VOL.13 NO. 12 TUESDAY, JANUARY 31,2006 MUHARRAM 2

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Kyan Tafiya Oawowa

Courmty Or. **Hanaa Usnxn Bash^pj**

I didn't kill Rimi's wife - *Kwanfa*

By Shehu Abubakar & Nasir i Lawal Abubakar, ***Reporters*** j

Defence Minister and former governor of Kano state, Alhaji Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso, yesterday denied allegations linking him to the gruesome murder of Hajiya Sa'adatu, wife of former governor Kano state, Alhaji Abubakar Rimi.

Reacting to the suggestion that Rimi may be referring to Kwankwaso when he told Governor Chris Ngige of Anambra state that the "chief sponsor" of the murder of his wife is a prominent person in Kano and Abuja, the defence minister said he wouldn't want to join issues with Alhaji Abubakar Rimi whom he holds in high esteem.

Speaking through his Special Assistant on Special Duties, Alhaji Waziri Abdullahi Tambuwal, Kwankwaso said he hope the police which the Inspector General has instructed to unearth those who carried out this dastardly act would do a wonderful job and do so expeditiously so that nobody would use it for any political purpose at all.

On the alleged link between the defe andAlhajiAmii Agundi, a pro nessman currei tained by the r nection wi Sa'adatu's mun said: "Well, I understand tha

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We'll resist it - *Lawmakers*

By Sufuyan Ojeifo, Emmanuel Bello. *in Abuja &* **AbduIRaheem Aodu** *in Kaduna*

In what was interpreted yesterday as the first victory for President Olusegun Obasanjo in his bid to push through the third term agenda, the Governors' Forum rose from a protracted meeting in Abuja with a resolution endorsing a comprehensive review and amendment of the 1999 constitution.

But in a swift riposte, chairman of the Northern Senators' Forum (NSF), Senator Kanti Bello and chairman of the Northern Members Forum, Hon. Victor Lar stated the resolve by the National Assembly to oppose the proposed constitutional amendments, which sole purpose they said was to ensure a tenure extension for President Olusegun Obasanjo.

The endorsement by the governors represents a major set-back to the anti-third term groups who allege that Obasanjo, acting in concert with some of the governors, wants to manipulate the amendment process to secure for collaborating explanation of collaborating

But nin namely thos state, Dr. Ch state, Dr. Oi state, Engin Kure, Kane Ibrahim Sht state, AH Bafarawa, PL Joshua Dari; Alhaji Danji state, Rev.

protest over the position taken by their colleagues at the meeting particularly on the issue of the constitution amendment.

The meeting of the governors coincided with the Second Business Roundtable with the Government of Nigeria with the theme, "Planning for Sustainable and Profitable Growth", organized by the Economist magazine attended by President Olusegun Obasanjo. Both events held on floor 01 of the Nicon Hilton Hotel, Abuja.

Obasanjo sent a goodwill message to the governors' meeting presided over by the chairman, Governor Victor Attah of Akwa Ibom state, prompting analysts to conclude that the meeting was teleguided to achieve the much-needed endorsement by the state governors for the constitutional amendment, which is considered critical to tenure extension.

The Abuja meeting which sources close to the development said was called at the instance of the presidency to stall the meeting of the northern governors with the leaders of the Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF), at the forums' annual general meeting yesterday in Kaduna, was attended by many northern governors who however, did not attend the meeting of the Northern Governors' Forum.

Addressing the press at the end o/ the meeting, Governor Attah said that six items were on the agenda of yesterday's meeting, namely: the issues of zonal meetings, amendments to the iconstitution, revenue allocation formula, Electoral bill, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and the Hajj operations.

On the constitution amendment, he said that the meeting agreed that a comprehensive review of the 1999 constitution was necessary and should be allowed to proceed without any hindrance.

According to him. "A

GOVS *ConL from pg. 1*

"We recognize that the Nigerian constitution has made adequate provisions for any individual or group seeking political office at any level to go through the instrumentality of political parties and general elections and not through sectional or regional platforms that seek to divide Nigerians.

"We therefore affirm our total commitment to the unity of -Nigeria and the indivisibility of its people. We resolve to dissociate ourselves henceforth from efforts, no matter how designed or disguised, to divide Nigerians and we rededicate ourselves to the unity, peace and progress of Nigeria".

On revenue allocation formula, Attah said that the governors' forum has agreed that "we would present a position as governors to the National Assembly", stating further that on the electoral bill, "we have agreed with the suggestion or the proposal now that every issue associated with the election must be concluded at the tribunal, appeal tribunals or whoever has authority to deliberate on these issues, prior to the swearing in into offices so that once in office we know that is the officer in office".

Attah said that on the issue of Hajj operations, the forum deeply sympathized with those "who felt so despondent and so frustrated over their inability to perform the Hajj this year and we know mat the president has set up a stakeholders' committee to look into how to solve this problem firmly and finally and we, as governors, firmly support the presidential initiative in this respect".

Attah did not entertain any questions after reading out the resolutions of the governors, many of whom wore long faces. Only a few of them, like Governor Peter Odili, laughed heartily as he exchanged banters with some of his colleagues.

In an pvnli«'"'~

Gov. Idris: This meeting has a wider basis and issue to discuss than that of Kaduna.

Daily Trust: So, what is your general assessment of the event?

Gov. Idris: **I** think it is in order and we have come up with decisions that will help us as Nigerians.

Daly Trust: You have also stopped regional meetings...

Gov. Idris: Yes. We have come up with such recommendations. We are not supporting zonal groupings any more.

Speaking yesterday at the Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF), General Assembly held at the Trade Fair Complex, Kaduna, Chairman of the Northern Senators Forum (NSF), Senator Bello said the third term agenda was never discussed by the 10-man constitution review committee or during the public hearing, adding that it was a surprise how it was smuggled into the constitution.

"**I** was a member of the 10-man constitution review committee and the third term agenda was never discussed in our meeting but surprisingly, it was smuggled into the agenda at the sub-committee level. **I** want to assure you that the president will not succeed; rather it would be consigned to the dust bin because the NSF has taken a stand against the third term.

"Section A, clause 9 says you cannot amend the constitution without a two-third majority of the National Assembly. . . . With our membership in the Senate, we need only 35 senators to form a two-third majority and this we should be able to get out of 58 Northern senators. Moreso, we are sure senators from the South who were also against the third term agenda and would support us to stamp it out."

Senator Bello therefore urged the gathering to keenly follow other developments that are irregular **anH** *c*mte*

Organisation, Malam Yau Darazo, told ***Daily Trust*** that General Buhari's bridge-building efforts is not unconnected with his political activities and the need to widen the field of play.

He said that the General has always been a national figure and not a "corner cutting politician" describing the General's recent outreach to political groups as healthy for the nation and the North as a geopolitical entity.

Professor Soyinka who recently demanded the resignation of President Obasanjo, is also believed to be holding strategic consultations across the country to forestall the third term plot. He also recently condemned the impeachment of Governor Rasheed Ladoja and has called on the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), to upturn the decision of the Oyo state House of Assembly.

Prof. Soyinka who has remained an arid critic of the Obasanjo administration, was heavily rebuked by the President's Senior Special

this government will neither be blackmailed, intimidated or be threatened as it will run the affairs of this country legally, orderly and with good governance."

Whatever the present administration feels is necessary for it to be done to ensure law and order in the country will be done, he stated.

Any group or individual who have a genuine complaint or grievance should genuinely come forward as the government is ready to listen to such genuine complaint, as what just happened to these victims was not a complaint but "some people just want to put undue pressure, so that they can get away with this criminality," he said.

President Obasanjo also appealed to journalists to keep off what he called sen-

NEWS

(L-R), Cecilia thru. MD Oceanic Hank. Dr. Ndi Okcreke-Unyiiike. Tony Llumelu. GMD/CEO VBA Plc, Finance Minister, Dr. \go-i Okonjo-lweala and IVtthu Rihudu. Chairman of EMCC at the press conference to announce the BB-lnternational rating of Algeria, in Abuju...yesterduy

Constitution lawmakers 1

Indications emerged yesterday that the National Assembly caucus of the All Nigeria P<\>-ple's Party (ANPP), will institute a court action to challenge the constitutionality of the Senator Ibrahim Mantu-led Joint Constitution Review Committee.

This decision was taken at a caucus recently following the receipt of a seven-member panel report which advised the lawmakers on the illegality of the constitution review committee.

***Daily Trust* reliably learnt that part of the arguments of the caucus is that the Mantu com mittee is a violation of the 1999 constitution as well as the Senate and House of Representatives Standing Orders** because **ii was formed without, a n solution of both chambers, which i a** a pre-**requisite for setting up a joint committee.**

By Habel L ***Assistant*** 1

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We'll conclude NITEL sale by June - *Obasa*

President Olusegun Obasanjo said yesterday in Abuja that the federal government will fast track the sale of the Nigerian Telecommunications (NITEL), to ensure that the company is sold latest by the middle of the year.

The president **spoke at the opening session of the 2006 The Economist Conference: *"Second Business Roundtable with the government of Nigeria,*** " where he said that the government refused to sell the company in the second attempt because Orascom (iroup offered a price that fell far below the government's reserved price.

He noted that the government was stjll determined to sell the company to ensure that private individuals are brought into run the company, as a way to take it back to profitability.

"We are trying to fast track the process. **I** do hope that latest by the middle **of** this year, **we would have** put **NITEL where it would cease to be a nightmare," he said.**

He explained that he was unhappy when he was told that the Orascom Group was offering an amount that fell far below the government's reserved price.

Speaking on the state of the economy, the president pointed out that the second phase of the consolidation programme which has just began, will strengthen the banking sector, adding that more mergers may take place in the post consolidation era leading to a further reduction in the number of banks from the current 25.

He said his administration intends to extend the kind of thorough reforms in the banking sector to other sectors.

"The same zeal with which we have done the banking sector reform would also be applied in other sectors like the civil service reforms, pension reform, tax reforms etc. "The vision of the present administration is to unlock the,economic potentials of Nigeria and make it the largest economy in Africa". Obasanjo told the gathering.

He assured that the current economic reforms would be sustained beyond 2007. saying that the programme is not a "one man" idea but the product of an economic team

and that government is currently putting some laws in place to ensure that the reform-; are sustained beyond 2007 when the tenure of his administration will end.

President Obasanjo also revealed that the country's foreign reserves currently stands at **about $30billion after the** country **has made the payment of $8 billion to the Paris club member countries** as **agreed** when the **SISbillion debt relief** was granted **the country** last year.

He said Nigeria currently offers one of the highest rates of returns on investment **in** the world, putting the figure at about **35** percent compared to the **15 percent obtainable** in most othci **countries.** He **restated** government's **commitment to** aehieve **10 percent** economic growth **in 2006.**

In his brief remarks, the Chief **Executive** of Global Steel Holdings **of** India, **Pramod** Mittal. e\ pressed **optimism** that Nigeria **can achieve the 10 percent** economic **target growth set for 2006.**

According to the text of his **speech which he delivered** at **one of the closed sessions, Mr.** IVfittnl **&ain Vlic enmnany** \i.-liir»h

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Most Nigerian travelers use fake tax certificates -*Rhdu*

...*FIRS generated NUtrillion in 2005*

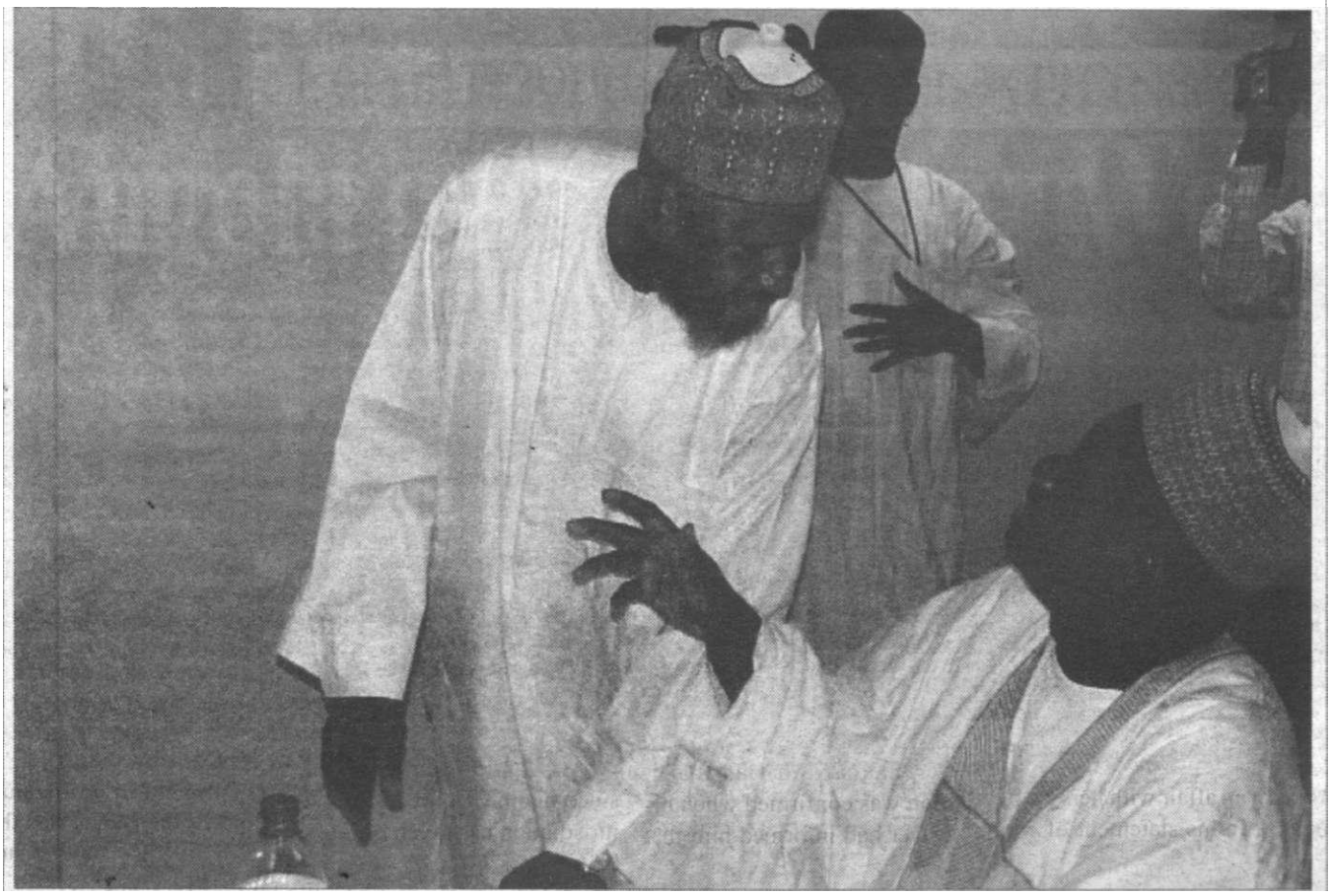
The chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), MallanvNuhu Ribadu, says that almost all tax clearance sent to embassies by Nigerian

ByXnas A Galadima.

Assistant Business Editor **j**

surpassed the target by N437.4 billion naira or a 33.50% increase on target (and of Actual collection in 2004)", this, she said, mav

ties across tax laws for easy administration. Senate President Ken Nnamani. who declared the conference open, urged the FIRS to help reduce inequality through what he called "progressive tax regime" by taxing the rich and taking part of the proceeds to



Governor Ahmed Sani of Zamfara State (I) discussing with Gov. Saminu Turaki of Jigawa State (r) at the Governors Forum in Abuja...yesterday.

Pix: Kennedy Egbonodje

Ladoja: Case withdrawn from Justice Yi

The legal team battling for the reversion of the impeachment of the former Oyo State former 'governor, Senator Rasheed Ladoja, was yesterday thrown into confusion as the judge handling the case, Justice Mistura Bolaji-Yusuf, announced that the case file has been withdrawn from her.

Justice Bolaji-Yusuf had stirred the hornet's nest in the celebrated ruling of January 12,2006 when she invalidated the actions taken by the state's acting Chief Judge, Afolabi Adeniran, which led to the impeachment of the former governor.

The judge hinged her ruling on the failure of the **counsel tn** *thp Chief* **InH«<» tr***

From Olumide Bajulaiyc
in Ibadan

was even as she maintained that the status quo should remain.

The case, however, took a new turn yesterday morning when the judge announced that the case has been withdrawn from her.

"The whole world knows why I have to transfer this case and prosperity will judge everybody on this matter. I can only stand by the truth and nothing but the truth. The case file is no longer with me and there is nothing I can say about it any longer", the judge declared.

The latest development raised questions from would be in jeopardy if every judge should withdraw from a case because of pressure.

They argued that while they appreciated the pressure on the judge and the orchestrated attempt to malign her reputation by the new government, "we still believe it was wrong for the judge to have withdrawn from the suit.

"Besides, withdrawal from the suit should have been done during the court session in the presence of all counsels to the suit; but to have done that behind closed doors was unethical and immoral".

They berated the acting Chief Judge for withdrawing a case when he

"Time will judge will conclude a country, defending Lad< of law. For the defendant ir request for the it is a matter f review", they s

Islamic varsity commei academic session

The vice-chancellor, Crescent university, Prof. Fola Lasisim said that academic session has commenced in the university

From Kayode Ajibola.
in Abeokuta

urged the federal government to increase funds for the universities in the country.

university cam] that the insi completed six which two of accommodate students, disclosed that t of the university

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Speaking through tl Security Advii Gusau, at ceremony of 1 retreat of the police and c agencies held Institute of Affairs, Kofoi Victoria Isla said the clash of internal cor, two contendir

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INSIDE

Police shoots driver over N20

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Man dupes former Air Chief of

Italian drags wife over adultery

By Ruby Rabiu, *Senior Reporter*

An Italian aged 32, has accused his wife of committing adultery with a Nigerian and has dragged the two before an Abuja chief magistrate court seeking compensation for alleged damages.

The Italian, Mr. Fabio Massimo Falci, told the court that he married his wife, Mrs Stanislava Falci in Hawaii, the United States of America on June 11,1995 and the marriage is blessed with two children, a bo.' md a girl.

F ii.;i who said that he has beer aiding in Nigeria since 199',', a-.ejT ?.ithat the Nigerian, Mr Andrew 'gbo, who has been a regular customer in his wife's fitness centre, was having an affair with her.

In his statement of complaint before Chief Magistrate Ajoke Adepoju, Falci explained that the affair between his wife and Mr Andrew became pronounced in 2004 when his driver drew his attension to the situation.

He said ' I became suspicious of my wife's behaviour as she began keeping late nights claiming a heavy work load. She also made persistent attempts to coerce me to get her an Italian passport and transfer certain funds into her account'.

He added that his driver, Mr Sylvester Okoregbe, had told him that his wife had on several occasions instructed him to bring Mr Igbo to their matrimonial home where he [the driver] have observed them kissing.

Falci said that his suspicion was confirmed when his driver had informed him that his wife was at home with Mr. Igbo, adding that he had gone home and caught them red handed on his matrimonial bed, ' the two were stark naked engaging in hot sexual intercourse', he said.

Mr. Falci who urged the court to try them accordingly, is seeking for compensation, stressing that the police have been under constant intimidation from the second accused, Mr. Igbo, who also threatened to deport him from the country.

Counsel to the two ac-

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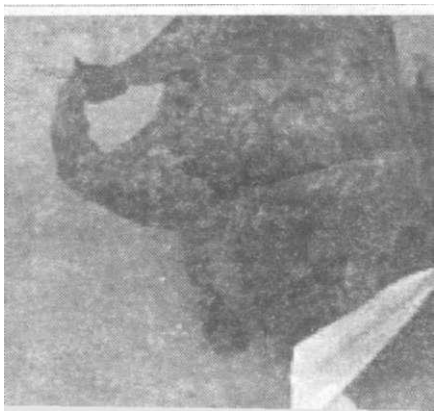


Indian hemp dealer nabbed, weed

A man the police have arrested for allegedly ealing in Indian hemp, yesterday in Abuja told newsmen at the FCT police command that he did not sell the stuff to drug addicts but to people who take it as medicine to cure some ailments.

Eric Anyaokei who was reportedly arrested at Nyanya motor park, Abuja, with 13 bags of dried green leaves suspected to be Indian hemp, said he was betrayed by his long time customer, one Madam Prophet whose whereabout is not known at the moment.

Anyaokei said he brought the substance all the way from Elusha in Delta State to Madam Prophet who normally buys them off him.

He said when he arrived, he observed a lot of strange movements around him that led to his arrest.

"Madam Prophet who comes from Delta state like me used to buy the goods whenever I bring them to her. This time around, she did not immediately turn up nor did she send anybody to come

By Shehu Abubakar,
Reporter

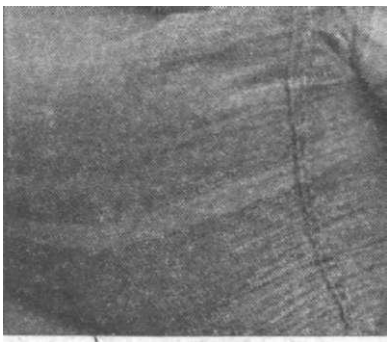
and collect the goods from me before I was arrested," he said.

He suspected that other dealers or buyers might have leaked information about his presence to the police describing drug business as a very delicate one, adding, "when you supply this person today and you refuse to supply him tomorrow and supply the other, the first one may report you to the authority that you are a dealer. Once you are arrested, he will quickly change location," he said.

Anyaokei said such stuff are not sold on credit because "when your money accumulates with the buyers who may not want to pay you, they go round and inform the police or NDLEA officials that you have come with contraband. They would want to get you arrested so that you will not be around to ask for your money again," he said.

The suspect who is said to have made a confessional statement to the police, said he was planning to hire a vehicle to Kaduna to convey the weeds there when he was arrested by detectives.

Parading the suspect before newsmen earlier, FCT commissioner of police, Mr. Lawrence suspect an the substal



The 13 bags of substance suspected to be Indian hemp allegedly recoverei police command ...recently.

Maid jailed 2 yrs over theft of N.5m

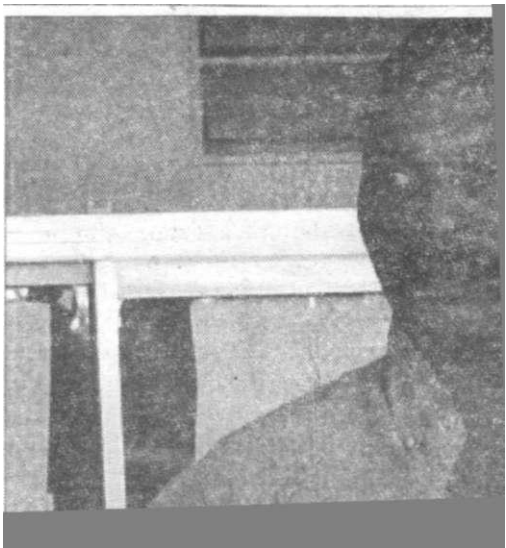
An Abuja chief magistrate court has sentenced a house help, Esther Lawal, to two yearsun prison for allegedly stealing overN.5million and other valuables.

The accused person who pleaded guilty to the charge of theft, was in the employment of one Hajia Fatima Lawal whose money and valuables she stole.

According to the prosecution, Hajia Fatima La

By Benjamin Auta,
Reporter

ordering the accused to pay the sum of N210,000 cash to the complainant as compensation and advised the complainant to file a civil suit to recover the balance of N310,000.



Robbers attack Daewoo oil coy in PH

Twenty armed robbers have attacked South Korea's Daewoo oil company in Port Harcourt,

By Abubakar Haruna,
Reporter

second such armed robbery

When police shot a driver for N20

From Lawal Ibrahim, *Katsina*

In recent days, stories of assassins and in particular, armed bandits who attack unsuspecting people and cater away their valuables has become rampant in our society. Of most concern are the stories of complicity and attacks by police, the very people trained and even paid to protect the ordinary citizens from such attacks but instead, compromise their professional ethics and training to harass, intimidate and sometimes kill the very same innocent citizens often because of a meagre amount of N10orN20.

What happened recently in December 2005 at Katsina/ Batagarawa checkpoint junction left many people wondering why a trained mobile police officer will shoot at a commercial bus because of the driver's refusal to stop and offer the usual "KOLA" to the officer.

It was around 18:00hrs on December 17 2005, when one Malam Nura Mohammed, the driver of a white coloured J5 vehicle with registration no XF 223 EKY heaved a sigh of relief for a rather safe journey fromAbuja.

On arriving the last check point, just three kilometres to the capital city of Katsina State, as usual, he slowed down for the police mobile officer, but surprisingly, the policeman lifted his rifle and pointed it at him ordering him to stop and to the amazement of passengers the policeman shot directly at the driver.

Daily Trust gathered that the bullet shattered the vehicle's windscreen and narrowly missed the driver's head but instead smashed through his lower jaw, and went straight behind to hit three other passengers brushing one on the shoulder, the other on the limb and one on his ankle. It was a

Daily Trust further gathered that to create an alibi, the mobile police officer, Abubakar Umar, from Zamfara state ran into the nearby bush were he shot himself on the leg and moments later re-surfaced to say he was shot by a suspected armed robber.

At the time ***Daily Trust*** visited the hospital, the victim was still recuperating, while the three other passengers who sustained bullet wounds had been treated and discharged due to the minor nature of their injuries.

Though the driver could not speak but could only gesticulate at the time we visited, his conductor, Mallam Sharhabibu narrated their ordeal corroborating the account of his master who in addition also disclosed that already, the police authority have apologised for the barbaric act and agreed to take up the bills.

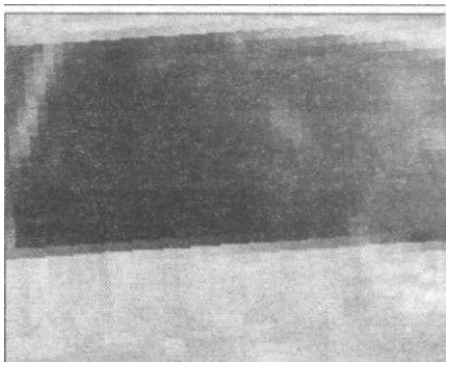
Alh. Shaft'u, the owner of the vehicle informed our reporter that the police have already obtained a confessional statement from the officer and have settled N10,000 out of the N24,000 bills incurred.

When ***Daily Trust*** finally got the police public relations officer, ASP Adamu Yusif, after repeated visits, the force spokesman confirmed the incident, saying only this week the command received a comprehensive report on the matter which is still under investigation.

Daily Trust gathered from the state police headquarters that the report submitted to the state police commissioner found the officer guilty of professional misconduct, and he's currently recommended to be tried 'orderly room' before finally being charge for prosecution.

Daily Trust also gathered that the truth resurfaced as a result of his fellow police officers on duty at the checkpoint, who rattled by the occurrence, immediately rushed and reported exactly what transpired at the checkpoint to the divisional police officer of Batagarawa local government.

Efforts to get the divisional police officer to speak proved abortive, but a reliable source at the state CID department informed our correspondent that the accuse has made a confessional statement and is currently being detained at the state Criminal Investigation Department (CID), in Katsina.



Inside the JS commercial bus allegedly shot

Man dupes former Airforce <

An Abuja chief magistrate court yesterday adjourned hearing to February 27, the trial of one Denis Tergila Uganden of Wuse Zone 5, accused of defrauding former Chief ofAir StaffAir Vice Marshal Isaac Ibrahim Alfa, of about N30.3m.

Uganden was alleged to have forged many land allocation **Darjers and certificate**

By Benjamin Auta,
Reporter

He also allegedly forged the power of attorney of another which he falsely claimed was given to him by former minister of justice, Kanu Agabi in respect of a land belonging to USKA Ltd at Garki 2 in Abuja.

The accused also allegedly forged some land allocation papers of some

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ties to chief of Air Staff.

The prosecution said that investigations revealed that the C of Os and other power of attorney the accused claimed to have been given to him by Senator Sodangi, Hon. Kanu Agabi and Senator Pius Anyim were forged.

The accused person denied the charges.

Police prosecutor, DSP Ibrahim B that the ac operated w matter af granted ba

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Kumalia picks PDP membership card

From Abdullahi Bego, *{Assistant Editor, Maiduguri*

All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) House of Representatives member representing Maiduguri Metropolitan Council (MMC), Mohammed Umara Kumalia, picked a Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) membership card Sunday, confirming reports that he was decamping to the PDP.

The House member picked the PDP membership card at his Limanci ward in Maiduguri metropolis, amidst tight security and cheers by his supporters.

Daily Trust gathered Mohammed Kumalia moved to the PDP with some of his key supporters from his own faction of the ANPP including Alhaji Zarma Mustapha, former Borno State chairman of the Independent Petroleum Marketers Association (PMAN), Alhaji Kaka Bolori, former chairman of the MMC as well as Comrade Zanna Shettima, former state chairman of the Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC).

Kumalia told newsmen after registering as a PDP member that his decision to decamp from the ANPP was borne out of disappointment with the party's administration in the state which he said has failed to meet the expectations of the people.

"I would not deny the ANPP. I would not deny benefiting from it as a member of its National Board of Trustees and former ANPP leader in the House. However, my political base, is Bomo and the ANPP government in Borno has failed our people," Kumalia said.

The House of Representatives member acknowledged that the process of integrating all his followers and supporters into the PDP would 'take time,' saying that the task before them is to start the process of getting to know each other with a view to work towards 2007.

"We moved with all our people and supporters. The Alliance for Democracy led by former Governor Kachalla as well as members of the National Democratic Party (NDP), in the state was all moving with us. We will also come together and start the process of getting to know each other as well as the people who are already in the PDP. Our goal is to work towards 2007 and to ensure that collectively, we succeed," he said.

Our correspondent's efforts to get the ANPP state chairman, Alhaji Abana Ngala to respond to the charges of non-performance failed. The chairman could not return two telephone calls and text sent by our reporter.

However, the ANPP state Secretary, Alhaji Yusuf, had earlier told ***Daily Trust*** that the Kumalia faction which had moved out of the ANPP was no threat to the ambition of governor Sheriff to seek re-election in 2007.

President Olusegun Obasanjo (left), and Chairman Global Steel Holdings Business Roundtable with government of Nigeria held in Abuja ...yesterda

Lawmaker commends

A member of the National Assembly, Honourable Samuel Egya, has commended the federal government for reawarding the Nasarawa/Toto road contract.

In a statement made available to ***Daily Trust,*** the legislator representing Nasarawa/Toto federal constituency of Nasarawa state, said the construction of the road when completed, would serve as a link between the North and Southern parts of the country.

He explained that the road will boost the economic activities of the people of the area as well as ameliorate the present hardships being faced by commuters plying the road.

Honourable Egya pointed out that the road has claimed several lives due to tractor - M« to the deter bridge whic people.

He, howi that he wot certed effoi islative le' that more ft for the pr year's bu< that he wou sure that t completed.

The lawr also the dej

The authentic Soludo doctrine

By Nurudeen Abdu Isalami

When Prof. Charles Soludo came up with his rather crazy idea of the N25bn minimum Banking Recapitalisation programme, many wondered on why such a drastic and hasty move that didn't seem to have been adequately thought through was being embarked upon. I was among the suspicious majority. But now at the end of what is said to be only the first phase of the reform programme, my apprehension has sihee given way to respect and admiration for the man and his brilliant vision, and the missionary zeal, commitment and sense of purpose with which he seems to be going about this official business. I started to wonder aloud where the hell this Soludo man had been all this time, while our banking industry continued to rot from the greed and mismanagement of crooks in the name of bank 'executives' and their respective boards, as the case may be.

*"Prof. **Charles Soludo has shown the kind** offtuff **he is made of, which has so far earned him complete superiority in the field, and numerous* global acclaims to match. He however needs an incontrovertible proof, a 'slam dunk'if you will, in order to elevate this achievement and crown itaclassic. The Soludo Classic must be tike no other in the history of banking reforms in Nigeria."***

The rot in the Nigerian banking system could arguably be traced to the liberalisation of our financial sector during the IBB regime, which occasioned the unprecedented expansion of that important sector, but unfortunately without the corresponding capacity for an effective regulatory capability. Thus, the finance sector was inundated and infested with all sorts ofcrooks and fraudulent finance institutions, half-baked bankers with easily questionable credentials and intentions, and emergency directors and board members, etc. With kinds of people are hardly rehabilitated, (as revealed by Gbenga, the First Son) in el-Rufai's public-funded shadow in Abuja, while Obasanjo, Soludo, NDIC, Ribadu, the security agencies, even the press, etc, all look the other way. Someone of such pedigree, and many of them abound, must not be allowed such opportunity to further abuse and short-change the public trust again when they ought to be seen battling the EFCC, NDIC for their freedom in exchange for the public monies they stole and the bank/finance institutions they ran aground The financial landscape of the Soludo Doctrine should therefore not allow such people a breathing space until they have been seen to have publicly atoned for their sins of betraying the highest public investment trust

Embodied in that doctrine also is the policy and commitment of clearing the Aegean stable in which die NDIC, which seems to have curiously relented in its effort at retrieving trapped monies of depositors in those failed banks prior to the Soludo era, is made to faithfully and logically conclude the task to the greater advantage of the depositors. This may be the best for them in the circumstance, since such affected banks/finance institutions, hitherto duly licensed by the CBN, had been liquidated prior to the current phenomenon, and may therefore not benefit from the resuscitation magic of Soludo. The ghost of those banks must however continue to haunt those officials that ran them aeround.

gence of the Alliance Bank Group, inclusive of all the unconsolidated banks, even AM and Savannah Bank, if possible. This way, all stakeholders in such banks would have been salvaged, while each of the institution would have gone into the alliance with a considerable part of its institutional integrity and pride, which would collectively metamorphose into a hybrid This is a better option however difficult than the pain and stain of liquidation.

Alternatively, it is fine that the CBN has asked the 25 consolidated banks to unconditionally acquire others from the 15 or so failures. If this voluntary acquisition still leaves some banks out in the cold, then those consolidated banks that did it alone e.g. FBN, GTB, Oceanic, Zenith, etc, should be induced into acquiring such leftovers. In the unlikely event of still some leftovers, then the CBN must induce their concessionary acquisition short of liquidation and the indecent 'cherry picks.' or some other imaginative option up the Soludo sleeves. This is because the Classic Doctrine is inconsistent with an induced liquidation, but is tasked instead with the induced transformation of an impending insolvency situation into a higher institution and value that is all-inclusive and without exception.

The rationale for this approach is that all previous attempts at such exercise always tended to be concerned only with the insured deposits, leaving out the equally important but insured investors/ shareholders to their misfortune. Even if the reasons are quite understandable and conventional, such approach is rattier too modest and complacent, even irresponsible, exclusive and unimaginative, and thus inconsistent with the vision and messianic fundamentalism of the Classic Doctrine.

The convenient wisdom seems to often leave the suspecting and indeed innocent investors and non-management shareholders out in the cold and unprotected from the menace of the insider thieving schemes of the management of these banks. The bulk of such investors/stakeholders are not in the management and often do not have any con-

On the disparity between certificat

By Bitrus La

It is said that when plan ning for a year, plant a com; when planning for a decade, plant a tree and when planning for a century, educate men and women because education is a passport for the future, for tomorrow belongs to people who prepare for it today. It was good news for Polytechnic students when the certificate disparity between polytechnics and universities was released.

The certificate dispari!" between universities and polytechnics was like a girl that was born in a village, who grew up with village lifestyle and suddenly had the opportunity to stay with her uncle in a city. The uncle eventually sends her to school. After her secondary school education, she gets admission into one of the universities, then her mother visits her in school and she refuses to go back to the village again. The summary of the story is that the girl denied knowing her mother simply because she feels her mother is archaic and is therefore to be disowned despite all that she had benefited from the mother while growing up. What would you say! Pathetic? That's just the same way the polytechnic products were treated in Nigeria.

The nation has experienced economic retrogression following the diversion of attention from agricultural production to the black gold (petroleum), which is tele-guided by the affluent. Because the black gold could not produce many refineries like the banks that made a few opportunistic persons to gain employment in the oil production sector, leaving the bulk of the unemployed to the banks since the public service only conducted employment decade after decade when some of the old workers might have died and there is no option but replacement of the lost manpower. Those expected to resign and give opportunity for new blood to come in do not do so for fear that if they leave, there would be noth-

geria - Kaduna after showerin encomiums. W universities wl technics were Nigeria twice? claimed superio undergraduates versities not ta their professors the internatiom not discriminai polytechnics as in Nigeria toda> contents are no the duration of not Ions enouc

No matter people try to ap ing. writing, ai the truth about natory fendei labour market t become a norm banks), the bar Nigeria is on bastardising th because of the practices. Othe the rational beh (especially the tion banks) de criminate again graduates? 1 *i* that the recent post-UME exa ducted cannot 1 gotten. More should be expe not beat the st ness of a Nig« pecially when to achieve a cai is it that a uni ate can do that graduate can there been any dexterity test test, psychomo kind of mental a polytechnic among that he do in like ma university grai

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The questions I want

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eereiy attended a well-organised annual dialogue arranged by the Media Trust Limited, publishers *of Daily Trust and Weekly Trust* newspapers. So far, it was the first one I attended out of the series. A critical review of the composition of the speakers and seminar organisers would indicate that the right material and or personalities blessed the occasion. The theme of the dialogue, as it were, is consistent with the mood of the nation. All has gone well, as far as one can say.

My only complaint is that the chairman of the occasion aid not allow most of us, including myself 10 ask Ribadu questions that base been 01 our minds. Since, in parniar, 1 lost the opportunity despite the fact that the chairman recognised my desire to make a contribution. I hope the *Daily Trust* will publish my concern, as it has been doing. One should like to believe that it is not enough to allow a government official, no matter how high, to come and make any presentation, and more so self-righteous remarks, and let them walk out with the impression that all is well, especially when he has not heard the views of his audience. A blind man, as they say, does not know that you are seeing him until you touci. him.

To start with, 1 have a reconciliatipn problem with Ribadu's personality and that o] Obasanjo. On Ribadu. so far. h.e has been identified rightly or wrongly as a corruptioh lighter. On the other sid • Obasanjo is identified as his complete opposite by Nigeiians and going by his administration's antecedents since May 1999, Obasanjo has been described variously in several Nigerian newspapers I have read as "a dictator," "undemocratic," "selfish," "ingrate," "ravaging monster," *"jaga-jaga,"* "inmpetent," "guerrilla whose I ieies look like himself," Mr Selective Justice," "a disace to black race," "do as I v and not as I do," among others.

The paradox is that the FCC which Ribadu is head• g is supposedly fighting irruption for the Obasanjo ^ministration. The records of the style of Obasanjo's administration going by the facts on the ground are inconsistent with transparency, accountability, due process, budget discipline and support for the rule of law and lie constitution of Nigeria ind that of his party the PDP, defence of human rights and democratic principles.

The paradox again is that Ribadu sees himself fighting corruption while the fact is that yes it would appear so, but the underlining motive is to extend the tenure of Obasanjo and not for the good of Nigerians. Personally, I cannot reconcile myself with the actions and inactions that characterise the Obasanjo style of governance with any anti-corruption Czars in Nigeria today.

One, an irreconcilable position to me is that Obasanjo's former Justice Minister, Kami Agabi invoked the *nolle prosecute* on Makanjola, a nephew of Obasanjo and a former Federal Permanent Secretary. Here is a close relation of a serving president caught red-handed stealing N400 million by his former Defence Minister, Danjuma, and the matter was in the open, but he was left to escape justice with his loot. Yet Ribadu is arresting other people for similar or lesser offences. I believe that before taking such a task, he should have morally and with fairness resolved the issue of Makanjola with Obasanjo. If I were in his position, I would say that to demonstrate sincerity, Makanjola must first go to jail. Otherwise, let everybody steal.

Secondly, Obasanjo's administration had never implemented any budget to date. Since he was sworn in, his budget would be predicated on an income of about 50% below receipts; this notwithstanding, the fact that he would project USS18.0 per barrel in theory, while in actual fact the receipts have exceeded USS28.0 per barrel and more and more. But yet, he would not implement the law he has signed. The dialogue identified non-budget implementation and or manipulation as a clear case of corruption. This has happened more than six times.

Thirdly, Obasanjo committed several impeachable offences more than any other elected leader with impunity. Initially, it was deliberately and mischievously glossed over as a learning process. But the learning process became a rule, rather than the exception. A serious impeachment move was initiated. Obasanjo saw it really coming and he deceptively cowed down, asking Shagari and Gowon to save him. Why the country and especially the National Assembly and human rights activists allow the unending Obasanjo arrogance and clear disregard of law and constitution is diffi-

• *The paradox is that the EFCC which Ribadu is heading is supposedly fighting corruption for the Obasanjo administration. The records of the style of Obasanjo *s administration going by the facts on the ground are inconsistent with transparency, accountability, due process, budget discipline and support for the rule of law and the constitution of Nigeria and that of his party the PDF, defence of human rights and democratic principles."

R LETTE

Goje, Mu'azu and Yuguda are guilty: Poi

y attention has been drawn to events and comments on the growing culture of violence in the politics of the North-Eastern part of this country. For the first time in my history as a writer, I was confronted with indecision arising from the fear of being misunderstood.... Identity is one of the things I learnt from Al-Mutnabi.... This column has in the past six years maintained its tradition of frankness in Its analysis of events and phenomena."

The excerpts above tell much about the substance of Dr Aliyu Tilde's article captioned, "GOJE, MU'AZU and YUGUDAARE GUILTY" published in Leadership newspaper of 29* January, 2006. As a constant reader of his column for six years from Friday to Monday discourse in Weekly Trust newspaper, I found mis article very uncharacteristic ofhim and thus appallvirulently and incisively on Goje, certainly to portray him in bad light When two people are involved in a dispute, and as a judge you pronounce one guilty, you're surely giving the other a clean bill of health. One will be right to say that Dr Tilde is far from being constructive and willing to give innocuous admonition for peace and justice to reign but a sheer political antagonist who is bent on settling political scores since in the first place, he never agreed that Goje won his election fairly.

I crave the indulgence of Dr Tilde to look at the following information objectively, constructively and with all frankness:

1. Alhaji Muhammed Danjuma Goje is a focused and determined grassroots politician who gives precedence to the in**terest nf *the.* neonle** of Gombe State over any other thing so much that his impact as a Minister of State was felt everywhere in the state. There was no violence during his election and the hilarious jubilation that greeted his victory attested to his imposing popularity.

2. Goje's administration is accommodating and opposition-friendly. In his cabinet, you see not only PDP members but also members of other political parties especially the ANPP who served as close associates of AbubakarHashidu His able leadership maintains an equitable distribution of appointment and projects execution across the state. It is worthy of note that to the amazement of many, he refused to discriminate against the people of Gombe northern senatorial district where he faced stoic and excruciating opposition against his candidature.

3. The nuisance of the notorious Yan kalare predated his administration. As in every state in Nigeria, political thugs have existed from time and as Dr Tilde knows, they are direct products of poverty and unemployment However, Goje's administration has been doing a lot to curb their menace as there cannot be development which is the hallmark of his administration without peace. Two nefarious political thugs namely Muktari Kursi and Sa'adu Stone known to be Goje's supporters have been arrested and are currently being detained on his instruction. And in his speech marking his two years anniversary, Goje ordered the security agents to arrest and deal with anybody found disturbing peace in the state even if it is his own first son.

4. Goje has nev will never attac! Mohammed or an Gombe. Heisth state and he dese ognition. If there what Tilde called then it is the incii curred during tfi Presidential Corr distri button of Pf cards in Gombe wl violently rained ii governor right in emment House; y cool. If he is real story would have

5. During thi Nafada, there was tack on the minis on his entourage give you any evi on anybody. Sup that he was atta< what stopped Til

Skye Bank

This is our song

got style that is different
ng and it's out of the box
st be S, it must be K, it must be Y just give me E

Hamas: From a 'resistant

By Charles Onunaiju,
: Senior Reporter, (Foreign I Desk)

The stunning and convincing victory of the Islamic Resistant Movement (Hamas) in the Palestinian parliamentary election last week has brought remarkable and dramatic shift in the mainstream politics of Palestine. The victory would also leave ripples in the region and the world at large, but has more importantly reinvented the image of Hamas as not just a militant resistant organization or even a "terrorist organization" as Israel and the West portrayed it, but as a democratic organisation willing to seek power and legitimacy through the ballot box and bound itself by electoral rules which it did not even participate to establish.

Even though Hamas is earlier predicted to do well in the parliamentary election, the scope of its victory was not easily imaginable. At best pundits guessed that the resistant movement would win enough to enter into **a** coalition government, but with **76** seats in its kits in the **132** legislative chambers, Hamas would comfortably be forming **a** government without the constraining efforts of coalition. Already the prime minister, Mr. Ahmed Qurei has tendered the resignation of his government, though he has been told by the Palestinian Authority President, Mr. Mahmoud Abbas to stay on as caretaker, pending the inauguration of the Hamas-led government. The Fatah movement which constituted the core of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and was led for several years by the late Yasser Arafat has been in charge of the Palestinian Authority since its creation in the late 1980s, when PLO Ceased its war against Israel and repudiated the part of its charter that did not accord recognition to the icant development assistance, but its rule was marred by corruption and inefficiency. Meanwhile, Israel laid siege on the Fateh-led Palestinian authority, given it little credibility to the ordinary Palestinians, who thought or believed that the movement has invented itself as a traditional political party and not a liberation organization, even when the territory is still under Israeli occupation. While Chairman Yasser Arafat lived, it was difficult to affront him because he has long personified the Palestinian struggle with his Kaffiyah head gear and a pistol strap-ped to his waist. But under him, the Palestinian Authority reeked with corruption and their international partners were shouting to the roof tops about the corrupt ridden administration. However, while the international community largely concerned by the corruption of the Fateh-led authority, the Palestinians viewed it more or less as Israeli puppet regime, because it sometimes or even more often enforce Israeli security instruction, as it tries to curb resistant organizations like Hamas or the smaller Islamic Jihad that responds in kind to Israeli state violence and terror. Even within the PLO, the radical wing were been smothered and defanged in response to Israeli security request, without tangible reciprocity from Tel-Aviv. In 2007, when the Israelis threw out the mildly settlement-minded labour-led government of Mr. Ehuud Barak; with whom Mr. Arafat was in a grueling negotiation and instead elected the bulldozer and a rampaging fire cracker, Mr. Ariel Sharon, after his provocative visit to the holy authority. As a former housing minister, who built most of the Jewish settlements in the occupied Palestine, he strengthened them and even commenced the construction of the so-called security wall in West Bank, which is generally regarded as a makeshift border, which ate up, **1**3% of the Palestinian territory. When he is sure of his scheme that the future Palestinian state would be more or less Israeli security outpost, he announced his acceptance of the possibility of the establishment of Palestinian state, earning an accolade from Washington, from where President George W. Bush proclaimed him a "man of peace. Before the massive stroke he suffered on the **4**th of January, which has confined him to the hospital bed since then, he has made a gesture of unilateral evacuation of the Jewish settlement in Gaza strip, which is widely believed to be of no significant to the strategic occupation of the Palestinian lands.

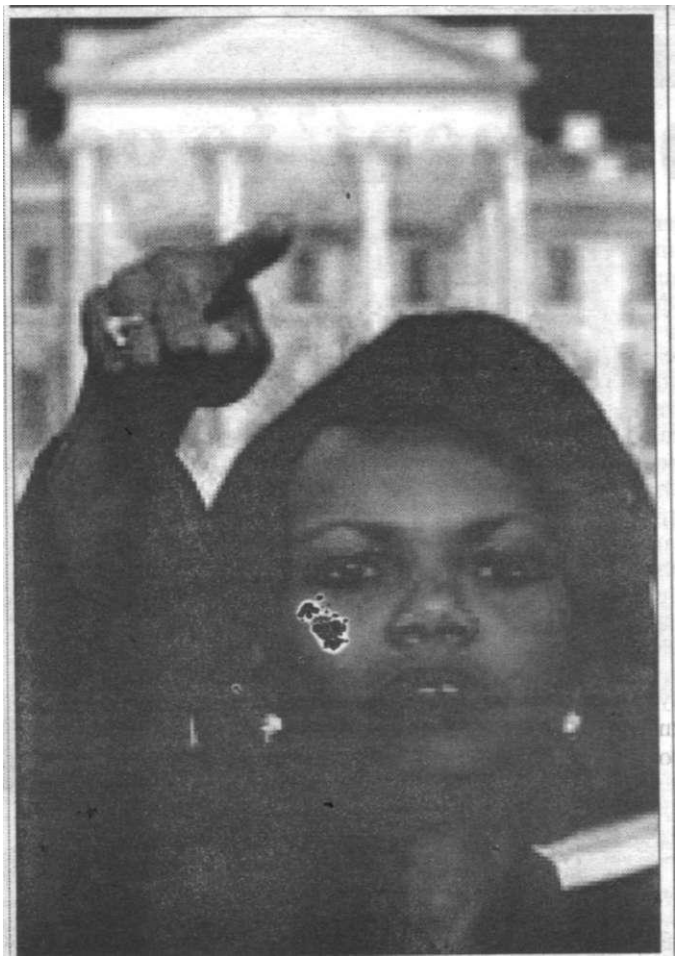
In all these, the Fatah-led government has been contented with protests, which most Palestinians view as ineffectual and grand posturing designed to impress the international community than a response to the real concern of the people.

Meanwhile, Hizballah or the party of God, in Lebanon which pursues a twin strategy of militant resistance against Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon and peaceful politics of parliamentary engagement inside Lebanon scored major successes when the Israeli pulled out from the occupied Lebanese land, following Hizballah heightened military operations inside northern Israel. The military success of Hizballah combined with effective social work in Lebanon endeared it as a critical the secular Fateh movement and its allies in the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to the existence of the Jewish state, without any guarantee for the establish-ment of a viable Palestinian state. While the PLO gained international respectability and reaped financial assistance following its decision, the ordinary Palestinian despaired as Israel tightened its grip on what remains as the life line and other symbols of Palestinian statehood. Hamas simply offered resistance where PLO and its constitutive body, including Fateh movement have seemingly capitulated. When the Palestinian mass protest of throwing stones erupted in early 2000, in the popular first Intifada, Hamas stepped in to provide leadership, while the Palestinian Authority led by the Fateh movement prefers the engagement of an Israeli regime that clearly despises her.

In response to Israeli state sponsored murders and terrors the Hamas designed the suicide-bombing operations inside Israel, a method that the Jewish state responded with heavier reprisals of demolition of the homes of the identified suicide-bomber, a form of collective punishment that targets the family members who may not have shared in the views of the bomber. But not even this kind of punishment would deter the militants that sneak through Israelis security checks to wreak havoc inside the Jewish state in an answer to Israeli indiscriminate military operations that usually leave children, women and old people brutally murdered.

In addition to responses to Israeli military onslaughts in Palestine, the Hamas movement was engaged in social works, running hospitals,

World Report



Condoleezza Rice

US wants nations to stop aid to Hamas govt.

The United States wants other nations to cut off aid to a Hamas-led Palestinian government, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said ahead of an international strategy session on Mideast peace prospects.

Rice ruled out any US financial assistance to a Hamas government.

Humanitarian help to the Palestinians, many of whom are poor and unemployed, is likely on a "case-by-case basis," Rice said Sunday. She indicated that the administration would follow through on aid promised to the current, US-backed Palestinian government led by ately with other permanent members of the UN Security Council to discuss Iran and an upcoming vote on whether to refer the Tehran government to the council over its nuclear program.

Hamas, or the Islamic Resistance Movement, won a decisive majority in last week's Palestinian legislative elections. The group, which has political and militant wings, will now take a large role in governing the Palestinians. The makeup of the new government is not clear.

Fire at Canada mine t

Fire broke out Sunday in a mine in central Canada, forcing some 70 miners trapped underground to retreat to emergency refuge rooms stocked with oxygen and supplies, a mine official said.

Late Sunday, a rescue team reached one of the rooms, made sure everyone was safe, then closed them back inside until the air inside the mine could be cleared of toxic gases, said Marshall Hamilton, a spokesman for Mosaic Company, the Minneapolis-based firm that operates the potash mine.

Hamilton said company officials had not been able to establish a radio link with the 30 miners in that room for about 18 hours. He said the rescue team took a roll call and checked the miners' health before leaving.

"I won't kid you, there was a lot of relief in that," Hamilton said.

Workers extinguished the fire about 20 hours after it started and began clearing the smoke from the mine. Hamilton added: "We'd rather do this safely than quickly."

"They're safe where they are, they're safe in there for many,- many hours, potentially even days," he said.

Rayanne Hogshaw, sister of one of the trapped workers, said it was nerve-wracking waiting for news about her brother.

"It's pretty scary. I know myself, my brother has two little boys at home and a fiancee, and you sit and wait and you wonder. And there's nothing you can do," she said.

The other 40 miners were separated into two groups in other safe rooms, where they have phone contact with resc- ^^rs.

Hamilton said the fire broke out around 3 a.m. nearly a mile underground in the province of Saskatchewan. It was not immediately clear how it started.

The miners reported smoke and quickly headed for the safe refuge rooms, which can be as large as 50 feet by 150 feet and have an internal supply of oxygen that lasts up to 36 hours, along with food, water, chairs and beds, Two hours later, teams of six rescue pers mobilized,' f or a f ew n(corn i n g ba< m me next,

Hamiltc f the min gathered at

"They'i They're a They have we've goin them up," li eless, they' sooner rath

Potash

EU hosts last-d

Officials from three European powers are to hold last-ditch talks with Iran on a crisis over its nuclear programme.

Iran requested the Brussels meeting with envoys from the UK, France and Germany, in the hope of averting moves to refer it to the UN Security Council.

EU-3 foreign ministers will try to co-ordinate their stance at separate London talks, later on Monday with US, Russian and Chinese counterparts.

The UN nuclear watchdog is due to hold urgent talks on the issue on Thursday.

The International Atomic Energy Agency will consider EU and US arguments that Iran should be referred to the council for possible sanctions after Tehran restarted its nuclear programme.

They suspect that Iran is aiming to produce nuclear weapons. Tehran says its nuclear programme is for peaceful purposes only.

Washington, many European powers and also Israel distrust Iran, partly because it had kept its nuclear research secret for 18 years before it was revealed in 2002.

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Serious warning over climate change

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World Report

Uzbek opposition leader on trial

A prominent Uzbek opposition leader has gone on trial for alleged economic crimes.

Sanjar Umarov, the Sunshine Uzbekistan leader, was arrested in October 2005 for embezzlement, a charge supporters say is politically motivated.

He has been held incommunicado in one of Tashkent's prisons ever since.

Mr Umarov's lawyer said that when he visited his client in jail shortly after the arrest, he found him naked and incoherent.

The trial began on Monday morning, but was immediately adjourned until 3 February.

Mr Umarov, an entrepreneur with business and family ties in the US, was accused of money-laundering and other economic crimes which relate to business dealings in Uzbekistan several years ago.

He came to prominence last year in the wake of May's shootings in the city of Andijan, where eyewitnesses say troops killed hundreds of people.

His group openly criticised the government's repressive policies and called **for** free-market reforms in Uzbekistan, where the economy has stagnated because of excessive centralisation and corruption, the BBC's Ian MacWilliam in Central Asia says.

Mr Umarov **was arrested** shortly after sending **a letter to** parliament calling **on law**makers to discuss reforms.

His supporters **allege** that **he** has been **drugged** by the authorities.

Human rights groups say the Uzbek authorities often use mood-altering drugs to extract confessions - a claim that Tashkent denies.

Sanjar Vm

Chavez backs Sheehan plan for Bush protest

Cindy Sheehan, who gained international fame when she camped outside President Bush's ranch in an anti-war protest, plans to pitch her tent again, Venezuela's president said Sunday as he urged activists worldwide to help bring down "the US empire."

Hugo Chavez, an arm around Sheehan's shoulders, told a group of activists that she ha8 told him "she is going to put up her tent again in front of Mr. Danger's ranch" in April.

In some of his strongest recent comments aimed at Washington, Chavez condemned the Bush administration and said his audience should work toward ending US dominance.

"Enough already with the imperialist aggression!" Chavez said, listing countries from Panama to Iraq where the US military has intervened. "Down with the US empire! It must be said, in the entire world: Down with the empire!"

Chavez said Sheehan had invfted him to join her April protest at Bush's Crawford, Texas, ranch. Sheehan, whose **24**-year-old soldier son Casey was killed in Iraq in **2004,** held a vigil outside Bush's ranch during the president's vacation in August, attracting some 12,000 peace activists and reinvigorating the national anti-war movement.

"Maybe I'll put up my tent also," Chavez said, to applause from an audience invited to his weekly broadcast on the final day of the World Social Forum, an annual gathering of anti-war and anti-globalization activists.

Chavez said his government would help protest the war in Iraq by supporting a drive to gather petitions and delivering them to the US Embassy in Caracas. Chavez, who before the war in Iraq had friendly relations with Saddam Hussein, has been a frequent and strident critic of the war.

Sheehan thanked Chavez for "supporting life and peace." She said earlier that she was impressed by his sincerity when they met privately on Saturday.

"He said, 'Why don't I run for president?'" she said. "I just laughed."

Sheehan also noted that singer and activist Harry Belafonte recently called Bush "the greatest terrorist in the world," and said, "I agree with him. George Bush is responsible for killing tens of thousands of innocent people."

Mexican immigration official arrested

Ihe US Border Patrol arrested a Mexican as Texas law enforcement officers watched from the other side of the river.

Mexican officials have said the men were not Mex-

BRITISH COUNCIL

Short Te

The British Council and its key partners Cambridge would like to increase their database of suitable national planned for the Capacity for Universal Basic Educatic its partners have been contracted by the UK's Departr (DFID) to provide support to the government

We would like to receive short CVs of people who may be

Monitoring and Evaluation
Planning
Education Management
Teacher Training
Financial Management
Whole School Development
Education Resource Centres
Procurement
Text book development and provision

Libya closes embassy in Denmark to protest drawings of prophet

Libya announced Sunday it was closing its embassy in Denmark to protest caricatures of Islam's prophet published in a Danish newspaper, becoming the latest Muslim country to angrily condemn the drawings.

"Due to Danish authorities not taking a responsible stance in this concern, Libya has decided to close its (embassy) in Copenhagen," said a statement from the Foreign Ministry.

The statement said other measures would be taken but did not elaborate.

The 12 drawings - published Sept. 30, 2005, by Jyllands-Posten - included one showing Muhammad wearing a turban shaped as a bomb with a burning fuse. Another portrayed him with a bushy grey beard and holding a sword, his eyes covered by a black rectangle.Politicians and Muslim leaders across the Islamic world have denounced the caricatures as insulting to the faith and its prophet. Islam bars any depiction of the prophet, even respectful ones, out of concern that such images could lead to idolatry.

Jyllands-Posten has refused to apologize for the drawings, citing freedom of speech, and Danish government officials have said they would not intervene because of the country's freedom of expression.

Danish companies in the Middle East face product boycotts dropped orders and cancelled business meetings.

Earlier this week, Saudi Arabia recalled its ambassador to Denmark to protest the drawings. Kuwait's Foreign Ministry has called in a regional Danish ambassador to protest and its state-supported supermarkets have announced a boycott of Danish products.

The secretary-general of the Organization of the Islamic Conference has also criticized the Danish government for failing to deal with the issue in a "serious way."

Gaddafi

'Pirates' to face Kenya charges

ted by US navy have been flown to the Kenyan port of Mombasa, where they are to be charged.

Somalis arrested by the

Kenyan sailors, taken hostage on a ship carrying UN food aid to Somalia, have reportedly identified some of the men.

Meanwhile, three more Taiwanese fishing.boats seized by pirates off the Somali coast have been freed; officials say.

Somali waters are the world's most dangerous for pirate attacks, according to international shipping groups. There has been no government for 15 years.

The men were caught earlier this month by guided missile destroyer USS Winston S Churchill after receiving a report of piracy off the Somali coast.

The Indian crew on board the ship was freed. They had attracted the attention of the US navy by writing "Help" on the side of the ship, reports Kenya's Daily Nation newspaper.

In the Taiwanese capital, Taipei, foreign ministry official Michel Lu told the AFP news agency: "The three ships have set sail from Somalia, and the crew are all safe."

The four vessels carried a total of 62 crew from Taiwan, China, the Philippines, Indonesia and Vietnam.

Another Taiwanese ship was freed last week.

Piracy, including hijackings and hostage-taking, has become common off anarchic Somalia.

An attack late last year against a luxury cruise liner was repelled by an ear-splitting acoustic device.

Shipping companies say there have been 35 incidents of piracy off the Indian Ocean coast of Somalia in the past nine months.

The transitional Somali government has signed a $50m (£28m) two-year deal with a private US marine security company to carry out coastal patrols.

However, it is not clear where this money would come from, as the government has not effectively taken office. The security company has not started work.

Sanctions threat ft

Some 400 civilian UN staff have left Ivory Coast, ahead of the possible imposition of sanctions on those accused of blocking the peace process.

UN envoy to Ivory Coast Pierre Schori said he feared further unrest if sanctions were imposed. A decision is expected in the coming days.

Supporters of President Laurent Gbagbo staged anti-UN protests last week.

Elections are due this year to reunify Ivory Coast, which has been divided since rebels seized the north in 2002.

Some 7,000 UN peacekeepers are in Ivory Coast to oversee the peace process.

Many Gbagbo supporters are upset at what they see as foreign interference in their internal affairs by the UN and former colonial

get of anger after forc diators seeking an er civil war recommenc pending parliament.

Despite the rece sion, the new nation; government led by Minister Charles Banny met for the fit this week.

Main rebel Guillaume Soro failed t

Rebe for Da

Fighting is continu Sudan's war-torn I province, where reb trying to take a governmen town, the UN says.

Congo President Holds First Peace Meeting

epublic of Congo Presi dent Denis Sassou-ft J<lgiiesso launched his role ; as a top African peace mediator on Sunday, meeting with the prime minister civil war-divided Ivory Coast days after taking over as African Union head.

The .. 53-member continentwide body named Sassou-Nguesso as its leader i Monday after Sudan's bid to head the bloc failed amid concerns over I allegations it sponsored genocide I in its western Darfur region.

I The AU head often takes the I lead on efforts to broker peace in African and Sassou-Nguesso held his first mediation meeting Sunday, talking with Ivory Coast Prime Minister Charles Konan Ivory Coast, where rebels, government forces and their allies remain armed but separated by a buffer zone monitored by French and U.N. peacekeepers.

"Sassou-Nguesso convinced me of his determination to take the lead in the Ivorian dossier,"" said Banny, named to his post in December and charged with leading the national-unity government and arranging elections by 2006.

"He indicated that he gives his support not only to the prime minister, but also to Ivory Coast in its diversity, in its political components and also in its contradictions."

Sassou-Nguesso didn't meet with

War era, he organized elections in 1992, but lost the vote.

Civil war erupted in 1997 and Sassou-Nguesso, who led one of the militia factions, seized power again. A year later, he faced a new rebellion that finally ended with a cease-fire in 1999.

The two back-to-back wars left the impoverished country in ruins, and Sassou-Nguesso's dominance helped him to easily win the last elections in 2002.

Sassou-Nguesso is no stranger to his new job. In 1986, he chaired the African Union's predecessor, the Organization of African Unity, for one year, creating a financial institution that gathered funds from across the

Trust Internation

Middle East & Asia

UN: Girl who died in Iraq had bird flu

A 15-year-old girl who died earlier this month in northern Iraq was a victim of the deadly H5N1 strain of bird flu, the first known case of the disease in the country, a UN official and the region's health minister said Monday.

The US Navy Medical Research Unit in the Egyptian capital conducted the tests determining the cause of death, using blood samples from the girl, the UN official said. He refused to be named because of the sensitivity of the issue.

The official had been supervising the examination of samples sent by the government in northern Iraq, He said 30 other samples from northern Iraq were being tested.

The girl died Jan. 17 in a Kurdish area near the border with Turkey and Iran after contracting a severe lung infection. Her hometown of Ranya is just north of a reservoir that is a stopover for migratory birds from Turkey.

Her uncle, who lived in the same home', died Jan. 27.

"Today we started a campaign to kill birds in three towns Ranya, Dukan and Qaladaza. We formed committees to do so," said Kurdistan Flealth Minister Mohammed Khoshnow.

Turkey is battling an outbreak of the deadly virus. At least 21 there have contracted the virus, according to preliminary tests. Of those ill with the disease, four children died-.

Iraqi women selling turkeys at a poultry market to check the possible spread of avian flu in t quarantined and a cull of birds is under way.

Bali bomber 'heads new group'

An Islamic militant wanted for a string of attacks across Indonesia has claimed to be leader of a previously unknown group, Indonesian police have said.

Police said Noordin Mdi|* ummad Top described himself as head of Tanzim Qaedat al-Jihad. covering Indonesia, Mafaysia, Brunei and ffie Philippines.

Analysts say he could have split from the group he was previously associated with, Jernaah Islamiah (JI).

JI ha.; been blpmed for the devastating Beli '.002 attacks, among others.

Tanzim Q".en« . ᵀ \ translates as Orga. 11;.^ i.' the Base of Jihad.

It is not clear what the j \ oup stands for. although jih .d in this context means holy war, and the use of Qaedat suggests an ideological connection with the militant group al-Qaeda.

• Indonesian police chief Siitanto told reporters the information came to light after police interviewed several suspects and witnesses following the latest attack on Bali, last October.

"In his own account related to the Bali bombings on October 1, 2005, Noordin M Top said that he was the leader of the Tanzim Qaedat al-Jihad for the Malay island group, which includes Malaysia, Brunei, Indonesia, the Philippines and parts of sevment about attacks on "soft targets", which often kill civilian bystanders.

Noordin Mohammad Top narrowly escaped capture last November after police raided a house he was stayingjn East Java.; His associate:'^ahari 'liuin was Rilled in a separate raid on another house.

More than 200 people were killed in the 2002 attacks on Bali's nightclubs, and 23 people, including three suicide bombers, were killed in the latest Bali bombings in 2005.

Chinese fireworks biastkOIs!6

An explosion at a fireworks warehouse has killed 16 people in can.'. rtiiita on the first day of til .'JVtttse New Year celebrations.

The victims were enjoying a temple fair in Henan province when a nearby storeroom full of fireworks exploded, officials said on Monday.

The accident, which happened on Sunday in Anyang, injured up to 40 others, the French news agency AFP said.

China has gradually been lifting a 12-year ban on fireworks.

In the capital, 112 people were treated in emergency

Hamas asks nations

A Hamas leader asked the international com-.munity on Monday not to cut aid to the Palestinian Authority, insisting the money would go toward helping the Palestinian people and Hamas was willing to have its spending monitored.

Ismail Haniyeh, a Hamas leader in Gaza, also said the Islamic militant group is ready to negotiate the terms of continued foreign aid with donor countries.

He spoke ahead of Monday's meeting of the so-called volatile situation, have cautioned that the Palestinian Authority could collapse if the outside support were to dry up.

On Sunday, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice ruled out any US financial aid to a Hamas government. But she indicated the Bush administration would follow through on aid promised to the current, US-backed Palestinian governmc Mahmou* elected se

At th short visii Chancelh said Sunc be watch does. "If change its be unthinl Germany, port the *i*

India summons

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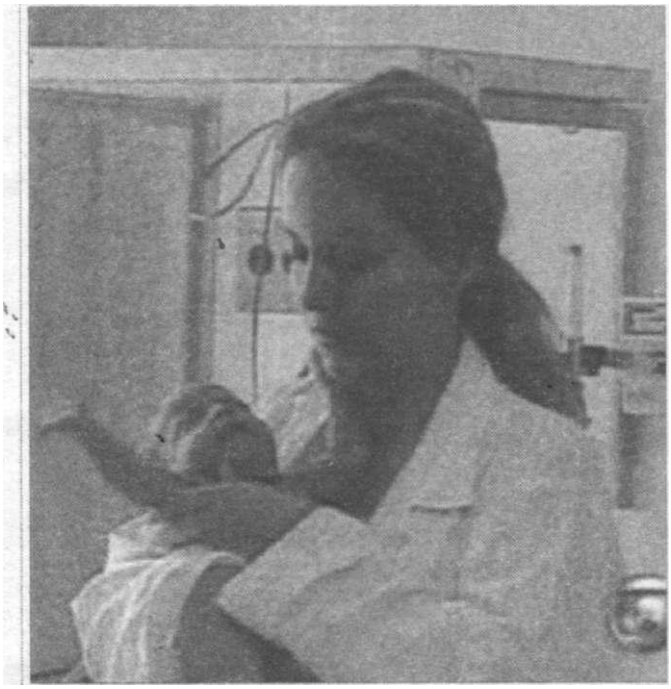

A video grab from footage taken by an amateur cameraman shows a hospital official holding a baby which was found in a plastic bag salvaged from a lagoon in Minus Gerias, in Belo Horizonte state in Brazil January 28, 2006. Residents near the Pampulha lagoon discovered the newborn child floating inside the bag. Doctors said they werei-expecting to keep the baby, who hospital experts said is less than two months old, in hospital for at least five days. Authorities have launched a search for the baby's relatives.

Baby Survives Abandonme

A baby girl was found inside a plastic bag floating on a lake in Brazil after passers-by heard her crying. The infant was released from a hospital Sunday in good health, doctors said.

Amateur footage broadcast on Brazilian TV showed rescuers using a tree branch to pull the black plastic bag out of the water on Saturday. They opened the bag and found the 2-month-old girl inside, wearing a pink dress.

"1 heard what sounded like a cat," Jose da Cruz told Globo TV. "Then the noise was increasing and it caught my attention."

A wooden board inside the bag apparently kept it from sinking in lake in downtown Belo Horizonte, a city about 300 miles northeast of Sao Paulo. The lake is in one of the city's most famous parks, and the area is often crowded with weekend visitors.

"It's a mi vived the heat didn't drow Claudia Gui helped care fo

The baby rested Sunday

Police Dr

A motor Thursc in a hi vehicle lane w

Silvio Berlusconi

New York company seeks to make matches in the sky

oping to ease the night mare of flying next to a crashing bore, a company in New York will match like-minded passengers to help make the time fly.

Inspired by a flight where he found himself happily seated next to Miss Texas, company founder Peter Shankman says he set up AirTroductions to give travellers a chance to choose their seatmates.

"It is for anyone who travels who does not want to have to deal with the psychological hell of sitting 2 inches from someone you don't know for eight hours," he said.

To use AirTroductions, travellers register online, listing personal details in a profile. When they post their travelling itineraries, the registry provides information on other people taking the same flights.

The registry is free until a fellow

nspr nnt*; tn mntact a frav-

works in Baltimore.

Besides, she added, the system might help avoid a repeat of her worst seatmate experience — seated beside a woman who was very drunk first thing in the morning.

Randy Petersen, editor of InsideFlyer magazine, said he was not sure the idea would fly. Having a good seat trumps chatting with a stranger, he bets.

"A frequent flyer would never give up an upgrade to first class to go back and sit in coach next to someone you may want to throw out of the plane in the first hour," he said.

And there's the question of who gets the middle seat. "I'm not sure any conversation is interesting enough to have two elbows with me," Petersen said.

While it's designed for networking, a fair share of the people registered with AirTroductions admit they're looking for dates.

C/-»m*» ^IIMVRQT mnrp nmmicmo

In terms of purchasing, it's a woman's w

Some say it's a man's world, but women actu ally make most purchasing and entertainment decisions, according to a study that could influence advertisersand media companies.

It's long been accepted that women pick out most of the clothes for the family and decide on home furnishings, but market research firm NPD's study of 51,000 U.S. households showed some surprising facets of purchasing decisions broken down clout involved personal electronics purchases, the family car and setting household budgets.

The gender differences in purchasing could have implications for advertising, media and education companies, said NPD chief analyst Marshal Cohen, who spearheaded the research.

"Anyone who's managing a brand, marketing a product or working for an advertising agency needs to be conscientious in the shifts in consumer dvnamics." Cohen

MTV Netwoi audiences mo

Attitudes tion also sho\ ferences. Wot cent more lik want more sc ing that eouh to for-profit Corinthian C(

In picking cent of the s spondents sa women to chc cent of worn guys. Whei where to eal

Oil rises as Opec leaders gather

Oil prices have risen **as** supply concerns in Nigeria and Iran **Overshadow** a forthcoming meeting in Vienna **of** Opec ministers. US crude rose 51 cents to $68.27 a barrel in out **of** hours traoV London's Brent crude rose **34** cents to $66.58.

Nigerian militants have pledged to wage a violent campaign against the I nation's oil industry, despite j the release of four foreign oil I workers held hostage.

! Uncertainty about the future of Iranian oil production also unnerved | traders. US and European officials are meeting in London on Monday in an ' effort to persuade Russia and China to back tough action against Iran if the country continues with its controversial nuclear i programme. We believe that if the United States insists on putting pressure on Iran, the , price will be maintained at the Jevel **we** are seeing Rafael \ Ramirez, Venezuelan energy minister.

Analysts fear Tehran could use its position **as a** major oil producer **as** a political weapon **if** the crisis over the programme, which Western nations say could I lead **to** Iran developing nuclear weapons, escalates.

Oi* prices have risen by | more than $7 a barrel so far | this year on growing fears over disruption to crude supplies. Armed groups in Nigeria's key Niger Delta oil producing region say they plan to continue attacks i against installations with the i aim of reducing the country's \ crude exports by 30%.

Despite the uncertainty, members **of** the Opec oil J producers' cartel are expected to aeree to keen oil output at

NCC prescribes fees for uni

By Hamisu Muhammad, j

The Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) has released a final consultation document on the new unified licence and access service regime scheduled to take-off in the first quarter of this year.

The Commission last year issued a notice on the introduction of a unified licensing regime in the **country** which will enable both fixed wireless and mobile operators provide both services subject to geographical or regional limitations contained in their licences. This publication is the third in the series since the beginning of the new licencing idea.

The commission said the publication was aimed at **Allowing** stakeholders in the industry and the public to comments. According to the publication, In line with technological advancement, many regulators are reviewing their universal access policies for the new converged environment. It is no longer fashionable to give rollout obligations to licensees.

To spur the growth of rural service provision, regulators are rethinking their strategies and it has been found that reduced entry barries, lower entry fees, infrastructure sharing and unhindered use of new wireless broadband technologies are more effective measures to promote cost-effective and rapid deployment of last-mile network technologies in rural and unserved areas.

The Commission proposes the fee schedule for national and regional mobile service on N260 million for national mobility and N9 to N33 million for regional mobility based on the tear structure.

The guideline said the fee schedule proposed for any fixed telephony operator wishing-to migrate to unified license include Operating license fee for mobile service as appropriate.

The **Operating** license fee for International Data Access (Gateway) is N25,0-00,000,operating License fee for national Ion N20,000,000, license fee for Distance (wit N 1,000,000

The docur stated that any to migrate to un should surrend licence and wot the unexpired licence fees ;

Alhaji Tijjani Hashim (right), and Mr. GTSAdokpage both directors of FCMB Pic i ordered meeting in Lagos...recentty.

NICON plans new hotel T s d

Barrister Jimoh Ibrahim, the new chief executive officer of NICON Insurance Pic, has disclosed that another 5-Star had come to congratulate him and to fashion ways of working together with the new NICON. Ms. Oputu told her host that her bank had an though NICON had gone into private hands, she did not envisage any problems doing business with it.

In his remarks, Chief **r\lnU/>/i,i** *(~lar\nta* **phiirmdrl rvf**

Service (NCS) into the feder coffer fron December **las** over Nl. 913 b

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Business Trust

UBA completes integration

J From Zakarivya Adaramola *in Lagos*

The United Bank for Africa (UBA) has announced that it has completed its IT systems selection and integration thereby coming out with a new core banking application for the new UBA Group.

Announcing this at a press conference in Lagos last week, the bank's head of retail banking section, Mr. Chika Emordi said all 428 branches of UBA were now linked together online realtime with Finacle 7.0 software as application.

He said the IT integration was started in March 2005, long before the actual merger of UBA and STB, adding that the bank, IT integration is the fastest tin the country considering the size of the bank. According to him, the core banking application (CBA) integration UBA is implementing is a project of unprecedented size in the banking industry in Nigeria.

His words: "the bank opted for a big-bank integration as the best possible integration approach. A big-bank integration means all branches of a large bank are converted onto the new system at one go. This has the inherent advantage that at no point are multiple branches of the same bank running on different systems, thereby rendering inter-branch transactions **iltinossible on a** 1arn»» cpolo "

are full-services packages, the need for such a process was greatly reduced.

According to the UBA head of retail banking, finacle emerged slightly ahead of Flexcube in the evaluation using the parameters of totals costs, process efficiency, business flexibility, ease and speed of integration, and risks.

"Finacle 7.0 offers many new features which include improved web architecture, improved e-banking, in-built treasury, CRM alerts respectively. All these features enable ease of transaction and offers the customer greater convenience. Therefore, it was decided to not migrate onto the existing finacle 6.2 platform that STB was running, but to instead to meet these requirement," said Mr. Emordi.

; Seme Customs seizes contraband, rice bags

As part of its on-going clampdown on imugglers, the Badagry Area command of the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) has recorded more seizures of various contraband items including over 2,500 bags of rice. Officers at the command's headquarters at Seme border said the bags are of 50kg weight each and amount to a duty-paid-value (DPV) in excess of N12 million.

According to the Customs Area Controller (CAC) Tahir A. Musa, NCS operatives in the Badagry Area Command carried out the interceptions in conjunction with Customs' Federal Operations Unit (FOU), Ikeja. The rice haul was made within a period of barely three weeks, **between** the Warehouse can no longer accommodate any bag. As a result, NCS officers at Seme Border have had to constructively store the seizures.

Reliable sources say some of these bags are even stored inside the administrative blocks, along corridors as well as in the open. The latter is putting some strain on the staff since officers have to be deployed to keep watch over these stocks. This has once again brought to the fore the issue of space constraint at that command.

It would be recalled that the joint operation of the NCS Badagry command and their FOU counterparts commenced barely a week after the 2005 comptroller-

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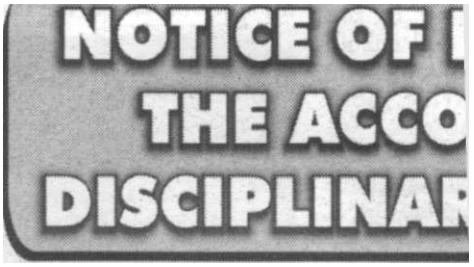

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Mariner: Ford's first mercury compact SUV

he Mariner is among the newest sport utilities. It's aimed at the growing number of SUV buyers who are opting for smaller, more car-like sport utes that deliver higher fuel economy and better maneuverability than midsize and larger sport-utilities. The Mariner is the first Mercury compact sport-utility vehicle.

For most of its history, which began in 1939, Ford Motor's Mercury division only offered cars, but it's fairly recently added the Monterey minivan and midsize Mountaineer sport-utility vehicle the company said the Mariner is an upscale version of a Ford model, which is the popular Ford Escape.

The Mariner all-wheel-drive system has no low-range gearing for rugged off-

ı **By Hamisu Muhammad,** !.....«««««<-« *Reporter*.....

front to rear as required by road conditions without any intervention by a driver.

Both engines work with a responsive 4-speed automatic transmission. Manual and automatic transmissions are offered for the Escape, but a manual gearbox wouldn't be in keeping with the Mariner's upscale image.

The company explained that its tailored interior allows comfortable space for four to five **6**-footers. Occupants sit high, with an excellent view of surroundings. Highway speeds bring out some road noise, but the interior is otherwise quiet.

Inside door handles are shaped, and the cockpit is highlighted with wood grain, satin aluminum and chrome

new Ford Five Hundred sedan could have taken lessons from Mariner interior designers.

The cargo area has a low, wide -opening and a hatch with a convenient flip-up glass panel. There's plenty of cargo room, and the entire ! split rear seat easily folds i forward to significantly I increase such space.

OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNIT OUTSTANDING MANAGEMENTIND

We are a world-class manufacturer of Fast Moving Con: brands being category leaders. A rare opportunity exis'

We are seeking only the best in the market place, who loads of ambition and the determination to give quality direction of the company's wide spread regional comm only the very best need apply.

AREA SALES MANAGER NORTHERN

BUSINESS TRUS

Interview

'NICON '11 be bigger than m

Barrister Jim oh Ibrahim sits on a business empire which spans oil and gas, telecommunications, hanking and recently insurance. The chairman of Global Fleet oil and gas company., a down stream company, remains a point of reference and a model Barely IS months after Global fleet oil came on stream with a meagre 3 filling stations, it has today increased to 156 stations. Some of his recent investments include the purchase of majority shares in Great Nigeria Insurance and NICON Insurance. In this encounter with* Abdulwahab Isa *(Business desk) Lagos Bureau, the reporter took him on post-acquisition plans for NICON Insurance and other issues, Excerpts:

r M consortium, *Assur* ***m*** *ance. Acquisition * ***geria Limits, which*** ***you*** *ure* ***the chairman emerged the core in*** *vesior* ***in National*** *Insurance Corporate* ***ojtyigeria*** *(\ICON)* ***with «*** *70* ***percent control*** *stake.* **M *hat are*** *your* ***posUacquisition plan for the corporation ?***

Thank you. We **want capitalise. Right now NICON Insurance is a lit<:e over N5** billion but **that is not enough** for **us. Wc arc look ing at possibility of moving up to as** much as **about between** N20 and **N30 billion. We aiso wan;** to review everyDody's **file to** make **sure** they **are okay, like** 1 **said there would** be **no** causalities. **Anybody that is not** very qualified **to work will** be **sent to training schooi to** be **re-trained and after that you** come **back to work.**

But I am sure you are aware taht this decision to take a look at staff composition is already causing uneasy calm and heightening fears of job losses. Most staff are now servicing their contforayit tor testifie youth in hi> enormous how do yoi case ofyoui

My fora is to use th employ the) ing forward where at th< we can emr. youths and and I think done that in

That **wil**

and pay **them, We** ha**e beer.**

But I ***learnt you passed the*** *instruction* ***at a*** *meeting you held with top officers of the corporation in Lagos?*

(cuts in) We said expenses, expenses. We pegged expenses at N50.000 pegged uieir subject to approval, if you want to spend more you bring your bill. For instance we just paid NEPA a bill of *HI.5* million, which is expenses. We will approve then you pay.

What about the other directive that now assets including property and stocks of the company must be sold *or* ***pledged at a given deadline?***

Yaah, of course you cannot pledge any of the company's assets because it took our forefathers a lot of efforts to create these assets so 1 do not want anybody to go and start pledging the assets. We are not ready to do that, "those assets must stay and no one must touch them.

They are the pride of the nation. So I cannot go there won.

Barrister Jimoh Ibrahim, CEO NICON Insurance

Chief O. E. C

NICON Insurance is a formidable key player in the insurance sector. Are you looking at the option of a acquiring smaller insurance firms?

NICON is going to be on N30 billion capital base, so it has opportunity to be bigger than the banks. Really NICON should underwrite the bank liabilities. If I am the master underwriting your own

and I am lool the day Mr come and pre Two thousanc ply to a car th lion that is go lot of money a

BUSINESS TRUST

Interna tittn a I

Nigeria seeks UK support in power

Nigeria wants **UK** companies and investors to help rebuild its creaking electricity system, a visiting delegation has said.

The ministerial-level group said that legislation was now in place to speed development and promised good returns for those willing to move in e.arly.

Nigeria will deregulate its market and sell state firms, and wants to have a steady power supply within five years.

At present there are regular power cuts and many Nigerians have no electricity.

"There is a legacy issue of neglect in the sector," said Dr Irene Chigbue, director-general of the Nigerian Bureau of Public Enterprises and the woman in charge of reforming the, electricity market.

Official figures estimate that some 60% of Nigerians live without electric power, though many observers put that figure far higher.

At present, Nigeria can produce about 3,500 megawatts of power, or little more than 20 watts per person, hardly enough to work a light bulb, the delegation said at a meeting organised by the Commonwealth Business Council in London.

Nigeria wants its corruption drive to reassure and attract investors

The lack of investment means that one of Nigeria's newest power stations has already $>een in service for 20 years, while many of the others are in urgent need of million-dollar overhauls. '

According to the delegation, Nigeria will need to spend about $10bn (£5.6bn) in order to double its current output.

However, even that will be too little for a nation of 150 million people with a growing thirst for consumer goods and electricity-hungry products.

In order to accelerate the process of development, the government is building new power plants and wants to get large-scale investment from abroad.

"We are looking for people who can inject large amounts of capital," explained Dr Chigbue, adding that the privatisation process would not be about getting the maximum revenue but about quickly expanding power generation.

People know it does not pay to break the rules. There are no sacred cows. No one is above the law

The government is currently looking at a number of ways of reducing its control of the power industry, including operating power plants on a concession basis.

In this way, investors would pay part of their profits back to Nigeria, freeing them up to make large initial investments to build plants and boost infrastructure.

It is also looking at all power generation methods, including wind, coal and nuclear, though it plans first to exploit the nation's natural gas reserves.

Threats of corruption and insecurity were played down, with delegation members claiming that the government's drive to root out graft was paying off.

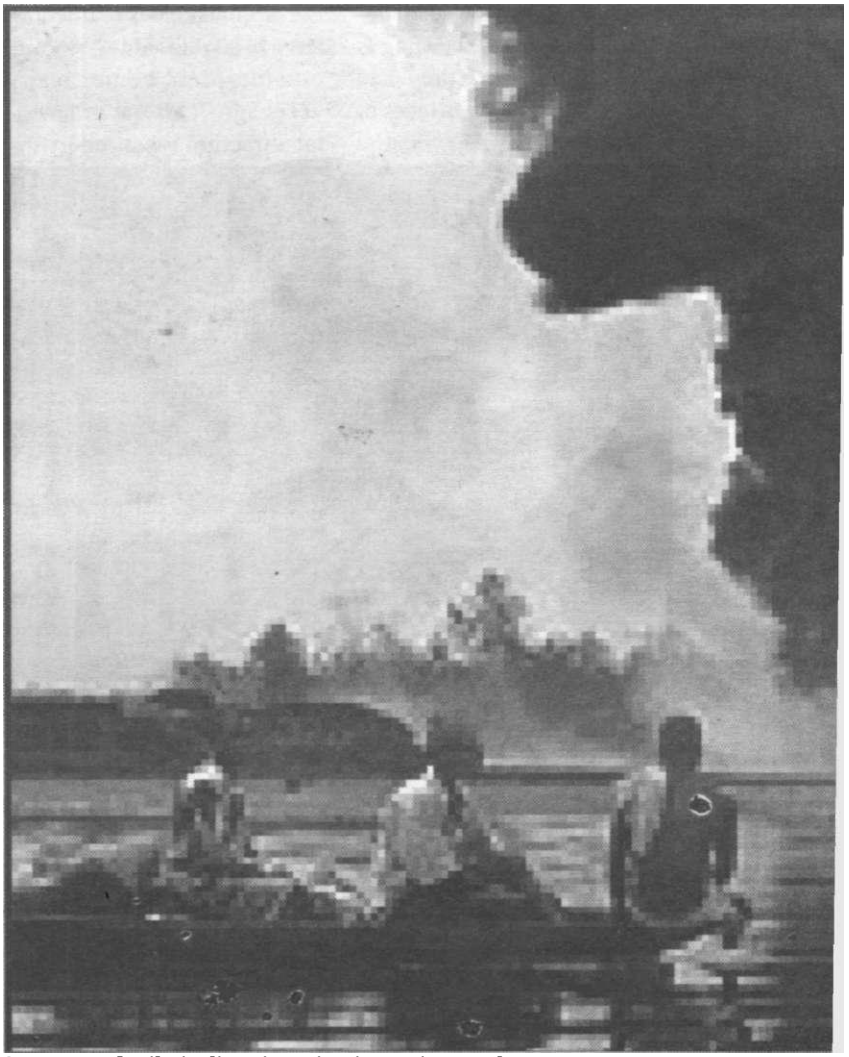
"People know it does not pay to break the rules," said Joseph Makoju, managing director of the newly-created Power Holding Company of Nigeria, the company in charge of splitting up former state power monopolies.

"There are no sacred cows, no one is above the law," he said.

Another key part in winning investor confidence is the setting up of a regulatory framework that is enforced and powerful, said Dr Ransome Owan, head of the three-month-old Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission.

Dr Owan, who has recently returned from living and working in the US, said that his role was to ensure that consumers were protected; pricing and power supply were predictabli parent; and cor respected.

"We are lool



A ruptured oil pipeline in Nigeria's Niger Delta

Parallel forum protests 1

More than 60,000 leftwing activists are returning home from the World Social Forum, held in Venezuela's capital city Caracas.

The gathering is staged every year as a parallel protest to the annual World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, Switzerland.

The streets and buildings of *Caracas* are still covered in bright orange banners and posters advertising this year's social forum slogan A Different World Is Possible.

However, many anti-globalisation campaigners sounded a more pessimistic note as they were packing their bags at the end of the six day meeting.

Some visitors complained that after all the workshops, panel discussions and speeches

Another con from delegates were being held locations spread in Caracas, whit arrived late or go

Printing en< Social Forum gi many people tur shops that had i celled or postpc

"There was

Camp where ex-B

By Chinedu Aroh
(Proofreading Desk)

A twenty minutes drive from 9th Mile Comer, Ngwo, in Enugu State, via the expressway, ushers one into the Oji .River axis of Enugu. And by the left side of the road are seen several men in their middle fifties or thereabouts, ^who constantly exhibit a form of gallantry. Currently disabled, they sit in their respective wheelchairs under a long roof. They form a row as they sit, and always welcome passers-by with a wave of the hand and a nod of the head. They rarely speak to passers-by, although public spirited individuals often decode that these men are in dire need ofassistance, and readily dash them some money and other forms of assistance. Where they sit, they can be found with their Holy Bibles, praying and meditating often and again. They also listen to their world receiver radio sets to know the goings on.

They are the ex-Biafran war veterans, who some time in the 60's, chanted: *Nzogbu Nzogbu, Enyi Mba, Enyi; Nzogbu, Enyi Mba Enyi....* as well as the famous: *We are Biafrans, fighting for ourfreedom, by the grace of Jesus, we shall conquer...*in solidarity with theirdefunct Republic.

They did not 'conquer';, nevertheless, they were not 'conquered' as the ih^ri military head of state, General Yalcubu Gawori, rightly announced to the effect that there was 'no victor, 60 •vanquished'*, hence, no faction

These gallant ex-Biafran soldiers, who were maimed in the war, live at the Anglican Church owned Oji River Leprosy Centre, near Enugu metropolis, since July 11, 1975 when they were packed from their original camp at the Government Technical College, Enugu, to their current base. Their quarters, situated beside the leprosy centre, is about one kilometer to the main road, where they converge everyday to beg for alms and retire at night. Before each day's activities, they converge on their arena and pray to God for better days ahead. Such stereotyped style of living has been their daily routine of life for over thirty-six years now.

In the effort to live peacefully among themselves, they organize themselves in an egalitarian manner in a fashion akin to a military structure: Apart from the practice of pushing themselves to the arena where they beg for alms, on a daily basis, they take turns in a parade. They do this by constantly swinging on their wheel chairs, front and back; speed and slowly, to the admiration of others. 'By so doing,' says one of them, 'we keep our physique and mind on the alert, because if one was a soldier once, one remains a soldier.'

In administering themselv.es, periodically, they elept new leaders to whom all of

the elections, the contestants are screened and manifesto nites held with a view to electing credible leaders to champion their cause. According to a reliable source, they had never expressed grievances or exchanged words in the

This sign post ushers visitors to the camp of the x-Biafran disabled war veterans camp at C

Course of their elections, thus ensuring democracy per excellence.

• Their quarters, located behind the Oji River General Hospital, is. always! a beehive of-activities, whether the veterans are nome,*or, at wfherc they say has become their

road). First, the serene environment makes the inhabitants cheerful, irrespective of the circumstances that would have brought them to a home outside their home, many years ago. This environmental attraction is caused by the routine clean up e'xercise adopted by the inhabitants. The compound is shaded by mango trees where people relax, after dayspfheciic activi-

'ties/ , • • . " .', "• .

•'Ninety per cent of. them ria-ve their_tespeetive farms where they cultivate crops to

scores the fact very industrioi

Joseph E. A retary of the D ans of Biafra Afikpo in Ebo said that virtua in the camp liv

side families, as ried before th vealed that son ans who were camp, later reli hornetowns, bu who are strll.ir mained, beoau: have houses in

ATURE

January 31, 2G06

soldiers beg

A woman offering her widow's mite to the X-Biafran disabled war veterans at Oji River

ace the burden of our handi-
IP-'

One of the children, named larles, said that some of the bterans,,do relocate to their jllages after they had trained |eir children, or empowered lem through begging and |her means of livelihood.

To buttress their leader-lip prowess, they do not per-**Inalize** the gifts dashed to lem. Rather they are lanneled to their treasurer jr safe' keeping, after which |**ey** amicably share the re-is **at** the end of a day's eol-ation.

One glaring thing about **:se ex**-Biafran veterans is **at** they frequently send rep-Isentatives **to** the authori-**s,** soliciting aid, although **:se** are not forthcoming, ley **do** this through their ^dership.

In the words of Felix **ceke,** from Nnewi South **lo-**government area **of** lambra State, who **is** also vice president of the vet-ins' association, "We regu-***tiy*** write **to** various state Ivernments to come to our sistance now that we are live, because donations ade to the dead is as good |dead, but 90% of these let-are not always success-|1. Na$ even privileged afrans, especially the soJ-whom we fought the le cause with, had looked **JS** like their exrmates. And. I know they are aware ofiour sdicaments here fjeCau**'se** |s express road, whicti **we** ***ve*** made our 'greener Das-

He nonetheless singled out the leader of the Move-ment for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra, Chief Ralph Uwazurike, as one above all who has been in the forefront of making sure that their anxieties in life are as-suaged. He remarked that Uwazurike has been the brain behind their sustenance. 'He sends us his entourage with a lot of goodies. That we eat here is because of Uwazurike; that our children go to school is because of Uwazurike

Okeke, who said that he was a flourishing trader in Zaria before the war, be-moaned tneir neglect, consid-ering the 'no victor, no van-quished' acronym. He praised the natives of Oji River whom he described as very humane. He said they 'accepted us since we came here, and have given us every opportunity just like themselves'. He called on President Olusegun Obasanjo to 'extend the same hands of fellowship, as he does to the fallen heroes at Armed Forces Remembrance Days, to the living ones, be-cause 'we prefer to be remem-bered alive'.

In a similar vein, Lawrence O. Akwodachie, the president of the veterans' body at the Oji River headquarters and a native of Ezeagu in Enugu Sta,te, said that tour being here is against our wish. Be-fore file war, we were doing fine.in our various.trades'and some of us were traders up north. It's a prty -that we've been n**«jlpcftvl** wi**.«t** —

of us for many years, but nothing is forthcoming for some thirty-six years now. They should send us the rem-nants of their food, clothes. We need them. They are very valuable to us.

'They should com aid because our chile

Okeke, who said that he was a flourishing trader in Zaria before the w, moaned their neglect, considering the 'no victor, no vanquished' acrony praised the natives of Oji River whom he described as very humane. He sai 'accepted us since we came here, and have given us every opportunity ju themselves'. He called on President Olusegun Obasanjo to 'extend the same of fellowship, as he does to the fallen heroes at Armed Forces Remembrance to the living ones because 'we prefer to be remembered alive'. In a similai Lawrence O. Akwodachie, the president of the veterans' body at the Oji headquarters and a native of Ezeagu in Enugu State, said that 'our being h against our wish. Before the war, we were doing fine imour various trade . some of us,were traders up'north. It's a pity that we've been neglected, governments use to host digt/t&ries in a day, is enough to take'care'of us for

hut

Business Trust

1ST-TIER SECURITIES THE NIGERIAN STOCK EXCHANGE

REPORTAS

CompanvMame	No of Deals	QuotationtN)	Quantirv Traded	Value of Shares
CUTLX PLC	2	2.87	2,500	7,175.00
Sector Totals	**2**		**2,500**	**7,175.00**
AGRICULTURE/ AGRO-ALLIED				
LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC.	5	1.72	17,000	29,420.00
OKITIPUPA OIL PALM PLC.	1	0.90	700	630.00
THE OKOMU OIL PALM COMPANY PLC	14	17.00	46,519	797,306.80
PRESCO PLC.	6	11.70	6.500	76,050.00
Sector Totals	**26**		70,719	**903**,406.80
AUTOMOBILE & TYRE				
DUNLOP NIGERIA PLC.	26	2.60	466,817	1,175,117.73
INTRA MOTORS PLC	2	0.57	599	341.43
R T. BRISCOAE PLC.	15	6.01	59,202	364,292.85
Sector Totals	**43**		**526,618**	**1,539,752.01**
BANKING				
ACp INTERNATIONAL BANK PLC	1	0.94	10,000	9,400.00
ACCESS BANK PLC	205	2.58	10,649,260	27,025,589.96
AFRIBANK NIGERIA PLC.	14	9.10	198,285	1.804,393.50
DIAMOND BANK PLC	2	7.75	226,328	1,754,042.00
FIRST CITY MONUMENT BANK PLC	6	5.11	114,098	583,040.78
FIDELITY BANK PLC	2	2.93	114,235	334,708.55
FIRST BANK OF NIGERIA PLC.	469	33.68	4,221,339	141,779,951.64
GTBANK PLC.	293	13.68	3,338,132	45,962,408.52
INVESTMENT BANKING	8	4.57	333,060	1,522,084.20
INLAND BANK (NIGERIA) PLC.	**1**	1.81	2,240	4,054.40
INTERCONTINENTAL BANK PLC.	92	8.60	1,417,197	12,299,591.64
NAL BANK PLC.	4	2.80	28,372	79,441.60
OCEANIC BANK PLC	63	6.00	1,035,799	6,088,223.54
UNITED BANK FOR AFRICA PLC.	121	12.48	1,553,218	19,381,687.46
UNION BANK NIGERIA PLC.	59	25.48	122,740	3,127,415.20
VVEMA BANK PLC.	**10**	3.74	624,627	2,336,104.98
ZENITH BANK PLC .	18	19.64	49,700	976,108.00
Sector Totals	**1,368**		**24,038,630**	**265,068,245.97**
BREWERIES				
CHAMPION BREWERIES PLC.		1.95	15,000	29,250.00
GUINNESS NIGERIA PLC.	**1**	101.00	432,843	43,453,493.63
NIGERIAN BREWERIES PLC.	95	36.72	1,753,744	65,225,424.06
Sector Totals	291		**2,201,587**	**108,708,167.69**
BUILDING MATERIALS	**387**			
ASHAKA CEMENT PLC.	75	34.78	1,836,255	63,831,986.12
BENUE CEMEKT COMPANY PLC. "	1	6.50	2,000	13,000.00
CEMENT COMPANY OF NORTHERN NIG. PLC	11	7.00	103,792	723,314.24
WEST AFRICAN PORTLAND CEMENT CO. PLC.	131	16.10	1,324,509	21,534,406.95
Sector Totals	**218**		**3**,266,**556**	**86,102,70731**
CHEMICAL& PAINTS				
BERGER PAINTS PLC.	17	4.00	247,892	967,310.55
CAP PLC.	12	8.86	131.236	1,163,221.43
D N. MEYER PLC.	2	3.75	3,600	13,500.00
NIGERIA-GERMAN CHEMICALS PLC.	1	4.20	5,000	21,000.00
Sector Totals	**32**		387,728	**2,165,031.98**
COMPUTER & OFFICE EQUIPMENT				
NCR (NIGERIA) PLC.	**1**	1.33	100	133.00
Sector Totals	**1**		100	**133.00**
CONGLOMERATES				
A. G. LEVENTIS NIGERIA PLC.	**9**	1.12	208,491	239,664.75
C F A O NIGERIA PLC.	**7**	3.41	290,337	990,049.17
JOHN HOLT PLC.	4	1.50	3,876	5,854.00
P 2. INDUSTRIES PLC	45	16.20	81,750	1,324,350.00
U.A.C.NIGEPJA PLC.	85	16.01	1,106.016	17,944,**462**.41
UNILEVER NIGERIA PLC	123	20.10	805,879	16.186,263.97
U.T.C, NIGERIA PLC.	9	0.73	215,486	157,154.78
Sector Totals	**282**		**2,711,835**	**36,847,799.08**
CONSTRUCTION				
COSTAIN (W.A.)PLC.	2	1.14	5,031	**5**,735.34
JULIUS BERGER NIGERIA PLC.	8	21.20	93,856	1,995,597.20
Sector Totals			**98,8*7**	**2,001,332.54**
FOOD/BEVERAGES & TOBACCO				
7 **UP BOTTKING COMPANY PLC**	21	26.99	45,785	**1**,198,283.**25**
CADBURY NIGERIA PLC	108	64.00	261,207	16,950,006.20
FLOUR MILLS NIGERIA PLC.	53	25.01	175,732	4,412,022.93
NIGERIA BOTTLING **COMPANY** PLC.	68	61.00	144,118	9,049,415.63
NESTLETOODS NIGERIA PLC.	37	191.00	106,483	20,228,**795**.50
NORTHERN NIGERIA FLOUR MILLS PLC.	2	16.25	875	14,218.75
UNION DICON SALT PLC.	1	5.17	3,00(1	15,510.00
Sector Totals	**290**		**737^00**	**51,868,252-26**
FOOTWEAR				
FOOTWEAR & ACCESSORIESMAN.PLC.	2	0.29	31,769	**9,213**.01
Sector Totals	**2**		**31**,769	**9,213.01**
HEALTHCARE				
CHRISTLIEB PLC. •	I	0.56	200	112.00
EVANS MEDICAL PLC.	**7**	2.56	26,280	66,800.80
GLAXOSMITHKLINE CONSUMER NIGERIA PLC	32	10.00	226,835	2,273,671.17
MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC	3	5.36	13,100	70,216.00
MORISON INDUSTRIES PLC.	1	0.84	1,000	840.00
NEIMETH INTERNATIONAL PHARM. PLC.	3	3.23	7,191	23,226.93
Sector Totals	47		274,606	**2,434,866.90**

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INTERCONT

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GUARANTY

CORNLRST

FJRSTBANK

ACCESS

TOP S GAINERS

SYMBOL

GUINNESS

NESTLE

FIRSTBANK

OANDO

ASHAKACEM

TOP 5 LOSERS

SYMBOL	**LAST**
CONOIL	
TEXACO	
MOBIL	
NBC	
CADBURY	

NSEir

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The Nigerian fell by 07°/ worth N4. in contrast to a t N5.44 billion exc

There were no Development Stoi Industrial Loans/

The banking ; the week (measu million shares woi in 8,094 deals. \ largely driven by

KANO TRUS

KNSG sponsors 800 *Noma* patients

By Jamilah Nuhu,
Correspondent (Kano)

The Kano State government has so far sponsored the treatment of over800 patients with *conocrum oris* disease, the state's commissioner for health, Dr Sanda Mohammed, has said.

Dr. Sanda Mohammed disclosed this while addressing the 33rd batch of 50 patients who will undertake surgery at the Noma Children s Hospital in Sokoto.

The.commissioner for health said that the present administration was •committed to improving the health care delivery services in the state.

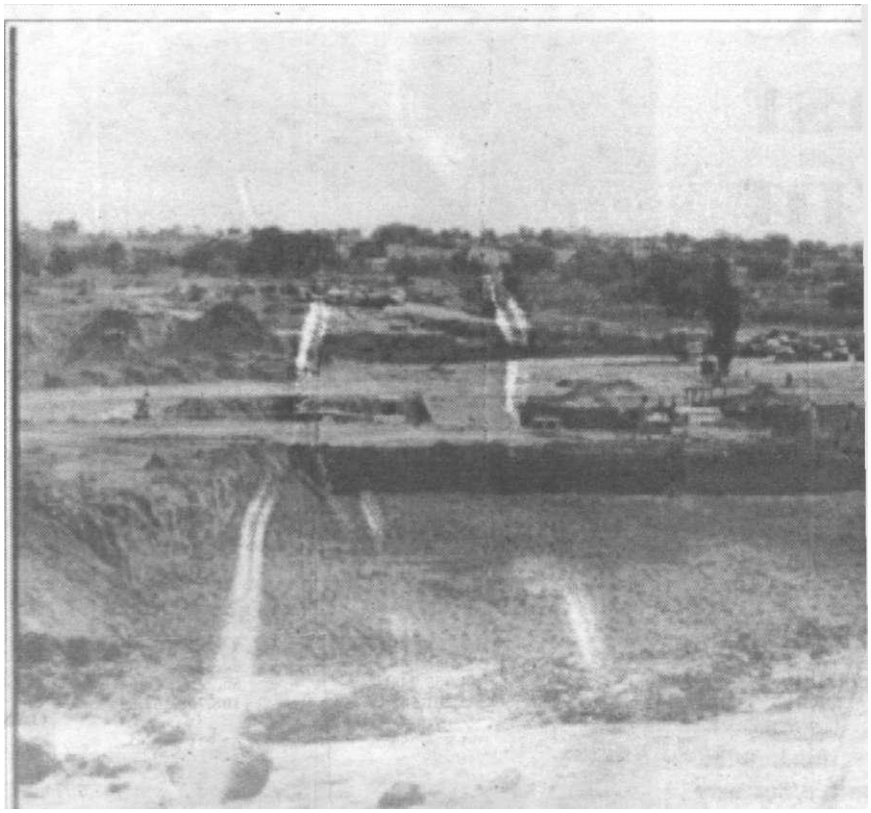
"That is why ailments like *conocrum oris* and *Noma.* which have been neglected in .the past, have begun to receive attention," he further said.

Dr. Sanda Mohammed reiterated that the present administration, since its inception', has sponsored over 800 patients, as well as paid their feeding, transportation and Accommodation allowances, while they had also received five thousand naira cash each, to ensure their convenience in Sokoto, where the surgery is undertaken.

He therefore commended commitment to health care, and appealed to the patients to be good ambassadors while in Sokoto State.

In his comment, the deputy director, Medical Services in the ministry, Alhaji Ado Bello, said that the state government had also sponsored two doctors and four nurses for training in **\'o*na** to **enable them** to **handle *Noma* cases** in **Kano.**

Alhaji Ado Bello disclosed that the patients who were sponsored were drawn from the 44 local government areas in the state and that the exercise would be a continuous process.



A view oj the new Jamburawa water treatmen

Cttee laments deplorabb a ditto II

The chairman of the reconstituted committee on leasing the Kano State government abandoned property both within and outside the state, Alhaji Musa Suleiman Shanono, has raised alarm on what he described as "pathetic condition of the property', saying effective measures should be evolved to put them in a proper shape.

Alhaji Shanono. who doubles as the state's

By Mustapha hah Kwaru, j
Correspondent (Kano)

to newsmen on the activities of the committee. He expressed dismay that the abandoned property suffered serious neglect and gross under-utilisation in spite that a similar committee was set up in 1983 to deal with the situation and also lease out the property.

He argued that the committee failed to meet its responsibilities, despite the rehabilitation . id maintenance of the | , • y.

The commissioi lid arrangements had i „c' ed an advanced staje "or leasing some of the p> o> ty in l^agos to some pi te firms which met \(w a d down criteria.

Alhaji Shanono o pointed out that a H ik statement of am< i company is current'y oe\ % scrutinised witfci i vicv I handing over i..c \:>, Ur however (hat in bee;i indicated private organisati

Educati

The Kan Ministry Educatior illocated the larj of N951m in th budget, just as thi

EKOTRU

NAFDAC shuts fast food firm

Stories by Olumide Bajulaiye, *Correspondent (Lagos)*

One of the leading fast food compa nies in Lagos has been shut down by the National Agency for Food und Drugs Administration and Control (NAFDAC) for using expired raw materials in preparing its foods.

The company, located in one of the high-brow areas in the Victoria Island. ! according to the NAFDAC enforcement team, was caught using expired products, such as pizza tsmato paste, steers chicken marinade, sweet and sour i sauce. Mexican sauce, pre-mix, Grill master seasoning, sweet chilli sauce, ; pizza dough mix, amongst others.

Briefing newsmen on i the development weekend in Lagos, the NAFDAC director of Enforcement, Mr. Dioka Ejionueme, said the team also uncovered large quantities of raw materials, some expired, some ' with date markings removed and others due to expire in a couple of days.

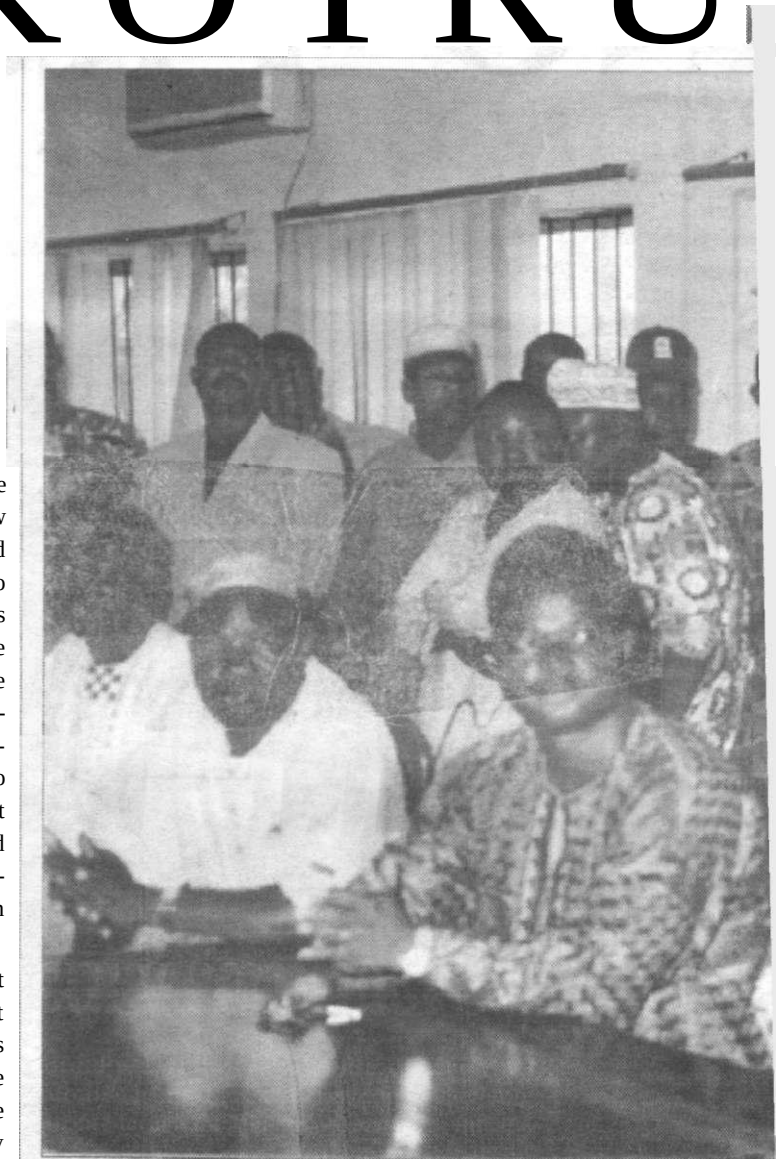
Mr. Ejionueme, who told journalists that his team also raided a building of the company at Ijora which doubles as a business bffice for the company as well as residential quarters for some of the i company's officials, said the team seized some ex-

According to him, "The hiding of the expired raw materials under the bed was a clear indication to NAFDAC investigators that the officials of the company were fully aware of the illegality and dangerous nature or" their actions. We were also shocked when we caught the workers red-handed using the expired raw materials in the production process."

Warning other fast food companies to desist from endangering the lives of the public or face the full weight of the law. he said NAFDAC was ready to clampdown on violators who have chosen to make life unbearable for innocent Nigerians.

In a related development, the National Agency for Food and Drugs Administration and Control (NAFDAC) has seized a truck load of fake ICN Clotrimazole cream manufactured in Lagos.

The product being transported to Kano and other states, as well as neighbouring countries, according to NAFDAC Enforcement Director Pharm. **Eiiomieme wa«** in.



Commercial and government drivers at a press conference by the commissi Lagos... recently

LASG contracts street m

Determined to involve the private sector in the provision and maintenance of public infrastructure in its domain, the Lagos State government yesterday fanned out some high streets for management by six firms.

The lucky companies have been franchised to upgrade the facilities and mariao**

management programme are Messrs: Laplace, Davof and Maintenance System, Sparta Contractors, RSK Golden Crown Nigeria Limited and Tempool Nigeria Limited.

The Kudirat Abiola Way, Oregun Ikeja, Itire-Lawanso-Ojuelegba-Yaba road, and Karimu Ikotun road in the highbrow Victoria Island are to be main-

Stree Alakij Crowr maint Adeol land w Street Street Adenn toria fanned geria L

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inside Koiit

Sokoto lawmakers task Etiebet on ANPP

Members of the National Assembly from Sokoto state on Sunday Wged All Nigeria People's Party (ANPP) national chairman, Chief Don Etiebet to admit failure of leadership and ajlow willing members to restore the party's glory.

Addressing correspondents at the National Assembly in Abuja, the lawmakers alleged that Etiebet had led the party into a "coma" by running ANPP like a "garrison commander".

Presenting the legislators' position, signed by three , senators and 14

Stories by Habeeb I. Pindiga, ***Assistant Political Editor***

House of Representatives members from Sokoto state, Senator Sule Yari Gandi alleged that the chairman "did not only succeed in putting our hitherto vibrant and robust political party, the ANPP into a perpetual state coma, but has demonstrated his capacity as a pathological political parasite that has sucked away the blood of our party to an anaemic state."

Referring to Etiebet's alleged tirades against Governor Attahiru Bafarawa of Sokoto state last week, Gandi said "an insult on Bafarawa is an insult on Sokoto state" as the governor represents his people.

Bafarwa had in a ***Daily Trust*** interview accused Etiebet of running ANPP aground, but the party's chairman responded last week accusing the governor of twisting the fact for selfish ends.

Gandi, flanked by his colleagues, sided with the governor and called on Etiebet to admit failure rather than "hide under intra party crisis to wish away your monumental failure."

Regional ag power in t have the p plunging the n chaos and trun democracy proce ssive Action Conj has cautioned.

Rising from meeting in Abuj reviewed last yea and economic e party's nationa committee saic

Chairman House Committee on National Disaster, Hon. Chuma Nzeribe (right) am Chairman of the committee, Hon. Tunde Salawu during the pre-conference briefing o Nigeria, held at the National Assembly Complex, Abuja... recently. **Pic: Fel:**

3rd term: Obasanjo urged to speak out

President Olusegun Obasanjo has been called upon to make categorical statements on his alleged plan to stay in power beyond 2007.

Making the call at a news conference in Abuja, a frontline', politician in Kogi state, Prince Sanni Shuaibu said the president must speak-out to douse the tj mounting tension in the country.

Shuaibu urged the president not to allow rumour mongering across the country with its resultant effect of creating disaffection among citizens.

"They say Mr. President rubbish his legacies. But my advice is to respond to issues as when due. Don't give rumour a chance. Come out and say it that yes, I want to continue in office, or no, I'll leave. Mr. President has the right to tell people he wants to contest if he so wishes. If he wants to continue let him go to the grass roots, let the masses know everything, they have the right to be told." He said.

The politician, who announced his intention to contest for a slot in the House of Representatives, also described sectional groups sprouting ahead of 2007 as mere tools for

Oyo crisis: It's fight among gangsters

The Mojisola Akinfewa faction of the Alliance for Democracy (AD) has attributed the political crisis in Oyo state that led to controversial ouster of Governor Rashid Ladoja to "massive rigging" in the 2003 election.

A statement by the faction's national publicity

five states in this tenure of PDP administration. For instance, Oyo state crisis is a fight of political gangsters over a stolen stool of power. Their acts, pronouncement on and posture towards the crisis disclose that personal aggrandisement is pre-eminent in the governance of the Southwest states. So they

in Oyo state woul collapse of PI Southwest.

"The crisis hi the inability of govern the soj Southwest. It has the people to km AD that can si administer the

Inside ¥*oli

Third term success? It is National Assembly -PDPcl

Rivers State-born Dr. Tex Wariboko is the Chairman of the United States Chapter of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP). In this interview, he speaks such issues as the controversial third term agenda for Obasanjo and the campaign to have legislation in place that will ensure that Nigerians in the Diaspora exercise their voting rights during elections.

By Sufuyan Ojeiti *(Special Corresponr ent)*

rou were at the Eagle Square, thuja, to observe the national convention of your party. What is your assessment of the event?

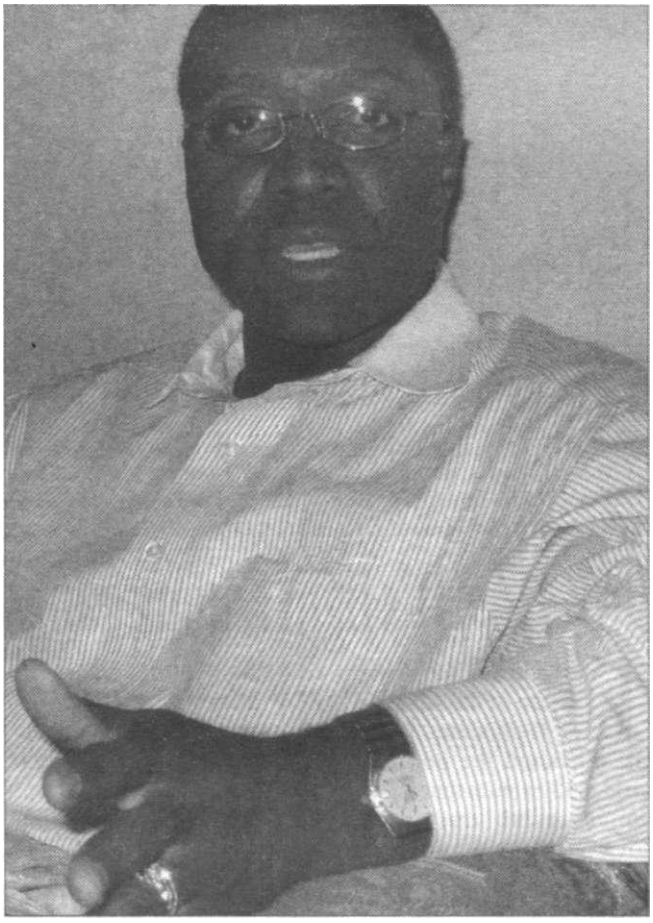
My assessment of the event is that PDP is at the new dawn an8 what emerged was the new PDP. It was energizing. People were excited to be there; and, the party based on the newly elected National executive Committee members are energized to move the party in the right direction and to lead the government to maintain the economic reforms and all the other structural reforms on ground in 2007.

Talking about 2007, there are apprehensions in the polity over alleged third term plot by President Olusegun Obasanjo. What would be your advice to him against the backdrop of the fact that in America, whose presidential system we adopt here, the only time there was a third term (for Franklin Delano Roosevelt) was during the world war; and Nigeria is not at war and is not likely to be at war of the magnitude that could dislocate the polity? Should he embrace the third term option or go in-2007?

Well, I tell you what, Mr. President is a very intelligent individual; he is also a compassionate Nigerian, conscientious, committed to the ground by the military and you know that. So, it takes a lot of work to build it back to where it ought to be. All I am saying is, whatever is best for the country and those leaders and the rulers, the lawmakers, I believe they should know what is best for the country. But we have to follow the rule of law, what the constitution says is allowed. You know because of the reforms, even the reforms that have been put together by the Chief Olusegun Obasanjo administration in all sectors, now filtering into the private sector, the legal reforms that are in place, the party obeys court orders and you saw what happened with the congresses; and, so when we continue to push for that, people, individuals have their rights and groups have their rights to challenge whatever actions: it may be an issue, perhaps, because I know it is something that could be debated on both sides of the aisle. At this point, I will reserve any comment because it is a little bit premature to comment. By focusing on those issues will take away from the p/ogrammes that are on ground and the job that Mr. President is to finish. Very soon, if not right now, Nigeria is

devastation brought on the nation?

Well, that is a very interesting question, very intuitive question for me, but I know that you are an expert in the field. So, I will be very careful how I answer the question. Now listen. You can say someone takes off his to contest for any position as their given right, as free citizens of this country. So, on the one hand, you would say yes, during their times, this happened; but, on the other hand, I would say the structure of governance is different. So, we have to keep an open mind and see what happens. Initially, people say



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RECRUITMENT OF RATINGS INT THE NIGERIAN NAVY FOR YEAR 2006 - NNBT

1. The Nigerian Navy hereby inform-'- aejge **ral public that there will be a nation widerecruitniei" rercise !a': bodedyoimgmen and women into the Servi ce :>** *.n* **1 -8 & arch2006.**

2. **All interested person - equiredtopurchase the application forms in airv of thefollowi-**.vH

All Branches oitedBank for Aftica PLC Nationwide.

b. NigerianNfiv ngineering College, Sapele.

c. NNSDELT Nfaval Base, Warri.

d Naval Unit ^iogacMmCantotiruent, Abuja.

e. NNS PATHFINDER, Naval Base,Port Harcourt.

f Nigerian Navy Secondary School, Borokiri, Port Harcourt

g- NNS VICTORY, Naval Base, Calabar.

h Nigerian Navy Finance andLogi sties School, Owerrinta

i. N NS BEECROFr, Naval B ase, Apapa, Lagos.

J- NNS WE Y Navy Town, Oj o, Lagos.

k. Naval Wing, ND A.Kaduna.

1. **Department of Maritime Warfare, AFCSC Jaji.**

m. Nigerian Navy Secondary School, Abeokuta.

n. Naval HeadquartersAbuja.

o. State Government Houses of each of the 36 states andFCT, Abuj a.

3. Prospective candidates for the exercise are toreport at the zonal recruitment centres specifiedfor their respective states of origin as shown below:

Serial	Zone	state	2onal R eootfemerrt C emr es
(a)	(b)	(c)	W
1.	Zone A	Lagos & ogun	NHS QUORRA, Naval BK Apapa, LAGOS.
2.	ZeneB	Osun&Oyo	M02 BhBhiirtd Division Nigerian Army. IBAGAN
3.	ZONE c	Ekfti&Ondo	Christ School, ADO -E KITI.
4.	ZONE D	Delta 8 EdO	NHS DELTA, Naval Et ase. WARRL
5.	ZONE F	Abia&Imo	Nigerian Many I-nance and logistics School OWTRRWTA
6.	ZONE F	Bayeisa & Rivers	Nigerian Navy Bear- Training School.; Onne. PORT HARCOURT.
7.	ZONE G	Anambfa, Ebonyi & tnuciu	HQ, 82 Division, Nigerian Anny ENUGIS.
a	ZONE H	Benue & Nasarawa	72. Paratoopei Battalion. Nigerian Army. MAKUROI
		& Plateau	Command Day Secondary School. JOS.
10.	ZONE J	Kaduna, NigerS. FCT	Nigerian Air Foice Base. KABUNA.
ii.	ZONE K	Bomo & Yobe	Army Children School, Mai.-nal.in C antof I ment, MAIDU Gil at.
	ZONE 1	Adamawa S Taraba	23 Armoured Brigade VyTA.
a. 13.	ZONE M	Jigawa, Kano	Nigerian Air Fo* te Base, KANO.
14.	ZONE N	* Kat*ina Akwa-Ibom & Cross River	NNS WICTORV Naval Base CALABAR.
15.	ZONE 0 -	Kogi & Kwara	State Stadium, 1! ORIN.
16.	ZONE P	Kebbi, Sokoto & Zamfara	*n* Motorised Battalion, SOKOTO.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

f. B1. Mai sue Engineer Mechanics: including English Lang., Maths, Intermediate City <fe Guilds or Trade Technical bia s is an added advantage.

B2. Weapon Electrical Mechanics: SS(Lang., Maths, Physics and Chemistry. Alsi Test grade II could be const dered Technical

B3. Hull MeclianicsTitters: As in plumbing, w el ct ng, M achining or Woodvv o

l. B4. Automobile Mechanics: AsinBl

J- CI. Communications: SSCE/equn Lang,Maths&Physics andpassesin2orhei

k. C2. Computer: OND in Computer Stu pte- must also possess 4 a edits in eluding Englisl

D1. Seaman: SSCE7 equivalent with 3 and passes in2 other subjects.

m. D2. Survey Recorders: OND Geographic Information Systt SSCE/equivalent with 4 credits in Maths, P and English Lang.

n. D3. Physical Training Instructors including English Lang., and passes in 2 otii in sports as well as evidence of pa school/State/YSFON level is required.

o. D4. Chaplain Assistants: SSCE/equh Lang and Christian Religious Knowledge ar experience as dergy/church worker as wi deigies/churches recognised by the NN isre

5. Imam Assistants: SSCE/equival' Religious Knowledge and English Lang. T attendant as wdl as letter of recommendat recognised by the NN isre quired,

q. El. Writers: SSCE/equivalentwitto5 c Accounts/Economics. Computer skill i s an a

r. E2. * Store Assistants: SSCE/equi l Eagii«hLang., Maths andEconomi cs. Comp

s. *m:* Cooks: SSCE/equivalent with 3 a Economics/Food Nutrition and passes in 3 * experienceinCateringisanadded advantagi

t. E4. Stewards: SSCE/equivalent *v* Lang., H om e E con omi cs/Food Nutriti on a or proven experience asaWaiterorStewardisa

u. E5. Project Technicians: OND Architecture, Quantity Survey, Civil Electrical/Mechanical Installation, Oi Management, Land Economy and must al creditsincl uding Maths &Physics.

v. Fl. Medical Assistants: SSCE/equiv,

Daily Trust

News

Bafarawa: Tribune editor appears before Sokoto Assembly panel

The Editor of the *Nigerian Tribune* has appeared before a probe committee set up by the Sokoto State House of Assembly to investigate alleged money laundering and purchase of a house in London by Governor Attahiru Bafarawa.

The editor, who was represented by the legal adviser of the paper, Mr Akinjide Sadiq, was summoned to substantiate the report carried by the *Tribune* newspaper of October 11th, 2005, in which it said that Governor Bafarawa was allegedly involved in money laundering and purchase of a house in London.

<#he chairman' of tile House Probe'Committee. Alhaji Ahmed Haliru Binji, at the commencement of the sitting, accused the newspaper organization of gross professional misconduct for not honouring the committee's invitation letter earlier sent to it, and the subsequent reminder to that effect.

Alhaji Ahmed Binji therefore expressed the committee's dismay over the attitude of the newspaper for not promptly responding to the call.

Before responding, the legal adviser was asked to take oath of allegiance after which he tendered unreserved apology for the inability of his client to respond to the invitation when it was sent.

He explained that during the period, the company was busy making end of the year preparations and therefore the House's invitation could not receive the due attention it deserved.

The committee accepted tv.a onAlnmps nf the *Tribune*.

From Sadeeq Aliyu,
Senior Reporter, Sokoto

only talking about the London house and not money laundering as the committee charged.

He disclosed that the story was published on the internet in the *London Convenant* registry website and was downloaded by the *Tribune*.

He said that the information in the registry "has become a matter that is already in the public domain."

When asked by the state's adviser on legal matters, Mrs. Suleiman Usman, whether the *Tribune* contacted Governor Bafarawa before publishing the story to strike a balance, Mr. Sadiq explained that the governor did not react to it and that the internet registry has become a public document and any individual could use it.

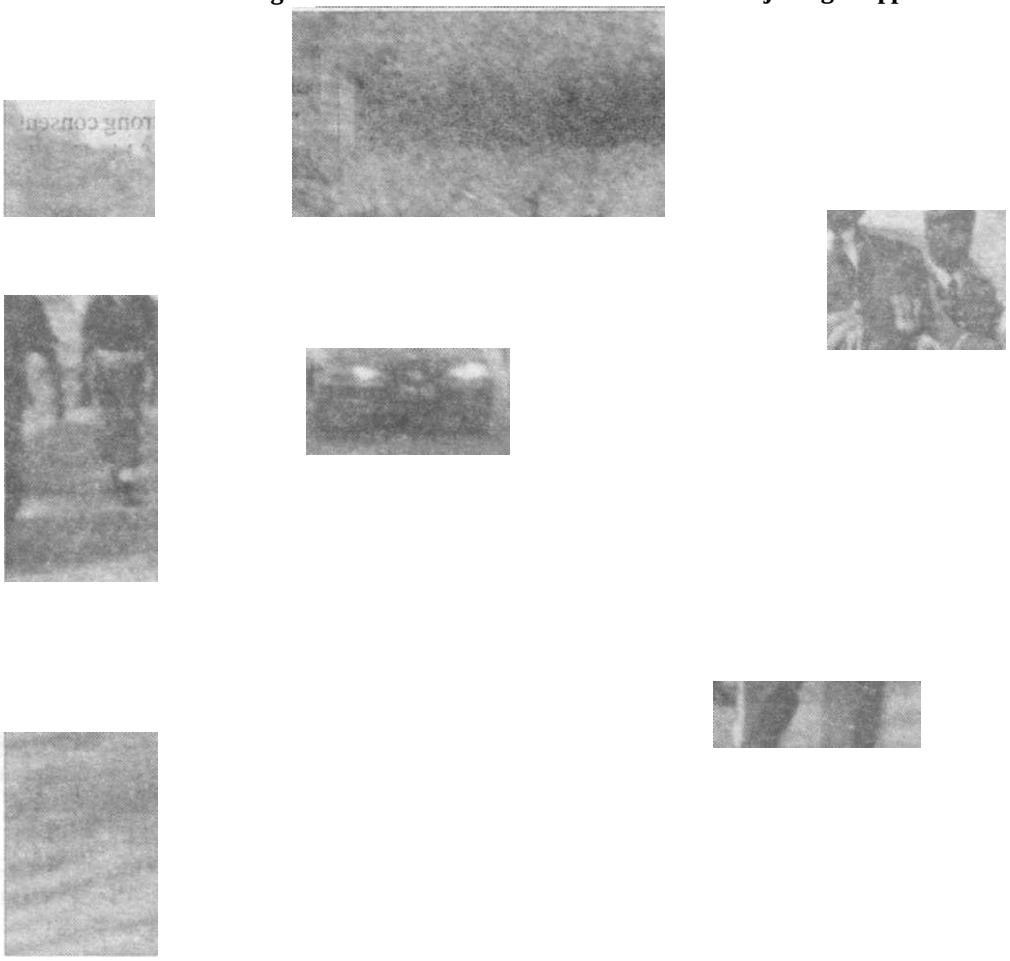
Sadiq explained to members of the committee that the *Tribune* has nothing against Governor Bafarawa, either as a governor or as an individual and therefore has not in anyway intended to smear his name.

The airlift of Nigerian pilgrims back home from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has been completed in Ilorin zone.

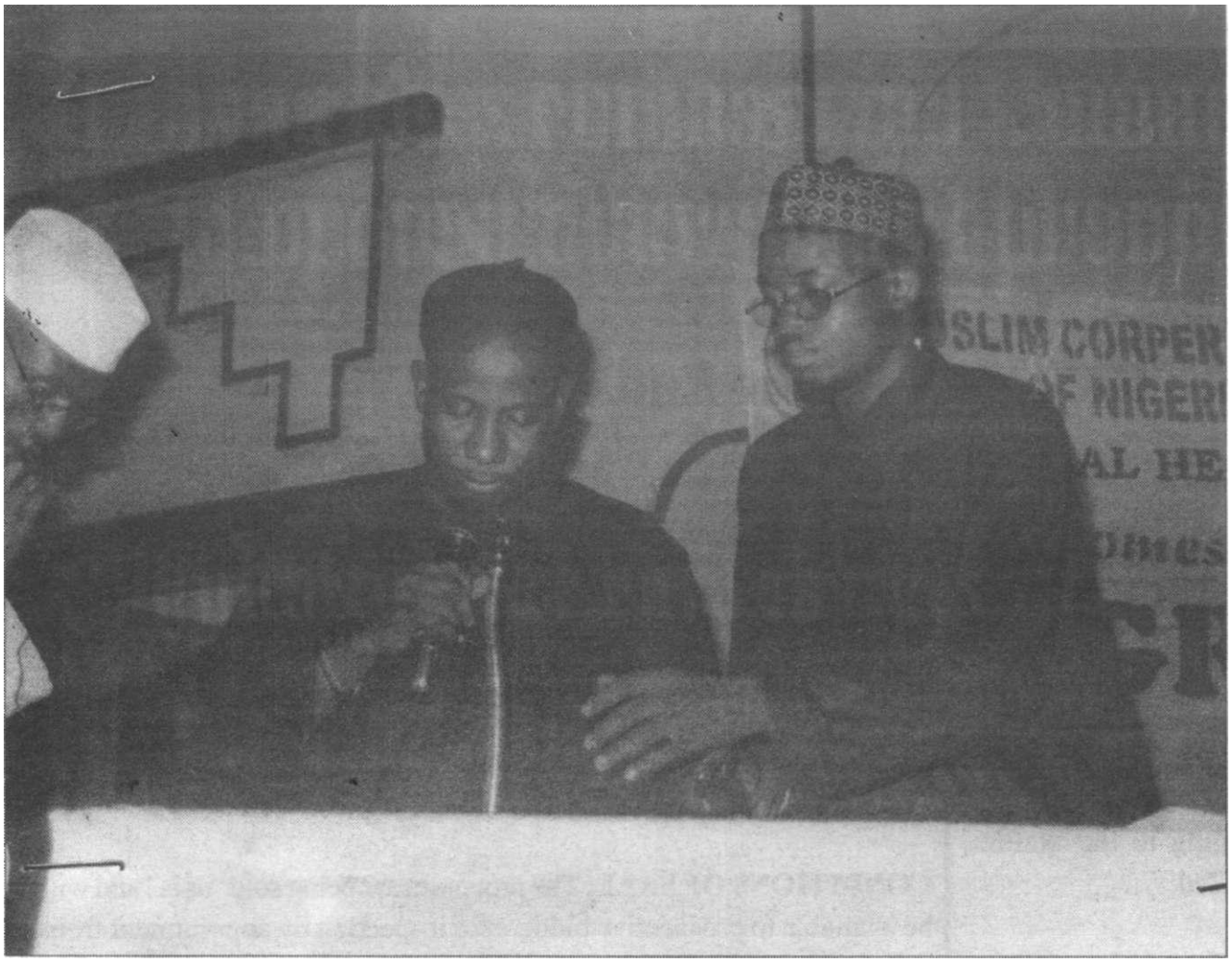
The last batch of 445 pilgrims arrived at the Ilorin International Airport aboard a *Kabo* airline Sunday looking healthy, though four Kwarans died in the Holy land.

Airport manager Alhaji Garba Ringim told newsmen that about two thousand pilgrims were airlifted from the Jedda Airport back home in the four flights from the Ilorin zone, comprising Kwara, Ondo and Ekiti states.

Alhaji Ringim appealed to



Major-Gen O. A. Azazi (middle) the reviewing officer at the passing out of the 57 regular intake with commai to the parade ground.



The ChiefImam ofSahabah mosque, Kano, Sheikh Muhammad Uthman (left), stressing a point with the National President of Muslim Corpers Association of Nigeria (MCAN), Mallam Abdullahi Abubakar, at a public lecture titled "Reviving the Islamic spirit" organised by MCAN, National Headquarters, held at the National Mosque Conference Hall, Abuja,..last Saturday. Pix: Abbas Ola-Jimoh

New Yean Saraki urges Muslims to live in peace

As Muslims across the globe celebrate the commencement of hew Islamic calendar year, the Kwara State governor, Bukola Saraki, has enjoined Muslims in the state to live in peace to enhance the development of the state.

Governor Saraki made the call yesterday in Horin in his message to mark this year's *'iirah celfbratimi*

| FromAbdulrazaq Adebayo.
Correspondent, Ilorin

Muhammad's virtue of perseverance, submission to the will of Allah and selfless services to mankind. He called on Muslims to migrate from 'injustice to justice, falsehood to truth and from godlessness to godliness', to make the society a better place to live

eral of ***Jamat Nasir*** Islam of Nigeria and chairman, National ***Hijrah Ummatul-Islamiyyah,*** Justice Abdulkadir Orire, advocated the establishment of a permanent ***hajj*** welfare commission, declaration of the first ***Muharam*** as public holiday, as well as the need to Muslims to participate actively in the forthcoming national headcount.

The occasion, which also featured recitation of the ***Quran,*** match-past, launch of new ***Hijrah*** calendar, attracted renowned Islamic scholars, top government officials and school children.

NCCE urges Niger govt

Yobel

aid

alleg

The Yobe nor,Alhaji Ibrahim, one of his aides fo misconduct.

In a statement si senior special a: Media and Public the governor, Zan the governor allej aide, Sani Fema, assistant on Youth erment and Mobili sacked following public utterances political implicatk

"Claiming a strc and approval of lency (Gov Bukar), Fema mounted tl and made public rc portive of the ca distinguished Mamman Ali as tk of the state come'.

"Let it be clear t cellency has ne cussed nor conse: issuance of statet any individual's 2 natorial ambition Fema," the stat< clared.

As a result, the added that "Alhaji has therefore by and utterances she is unmindful of th bility of his exalted as a consequence be his Excellency assistant."

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIG
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON PRTVA1
Secretariat: Bureau of Public Entcrp;

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST IN S L AND DEVELOPMENT COMPANY (SPDC) U

{

In line with the on going privatization programme, the Federal Government of Nigeria through the National Council on Privatisation (NCP), hereby invites interested buyers to express interest in the outright sale of the properties mentioned below, belonging to the Stallion Property and Development Company (SPDC) Limited.

1 .Stallion House. No.2. Ajose Adeogun Street. Victoria Island. Lagos.

Situation: The subject is a 13 floor open office complex with penthouse office suites and a ground floor banking hall. It covers an approximate area of 3632.591 square meters. The 1st and 2nd floor are general areas comprising of parking lots, while the 3rd to 12th floors are made up of offices. Each office floor comprises of two wings of offices, 'A' and 'B' measuring approximately 390 square meters and 611 square meters , respectively. The 13th floor is made up of office suites which are ensuite. The building occupies a parcel of land municipally known and designated as No.2, Ajose Adeogun Street, Victoria Island, Lagos State, Nigeria.

Tenure: The property is covered by Certificate of Occupancy dated 24th day of July, 1985 and registered at the Lagos Land Registry for a term of fifty (50) years commencing from January 1,1985 in favour of Stallion Property and Development Company Limited.

2. **Plot No. 1182 Cadastral Zone Bo6 Mabushi District of the Federal Capital Territory. Abuja.**

Nassarawa State for a term of n: December 19th, 1996 in favour Company Limited.

CONDITIONS OF SALE: The be available to prospective bide **February 6 - 24,2006** between

Interested buyers are request nonrefundable fee of **N20,000** bank draft in favour of Bureau o below.

SUBMISSION OF BIDS:

Bidders are required on the co Bid, stating the following inforr

(a) Names and addresses of
(b) Purchase consideration f in local currency, Naira.

The Bidders must provide te "ORIGINAL" and "COPY" as between the original and the cof

Daily Trust

News

Bauchi mobilises citizens for census

Ahead of the March 2006 national headcount, commissioners in the Bauchi State government have started mobilizing opinion leaders and people of their areas to make the project a success.

Alhaji Shuaibu Ahmed, the state's Commissioner for Budget and Economic Planning, while making a tour of his constituency, told the people of Ganjuwa in the Bauchi central senatorial district, that the exercise has no affiliation to political activism, but was meant to find out the actual population of the country for easy planning and equal distribution of resources for the overall development of the country.

Speaking at Ganjuwa local government area at a rally held for the mobilisation of the people ft) support the national headcount, Ahmed, who was represented by his permanent secretary, explained that the exercise was relevant to his constituency as it will afford the government the opportunity to allocate social aminites to the area.

Without knowing the data of the people living in the area, Ahmed explained, it would be difficult for government to plan and provide services to the area. He stressed the importance of the exercise

From Tashikalmah Italian, ***Correspondent (Bauchi)***

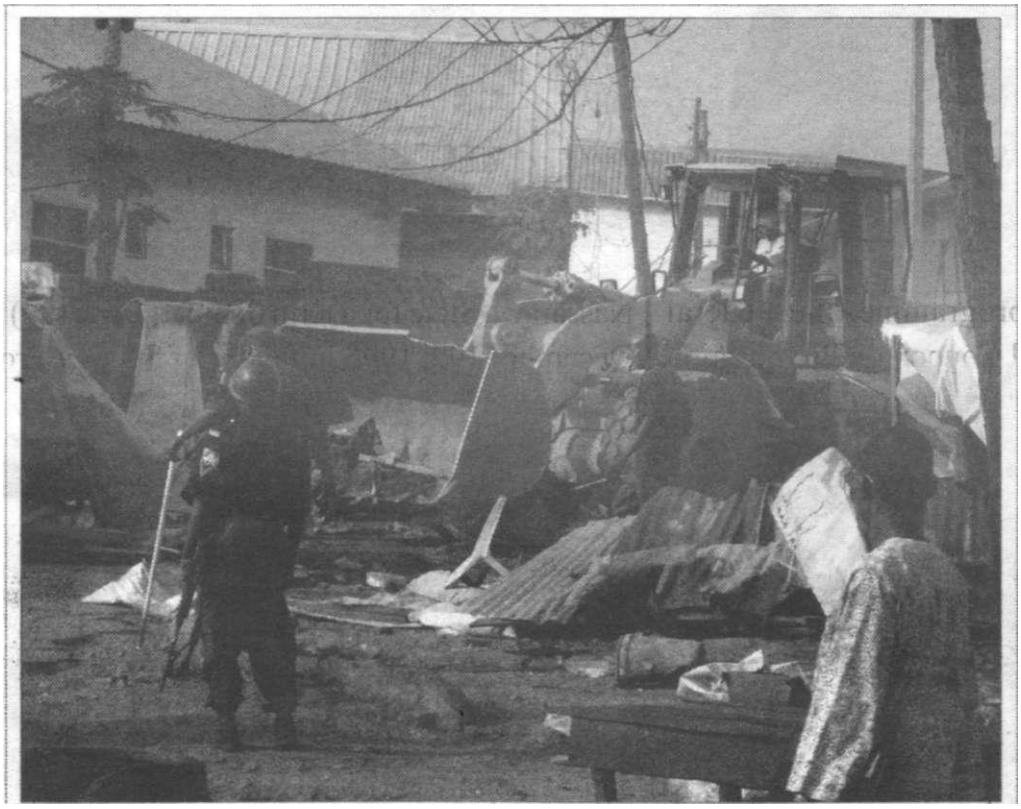
as it would afford the inhabitants the platform to know the population of their area.

The commissioner charged opinion leaders, traditional and religious leaders, village and district heads to mobilise their subjects to ensure the success Of the exercise. According to him, the exercise was a national one which deserves all attention needed.

Also speaking at the mobilisation rally, the state's Director of National Orientation Agency, (NOA), Alhaji Ahmed Makama, told the crowd that the purpose of the exercise was to enable government to plan for the entire nation.

According to Makama, data from the census would assist in planning for suitable development by providing information on the population of school aged children, health needs of the population and the number of hospitals required in each area.

Makama equally stated that population data gathered would help both government and private sector to make socio-economic plans and evaluate the implementation of other development programmes.



Policemen watching the demolition of shops at Area One secretariat, Abuja... yesterday. **Pic: Felix Onigbinde.**

Katsi fi

A multi| Z\ dents'! *J.* Astructel State govern! Danfodio Un| has been handed overl ties of the inl

Speaking [ing over eel Usman Dan **11** main campus| end, the gove State, Alhajj Yar'adua, rep occasion by viser, DepartiJ Education, Alhaji Muntarl state governn the idea of r<| tance to Usr University as **I** eral policy inil education st| state.

The goverl the decision hotel that will close to onel twenty studenl uct of their obJ influx of so Katsina Stats Danfodio Unfv need to [accommdation I

Governor stressed furtha ministration hi inception, madl of education missions and t approaches ws its drive to re\ tion from its state. He noted government ha start from the v

AIPDC

ABUJA INVESTMENT AND PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT COIV

FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY ADMINISTRATE

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST IN THE PRIVATISATION OF TH

COOPERATIVE SHOPS AT KADO AND GUDU DISTRICT

PREAMBLE:

The Abuja Investment and property Development Company Ltd (AIPDC), on behalf of the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA), have completed arrangements for the transfer of ownership of the consumer Cooperative Shops at the Jeremiah Useni (J. T.) Useni Estate Kado District and the **A D O l g O ^ ^ I**

- **An outline of the firm or consortium's abi! acquire the facilities;**

- **Indicative terms** and conditions of the pro

GOODWILL M
REV. JOLLY NYAME

NDE: 37,000 youths on vocational training

I FromAideloje Qio, Mnna

Nyouths across the country are presently undergoing vocational training with the National Directorate of Employment (NDE).

The director-general of NDE, Dr. Samuel Adelodun, made this known recently in Minna when he declared open a three-day workshop organized for master trainers by the directorate.

Adelodun explained that NDE had assisted about 13,043 graduates in skills acquisition to enable them to set up their own businesses through the NDE resettlement scheme.

"The scheme consists of providing some youths with equipment and necessary skills to enable them go into productive ventures for self-reliance," he explained.

The director-general further explained that the training programme for the NDE master trainers was being simultaneously organized in 14 states of the federation.

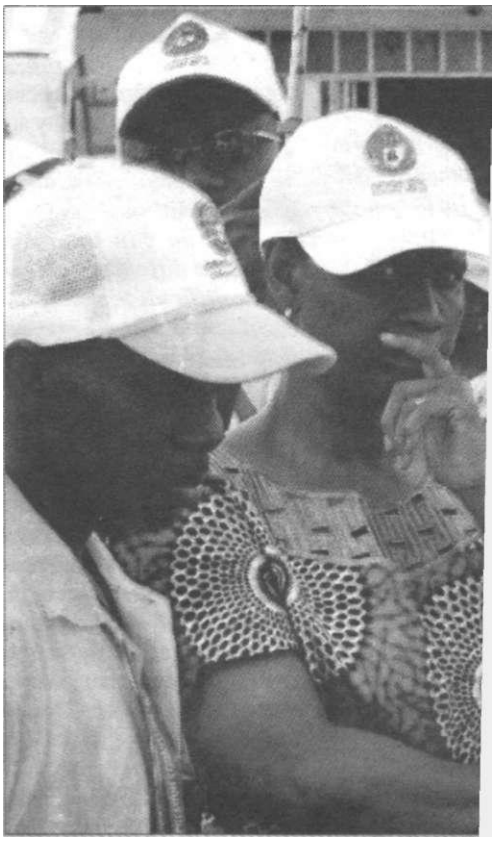
"It is my expectation that this programme will add tremendous values to the performance and target achievements of the trainers within the National Open Apprenticeship Scheme (NOAS) of the NDE," he said.

Earlier in his address of welcome, the Niger State coordinator of NDE, Alhaji Shehu Ibrahim, explained that over 17,000 youths in the state have been trained.

"I am happy to inform you that most of them are faring well," he said.

Ibrahim, who was represented by a director of NDE, Alhaji Bamiyi Mohammed, said that the directorate had recruited over 150 master trainers in the state in about 80 trades, which include panel beating, vulcanizing, automechanics, electrical installations and other domestic trades.

He however appealed to families of NDE beneficiaries to assist in providing graduate trainees with needed necessary tools.



FCT federal commissioner of population, Dr. (Mi Area Council, Alhaji Vmar Farouk Abubakar at oi

145 to perform Xtian pilgrimage in Bauchi

From Tashikalmah Ilallah. *Bauchi*

One hundred and forty-five intending Christian pilgrims from Bauchi State are to perform the 2005 holy pilgrimage to Jerusalem and other Christian historical places in Israel.

Addressing the intending pilgrims in Bauchi during a one-day orientation, the chairman, Bauchi State Christian

Census not linked to d -*NPC commissioner telh*

By Shehu Abubakar, *Reported* & Abubakar Sadiq Isah

The National Population Commission (NPC) has allayed fears of residents of the FCT that the 2006 headcount is for the purpose of demolishing illegal structures in the territory.

The federal commissioner representing the FCT in the commission, Mrs. Dotun Oduneye, gave the assurance during an enlightenment tour to four area councils in the FCT.

Dr. Oduneye said the essence of the headcount was for government to know the number of people living in each community and be able to determine social infrastructure needed for them.

"It is for this reason that we urge all of you to remain where you reside for the purpose of the headcount so that government will include you in **hndcretine** for the area vou re-

munity leaders to employ their children as adhoc staff as a condition for their participation in the exercise.

Speaking on behalf of other community leaders in the area, Alhaji Tanko Idris Ibrahim told the commission that the people were sceptical of being counted along with their houses because they are apprehensive that the information is needed for demolition purposes.

"I will advise you in the interest of the exercise to ensure that our children are employed as ad hoc staff and posted to their communities to count their people. It is only by so

paid their allowances because I gave them free accommodation.

"That is cheating. Since they worked for you, you ought to pay them. Paying them has nothing to do with the gesture I extended to them. If you continue to do that, we cannot render any

assistance to father said,

At the G\ council, the i area council FaroukAbub sented the co assured the the council's

He said I

Cult ism. absolves

From.' Adarar

The Seventh-Day Adventist Church, proprietors of Babcock University, Ilishan-Ramo, Ogun State, has denied the involvement of any of its

sity has eng tion as an in uninterrupte dar, cult-fr

Census will be succesful -NT

The Chairman, National Population Commission, Suma'ila Danko Makama, has assured that the Census would be acceptable to all. In a chat with Daily Trust reporter in Awka, Beatrice Onuchukwu, theNPC boss also touched other issues affecting the forthcoming exercise billed for March 21st to 25th*, ***2006.*** Excerpts:

Do you envisage any extension on the days you have already mapped out in view of the enormous task ahead, concerning the national census?

No, there will be no provision for extension in the census. The census will commence on Tuesday, 21st March and end on Saturday, 25th March 2006. For the trial census we did, we were convinced that those five days were enough to conduct the census; so there will be no need for extension of the census date. You knowjhat census is very expensive. Census is described as the biggest valuable activities in any country.

When you extend it to one or two days, the implications are very far-reaching, especially the financial implications. If you extend it, you have almost a million field workers: that means you have to consider the cost. If you extend it by two days, you are almost increasing the cost of personnel remuneration you will give to field workers by almost 30%. So it will not be extended for the reason I told you. It is also a huge logistical nightmare for you just to extend the census like that. For the benefit of educating you, you will understand that payment of thousands of field workers is not easy when you are paying one million field workers". You will also have to establish a proper system whereby the funds are secured and the personnel are secured. UNDP has also sig-

different from the previous censuses. The numeration areas and sketches we were doing are different from other sketches. This means that every enumeration area has got to be coordinated; it has got its longitude and latitude. So you can locate your enumeration area wherever you are, so you cannot fake up enumeration areas.

Secondly, every enumeration area has an estimated population. If you exceed such an estimated population, then the return that is being made by the enumerator will be checked and cross-checked. For example, if the estimated population is 300 people in the enumeration area, and the enumerator says he enumerated 400 people, and then you know something is wrong. But if he says the enumeration is 250 people, then it is acceptable, but if he enumerated 310 people, it is also acceptable because you give as error margin of minus or plus 5% to 10%; so that is the way of checking inflation of figures.

Thirdly, we are going to use satellite images. We use satellite images to help us in enumeration areas demarcation. Satellite images are pictures of the earth surface taken by satellites outside orbits. For example we are using the satellite images in the urban areas in an enum-'eration area, if there are 20 or 10 houses and the enumerator said that he enumerated 100,000 people, half a million people, you know that there country. A workshop is being organized where modality and monitoring of the census will be discussed with some NGO's in Nigeria.

How do you intend to tackle the difficult problems in the difficult terrains, like the riverine and other areas in the far North?

In respect of difficult terrain, we are doing everything in terms of logistics in every part of this country. The terrain will be taken into consideration. For the riverine areas, we have bought speed boats. But in the ranges of the sahara desert, we are going to use horses and camels to enable field workers to reach their destinations. We are already talking with the Nigerian Air force and Immigration Service, who have promised to release their helicopters. The Nigerian Navy has also promised to provide its boat for use in riverine areas, like Bayelsa State.

A lot has been said on the inclusion of a number of variables during the census. And what can you say on the issues of religion and ethnicity in the exercise?

We must understand the antecedent, how does it come about? You have to decide on the variables that you want to use, especially on possible ways of collecting data base of Nigeria. We have millions of people, and one individual cannot just impose his ideas and now force others to accept. Now in this consensus building, what we did was to conduct a stakeholders' meeting in Kaduna and the stakeholders include the representatives from the federal government, the state government, local government councils, the civil society organizations, including the Nigerian Union of Journalists etc. With that, we agreed on all variables. The stakeholders advised us to take the matter to the federal government, which we did and was discussed at the National Council of State.

NASS urged to

The National Assembly should rise above narrow partisan and ethno-religious sentiments in order to nip the much speculated third term agenda in the bud as well as to save the nation's young democracy.

Alhaji Muhammad Sani Ibrahim, a member of the House of Representatives representing Kaduna North federal constituency, made this call in a press statement signed by his senior legislative aide yesterday.

Hon. M. S. Ibrahim, an ANPP memhpr **nropH** hie legislators to have the courage of their conviction in all matters affecting democracy and good governance.

Hon. Ibrahim also noted that governance has almost grounded to a halt at both state and federal tiers of government because of the issue of third term. According to him, there are several sections of the constitution that pose a cog in the wheel of democracy other than the tenure of executive office-holders at state and federal levels.

C/River council budgets N920m for 2006

About N920m is to be spent this year by the Boki local government council in Cross River State as the council chairman, Chief Jake Enyia, remarks that the **main** thrust **of this** year's budget is to cement the hope created last year and restore the dignity of the Boki people.

Presenting the budget to the council's legislature, the chairman said **a** total of six hundred and **eighty-five million, eight hundred and forty-two thousand, nine hundred and seventy naira only, representing 74.55% of the total budget is for recurrent expenditure, while four hundred million naira only, will be spent on capital, expenditure projects.**

Yfe **said his administration would harness available resources to provide incentive and services for the people, stressing that the budget will also strive to complete projects embarked upon by the administration last year.**

According to him, the execution of the budget will -be keeping with the 17th national **rolling plan** (2006-2008), the 2006 LEEDS documents for the council, as well as other financial guidelines by both the federal and state governments.

He urged all sections of

From Bassey Ita,
Correspondent ***(Calabar)***

the council area to give support to the council administration to maintain strict financial discipline in implementing the budget.

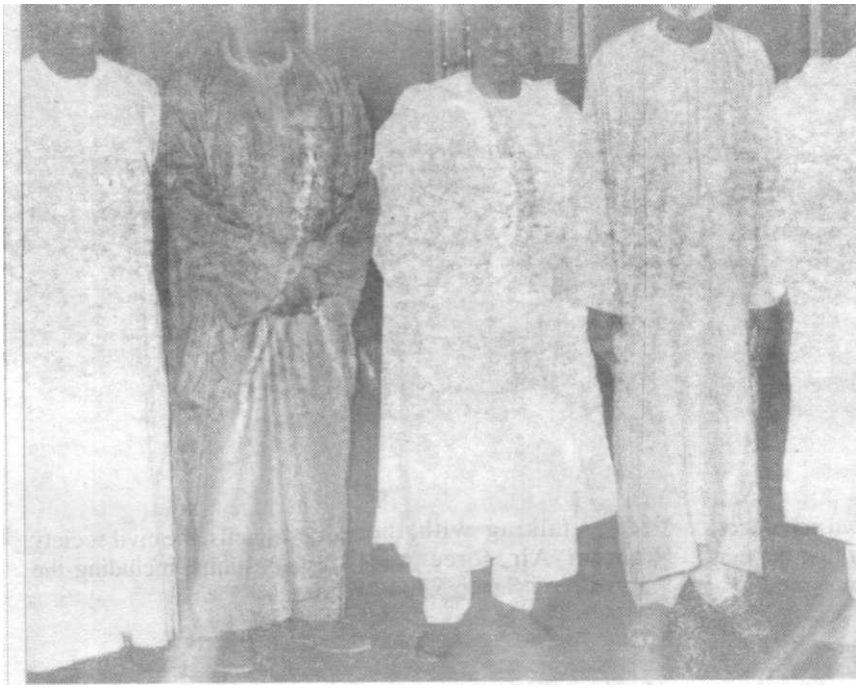
The leader of the Boki council **legislature,** Hon James Achu, **promised** that the **legislature** will **expedite action** in **passing** the **budget.**

He urged the **councillors** to **give all necessary support to the executive arm to enable it to perfect the developmental programmes it has for the people.**

Similarly, the chairman has donated a motorcycle and the sum of N30, 000 to the Boki chapter of the Nigerian Legion to facilitate the smooth conduct of its affairs in the council area.

Making the donation in Boje, the chairman said his administration would continue to identify and support the Legion in all its programmes.

In his remarks, the chairman of **the Nigerian Legion, Boki chapter, Warrant officer II Samuel Otu Odu (rtd), thanked** the **council** boss for his **support** to the **legion** and **promised** that the **legion** will **continue** to show service and sacrifice for the **rapid development** of the area.



Chairman Jaiz International Bank, Dr. Umar Mutallah, (third** right), **AlkajiM,** S. **Tar** (middle), **Mustapha Bintube, MD, Jaiz International (third left), ' mourJague, MD,** ig **and Hassan Vsinan, GM, Jaiz (first right), at a meeting on strengt** Hening **of trade and mi of the proposed Jaiz Bank International and Gamhian A rah Isla** i **V Bank meet.

NGO wants politicians to res

non-governmental organisation, Arts for behavioural Change Foundation (ABCF), has called on politicians to respect the nation's constitution as a way of fostering peace and unity among Nigerians, as well as ensuring rapid development of the country.

By Abbas Ola Jimcii

The founders rational coordinator of the foundation, Ms Ifeoma David, stated at a news briefing tagged: 'Maiden World Pre^s Conference of Arts for Behavioural Change Foundatior **in** Abuja

that the nati< chaos if the < and politiciar constitution.

Answerin] questions on **third** term or te of some electe ers, Ms Ifeom; to make categ **ents** on the gr **on the third te ever** urged **th< respect the co**

According constitution st for some polit ders; this mus for the sake development The constituti tampered with

...sanctions council officials, monarch over communal clashes

Worried by the escalating nature of communal clashes and other criminal activities in the state, the Cross Ri-

From Bassey Ita,
Correspondent ***(Calabar)***

were left to desecrate the community, while Ebon comm-

of those communities.

Mr Odo maintained that government has moved into the matter to restore normalcy, adding that a commission of

involvement in the attack OT< **some police men in tl** 5ai ;a

Reports disclosed tfaaJ a police sergeant posted tp ihc area was shot by some irate

RimVs wife: PAC chieftain condemns murder

By Abbas Ola Jimoh

Irked by the gruesome mur der of Sa'adatu, the late wife of Alhaji Muhammad Abubakar Rimi, a chieftain of the Progressive Action Congress, Prince Patrick Nnaji, has condemned the dastardly act.

In a press statement distributed to journalists in Abuja yesterday, Nnaji said the murder was the mother of all murders since it involved an innocent wife and mother of manychildren.

, According to him, "it is clear that the act is purely political in order to jolt the political career of the former governor of Kano State, Alhaji Abubakar Rimi."

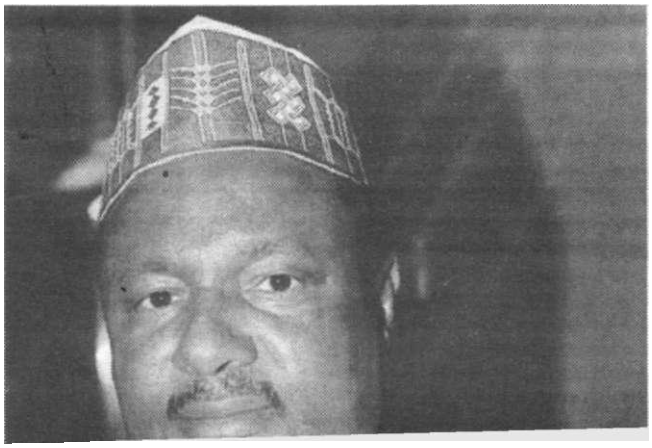
The PAC chieftain disclosed in the statement that with the recent development, credible politicians will no longer participate in politics for fear of assassination.

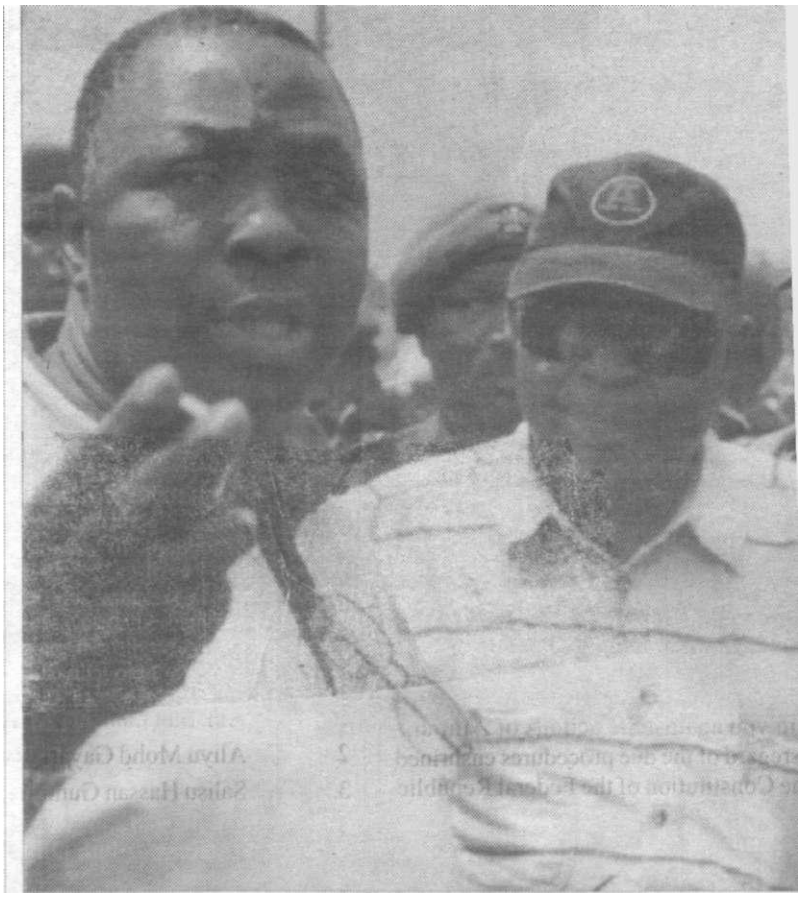
He said what the development boils down to is that thieves, cultists and 419ers will take over the governance of Nigeria in future.

"I say this because the list of politically-motivated assassinations is lengthy: Harry Marshal, Dikibo, Bola Ige, a local government chairman in Kogi and Warri, top politicians in Ibadan and Edo State. And, in all these killings, no arrest has been made."'

Prince Nnaji further stated that the federal government should do something now before long or else the country will be heading for anarchy.

The statement also urged the Inspector-General of Police (IGP), Sunday Ehindero, to see this current assignment as a challenge and get to the roots of the matter by exposing the killers of Rimi's wife no matter how highly placed the culprits may be, adding that, "if this is achieved by your able detectives, Nigerians will forever remember you as a gallant officer."





Mr. Femi Pedro, Lagos State Deputy-Governor (right), Prince Taiwo Ad ment and Mr. Dele Ajomale (middle), during a sympathy visit to the site

Makarfi urged to p hospital for Goi

The Governor of Kaduna State, Alhaji Ahmed Mohammed Makarfi, has been called upon to provide water and hospital for the people of Gonin-Gora, a suburb of Kaduna metropolis.

The call was made by the newly turbaned *Gora* of Gonin-Gora, Sabon Gari, Mr. Obadiah Adamu Sarki, in a statement made available to *Daily Trust* yesterday in Abuja.

Obadiah said the provision of water and hospital would greatly assist the adding that, "I hope the gesture will be extended to us at Sabon-Gonin Gora. Our children walk long distances to get water for both commercial and domestic purposes."

He also thanked the District Head of Kakau, Deacon Zakwoi turbaning of Sabon-' assured thi his loyalty expectatio

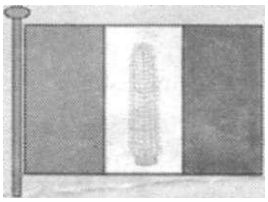
The *Gor* various tri munity to

Nigeria to hos

The Minister of Agri culture and Rural De velopment, Malam Adamu Bello, has an-

ByAbub *Rt*

(COPAN) i



ALL NIGERIAN PEOPLES PA

GUMMI LOCAL GOVERNMENT

ZAMFARASTATE

ANPP

The National Chairman,
AH Nigerian Peoples Party,
National Headquarters,
Abuja.

Date: 29/1/06

Dear Sir,

Petition Against Governor Ahmed Sani of Zamfara State for Disruption of Lawful Part)' Machinery. Conducts Contradictory- toAims and Objectives of the Paty. Intimidation and Victimisation of Partj Supporter for Illegal Dttatfkiftflf Party Mfmbctf if ^*fg^tff** late

1. We the undersigned, being bona-fide and active members of our great party the ANPP, find it pertinent to most respectfully forward this petition to you against the actions of Zamfara State Governor that borders on illegality and flagrant disregard of the due procedures enshrined in both the Constitution of our great Party and indeed the Constitution of the Federal Republic ofNigcria.
2. For u$ in Gummi Local Government, we feel greatly aggrieved because we have consistently worked hard to ensure cohesion among our people inorder in the face of intimidation by the State Chief Executive and harassment by his agents. Despite this however, under the guidance of our Local Government party elders and leaders, we have maintained full support of the people and all elected officials are 100% ANPP
3. Mr. Chairman sir, we find it necessary to forward petition in the sincere belief that if measures are not taken to correct the situation it could lead to disaffection and loss of support in the area, which could have disastrous effect and negative consequences to the party in the State. Recent events have pushed us to the wall and we cannot sit back and let the political base we have tirelessly built over several decades in the area be eroded,
4. Though there have been various affronts on us, but we specifically petition the National Chairman in respect of the following actions by Governor Ahmed Sani: -
a ILLEGAL DISSOLUTION OF ELECTED LOC ALGQVERNMENT COUNCILAND

On Wednesday 28th December, 2005 Gummi Local Government Council was dissolved on the orders of Governor Sam Yarima without any justification or basis despite the fact that the Local Government is 100% controlled by the ANPP No inquiry was done before the dissolution and nobody was accused of any offence. This act has greatly angered members of the party and tai add insult to injury, the person appointed as the Sole Administrator is a suspended civil servant and a known supporter of a rival political party.
The Local Government laws provide for dissolution only when there was investigation or allegations against the Local Government Chairman, Vice Chairman or any Councilor. The law did not permit dissolving a democratically elected council. If for example, it is the chairman that is wrong, procedures to be followed are clear for his impeachment and swearing of the Vice Chairman
b. DISSOLUTION OF LXX:ALGQVERNMENT PARTY EXECLJTTVES
The party executives of our local government were also dissolved without any reason by-one Alhaji Sani Takori, the Attorney General of Zamfara State. It is a common knowledge that Takori is nursing senatorial ambition and the action was done in order to ensure they are replaced by others* who will pave way for him to contest without any opposition. This was meant to exclude other party members from even aspiring for the post by ruling out the

This petition is signed by the following:
a. All Elected Councillors of Gummi Local Go\
b. All Gummi Local Government ANPP Executi
c. All Three Delegates of Gummi Local Govern
d. All W&rdANPPWard Chairmen in Gummi Lc
e. Member House of Representatives (Gummi/

Yours faithfully,

GUMMI LOCAL GOVEKiMl

sm	NAME
i.	Alh. Suleman Mohd Gyalange
2.	Aliyu Mohd Gayari
3.	Salisu Hassan Gummi
4.	Ibrahim Abarshi Gummi
5.	Mohd Rafi Gummi
6.	Nuhu Garba Bardoki
7.	Garba Labbo
8.	Umar Aliyu Dawa Gyalange
9.	Mohd Ibrahim Gayari
10.	Mohd K. Hussaini
11.	Abdullahi S/Gulbi
12	Mohd Saidu Gazura
J2	Mohd Mu'azu B/Tudu

GUMMI LOCAL GOVE

sm	NAME
"T.	Alh. Aliyu Maikwarya
2.	Alh. Sani Dogo
3.	Alhaji Magaji Dandije B/Tudu
4.	Alh. Umaru \%kaso
5.	Alh. Umaru DanAwo
6.	Alh. Mohd Bafillace Gyalange
7.	Alh. Gyalange
8.	Alh.AbubakarZaki Mai Mai
9.	Alh. Aliyu Sarkin Zaki Gummi
10.	Alh. Abubakar Allahbari
11.	Alh. BalaGzuru
12.	Alh. Manu Gwalli Illelaw Auwal
J'	Alh. Hamisu Mai Burodi Gummi

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EGYPT 2 6

Eagles ready for a 'bruiser'

The Super Eagles say it will be a bruising clash tonight against the Teranga Lions of Senegal, who are not known to take any prisoners with their combative style of football.

"Senegal are under great pressure to win if they are to remain in the

competition and knowing how they play we expect an even more physical battle from them," said Marseille midfielder Wilson Oruma, who has not been part of the team's full training as he tries to rest a knock on his knee.

"They will kick and push but we hope the referee will not turn a blind eye on some of those over-the-top tackles," added Nwankwo "Kami.

The physical side of Senegal's game was further underlined by skipper Ferdinand Coly's crunchy challenge on his Ghana counterpart Stephen Appiah, who is now most likely to be ruled out of his team's all-important duel against Zimbabwe also on Tuesday in Tsmailia because of a

Nigeria, Senegal in dicey

Ordinarily, Nigeria with six points from two matches should have gone to sleep in today's encounter against the Senegalese Lions. But the Lions' marginal loss to the Black Stars of Ghana did not only threw the group open and confirmed its 'group of death' status but put tremendous pressu,e on the Eagles/Lions clash at the El Masry Stadium Fort Said.

The match ***is*** a must win for the Lions it they hope to sustain their quest to sip from the covetous Nations Cup trophy. The Senegalese have accordingly vowed to crush the Eagles who are equally out for a revenge mission having lost to them in the semi - final of the **2002** edition in Mali.

The stage is therefore set for a gruelling encounter that has more than the three points at stake. Pride, qualification ticket and supremacy are the issues in contention and the teams have all the ingredients desirable for a highly thrilling match.

Besides, pundits believe they ought to be at the World Cup to showcase their soccer prowess even as they see themselves as the true ambassadors of Africa in the game.

/ **By Patrick Andrew, Asst.** ***Head Sports Desk***

The Black Stars win over the Lions did not only change the complexion of the group but delays the emergence of the quarter - finalists from the group. As it is, all except Zimbabwe are capable of securing qualification ticket depending on the outcome of today's matches.

The Lions parade stars in El Hadji Diouf, who plies his trade with Bolton, Captain Ferdinand Coly, Diawara, Souleymane and Henri Camara, the Wigan forward and goalkeeper Tony Silva. They also have a blend of experience, fighting spirit and youth, which are the ingredients for victory.

However, they are facing a side that equals them in all sphere of the game and are as hungry for victory to assuage the anger back home for the failure to pick the World Cup ticket.

The magnitude of the game can be gauged from the insistence of skipper Austin Okocha to play in spite of his nagging injury and the fears expressed by both camps over the likely result and then-fate due to the tight situation in the group.

The Eagles, whose midfield recaptured its splendid essence following the introduction of maverick John Mikel Obi in the last match, are star-studded and would be going for the kill to establish clear edge over their opponents.

Changes in the team formation are expected. Wilson Oruma, who has been below par in his role as distributor in the midfield, is to make way for Okocha or Mikel. Parlemo top striker, Ayodele Makinwa may be introduced to pair Martins Obafemi in place of Julius Aghahowa, who is yet to find his rhythm.

Both will throw in the best from their arsenals to secure victory. The Eagles though will be content with a draw while the Lions win to advance to the last eight finals.

The Black Stars and Warriors war is another Herculean clash though devoid of the intensity of the Eagles /Lions match because Zimbabwe will only play for pride since they have no chance of moving on in the tournament.

The calculation is that Ghana will beat Zimbabwe to garner six points plus the margin of victory leaving the result of the Eagles / Lions to decide the other qualifier. If, however, Zimbabwe forced a draw and the other one ended same way, Nigeria will qualify leaving Ghana and Senegal to sort themselves out. Here the head to head count would favour Ghana that

y

scenario.

Okocha battles to be fit

agles skipper Austin 'Jay Jay' Okocha nursing a knock on his knee, which he picked up against

Sports

FIFA probe Mikel deal

• iIFA is to investigate •H claims that Manch-JL ester United and Chelsea target John Obi Mikel has received death threats.

The Nigerian internat-ional is at the centre of a contract dispute between the two Premiership clubs, wi'' United claiming to ha signed the .player a! . Chelsea insisting he want;' join them.

United announce lie signing of Mikel. 18 ' uo is currently playing **i** the African Nations Ct-p, from Norwegian club Lyn Oslo last April but the player later said he had been forced into the agreement.

It \ us **allied** that he had received **death** threats -after Unite i announced the deal and **the** player appeared to go missing. He has since claimed he only wishes to join Chelsea and there have been claims that his contract with Lyn, which allowed the deal with United, was forged. United insist they have rights to the player and have counter-claimed that he has been forced into saying he wants to join Chelsea.

According to the report, FIFA will now decide what happens to Mikel. It also suggests United and Lyn could push for a transfer ban to be imposed on Chelsea.

Mikel, who showed his promise by scoring for his country after coming on as a substitute against Zimbabwe last Friday, admitted over the weekend that he would prefer to join Chelsea rather than United. "I think Chelsea is going to be the best place for me," said Mikel, who also revealed that he has already met Blues manager Jose Mourinho. "Yeah, of course I met him - he is a nice man, a brilliant coach and a brilliant man."

Asked if he was finding the publicity surrounding the contract dispute between the two Premiership clubs stressful, he said: "It is difficult to be away from my family [at the African Nations Cup], but I just have to be strong and not lose my focus."

Mikel..FlFA wilt

...Man Utd ask for Chelsea sanctions

Manchester United have asked FIFA to consider punishing Chelsea over claims the Blues induced John Obi Mikel to break a contract with them.

The two clubs are fighting over the rights to the 1l"8-year-old Nigerian and I United have written to FIFA to complain.

According to BBC Radio I sports programme, Radio ! Five Live, United have asked ! FIFA to consider a transfer iban and barring the Blues I from **some** competitions.

Chelsea say this is **a** | matter for FIFA to resolve and **j** does not involve them.

The Nigeria international, **Who is at the** African Cup **of** | Nations with Nigeria, signed for United in April 2005 but | later said he had been forced | into doing so.

Five Live has three sworn affidavits from employees of Lyn Oslo claiming Mikel was threatened over the telephone, including threats against his life, but the player denies their claims.

United insist they have rights to the player, who is at the African Cup of Nations with Nigeria, but he was not expected to move to England until 2008.

They have also counter-claimed that he has been forced into saying he wants to join Chelsea.

Mikel has claimed the contract he signed with Lyn Oslo was forged.

But in January a Norwegian .court decided it could not rule as it was a matter for a federation arbitration panel and ordered him to pay the club's legal costs.

Fifa is now expected to decide what happens to Mikel.

Chelsea chief executive Peter Kenyon says they have had no contact with the player.

Five Live understands United would be prepared to sell Mikel to Chelsea in order to cut their losses.

A source close to the club said there was no point in keeping aplayer who did not want to play for United.

I *m*

Africa Cup of Nations

Nations Cup me

By Farayi Mungazi,
BBC Sport

journalists an opportunity to speak with players.

It is also normal at big tournaments, like the World Cup, for teams to conduct some of their trainino epeeinne in TMiKli/-* reporters the chance to ask questions.

The players are not obliged to talk, but at least the platform is there.

I am not in any way suggesting that the media be given 24-hour access to the teams. But at the end

footballers i publicity.

But such difficulty of ge to most of the this Nations (would be a lot e up one of the and do **an inte**

EGYPT 2006 AFRICAN CUP

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Indomitable Lions live up

Africa Cup of notions

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Martins snubs journalists

£7 uper Baglesi-artd % k & * Inter Milan whiz k i i Obafemi j Akinwunmi Martins, was indeed livid with rage after the press conference organized by the Eagles team coordinator, Sumonu Bello Osagie, for the Nigerian team last Saturday.

This followed a question directed at head coach, Austin Eguavoen, by one of the journalists on why he let Martins complete the match against the Zimbabweans when he practically had nothing to offer in the game.

And while 'Cerezo' put up a defence for the FC Ebedei of Lagos product, that this was down to the lack of cohesion in the team due to lack of enough friendly games prior to the tourney, Martins "s countenance changed immediately and the Inter star put on a forlorn look, indicating he had taken offence at the question.

And during the last phase of the Press Conference when journalists were to speak freely to the Eagles players, Martins merely pocketed his hands and walked out of the hall, refusing to respond to questions, even as journalists rushed after him.

Ironically, he'd been the target of many sportswriters,

Cameroon wrapped up their African Nations Cup Group B campaign with a perfect three wins from three, beating 10-man Democratic Republic of , Congo 2-0.

However the sourness of defeat turned to joy for the Congolese as they edged out Angola, whose 3-2 victory over 10-man Togo left them worse off on goal difference by just one.

Cameroon face Ivory Coast - who they beat twice in the qualifiers - in the quarter-finals while DR Congo must try and. contain Group A winner^? and hosts Egypt in matches scheduled for the Egyptian capital next weekend.

The Angolans - for whom Flavio scored two can only blame themselves as they failed to beat DRC when their opponents were reduced to 10 men for 70 minutes of their previous match.

Togo finished a sorry campaign with no points and just two goals to their name, with star striker Emmanuel Adebayor having had a blazing row with coach Stephen Keshi and not even in the side on Sunday - though he was it was claimed injured.

For Keshi the glory of guiding Togo to their first ever World Cup finals is now a distant memory and the Nigerian will be extremely fortunate to survive in the post and indeed several Frenchmen have been linked with it already.

"My future is up to the

Cameroon won at a canter with Coach Artur Jorge having made sweeping changes from the side that beat Togo 2-0 and leaving just four from that starting line-up in place.

Two of those unfortunately for DRC were to score in two minutes of defensive lapses in the second-half as first Geremi unleashed a rasping shot from outside the area **and then** Gladys Bokese in the 65th minute which rightly earned him a red card.

DRC coach Claude Le Roy having taken his hat

Cameroun's striker Samuel Eto 'o jumps in the air to celebrate his £ Indomitable Lions have been living up to their reputation as hot fa]

minute.

There were other chances which failed to find the back of the net with both Eto'o and Pierre Webo hitting the bar - the latter having been the victim of a vicious kick in the chest by the inappropriately named

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Shorts

EGYPT 2006 AFRICAN NATIONS CUP

Angola geared up for World C

desp ite early exit

Angola blamed inexperience for their early exit from the African Nations Cup finals but coach Luis Oliveira Goncalves said the competition would stand his side in good stead for their first trip to the World Cup later this year.

Oliveira Goncalves said bad luck had played a part in his side failing to secure a quarter-final place at the Nations Cup as they missed out on goal difference in Group B on Sunday.

Angola beat fellow World Cup debutants **Togo** 3-2 in their last group match in Cairo to miss ouf by one goal to the second- placed Democratic Republic of Congo. Cameroon won the group with three wins out of three

Angola's success on Sunday was their first Nations Cup victory in three tournament appearances.

"We got four points but we are not happy to miss out on qualification, said Oliveira Goncalves, who won hero status in his war-torn country after leading them to a surprise place at the World Cup in Germany.

"We tried with so much effort but we had no luck. We did all we could do but fell short.

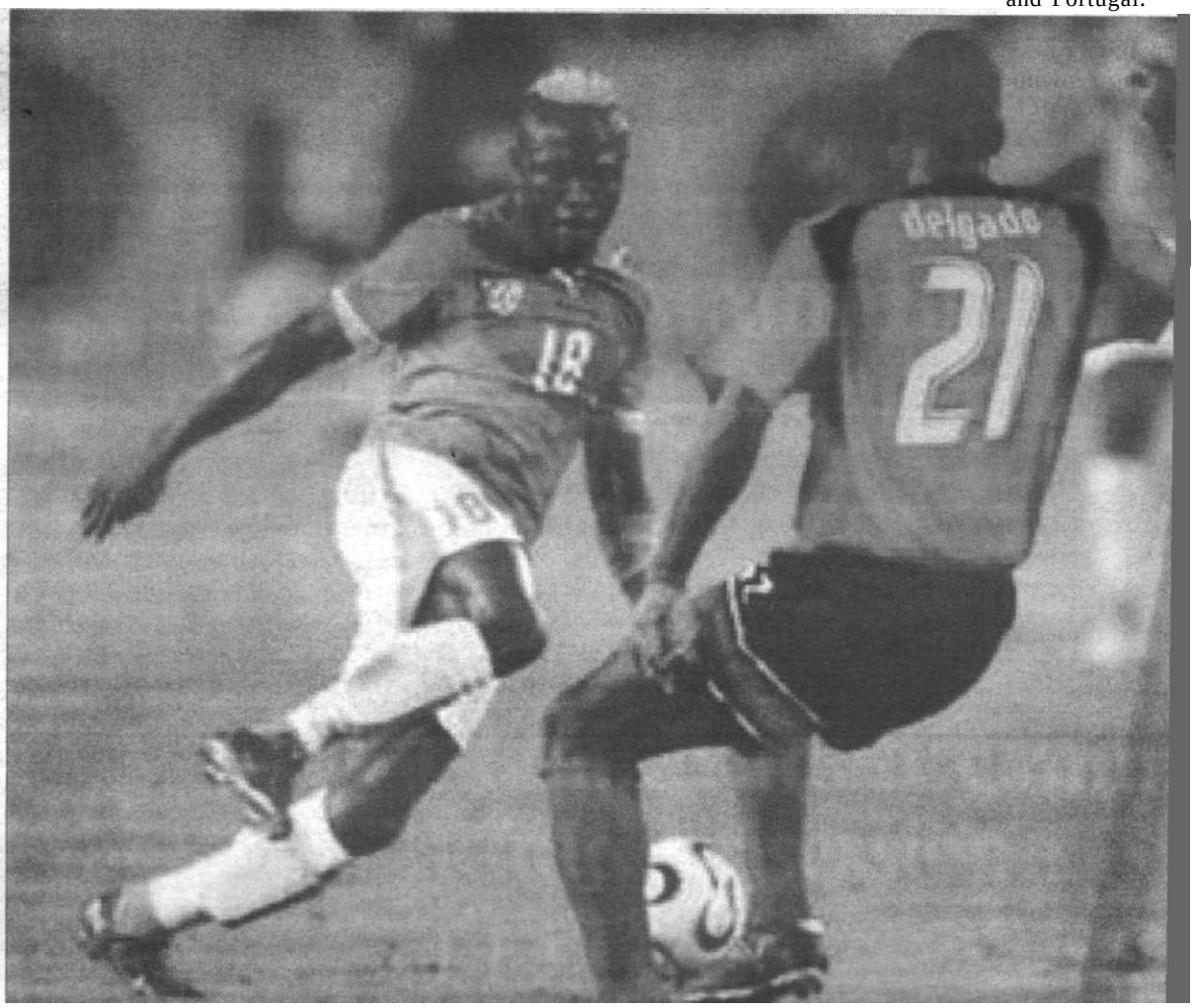
"We had a lack of experience on the field but we will prepare well to overcome this at the World Cup.

"We got some good experience at this tournament, this run has been very good for us. We will try to use this for our World Cup adventure."

The coach said Angola held no lofty ambitions of success in Germany but rather the intention of promoting Angolan soccer.

"After 30 years of civil war to have qualified for the World Cup is a m for our counti people and our a many is try and happy and prouc

The coach would have a pr friendly matche tion in the regit Castle Cup and i preparatory tra ahead of the W order to prepare where the face N and Portugal.



Appiah doubtful for Ghana's d'ame

Ghana captain Stephen Appiah faces a battle to- get fit for Tuesday's-vital African Nations Cup match with Zimbabwe in Ismailia.

A foot injury suffered in his side's 1-0 victory over Senegal; a result that catapulted the World Cup finalists back into contention in Group D, has left the inspiration midfielder doubtful for the game and indeed the rest

Sports

Pob: Kaduna DeeBee Farms clai

By Ismaila Umaru Lere,
Assistant Editor

The most prestigious Cup in the Vmobile Ibadan Polo tournament and a high goal trophy, the Ibadan Cup has gone to Kaduna DeeBee Farms. Although the three teams that competed for the trophy won and lost a match each, Kaduna DeeBee's 10 goals from the two matches it played gave it victory ahead of others.

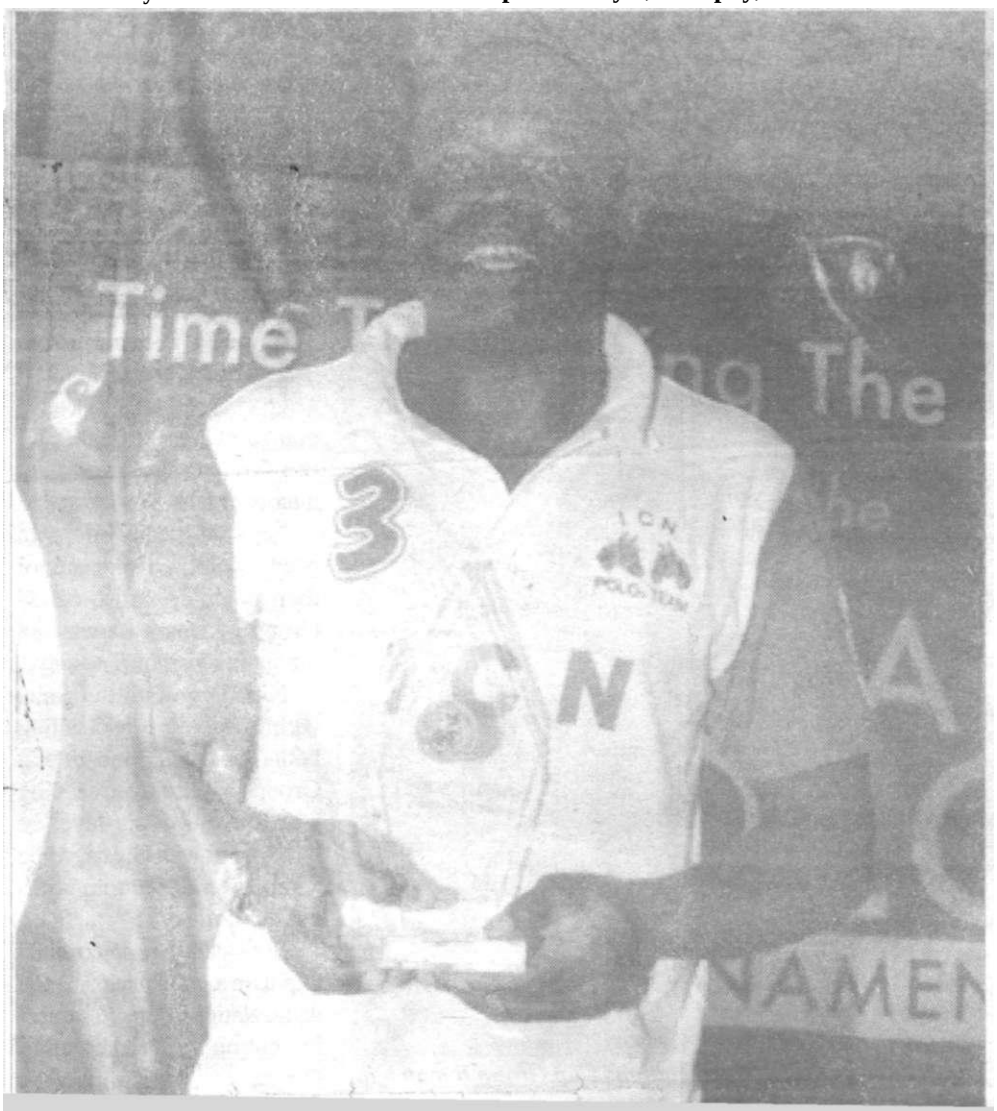
The team defeated Ibadan Dream Team by 7 - 4° goals to snatched victory away from Ibadan Dream, which started on a sound note for the trophy, although it narrowly lost to Lagos 11 by 3 - 4° goals.

With its three points ant eight goals from two matches, the runner-up position went to Ibadan Dream

...Dawule emerges Most Valuable

Dawule Baba, popularly called Polo Professor, was voted ihe Most Player in the 2006 edition of Vmobile Ibadan Polo tournament. In the same vein, Bola Adeyemi emerged as the Most Improved Player, while the Best Groom Award went to Gashun Emmanuel,

Speaking after receiving his trophy, an elated Dawule Baba, a plus four handicap player, whose team Kaduna DeeBee Fanns also won the most prestigious trophy in the tournament, the Ibadan Cup, expressed his happiness at emerging MVP in Ihe tournament. "1 am happy about my emerging the most valuable player, although it was not unexpected, judging by my performance in the tournament."



The Kaduna-based Farmer, who schooled in Ibadan also gave kudos to the sponsors of this year's competition, saying without them, it would have been difficult organising the tournament. He particularly thanked Vmobile Nigeria for its steadfastness in seeing that sports, especially the game of polo, develops in Nigeria.

"Vmobile has tried. I want to thank the company for supporting polo tournaments across the country," Dawule Baba said.

Dawule Baba's emergence as MVP of the tournament was not surprising to anybody present at the tournament. Besides his others exploits during the comDetition in helping his playe. d sides o"' for the | Cup. In Rahn

Sports

Polo whizz kid Tijjani Hassan of Fan Yogo polo team displaying his dribbling skills at the just concluded Vmobile Ibadan Polo tournament

NIGERIA/SENEGAL CRACKER

Galadima sure of Eagles

As the Super Eagles get set for the win or burst last group game against the Teranga Lions of Senegal Tuesday, NFA Chairman Alhaji Ibrahim Galadima is confident that the Austin Eguavoen tutored lads have what it takes to dismiss the Senegalese threat and go ahead to win the trophy.

The Kano State born victories against Ghana and Zimbabwe and I have told them to be focused on the tournament as Nigerians are fully backing them up with prayers"

Alhaji Ibrahim Galadima urged the Super Eagles not to allow the political turmoil rocking the nations football house to affect their concentration, stating that all has submitted that the Super Eagles were not impressive against the warriors of Zimbabwe despite emerging victors in the match.

The Zimbabweans he said proved they were just no pushovers while commending coach Austin Eguavoen for introducing Kami Nwankwo and John Mikel Obi, he noted that match, the Zimbabweans were able to show that they also know the game and they are not just pushovers, the Super Eagles must ensure that they put in more effort if they are to the Senegalese team" he declared in a chat with brilafm.net

Against Senegal on Tuesday, the sweat merchant of Julius

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Virtually; no thanks- for all

Lately, the Nation world map becau fate of its predece the pride of the bid but has lost its pr

The Lagos faej abandoned wife the barest attentiol

Even then, tr Championship, Nl the Abuja facility! religious leaders foi and crushing surreT Spirit". Within thd fewer than four ma which must have s seam.

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The Lagos stadij certain elements i the era of Chief development to for a day but son the facility was bool The authority turnei have on the facility

Soon enough, it d| error had been mad long as every well m the problem on the i But pray how muc been raised to meet retain its aesthetics! been raised becausi out **N1.5** billion a ; Stephen Akiga ant Mohammed paid *I*

EGYPT 2006 NATIONS CLP

Yesterday's Results

Group C

Guinea 3, Tunisia 0

Zambia 1, South Africa 0

Today's Matches

Group D

Nigeria vs Senegal 6.00 pm

Ghana vs Zimbabwe 6.00 pm

EDITORIAL

Arrest, detention of Atiku's ex-ADC

The arrest and subsequent detention of Chief Superintendent of Police (CSP), Mr Abdul Yari Lafia, the former ***aide-de-camp*** (ADC) to Vice President Atiku Abubakar by the police and officials of the State Security Service (SSS) is disturbing, as it reminds us of the arbitrariness reminiscent of the dark days of military rule in the country.

While we do not question the credibility and efficiency of the SSS, we are disturbed that the mode of operation, manner and reasons for the arrest and detention of the ADC go counter to the basic principles and norms of democratic governance.

fn a press statement signed by Force Public Relations Officer, Mr Haz Iwendi, a deputy commissioner of police on November 29, 2005, the police claimed that Mr Lafia's removal as ADC to the vice president was "mainly a police routine procedure" while at the same time stating that his arrest was as a result of cumulative security reports about his activities, which were not disclosed.

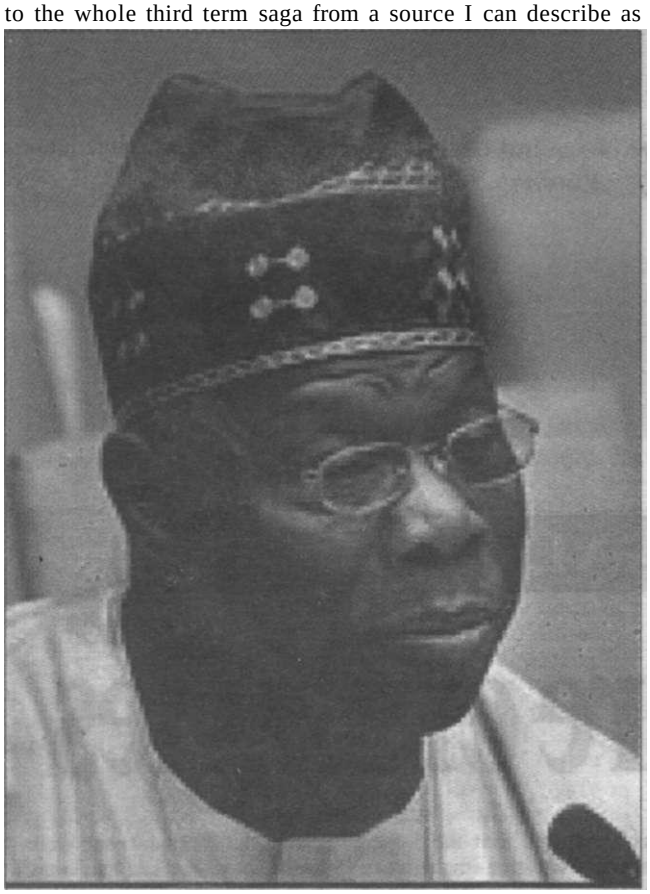
Although the police and the SSS may have sufficient but undisclosed reasons to invite any citizen of the country for investigation, it would however amount to double standards and the use of coercion if the person so suspected is detained incommunicado as the former ADC was held and without bringing him before a court of law after almost two months. There is therefore enough ground to impute that what the former ADC is going through has more to do with the political undercurrents of his former boss, Vice President Atiku Abubakar, than the breach of security that the police and the SSS are trying to foist on CSP Lafia.

The former ADC though had been released but it would amount to a great disservice to him, the police he is still serving and our justice system if after holding him for close to two months,

Goodbye tomorrow,

Given the rise in the nation's political temperature as a result of the activities of both proponents and opponents of the nefarious third term agenda through the elongation of the tenure of the president and governors, something inside me keeps on singing that at the end of all the storm and fury, there will be disquiet/This is not so much because of the stranger-than-fiction "exclusive" story I learnt of the other week, but rather because considering all the odds the third timers have to contend with, it would be easier for the camel to pass through the needle's eye than for them to get the Constitution amended their way and go for elections.

Sometime last week or so, I stumbled on another dimension to the whole third term saga from a source I can describe as



President Olusegun Obasanjo

"reliable" given his position in the scheme of things. While the debate was raging on the implications and consequences of pursuing the agenda, my source in a very sober and authoritative voice brought the discussion to an end by stating that he would take me into confidence and disclose a very important secret. Looking very serious, he continued by saying that the whole third term agenda is a "ploy" or "hoax' crafted to divert the attention of the opposition into believing it so that Baba L – i j — , „ Kr. **reWnnt and** he in a oosition to determine