nigeria, said that the conference was aimed at preparing relevant personnel for a nation-wide post-conference psychological survey and regional summit.

He urged the organizers of the conference to develop work plan of activities in preparation for the main regional peace and security summit.

In his remark, the chairman of the occasion, Justice Chukwudifu A. Oputa, said that the conference was aimed at sensitizing stakeholders on security, peace and human rights to critically view the previously neglected, psychological consequences of trauma afflicting many Nigerians.

He said, "the problem is the fault of past governance, which was characterized by leadership deficit, perverse value orientation and socio-economic distress," but praised the present administration's attempt to salvage the situation through

By Benjamin Auta,  
Reporter

its reforms (Justice Oputa, said, that there is still a large population of vulnerable and distressed women, children and youths on one hand and consolidated power in the hands of a minority on the other hand.

Speaking also at the

event, the Director General, Nigerian Institute of International Affairs, Professor Joy Ogwu, said, that Africa is living in constant trauma due to the fear of aggression from developed nations as adding that Nigerians should re-adjust psychologically for it to attain its full potential.

## Anambra to assist outstanding corps members

Anambra state government has assured of its assistance to members of National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), who excel in their contribution to the development of their immediate community.

Special advise to the governor on Local Government and Chieftaincy Matters, Dr. Peter Ogbuka, gave the hint while commissioning a community development project designed by Miss Temitope Suliat Olapade at Choice Hotel, Awka, titled, "Anambra documentary."

He said, the documentary film packaged in a DVD disc would assist in discovering the tourism potentials in Anambra state, maintaining that the government would always work to encourage youth corp members who are resourceful to the society. He described Tope as a gifted lady, gifted with potentials who has worked hard under limited resources to achieve a lot.

Dr. Ogbuka, commended Tope for her efforts while he collected three packages for an undisclosed amount, saying it was his personal contribution towards encouraging the corp member. Barrier, Miss Temitope S.

From Beatrice Onucvukwu,  
Correspondent (Awka)

Olapade who hails from Oyo State, said her desire to produce the documentary was as a result of the discovery that many Anambra citizens do not have much knowledge of their environment, adding that it would be great help to visitors and indigenes of the state. "It would guide tourist and investors visiting Anambra State," she said, adding that it would further inform and educate people.

Tope who is currently an NYSC member of the 2005 batch A service year said the work was part of her community service project designed and financed by her which took about eight months to complete, regretting that lack of funds contributed to the delay.

However, she expressed appreciation to Anambra State government for its assistance.

In her speech, the director of NYSC in the state, Mrs. Kofowora Brown, praised the efforts of Miss Tope and urged others to emulate her. She said, corp members could be creative for the development of their immediate community.

# Inside Politics

## Exit politics as Obasanjo, PDP's conundrum

In 1999, at a press conference in the Lagos/Osun room in the Nicon Hilton Hotel, Abuja, preparatory to that year's February 19 presidential elections, Olusegun Obasanjo, a retired four-star General and former Head of State, had said in response to a question on his readiness for the presidential contest with Olu Falae, the candidate of the APP/AD alliance, thus: "Ga fili, ga doki", meaning, "See the field, see the horse". He did not hold anything back. He spoke with the confidence of a winner that was bound to happen.

Having emerged as candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) at the crucial Jos presidential primaries in which he beat former Vice President, Dr. Alex Ekwueme, to the second place with four other candidates—Jim Nwobodo, Don Etiebet, Francis Ellah, and Alabo Tonye Graham-Douglas trailing behind, Obasanjo exhibited, understandably, the characteristic exuberance of Nigerian politicians who are mostly incurable optimists. Even the least popular politician believes he will win at the polls. But in the case of Obasanjo, it was not a misplaced optimism.

The solid backing of the regime of General Abdulsalami Alhaji Abubakar and the influential segment of the northern political elite had coalesced to eminently position Obasanjo for a return to the topmost position in the land, twenty years after he handed over power to the democratically-elected government of President Shehu Usam Shagari. Between these two influential blocs, Obasanjo's presidency was packaged, sealed, signed and delivered. The Nigerian polity was blessed in 1999 when Gen. Abubakar who promised to spend just eleven months in office and exit, kept that promise; again, without an incident, the lot fell on Obasanjo, who did not feature in the political calculations for the presidency when politicians were forming their parties and positioning some of their own for the presidency, to succeed Abubakar.

The process was easy. Gen. Abubakar's scheduled exit was transparent and his leadership was sincere. He thus on May 29, 1999, became the second military ruler after Obasanjo to hand over to a democratically-elected government in the annals of the Nigerian nation. There is no doubt that those who packaged it were effectively in charge. But as soon as they handed over to Obasanjo, power changed hands and the beneficiary, who is not new to the dynamics of power, moved swiftly to use it to his advantage. This was why, as reported, the alleged deal for Obasanjo to have only one term in office and hand over to the clique that arranged the presidency for him in 1999 fell through.

Deploying the power of incumbency and other ancillary tactics, Obasanjo was able to secure for himself a second term, within the context of certain provisions of the 1999 constitution. He had hidden under the second term provided in the legal document for incumbent executives (President and Governors) to hold the

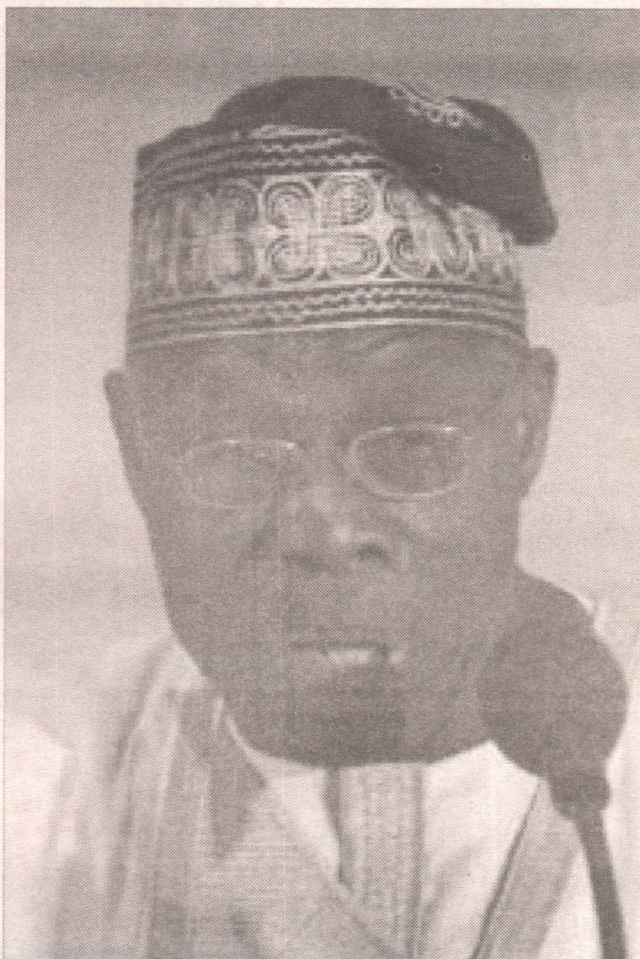
By Sufuyan Ojeifo,  
(Special Correspondent)

murky waters of "exit politics". Those who embarked on a media campaign to have Obasanjo embrace the Mandela Option (one-term in office) did that because they believed their principal would be the beneficiary of that statesman-like gesture. For, indeed, who could have stopped the camp of the Vice President, Atiku Abubakar from over-running every other camp in the PDP in 2003, if the Mandela option campaign had worked?

Now, the politics of exit that the constitution helped Obasanjo to handle by discountenancing whatever arrangement or deal with a clique for only one term in office and going for a second term, daring anyone to stop him, has crept back again. Again, Obasanjo, according to reports filtering from Aso Rock Presidential Villa, wants tenure extension. He does not want to exit yet. This is why the politics of exit has become a crucial issue in the polity. But the constitution, as it is, cannot protect him unless it is amended; which is why machinery has been set in motion to effect necessary amendment to bolster the so-called third term agenda.

*Inside Politics* has closely watched the political developments around the third term agenda and it is daily becoming increasingly evident that Obasanjo's presidency is sold on the workability of the agenda, which is why they have, in spite of all odds, been trying to build a national consensus around it. Indications are that the agenda, in the court of a great majority of Nigerians, cannot fly. But it was learned that Presidency's strategists believe that the agenda can be pushed down the throats of Nigerians. Feelers said that Obasanjo, who is very aware of his place in history, has not crossed the Rubicon yet on the matter; and, what he is doing is to watch how well his aides and strategists could strategically push through the agenda without serious incidents.

If the process will boomerang, as it is most likely to be, the President, if he still wants to enjoy the international respect and all that, may dissuade his men to back off on the agenda so that they could then focus on their plan B, whatever it is. But the situation today is such that Obasanjo, whose positions on virtually all things are known, has become dodgy of the simple issue of exit from office on May 29, 2007. He has not been able to come out clearly with a definitive



President Olusegun Obasanjo

statement on the 2007 presidency. The farthest he went was when he said on national television that it was only the Southwest that was disqualified *ab-initio* from contesting the 2007 presidency; perhaps, against the backdrop of the limitations imposed by the constitution, specifically limiting him to only two terms in office.

Having weakened institutions of the National Assembly, the PDP, Labour and other bodies that could confront his burgeoning monstrosity, the President's current offensive is against the constitution, which must be amended at all cost in order to achieve a pre-determined agenda. The PDP, the platform on which Obasanjo emerged as President and which he has effectively seized, is lending itself to the President's plot. Obasanjo had at the December 10, 2005 National Convention of the party pleaded with members and leaders to allow him interpret power shift when the time comes. The National Chairman of the party, Col. Ahmadu Ali (retd.) had recently hinted that Obasanjo could have a second term if Nigerians wanted him to.

National Publicity Secretary of the party, Mr. John Odey was quoted recently as saying that the party would decide the issue of 2007 presidency when the time comes, regardless of what

individual leaders of the party have said. The question is, given the fact that what the relevant party leaders have said conduce to bolster Obasanjo's disposition and temperament, what is the need to wait any longer for the party? After all, who is the party, if not Obasanjo? This is the conundrum that has become the lot of Obasanjo and his PDP. In 2003, some people were asking the question, if not Obasanjo, who else? Such a question had a solid basis in the constitutional second term that he could hazard in the circumstance then. Now, not any more: if not Obasanjo, there are many Nigerians. Some prominent people, notably Catholic Archbishop of Abuja, Dr. John Onayekan, have recently declared that there are more than one million Nigerians who can replace Obasanjo and do better than him.

*Inside Politics* gathered from sources close to the Presidency that Obasanjo and his men have plotted a number of scenarios or plans on how to deal with the 2007 presidency: if the President cannot extend his stay or get a third term, he must be able to install a protégé who would continue his reform programmes (read self-protection) even if the manipulation of the process plunges the nation into anarchy. This is why a process has been initiated to systematically and



Dr. Ahmadu Ali, PDP Chairman

gradually eliminate presidential aspirants, including those who have announced their intention to run and those harbouring such ambition.

But analysts contend that if Obasanjo has chosen to be sincere to himself and fair to Nigerians, he should have saved the nation of the tension being generated in the polity on account of the issue of exit politics. By now, he should have allowed overt campaigns to blossom; he should have by now encouraged robust debate that would have given shape and texture to the kind of succession politics to expect and the kind of, if not the person, who will succeed him. But there has not been any such development yet and there are no indications if such a development will crystallise.

Yet, a caustic riposte by the Presidential Assistant on Public Affairs, Chief Femi Fani-Kayode to a timely advice by former Head of State, General Yakubu Gowon at the Middle-Belt Conference on December 29, 2005 that Obasanjo should learn from the mistake he (Gowon), General Ibrahim Babangida and the late General Sani Abacha made by prolonging their stay in government, has further confirmed Presidency's proclivity towards tenure extension by whatever means.

Former Director General of

the defunct Centre for Democratic Studies (CDS), Professor Omo Omoruyi recently expressed a view, thus: "With the way the President is behaving, it would appear that he does not know how to end his administration and prepare for someone else to succeed. Let us go back to Nigerian history. Nigeria is blessed today with President Obasanjo, the third democratically-elected Government leader. He is a man of legacy who is conscious of how the two democratically-elected governments before him ended. I am referring to the Balewa and Shagari regimes and how they ended. I started seeing the resemblance among the three dates: 1964, 1983 and 2003 with respect to how the three elections were conducted to yield identical end. The three elections and the consequences confirmed my fears when an office holder is allowed to preside over election in which he too is a candidate". But little has Omoruyi realized that Obasanjo's presidency is not short of ideas on how to end its administration, rather, it seems to be desperate to achieve continuity in office.

Consider these statements by Fani-Kayode: "...And when you have a choice in any of these institutions, you do not change leadership for the sake of change. It is not whether there are one million or 5,000 people that can rule that is relevant; it is whether there is anyone from the one million or 5,000 people that can maintain a high standard or keep the flag flying.... We cannot and we must not allow ourselves to be taken back to the root and the degeneration of the past by anybody. We must cultivate courage to insist on the very best quality of leadership; we must insist on maintaining the very high standard that this administration has set, no matter what it takes". This may tend to explain Obasanjo and PDP's conundrum in what has become the controversial exit politics (read third term agenda). But

**"But analysts contend that if Obasanjo has chosen to be sincere to himself and fair to Nigerians, he should have saved the nation of the tension being generated in the polity on account of the issue of exit politics. By now, he should have allowed overt campaigns to blossom; he should have by now encouraged robust debate that would have given shape and texture to the kind of succession politics to expect and the kind of, if not the person, who will succeed him. But there has not been any such development yet and there are no indications**

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# Sports

## Adamu becomes FIFA Executive C'ttee member

Amos Adamu yesterday emerged as the first Nigerian to become a

By Ismaila Umaru Lere, Assistant Editor member of the FIFA executive.

The former Director of Sports Development and sole administrator of the Nigeria Football Association braved



Adamu all odds to defeat Cote d'Ivoire's Jacques Anouma, who is the president of West African Football Union (WAFU) to second place in the CAF elections decided yesterday in Cairo. Anouma, however, joined Adamu on the FIFA executive board as Africa's second representative. Adamu garnered 36 votes against 31 for Anouma. Incidentally, Botswana's Ismail Bhamjee was voted off



Anouma the committee after eight years. Adamu created a record that is un-surpassed in the history of the Nigerian state. He was in charge of the Nigeria Football Association when Nigeria qualified for its first World Cup in 1994, he was also in charge of the organizing committee of the 2003 8th All Africa Games held in Abuja and for the very first time in Nigeria's history. Speaking live from Cairo,

Egypt venue of the election after his victory, Dr. Amos Adamu expressed joy at the development and promise to do his best to project the continent's football.

"I'm so glad with what happened today, it shows that all that I've laboured for, over the years, has not been in vain. I will do my best to represent Africa well and contribute my quota to world soccer development."

Winners also emerged into the CAF executive committee after a very tough election.

Habni Abou Rida of Egypt emerged from North African, Almany Kabele Camara of Guinea from West Africa (1), and General Seyi Memene of Togo from West Africa (2).

Thierry Kamach (CAR) also emerged from the Central African region, Celestin Mesabyimana of Rwanda from the Central Eastern zone and Oliphant Moleffi of South Africa from the South African zone.

## Nigerians hail Adamu's election

Nigeria took a giant leap off the fringes of football administration with the election of Dr Amos Adamu into the highest legislative organ yesterday in Cairo, Egypt at a congress held ahead of the 25th edition of the African Cup of Nations that begins tomorrow.

Dr Adamu, who only four years ago got elected into the CAF Executive Committee, has thus become the first Nigerian to rise to this level of football administration. The former COJA director, NFA sole administrator, and director of sports development, defeated Jacques Anouma of Ivory Coast to clinch the job formerly held by Amoudu Diakite of Mali.

Following the announcement of the election there was jubilation at the Sports Ministry and the NFA Secretariat as people celebrated the news and generally observed that it is a good development for the country.

Dr Tijjani Ahmed Yusuf, ex NFA scribe, said the election is a good omen for Nigeria, because the country will now have the advantage of FIFA presence in the conduct of the business of football. "With Dr Adamu in FIFA, Nigeria now has the advantage of hearing directly from FIFA on such matters which would require their attention. It would also mean that Nigeria has at last advanced beyond the level ordinary committees' membership".

Similarly, Alhaji Sani Lulu Abdullahi thumped up for Nigeria for eventually being able to hit it right after many years of operating on the fringes of the administration of football without holding commanding position.

"I think it is a good development and a pointer to what we can do if we are focused and determined to get the commanding position in the administration of the game.

"Dr. Adamu has demonstrated the resolve of

By Patrick Andrew, Asst. Head Sports Desk

Nigeria to join the comity of nations at the highest legislative level of football. "It is where we rightly belong and should have been. We had put our house in order. I do hope that we shall take full advantage of Adamu's presence in FIFA to meet international standard in the administration of the game at the domestic level," he said.

Momodu Kadiri, two times NFA scribe applauded Adamu's election stressing that the election of a Nigerian into FIFA Executive Committee has been long in coming all because previous efforts were not good enough.

Hon. Ahmed Sani Toro enthused that the election was victory for hard work, resilience and resourcefulness.

"Dr Adamu is one Nigerian that has been consistent, resolute and dedicated to the course of football and thus deserves to be in FIFA highest legislative organ where decision of global affairs of football is taken," he said.

Ernest Ohanusim, Kapital FM sports producer, was of the view that Adamu's election represents Nigeria's positive contribution to the development of the game at the international level.

"It means that Nigeria has finally taken its pride of place in the circles of powerful soccer nations. It means that the country will not have to resort to a junior officer FIFA to handle matters pertaining to her, instead she would look on to Adamu for authoritative answers on such issues," he said.

Olusiji Adedeji in the same vein expressed delight over the development noting that in the face of the controversy over election into the NFA Executive Committee, Adamu's election "perhaps is the breather that the nation needs to take seriously the administration of football as well as ensures

that the right calibre of persons administer the game".

Abdul Ado in his reaction observed that "Adamu has worked hard to secure for himself and the country this responsibility.

"If previous administrators had been focused there is no way the Francophone countries would have dominated in virtually all facet of the administration of the game.

"Nigerians are grateful to Adamu for having the foresight to prepare himself doggedly for the job. Adamu should not be like others who wanted the good things only for themselves but ended up getting peanuts and leaving Nigeria bare of representation at both the CAF and FIFA positions," he said.

## C'WEALTH GAMES

### PDP Chairman to lead Nigeria delegation

Chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Senator Ahmadu Ali may have been endorsed as the leader of the Nigerian delegation to the Melbourne Commonwealth Games slated for March 15 to 26.

Dependable sources in the Sports Ministry told hotspotslive.com that President Olusegun

...Obasanjo cancels Ministry's long list

Obasanjo has approved Ali's nomination, even as he cancelled the list sent to him by the Sports Ministry.

"Baba was furious over the long list of names sent to him from the ministry as government delegation and cancelled the list, but approved the PDP chairman's nomination and one other

name as approved government delegation." The sources further revealed, "the president was particular crossed with the number of people from the National Assembly on the list of government delegation." Baba was quoted as saying, "...they have their own sources of funds, if they

want to travel, let them source their own funds, but not at government's expense."

The ministry is said to be at cross roads over the development as some of the legislators and other names on the cancelled list have been assured long before now that they would be on the train to Melbourne.

### Galadima threatens legal action

The chairman of the Nigeria Football Association, NFA, Alhaji Ibrahim Galadima, has threatened to take legal action against the Egyptian embassy in Nigeria for refusing to grant him visa to travel to Egypt to attend the on going CAF Congress in Cairo.

"As an individual and as a person, I will take legal

action against the Egyptian embassy to know why they did not give me visa to travel to Egypt," Galadima told Nigeriansportsonline.com in Kano yesterday. The NFA boss said he deserved to get an explanation from the embassy so that he will acquaint himself with the offence he committed, which led to the visa not being

issued him. Alhaji Galadima stressed that when he applied for the visa after meeting with all the requirements, officials at the embassy assured him that the travelling document would be given to him after they finish processing his application. According to him when he called at the appointed time for the collection of the

visa, an official at the embassy told him that the document would not be given to him again. The former Kano state commissioner for sports alleged that the embassy official, whose name was not mentioned, told him that they received a letter, allegedly from the sports minister, Dr. Samaila Sambawa, that visa should not be issued to him to travel to Egypt.

Alhaji Galadima added that the letter reached the embassy's office when they were about to complete work on his application for the visa.

The NFA chairman further informed Nigeriansportsonline.com that as far as he was concerned he did not commit any offence, which would warrant the embassy refusing him visa and as such, he has decided to take legal action on the matter, saying that even CAF officials

## Lawal gatecrashes into Eagles XI

Old war horse, Garba Lawal, is set to break into the Super Eagles starting line up against Ghana when Nigeria kick off their 2006 Africa Nations Cup campaign Monday, January 23, Nigeriansportsonline.com can report.

Lawal, who is into the 10th season of his international career with the

and determination since he joined the national team's training camp for the Nations Cup in Faro.

And as the team that will tackle Ghana at Egypt 2006 begins to take shape, Lawal looks to be the preferred choice of coach Augustine Eguavoen for the Eagles left midfield position. The Eagles rounded off

and will be flying out to Cairo, Egypt Thursday morning for the African championship.

And at the team's last training session before departure, Eguavoen featured Lawal throughout for the first eleven when practice went into a two-side game of 30 minutes, each half. After some shooting

exercises, the squad of players were formed into two sides of eleven players on each side and they played a game that lasted for one hour.

Lawal, who has not been on the starting line up for the Eagles in the two games Eguavoen have taken charge of the team, could have been elevated to the

against Ghana following the disqualification of John Utaka from the match.

During Wednesday's training, Christian Obodo was moved to play on the right side of midfield, taking Utaka's position and Lawal played on the left.

**EAGLES POSSIBLES:** Eneyeama, Ordiah, Taiwo, Ayila, Yobo, Enakahire, Obodo, Oloche, Martins

## SPORTS

## COUNTDOWN TO EGYPT 2006 AFRICAN NATIONS CUP

## Okocha to pave way for new generation

Super Eagles skipper Austin Jay-Jay Okocha will be among several top players making a final African Nations Cup appearance in Egypt as a new generation of continental talent prepares to take over.

Along with the mercurial midfield general, Tunisia's Radhi Jaidi, Ivory Coast's Cyrille Domoraud, Egyptian Hossam Hassan, Morocco's Noureddine Naybet and Raymond Kalla of Cameroon are set for their swansongs when the tournament begins on Friday.

Okocha's role as senior statesman for Nigeria is heightened by the 'young Turks' who are likely to surround the 32-year-old in the Eagles' team at the finals.

Coach Augustine Eguavoen has brought a young selection to the Nations Cup and several players under the age of 22 are expected to feature in his starting line-ups.

John Obi Mikel, the leading light of last year's World Youth Championship in the Netherlands and the subject of a tug-of-war between Chelsea and Manchester United last year, is only 18 while full-back Taye Taiwo is 20.

Nigeria's attack of Obafemi Martins and Stephen Makinwa, both based in Italy's Serie A, are 21 and 22 respectively.

Much is expected of Nigeria's young talent, seen by some on the continent as hav-

By Ismaila Umaru Lere,  
Assistant Editor, with  
Agency Reports

ing the potential to become the dominant force in African football.

Cameroon's new midfield general, Jean Makoun, at 22, is the source of supply for a feared frontline led by 23-year-old Barcelona striker Samuel Eto'o and Achille

Webo, who is a year younger.

Key to Morocco's hopes is French-born striker Maroune Chamakh, who turned 22 last week. He played in the final of the com-

petition two years ago.

Senegal, looking to groom future talent, have included Rahmane Barry, Boukary Dramane and Dino Djiba in their side. Barry is still 19 and the other two just out of their teens.

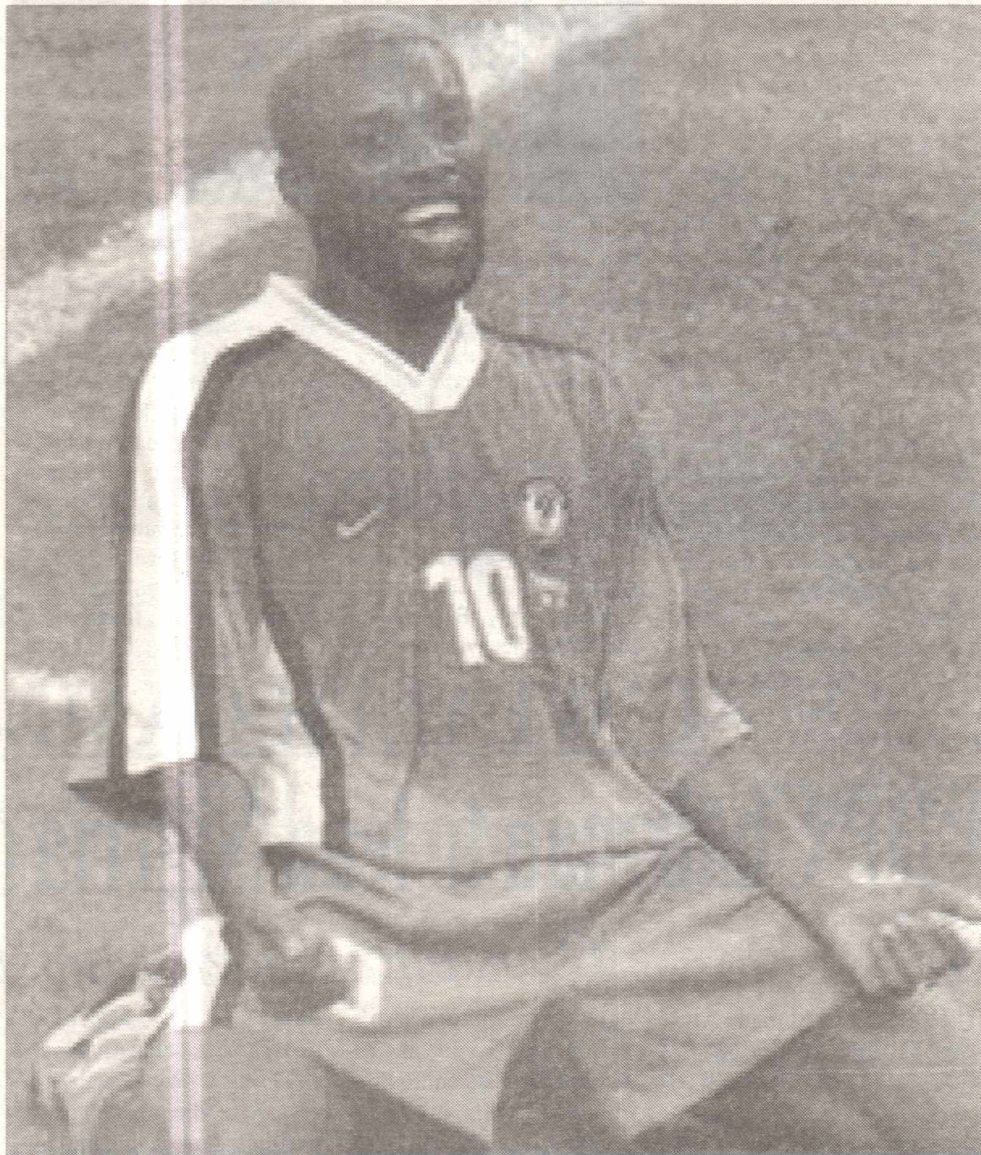
For South Africa, 19-year-old left winger Lebogang Mokoena is expected to start their opening game on Sunday while Zambia have the youngest player at the tournament.

The 18-year-old Clifford

Mulenga, also a left winger, has made enough of an impression over the last year to earn a transfer to Örgryte in Sweden.

For all the exciting new talent that will be on view over the next three weeks, some of the elder statesmen may yet outshine the youngsters at the tournament.

Though his career is entering its final years, Okocha was still voted the best player of the finals in Tunisia two years ago.



Okocha is set for his swansong as the Nations Cup kicks off tomorrow

## Fan pressure worries Egypt

Egypt midfielder Mohamed Barakat says the intense pressure from the home crowds to succeed at the African Nations Cup finals is scaring his team.

Barakat, 28, is expected to be one of the key figures in Egypt's bid for a record fifth Nations Cup title when the 16-nation tournament gets underway on Friday.

The Al Ahli midfielder, a catalyst for his club's success in last November's African Champions Cup final, says he prefers playing international matches outside his own country.

"The pressure here is too great. The players get scared to make mistakes because the fans expect so much from us," he said in an interview in Cairo.

"Obviously, support can help us a lot too. But when we aren't playing well, the fans are quick to turn against

the team. That is why Egyptian football has been struggling lately."

Barakat played in Saturday's 2-1 defeat by South Africa in their final preparatory game before the three-week tournament. The Egyptian side were jeered off the pitch after the loss.

"There is a lot of potential in this side and a group of very talented players. But it is very important that we also have the patience of the fans," he said.

Barakat was reluctant to predict Egypt's chances of success at the finals but said if they came through the group stage they would hope to ride the momentum of popular support.

"We have two tough teams in our group, the Ivory Coast and Morocco, with a lot of good players. These are sides that we have to beat first before we can start thinking about the knockout rounds."

Egypt open the tournament on Friday against Libya, neighbours who have traditionally been easy prey.

Barakat warned, however, that his side would need more confidence if they were to make a winning start.

The spindly winger, who regularly switches flanks during matches to terrorise opposing defences, says he rarely ventures out in Cairo because of the fan pressure.

"It is difficult to take my family out for a stroll or shopping because everyone wants to stop you in the street and talk. And they want you to hear their opinions also.

"If you have won the last game then they are full of enthusiasm but if you have lost then you have to put up with their criticisms.

"I try to be as polite as I can and I always stop to listen and greet the fans but it is very hard for my wife and children," he said. "I prefer to stay indoors these days."

## Lemerre only coach surviving from last finals

The varieties of coaching in Africa are well illustrated by the fact that only one of the 16 coaches at the African Nations Cup starting on Friday was in charge of his team in the last tournament two years ago.

Veteran French coach René Lemerre is, not surprisingly, a survivor from the 2004 finals in Tunisia where he steered the host country to their first Nations title.

The other sides returning to the tournament in Egypt or playing again after missing the 2004 finals have new men at the helm, including Ghana's Ratomir Djukovic, who was in charge of Rwanda two years ago.

Continuity has never been a hallmark of African football and failure in competitions such as the Nations Cup is an almost certain guarantee of dismissal. There are various degrees of failure.

Performances that in some countries might be considered a success are regarded in others as good cause for sacking.

This was demonstrated at the 2002 finals in Mali, the last Nations Cup to be played just six months before a World Cup.

Nigeria finished third in that tournament, missing out on an appearance in the final only because of a controversial extra-time goal scored in a 2-1 semi-final defeat by Senegal. Yet failure cost Shaibu Amodu his job.

Carlos Queiroz, now assistant coach at Manchester United, helped South Africa to qualify for the 2002 World Cup finals and viewed the Nations Cup as nothing more than a good training exercise ahead of the trip to South Korea and Japan. Yet he was left with no choice but to resign when South Africa lost in the quarter-finals in Mali.

French coach Henri Michel has good cause to view potential failure in Egypt with trepidation. He has twice lost previous jobs because of mediocre returns at the Nations Cup.

In 2000, he left his job as coach of Morocco after they failed to make it past the first round.

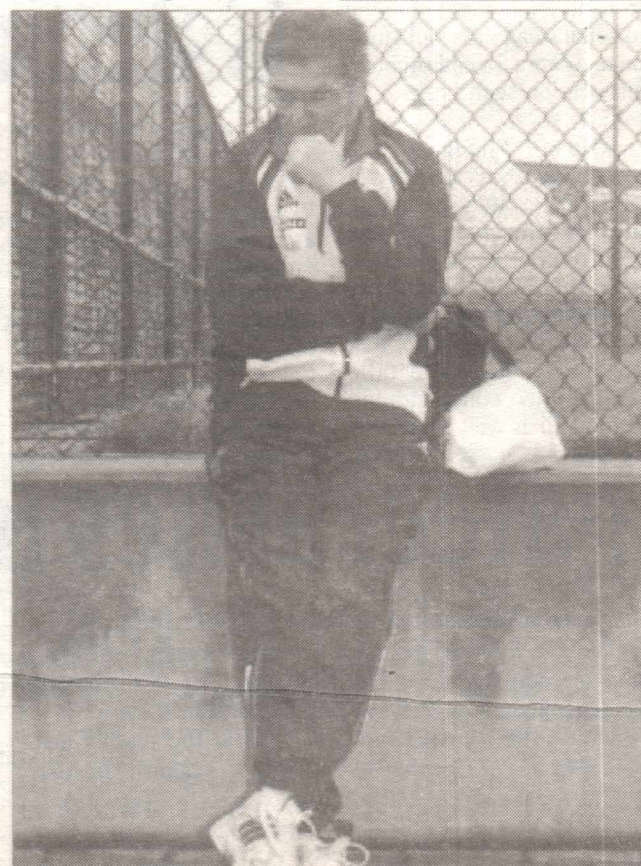
Two years later, he returned to the finals at the helm of Tunisia and was due to take them less than six months later to the 2002 World Cup finals in Asia.

Tunisia failed to score in three matches and went home from the Mali tournament after failing to make the quarter-finals. Michel was fired shortly afterwards and missed out on the World Cup.

Now Michel returns with Ivory Coast, who have also qualified for the World Cup in Germany.

He knows that failure by the Ivorians to turn in a credible performance in Egypt will

put his World Cup chances in dire straits again.



Lemerre

# Sports

## COUNTDOWN TO EGYPT 2006 AFRICAN NATIONS CUP



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### Group C: Easy pickings for Tunisia?

**TUNISIA**  
 Tunisians reacted with euphoria to the draw that placed them in a relatively uncomplicated group. On recent form, neither Zambia, Guinea or imploding South Africa can be tipped to win the group. The Carthage Eagles have not changed much since winning the African title on home soil two years ago. Roger Lemerre's team has a familiar look going into Egypt 2006, with the Frenchman having the benefit of a squad that has played together more or less uninterrupted for four years. Indeed, Tunisia are probably the most settled of the 16 finalists and, rather ominously, they look even stronger and better prepared than they were during the 2004 edition. Tunisia were runners-up in 1965 and 1996 but they finally landed their hands on the trophy after a thrilling 2-

1 victory over Morocco two years ago.

And all but two of the stars from the victorious 2004 side - Mehdi Nafti and Imed Mhadhebi - were not included in the 23-man squad to defend the title in Egypt.

**Key Players:** Lemerre has some exciting players at his disposal but Hatem Trabelsi is undeniably the main man.

The 28-year-old right-back's appearances in the 2004 tournament were limited by injury and he only played a full part in the final.

Trabelsi is one of the most coveted players in Europe and looks set for a big-money move sooner rather than later.

Elsewhere, Radhi Jaidi is a tough nut to crack while not many defenders will relish trying to cope with the pace of Brazil-born forward Santos.

**Verdict:** The Carthage Eagles have a great platform from which to launch a successful defence of their crown.

A word of caution for the Carthage Eagles though: Only Cameroon have successfully defended the Nations Cup title since the competition was expanded to 16 teams.

**ZAMBIA**

After missing out on the 2004 Nations Cup party,

Zambia are back on the biggest stage in African football.

Ironically, it was in Egypt 20 years ago, that Zambian coach Kalusha Bwalya played in his first Nations Cup finals.

As a young striker, he scored a memorable goal against Cameroon but saw his side finish bottom of



Mbesuma their group.

Now back as commander-in-chief, he will be hoping his troops do much better than the 1986 squad.

Most of the Zambian squad play in their humble domestic league, but they are not incapable of mixing it with the continent's elite.

**Key Player:** They may not think much of him in the English Premiership but Collins Mbesuma has established himself as the most prolific striker in Zambian football.

He is a typical goal-poacher, as he demonstrated during his time with Kaizer Chiefs of South Africa, and Egypt 2006 is the first real opportunity for him to prove his worth on the international stage.

Bwalya will also bank on the considerable experience of two reliable performers - Andrew Sinkala and Laughter Chilembi.

**Verdict:** Zambia should be capable of beating both South Africa and Guinea, and on a given day should not necessarily be without a chance against the Tunisians.

If the Zambians advance to the knock-out stage, the biggest fear is that there may not be enough petrol in the tank to take them further than the last eight.

**SOUTH AFRICA**

What is there to say about this team that has not already been said already?

would be fancied to accompany holders Tunisia out of this group.

But having endured a dismal qualifying campaign where they came perilously close to making an embarrassing exit, they are not in a position to underestimate anyone.

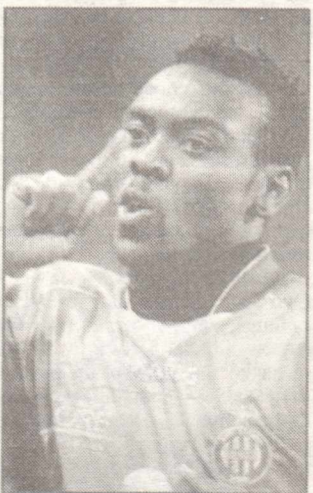
Their preparations were overshadowed by the resignation of coach Stuart Baxter in November, and it will be a true test of their character to see if they can get their act together.

The South Africans spluttered through the qualifiers, losing four times in 10 matches to finish five points behind eventual group winners Ghana.

And while there is a large measure of pride in hosting the 2010 World Cup finals, failure to qualify for the 2006 event in Germany caused much wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Critics dismiss their chances of winning their second African title as nothing more than pie-in-the-sky stuff, but caretaker coach Ted Dumitru remains remarkably upbeat.

The former Kaizer Chiefs coach insists that Bafana Bafana will be contenders - a prediction which borders on the comical given that he picked a squad of



Feindouno.

largely untried local players. **Key players:** Dumitru says his team will mount a strong challenge if things suddenly click during the tournament.

This is always a possibility when the likes of Benni McCarthy, captain Sibusiso Zuma and young FC Copenhagen midfielder Elrio van Heerden are in the squad.

If he is in the mood, Portugal-based McCarthy can be a handful for any defence and will be keen to re-establish his diminishing creden-

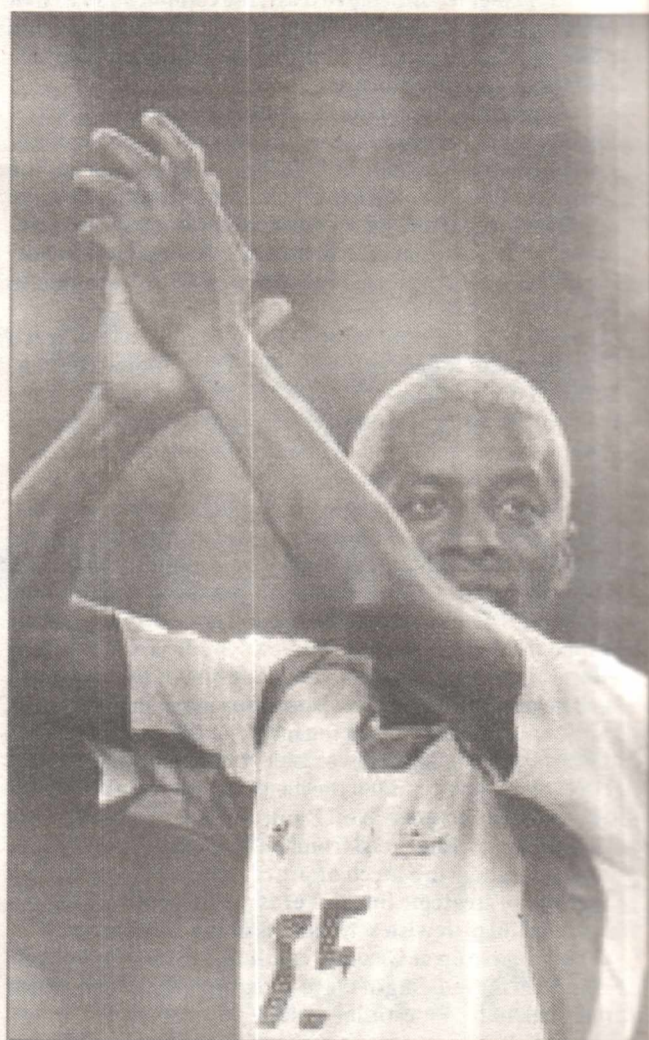
igmatic Siyabonga Nomvete who can be a matchwinner on his day.

**Verdict:** Things are not exactly shipshape in the Bafana Bafana camp and unless Dumitru does something special, the South Africans will sink without trace.

So play safe, and do not bet a penny on them - it

The Syli Nationale have a reasonable squad, as their 2004 Nations Cup quarter-final place shows, and they will have lofty ambitions in Egypt.

Any thoughts they have of actually winning the Nations Cup should be dismissed as hallucinations, but Guinea will certainly add an unpredictable element to the



Zuma could be South Africa's joker

would need a footballing miracle of quite dramatic proportions for South Africa to claim the title.

**GUINEA**

It is no secret that Guinea long for a return of the good old days of the 1970s when they never entered any tournament just to make up the numbers.

Those were the days when Hafia won the African Champions Cup three times, Horoya took the African Cup Winners Cup and Cherif Souleymane was voted African Footballer of the Year.

Since then, however, Guinean football has languished in the doldrums with the Syli Nationale hardly achieving anything one could write home about.

Which is why the fact that Guinea are not one of the favourites to lift the Nations Cup title is indisputable.

But the fighting qualities they displayed in the quali-

group. Most pundits would consider that a quarter-final appearance would represent an excellent result for this team.

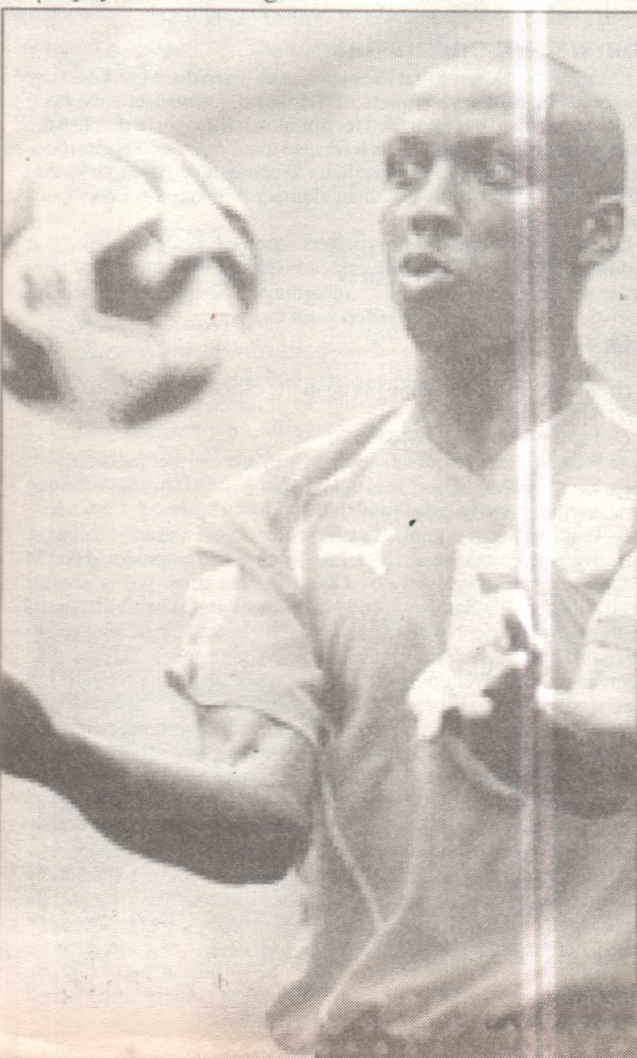
**Key players:** Pascal Feindouno gave up the captaincy earlier in the year, saying he could not cope with the demands it placed on him.

But he remains the team's key asset and most pundits agree that Guinea are likely to go as far as he can carry them.

Scotland-based Dianbobou Balde is a defender who scares opponents with his giant frame while Sambegou Bangoura is another player with the benefit of European football.

**Verdict:** Guinea are a real threat to everyone in this group and a good result against South Africa in their opening game may provide the spark for a good campaign.

But few would expect to see any more than three matches from the Syli



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# DAILY TRUST

## THURSDAY COLUMN

Thursday, January 19, 2006

## EDITORIAL

# Paving the route to hell

## Sharon and the Middle East

The massive hemorrhage that Ariel Sharon suffered about two weeks ago has removed almost permanently from the political scene of Israel and indeed, the Middle East one of the most controversial political figures in the complicated environment of the contemporary world.

Perhaps more than any other single individual, Ariel Sharon represented the controversy, the complication as well as the tragedy associated with the conflict in Palestine and the Middle East since the creation of the State of Israel at the end of the Second World War.

Like most members of his generation, Ariel Sharon's consciousness was formed against the backdrop of the holocaust that eliminated four million Jews. The creation of the State of Israel, which had to be done with the removal of the Palestinian people from their homeland became a sacred principle of existence which had to be defended against the hostility of the Arab peoples against whom wars were fought in 1948, 1967 and 1973.

Ariel Sharon is a right-wing politician who was an Israeli war hero; but in the eye of most of the international community he is a war criminal that was directly responsible for the Sabra and Shatila massacre, during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in the early 1980s. He was subsequently dismissed as the Israeli Defence Minister.

That Ariel Sharon was able to rebuild his political career, speaks volumes about his personal political qualities and his appeal to a large percentage of the Israeli voting public. In a volatile region, his strident right wing perspective and strong arms-tactics against the Palestinian people offered a reassurance to many in Israel. That is why he won elections against the backdrop of the second Palestinian INTIFADAH, which he provoked when he visited the temple mount.

Ariel Sharon has carried the targeted killing of Palestinian militants to heights never before contemplated by his predecessors; he expanded the illegal alienation of Palestinian land in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem. He led a unilateral withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, not because he was genuinely in search of peace, but because it was no longer in the strategic interest of Israel to continue to protect a handful of Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip.

What he gave up at Gaza, he continued to take in the West Bank and in the building of the so-called apartheid wall, which further alienates Palestinian land.

Nevertheless, there was no gainsaying the fact that Sharon was a significant political figure in the Middle East and Israel in particular. He was a very shrewd politician, whose most recent manoeuvre before his illness was to dump the Likud party in order to become the dominant figure of the centre of Israeli politics. What will become of his new party remains to be seen.

But Ariel Sharon's political career shows that force cannot be the answer to the complicated problems facing Israel, Palestine and the Middle East. A nuclear-armed Israel that possesses a strategic superiority over the Arab and Muslim world, a nation whose crimes against the Palestinian people is almost always abetted by the United States, nevertheless feels insecure, living with the restive Palestinian population, whose land it has occupied since the end of the Second World War.

It has become obvious that a concerted effort needs to be made to ensure that the two state solution be achieved, to achieve the legitimate need for security by the state of Israel, and the creation of a viable Palestinian state located in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, with East Jerusalem as its capital. These two demands by Israel and Palestine are legitimate and are the realistic platform that can lead to comprehensive peace in the region.

Ariel Sharon's career over the last fifty years or so shows that strong personalities can impose themselves for good or for bad in a volatile environment, but at the end of the day, there is nothing greater than the wisdom to know when to dialogue and make historical choices that benefit the peaceful existence of peoples on the sides of a divide. Unfortunately, Ariel Sharon was not a force for peace, despite the spin and the support he got from the most powerful nations of the world. The Middle East crisis needs far more creative political actors than what Ariel Sharon brought to the complicated politics of the Middle East.

The spin doctors of the Obasanjo government have never been tired of reminding us just how well-meaning President Obasanjo is in his determination to 'develop' Nigeria. Whenever they are confronted with the series of unconstitutional actions embarked upon by their principal, they are wont to pointing at how problems have accumulated in the past, and the need to 'move the nation forward.'

It is in the nature of unconstitutional actions, or ruling a society in a knee-jerk manner, that it becomes a habit. Unconstitutional actions accumulate, society is unable to perfect the in-built mechanisms associated with a democratizing order and the authoritarian tendency waxes stronger. This background is the recipe for the accelerated growth of a dictatorial regime, as every other centre of power becomes emasculated, they atrophy and gradually wither.

Nigeria's civil rule has come to resemble the proverbial pagan god that is said to favour a drink of blood only from the head of the slain and sacrificed. The booby traps that were implanted from the beginning by the departing military junta in 1999 are beginning to explode with serious consequences for the democratic process in particular and Nigeria's long-term future in general.

For me, the main question is whether the political elite appreciates the depth of the crises phenomena that Nigeria is being plunged into by a combination of irresponsible actions - deliberate steps to violate the nation's constitutional order; the inactions at the level of expected basic feelings of patriotism and the dangers that a carefully orchestrated machination has been put in place to foment crises.

At our Editorial meeting last Thursday, the state of the nation was the central or underlining current of our debate. It seemed clear to all of the members that a deliberate plan to test the will of the Nigerian people has become the order of the day. The impeachment processes that have been engineered illegally, first in Bayelsa State, took a more brazenly fraudulent hue in Oyo State. A lot of noise has been made about the illegalities, the complicity of President Obasanjo and the PDP machinery.

But from the standpoint of the Obasanjo clique, what is important is that there is no overt act or movement of resistance. The scenario is likely to embolden the clique, and ever more vexatious but calculated political actions are likely to follow. It was not a surprise that Nuhu Ribadu of EFCC could publicly vow that they are going for Joshua Dariye next.

We have lived through the employment of a powerful institution like the EFCC in unconstitutional acts of freezing the accounts of a state, capturing the legislators of a state and under duress and making them to impeach the governor of a state. The best legal minds in the country have all proclaimed that the processes have been very faulty and also illegal. However, the premeditated results have been achieved. The Obasanjo dictatorship is consolidating, as it tests the waters to find the real threshold of resistance, beyond which the patience of Nigerians might snap.

A strong-arm tactic is also part of the mix. New armoured personnel carriers are being purchased for the police force, and the 'wrath of God' that was promised against whoever opposes the 'messiah' President Obasanjo is beginning to manifest in the frightening atmosphere of insecurity that has already claimed the wife of a leading voice of opposition, Alhaji Abubakar Rimi. I had said in my first column for the year that 2006 is going to be a decisive year in our political history; a year that is likely to be gritty and bloody. I stay by this conclusion.

A year to an election, a sequence of events in the nation point without ambiguity to the outlines of an elaborate jigsaw of manoeuvres that has descended on our country. The ruling party, the PDP, has foreclosed democracy and its top leadership is openly telling Nigerians that the electoral process is a non-starter in the scheme of things. Just two days ago at the stakeholders meeting on the economy (one of the latest 'Baba Sala alawada' shows that Obasanjo has become so enamoured of), Colonel Ahmadu Ali still reminded that this government must go on and on! Of course, this followed in the wake of the infamous interview about change of gown that's not dirty.

It is the same party leader who openly told the elected governor of Oyo State to take orders from the 'Generalissimo' of the Ibadan army of thugs, contrary to all norms of democratic life. The much-vaunted largest political party in Africa looked the other way as these thugs ransacked the office of the governor in a democratising country. And to rub salt into injury, the president of the country lent his imprimatur to the actions of Adedibu, in the open.

It cannot be possible that other governors or members of the National Assembly are happy at the illegal manner that Governor Rasheed Ladoja has been treated. But so cowered have they become, or so intimidated are they by Obasanjo's bullying tactic or the sharp sword of blackmail he wields that not a whimper has emanated from any of the governors. Neither has there been a reaction, no matter how perfunctory, from the National Assembly.

In the Nigeria of today, under the rampaging bull of the Obasanjo presidency, the guiding wisdom is to see no evil, hear no evil and talk no evil. Everybody might grumble, but nobody wants to act. The consequence is that the political space is devoid of its natural oxygen, that oxygen of robust debate and argumentation; the public space is also gradually being tested by the Obasanjo machinery for possible asphyxiation. As we all know, the leader of the main opposition party, Donald Etiebet, acts more like a superintendent working at the behest of the PDP government and especially, President Obasanjo himself. There is a puppet, we have strings and can see the hands of the puppeteer.

Why is the nation hurtling through this descent to darkness? It is all because of the consuming ambition by Obasanjo to subvert our constitutional order to achieve a third term in office. It has become increasingly obvious now that the only game in town is how to ensure

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the achievement of this agenda. Protestations about the presence of the agenda are gradually shifting ground for an assertiveness that can only come from the growing confidence that the building blocks of that agenda are beginning to fall in place.

Obasanjo, despite being the president of the country, has also been the hidden hand behind the bellicose statements emanating from the Southern Forum; incredibly, the eminent people in that forum have been threatening that they would boycott the elections of 2007, impose a confederation on the country and forcibly implement resource control, if power is not retained in Southern Nigeria. The Secretary General of the Forum, Dr Dejo Raimi, who someone described as an Obasanjo sidekick, even threatened a "bloody" restructuring of Nigeria, because according to him, "the amalgamation of 1914 was fraudulent."

Obasanjo has systematically paved a route that can only lead to hell. He has located himself at the epicentre of national events stuffed with incendiary devices; the dangers that these devices can lead to an actual and destructive detonation are very real. The calculation of the Obasanjo clique is that head or tail, he would be the ultimate winner. He could win by profiting from a stalemated political situation, where he would then appear to be the only force for 'stabilisation and continuity', or he might win by having a crisis situation engulfing the polity so completely that the nation would be so lost that we won't even be able to think of re-examining the various unconstitutional and illegal acts he has committed against our country. Deep down, the truth remains that the unrepentant dictator is mortally afraid of a future of retribution that is why he would risk that the apple cart is overturned. Everybody knows that a leper might be unable to milk a cow, but he can spill the milk!

The Nigerian people and the nation's political elite would have to go through the next one year, managing the bull in our China ware shop. We can't achieve an efficient management by wringing our hands in a helpless surrender to the illegalities and provocations of the Obasanjo clique. A state of helpless surrender can only embolden them to go further in their illegalities. What must be done is to mobilise as elements of the political elite and civil society organisations have been doing; we must re-conquer the political space from the Obasanjo dictatorship. We must tear into shreds the authoritarian and dictatorial pall that has been cast upon the nation's political space by Obasanjo and his foot soldiers.

Our political culture must be re-invigorated, so that the lively tradition of debate, arguments, ideas, dissent and patriotic consensus building can become the hallmarks of our national politics once more. We have lived through seven years of a political process that Obasanjo has dominated. Unfortunately, the main elements of his persona have been negative and philistine, they have been the antithesis of the culture of democracy. No nation can grow a robust culture of democratic development with a president like Obasanjo at its helm.

This is the background that makes it imperative to build a formidable, patriotic movement of the Nigerian people, the genuine forces of democracy, the far-seeing members of the political elite and the mass social and popular forces to sweep away the third term agenda. Nigeria cannot afford to have Obasanjo around as its president after the expiration of his tenure in May 2007. We must have a fresh beginning for our nation, having drawn useful lessons from the disastrously incompetent regime of President Obasanjo.

## Journalism and its dangers

I have always known that the business of journalism can be a very dangerous one. In several parts of the world, journalists have been killed, imprisoned or threatened for upholding the right to practise the profession. Nigerian journalists have also made tremendous sacrifices especially during the days of military dictatorship. The truth is that we constantly have to live with an element of danger, for conscientiously practising journalism.

Last Thursday, one of our reporters received a call on one of our hotlines (0803 9686 854). The call came in at 1358 hours from telephone number 0803 5637 377. According to Shehu Abubakar who received the call, the conversation went this way:

Q: Is that Daily Trust?

A: Yes.

Q: Where is that Modibbo? Is he in the office?

A: May I know you, sir?

Q: I say where is that Modibbo?

A: Please identify yourself so that I can answer the question.

Q: Warn that Modibbo. He is not the best writer. If he thinks he can write anything, we will deal with him!

As I said earlier, it is implicit in the profession of journalism that we must live with certain basic risks. Last week, I had commented on the demand for military loyalty by Obasanjo, but there was a shorter piece about Sa'idu Sambawa and Nigerian sports. When I discussed the threat with a friend who lives in London, he told me he had read in Vanguard's online edition that a leading sports journalist had also received a threat over comments he had made about the face-off between the sports minister and the NFA chairman. So I was wondering whether that could also have been the source of the threat that came my way or the stance I have taken against the unconstitutional actions of the regime in power in general.

I just want to assure the reader, and even those hurling threats at journalists, that I have always felt a deep sense of responsibility about the powers of the written word and the professional imperatives of journalism. The duty of the conscientious journalist is, in my view, to help expand the democratic space in society. We are naturally the scourge of the powerful, especially when power is irresponsibly used. There is no threat that can intimidate me, because I believe we owe our country the duty of speaking up for its present and its future, against those who hold it hostage, making it a country of perpetual potential greatness unable to fulfil its potentials.