

DAILY TRUST

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IBB fires back at Gani

By Jibril Daudu

Former President General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida (rtd) has reacted to the invectives poured on him over the years by Lagos lawyer, Chief Gani Fawehinmi over the death of Dele Giwa, founder of the *Newswatch* magazine about 14 years ago.

Babangida specifically reacted to insinuations made by Gani to the Justice Chukwudifu Oputa-led Human Rights Violation Investigation Commission during its sittings at Lagos in which he linked the former president and his Chief Security Officer, Col. Haliru Akilu and Tunde Togun to the death of Dele Giwa.

In an exclusive interview with *Daily Trust* editors in Minna, General Babangida described Gani as an unintelligent lawyer: "What he lacks in terms of knowledge he compensates it with brinkmanship, and emotion," Babangida said of Gani in reference to his performance at the Oputa Panel.

Gen. Babangida said he was disappointed at the performance of Gani at the Oputa panel during its sittings at Lagos.

According to him, "I never saw him in practice, but when I saw him on the television, I didn't believe he is a bright lawyer."

"I wouldn't take him to be my legal counsel because what he showed there shows that he lacks proper legal education. A lawyer who had good education, a lawyer who had good experience will not behave the way he did," he added.

Gen. Babangida maintained that Gani's appearance at the Oputa panel was only designed to gain cheap publicity. "What he lacks intellectually, he covers it up with emotion and the desire to gain cheap publicity."

"It was the first time I saw a lawyer presenting a legislation as an exhibit. That doesn't speak well of him, a professional. You bring a law, a legislation and say you want to tender it as an exhibit. I'm not a lawyer but I know such a thing is never done but he displayed it on the television."

"So, I don't respect him as a professional lawyer based on what I have seen. But as a professional agitator for June 12 or the Nigerian Conscience **Contd. on Pg.1**

Senate President sued for N40m

From Wisdom Patrick in Lagos

The Senate President, Chief Anyim Pius Anyim may appear in a Lagos court today to answer to a 40m Human Rights Violation and assault case instituted by his compatriot and Head of Legal Drafting in Ebonyi State House of Assembly.

In the suit, the Head of the drafting unit of the Ebonyi legislature, Mr. Hilary Nwachukwu Onwe, is also seeking relief for defamation of character, allegations which he said occurred earlier this month in Ebonyi.

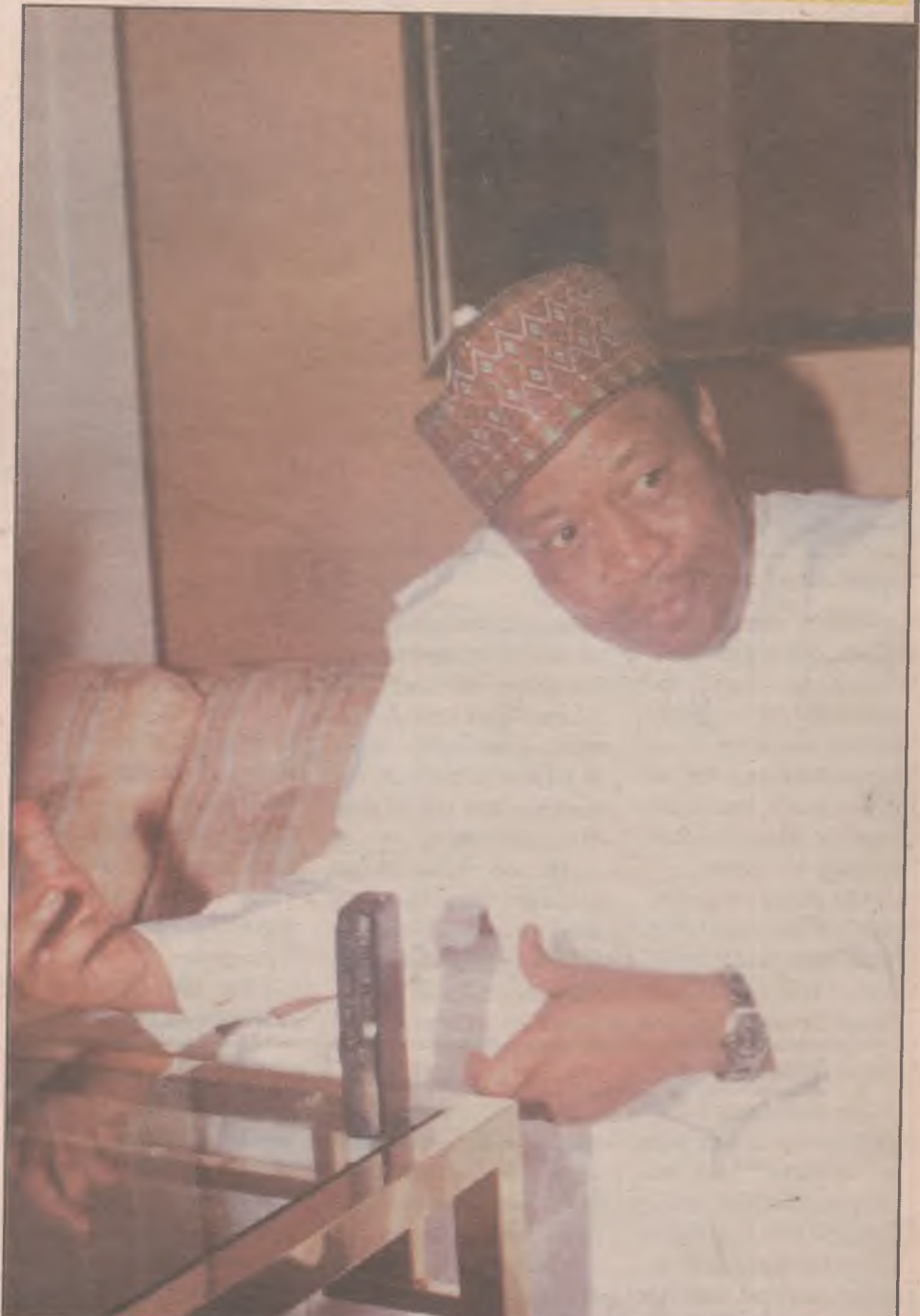
Addressing newsmen in Lagos yesterday, Mr. Onwe said his lawyers had already filed the necessary briefs adding that he was also seeking an open and unreserved apology from the senate president for "illegal detention and torture of his agents."

Anyim is also to tender an open and unreserved apology to the angry lawyer and draft-man for the Ebonyi state legislators, who claimed the Senate President through his agent abused his fundamental human rights recently.

Speaking to *Daily Trust* Mr. Onwe's counsel, Mr. Femi Olutokunbi said the ag-

grieved Mr. Onwe had briefed him recently on the senate president's siege on Ebonyi state between January 12th and 13th, 2001.

Olutokunbi said, "we find disturbing the degree of crudity and political immaturity in ordering the arrest, torture and detention of our client and some other prominent people of the state including the chairman of the Afikpo North Local Government Council by the Senate President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria." **Contd. on Pg.1**



Gen. Babangida speaking at Minna.

Pix Kennedy Egbonodje

ECOWAS parliament opens in Abuja

President Olusegun Obasanjo yesterday opened the first session of the Economic Com-

By Suleiman Mohammed & Henry Omu

munity of West African States (ECOWAS) parliament in Abuja just as the National Assembly announced a N200 million budget for the various activities of the Nigerian delegation in the parliament.

The amount was announced by Senate President, Chief Anyim Pius Anyim, who later

charged all ECOWAS member states to similarly devote a certain percentage of their annual budget for the development and activities of the parliament.

But President Obasanjo while opening the parliament's first session yesterday, urged the parliamentarians to help in fostering economic and political integration in the West Africa sub-region.

He observed that since the inception of ECOWAS, 25 years ago, it was only the committee of heads of state and government that

Contd. on Pg.1

Shehu Shagari: Beckoned to Serve

Alhaji Shehu Shagari: A Quiet Man opens up

Tomorrow, we begin the serialisation of *Beckoned To Serve*, Alhaji Shehu Shagari's seminal and thundering autobiography. This is a title with a magnetic pull, and the work presents a charming glimpse of the former President's life in Shagari village during his formative years.

His early working experiences within and outside government are neatly chronicled with Alhaji Shehu Shagari's characteristic simplicity and humour. His elevation to the loftiest seat in the land, and his candid observation of the warp and woof of governance, are delineated in living and colourful strokes. Various coups and socio-political tempests are captured with their dramatic aspects.

Book your copy of *Daily Trust* tomorrow and always, to get a glimpse of Alhaji Shehu Shagari's vivid prose and wealth of detail.

Beckoned To Serve will be launched at Africa Hall, International Conference Centre, Abuja on February 22nd 2001.

NEWS

Contractor weeps as minister vows to terminate N140 million contract

A contractor at the weekend in Takum, Taraba state wept when the Minister of State for Works and Housing, Mr. Garba Ali, vowed to terminate his N140 million contract to rehabilitate the Takum-Bissaula road and recover money already paid for the job.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that Ali made the vow when he inspected the 27.7 kilometre road following petitions in which the affected communities claimed that Adeda Ventures, handlers of the project, did a shoddy job. The contractor's pleas of "please Oga, I beg sir," and "please, please, Oga help me," did not impress the minister or the angry crowd.

The contractor immediately withdrew from the inspection team and headed for his car where he burst into tears.

Records from the ministry showed that the job



Chief Anenih Minister of Works and Housing

for which 75 per cent payment, had been made, was awarded in 1996 for completion in 1998, but the records show that the job was only completed last year.

Trouble, however, started for the contractor when the benefiting communities from Takum and Ussa Local Government wrote several petitions and sent representations to protest alleged refusal to execute the job according to specifications.

"They just spoilt this

road", Ukwé Danjuma Piki, district head of Lissam in Ussa, told the minister, adding: "It (road) was better than this before this people (contractors) came here".

NAN reports that Ali was particularly irked by the lack of drainage, while the shoulders were left bare, which exposed the surface to being washed away, resulting into potholes and gullies.

"You only completed this road last year and it already has so many potholes, so clearly, we must terminate the contract because it can not stand the test of time," he said.

"The era of business as usual is gone."

The minister rejected the contractor's call for a review based on claims that the cost in 1996 became obsolete in 2000, especially since communal clashes in the area between 1997 and 1998 made it impossible to start work.

"You have a right to re-

ject the job, but once you have signed and collected down payment, you have an obligation to do it," he explained.

Ali also dismissed the contractor's claim that the job would cost "more than fifteen times." The original contract sum if it was rewarded to a different contractor, noting that what it might cost government to do a good job was nobody's business.

The minister however pledged government's resolve to reward committed contractors with more jobs while those found wanting would be blacklisted to ensure the nation had the best facilities.

He cautioned contractors against deliberate delays in the executive of projects just to later ask for a review of the job and chided people who claimed

that government was not doing enough to better the lot of Nigerians.

NAN reports that Ali who was in Takum in continuation of his tour of road projects in Taraba and Adamawa states, had earlier indicated that the contract for the construction of Donga bridge would also be terminated as the contractors, Rockbridge Ltd had abandoned the job.



A cross section of members of parliament from other West African countries at 1st Plenary Session of the ECOWAS Parliament at ECOWAS secretariat, Abuja. Pix Kennedy Egbonodje

Contd. from Pg.1

Party, I respect him," the former president said.

Gen. Babangida explained the reasons for his inability to appear before the panel saying it was improper to ask him to account for crimes committed under his regime.

"An offence was committed when I was in office. You might as well bring every former Head of State to answer the crime that was

IBB

committed during his time," he said as he maintained that people only wanted to use the Oputa panel to "remain relevant in the media, to remain always in the headlines and not because of any other thing.

He also explained that he did not attend the Oputa panel sittings not because he was running away from Lagos but because the atmosphere in Lagos was not

conducive for the type of good job the Oputa panel was trying to do.

"It is only here that people can afford to get unruly in a legally constituted panel of this nature. In a situation where emotions have taken over decency, I think nobody will like to find himself in such a position.

See details of the interview on Pg.16

Contd. from Pg.1

Senate President

He said further that, they have sufficient facts and evident that his (Anyim) security operatives and police acting on his order forcefully arrested our client, Barrister Hilary Onwe at the Orient Guest House, whisked him to the Ebonyi hotel where Senator Anyim lodged and had our client thoroughly beaten and degrading, maltreated, before dumping him at the State Security Service (SSS) office for two days for undisclosed offence," he alleged.

The litigation expert further alleged that the treatment was in spite of his client's disclosure of his identity as the head of the department of the Legislative Drafting of Ebonyi State House of Assembly, a public servant and not a politician.

He observed that Anyim action and that of his agents, constitute gross abuse of entrusted

legislative and political powers and most disturbingly, a lawless assault on his client's fundamental rights, which violates section 34(1)(a); 35(1) and (3); 41 of the constitution which the Senate President in his official capacity swore to uphold.

Olutokunbi claimed he has accepted his client's brief to exhaust all constitutional means and legal processes to challenge the crude exhibition of misconceived powers and to seek redress for the gross violation of their client rights in a democratic system and at a time when the masses of this country were just recovering from the traumatic and painful experiences of a most ruthless and outrageous military lawlessness.

He said that their decision to pursue, this bring to its very logical conclusion, "becomes a duty not only to assist the Obasanjo's government effort to forge our body polity of the first

oppressive use of state powers as evidenced in the on going human rights violation investigating if Justice Chukwudifu Oputa, but more importantly to expose and legally resist any vestige of abuse of citizen's basic rights by any politically powerful members of the executive or legislative bodies," he said.

Reminding Anyim that, a senator's immunity from the arms of the law for any act of thuggery and violence was confined to the floor of the house." Section 308 of our constitution does not immunised the senate president from civil liabilities for his civil wrongs against the citizens," he observed.

He added that he has advised his client accordingly and would soon set in motion all necessary legal machinery to enforce the client's rights against the senate president as provided under section 46 of the constitution in the appropriate court.

Contd. from Pg.1

had been playing the role of initiating, executing and implementing policies of the sub-regional body.

Said Obasanjo: "ECOWAS parliament is obviously a logical complement to the authority of heads of state and government, the council of ministers and the community of heads of justice."

He then expressed the hope that the parliament would soon commence work in the interest of the sub-region which of recent, has been riddled with series of crisis, saying as elected representatives of the people, the parliamentarians are in the right position to foster unity in the sub-region.

While suggesting that the parliament should have a full time speaker for effective coordination of its activities, he however said his suggestion should not be misconstrued to mean interference in their activities.

"Here in Nigeria, we are very mindful of something they call interference. The executive does not interfere with the legislature, and the legislature does not interfere with the executive," he declared, stressing that at this stage, the parliament should have a solid foundation for an effective take-off.

Earlier in his address, the Senate President Pius Anyim had described the establishment of the ECOWAS parliament as

ECOWAS parliament

timely in view of the current challenges facing the sub-region. He said, the new body should find ways of addressing the conflict between the urge for national sovereignty and demands for regional integration.

The Senate President said the quest for sovereignty and integration could only be achieved with the provision of adequate security and economic strength.

He stressed that, "If the stronger economies of Europe have learnt their lessons that regional cooperation is more rewarding than national sovereignty, then we the weaker states of ECOWAS must not waste time in imbibing these lesson even faster."

While announcing the provision of N200 million for the Nigerian delegation in the parliament, the Senate President declared that Nigeria would offer its support too the logistics, infrastructure and comprehensive development of the secretariat if the country was given the mandate to host the secretariat.

In his address, the ECOWAS executive secretary, Lansana Kouyate said the parliament was established in line with article 13 of the ECOWAS treaty, stressing that the parliamentarians should be ready to face the challenges facing the sub-region.

He declared that the ECOWAS parliament came

into effect at a time the sub-region is faced with a complicated security situation at the border between Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, when the sudden and often convulsive changes in the political situation in Cote D'Ivoire remain a source of grave concern and at a time when efforts to bring peace to Casamance are yet to achieve the desired results."

The parliament's interim speaker, Hon. Oumar Sidikao of Niger Republic also urged the parliamentarians to popularise the ideals of integration and eliminate negative culture barriers among member states. He said that democracy would be consolidated only through strict observance of the rule of law and provision of security in the sub-region.

The one-week parliamentary session would among other things elect officials as well as consider and adopt reports by two of its ad-hoc committees which prepared the draft budget and rules of procedure for the community institution.

The 120-member parliament which was inaugurated in Bamako, Mali in November by the ECOWAS chairman, President Alpha Konare provides five seats for each member state with the remaining 40 seats allocated on the basis of population.

NEWS

Briefly

Legion chairman urge Danjuma to stay put

Deputy Commandant-General of the Nigerian Legion, Major Adekunle Ogumuyin (rtd) has urged the Minister of Defence, General Theophilus Danjuma not to resign his appointment. Ogumuyin told *Daily Trust* in Lagos that the general's contributions to the development of Nigeria army was enormous saying Gen. Danjuma should not abandon the nation at this hour of need.

10 Die in Two Auto Accidents

Eight persons believed to be policemen were killed in an accident at the weekend involving the motorcade of a state governor witnesses said. In a separate accident in Lagos, police said two people also died when the articulated truck they were travelling in veered off a bridge on Lagos Island and plunged into the sea. Witnesses said the accident involving the motorcade of the Kwara State governor AVM Mohammed Lawal (rtd) occurred when a police escort car had a head-on collision with a truck near Kutigi, in Niger State.

Retired staff seal off NNN premises

Retired staff of the federal government-owned New Nigerian Newspapers Ltd, in Kaduna on Friday sealed off the premises of the media establishment, protesting the non-payment of their pension benefits in the past 12 months. The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) gathered that the retired staff had earlier assembled at the premises of the Kaduna state council of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) along the Muhammadu Buhari Way, from where they marched to the New Nigerian premises in the afternoon.

Oputa re-opens Late Obi Wali's murder case

The Justice Chukwudifu Oputa Human Rights Violation, Investigation Commission has ordered a re-investigation of the murder case of the late Sen. Obi Wali whose murder took place in 1993. In his judgement, following a review of the petition of Mr. Ihunwo Obi Wali, son of the late Senator as well as the evidence of the then director of public prosecution of Rivers State, Adokiye Amasiemeka, Oputa also ordered the transfer of the case to the Federal Intelligence and Investigation Bureau (FIIB).

Perm Sec blames 'external forces' for conflicts in Africa

Ambassador Brownson Dede, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Co-operation and Integration in Africa, has said that "external forces" with the sole aim of exploiting resources were the major cause of conflicts in Africa. Dede made the assertion at the weekend in Abuja at the first lecture organized by the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution entitled "Understanding Conflicts: A Conceptual Analysis on Issues and Research Methods in Conflict Resolution."

Facts emerge on Obasanjo/Menakaya rift

By Suleiman Mohammed

Facts have emerged on why President Olusegun Obasanjo recently lambasted the health minister, Dr. Tim Menakaya for alleged disobedience and total failure of the ministry in the last 18 months.

President Obasanjo, earlier this month took a public swipe on the Health Minister during a meeting at the ECOWAS secretariat to examine the performance of the nation's health sector, where he accused Dr. Menakaya of disobedience to presidential orders.

Daily Trust gathered at the presidency that the problem between President Obasanjo and the Health Minister reached the climax in October last year, Dr. Menakaya allegedly refused to inaugurate the board of the

National Primary Health Care Delivery Agency (NPHCDA) which has former Health Minister Dr. Olukoye Ramsome Kuti as its chairman. However, boards of other parastatals under the ministry were reportedly inaugurated by the minister.

Sources, hinted that President Obasanjo queried the minister over such action, and that despite explanations by Dr. Menakaya that his action was hinged on misinformation the president was, not happy.

Daily Trust also gathered that Dr. Menakaya allegedly refused to constitute the Committee on Standardisation of equipment at the nation's teaching hospital headed by Professor Oladipupo Akinkigbe. But it was learnt that the committee was

inaugurated a week before the January 6, 2001 bashing by President Obasanjo.

Another major contention that pitched President Obasanjo against the health minister was the reported conflict between Dr. Menakaya and Professor Ramsome Kuti over the execution of the National Primary Health Care Programme.

Sources further hinted that while the minister directed that medical doctors be used for the programme, Dr. Kuti on the other hand, recommended to president Obasanjo that nurses and social health workers would be ideal for the programme, an idea which the president promptly endorsed.

Daily Trust further learnt that the crisis was further compounded when some presidential aides allegedly



Dr. Menakaya

informed President Obasanjo that the health Minister had mapped out plans to "deal" with Yoruba officials in the health ministry. This it was gathered angered the president who then used the health forum to publicly lambast Dr. Menakaya.

Although Dr. Menakaya maintained silence throughout the period of his bashing lasted, *Daily Trust* learnt that the Ministry had at close door session defended himself with documentary evidence that he did not flout any presidential directive.

Dr. Menakaya was said to have mentioned names of perceived 'saboteurs' who he alleged, were responsible for the communication gap between him and the president. He also reportedly complained of the delay in the release of the 2000 budgetary allocation to the ministry.

The health ministry which was allocated N5.9 billion in the 2000 budget has so far received only N3 billion from the finance ministry.

Atiku seeks Bush's cooperation

Vice President Atiku Abubakar has expressed the hope that the new United States President, George W. Bush would improve on the relationship that former President Bill Clinton built with Nigeria and Africa in general.

Speaking in an interview with the Voice of America (VOA) monitored in Abuja, Vice President Atiku who led the Nigeria's delegation to the inauguration of President Bush (Jnr) said Nigeria would watch closely the new American government, stressing that "we hope President George Bush will continue with the policy of his predecessor towards Nigeria and Africa in general."

He described President Bush as an experienced businessman who would like to establish more trade relation with Africa, saying that with experienced personalities round the new American president, "there is hope for positive relations between

America and the African continent."

Vice President Atiku extolled the



Vice President, Atiku Abubakar

Clinton's administrations, describing it as the best for Africa in the history of American government. According to him the signing into law of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) bill was a milestone towards improving trade relations between Nigeria and the US.

Atiku Abubakar who is expected home today said his meeting with Vice President Dick Cheney and other officials of the new American government shows that the new Bush administration would not ignore Nigeria and Africa in her foreign policy.

Kaura Poly ASUP on strike

From Salisu Zakari Maradun in Gusau

The Academic Staff Union of the Federal Polytechnic (ASUP) Kaura Namoda, in Zamfara State has embarked on an indefinite industrial action over what they called "breach of trust".

At the premises of the Institution, students were seen discussing the development in groups while all the classes were virtually empty.

Most of the teachers were absent while a few of administrative staff could be seen attending files.

The public relations officer of the institution Ebozoje Jacob however disclosed that the union embarked on the strike over alleged non-payment of their 1999 salary arrears and allowance.

Mr. Jacob said although series of crucial meetings were held with the management during which the management pledged to pay up, but they could not redeem their pledges.

"So we had a congress where the situation was reviewed, and the house collectively agreed to embark on the action based on the resolution given by our national body that whenever many management refused to adhere to our demands we should go on strike, he declared.

In his reaction, the Chairman of the governing council of the institutions Senator Adamu Ajaji Waziri condemned the strike action saying they have no reason to embark on a strike action since few days ago, we held a meeting with them the staff in Kaduna

with the representatives of the federal government regarding the payment of the arrears, and we resolved that it is imperative to sort out the names of the beneficiaries first".

He further stressed that "I am not in the position to pay them, neither the Rector is not in the position", he explained.

FG saves N6bl from audit—Obasanjo

By Suleiman Mohammed

A total of N6 billion was saved by the federal government following the recent manpower audit of the Federal Civil Service conducted by the office of the Head of Service of the federation.

The audit report (phase I) which was submitted for ratification by the Federal Executive Council (FEC) meeting, revealed a total of 215,364 officials on federal government pay roll as at June, 2000.

Briefing state house correspondents at the end of FEC meeting, Information and National Orientation minister, Professor Jerry Gana said although there was no clear report of the number of ghost workers, the audit shows that there are 214,07 pensionable officials.

He said that the total number of ministers, special assistants and special advisers stood at 500 while

commissioners in federal civil service at 857.

Professor Gana said that President Obasanjo has already ordered the Head of Service, Alhaji Ahmed Yayale to proceed with the auditing to cover other areas such as the armed forces, police and junior staff.

Similarly, Professor Gana announced that the meeting approved the reports of the nation-wide country procurement and assessment as well as the country financial accountability committees prepared by state officials and the World Bank and presented by the ministry of finance.

According to him, the objectives of the study was to provide a comprehensive analysis of the country financial commitments and public procurements towards enhancing probity and accountability. He said a public procurement commission would also be set up soon.

Oputa seeks peace at Ogoni land

The Human Rights Violation and Investigation Commission at the weekend visited the troubled Ogoniland to try to end the festering crisis in the oil-producing Niger Delta.

The chairman of the commission, Justice Chukwudifu Oputa has urged Ogoni community Rivers State to put behind the violence wrought on the community during military rule and work towards reconciliation.

"On behalf of my humble self and all the commissioners, I bring you our personal sentiments of deep sympathy to all of you and your families on the very sad and sordid event that took place here over the

past few years," said Oputa.

"We say sorry for what has happened, we have come both to console you on your irreparable losses and also pray that God will heal your wounds," Justice Oputa declared.

The Human Rights Commission was set up by President Obasanjo within months of taking office in May 1999 to hear cases of human rights abuses under military rule.

But the Ogonis, still embittered about years of neglect despite decades of oil exploration in the area, as well as the hanging of nine of their leaders by the regime of late dictator Sani Abacha, have threatened to boycott the commission's sittings.

A spokesman for the community told the commission during the visit that the Ogonis only looked forward to government meeting their demands which include the release of the bodies of their hanged leaders, provision of amenities and implementing a United Nations rapporteur's recommendations.

The UN report called for an environmental audit of the Niger Delta and particularly Ogoniland which must involve the oil companies.



Justice Chukwudifu Oputa

NEWS



Alh. Ibrahim Mantu, Deputy Senate President exchanging views with Mohamane Osmane, President of National Assembly, Niger Republic at the opening of the 1st Session of ECOWAS parliament in Abuja yesterday. Photo Kennedy Egbonodje

NNPC fuel stations for 6 cities

From Abdulfattah Olajide, in Lagos

The Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) is to set up fuel service stations in six cities across the country as a way of alleviating the chronic fuel scarcity.

Already six strategic cities namely Lagos, Kano, Abuja, Port Harcourt, Warri and Enugu have been selected for the pilot scheme which is expected to be completed within six months.

NNPC executive director, Commercial and Investment, Mr. Benson Omomukoyo disclosed this when he paid a courtesy visit to the Lagos State Governor, Senator Bola Ahmed Tinubu recently.

Mr. Omomukoyo who urged the governor to allocate four large parcels of land in different locations for the project, explained that each of the proposed filling stations would be able to serve about 40 vehicles simultaneously when built.

The NNPC director further revealed that the corporation had already secured the cooperation of the government of other states selected for the pilot scheme, adding that the project was capable of eradicating fuel scarcity, hoarding and smuggling.

He also stated that all major petroleum products would be sold at the corporation's retail outlets.

In his response, Governor Tinubu pledged his government's support for the scheme and pleaded that the number of service stations to be built in Lagos by the corporation be increased substantially in view of its population.

The governor, however, noted that the NNPC should have opted for the building strategic fuel reserves in each state of the federation to deal adequately with the recurrent fuel scarcity instead of the retail

scheme.

He suggested that the multinational oil companies should have been required to build and operate the proposed giant stations in view of government's current economy and privatization drive.

Said he: "If the NNPC deems it fit to delve into fuel marketing, I hope we are ready to cope with the demands of such projects. If that is the case as you have concluded, the Lagos state government will cooperate with you fully."

The governor also revisited the issue of Petroleum (Special) Tax Fund (PTF), saying that 60 per cent of the tax is derived from Lagos State, and as such it should be reinvested back into the state.

Governor Tinubu also recalled the recent pipeline fire

incident in the state, saying it had serious environmental impact on Lagos and its citizens.

Idris calls for unity among Muslims

From Waziri Isa Gwantu in Zaria

The Emir of Zazzau, Alhaji Shehu Idris has enjoined Muslims to live in peace with one another and to shun any act capable of

creating disunity among the Muslim Umah.

He also called on religious leaders to preach the true message of Islam to their followers as taught and demonstrated by Prophet Muhammed.

The Emir who was speak-

Gombe Gov. tasks aides on probity



Gov. Hashidu Administration.

Meanwhile religious organizations in Gombe State have been commended for ensuring the maintenance of peace in the state.

The State Governor, Alhaji Abubakar Habu Hashidu made the commendation while re-

ceiving the Chairman and members of the state branch of the Jama'atul Izalatal Bid'a Wa Iqamatus Sunnah (JIBWIS) who paid him a Sallah homage at the Government House, Gombe.

He noted the role of religious organisations in educating and enlightening their members on the need for peaceful co-existence among the diverse people of the state.

The Governor reiterated his administrations continued assistance to any well meaning organization that strives for the improvement of the living standard of the people.

Alhaji Hashidu who acknowledged the contribution of religious groups towards the development of education in the state, assured that government will soon embark on the improvement of facilities at their schools in addition to provision of necessary teaching and learning materials.

He also advised Muslims to support the Imam in the cause of discharging his spiritual responsibility as the spiri-



Emir Shehu Idris

tual leader of the Sultan Bello Mosque.

In his response, the chief Imam, Sheikh Abdulhameed Balele Wale described his choice and installation as the Chief Imam of the biggest mosque in Kaduna, Sultan Bello, as the will of God and prayed Allah to direct his affairs throughout the period of his Imamship.

He assured that he will not allow anything to obstruct the discharge of his functions as the spiritual leader of the mosque

Sheikh Balele Wale who succeeded Sheikh Abubakar Gerei who died last year called on the Muslims to bury their differences and work together for the benefit of Islam.

"It would be recalled that controversy erupted last year between two Muslim factions over who was to succeed the rite Imam a development that resulted in the Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Muhammed Maccido interfering to unite the two factions.

More relevant roles for Govs. Wives

Minister of Women Affairs and Youth development, Hajiya Aisha Ismail has said that the new role of Wives of State Governors under the present civilian administration was aimed at making them more relevant in executing meaningful

programmes in line with the yearnings of their people.

Hajiya Aisha Ismail stated this in Abuja while exchanging views with the Wife of the Niger State Governor, Hajiya Zainab Kure, who paid her a courtesy call in her office.

The Minister expressed satisfaction that the initial misunderstanding arising from the changing role of wives of governors has given way to a more positive and objective programme execution in the states.

She said that was why the wives of the Governors are now able to look at the problems affecting their people, and not because they are compelled to do so by any law.

Hajiya Ismail stressed that the dividend of democracy has indeed made the wives of Governors to reach a level of objectivity whereby programmes of governance are now effectively intervened, a situation which



Haj. Aishatu Ismail, Minister of Women Affairs

possibility of absorbing CADD as Research and Development Centre under the National Automotive Council (NAC).

(iii) That further expenditure on the Centre's capital vote be stopped forthwith.

The letter, in this regard, disclosed that two representatives, from the LSI department in the persons of messrs A. Bakare and M. Bala and the Chief Internal Auditor of the ministry Mrs. O. Oyewole have been mandated to take all necessary action towards ensuring that no further expenditures are incurred on the closed.

When contacted the Executive Director of the Centre, Professor Folan described the federal government's action as capable of undermining the nation's dreams towards technological advancement.

Professor Folan who refused to speak further on the closure of the Centre however called on the federal government to rescind the decision in the best interest of developing the nation's automobile sub-sector.

FG scraps Automotive Centre

The Federal Government has scrapped the Centre for Automotive Design and Development, CADD, Zaria under the Federal Ministry of Industry.

A Letter to this effect informing Executive Director of the Centre, Professor C.O. Folan, of government's decision which was made available to *Daily Trust* was signed by Director of Large Scale Industries Dr. G.T. Irele on behalf of the Minister Mr. Steven Akiga.

The letter read in part, "I am directed to convey to you the abolition of Centre for Automotive Design and Development (CADD) by the Federal Government."

It added that, "consequently" the minister has approved the constitution of a committee to wind up the activities of the Centre." The letter also quoted the Minister as saying that:

(i) That there would no longer be any budgetary provision for CADD for the fiscal year 2001.

(ii) That one of the committee's Terms of Reference should be to examine the

Ruminations

Begging the Question

By Richard Umaru

General Hassan Usman Katsina (of fond memory)

was in his time a very controversial gentleman. Not one who suffered fools gladly or who tolerated idle gossip. General Hassan always said things the way he felt or saw them, minding not whose ox he gored.

The story is told of how while the late General was in retirement a serving senior military officer came one day to his residence in Kaduna and told him some unsavoury things about the then sitting Head of State and Commander in Chief of the Nigerian Armed Forces. General Hassan listened to the officer without comment.

It so happened that soon after this incident the General, who was on a visit to the federal capital, paid a courtesy call on the said Head of State. And, lo and behold, what was he to see? He saw the same senior military officer who had come to his house in Kaduna with uncomplimentary tales about the same Head of State right there in the C-in-C's office playing the good boy and die-hard loyalist to the Head of State.

Characteristically, General Hassan could not stomach this duplicity and he was said to have there and then, and in the presence of the Head of State, challenged the officer over what he had earlier told him regarding the Head of State!

That was the quintessential General Hassan Usman Katsina. Always brutally blunt. Always down-to-earth. And always abrasively frank. In fact, some would even say frank to a fault.

A score or so years before his tragic and untimely death, General Hassan surveyed the Nigerian landscape at the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan and saw some thing that he felt was not right. Everywhere he looked he saw something that he felt was nor right. Everywhere he looked he saw an ever-growing horde of street beggars and destitutes. When he looked closer he discovered, to his utter consternation, that the majority of these destitutes and beggars were drawn largely from the so-called Hausa-Fulani stoke

There and then the Gen-

eral came out publicly to decry the phenomenon of street begging. Begging, he declared, was a disgrace to Northerners in general and the Hausa-Fulani in particular. The practice he argued had neither a religious nor a traditional foundation, as was then being claimed by some spiritual leaders. It should, therefore, at least be discouraged and at best be proscribed. Coming as it did from not just a Muslim but a blue-blooded prince of the Katsina ruling dynasty, General Hassan's intervention on street begging was as bold as it was inspiring. The late General, throughout the rest of his life, mounted a one-man campaign against street begging. The present campaign by Governor Rabiu Kwankwaso in Kano State, no doubt owes its inspiration to the tireless efforts of Hassan Usman Katsina.

But even the legendary Hasigeria. And since his death a lot of obfuscation has attended social debate and official policy on the matter.

For one thing, the argument that street begging in Nigeria has no foundation in only partially correct, if correct at all. The giving of *Zakat*, i.e., the obligation on the part of a wealthy Muslim to spend one-fortieth of his wealth or more in a year on the poor, the needy and the wayfarer and on such other items of charity as are prescribed by Allah and the prophet, is an integral part of the Islamic religion. It is, indeed, said to be the third pillar of Islam, coming only after faith in Allah and in his prophets (i.e. the *Shahada*) and the obligatory prayers (*Salat*). Besides, a tradition of the holy prophet maintains that "The mandate of God is: 'O son of Adam! Go on spending the wealth I have given thee (on the poor, the needy and the destitute): I shall give you more.'"

In the light of the above, how can anyone say that begging or the giving of alms (there will be no begging if nobody gives, and the giving of alms is seen as a religious obligation) has no basis in the Islamic religion? The only argument that may be made is that both the giving and the receiving of charity and alms

should not be done on an individual, indiscriminate and ad-hoc basis, but rather in a centralized manner.

But such an argument presupposes the existence of a centralized, theocratic Islamic State. In a situation where this theocratic Islamic state does not exist, like in Nigeria, and where many priests and *Ulama* have succumbed to the temptations of material corruption and have succumbed to the temptations of material corruption and have turned religion into a business enterprise, charitably-inclined individuals keen on satisfying what they perceive to be their religious obligations may be excused if they choose to disburse their extra coins by dropping same into the waiting palms and pans of street urchins.

There is, however, another - perhaps even more important - respect in which the received wisdom about the 'problem' of street begging in Nigeria leaves much to be desired. This has to do with the correct understanding of the social nexus and historical origin of the phenomenon, particularly in the Northern part of the country.

The late General Hassan was particularly vexed by the fact that the phenomenon was a largely Hausa-Fulani affair. But the reasons for the fact that the preponderance of street beggars (save for the influx from the neighbouring Sahelian countries which become noticeable since the drought and famine of the early 1970s) are of Hausa-Fulani stoke is rally not that difficult to fathom. Apart from the religious dimension outlined above, the following factors have accounted for this.

First, even before the onset of colonial rule and the coming of the jihad, Hausaland had made the qualitative leapfrogging from social organization based on the principle of family or kinship consanguinity to that based on political community based on territoriality. But this qualitative transformation was at a cost: the undermining and ossification of family solidarity.

Secondly, on top of the weakening of family solidarity which this social transformation brought about came the relatively early introduction in

Hausaland of commodity relations with the growth of large commercial centers such as Kano, Katsina and Zaria.

These early influences were further strengthened by the subsequent imposition of colonial rule and the capitalist money economy as well as increasing population pressure on land resources, particularly in the so-called close-settled zones of Kano, Katsina and the Sokoto-Rima valley.

The combined effect of all these transformations has been the undermining of family solidarity. Where the extended family was once able to cater for the disabled and the destitute in its midst, it was now incapable and unprepared to do so - everyone now being for himself and God or *Allah* for all.

It is, of course, true that similar influences were also impacting on other peoples and cultures in the other parts of the country. But in these other areas - in the ethnic minority areas of the Middle Belt, amongst the Igbo in Eastern Nigeria and particularly in Yoruba land - the dislocating impact on family solidarity was less acute. Indeed, in some of these societies, like Yoruba land, family solidarity became instrumental in accessing the so-called benefits of the new market-oriented money economy.

In the case of Northern Nigeria, what has been particularly tragic is not only the fact that successive administration have failed to appreciate this underlying political economy of street begging, but indeed a section of the ruling class has come to regard street beggars as instrumental to their political agenda. In Kano, in Bulumkutu, in Kaduna, in Bauchi, etc. these street urchins and lumpen elements have been used as canon fodder in politically instigated communal and religious conflicts.

It is therefore, only common sense that as long as these social conditions persist and in so far as there continue, to exist strong social classes whose interests are served by the existence of street beggars, efforts (such as the one currently going on in Kano) to clean these unfortunate destitutes from the face of the streets are bound to fail.

EDITORIAL

Abuja Airport Mishap: Need for Caution

Thursday, January 14 the nation was almost thrown into mourning if anything had happened to President Olusegun Obasanjo's plane at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja. The President returned from Iran at night and the control tower had cleared the pilot to land but just before touched the ground, the lights went off and remained off for about 15 minutes. The pilot who had already programmed the plane for landing touched down in pitch darkness.

Reactions to the incident have been varied and all agencies connected with the airport have been shifting blames from one to another. National Electric Power Authority (NEPA), Federal Airport Authority of Nigeria (FAAN), and Nigeria Airspace Management Authority (NAMA) all tried to absolve themselves of culpability in the incident that could have caused death of the President and many top officials in the government.

Although no lives were lost and no damage done to the aircraft, the unfortunate event has further exposed the safety lapses in our local and international airports, lapses that can discourage any foreign investor coming to do business with us.

The order that any time there are very important personalities movement at the airport, very reliable power supply should be provided using standby generating sets is not all inclusive. It has limited the safety of passengers (including foreign dignitaries) at the airport to only "important personalities." This gives the impression that a passenger flying into Nigeria is not an important personality.

The incident has also brought to light the sad fact that Nigeria has not yet divorced itself from the old ways of doing things. For instance, within 12 hours of the occurrence, no fewer than 10 people including the airport manager, FAAN liaison officer at the Presidential Lounge and other workers at the standby power supply station were rapidly clamped into detention. They were detained pending investigations and may not even be offered any apologies if they are finally exonerated. The right thing to do is to detain persons (if necessary) as a result of the outcome of investigations. In this period of human rights activism, one can sue the government for illegal arrest and detention. Let's learn to do the right things and the right is to fight inefficiency whenever it is found.



LETTER OF THE DAY

Enlivening!

It is with great pleasure and much anticipation that I read your first "Daily Trust" Congratulatory to you and your staff or enlivening the Nigerian media scene five times as often as before.

Considering the standard that the "Weekly

Trust" has set and in view of the quality of reporters you have I truly believe it will be success that you and the region so richly deserve.

Here's wishing you the very best and hoping you continued success.

Tim Smith
Public Affairs Officer

Opinion

Nigeria's educational system: A focus on the North

By Dahiru A. Babura

The present education system drew its roots from 1970.

The military structure imposed a unitary system of Government with centralised planning and resource allocation. The latter considerably facilitated by windfall, rent revenue from oil. Employment opportunities appeared to expand indefinitely in "the land of bright and full opportunity" blessed with "egalitarian society" and "a free and democratic society".

The only barrier appeared to be lack of education which thus become even more attractive to the individual, in order to access middle class comfort and respectability, and to groups, in order to increase proportionate national influence. Government, with its strongly Keynesian learning, on the other hand, say education as a means of satisfying the national manpower requirements to staff their ambitious development plans.

The long term solution to the problem of illiteracy in Nigeria is the full implementation of the UPE Scheme. It is not only universal, it is compulsory and free. Primary education is not only the solution to illiteracy; it is a vial tool for national technological development, for

making any one access development information. World Bank literature credits successful UPE as the single most important factor responsible for the technological take off of the Pacific Rim Nations of Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, South Korea and Thailand, and now Malaysia and Indonesia.

A nation that is not able (or not willing) to give UPE to its children would be morally and intellectually bankrupt and technologically and economically deprive. The nation is also not likely to correct inequalities, and trench social justice or raise the standard of living of its people. In the case of diverse, indigeneous country like Nigeria, the UPE is the firm foundation for correcting education and other disparities.

Secondary education is a critical level during which important physical and psychological changes in the growing youth. It is also preparatory to specialization and careers selection. Besides, it is all this level that most pupils are introduced to new subjects like science. National policies tend to add more and more subjects like science. National policies tend to add more and more subjects to the curriculum and this tends to be too young at the primary school level and the tertiary education institutions tend to be autonomous and

adverse to accepting new subject prescription from outside.

Poor facilities for studies, living and leisure; squalid surroundings, prolonged and repeated strikes, and the enveloping sense of despair about the reality of impending unemployment on graduation with the consequent frustration of the hope of middle class like, on the students. It compelled them to take to irrational diversions like belonging to *Bunburutu Chuwa-chuwa*, or imbibing the drug culture and other forms of hedonism.

Investment in training of teachers has, on the other hand been high. The Grade II Teachers Certificate is the minimum qualification for any one to teach in a formal school. A number of states can legislate the National Certificate of Education (NCE) as the minimum qualification to teach any of several subjects. But the states can not do so because they do not have the funds to pay these highly trained teachers. Federal participation in primary education funding has enabled the schools standards and more. Education courses are taught at the colleges of education, polytechnics and universities. At all levels, the country is short of science teachers, particularly in the physical sciences like Physics, Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science. The shortage result, in turn, in fewer students

science, including science education which completes the vicious circle, with fewer science teachers, and so on.

To produce a large number of educated who are both good leaders and efficient servants is a political and management challenge that taxes, to the utmost, ingenuity of policy-makers and managers in the country.

One of the most important characteristics of Nigeria Education has been the great liberalisation of access since the civil war. The people believe in education as the most important investment for self actualisation. Even money, has not succeeded in replacing education in this regard. When a rich man behaves in a way that does not appear educated, people jeer "moni mis road." Education, and not money, has proved to be the great social leveller, the engine for egalitarianism, and what makes the family break ground in achieving social status.

Since the educated are the most well equipped to seize available opportunities, the reward of education are enormous especially in an era of growth and development, and everybody wants education and hence the explosion in demand at all levels.

Dahiru Abdullahi Babura
is of Budget and Economic
Planning Directorate, Dutse.

Is Collin Powell a black man?

By Idgang Alibi

Former chairman, Joint Chief of Staff of the USA Armed Forces and Commander of the American-led Allied Forces assault on Iraq code-named Operation Desert Storm, General Collin Powell, may well become the next USA Secretary of State. If his nomination by President-elect, George W. Bush, is confirmed by the Senate, he will be the first black man to occupy such a sensitive post.

Expectedly, many black people all over the world are euphoric about this. They say that Powell's nomination is a cheering indication that the Bush administration will not be anti-black as was very widely feared.

For me, I am not cheered by the nomination and the nominee and will not be happy if Powell, who is said to be black American of Jamaican origins, is confirmed for the job. My worry is the blackness of General Powell. Is he really a black man?

What, in essence, is the definition of a Blackman? Is it the colour of one's skin, the nature and texture of one's hair, the attitude of one's mind or all of the above? If it is all of the above, does Powell see himself as a Blackman?

This question is very relevant because there are many white men masquerading in black skins and, as was seen during the anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa, there are a few black men in white skins. Powell looks suspiciously to me as an example of a white man in black skin. Can somebody please contradict me with evidence that Powell has sympathies for black causes?

Although people like the Reverend Jesse Jackson and Luis Farrakan played less than noble role in Nigeria's recent history, one can easily see their blackness. But this Powell man, how "black" is he?

Powell is being touted as the black representative in the rainbow or multi-racial cabinet Mr. Bush intend to form. That is why the issue of his blackness is important. If he is to fill a black quota it is only fit and proper to ask whether, in the first place, he is himself black.

The late Chief Obafemi Awolowo once remarked that the son of a lion is a lion. In the same vein, it should be assumed that the son of a black man should of course be a black man. But the reality of the black tragedy in the world today is the son of a black man may never really be black. He may be white, even whiter than a whiteman.

As far as I can see, the "inside" of Powell is not black at all. It is white as snow. He has been socialised to a white man. That is why he belonged to the Republican Party in the place.

Considering the ideology of the Republican Party and their attitude to even the blacks in the USA itself, not to talk of us blacks in the rest of the world.

any man (such as Powell) who claims to be black and yet belongs to the GOP, is at once a suspect. He must be seen as a mole in the black household.

If such a one is then given a very prominent position in government, that is the confirmation we need that he has all along been in the pay of the enemy and that he is now being further rewarded for his good works.

Honestly, I keep wondering whether the American system would have allowed a black skinned man with a black mind to rise to the position Powell rose to in the USA Armed Forces.

I may be wrong, but I see the eventual appointment of Powell as a great coup by the white establishment against the black race. It is a knock-out punch. With it, the blacks in the USA can not complain of what we Nigerians love to call "marginalisation." How can they, when one of their own is holding one of the most visible jobs in the world?

Yet, as we have been arguing, the man is not one of us in reality. He is part of an elaborate act of deception, a good propaganda material for the white establishment. Powell will simply be the messenger or executor of an essentially white American establishment's policies and world-view. Need I say also that he will be a token show that the Republican Party also belongs to the blacks who identify more with the Democratic Party, blacks whose votes in Florida would have given victory to Al-Gore if those votes were counted?

The tragedy of Powell's appointment to even himself is that even if he has a mind to be pro-black, he will always be reminded of the source of his power and the interests he is supposed to serve. As a black, he is expected to show gratitude for being given such a high position. In the final analysis therefore, Powell may be more harmful to the black interest than a white occupant of the position may possibly be. That is why I described the whole thing as a coup.

Should blacks then not be given high profile appointments by the Bush Administration? That is not the essence of our argument here. What we are saying is that authentic black men - black in skin and black in mind - should be the ones who fill black quotas so that we do not have a feeling that a wool is being pulled across our eyes.

But why one belly-aching so much about what Powell will represent or not represent when Bush does not even have an African agenda? One is worrying because the USA today running a world government. Whether you like it or not, the actions of those behind the system will touch your life one way or another. It is in order therefore to express one's fears and anxieties even that won't amount to much.

Mr. Alibi, a former Editor of the Sunday Chronicle, writes from Abuja.

Between Obasanjo, Maradona and old age

He has been out of office for almost eight years, but Nigeria's second longest ruler, Gen. Ibrahim Babangida continued to steal the headlines from the politicians.

Penultimate weekend, the great Maradona told journalists in Minna that he did not nurse any political ambition, bid he was said to have been staging.

The statement could not have come at a better time for the ruling People Democratic Party (PDP) which is said to be set to represent President Olusegun Obasanjo to the nation for a second term. It can however, be bad news for the largest opposition, the All People's Party (APP) which observers say had been trying to woo the retired four-star General whose enormous political machinery, if fully deployed, could upset the stage for the incumbent.

The former Military president advanced among other reasons, that aside from being too old, he did not want to compete with his former commander-in-chief out of sheer respect. Or is it?

We shall come back to age issue later. First, let us examine the sincerity of his seeming soft self spot for the president, coming in the wake of some wave of speculative reports in some of the National dailies and magazines that he had something up his sleeves.

Despite some misgivings I have for the ex-head of state, this time I believe he was quite sincere that age was not on his side, since Chief Obasanjo is going for second term. I also believe in the cordial relationship that exist between the two Generals for the simple fact that the role

Babangida played in the making of the president, is more than enough proof.

For whatever reason, IBB in conjunction with three others, namely General Danjuma, Minister of Defence; Aliyu Gusau, National Security Adviser (NSA) and former Head of State, Abdulsalam Abubakar who hatched and facilitated the immediate release of Obasanjo from prison after the death of Sani Abacha, his drafting into politics and ensuring his subsequent victory at both the primaries and national polls.

What is not clear however, and could be even far beyond Babangida's reach this time around, is, the support of the northern people and to some extent the easterners and their minorities.

If an election were to hold today, the president could expect to make it in only a few pockets of the north. Niger State being one of them, because of Maradona's weight on his people. He may also expect victory in Adamawa and Traba because of the vice president and Plateau and Benue because of Lar and Gemade.

The core north which felt ignored the most by the administration, had been vocal about it. It complained of maginilazatoin in appointments and employment, unfair retirement of its sons and daughters from civils service, the OPC massacre in Lagos and worst still, lack of government impact.

Even the most Liberal of northerners who honeymooned the government for over a year and a half are disappointed with the failure

of both the president and his vice to capatalize on the goodwill of the people.

That is where the question of age comes in. Nigerians are beginning to ponder on the relationship between age and performance. From what is seen physically and monitored either on radio, television or newspapers, the states government performed better than the Federal Government. Ironically, the states with younger governors like Kaduna, Jigawa, Adamawa, Bauchi, Lagos and Enugu performed much better.

The constant public outburst of the president and his alleged refusal to sometimes listen or consult with his aides a serious policy matters are also linked to the age factor.

Infact, recent history has shown that younger presidents perform better than expectations. John F. Kennedy was one of the best president the United States ever had and he was just 43 at the time of his assassination; Gamal Abdul-Naser was in his 40's when he took Egypt and Africa to greater heights; Mu' ammar Gaddafi wa sin his 30's when he turned the Libyan desert green, but now run out ideas when he aged; Bill Clinton had the best eight years in office of all the US presidents this century. Yet, he has not turned 55.

The Murtala/Obasanjo team who were both in their early 40's took on the mighty Western powers and help liberate Angola and Mozambique, and sent shivers to apartheid South African. It also Nationalized majority of foreign companies ranging from oil to the Banking sector. For

the first time Nigerians became chairmen of Multi-National Corporations.

Yet today, the same Obasanjo at the age of 64 could not point even an index finger on known plunderers of the nation's wealth. He also went round the world and personally invited back those he asked to leave the country twenty-four years ago. They have now returned not only as investors, but as mangers and controllers of our basic facilities: airports, seaports, power supply, oil and possibly by 2003, there will not be single business set-up left for indigenes.

I salute General Ibrahim Babangida for his courage in suppressing his appetite for the coveted chair. People like him who have the president at heart and would want to see him give a shop at the second term, should make him realise that the road ahead is bumpy and rough.

The Tony Anenihs, the Bola Iges and the Jerry Ganas that are the kitchen cabinet confidants, should wake up to their responsibilities. Nigerians are holding them responsible for the inaction of the administration.

The success of Chief Obasanjo's re-election bid, particularly in the north, will to large extent depend on his ability and that of vice president Atiku Abubakar to engineer some political redress and making tangible socio-economic impact. Whether they can accomplish this within the remaining half period of their tenure remains to be seen. But certainly, time is not on their side.

Aminu Iyawa, Kaduna

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TINUBU THREATENS CATTLE DEALERS — NEWS



I AM AWARE OF ALL THE UNDERGROUND CAMPAIGN TO BLACKMAIL ME !!

FOR MY OGA TO MAKE SUCH UTTERANCES TO SUYA PEOPLE, HE MUST HAVE RESERVED ENOUGH 'KPOMO' IN HIS KITCHEN!

CLERK

Abubakar S. Shehu

YOUR LETTERS

Short 'n' Sharp

Chief Bola, Ige should resign!

The law is supposed to be applied with equity. Thus, it is mischievous that the OPC members who are being accused of murder and arson were released on "self recognition" while Mohammed Abacha, Bamaiyi and company who are on trial for only conspiracy to murder are left to rot in prison.

Chief Bola Ige should resign as Justice Minister for his bias and disdain for the feelings of the North.

Friday Ugiege, 15, Iyara Street, Warri-Delta State.

ACF and Northern Youths

For the Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF) to be beneficial to people, it should fight to see that adequate compensation is paid to the victims of the Lagos carnage carried out by the proscribed OPC militants and incorporate all sectors of the norths especially the youths in the organization.

Kasimu Ahmed A., Kaduna

Welcome Daily Trust

The coming of the Daily Trust is long overdue, especially for people like me.

Before the advent of Weekly Trust I had completely stopped reading any newspaper due to their junk reporting and sentimental coverage. May Allah shower His blessings on you.

Mutawalli Kachalla Barko, Yobe State Housing and Property Dev. Corporation, Damaturu.

Al-Mustapha

If I find myself as the President of Nigeria, I will appoint Major Hamza Al-Mustapha my Defense Minister!

Abdullahi Aliyu Dederi, H.I. Dederi & Co., Kano

We need Justice and Fairness

Every citizen in this country should have equal treatment under the law, as "all men are created equal and endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights that among these are life, liberty and pursuit for happiness".

Muhammed Maina, P.O. Box 9851, Kaduna North

OPC: Enough is Enough

Just when Nigerians were about to settle and enjoy their long-expected release from the tyranny of military regimes, they suddenly found themselves under yet another monster. This time it is a riotous reign of the notorious ethnic militia from the south western states - the OPC

Muhammed Yushau Jajih, Jigawa State

The North is Mature

The North has been magnanimous in allowing the Presidency to shift to the south despite its numerical strength and political acumen. This singular and remarkable feature is an indication of the understanding, maturity and accommodation of the North.

Mr. President should ensure that, our Federal character and the devolution of power must be made effective.

Alhaji Isa Ibrahim, Dagana Girls Sec. Sch., Kano

A mockery of Justice

One wonders whether Nigeria still wobbles in the mud of primitive and unjust conduct dispensation. If it is not so, why should the kingpin of the atrocious OPC, Dr. Frederick Faseum, be released, after his organization has murdered about 6,000 people of northern extraction?

Abubakar Jibril Muhd, C.L. 12 Zango Road, Kaduna.

Canada's Duplicity

I wish to comment on the official protest of the Canadian government to Nigeria concerning the intended caning of the Bariya Magazu by a Sharia court in Zamfara State.

As a Muslim from a state that also applies the Shariah, I have my own difficulties with the political opportunism attached to the Sharia too. While the media may rightly be accused of unduly playing up the punishment or aspects of it, some of the governors in the states, by their crass opportunism, are doing very many things that make the Sharia look bad. For instance, nobody can justify their apparent lack of enthusiasm for the social welfare component of the Sharia, neither would anyone understand the elitist orientation of its application.

Notwithstanding, this is a country in which far more serious abuses take place and on which a Canadian spotlight would be more useful than their dwelling on small issues. Let us not talk about Odi, for which the President, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo has confessed and said "never again." In this country today, a Governor goes with the sobriquet of "Bakassi Governor" and the other, "OPC Governor." While the Bakassi Governor is so named because of his open identification with the "Bakassi Boys," an ethnic militia famous for their extra-judicial killings, the other, even if remotely, is somehow tainted by the nefarious activities of the OPC ethnic militia operating in contrast to the law in Lagos.

In Anambra State, the model state of the Bakassi, the Nnewi Community, (perhaps the nation's most prosperous city) cried out in September, 2000 over the extra-judicial killing of well over 100 suspected armed robbers. In the advertorial widely published in Nigeria and circulated in the human

rights community, the Nnewi Community asked the President of Nigeria to stop killings without trial because this, in their words, was "worse than Sharia." Rather than decline, the Bakassi Boys phenomenon has since spread to Aba, Abia State and lately Owerri, Imo State. Even the more civil governors such as Chiramaroke Nnamani of Enugu State are now under pressure to admit the Bakassi Boys.

To give the lie to Canada's claim of being interested in Nigeria's nascent democracy, they kept silent not only while all these happened, but conspiratorially

so, when the leader of the minority opposition in the Anambra Legislature was humiliated by the Bakassi Boys and, having been stripped naked at the point of summary execution was miraculously saved by a police team which came upon the scene. The Bakassi death squad have shown a propensity to eliminate not only armed robbers but political opponents of their sponsors as well. One of the latest victims was incredibly priest, where then was Canada?

Looking at all these, including the return of impunity all over the country with

suspected robbers and bandits being routinely killed before trial, you wonder what point the Canadians wanted to make on the Bariya matter beside a very loud proclamation of their selective amnesia.

By making double standards, a cardinal principal of their international relations, the Canadians have certainly made it very easy for latter-day scholars to understand why, of all the Commonwealth countries, General Abacha in his hey-days chose to expel the Canadian mission from Nigeria.

Abubakar S. Shehu, Kano.

The heart of the matter

I read with concern, the congratulatory message published in the Guardian Newspapers on Monday 15th January, 2001, written by one unknown Chief C. M. Edoh purportedly on behalf of Ikwuano/Omuahia Forum. Ordinarily one would not have bothered to write a rejoinder in respect for the said publication, if not the deliberate falsehoods peddled therein.

In order not be mistaken, I wish to affirm that there is nothing wrong in any person congratulating

the President for any good deed done, so far such message is on behalf of himself and is rooted in truth. The Ikwuano and Umuahia area of Abia State has a lot of genuine representatives including a Senator, and members of both the Federal and State Legislative Councils, Chairmen, traditional rulers etc., who are the recognised Leaders that would undertake such actions on behalf of their people if they deem it fit.

Again the mention of projects awarded by past

administrations is an assault and affront on the intelligence of Abia people. Such projects like Umuahia-Afugiri-Ohafia-Arochukwu Road which was awarded by the PTF has long been abandoned since the inception of the Obasanjo administration. Even the resolution passed by the Lower House to the effect that the job should be concluded was never heeded.

The inclusion of rural electrification projects executed in other parts of Abia State during the Military era exposed the unknown Chief M. C. Edoh as some one who has never visited home for years.

Otherwise he would have known that Owerri/Umuikaa is in Isiala Ngwa South LGA, while Ihechiowa and Ovukwu are in Arochukwu LGA.

We wish to assert that the practice of using hirelings to shore up support through flashing none-existent achievements is primitive, naive, retrogressive, and an assault on the sensibilities of Abia people who have since the present dispensation borne the brunt of Obasanjo's marginalisation of Igbo people.

Kekewuaba Nwokeobia, Gwagwalada-Abuja

Congrats, Daily Trust

Please accept my fraternal greetings to you and the entire Daily Trust team on the debut of the news paper on January 15, 2001.

For those of us that have taken to reading the Weekly Trust, your decision to go daily is more than welcome. It is indeed a collective readers' decision.

I and the entire univarsity welcome the Daily Trust to the streets and pray for its enduring success.

The success which the Weekly Trust has been gives us every reason to believe we have just witnessed the beginning of another success story.

I particularly feel proud that the epoch making edition of the Daily Trust deemed it worthwhile to report on the university generously. We in the university community shall continue to cherish such an historic moment.

While wishing you the best in this latest endeavour, I would like to assure you that you can always count on our support.

Once again, congratulations and please always strive to keep our collective hopres alive.

Dr. (Mrs.) Gambo Laraba Abdullahi, Vice Chancellor, University of Abuja.



CONGRATULATIONS



Alhaji Ahmed Mohammed Makarfi
Executive Governor, Kaduna State

From Centre of Learning to Centre of Unity, *Weekly Trust* Newspaper has distinguished itself. We cannot downplay the uniqueness of this tabloid.

It is unique to be a pacesetter. On behalf of the people and the government of Kaduna State, I wish to felicitate with the management of Media Trust Ltd on the birth of *DAILY TRUST*. We are highly impressed by your performance and the new publication. Congratulations and keep it up.

Alhaji Ahmed Mohammed Makarfi
Executive Governor, Kaduna State

TRUST INTERNATIONAL

Highlights of President George Bush's Inauguration

- 5.20 President-elect Bush arrived at the Capital with President Bill Clinton. This was the fifth inauguration to hold at the west front of the capital. Over one thousand dignitaries were expected at the ceremony.
- 5.40 Vice-President Dick Cheney arrived at the capitol.
- 5.41 President-elect George Bush arrives with members of his family, including his wife Laura, and their daughters. Former president Bush was present alongside his wife, Barbara. Former president Carter was present too.
- 5.43 Inauguration Ceremony begins with Reverent Graham giving the opening prayer. A choir from Louisville, Kentucky sang shortly thereafter. They were dressed in red and white and formed a fine rainbow in the capitol.
- 5.55 Dick Cheney is sworn-in as Vice-president by Chief Justice Rhenquist, and congratulated by the latter. Chief Justice Rhenquist had officiated at three inaugurations in the past.
- 5.57 An American Medley performed by staff sergeant Alex Maly. The beautiful rendition received an impressive applause from the audience at its conclusion.
- 6.01 President-elect George Bush was sworn-in by Chief Justice Rhenquist. There was spontaneous applause after being congratulated by the latter, there was a 21 gun salute. President Bush became the 43rd president of the United States, after taking a thirty-five word oath. The Bible in used was the same one Bush, Eisenhower and Carter used. This Bible, the Masonic Bible, was bound in London in 1767.
- 6.04 President Bush delivered his inaugural address which lasted 15 minutes. It was punctuated by applause from the vast crowds which spilled onto the streets. The crowds had begun to congregate very early in the morning, coming from places as distant as Texas, for instance. There were protests in the streets however. Many groups came out expressing doubts about Bush's legitimacy and there were brief scuffles with the police in a few streets adjoining the capital. There was a significant battery of pressmen all over the capital. James Polks inauguration was covered by Telegraph. Samuel Morse covered Polks inauguration. President Hoovers was the first inauguration to be covered by newsreel.
- 6.18 Pastor Kirby Caldwell gave to the closing Benediction. This was followed by the National Anthem.
- 6.23 End of Inauguration and departure of guests President and Mrs. Bush and the Clinton's leave together. The Bush's escort the Clinton's down the steps of the capitol, and the former return inside. Bill Clinton goes to Andrew's Air Force base where he delivers a warm speech, a group of friends and officers. The speech is punctuated with cheering.

From Washington to Bush

Past U.S. Presidents	Term of Office	Political parties
George Washington	1789-1797	Federal
John Adams	1797-1801	Federal
Thomas Jefferson	1801-1809	Dem/Rep
James Madison	1809-1817	Dem/Rep
James Monroe	1817-1825	Dem/Rep
John Quincy Adams	1825-1829	Dem/Rep
Andrew Jackson	1829-1837	Democrat
Martin Van Buren	1837-1841	Democrat
William H. Harrison	1841 (1 month)	Whig
John Tyler	1841-1845	Whig
James K. Polk	1845-1849	Democrat
Zachary Taylor	1849-1850	Whig
Millard Fillmore	1850-1853	Whig
Franklin Pierce	1853-1857	Democrat
James Buchanan	1857-1861	Democrat
Abraham Lincoln	1861-1865	Republican
Andrew Johnson	1865-1869	Democrat
Ulysses S. Grant	1869-1877	Republican
Rutherford B. Hayes	1877-1881	Republican
James A. Garfield	1881 (6 1/2 months)	Republican
Chester A. Arthur	1881-1885	Republican
Grover Cleveland	1885-1889	Democrat
Benjamin Harrison	1889-1893	Republican
Grover Cleveland	1893-1897	Democrat
William McKinley	1897-1901	Republican
Theodore Roosevelt	1901-1909	Republican
William Howard Taft	1909-1913	Republican
Woodrow Wilson	1913-1921	Democrat
Warren G. Harding	1921-1923	Republican
Calvin Coolidge	1923-1929	Republican
Herbert Hoover	1929-1933	Republican
Franklin D. Roosevelt	1933-1945	Democrat
Harry S. Truman	1945-1953	Democrat
Dwight D. Eisenhower	1953-1961	Democrat
John F. Kennedy	1961-1963	Democrat
Lyndon B. Johnson	1963-1969	Democrat
Richard M. Nixon	1969-1974	Republican
Gerald R. Ford	1974-1977	Democrat
Jimmy Carter	1977-1981	Democrat
Ronald Reagan	1981-1988	Republican
George Bush	1988-1992	Republican
Bill Clinton	1992-2000	Democrat
George W. Bush	2001-?	Republican

Two Presidents sworn-in on Saturday

Saturday, January 22, was a day of two presidents of international repute as George W. Bush took office in Washington as the president of the United States and Gloria Macapagal Arroyo in Manila as the president of the Philippines.

Bush became the 43rd president of the world's most powerful country while Arroyo, female, is the 14th president of the most controversial political country. Bush said he took office with a sense of commitment while Arroyo said she did so with a sense of awe.

Bush is 54, Arroyo, 53, and both are children of former presidents. Arroyo's father, the late Diosdado Macapagal, was president from 1961 to



Bush
1965.
The older George Bush was elected president to a



Arroyo
single term in 1988.
It was the first time in the Philippines that a former president's offspring had taken

the office while Bush emulated John Quincy Adams' election win in 1842.

They were classmates at Washington's Georgetown University in the 1960s, and the two meet whenever they are in each other's countries.

"We were in the same class and were as close as classmates can be," Arroyo told Reuters.

"I was 17 and he was 18...Both coming from hometowns very far away from the big city. He and I were both on the dean's list."

The Philippines was a US colony for the first half of the 20th century but the ties between the two nations stretched to a series of coincidences Saturday was both ushered in new presidents.

Clinton bids along, slow farewell to White House

For Bill Clinton, it was a long, slow goodbye.

He stayed up all night packing, worked until the last minute, lingered in the Oval Office and as he walked out of the White House, sat down at a piano and swayed along as a musician played "Our love is here to stay."

"You gave me the ride of my life, and I've tried to give as good as I got," Clinton told about 2,000 members of his administration and supporters at a departure ceremony at Andrews Air Force Base outside Washington on Saturday. Clinton then flew to New

York City and headed to the family's home in the suburb of Chappaqua, which will be his base for the next few months as he decides what to do with the rest of his life.

"Thank you for being here today in this cold weather with this cutting wind to welcome citizen Clinton home," he told another crowd of well-wishers at John F. Kennedy Airport. "I am grateful to be here."

Aides said Clinton was in a good mood as he and several dozen friends and staffers left Washington on one of the Air Force's two presidential 747s, but they acknowledged some

melancholy was inevitable.

"He loved being president. He absolutely loved the job," Clinton friend Terry McAuliffe told reporters on the plane, saying Clinton had stayed up all night packing and soaking in the White House. "He'll miss it greatly."

Aides wandered the plane taking snapshots and reminiscing as they made their last flight, which the Air Force designated Special Air Mission 28000 rather than Air Force One, which belongs only to the sitting president.

In his final half hour in the Oval Office, Clinton wrote a note to his successor, President George W. Bush, and consoled some of his aides who were crying after eight years at the White House.

"Don't be sad. This is a good day," Clinton told the aides, according to his chief of staff John Podesta. "We're leaving with our heads up."

As he left the Oval Office, Clinton turned around to gaze out its windows at the manicured White House lawn a last time before joining his wife, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton of New York, to greet Bush and his wife, Laura.



Senate confirm first Bush Cabinet Nominations

Shortly after George W. Bush was sworn in as US president, the Senate on Saturday confirmed the top tier of his Cabinet - secretaries of state, defense and treasury - as well as four other Cabinet posts.

Moving quickly to get the Republican administration up and running, the Senate approved retired Gen. Colin Powell to head the State Department, former Pentagon Chief Donald Rumsfeld for a second turn as defense secretary and retired industrialist Paul O'Neill for the treasury post.

Also confirmed were Don Evans as commerce secretary, Spencer Abraham as energy secretary, and Roderick Paige as education secretary.

These nominees breezed through their confirmation hearings.

Bush's choice for director of the White House Office of Management and Budget, pharmaceutical company executive Mitchell Daniels, also was approved in the vote.

Lott, of Mississippi, on Friday said he expected most of Bush's Cabinet would be confirmed by midweek. But at least three nominations could take longer, including Bush's most controversial - former Sen. John Ashcroft, a Missouri Republican, as US attorney general.

After a contentious four-day confirmation hearing, Ashcroft's nomination still may

face a debate on the Senate floor, led by Democrats upset with Bush's choice of the strong social conservative.

Senate committee confirmation hearings for Transportation Secretary nominee Norman Mineta, Labour Secretary nominee Elaine Chao and US Trade Representative nominee Robert Zoellick are not scheduled until next week, which may push their Senate confirmations in the following week.

Also left to be confirmed were Mel Martinez to head the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Tommy Thompson as secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services.

Anthony Principi for the Department of Veterans Affairs, Christine Todd Whitman for the Environmental Protection Agency and Gale Norton for the Department of the Interior.

Norton is opposed by environmental, labour and civil rights groups, but is expected to become the first woman to head the Interior Department.

Powell, who oversaw US forces during the 1991 Gulf War, will be the first black secretary of state and the highest ranking black ever in US government.

Powell served as national security adviser to former President Reagan and as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff during the first Bush administration and at the beginning of the first Clinton term.

Reagan discharged from California Hospital

Former US President Ronald Reagan could not attend George W. Bush inauguration on Saturday but watched it on television even he was discharged later that day.

He was discharged from a California hospital after a stay of eight days during which he underwent surgery to repair a broken hip, his spokeswoman said.

Before leaving St. John's Health Center in Santa Monica with his wife, Nancy, in a private ambulance for a short drive to his home in Bel-Air, the 89-year-old former president watched the inauguration of President George W. Bush on television in the hospital, according to a statement by Reagan family spokeswoman Joanne Drake.

President Bush is the son of Reagan's vice president

Bush, who went on to serve as president from 1989 until 1993.

Reagan, who suffers from Alzheimer's disease and turns 90 on Feb. 6, had been scheduled to leave the hospital on Sunday, but "doctors agreed that his condition had improved to the point where he would be more comfortable at home," the statement said.

Mrs. Reagan, who had been at her husband's side since he fell at their home has arranged for home care and physical therapy for the former president, the statement added.

Surgeons on January 13 inserted a large metal screw and plate in Reagan's femur (the large bone in the upper leg) along with several smaller screws in what was described as a routine procedure with no complications.

TRUST INTERNATIONAL

AFRICA & THE MIDDLE EAST

Joseph Kabila to be sworn in as president tomorrow

Democratic Republic of Congo's new leader, Joseph Kabila will be officially sworn-in as president after his father's funeral on Tuesday, Justice Minister Mwenze Kongolo said on Saturday.

"He's the president of the republic," said Mwenze, in the first government news conference since President Laurent Kabila was short last Tuesday.

"He will be installed. There will be a swearing in. One must respect the law. We can't go on without that," he said.

He added that for now the government's priority was to hold the funeral for his father tomorrow.

Kabila's 31-year-old son, Joseph, already named as interim Head of State, will be sworn in as the new president of Africa's third largest country after the funeral tomorrow.

Wailing women were among the thousands of mourners who paid tribute to local hero Kabila in his

home city of Lubumbashi, to which he was flown in Saturday from the



Kabila

Zimbabwean capital, Harare, where Congo officials said he had died on Thursday.

Zimbabwe, where he had been flown for treatment after he was shot, was his closest ally, along with Angola and Namibia, over large areas of the north and east of the country.

Kinshasa has shown little sympathy for the slain leader who ousted former dictator Mobutu Sese Seko more than three years ago.

Agricultural Minister Mawampanga Mwana Nanga predicted an outpouring of emotion in the capital when Kabila's body arrived.

"The quiet means they were really mourning. You just wait when they see the body come. The people will really be crying," he told reporters.

In the first official account of Kabila's murder, Justice Minister Mwenze Kongolo the president had been talking to one of his economic advisors before the assassin came into the room.

"The guard came in and it was natural for Kabila to listen to what he had to say," Mwenze told a news conference in Kinshasa, explaining why the president had leaned forward as the gunman opened fire.

"One of the bullets went right behind the ear and came right behind the ribs. I think that's the one that killed him," Nwenze told a news conference. "Two other bullets went in the stomach but were not fatal."

Some 18 months after a peace accord was signed in the Zambian capital Lusaka, there appeared few signs either before or after Kabila's death of a quick end to the fighting.

However, Rwanda on Saturday echoed a commitment from Uganda not to take advantage of the upheaval in Kinshasa.

"The government of Rwanda would like to reassure the government and people of the DRC (Democratic Republic of Congo) government and our partners in the Lusaka peace process that we do not intend to take advantage of the current leadership crisis in the DRC," Rwanda's foreign ministry said in a statement.

The United Nation's special representative in Congo, Kamel Morjane, said in Kinshasa that the rebel group had made similar promises.

"We've received from them guarantees and assurances that they will not use the situation... I'm hopeful that there will be no offensive during this situation," he said.

A senior Congolese military officer said Congo was ready if Rwanda and Uganda did make a move during the 30-day mourning period for Kabila.

"We are prepared for them. Our allies have been reinforcing their positions and they should know that we are very much prepared," the officer said.

Israel, Palestinians locked in marathon talks

Israeli and Palestinian negotiators went into marathon peace talks in Egypt yesterday with time fast running out for a deal before Israel's prime ministerial election on February 6.

"We will make a maximum effort to reach an agreement, but the gaps are still wide," senior Palestinian negotiator, Ahmed Korel said.

The ministerial-level talks, widely expected to last a week to 10 days, will be held in Egypt's Red Sea resort of Taba and could give a new push to Middle East peacemaking in the early days of George W. Bush's US presidency.

A peace deal also could boost Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak's re-election chances in a race which opinion polls predict he will lose to right-winger Ariel Sharon. But an accord might hurt Sharon if voters believe he made too many concessions.

The ballot is being held against the backdrop of almost four months of bloodshed in which at least 309 Palestinians, 44 Israelis and 13 Israeli Arabs have been killed.

Israel's "peace cabinet" of senior ministers decided on Saturday to agree to the talks proposed during a meeting in Cairo on Wednesday between Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shlomo Ben-Ami.

Diplomatic sources said Barak saw almost no chance of a swift agreement.

Former US President Bill Clinton made Middle East peace a top priority of his two-term tenure. But hours before Bush's inauguration on Saturday, Palestinians again signaled that Clinton's parameters for a final accord were unacceptable.

Under Clinton's guidelines, ac-

cepted by Israel, the Palestinians would establish a state in much of the West Bank and all of the Gaza Strip, but Israel would retain blocs of Jewish settlements on land captured in the 1967 Middle East war.

Israel and the Palestinians would share sovereignty over a Jerusalem



Arafat

holy site revered by Muslims as al-Haram al-Sharif and by Jews as Temple Mount, and Palestinians refugees would not have a right to return to ancestral homes in the Jewish state.

"The US peace team, under Clinton, committed a big sin and mistake by trying to cancel the terms of reference of the peace process that were agreed by the United States and the world," wrote newspaper editor Akram Haniyeh, an adviser to Arafat.

"Therefore the Palestinians want the Bush administration to reiterate adherence to the same agreed basis of the peace process," Haniyeh wrote in a front-page article published on Friday in the Palestinian daily al-Ayyam.

Kabila to be buried tomorrow

The body of assassinated Congolese President Laurent Kabila arrived in his home city



Late Kabila

of Lubumbashi on Saturday from Harare, and will be buried tomorrow.

The body of Kabila, shot by one of his own soldiers last Tuesday and flown to the Zimbabwean capital amid confusion over whether he was alive or dead, lied in state in the southern city until yesterday when it would be taken to Kinshasa for burial tomorrow.

In contrast to Kinshasa, where there has been little sympathy for the dead president, crowds turned out in Lubumbashi to pay tribute to a local hero. "The cortege had trouble getting to its destination because thou-

sands of people wanted to touch the coffin," the state television said.

Earlier, Kabila's gold and white coffin, draped in a Congolese flag, was taken on a gun carriage to Harare airport and hoisted into the hold of a Congolese Boeing 737 airliner.

Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe was at the airport to bid farewell to his former ally and pay respects to Kabila's widow.

In Kinshasa, flags flew at half-mast but otherwise there was little open mourning. Residents were more concerned about his succession and the war, involving several foreign armies, raging in the north and east of the vast, mineral-rich country.

Major-General Joseph Kabila, the slain president's son, was appointed interim head of state and on Friday, in one of his first acts, ordered payment of the salaries of civil servants and soldiers.

Non-payment of the salaries for several months is seen as a possible motive for Kabila's so far unexplained murder by one of his own guards in his hilltop palace in Kinshasa.

"The government of national salvation will proceed from now on with the payment of state national salvation will proceed from now on with the payment of state civil servants and the Congolese armed forces," according to the state television.

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"Death is that interim stage when man leaves this world
of today for the eternal world of tomorrow"

Transition Remembrance



Alhaji Nurudeen Alabi Kekere-Ekun
[24th Dec. 1911 - 19th Jan. 1998]

You taught us compassion, forgiveness, love and respect for all,
thus inculcating in us a culture of peace - ISLAM

We will always be thankful to you for giving us the greatest gift of life - Education -
which actually is the starting point of every successful human activity.

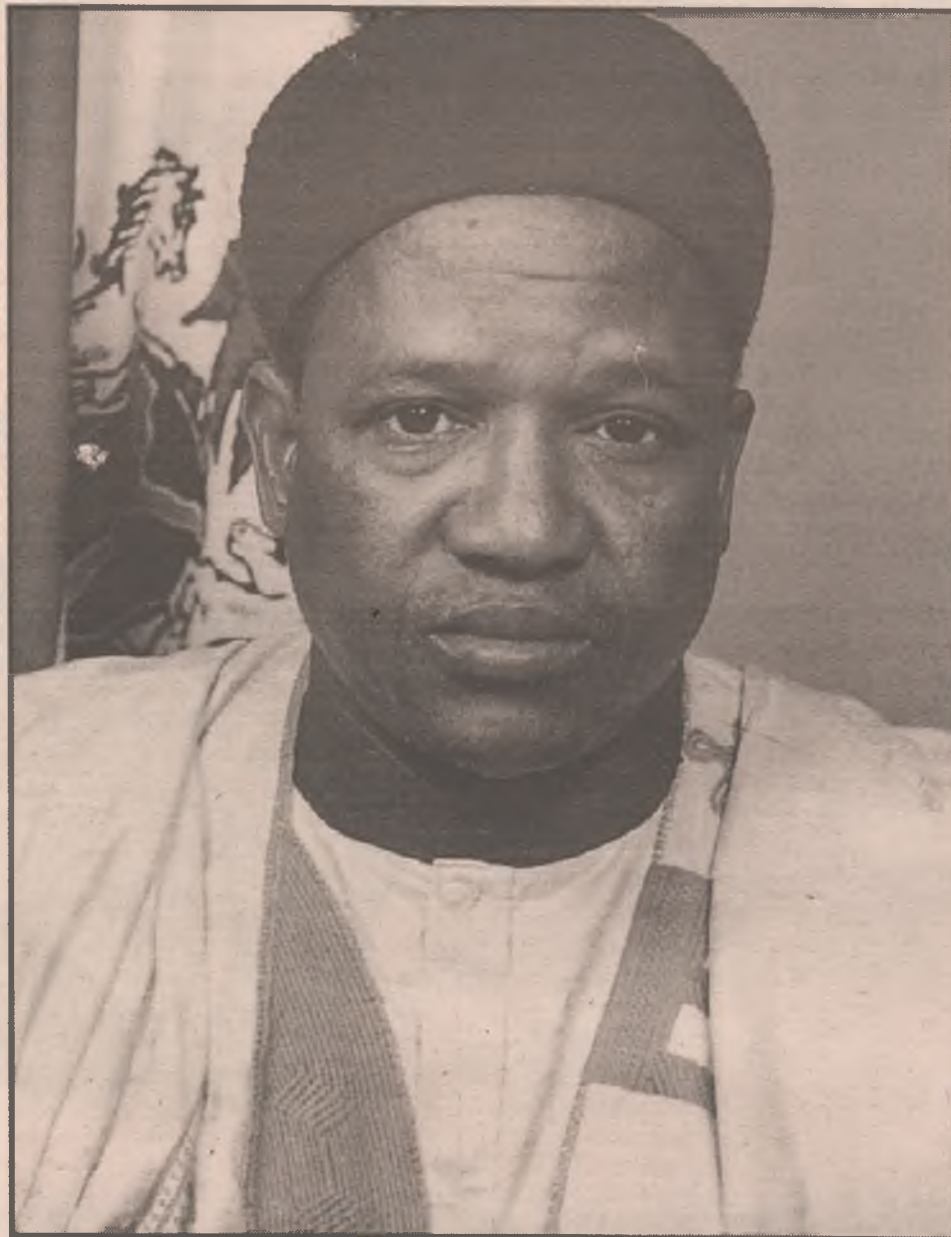
May the Almighty Allah grant you blessings in the limitless world - the Hereafter

Mustapha Ademola & Alhaja Risikat/Kudirat Kekere-Ekun ■ Bashir Olusegun & Mrs Rafat Jumoke Kekere-Ekun
Dr. Tajudeen Ayodele & Alhaja Munirat Kehinde Kekere-Ekun ■ Abdulfatai Akintola & Hon. Justice [Mrs] Kudirat Olatokunbo Kekere-Ekun
Lateef Ibikunle & Mrs Lateefat Biola Kekere-Ekun ■ Nureni Kayode & Mrs Shakirat Omorinola Anjorin
Commodore Razak Abiodun [Rtd] & Mrs Risquat Titilayo Davies ■

Prayers will be said at selected mosques.



GOODWILL MESSAGE



Alhaji Bukar Abba Ibrahim
Executive Governor, Yobe State

This is a journalistic revolution.
An ambition fulfilled.
A dream realised.
A vacuum filled.
What a humble beginning.

On the birth of *Daily Trust*,
A daily edition of *Weekly Trust*,
I congratulate the Management of
Media Trust Limited
On behalf of Yobe Government
And its entire people.

Well done.

Alhaji Bukar Abba Ibrahim
Executive Governor, Yobe State

₦ £ \$

BUSINESS DAY

₦ \$ ¥

FINANCE

Global Bank nets N300 million in six months

From Bassey Ita in Port Harcourt.

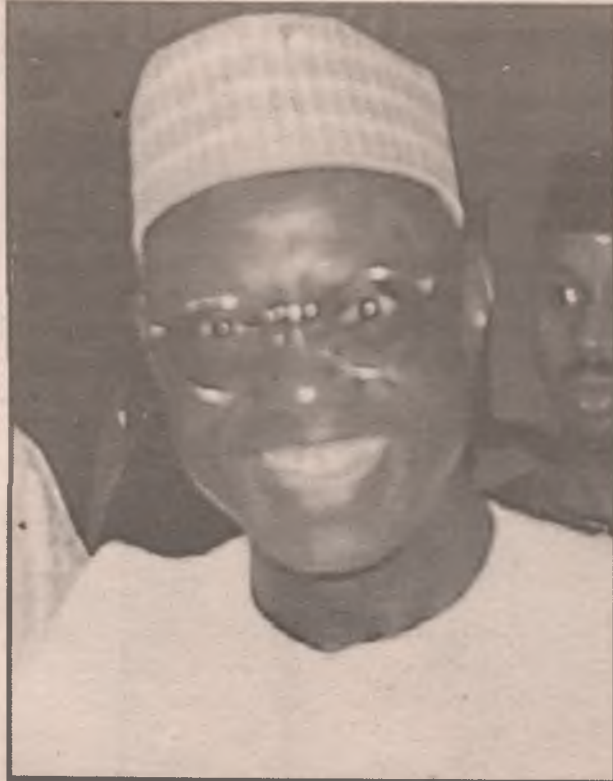
Global Bank Nigeria Limited has recorded a profit after tax of N300 million in its first six months of operations as a commercial bank, which ended December, 2000.

The Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of the bank Mr. Yinka Obalade disclosed at the commissioning of the Port Harcourt branch of the bank at the Olu Obasanjo Central District, Port Harcourt.

Mr. Obalade said Global Bank will float 20 more branches within the next 11 months, as part of its expansion programme. The branches will be located in strategic cities in the country.

These branches to be opened, according to him, would complement its nine retail banking outlets already approved by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN).

Obalade disclosed further that four of the nine branches already approved by the CBN will be commissioned next month to beef up the bank's personalized services network. The four branches would be opened in Onitsha, Kano, Lagos Trade Fair complex and



Malam Adamu Ciroma Finance Minister

Alaba.

The MD/CEO said Global Bank's asset base stood at N45 billion as at December 2000.

He attributed the bank's success within the short period of its operations to "the recent repositioning and aggressive expansion brought about by its conversion from a merchant to a commercial bank last year.

The newly commissioned Port Harcourt branch

of Global Bank, according to the MD, is strategic for its location in an oil-producing state and the first branch to be commissioned outside Lagos after the bank obtained its licence to engage in commercial banking.

He stressed further that the Port Harcourt branch "is conceived as a unique component of the bank to provide all-round banking services in an excellent fashion not present in the city."

Intercity Bank reaps N1.8 billion

From Dare Oyewole in Kaduna

Intercity Bank Plc has reported a gross earning of N1,804,000,000 in the year 2000. This translates into an increase of 46.54 percent against the N745 million it recorded in 1999.

The Managing Director of the Bank, Alhaji Falalu Bello disclosed this at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the bank held recently at Kaduna.

Bello told shareholders at the AGM that the bank's profit after tax in the year 2000 also soared to N233 million as against N159 million in 1999.

According to the MD, Intercity bank's total assets as at December, 2000 stood at N13,035,000,000 as against the N9,279,000,000 it had in 1999.

The total interest income of the bank during the period under review according to Bello stand at N1,412,000,000.

He said total shareholders' funds also increased from N715.8 million as at June 30, 1999 to N825.8 million at the end of December, 2000. This, he stressed, reflect a growth rate of 15.37 percent.

Business Day equally learnt that the surge in liquidity during the period under review contributed to sways in interest rates,

which heightened demand for foreign exchange withdrawal of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) from retail banking operations.

Bello observed that even though the CBN took some measures to curb inflation, some of the measures taken had their stagnating effects on economic activities which consequently impacted on the banking industry.



Alhaji Falalu Bello Intercity MD

May & baker loses N30 million to fake drug peddlers

Leading drug manufacturer, May & Baker Nigeria Plc, recently lost about N30 million due to the activities of unscrupulous elements who fixed false labels on fake and substandard products, its Managing Director, Mr. Joseph Odumodu, has said.

In a chat with pressmen in Lagos, Odumodu said: "As I talk to you now, about three container loads of fake drugs made in China but falsely labeled as May and Baker products are being delivered to Idomota and of course somebody alerted us."

He remarked that most of the time the genuine products of the company would not sell until the falsely labeled stock in Idomota were completely exhausted.

"So we have factories that are not fully utilized and raw materials that are already bought but we can't sell," Odumodu lamented.

He stressed that the markets where the fake products were sold were thriving daily and "as soon as the goods get in there, they disappear".

Odumodu said that the Pharmaceutical Council of Nigeria, the body responsible for the registration of Pharmacists and manufacturers as well as their premises, had made representations to government urging it to register those importing drugs into the country as either manufacturers or importers.

The Managing Director said that distributors and retailers, for instance, had no right to bring drugs into the country.

"Today there are many companies that are importers, manufacturers, distributors and dispensers. They do everything. There is no specific specialisation," he said, adding: "he said, adding: "if you are a jack of all

trades, you won't be able to do anything well."

"If you want to track any drug in the system, the only way is to ensure that there are people who are registered as manufacturers or importers - these are the only people qualified to import drugs."

He further stressed that every drug must bear a batch number, and that those who were registered, as distributors were the only ones authorized to buy directly from either importers or manufacturers.

"And those who are registered as retailers or what we call country Pharmacists are the ones that must buy from wholesalers or distributors," Odumodu suggested.

The Managing Director advocated stiff penalties for those caught faking pharmaceutical products, saying that "there should be no sacred cows".

SMIDA's take-off will enhance industrialisation if...

By Ahmed Shekarau

The take-off of the Small and Medium Industries Development Agency (SMIDA) to co-ordinate the activities of the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) sub-sector will facilitate Nigeria's industrialisation, only if the government strives to improve electricity and provide adequate loan facilities to the SMEs.

A member of the House of Representatives Committee on Industry, Hon. Jonathan Asake told Business Day while refuting the speculations that the House Committee on Industry delayed the passing of the SMIDA Bill for some vested interests.

Hon. Asake, who represents Zangon Kataf/Jaba Federal Constituency reiterated the need for the government to ensure strict implementation of the SMIDA policy, which he said the National Assembly is working to

come up with a comprehensive Act in that direction.

He said the development of the Small and Medium Enterprises is a pre-requisite for the smooth take-off of the nation's industrial sector, stressing that the organised private sector must be actively involved in the activities of SMIDA.

The Industry Committee member told Business Day that: "I believe that by the time the government improves electricity supply, these local welders, technicians and road-side mechanics who perform below 50 percent capacity utilisation will improve their services and therefore absorb more unemployed persons thereby reducing unemployment."

On the allegations that the delay in passing the Bill on SMIDA which was sent to the National Assembly since May last year is caused by the request by some members of the House Committee on Industry for some

personal inducements, Hon. Asake denied that.

He said the respective Committees on Industry of the Upper and Lower Houses of the National Assembly have, after the first reading of the Bill on the floor of coming up with a comprehensive legislation that will enhance the smooth take-off and performance of the agency.

Meanwhile, the Minister of Industry, Mr. Steven Akiga has said during a ministerial press briefing on activities of the Ministry and parastatals under its supervision recently in Abuja, that the government is only waiting for the passing of the Bill by the National Assembly for the take-off of the proposed SMIDA.

Mr. Akiga said: "All institutional arrangements and logistics for the take-off of SMIDA are being finalised and the new umbrella agency will commence operation as soon as the Act establishing it is enacted."

STOCK MARKET REPORT AS AT 10/01/2001

A total of 18.88 million shares worth N131.87 million were exchanged in 1,146 deals on the

floor of the Nigerian Stock Exchange with 94 companies participating, according to information from the Abuja Trading Floor of the Nigerian Stock Exchange.

There were no transaction in the Industrial Loans/Preference Stocks sector 311 and the Federal Government Development stocks sector.

Price Movement: The Nigerian Stock Exchange All-Share Index closed at 9,07.16, a decrease of 3.40%. The index opened at 9,376.18. While the market capitalisation closed at N521.26 billion, a drop of 3.40%, it opened

at N539.62 billion. The bears had a field day on the floor with a total of 7 companies making gains in their share prices and 25 making losses.

Gains were recorded in the Construction, Insurance and the Banking sub sectors.

Julius Berger Plc led the price gainers, as it appreciated by 45 kobo to close the day at N34.05 per share, followed by Prestige Insurance Plc, it appreciated by 16 kobo to close at N3.46 per share.

Other price gainers include Hallmark Bank Plc (11 kobo); Owena Bank (10 kobo); Inland Bank (9

kobo); Trade Bank (4 kobo) and Lion Bank (1 kobo).

Losses were recorded in the Petroleum Marketing, Food/Beverages & Tobacco, Breweries, Banking,

Conglomerates, Domestic/Industrial Products, Insurance, Automobile & Tyre, Textile and the Computer & Office Equipment sub sectors.

Texaco Nigeria Plc led the price losers, crashing by 347 kobo to close at N66.03 per share, followed

closely by Nestle Foods Plc which dropped in its share price by 244 kobo, to close at N46.55 per share.

Other price losers include Guinness (170 kobo); Nigeria Breweries (152 kobo); Agip (146 kobo);

UBN (143 kobo); FBN (136 kobo); Lever Brothers (125 kobo); UBA (88 kobo); NBC (79 kobo) and PZ (69 kobo).



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NEWS

Retrenchment in Plateau: SSG, HOS, DFS and PS offices burgled

From Buhari Bello, in Jos

The uncertainty over the retrenchment exercise in Plateau State civil service has taken a new turn with the breaking into the office of the Secretary to the State Government by unknown persons who carted away some vital documents.

Daily Trust gathered that apart from breaking into the SSG, Mr. Ezekiel Gomo's office the intruders also broke into the offices of the Head of Service, Mr. Sati Dakwati, Permanent Secretary Security, Mr. Gobak and the Director of Finance and Supply at the cabinet office.

As at the time of this report, it was not clear as to other numbers of items taken away from the offices but sources at the state secretariat informed Daily Trust that no money was in all the offices including that of the DFS.

Daily Trust reliably gathered that the unidentified persons were also believed to have taken tea at the office of the head of service during the operation.



Gov. Dariye

When contacted for comment, over the development, Mr. Ezekiel Gomo confirmed saying that investigation into the case was being handled by the detective at the state police headquarters.

Meanwhile, Governor Joshua Dariye has ordered that a special committee be set up to review the retrenchment exercise as it affects disabled civil servants.

Speaking while addressing a group of unemployed youths and graduates who paid him a solidarity visit at his Rayfield residence at the

weekend, he said the "exercise will be reviewed as it affects disabled persons and widows."

According to the governor, the decision to review the exercise became necessary since the less privileged persons involved in the retrenchment need the assistance of government.

He also appealed to those affected by the retrenchment to see it as a challenge to become self-reliant saying that "there is a limit to which we can pay because we get N600 million from the federation allocation and we pay N380 million as commitments, N25 million for pension every month, another N125 million for the development of Zaria road stadium, N9 million for payment of NITEL bills and N240m for other small commitments apart from the overhead cost.

Meanwhile, the state government has directed that sale of forms for employment for degree and HND holders should commence next week in the state civil service.

By Suleiman Mohammed

Second Republic President of Nigeria, Alhaji Shehu Shagari has declared that the absence of a vibrant opposition party is drifting the nation towards a one party state.

He stated that the present political arrangement portends danger for the current democratic experiment stressing that, "the present ruling political party (PDP) does not have any opposition, and this is not an ideal situation in a multi-party democracy. We should have a responsible opposition even though the party in power should enjoy greater acceptability by the majority of the populace."

Alhaji Shehu Shagari who spoke in Umuahia at a dinner party organised by the Abia state government to round-up his 3-day visit to the state, argued that currently, there is no difference between the ruling party and the two opposition parties: AD and APP, contrary to the various opposition that characterised his administration between 1979-1983.

He however, warned that stiff opposition could hamper development as it

Shagari warns against drift to one party state

affected his administration, stressing that responsible opposition party should be able to criticise the government objectively and ensure good governance.

The former president called on the federal government to assist south-eastern states in combating the menace of soil erosion and other environmental hazards.

He commended the Abia state government for its developmental programmers, saying Governor Orji Kalu had transformed the state into a model, adding that his style of leadership including the cultivation of friendship with other parts of the country was worthy of emulation.

He further acknowledged the hardwork of the South-West in the reconstruction and rehabilitation of their area from the devastation of the 30 months civil war.

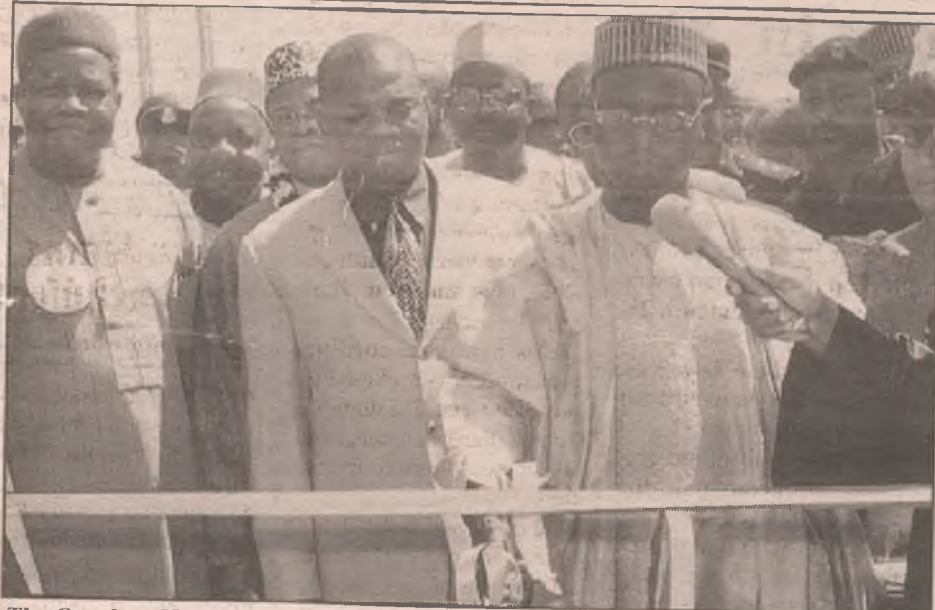
Governor Orji Kalu, while describing the former president as a democrat

enjoined the present crop of leaders to emulate the leadership style of Alhaji Shehu Shagari, and called on the federal government to ensure the proper integration of the Ndigbo into the nation's polity through the process of rehabilitation and reconciliation.

While in Abia State, Alhaji Shehu Shagari commissioned a number of projects executed by the state government.



Alhaji Shehu Shagari



The Speaker, House of Representatives, Alh. Ghali Umar Na'Abba cuts the tape to commission the Abia State staff quarters Abuja while Governor Orji Uzor Kalu watches.

Oputa orders re-investigation of court register's murder

From Aisha Momoh, in Port Harcourt

The chairman of Human Rights Violation and Investigation Commission, Justice Chukwudifu Oputa, has ordered the re-investigation of the alleged murder of a former principal court registrar in Cross Rivers State, Chief Iwara Osuaya.

The order followed a petition by the widow of the deceased, Mrs. Jenny Osuaya who alleged that her husband was brutally murdered, May 17, 1996 in Cross River State by one Mr. Usani Uguru.

Mrs. Osuaya said in her petition that her husband was last seen on the fateful day when he informed the family that he was going to Mr. Uguru the then Rivers State Commissioner of information.

According to Mrs. Osuaya, a deputy chief registrar attached to Calabar High Court was a close political associate of the former commissioner, until their relationship

turned sour, as result of political differences which saw the two in rival parties in the state.

Mr. Osuaya who felt betrayed by a friend after spending over N1m in his election bid went to the accused residence to express his feeling. She added that consequently, a feud ensued and Osuaya was beaten to death by the commissioner who was assisted by his cronies.

She said her husband's body was dumped in a shallow grave at the University of Calabar where it was found before Mr.



Justice Chukwudifu Oputa

Useni and others were subsequently arrested.

Mrs. Osuaya, a civil servant attached to chief magistrate court, Ugep in Cross Rivers State, questioned the commissioner who claimed that her husband took poison in his house resulting to his death and regretted that her efforts to get justice on the murder case had failed as result of the Mr. Uguru's connections.

She further said that due to Mr. Uguru's connection as a commissioner in Cross River state for several years, and closeness to some government officials then, including the former Chief of General Staff, Rtd General Oladipo Diya the case was suppressed at various stages.

She therefore, pleaded that the panel should order a re-investigation of the case with a different team of investors.

However, counsel to the accused who claimed he was at the panel on his own said his client Mr. Uguru was not summoned.

China to develop Yobe agriculture

Yobe State government has planned to develop agriculture and industry in the state with the help of Chinese expertise.

Governor Bukar Abba Ibrahim said in Damaturu during the week that the world has become a global village and stressed the need for the state and Nigeria to open up so as to benefit from the experience of other countries.

While receiving a report on a visit to China by chairmen of three local governments in the state, Governor Bukar Abba observed that in spite of

its large population, the Chinese Republic has the fastest growing economy in the world saying that it is an indication of what a people can achieve when they are determined.

Alhaji Bukar commended the chairmen for establishing a relationship with the Mayor of Yanchang and assured to improve on it to make it more permanent.

The governor announced the decision of his administration to establish a Soda ash plant at Yusufari this

year. He said, the state government had entered into an agreement with a Nigerian-based British-German company in actualising the project which will cost an estimated N90 million.

Speaking on behalf of his colleagues, the chairman of Jakusko local government council, Alhaji Ya'an Galadima had earlier informed the governor that their trip to the Republic of China was a follow-up to an earlier discussion with the officials of the Chinese consulate.



INSIDE POLITICS

Beware of AD, APP ministers

- Nyame warns Obasanjo

By Ibrahim Modibbo,
Political Editor.

For a stable polity to achieve the deserved democratic dividends, Governor Jolly Nyame of Taraba state has warned President Olusegun Obasanjo against opening up too much to his Alliance for Democracy and All Peoples Party (APP) appointees.

Governor Nyame who commended the Obasanjo administration for promoting party programmes and manifesto was quick to warn the President to be aware of opening up too much to his beneficiary appointees that are currently enjoying the hard labour of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

Speaking exclusively to

Daily Trust, the Governor said that although he is not totally against appointing members of other political parties to serve in the cabinet, he is against the President's "open door policy", which he feels is detrimental to the PDP.

He said, "Because of the President's openness, his AD and APP members and advisers would only be implementing their party programmes, thereby destroying not only the President but his party and that would undermine and dampen the spirits of those

who gave PDP its mandate to form a government.

Commenting on the new political arrangement where the Under-50 governors and politicians across the country are trying to wrestle power from the old breeds in 2003 elections, the governor warned that such arrangements might pose a serious threat to our nascent democracy.

He said that "while it is desirable for the under and over 50s to work in close collaboration with each other for political sanity to

prevail, the breaking away of any of the two groups if so manifested in our body politics might end up dividing the country into pieces.

Speaking on the Middle Belt question, Governor Nyame assured that such agitations from some quarters would not affect the unity and cohesion of the North as a political entity.

He said, "all the zone wants is consultation and representation when it comes to power sharing and therefore these demands for a Middle Belt recogni-

tion cannot threaten the North as corporate political zone.

Governor Nyame who described some of the agitations as selfishly motivated said: "the Babangida, Abacha and Abdulsalami administrations gave some of the Middle Belters pow-

erful and sensitive positions, but the question to ask is, what have they done with such positions to improve the lots of the Middle Belt."

"Sometimes we are victims of our own imaginations and I want to believe that all these hues and cries would not divide the North but would rather make it stronger," he said.



Gov. Nyame of Taraba State

Gombe institutes Christian body on Sharia

By Ibrahim Modibbo,
Political Editor.

As Gombe state prepares for the full implementation of Sharia, Governor Abubakar Hashidu has set up a Christian committee to advise the government on how best to implement the Muslim legal system in the state.

The governor told Daily Trust that his decision to set up the committee was informed by the fact that Nigeria is a secular state, with no state religion and for him to implement Sharia, the Christians in the state must have an input in the programme.

He said "As we plan to introduce Sharia, we have set up a committee comprising of notable Christians from all the zones of the state to study the proposal with a view to telling us what they want to see in place and how to fit into the system".

Setting up the committee to work hand in hand with their Muslim counterparts, Governor Hashidu stated that the submissions of both committees would be critically studied for a peaceful harmonization which he said its implementation would pay due respect to geographical structures and religious complexities of the state.

Describing the situation in Gombe as peculiar, Governor Hashidu stated that the beauty of democracy is to listen to the views of the people and as such the government would not dictate to the people on what

they want to do with their private lives.

He said, "Nigeria is a secular state with no official religion but if the people want a certain religion to follow, they should have the right to do so".

"I am not going to prevent the Muslims from having Sharia and I am not going to introduce Sharia in areas that are predominantly inhabited by Christians",

he said.

While pledging that his administration would be an open one that would not hinder any religion from practising its faith, Governor Hashidu commended the people of the state for living in peace despite religious differences.

Also discussing his relationships with the legislative arm of the government, Alhaji Abubakar Hashidu

who described it as cordial, said that the two arms of government do not quarrel but that they argue where superior argument is always allowed to reign.

He said "we act and move as a team. I am always in close consultation with the legislature where it is briefed in almost all developments in the state for peace and harmony to prevail".

Senator calls for truce in AD

From
Yinka Oladiyinbo, Ibadan.

The National Vice-Chairman of Alliance for Democracy (AD) Senator Ayo Fasanmi has advised the Mamman Yusuf-led faction to close ranks with the party's national executive in fashioning a vibrant and progressive party which could be a source of pride and inspiration to the factions and their teeming supporters.

Senator Fasanmi made the call in Ibadan in an address he delivered at the meeting of the Alliance for Democracy in the South-West zone.

He stressed that there was the need to embark on a new process of re-focusing the party, adding that the AD has a role to play for the restoration of human dignity which he alleged had been decorated and trampled upon during the long years of military rule.

Senator Fasanmi further called on all Nigerians to make the year 2001, a year of new beginning by discharging this historic responsibility for the promotion of justice, peace and

progress.

Also speaking at the meeting, Oyo state governor, Alhaji Lam Adesina maintained that the party is a disciplined party which stands for public accountability and orderliness.

Alhaji Adesina said he was happy with the statement credited to the party's national chairman, Alhaji Abdulkadir that there would be no automatic ticket for any of the party's elected officials.

He argued that selection of candidate for the next election should be left to the party after a thorough analysis of what the contributions of such a candidate to the development of his or her state.

Governor Adesina further said that despite the discipline evident in the party, there are still some elected officials of the party who insist on overseeing the party affairs, adding that the party was above such elected officials.

The governor however, claimed that he would not participate in any government whose programmes would not uplift the lives of the people.

Alhaji Adesina therefore, called on the party executives to strive to consolidate on the gains of the last election, saying that the crisis within the party notwithstanding, it still remained the most steadfast and the strongest of all the political parties in the country.



Gov. Lam Adesina of Oyo State.

Afenifere moves against Tinubu

From Bright Twin, Lagos.

The power struggle in Lagos state Alliance for Democracy (AD) is threatening as the Afenifere faction of the party has concluded plans to end Governor Bola Tinubu's hold on the party.

A close source to the Afenifere revealed to Daily Trust under conditions of anonymity that the decision to move against the governor was expressed by the fact that Afenifere top guns returned Tinubu's Christmas and New Year gifts unopened.

This action, according our sources shocked the governor who had thought he could use state largesse to coarsen Afenifere members.

He disclosed that the on-going reforms in Afenifere was to better its *modus operandi* in order to keep it in shape to hold power in the South-West.

He maintained that Tinubu is not likely to be returned in 2003, given his failure to implement the party's manifesto.

Investigations by Daily Trust, reveals that it was this hardline posture against Tinubu that is stalling his opponents in the last gubernatorial election, Chief Funso Williams from throwing in the towel and declaring for PDP.

Moreso, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) South-West strongman, Chief Bode George is finding it hard convincing Williams to decamp to the PDP as other aspirants for the

Tinubu

governorship of Lagos state, like Remi Adiuoku are raising eyebrows against such a plan.

On Tinubu, political heavyweights are envisaging that he will find it extremely difficult returning as governor of the state in 2003 without the support of Afenifere which was believed to have imposed him on the party in 1999.

Plateau NUJ condemns retrenchment

From Buhari Bello, Jos.

The Plateau state branch of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) has tasked the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), to urgently intervene in the on-going retrenchment exercise in the state public service.

Similarly, the union in a statement issued by the state chairman, Mr. George Damwan also appealed to National Assembly members from the state to compel the Governor Joshua Dariye's administration to immediately reinstate all those retrenched during the exercise.

"According to the NUJ, the union was not against the retrenchment exercise, but is desirous that "justice must be seen to have been done by retrenching only those with bad records and based on old age". Furthermore, the union said it was worried because the retrenchment of innocent workers will only lead to disenchantment and poverty.



INSIDE POLITICS

2003: IBB is free to contest — AD chairman

By Henry Omu

The National Chairman of the Alliance for Democracy (AD), Alhaji Ahmed Abdulkadir has declared that former President Ibrahim Babangida like every other Nigerian has the right to contest for president in the 2003 elections.

In an interview he granted the *Daily Trust*, Alhaji Abdulkadir however explained that the decision to either contest the presidential elections or not was

solely that of Gen. Babangida (rtd) to make, adding that there was no law banning him (IBB) from aspiring to the nation's top post.

He stated categorically that nothing legally prevents the retired general from actualising his presidential ambition, if he has any, under the platform of any of the political parties including the AD.

Said the AD chairman,

"IBB is like every other Nigerian. He has the right to contest for any elective position, so long as he's a Nigerian."

"Similarly, joining a political party of his choice is his own concern, but we cannot stop him from contesting even if he's coming into AD", he maintained.

Alhaji Abdulkadir however, disclosed that the AD for now, was not giving any serious thought on who

becomes its flagbearer in the 2003 presidential polls, but is concentrating its time and resources on the forthcoming council elections.

Speaking on the need for Gen. Babangida (rtd) to publicly apologise to Nigerians over the cancellation of the June 12, 1993 presidential polls, the AD chairman averred that apology can only come from someone who feels he's done something wrong.

"If IBB doesn't believe he's done anything wrong by his cancellation of the June 12, elections, then he owes no Nigerian any apology."

"I believe it's entirely up to him to think about it (apology), if that will increase his popularity in the country", observed the party boss.

Meanwhile, the Alliance for Democracy (AD) has constituted seven standing committees, including an 18-member board of trustees, all of which will be inaugurated at the party's secretariat during the next national executive council meeting in February.

Dariye castigates NIG critics

From Buhari Bello, Jos.

deny the fact that the nation had drifted many times from the right course of its development, stressing that as patriots, committed and experienced men, it is time to rise up in defence of the unity of the country.

However, the Jos meeting of the National Integration Group (NIG) attracted new faces who joined the group for the first time.

Those who attended the meeting are, Ahmed Makarfi, Kaduna State Governor, James Ibori (Delta); Sam Egwu (Ebonyi); Donald Duke (Cross River); Niyi Adebayo (Ekiti) and Ahmed Mu'azu of Bauchi state.

Others included, Buba Marwa, former Lagos State governor, Doyin Okupe, Adams Oshiomhole, NLC President, Senators D.B. Zang, and Haruna Abubakar, as well as three ministers, Aisha Ismail, Pauline Tallen, and Danjuma Goje among others.

...Yar'Adua group pushes Obasanjo's candidacy

The Minister for Special Duties, Chief Yomi Edu, said that the Yar'Adua Group of the PDP, would vigorously fight for the President Obasanjo's second tenure in office during the 2003 presidential elections.

Edu said in Minna at the weekend that the PDP group, which brought Obasanjo into 1999 presidential elections would

fight hard to ensure his reelection in the 2003 race so that his eight years tenure could stabilise the country.

He said though some people had started nursing ambition for the presidency, consensus of the PDP caucus was that anybody who emerged as president should be allowed to complete his two terms for stability.

To push for the acceptance of Obasanjo's sec-

ond term in office in the South-West, Edu said that the PDP ministers from that part of the country, were working hard to fashion out strategies to win the 2002 local government elections.

Commenting on IBB's ambition in the presidency, Edu who held a close door meeting with the former head of state in his uphill house in Minna on Friday, said: "I will advise him not to dabble into politics".

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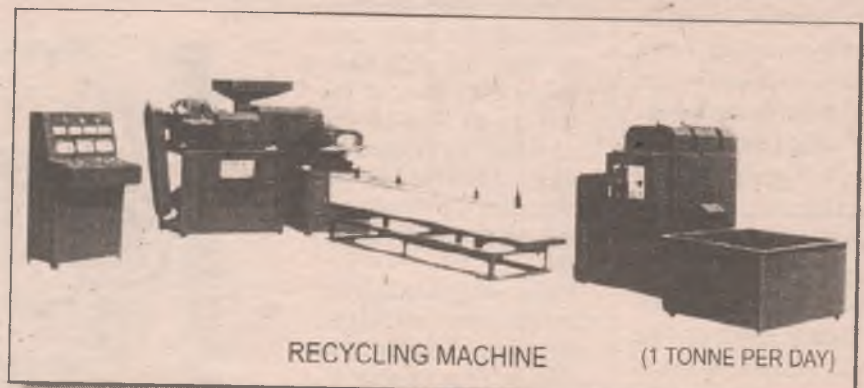
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Arts & Entertainment

Computer Games

PlayHouse: Where little Architects Build!

By Tadaferua Ujorha

There is a descent on the left when you leave Abuja's Sheraton Hotel, and it is at this little valley that PlayHouse is located.

Mr. Olagoke Ajirorutu is its Manager, and he is assisted by Emeka Peter. PlayHouse is essentially a recreational centre for children, which aims at keeping children occupied in a lofty fashion, when they leave their various schools in the afternoons.

There are some thirteen television sets in the PlayHouse and computer games and educational Toys, are available too. Some of the games and toys



Customers busy at the PlayHouse

deal with materials, which the children encounter at school. Playhouse is then a school away from school,

and this also means progress for the children. There is an indoor air-conditioned area, and educa-

tional computers for children under 8 years. There are soccer, tables and many other facilities too.

With four hundred Naira, a child could have fun at the PlayHouse for a whole day.

PlayHouse is a preparation for the future. Some of the games are about building, and the children can

enter the exciting world of designing and building their own houses via the computer, and this makes them an agile concourse of little Architects!

Art Watch!

Hajj guide by Aishat Kande Abubakar will be launched on Saturday 10th February 2001 at the Conference Hall of the National Mosque, Garki - Abuja, by 9.00 a.m.

Chief launcher will be His Excellency Alhaji Ahmad Sani, Yariman Bakura, and Executive Governor of Zamfara state.

Guest of Honour is the Saudi Arabian Ambassador to Nigeria, while the Guest Speaker will be Professor A.A. Gwandu, Chairman, National Committee on Hajj Affairs.

The Abuja chapter of the Association of Nigerian Authors is preparing for an AGM and Gala Nite which should hold on February 28th 2001 by 4.30 p.m. at Halal Restaurant, Women Centre, Abuja. The day would feature a guest address, a book presentation, poem readings, elections, dinner and the conferment of merit awards.

Recently, I bumped into Aaladdin, a popular performer who is as cheerful as he is kind and talented. It was as though we had met for years. He was seated in a friend's car and kept on beaming at me as the discussion, in progressed. The story on him would be featured shortly. Readers should look forward to this story on this performer whose name evokes childhood memories of Eastern genius and talent. Many would remember Aladdin who, I think featured so much in the Arabian Nights tales. This performer would throw us all back to those rare and enchanting moments of our childhood.

The 2nd and 3rd schedule of activities of the Federal Ministry of Culture and Tourism for the year 2001 are as follows:

April - National Painting Competition organized by the National Gallery of Art.

May: -- May 8th - Highlife Music Festival. -- National Festival of

the Arts organized by the National Council for Arts and Culture.

--13th - 19th May, 2001. - African-African American Summit.

-- 21st-25th May, 2001. - Abuja Carnival.

-- 26th May, 2001. - Drama Nights - 27th and 28th May, 2001.

- Democracy Day - 29th May, 2001 with fireworks.

June: - Ministerial Visit to Obudu Cattle Ranch, Cross River State.

- Launching of Tourism Masterplan.

- Nigerian Copyright Commission 2-Day Workshop on the Adjudication of Copyright Cases in collaboration with the Federal High Court - 25th and 26th.

3rd Quarter: July:

- Nigerian Copyright Commission International Workshop on Reprography - 23rd - 25th, Abuja.

August: - CBAAC Colloquium on Black and African Cultures and the Challenges of Globalisation in collaboration with the Presidency - 19th - 23rd, Abuja.

- Ministerial Visit to Osogbo Tourism Centre.

- Remembrance of Slave Trade and its Abolition - 25th August.

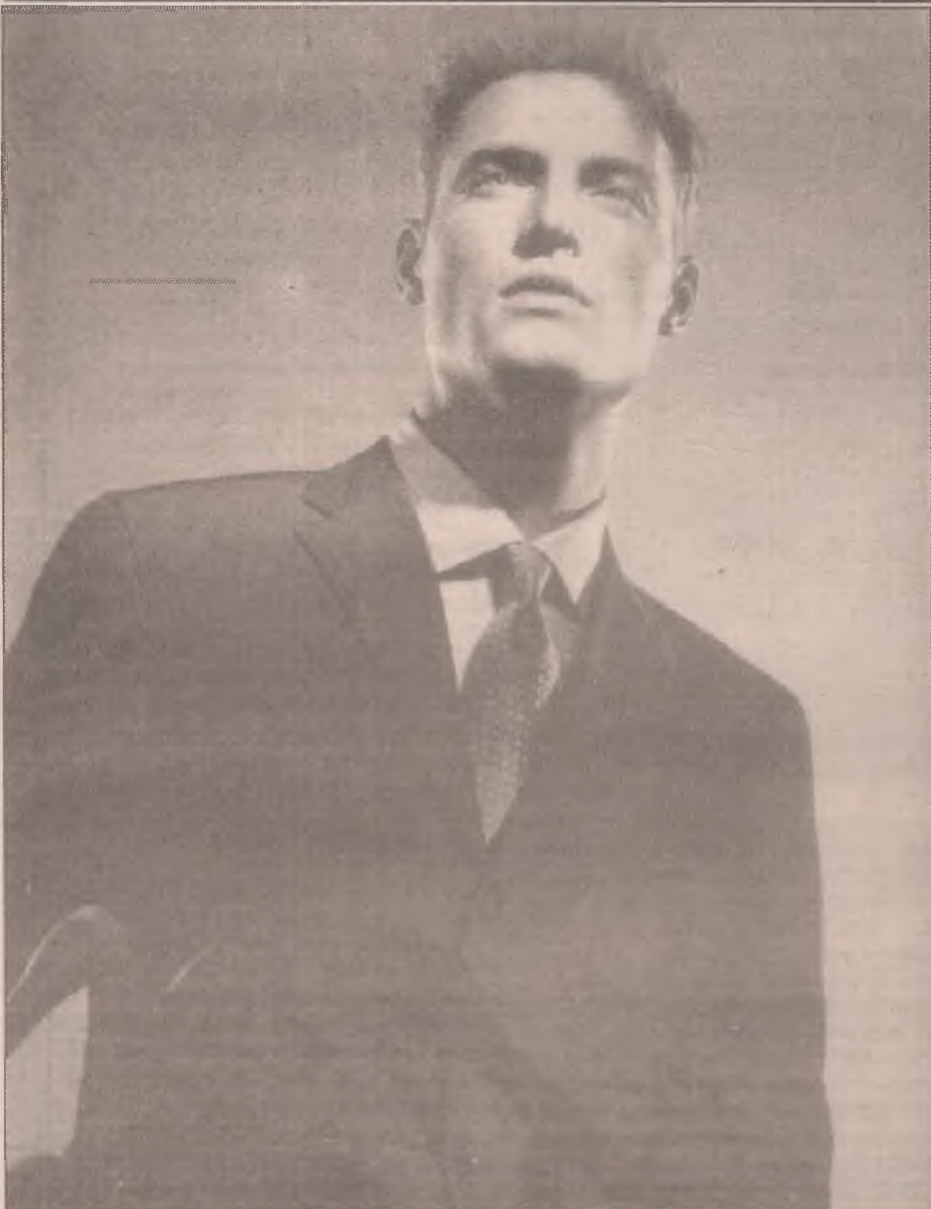
September: - Foundation Laying Ceremony of the National Theatre, Abuja.

- National Creativity Day Award - 14th.

- Nigerian Copyright Commission International Conference on Action Against Piracy - 17th - 19th, Lagos.

- Abuja Carnival and Musical Event for the Independence Anniversary - Saturday, 29th September 2001.

FASHION



The Glowing Collection!

Hugo Boss, world famous fashion designers are in Abuja again, and they can be found at Bibian A Ladi Kwali Conference Centre at the Sheraton Hotel and Towers. From 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. each day they are present at this location.

Here is the latest in terms of men's wears which cover a mass of materials ranging from suits, jackets and trousers, to ties, shoes, belts and coats. Here, you would find items of the best quality and the finest taste. The best would certainly strive after the best!

Hugo Boss, Nigeria, has

its headquarters at Sheraton Hotel and Towers Lagos. The 2000 and 2001 exhibition at Sheraton Hotel, Abuja would last for another three weeks. Here is a glowing collection that radiates helpfully to all those imbued with a good dress sense, and a longing for Beauty!

PRIME VIEWINGS

Hall Mark Entertainment Network

- 07:00 - Games Mother Never Taught You
- 08:55 - Nowhere To Land
- 10:30 - Mary, Mother Of Jesus
- 12:00 - Hostile Advances: The Kelly Ellison Story
- 13:30 - The Face Of Fear
- 14:45 - Enslavement
- 16:45 - Bye Bye Birdie
- 19:00 - Molly
- 19:30 - Danger Bay
- 20:45 - A Storm in Summer
- 20:30 - Run the Wild Fields
- 00:10 - Home Fires Burnig
- 01:45 - Single Women Married Men
- 03:25 - My Friend Joe
- 05:05 - Bye Bye Birdie

CARTOON NET WORK

- 07:00 - Yo Yog!
- 07:30 - The Biskitts
- 08:00 - The Flintstone Frolics
- 08:30 - Tom and Jerry Kids
- 09:00 - The Powerpuff Girls
- 09:30 - Dexter's Laboratory
- 10:00 - Tom and Jerry
- 10:30 - Flying Machines
- 11:00 - Top Cat
- 11:30 - A pub Named Scooby Doo
- 12:00 - Yogi's Treasure Hunt
- 12:30 - Wacky Races
- 13:00 - Hong Kong Phooey
- 13:30 - Popeye
- 14:00 - Droopy And Barney
- 14:30 - Looney Tunes
- 15:00 - Tom and Jerry
- 15:30 - The Flintstones
- 16:00 - The Jestons
- 16:30 - Mile, Lu and Og
- 17:00 - Scooby Doo
- 17:30 - Dexter's Laboratory
- 18:00 - The Powerpuff Girls
- 18:30 - Ed, Edd & Eddy
- 19:00 - The Real Adventure Of Johnny Quest
- 19:30 - The Centurions.
- 20:00 - Tom and Jerry
- 20:30 - The Flintstones
- 21:00 - Transmission Ends.

Stirring Lines!

... Of something far more deeply interfused, Whose dwelling is the light of setting suns ...
-Tintern Abbey (Poem) Wordsworth.

NEWS

FCDA Board, indigenes threaten Obasanjo

By Suleiman Mohammed

President Olusegun Obasanjo stands the risk of being sued if he goes ahead to inaugurate the board of the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA) with Dr. Olu Alabi as Chairman.

Abuja indigenes who said they are directly affected by any development in the Federal Capital Territory are dusting their papers to go to court on the grounds that the appointment of Dr. Olu Alabi as Board Chairman was illegal, null and void. In addition, legal experts told *Daily Trust* in Abuja at the weekend that the President's action was illegal and a violation of the law establishing the Federal Capital Territory, which vested the Chairmanship of the Authority on the minister.

Section 18 of the Federal Capital Territory Act (1976) stated that "the President, has delegated to the minister of the Federal Capital Territory, (a) any function or power conferred on the Chairman of the Federal Capital Development Authority under this Acts, (b) any executive power of the Federal Government vested

in the president pursuant to section 263 (a) or any other section of the constitutions of the federal republic of Nigeria and exercisable within the Federal Capital Territory...."

However, in September last year, the Secretary to the Government of the federation (SGF), Chief Ufot Ekaette issued a directive from President Obasanjo that no minister should serve as a minister to the board or parastatals under his or her ministry, a situation which created confusion that led to the postponement, last Thursday of the inauguration of the FCDA board.

Daily Trust learnt that Abuja indigenes are perturbed by the development, describing it as po-



President Obasanjo

litically motivated, and an underground design to sideline them from schemes of

things in the territory.

The FCDA, which is considered one of the most

juicy parastatals, has the responsibility for the execution of the Abuja master plan according to specification, thus paving ways for award of contracts in all areas of development of the Federal Capital Territory.

Already, Abuja indigenes have expressed their concern over the composition of the board members which they described as being partial. Members of the ill-fated board are, Dr. Olu Alabi, from Osun State as chairman, Senator Idris Kuta (Niger), Chief I. Obcke, Dr. Kalu Ukiwe, Mr. Haruna Defwan, Alhaji M.K.M. Jada and Engineer Femi Ojo.

Daily Trust investigation revealed that President Obasanjo had at the weekend met with the FCT Minister, Architect Ibrahim Bunu and Dr. Alabi at the state House alongside the Attorney General and Minister of Justice, Chief Bola Ige.

Though sources hinted that Chief Bola Ige interpreted that the word, "delegation" as used by the FCT Act empower the President to withdraw such mandate from the FCT minister, the meeting was inconclusive as president Obasanjo asked the FCT Minister, Arch. Ibrahim Bunu to await further directive.

Courage and Conviction for launch January 27.

From Dare Oyewole in Kaduna

All is now set for the launching of the book "Courage and Conviction: New Nigerian the first 20 years" and a N250 million New Nigerian foundation for Journalism

foundation slated for January 27 in Kaduna.

Written by former Editor and Managing Director of the *New Nigerian* Mallam Turi Muhammadu the book tells the story of how and why the newspaper was founded and its performance in its first 20 years.

Mallam Turi Muhammadu also analyses how the newspaper reported events and the attitude of the newspaper to these events and people shaping the events as well as how the paper looked after the interests of its catchment area.

A release issued by Alhaji Muhammed Ibrahim and Mallam Mohammed Haruna, Chairman and Secretary of the organizing committee respectively said the objective of N250 million foundation was to as-

sist in the training of journalists from the north and other papers of the country and to enlighten the northern populace of the importance of virile media organizations for the development of the region, among other things.

The occasion is expected to be presided over by former Vice President, Dr. Alex Ekwueme and Vice President Atiku Abubakar would be the chief guest of honour while the governor of Kaduna State, Alhaji Ahmed Mohammed Makarfi would be the chief host.

The chief launcher is the president of Newspaper Proprietor Association of Nigeria, Alhaji Ismaila Isa while Professor Jerry Gana, Minister of Information and National Orientation would serve as guest of honour.

Kano Government approves N240.3 million for projects

The Kano State government has approved the release of N240.3 million for the execution of various projects, according to the commissioner for information, Alhaji Muhammed Dankadai.

Dankadai told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Kano, after the state executive council meeting that N191.3 million was approved for the construction of 30 wells and boreholes at the Chalawa water works, while N3.5 million was for the dualisation of Sharada water supply pipeline in the Kano metropolis.

He disclosed that N8.4 million was approved for the erection of a water booster station at Kiru and N572.8 million was allocated for the rehabilitation of Rano township water reticulation supply, while N3.3 million was approved for the improvement of the Kwankwaso water supply scheme.

He further disclosed that N809.6 million and N9.3 million were approved for the replacement of vandalized NEPA equipment and the control of erosion at Gwarmai and Dambatta

towns respectively, while N4.3 million was to be expended on the renovation of a ward at the Murtala Muhammed Hospital.

He also said that N5.7 million was approved for the construction of staff quarters at the Tofa Primary Health Centre and N4.5 million for the purchase of a pay loader.

The Commissioner stated that N5.1 million was approved for the purchase of a new bus for the state owned football team, Kano Pillars and as operational fund to the team.



Gov. Kwankwaso

FG set to provide rural infrastructure

The Minister of State for Power and Steel, Alhaji Danjuma Goje, has said that the federal government is set to put in place the necessary infrastructure that would stimulate growth and development in the rural areas.

At the inauguration of Takuti/ Abuja/ Shaba Rural Electricity project in Lapai local government area of Niger. Goje said: The Government was, determined to provide socio-economic amenities that would empower rural dwellers to realize their community and individual development goals.

He described the provision of electricity in rural areas as one of the measures that would uplift the rural areas, adding that "All our developmental inputs hinge on adequate pro-

vision of electricity, potable water, health care delivery and provision of qualitative education.

He said that others were the provision of small-scale industries, mechanization of Agricultural activities for increased food production, information dissemination and other amenities that would improve the living standard of the people.

The Minister also expressed delight with president Olusegun Obasanjo for his interest and contributions to the development of rural communities and said that the interest had manifested in the government's decision to allocate more than N17 billion for rural electricity in 109 senatorial districts.

Hajj Monitors Advise Government on Air Carriers

An Islamic religious body, Hajj Monitors of Nigeria (HAMON) has appealed to the federal government to hands-off from the selection of air carriers for Hajj operations.

The group suggested that various state governments should be allowed to select their own air carriers from anywhere in the world for the annual exercise.

Its chairman, Alhaji Mohammed Lawal Salisu criticised the conduct of Hajj operations over the years, and observed that the greatest problems arising from the Hajj exercise were caused by air carriers.

He identified the problems to include lateness on the part of the carriers, lack of aircraft and dilapidated aircraft among others. He cited last year's operation as an example.

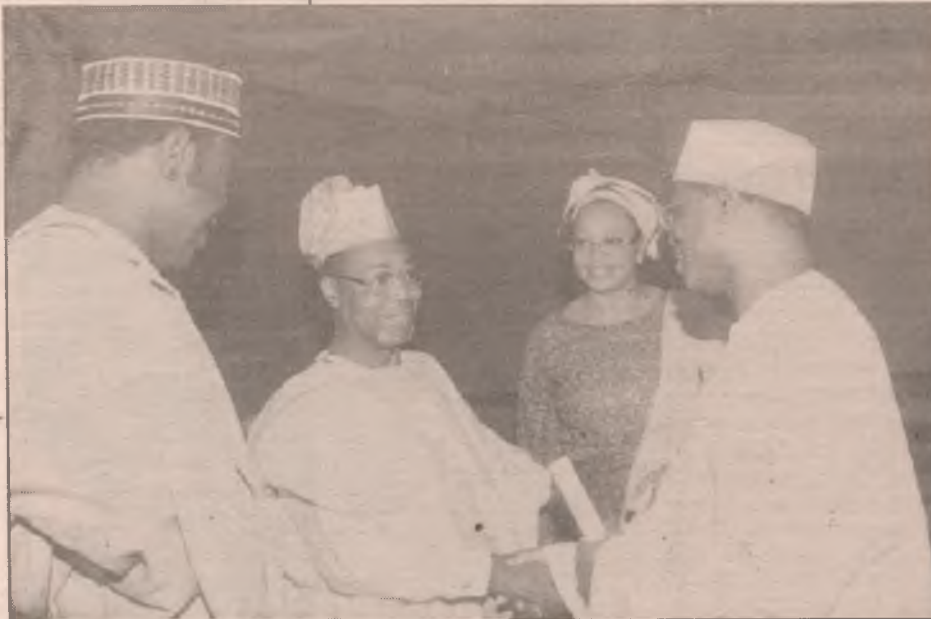
"Our pilgrims suffered; the suffering was deliberately caused by the air carriers who accepted government imposed stringent conditions thereby exhibiting greed and inhuman teachings", Salisu said.

He maintained that it was possible to have a

hitch-free Hajj exercise at a significantly reduced Hajj fare.

He also wanted prospective pilgrims to be subjected to serious screening saying that the conduct of many pilgrims in the Holy land leaves much to be desired.

Hajj performance, he said, should not be open to those who had money without corresponding religious ethics.



L-R: Dr. Olu Alabi, Engineer Femi Ojo and Mr. Futumatus Williams, the outgoing FCT perm. sec. at the inauguration of the FCT Board that could not hold last week.

Pix Kennedy Egbonodje.

e-business

* Information * Communication * Technology

After two years of hassles, Nigeria joins GSM Network

* The South African connection

It was a hard and tedious journey that started over two years ago. The late General Sani Abacha's administration initiated the move to link Nigeria into the global network of Mobile Communication, otherwise known as the Global System for mobile communication (GSM). However, because of the quantum of interests showed in the emerging business opportunities, Nigerian factor quickly crept in. Against normal procedures, interested parties abandoned the official channel of picking up licences for themselves by opting for the political angle.

This they did by boycotting the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) and head straight to Aso Rock and through some top government functionaries to obtain approval for operations. It was without any regard to the rules, which the same government had set up. The entire process was thus enmeshed in confusions and controversies. Those who have no even the slightest idea of telephone operation were jostling for licences which they would later sell to others.

However, the controversies that trailed the processes were later eliminated when the government of Chief Olusegun Obasanjo in December 1999 cancelled all the so-called licences issued by the previous government and ordered for a fresh beginning. Consequently the management of NCC under Mr. Emmanuel Nnama was sacked and Mr. Ernest Ndukwe, the incumbent vice-chairman and chief executive was appointed. Not satisfied with the arrangement on ground, the government went ahead to constitute a board for NCC with former super permanent secretary in the Gowon regime, Alhaji Ahmed Joda as chairman.

Under that arrangement, 17 firms participated but only seven of them scaled the pre-qualification exercise. But the government, not satisfied with its conduct, again cancelled the process and ordered instead for the auction method to allow for a free, fair and competitive bidding. It therefore, mandated NCC to conduct the exercise within a time frame of five months, even though it takes about two years, considering the experience of other African countries.

NCC thus went to work by first of all appointing consultants and advisers, and followed it up with public consultations with stakeholders and other interested parties on the process and technology to be adopted. It subsequently issued an Information Memorandum and of the 18 companies that indicated interest, only five passed the pre-qualification tests.

The five companies that scaled the hurdles to qualify for the final auction were: Communications Investment Limited (CIL) solely owned by oil and banking magnate, Chief Mike Adenuga, MTN Nigeria Limited sponsored by South African-based telephone giants in partnership with some Nigerians, namely, Col. Mohamed Sani Bello, Ahmed Dasuki, Chief Victor Odili, Oba Otudeko and Tunde Folawiyi. Econet Wireless Nigeria Limited is a subsidiary of Econet Wireless International. The company is in Zimbabwe even though it has strong connections with South Africa. It was also reported to be the fourth largest network operator in Africa today. By winning the franchise to operate in Nigeria, it nonetheless, marked the beginning of its journey outside Southern Africa which is its major backbone in the continent. Currently, besides Zimbabwe, it operates in Botswana, Lesotho, Morocco, Kenya, Malta, United Kingdom and New Zealand.

The other contenders who lost out in the final round were MSI-CELTEL, which has former head of state, General Yakubu Gowon and banking guru, Mr. Pascal Dozio as its leading lights. Although the company is one of the major players in Africa's telecommunication filed its failure to clinch one of the three licences, was tied to some disagreements between the foreign shareholders and their Nigerian partners. United Networks has Hakeem Belo-Osagie as chairman was the first to ask for a waiver. As the stake got higher, report has it that the sponsors of United Networks discovered they could not raise the required capital when the auction went beyond \$260 million.

INSIDE THE AUCTION

The auction which opened in Abuja on Wednesday, January 17, 2001 no doubt created anxiety not only among the contenders, but also in the

In this report, our InfoTech Correspondent, OSBORNE ADI JNR, reflects on Nigeria's tedious journey into the Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM), the details, the intrigues that followed and the last stroke that broke the ice.

minds of watchers of the telecommunications industry and the Nigerian people as well. To start with, not many people gave the exercise any chance of success. Like experiences of the past, it was the belief in wider circles that the auction was heading for some hitches.

Indications to this effect started showing signs when Motorphone, owned by the Chagoury family and one of the participants in the cancelled licencing exercise went to court in its bid to stop the auction. Although it got an interim order to that effect, the commission in its determined effort not to allow any distraction to the exercise, through its legal adviser, Chief Afe Babalola appealed against the order.

Apart from the advertorials placed in some national dailies by Chief FRA Williams, counsel to Motorphone announcing the order it has obtained from the court against the commencement of the auction, the legal luminary wrote individually to the participating bidders not to engage in the exercise.



President Olusegun Obasanjo

This action really intimidated the bidders and may have withdrawn their participation but for the timely intervention of Chief Babalola. He explained to them the position of the law and assured them that their participation was legally covered and was in no way a breach of the law. He went further to tell them that what was at stake was the nation's collective interest and by Nigerian law whenever the state's interest manifests in a matter any other individual or group interests take the back-burner. This intervention was the soothing balm they needed to fire them back into reckoning.

On the first day of auction, which started at 10 a.m., the five bidders were booked into five different rooms on the sixth floor of the NICON HILTON Hotel, while the NCC shut itself in another room. All representatives of the participating companies remained in the said rooms throughout the period the auction lasted. There was no contact between them, which an official of the commission said was intended to avoid any gang up that may stall the smooth conduct of the exercise thus, "leading to the emergence of the highest bidders under a free and fair environment".

At the opening of bids which also commenced at 10.00 a.m. and ended twenty minutes later, all the contenders agreed on the starting bench mark of \$100 million and progressed for the second round at the end of which they agreed on the sum of \$110 million.

Round three went between 12:35 p.m. and 12:55 p.m. By the time Mr. Ernest Ndukwe, the chief

auctioneer came to address the press on proceedings, the price had risen to \$121 million. To show their commitment and enthusiasm in the exercise, the bidders skipped their lunch time and went through rounds four, five and six. These rounds ended at \$130 million, \$140 and \$150 million respectively.

At the resumption of proceedings the following day - Thursday, the participants were all in high spirit. Business started with the trading rate of the previous day at \$150 million. And at around 11.00 a.m. when the second round ended, the floating rate was already \$187 million. In round three, it peaked at \$190 million and at the close of proceedings for the day, it stood at \$240 million.

On Friday which incidentally was the day of judgement, saw the exercise taking a divided dimension. While CIL, MTN and Econet were determined to take the battle to the limits, United Networks and MSI-Celstel were only bidding their time to withdraw. The first round started at 10.00 a.m. and at the end, auction stood at \$248 mil-



Alhaji Mohammed Arzika, Communications Minister.

lion. By the second round when the other four indicated their preparedness to enter the third round, MSI-Celstel had fallen out. It asked for waiver which incidentally, was its third. The four others said yes to the \$265 million and proceeded to the next round. Under the bidding rules, there is a provision for waiver which allowed a bidder to skip a round without forfeiting its right to accept a higher price in the following rounds. A bidder is qualified to ask for at least three waivers in the whole process but it would not affect the process and if these were applied, the bidder can proceed to the next round or be eliminated.

Between 12:25 p.m. and 12:45 p.m., when the third round was completed, the offer had pushed to \$255 million. By this time, United Networks had fallen by the side, leaving only the three eventual winners.

By the fourth round that ended at exactly at 2:00 p.m., MTN Nigeria asked for waivers for the first time, while Econet and CIL said they were set for \$300 million. But the auction had to be discontinued since they were the only three left in contention.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN CONNECTION

Nigerians may as well beat their chests and say at last, they are at the threshold of joining the other countries of the world on the global cellular network. But beyond this who are the real winners. The winners in the GSM game are no doubt the South Africans. For long, since the return of democracy to Nigeria, the South Africans had

never hidden (their) interest in the large Nigerian market.

From solid minerals to banking, oil and gas to agriculture and tourism, aviation to telecommunications, they are all over the places.

The story of South African involvement in Nigeria's GSM network started with MTN Nigeria. After the Federal Government had cancelled the first licences, MTN and its Nigerian partners found that the game might not be an easy sail if they were to push alone. Using their vast network of connection(s), the company solicited the support of former South African President, Nelson Mandela. The former president was reported to have contacted President Obasanjo where he presented MTN case. Although Obasanjo was said have informed of the transparency government was bent on introducing into the entire process, nonetheless, he promised to ensure that MTN was not thrown out of the race.

Consequently, Mandela was said to have advised the company to jack up its financial base in case since it was going to be the determining factor.

Sources said it was this presidential connection informed him MTN's decision to hold as much as 76.8 per cent shareholding in MTN Nigeria, leaving only a mere 23.2 per cent to its six local partners.

Although former Nigerian Ambassador to South Africa, Alhaji Shehu Malami was said to have also pushed the case for MTN, his level of involvement was not clear at the time of going to press.

For Econet Wireless Nigeria Limited Consortium, besides its record on the African continent, the financial muscle of its local collaborators was reported to have helped it in scaling the hurdles. Econet Wireless International holds 60 per cent and the other 40 per cent is held by Nigerians. Leading the pack is youthful Bolaji Balogun, whose father Otunba Subomi Balogun is an icon in the Nigerian financial circles.

Incidentally, First City Merchant Bank's (FCMB) subsidiary - FCMB Capital Markets is the local adviser to Econet. The bank is owned by Otunba Balogun. Other Nigerians involved in the company are Wale Tinubu, one of the directors of Ocean and Oil, Tunde Odukale of Leadway Assurance and Boye Olusanya.

THE FUTURE

According to Ndukwe, there is really a lot of catching up that Nigeria needs to do with the rest of the world in the telecommunications sector. This is tied to the poor record of the country's telecommunications history. At independence in 1960, there were only 18,724 telephone lines in the country. This lines increased to 100,000 in 1985 and by 1988, there were 300,000 lines. Currently, there is an installed capacity of 750,000, but then only 500,000 lines are actually connected to subscribers. That is the land lines connectivity.

However, with the licencing now, NCC estimates that in the next one year, the operators should be able to provide additional 400,000 cellular lines. It is expected that by the next three years, 3 million lines would be added to the network, just as over 6 million lines would have been achieved in the next five years.

However, the question that is on the lips of everyone is that how prepared are these operators in meeting up these expectations? For CIL, it presently has an installed network of 30,000 lines in Lagos. Mike Adenuga, the company's chairman said they are set to increase the network to 150,000 as well as deploying another network to Abuja and Port Harcourt.

Strive Masiya, Econet boss said his company would start operations in the country by June. Econet will thereafter explore areas that are not currently being serviced.

MTN, chief executive Irene Charly, told newsmen at the weekend in Abuja that they were poised to bring their vast experience to the country. She added that the company is moving faster to raise the licencing fee before it starts mounting its equipment after the 90-day grace period.

* Post Script:

This page will continue to feature news, analysis, commentaries and latest developments in Information, Communication Technology (ICT) every Monday.



GOVERNMENT OF KANO STATE

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RE: RELEASE OF DR. FASEUN ON BAIL - REJOINDER

The attention of Kano State Government has been drawn to the advertorial placed by the Lagos State Government in the *New Nigerian News* paper of December 25, 2000 trying to justify the release of Dr. Faseun on bail.

The advertorial was untimely and dangerously provocative coming at this material time when the North is still mourning the wanton massacre of thousands of its innocent sons and daughters and the attendant looting of their properties reminiscent of the Tutsi genocide in Rwanda in 1994. It confirms our strong suspicion of the connivance of the powers that be in the mayhem that raged for three consecutive days unfettered under the very eyes of all security apparatus.

It is note worthy that the incident was neither the first of its kind nor was it limited to people of Northern Origin. Similar incidents were meted out to the Northerners twice and the Igbos and the Ijaws once each previously. This clearly shows that no Nigerians other than those from South-West are safe in their motherland.

We in Kano State are constrained to observe that the reasons adduced for setting Faseun, free for want of evidence were not satisfactory. Consequently, we wish to re-emphasize that we still stand by the views expressed by the Northern States' Government on the issue jointly and severally. There is no way we can fold our arms and watch our people being terrorized, maimed and killed by agents of destabilisation.

THE ISSUES AT STAKE

For the avoidance of doubt there is need to clearly bring out the issues at stake.

1. The Odua People Congress, the militant wing of the Afenifere, planned and executed the massacre of thousands of People of Northern origin resident in Lagos and looted their properties. Afenifere is the vanguard of Yaruba interest in Nigeria.
2. The genocide and looting continued for three consecutive days unfettered. Even when the law enforcement agents were called to intervene, it took them five days to control the mayhem. On the whole the lives and properties lost are unbelievably too high to imagine.
3. In the advertorial referred above Dr. Faseun was portrayed as a self-proclaimed leader of the Odua Peoples Congress though at various times and fora Afenifere acknowledged Odua People Congress as its militant wing.
4. In view of the lives and properties lost, a new order was issued for the banning of the Odua Peoples Congress as well as the arrest of Dr. Faseun and his collaborators.
5. Those arrested (Faseun and his cohorts) were taken to a Lagos Court for necessary legal action against them.
6. To the utter dismay of all civilized people, the Lagos State Court released the perpetrators of the dastardly acts for what it called "want of evidence."
7. The haste in the release of Faseun and others few days after the commission of the crime leaves much to be desired. Definitely Justice has not been done to the victims.
8. Since the crimes involved National Security as well as ethnic cleansing, establishing the guilt or otherwise of the suspects ought to be after thorough and transparent investigation.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

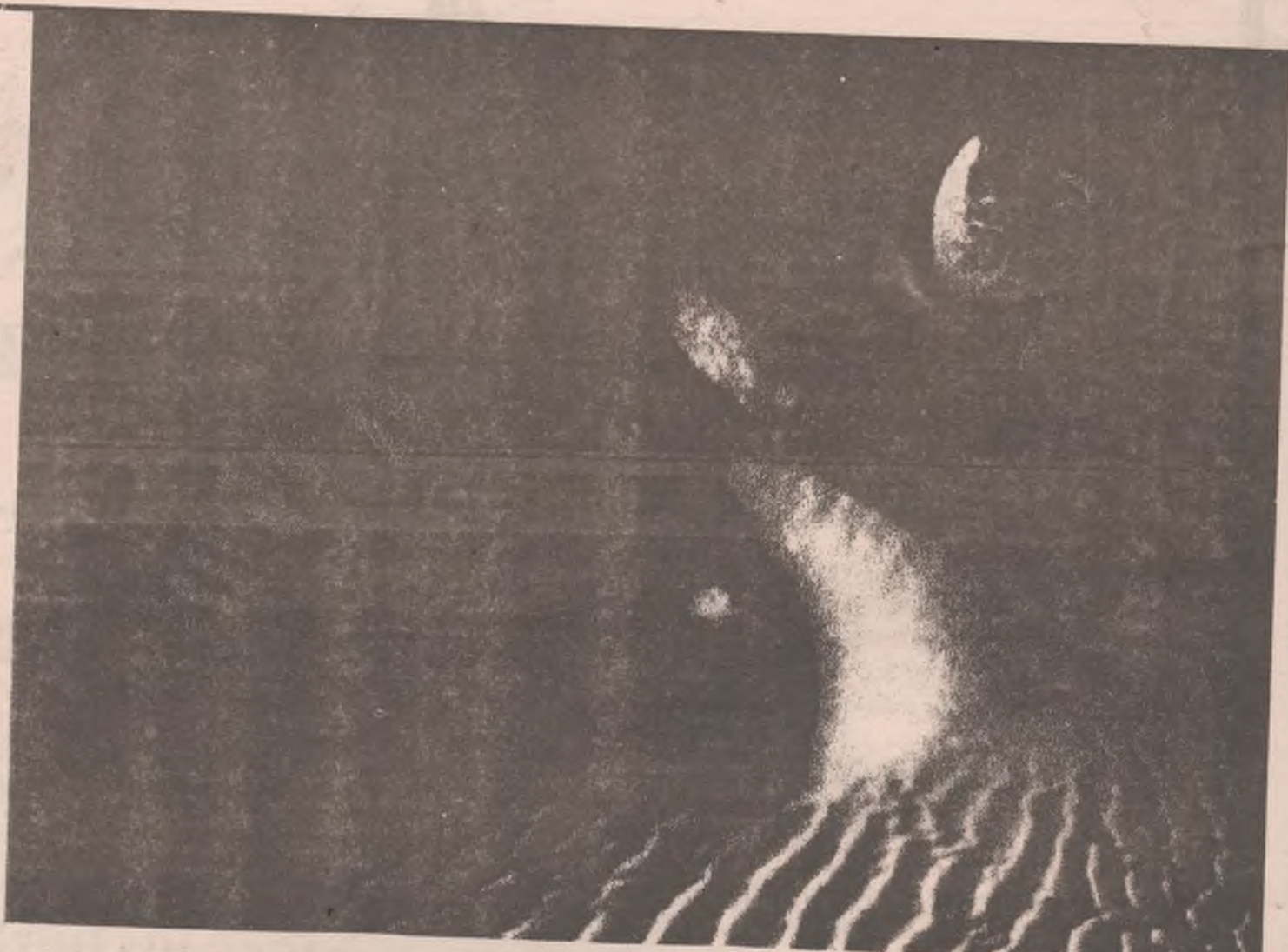
The unfortunate and tragic event in the whole matter is the gradual and systematic erosion of confidence in the judicial process. The ethnic and tribal undertones are there for all to see.

Discriminatory tendencies in criminal investigations and prosecutions are unacceptable in our polity. Importing such primordial tendencies into judicial system is a national calamity.

CONCLUSION

It is the policy of the present administration in Kano State to protect the lives and properties of the people within the State and indeed that of its citizens, wherever they are. Consequently, it is our resolve to ensure that the culprits are brought to book. We have the moral duty and obligation to ensure the crimes are prosecuted and punished according to the law of the land.

Signed
Balarabe Bello
 Attorney-General Commissioner for Justice
 19th January 2001



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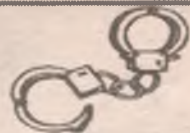


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Crime & Punishment



Fatal abortion: Police detain doctor over death of lady

By Onah L. Iduh & Uwem Umo

The police in Wuse Division, Abuja, have detained a medical doctor for allegedly causing the death of one Justina Audu.

According to *Daily Trust* investigations, Dr. Samuel Eji, proprietor of Otobi Clinic, Karmo, and Justina were secret lovers until the bubble burst when the lover girl became pregnant.

Sources told *Daily Trust* that Justina's mother was said to have noticed some physiological changes in her daughter's body upon which she challenged her.

Justina, according to reliable sources who pleaded anonymity, confessed her romance with the doctor and named him for being responsible for the four-month-old pregnancy.

However, when con-

fronted by Justina's mother, the doctor, who is also suspected to be a quack, was said to have initially denied responsibility but later owned up after some glaring evidence and suggested an abortion which mother and child allegedly rejected.

However, matters took a different dimension when Justina's mother, a trader, travelled to Jigawa state to buy her merchandise and Justina fell ill and went to the doctor for some treatment. Dr. Samuel was said to have injected her on Monday, January 15, 2001 with an intravenous substance that allegedly induced abortion. Reliable family sources said Justina went home that Monday but returned later to the clinic on Tuesday critically ill and particularly complaining of rumblings in her womb.

She was said to have

been put in the clinic theatre where she pushed out two fetuses suspected to be twin babies.

After the induced abortion, she was said to have bled profusely and died twenty four hours later on Wednesday January 17, 2001.

After her tragic death, the Romco doctor who hails from Akpa, Otobi, in Otukpo local government area of Benue State was said to have been in a dilemma with what to do with the corpse.

He was said to have attempted dumping the body in a private hospital in Zone 4, Abuja but was unsuccessful and he eventually went to the Wuse Police station to surrender himself.

When contacted, the divisional police officer (DPO) in charge of the Wuse police division, Mr. Wale Davies, a Superintendent of police (SP), said the matter

was brought to his division and hinted that somebody is being held for culpable homicide, adding that the case will be transferred to the state criminal investigation department (CID).

As at the time of going to press, the corpse has been deposited at the Garki General Hospital while the doctor's car in which the body was conveyed to the station, a red coloured Toyota with registration number AZ 597 - ABJ was seen parked at the police station.

Late Justina Audu, 22, hailed from Ojigo in Okpokwu local government area of Benue State.



Late Justina Audu

Perm Sec., orderly arrest robbery suspect

Permanent Secretary (name withheld) and his police orderly on January 14, 2001 at Gwagwalada pursued and arrested a fleeing armed robber after he had snatched a motorcycle at gun point.

The permanent Secretary and his orderly according to eye witness accounts were returning from Kogi state on that fateful day when they came across the scene of crime along the Gwagwalada-Kwali-Abaji-Lokoja highway.

Daily Trust gathered that on noticing the incident, the permanent secretary ordered his driver to pursue the fleeing armed robber with his official car.

After a hot pursuit, the permanent secretary overtook the fleeing robber and forced him to stop where upon his orderly dashed out of the car and apprehended the robber who had been slightly knocked down.

The police orderly, a sergeant who was said to be equally armed, quickly disarmed the motorcycle snatcher and later handed him over to the police in Gwagwalada.

When contacted, the police public relations officer (PPRO) for the Federal

Capital Territory (FCT) command, Mr. Matthew Obievwbi, an Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) confirmed the incident and told *Daily Trust* that the case and the he in-

cluding the revolver the suspect allegedly used have been handed over to the anti robbery section of the state criminal investigation department (CID).

Oputa re-opens late Obi Wali's murder case

The Justice Chukwudifu Oputa Human Rights Violation Investigation Commission (HRVIC) has ordered a re-investigation of the murder case of the late Senator Obi Wali, whose murder took place in 1993.

In his judgment, following a review of the petition of Mr. Ihunwo Obi Wali, son of the late Senator as well as the evidence of the then director of public prosecutions of Rivers state, Mr. Adokiye Amiesimeka, Oputa also ordered the transfer of the case to the Federal Intelligence and Investigation Bureau (FIIB).

He specifically ordered that former Head of the Late Gen. Sani Abacha's anti-terrorist unit, Alhaji Hassan Zakari Bui, who was investigating the case, should hand over the tape recorded version of an alleged confession by the late Senator's wife.



Justice Oputa

The commission observed that the Rivers state Commissioner for Justice, Mrs. Alenchi Cookygan and the Counsels for the police and the tribunal did not object to the application of the petitioners for a re-investigation of the matter.

He wondered why a prominent man like Obi Wali

5 men in court over diversion of N3.5m association's fund

Uwem Umo

An Abuja chief magistrate has ordered the remand in prison custody of five men until February 7, 2001, all members of the Building Materials Market, Kugbo, charged for alleged attempt to cheat other members of N3.5million.

Donatus Ilokaba, Francis Echutem, Daniel Ezenwaka, Tasie Ikeji and Sunday Agwuna, all of Mararaba Building Materials Market, Kugbo, appeared

in court to answer three charges of criminal breach of trust, criminal conspiracy and cheating.

According to the police prosecutor, Sergeant John Kaiorgba, the offences are contrary to Sections 311, 97 and 325 of the Penal Code law.

The prosecution told the court that the five men, acting in concert and with a view to cheat other members of the Building Materials Market Association, induced and collected the sum of money ranging between N20, 000 to N100, 000 from each member of the association.

According to the prosecution, the levied money amounted to N3.5million which the association members intended to use to procure a land at Kugbo Market for the use of every member.

However, the court presided over by Mrs. Grace Inyang learnt that when the five men succeeded in purchasing the land, they did so under an entirely different name of Solid Wares Nigeria Limited, which they are the directors.

The action of the five men, the prosecutor said, amounted to a breach of trust reposed in them by other members, adding that the said action was also intended to cause wrongful loss to others.

All the men pleaded not guilty to the charges while counsel representing them, Mr. Femi Ikotun made an oral application to the court pleading for their bail.

Mr. Ikotun told the court that application for the bail was predicated under Section 341, Sub-section (2) and (3) of the Criminal Procedure Code (CPC) and under Section 36, Sub-section (2) and (4) of the 1999 constitution.

Although he admitted that the section under which the men were charged to court was not ordinarily bailable, he urged



IGP Smith

the court to grant his application bearing in mind the constitutional proviso that they are seen to be innocent until otherwise proved.

The prosecution however objected vehemently to the oral application bid and told the court that investigations into the matter was not yet concluded while the accused persons could jump bail, tamper with police investigations or commit similar offences.

The court ruled that defence counsel should apply for bail by way of a motion and sworn affidavit.

Abuja News

Law banning street begging out soon in FCT

Stories by Musa Badamasi

The authorities of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), are planning to enact laws banning street begging in the city of Abuja, the FCT Minister, Alhaji Ibrahim Bunu, has said.

Bunu, speaking at the weekend, said that the move became necessary as a result of the increasing number of beggars on the streets of the city.

"It is a sad development, in recent times the city has witnessed the influx of these beggars who ran away from neighbouring states where street begging has been banned.

The minister said that hard times awaited the beggars because before the enactment of such a law, he had ordered the immediate arrest and evacuation of beggars to the rehabilitation centres in different lo-

cations in the city. He called on residents to

desist from giving beggars alms on the streets, adding that the ministry's department of so-

cial welfare had had established various alms collection centres in the city where they could go and donate such alms for the needy.

Commenting on the sanitary condition of the city, he said that last year, the ministry contracted out refuse collection in the territory as part of efforts to help the city clean.

"We tried contracting out refuse collection and disposal last year, we cannot

continue to do this as it is money consuming," he said.

"This year we want to commercialise refuse collection

in the FCT so that people can also participate in keeping the city clean".

He noted that the continuous population growth in the

territory and its refuse generation seemed to be beyond the Abuja Environmental Protection Agency. In spite of the huge investments in it.



Alhaji Ibrahim Bunu, FCT Minister

5 crushed to death at Deidei

Five people were confirmed dead in a fatal accident which occurred at Deidei junction along Kubwa express way at the weekend.

Eye-witness revealed that the accident happened when a tanker driver lost control at the junction point and rammed into vehicles parked and crushed the victims who were standing by the vehicles.

Three of the vehicles involved were seriously damaged and the commotion that followed made people run helter-skelter for their lives.

Daily Trust gathered that some police officers who were at the scene of the accident allegedly carted away some money and properties of the victims.

Similarly, hoodlums and motor park touts at Deidei junction took advantage of the incident and became unruly as they harassed and assaulted passers-by motorists at the scene of the accident.

At this point, about four buses and two cars have their windcreens damaged and there was a free for all fight which took about three hours before normalcy returned.

Meanwhile, the victims of the accident have been

taken to Gwagwalada hospital.

Touts take over Abuja motor parks

The activities of touts is gradually on the increase daily at various motor parks within the Federal Capital City, Abuja.

This development, *Daily Trust* gathered, has been seriously affecting commuters as well as vehicles owners, operating in the various park located in the city.

Investigation revealed that most parts affected include Julius Berger roundabout, Area One secretariat junction, Karmo, Karu, Nyanyan and Gwagwa parks.

Motorists interviewed

complained of mass extortion, intimidation and harassment by touts operating in the motor parks.

Mr. John Chike, a motorist who spoke to *Daily Trust* said "we are tired of their attitude because they live at our expense which ordinarily should not be so, we hope that appropriate authority will look into the problem".

Also, Mrs. Esther Babalola while speaking to *Daily Trust* said, "this garage boys are very dangerous because they are the people that pick-pockets and robbed commuters of their money and properties".

FG to ensure quick dispensation of justice, says Obasanjo

President Olusegun Obasanjo has said that the Federal government would take definite step to improve the "deplorable state of affairs" in the system of delivering justice in the country.

Speaking at a special forum organized to discuss the judiciary and its problems on Saturday in Abuja, the President directed that as from July, the Nigeria Police must hand over to prisons authorities, the

responsibility of moving detainees and suspects awaiting trial in courts.

He noted that in the past, the police had failed to provide vehicles to convey suspects and detainees to court due to a lack of the specialised trucks to do so.

He pointed out that he had personally met detainees who had been kept in prison for up to eight years awaiting trial.

Water scarcity hits FCT

The problem of water scarcity is presently making life difficult for inhabitants of most Area Councils in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

This development has made people to seek for their water need from the few natural sources of water like streams, rivers and hand-dug well which its water purity cannot be guaranteed.

Daily Trust investigations revealed that in Kuje Area Council people trek several kilometres before they can get access to any natural water source coupled with the effect of dry season presently in the area.

It was gathered that most of the borehole constructed throughout Kuje Area Council were in state of disrepair while the Council is making arrangement to see that they were put in order.

Kuje Area Council Chairman, Alhaji Jibrin Wowo, disclosed that most of the Area Councils in FCT are yet to benefit from the National Water Scheme Programme, scheduled for all local governments throughout the country.

The National Water Scheme Programme, is expected to be implemented by the Federal Ministry of Water Resources and Rural Development, under which every local government is expected to be provided with at least filthy boreholes.

Alhaji Wowo said that efforts has been made collec-

tively by all the Area Councils affected calling on the Federal Ministry of Water Resources and Rural Development to quickly come to

their assistance.

"We have been making all necessary contacts to ensure that the programme - water scheme take off in our respective areas".

Aso Radio retains present location, says FCT Minister

The multi-million naira Aso Radio Station located on the Katampe Hill in Abuja, will not be relocated, the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Minister, Alhaji Ibrahim Bunu, has said.

It could be recalled that last year, the FCT administration decided to relocate the station when the original owners of the land, an NGO, "PAGOD for World Peace," said it was allocated the property in 1992 to build a cultural resort.

The foundation stone of the resort was laid by the then Head of state, retired Gen. Ibrahim Babangida while President Olusegun Obasanjo, was then the head of the organisation.

Bunu, speaking at the weekend, said that the NGO save government from heavy financial loss.

"You remember last year, we even advertised for tenders, we also realised that the cost for the relocation was going to cost government tripple the amount the station was built, he said.

"It is a very mighty land. So they have been magnanimous enough to let the station share the land with them," the Minister said.

The Minister, however,

pointed out that the FCT administration was misled by some "Dubious" officials of the department of land and survey, into reallocating the Katampe Hills to Aso Radio when they knew that the land had already been allocated to the NGO.

"It was an embarrassing situation because the officials failed to indicate to the then administration of the FCT, that the land belonged to PAGONDA for World Peace," he said.

SGF meets SSGs

A one-day conference for secretaries to state governments with the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), Chief Ufot J. Ekaette, will take place in Abuja on Thursday, at Sheraton Hotel & Towers, Abuja.

The meeting which is the first of its kind in the new democratic dispensation is expected to promote greater understanding on the proper roles of secretaries to government and create forum for the purpose of sharing experiences and ideas through organised dialogue.



Alien Beggers resting beside highways in Abuja while they send their wards to beg for alms.

Pix Kennedy Egbondje



DATELINE: 22ND JANUARY 2001

THE CITY: KANO

THE VENUE: ROYAL TROPICANA HOTEL CONFERENCE CENTRE

THE TIME: 11:00 PROMPT

THE EVENT: THISDAY Meets the Nation

THE ISSUE: AN ENDURING DIALOGUE ON THE STATE OF THE NATION AND ITS REPORTING...

THE THEME: BUILDING BRIDGES

CHAIRMAN: HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE EMIR OF KANO, ALH (DR.) ADO BAYERO, CFR, LLD, JP.

**JOINT HONARARY CHAIRMEN: THEIR EXCELLENCIES, GOVERNOR RABI'U MUSA KWANKWASO,
GOVERNOR IBRAHIM SAMINU TURAKI.**

SPECIAL GUESTS INCLUDE: Alhaji Ghali Umaru Na'abba, Alhaji Maitama Sule, Alhaji Aminu Datata, Alhaji Abubakar Rimi, Alhaji Yusuf Ali, AVM, Hamza Abdullahi, Alh. Bashir Tofa, Alh. Aliko Dangote, Senator Kura Mohammed, Dr. Junaid Mohammed, Brig.-Gen Halliru Akilu, Prof. Musa Abdullahi, Dr. Datti Ahmed, Alh. Magaji Dambatta, Malam Isyaku Rabi'u, Alh. Farouk Lawal, Prof. Awwal Yadudu, Senator Isa Kachako, Alh. Sagir Mohammed, Senator Ibrahim Kazaure, Dr. Rufa'i Umar Madaki, Alh. Mohammed Sani Zoro, Alh. Sani Dangote, Alh. Dalhatu Bayero, Alh. Mohammed T/Wada, Alh. Abdulkadir Dantata, Alh. Ibrahim Isma'il, Alh. Magaji Abdullahi, Alh. A.K. Dayyabu, Malam Sale Jambo, Alh. Sule Hamman, Alh. Kaloma Ali, Hajiya Naja'atu Mohammed, Alh. Salisu Buhari, Haj. Aisha Isma'il, Alh. Sule Ali, Alh. Bashir Gumel, Engr. Abu Gumel, Alh. Abba Dabo, Alh. Tanko Yakasai, Dr. Ibrahim Ayagi, Alh. Aminu Wali, Alh. Faruk Adamu Aliyu, Alh. Ali Sa'adu Birnin Kudu, Alh. Wada Kiyawa, Hon. Danlami Hamza, Prof. Attahiru Jega, Alh. Ibrahim Al-Amin, Malam Isah Waziri, Malam Tijani Bala Kalarawi, Alh. B.B. Farouk, Alh. Ubale Kiru, Alh. Sabi'u Bako, Alh. Aminu Dalhatu, Malam Usman Sani, Malam Sardauna Habib, Alh. Isyaku U. Tofa, AVM. Nura Imam, AVM. Mukhtar Mohammed, Brig.-Gen. Sarki Mukhtar, Col. Lawan Gwadabe, Senator Bello Maitama, Alh. Isyaku Mohammed, Alh. Bashir Dalhatu, Alh. Ahmed Hassan, Alh. Bello Isa Bayero, Alh. Abubakar Jika, Alh. Hassan Hadeja, Prof. Munzali Jibril, Dr. Salisu Adamu, Hajiya Bilkisu Yusuf, Dr. Ibrahim Bello Kano, Rev. Kalu, Mr. Segun Ben, Malam Yahaya Yakubu, Alh. Tahir Fadallah, Mr. Dele Ezekiel, Alh. Surajo Sani Marshal, Alh. Garba Bello Kankarofi, Rev. Dr. G.O. Ojo, Hajiya Fatima Mohd. Fagge, Dr. Jimpat Ayelangbe, Alh. Adamu Aliyu Kiyawa, etc.



KANO PROGRAMME DIRECTOR: NUHU MUSA KAZAURE

TEL:- 090803474

ADVERTORIAL

UNDERSTANDING THE IBRAHIM SAMINU TURAKI VISION

Explanatory Notes for critics of the Jigawa State Government

BY BABANNAN RABO AUJARA
Honourable Commissioner for Information, Jigawa

The Jigawa State Government has of recent been a victim of an unprecedented excess of Negative propaganda. In some instances even persons of unknown, and/or questionable character find it expedient to go to press, with paid advertisements to deliberately and falsely malign the government of His Excellency, Alhaji Ibrahim Saminu Turaki.

The sponsored articles are part of a carefully planned and orchestrated propaganda campaign aimed at tarnishing the good of the present government. This unholy propaganda, we are fully aware is sponsored by opponents of the administration, who though roundly and squarely trounced at the polls are yet to accept the reality that the people of Jigawa State have made a deliberate and conscious democratic choice. And that choice is the choice of an idea and a mission, represented by the Governor, His Excellency, Alhaji Ibrahim Saminu Turaki. Bereft of any progressive ideas, such opponents of the Turaki Government go round the State and recruit malcontents and marionettes to give voice to their ill-conceived, nefarious and ungodly mission.

NEGATIVE USE OF EMIRATE SENTIMENTS

As they are afflicted with a tunnel vision that sees no good in any progressive ideas anymore, these agents of doom don't even care to find out the Mission and Vision of the Turaki administration. They persist in negative orchestration of the Emirate card. Funny enough despite this they fail to appreciate the beauty, the wisdom behind the rural capacity building programmes of the Jigawa State ably led by His Excellency, Alhaji Ibrahim Saminu Turaki.

JIGAWA PEOPLES VISION IS TURAKI'S VISION

In fact from facts available to us, we are certain that these vociferous no good agents of doom, speak only for themselves. They do not speak for the teeming multitudes of the Farmers, the *talakawa*, the artisans and the workers of Jigawa. After all the masses of our people are a people whose progressive vision we are assured tallies with the vision of His Excellency, Alhaji Ibrahim Saminu Turaki.

WHAT IS TURAKI'S VISION?

And pray what is this vision? Turaki's vision of Jigawa State is a vision where every area, every village becomes as habitable haven for the most critical residents of the area. The Turaki Vision, which we are definite is the vision of all right thinking people of Jigawa, is that Jigawa should develop a modern pattern of settlements that has Man as the focus development:

JIGAWA CAN, WILL BE DIFFERENT

It is a vision that believes Jigawa does not have to toe the line of its ancestor states that focus only on developing the city centres to the detriment of the rural areas. It should be appreciated that of Jigawa State's more than two million eight hundred citizens, more than 90% are rural dwellers. And of these between 60 and 80% are able bodied young men and women who are largely itinerant *Yan Cirani* who have to go round Nigeria's major cities to earn a living after each annual harvest. And by all known modern indices we can conveniently argue that in Jigawa's towns and villages there is no full pledge urban centre yet. In fact the headquarters of each of the state's five Emirates, Dutse- the state capital, Hadejia, Gumel, Kazaure and Ringim are all officially classified as semi-urban areas.

MILLENNIUM VILLAGE COMMISSION

With this as a background comes the Turaki Vision, a vision of Rural Capacity; a vision of economic empowerment of Jigawa's rural and largely agrarian populace. That is why the Turaki Government set up the Millennium Village Commission (MVC). The Commission is at the hub of this government's mission of changing the face of Jigawa.

SUGARCANE PRODUCTION

That is why the government vigorously pursues a Sugarcane Production Programme in Gawaram and Bimin Kudu, another in Kazaure, and yet more in Ringim, and in Hantsu, Jahun and Miga. What is more, even the wetlands of Hadejia play host to Turaki's Sugarcane programme. This is besides the unflagging effort of His Excellency to regenerate the world renowned Baturiya Bird Sanctuary, probably the most prominent tourist site that the State can proudly boast of.

COTTON, DATE PALM & SESAME PLANTATIONS

To retain the 60% to 80% pool of able-bodied labour that Jigawa's itinerant youth are, the Millennium Village Commission in concert with other relevant Ministries and Government agencies is doggedly pursuing the Turaki Vision of rural empowerment by coordinating a cotton production scheme and sesame (*ridi*) production scheme in various parts of the state. Cotton and Date Palm production is now going on in full steam in the central zones of the state, in Ringim, Jahun and parts of Dutse. Enhanced sesame production is also on in the North. This is in Gumel and Babura.

SOFT LOANS FOR SELF-ACTUALISATION

To strengthen this, a soft scheme for low-income earners has also been put in place. Supported by UNDP it is targeted at development and self-actualisation for the most vulnerable and poor masses of our young State. The Jigawa State People's Congress (JSPC) is charged with set up, mobilisation and coordination of local community cooperative associations to maximize benefits from such loans.

HOUSING FOR OUR RURAL PEOPLE

With rural communities as the target, a mass housing scheme has already taken off; for this, Adobe (mud) brick making machines have been provided by the Turaki government. The target is to gradually phase out thatch and cornstalk houses in the developing centers of the state, where the living standards of our people are now being gradually but surely qualitatively improved by the day, courtesy of the Visionary policies of this government. It is expected, In sha Allah, that by the time the Turaki administration's vision gets fully articulated the pool of seasonal; labor represented by the state's itinerant and highly productive youth will then be retained within Jigawa State all year round, thereby giving the required fillip to Government's plan for long term growth and sustainable development in even the remotest of settlements in the State.

BETTER LIFE FOR WORKERS, TEACHERS

With the improved salary of workers and primary school teachers, the Turaki government became the first state government to fully pay workers the recently approved enhanced salary, to ensure a conducive environment for those managing the state's resources. What is more, government has since then introduced an amazingly easily affordable owner-occupier housing scheme open to all categories of workers in the state Civil Service, including political Office holders. To this end, it is now mandatory for all Political Office Holders and all Accounting Officers, Commissioners and Permanent Secretaries to own their own houses in Dutse, the State Capital.

OPEN WELLS IN EACH COUNCILOR'S WARD

For the masses of Jigawa, among numerous other pluses, in the short span of the Turaki administration a number of boreholes have been sunk in various parts of the State, while the state government has again funded an additional three hand pumps in each of the state's 27 local government areas. All Local Councilor's wards in each of the LGs have also had at least five open wells sunk for them by the Turaki Government. To appreciate this, one has to recall that Jigawa State is Nigeria's northern most contact with the arid and dry sahara desert.

JIGAWA STATE PEOPLES CONGRESS (JSPC) ORGANISES COOPERATIVES

The Jigawa State People's Congress (JSPC) one of the agencies charged with actualizing the vision of the Turaki Government has already organized a League of Cooperative Societies as the umbrella organization of the diverse artisans and tradesmen's associations in the State so that they benefit from the visionary programmes of the Government.

SUPPORT FOR THE TURAKI VISION OF BETTER LIFE FOR RURAL JIGAWA

We are convinced that no one in his right mind could deny the efficacy of Turaki's Visionary and Progressive Programmes. If anything we expect total commitment to, and support for, His Excellency's rural empowerment programmes for a state that is proud of its rural nature, heritage and rural base. Considering the well-known and indeed reasonable desire of our great and illustrious people in all the Emirates for devolution of powers and development at the grassroots, we are convinced they would be as indeed the majority of our people are in the very vanguard of supporting and sustaining the Turaki Vision. Particularly in view of the Turaki Government's fairly even distribution of appointments across the length and breadth of the state. The Governor is from Kazaure, the Deputy-Governor and the Secretary to the state Government are from Hadejia while the Speaker is from Dutse. As for siting of projects, the Turaki Government decided on locating the headquarters of some Ministries and key parastatals outside the State Capital to ensure government presence and engender a sense of belonging for all Jigawans, no matter how rural they may be.

JIGAWANS SHOULDN'T BE USED BY FAILED POLITICAL WARLORDS

We find it perplexing however that some of the good people of our young state allow the revered names of their associations to be dragged into a senseless and no-win battle on behalf of failed political gladiators; and this, against the very grain of what they believe in, what they have all these years been loudly and vociferously campaigning, for, a vision that may well be said to be their very own. After all Turaki's Government as even its critics rightly admit in their mendacious sponsored articles is a Government made possible by the Grace of Allah, *Subhanahu wa-ta-ala* and the kindness and support of the Emirates and indeed all the peoples of the state.

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Kalu dismisses Enyimba coach

Abia state governor, Dr. Orji Uzor Kalu has announced the immediate dismissal of the technical adviser of Enyimba FC, Mr. Godfrey Esu and his chief coach Emeka Okwandu for non performance.

Dr. Kalu announced this at the Micheal Okpara auditorium, Umuhia on the occasion of a state reception in honour of the Abia valiants team on her victory in the first Commonwealth Nations competition, and the state's contingent to the 12th National Sports Festival.

He directed Mr. Gideon Njoku, the team manager to take over the handling of the Enyimba team from Mr. Esu with immediate effect, regretting the Enyimba has not done well despite government's huge spending on the club.

The governor was of the view that Enyimba needs a better technical advisor to improve standing on the league table and directed the state commissioner of sports to ensure compliance to the directive.

It would be recalled that Enyimba has not lived up to expectation since this season despite the state governor's financial and moral support.

The team played a 1-1 draw with visiting Jasper United of Onitsha at Aba last Thursday, while Gabros United of Nnewi trashed her 2-0 on Sunday at Nmandi Azikiwe Stadium.

Meanwhile, Governor Uzor Kalu has re-affirmed his com-

mitment to regard excellence in sports.

Dr. Kalu who was receiving Abia Valiants and the Abia contingent to the 12th National Sports Festival said his administration was committed to the promotion of sports at all levels.

Dr. Kalu commended the sports ambassador for doing the state proud warning "this government would not tolerate indolence and poor performance from athletes in any sport meet."

According to him, the state government would view seriously any act of indiscipline by any sports man or woman, adding that already, a blue print for promotion of sports this year was in place.

The state chief executive also directed the commissioner for sports and social development to ensure that all athletes who excelled in the school sports in the state be camped as a way to boost sports, stressing that government would pay from the camping.

In his remark, the commissioner for sports and social development, Chief John Erendu revealed that Abia position shifted from the 18th to 10th at the 12th national sports festival, while the Valiants emerged the unbeatable handball champions last year, and thanked the governor for his support to the athletes.

Earlier, the state Director of Sports, Sir Anelechi Obonna

disclosed that a total of 25 gold, 15 silver and 15 bronze medals were won by the Abia contingent to place 20th, while the Val-

iants won all her five matches to lift the Commonwealth of Nations trophy.

He appealed to the gover-

nor to direct the establishment of a department of Physical Education at the Abia State University for the growth of

athletes as well as to provide a multi-purpose indoor sports hall and vehicles to the state sports council.

Kanu, Babayaro may shun national call

By Owoidoho Otong

Arsenal attacking pearl Nwankwo Kanu and Chelsea full back Celestine Babayaro may shun latest invitation to the Super Eagles camp for the crucial 2002 World Cup qualifier against Sudan this weekend.

The duo, who could not make the Nations Cup qualifier against Zambia for varying rea-

sons, *Trustsports* reliably gathered are hell bent on staying out of the squad which is billed to confront Sudan at the Liberation Stadium, Port Harcourt.

Trustsports learnt that Nwankwo Kanu may not make the squad because his invitation was only extended last Thursday after Sport Minister Damishi Sango was finally persuaded to shift ground on the lad's invitation for national

duty.

The minister had earlier declined to budge on the lad's inclusion in the Eagles squad sequel to Kanu's placing of club above nation during the Sydney Olympic soccer tournament.

The wrangling that ensued had degenerated into a national controversy with the minister openly insisting that the Arsenal forward be excluded eternally from the national team.

However, pleas from concerned citizens finally persuaded Sango to lift the ban on the attacking pearl who had a disappointing Nations cup finals last year climaxing with his missing a penalty. The invitation was only sent to Arsenal last Thursday.

We learnt that the NFA only consigned a fax message to Arsenal last Thursday which falls short of the mandatory 14 days required before a player is released by any club.

Celestine Babayaro, on the other hand, is protesting the shabby manner he was treated soon after the Olympic soccer squad, the Dream Team II was ousted from the Games in Melbourne, Australia by Chile.

The Dream Team skipper had protested against the non-payment of his return tickets and some outstanding allowances. The lad fast losing his full back position to another prodigy in Chelsea may not be too keen to don the Super Eagles colours unless these matter are sorted out.

Inside sources disclosed that the international department of the NFA was working assiduously to persuade him have a change of heart.

Against Zambia, Poak Salonica's Ifeanyi Udenze left no one in doubt that Babayaro may have to fight harder to regain his shirt in the Eagles.

Five entries shortlisted for All Africa Games logo

Five designs out for 150 entries received from all over the country, have been selected for the production of a logo and mascot of the 8th All Africa Games scheduled for 2003 in Abuja.

A statement issued by the Games Secretariat in Abuja and made available to NAN at the weekend, stated that the shortlisted five entries would further undergo another round of "consideration, modification and final selection."

It said that the logo/mascot committee, used "originality, simplicity, cultural affinity, visual kinetics, marketing for

the selection of the entries.

The statement disclosed that the presentation of the final winners and unveiling of both the mascot and logo would be done at a later date to be announced by the secretariat.

Meanwhile, the executive Director of the Games, Amos Adamu, has expressed appreciation for the prompt response of Nigerians to the call for entries for the logo and mascot designs.

Amos, who is also the Director of Sports Development in the Federal Ministry of Sports and Social Development, described the response as a

"manifestation of the enthusiasm and readiness of millions of Nigerians toward the successful hosting of the 8th All Africa Games, Abuja 2003."

NAN recalled that the 15-man logo and mascot committee, under the chairmanship of Dr. William Boyd, the Secretary General of the Nigerian Olympic Committee (NOC), was constituted in December 2000 by the Executive Director to produce a befitting logo and mascot for the Games.

Eventual winner of the designs would take home naira 500,000, Amos said.

Contd. from Page 30

Understanding the Ibrahim Saminu Turaki Vision

INNOVATIONS BY TURAKI

The Ibrahim Saminu Turaki administration is a pacesetter. Since coming to office, His Excellency, has constantly led the way in introduction of innovative approaches to governance.

WORKERS & EDUCATION

Starting with workers, Governor Turaki's was the first Government in the country to fully pay workers the enhanced salary agreed to by government and the labour unions. In addition Primary and Secondary School teachers were given extra allowances, and a distinct remuneration package, to ensure improved delivery of education in fact even top government functionaries were assigned classes to monitor in the various local governments, at least once a week. Meanwhile in Dutse, the State capital, an ultra modern children's school, Dutse Capital School has been established. Teaching staff envisaged for the school include expatriate specialists.

NEW MINISTRIES & DEPARTMENTS

Apart from giving youths a chance to prove themselves in highly responsible and visible positions the Turaki Government introduced Jigawa State People's Congress to assist in mobilizing our people towards all good causes. The Science and Technology Ministry, the Solid Minerals Ministry, the Social Security Agency, the Jigawa Research Institute, the Human resources, Development Agency, the Jigawa Mass Housing Scheme, the Infrastructure Development Authority and the Millennium Village Commission (MVC) are probably the only ones of their type in any state of the Federation, or at the very least prime pacesetters. What is more, this government realizing the critical nature of modern media of communications has set up a modern computer center in the state's new secretariat. In fact Jigawa State, under Ibrahim Saminu Turaki was one of the first states to establish a presence on the world wide web, the Internet. At the same time the state radio has gotten revitalized, while a state television and local community viewing centers are being planned to ensure adequate interaction between government and the people.

WORDS OF FAITH

With this as a backdrop it is not surprising that the Saminu Turaki Government is receiving accolades and praise from people with genuine grassroots contacts and support from all the Emirates of Jigawa State.

To crown this even Speaker Ghali Umar Na'abba, has recently praised our able governor over his Agricultural programme; and Agriculture is the fulcrum of the Turaki Vision and Mission. President Olusegun Obasanjo has equally praised the initiatives of the Jigawa State Government of Ibrahim Saminu Turaki in the field of Agriculture. This again gives credence to, and support for, the vision of a truly self-sustaining agrarian revolution being unfurled by the Turaki administration.

A respected retired General of the Nigerian Army and former head of the military's elite Think, the training and doctrine command (TRADOC), Major-General Ishola Williams, was also reported in a December TEMPO Newsmagazine interview, praising the initiatives of the Turaki administration. According to the intellectual military top brass—who, incidentally is also Chairman of the Nigeria wing of Transparency International, the good governance and anti-corruption NGO—the Turaki Administration in Jigawa will only be fully and properly appreciated years after the "young man" had left the scene. Perhaps the good General like some of us do remembers the life and times of the Late Audu Bako, old Kano State's pioneering Governor, whose vision was severally scoffed at and opposed by people who ultimately ended up benefiting from his farsighted foresight and vision, a vision now enjoyed by Kano and to a lesser extent Jigawa States. Thank God, Today, we do have people from within the state and beyond who indeed appreciate the vision, the direction and the course being charted for us by Governor Turaki.

CONCLUSION: PRAYERS

In conclusion we should therefore like to appeal to the good people of Jigawa State as a whole to lend the Government a helping hand so that we collectively change the face and fortunes of our promising state. We should also appreciate that a little more patience and support is all that is required for some of Turaki's visionary projects to fully take firm root for our collective benefit, though quite a number of them are already in place and being enjoyed by our teeming, enterprising rural people.

May Allah Subahanahu wa-ta'ala be our guide Amin

Signed

Asad
ALHAJI BABANNAN RABO AUJARA
Honourable Commissioner for Information
Jigawa State

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Sports Illustrated

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Invited... Victor Ikpeba is among the foreign-based Super Eagles expected for the World Cup engagement with Sudan this weekend.

- Eagles List:**
Super Eagles invitees for 2002 World Cup qualifier against Sudan
- Goal keepers**
 Ike Shorunmu
 Peterside Idah
- Defenders**
 Celestine Babayaro
 Ifeanyi Udenze
 Isaac Okoronkwo
 Godwin Okpara
 Taribo West
- Midfielders**
 Austin Okocha
 Sunday Oliseh
 Garba Lawal
- Strikers**
 Julius Aghahowa
 Kanu Nwankwo
 George Finidi
 Victor Agali
 Jonathan Akpoborie
 Aiyegbemi Yakubu
 Obinna Ajunwa
 Victor Ikpeba
 Tijjani Babangida



Eric Ejiofor of Enyimba charges at Katsina United's Olakunle Akinlao during a league tie in Kaduna recently. Governor Uzor Kalu of Abia state sacked coach Godfrey Esu for the club's poor performance.
 Photo: Joe Oroye



Chris Gatling inspired his side, the New York Nets to a 123 - 103 victory over rivals Chicago Bulls on Saturday.

Sampras joins Safin and Henman in Open exodus

Grand slam specialist Pete Sampras crashed out of the Australian Open on Sunday, outgunned by tour veteran Todd Martin after Marat Safin and Tim Henman were punished for sub-standard performance.

Martin, 30, beat the third seed 6-7 6-3 6-4 6-4 for his first win in a grand slam over Sampras, the winner of a record 13 titles in the four major tour-

naments.

Defending champion Andre Agassi was briefly reduced to the role of spectator before bringing down the curtain on local showman Andrew Ilie's Australian Open show on Sunday.

Agassi beat Ilie 6-7 6-3 6-0 6-3 to reach the quarter-finals but later admitted he could do little but watch in the first set as Ilie pulled out one trick after another.

Female defending champion Lindsay Davenport marched into the quarter-finals of the Australian Open on Sunday dismissing error-prone 15th seed Kim Clijsters 6-4 6-0.

Clijsters, 17, was flat throughout the whole 56 minutes of the fourth round contest on centre court, struggling to hold serve from the third game onward and dumping and easy forehand into the net on one

opportunity she had to break Davenport.

The sun finally shone again for Anna Kournikova at a grand slam tournament on Sunday.

Decked out in her new golden outfit, the Russian demolished Barbara Rittner 6-3 6-1 in the fourth round of the Australian Open to reach the quarter-finals at a grand slam for only the second time in her career.

Professor Nomau's travails, written & illustrated by Bulama Mustapha

