

DAILY TRUST

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VOL. 13 NO. 14 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2006 MUHARRAM 4, 1427 A. H. N80

THE Nigerian STOCK EXCHANGE

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STAR INTERVIEW


Inmates have taken over prisons - Prisons boss



Pages 24 & 25

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(21 - 25 March)

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Mantu c'ttee drops 3rd term recommendation

The National Assembly Joint Constitution Review Committee, yesterday discarded reports of its five subcommittees and adopted the 1999 constitution as a working document for the exercise.

Alongside the 103 proposals thrown out was the three-terms-of-four-years tenure recommended by the Omar Hambagda-led subcommittee on the executive. This proposal would have cleared the way for Obasanjo and the

By **Habeeb I. Pindiga**
Assistant Political Editor

state governors to contest a third term in 2007.

Following the two-hour session behind closed doors reportedly characterised by heated arguments between the pro and anti-third term lawmakers, the extension proponents were defeated in a voice-vote that led to the discarding of the controversial proposals, reliable sources told *Daily Trust*.

The decision to use the 1999 constitution as a working paper, *Daily Trust* learnt, was first mooted at the meet-

ing by Senator Mahmud Kanti Bello, who wanted the constitution rather than the subcommittee reports to be

subjected to public scrutiny. Sources said chairman of the committee, Senator Ibrahim Mantu, however, pre-

ferred the reports of the subcommittees to be published in the newspapers so that the

Cont. on Pg. 2

Why we endorsed constitution amendment - Gov Sherrif

Governor Ali Modu Sherrif of Borno State has given an insight into why state governors endorsed the amendment of the 1999 constitution, explaining that the constitution was "defective in many areas," and that the "imperfec-

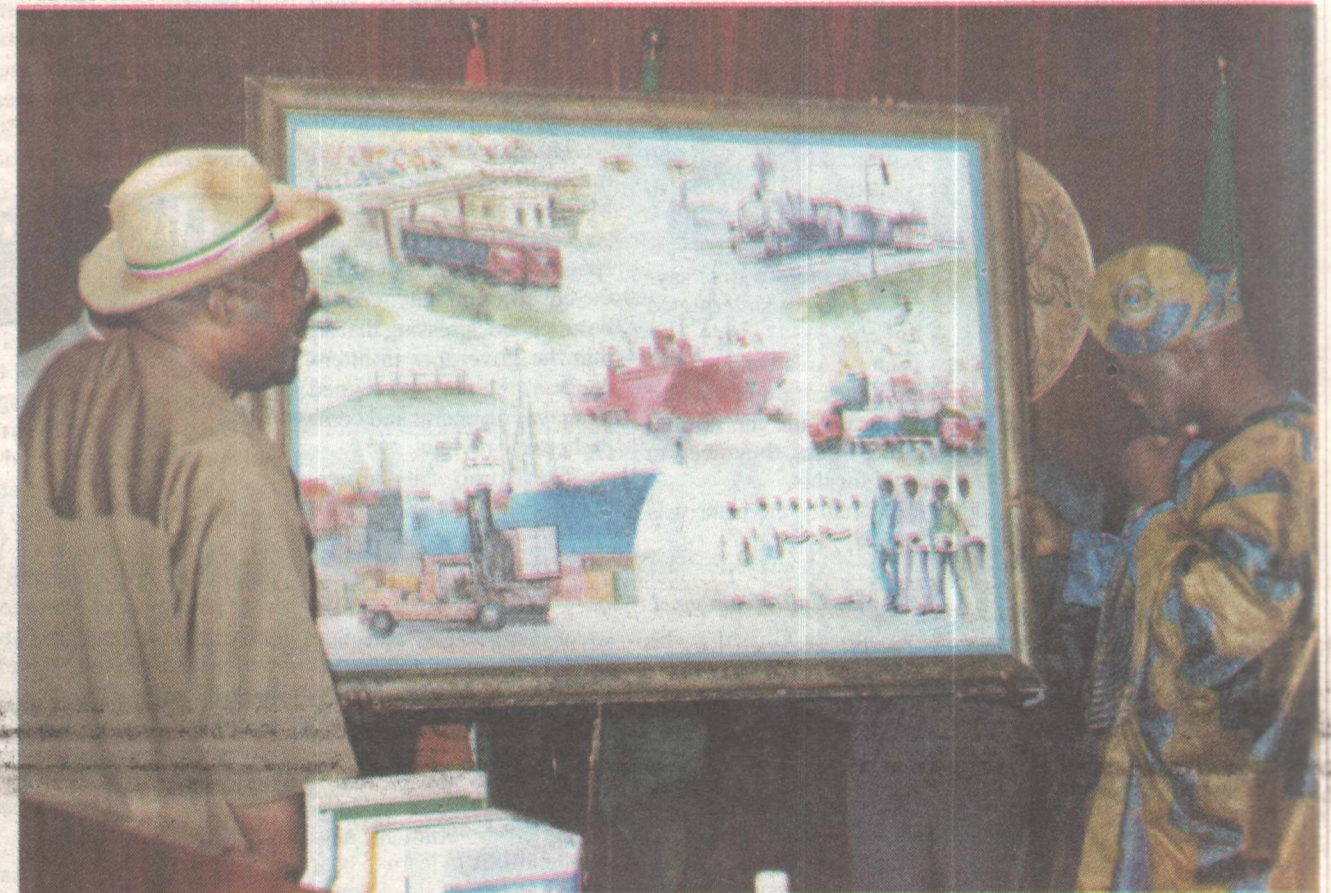
From **Abdullahi Bego**,
Asst. Editor (Maiduguri)

tions" would continue to threaten the unity of the country unless the constitution is reviewed comprehensively.

Speaking exclusively to *Daily Trust* in Maiduguri yesterday, Governor Sherrif said that although Nigerians have different views about constitutional amendment, the idea to amend the constitution "did not start because we are facing 2007."

According to him, the matter had actually been on the drawing board since 2000, when as a senator, himself and many of his colleagues in the National Assembly talked about the need for a review

Cont. on Pg. 2



President Obasanjo inspecting the plan of the re-laying of rail tracks in some parts of the country presented to him by the Minister of Transport, Dr. Precious Sekibo (left) at the State House, Abuja... yesterday.
Pic: Joe Oroye.

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Awoniyi clarifies Malu's comment on coup

Chairman of the Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF), Chief Sunday Awoniyi, has risen in defence of retired Lt. General Victor Maly whose recent comments about coup the presidency said is treasonable.

By **Emmanuel Bello**,
Political Editor

Awoniyi, General Malu merely expressed a humorous point during the ACF's general assembly which held on Monday in Kaduna.

"Lt. General Malu did not say he regretted not over-

throwing Obasanjo. It is wrong and even mischievous to cast headlines suggesting that Lt. General Victor Malu said he regretted not having overthrown Obasanjo. He did not say so," he said.

Newspaper reports (not *Daily Trust*), carried a news

item Tuesday, that General Victor Malu had regretted not overthrowing President Obasanjo when he had the opportunity.

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See full text of Awoniyi's statement on Page 2

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TAC 10TH ORIENTATION EXERCISE

The Directorate of Technical Aid Corps (TAC), has released the list of successful candidates for the 10th orientation exercise. Applicants should check our tomorrow's edition.

News

Mantu *Cont. from pg. 1*

public would know the proposals before the hearings begin. He reportedly contended that there was need for massive public enlightenment through the media on the constitution review process.

This position received support from the pro-third term elements.

But the All Nigeria People's Party (ANPP) and Alliance for Democracy (AD) leaders in the House of Representatives, Hon. Aminu Tambuwal and Wunmi Bewaji countered this, arguing that in democracy, people should not be faced with premeditated options and be asked for their opinion. This, they said, would amount to teleguiding the public or giving them a *Hobson's* choice.

Rather, the two opposition leaders contended, the actual document under review, the 1999 constitution, should be presented for public scrutiny, sources said.

But some legislators wanted the subcommittee reports to be tabled at the main committee for consideration, a suggestion many lawmakers kicked against on the grounds that considering the reports may amount to adopting them.

When Mantu put the matter to a voice-vote, *Daily Trust* learnt, members in favour of using the 1999 constitution rather than the subcommittee reports as a working document won.

Mantu reportedly said "the opposition has won", referring to the fact that the opposition lawmakers championed the idea.

During the session yester-

day, dependable sources said the committee also decided to hold public hearings in the six zones rather than across the 36 states as canvassed largely by anti-third term lawmakers.

But this decision was challenged as the chairman's ruling was said not have reflected the voice vote. Hon. Abdullahi Idris Umar objected, saying that the vote was taken even before members understood the question, hence he called for a fresh vote but Mantu reportedly overruled him.

Daily Trust gathered that there was a mild drama during yesterday's session when the vice chairman of the subcommittee on the executive, Hon. Mao Ohuabunwa, accused Hambagda of arbitrariness by inserting the third term proposal in their report. He said he never heard of the proposal in the subcommittee's deliberation but was surprised to see it in the report.

Also, controversy reportedly arose yesterday over the offer of N50,000 allowance per member per sitting. Worried by the persistent absenteeism, Mantu had last Wednesday, offered to pay N50,000 per sitting as allowance to each member.

But many lawmakers yesterday objected to this, saying it may be misinterpreted as bribery.

Mantu, took time to convince them, arguing that for working outside the normal working hours, they need to be paid for this.

Eventually the offer was adopted.

of the constitution.

"Some people are talking out of ignorance. This idea of a constitutional amendment started since 2000. We realized that the 1999 constitution was defective in many areas because the last military administration led by General Abdulsalami Abubakar which bequeathed the constitution to the newly elected civilian administration, had expunged many aspects included in the 1995 constitution as reviewed. The amendment we support now is to ensure that we have a constitution which guarantees the unity and progress of our federation," the governor said.

Governor Sherrif added that some of the issues expunged from the reviewed 1995 constitution which the military handed over as the 1999 constitution includes the rotation of political offices and the strengthening of states as against regions or zones as federating units in the country, adding that youth restiveness in the Niger Delta is one reason why a review of the constitution is important in order to ensure fair distribution of resources.

The governor however maintained that last Monday's meeting of the governors in Abuja did not specify any particular area of the constitution that needs to be amended, stressing that all that the governors in attendance at the meeting agreed upon was a general and comprehensive review.

The Borno state governor also denied that the governors' acquiescence to the

Constitution *Cont. from pg. 1*

constitution review was at the behest of the presidency, which is allegedly bent to ensure a third term in office for President Obasanjo by manipulating a constitutional amendment.

According to Sherrif, the need for a review of the constitution was identified since 2000 and so the "insinuation of people opposed to it" would not deter the governors from discussing it as leaders of their various states.

"It is those who want power at all costs that are trumping the issue of a third term. Ordinary Nigerians want a leader who will give them good governance and the basic necessities of life. They do not care which village the president comes from... If the people of Nigeria and the president's political party wants Obasanjo to remain in office for the next hundred years; that is for the people to decide. But as far as we are concerned, we want to do something for the benefit of all Nigerians and for posterity," the governor maintained.

Speaking about the meetings of regional political leaders such as the Northern Governors' Forum, the Southern

Governors' Forum and the South-South Assembly, among others, Governor Sherrif said that the governors' meeting in Abuja has resolved to de-emphasise such meetings because they have been made platforms for promoting "sectional sentiments."

"As governors, we should not be party to anything that divides our country along religious, regional or ethnic lines... The trend that these sectional meetings took in the recent past was dangerous for this country. This is why we seek to de-emphasise them," he said.

The governor however explained that while governors from the northern and southern parts of the country would continue to meet under the Northern Governors' Forum and Southern Governors' forum respectively, such meetings would henceforth concentrate on economy and investment rather than regional political issues.

"If political issues would be discussed, they would be issues for the whole of Nigeria and not one particular region," Governor Sherrif said.

Similarly, the Yobe state governor, Alhaji Bukar Abba Ibrahim, said state governors support constitutional reforms.

Governor Ibrahim who made this assertion yesterday while responding to questions from our correspondent in Damaturu, said governors were not particular in extension of tenure of political office holders as is being insinuated.

"Governors fully support the constitutional amendments whether tenure is included or not. The nature of amendments will depend on Nigerians. Due Process will have to be respectfully followed," Ibrahim said.

The Yobe state governor maintained that there were over 100 provisions of the constitution that needs to be reviewed, adding that the much debated tenure of office holders, "is just one aspect out of many".

He said that many aspects of the constitution fall short of special expectations and therefore need to conform with democratic ideals aimed at improving the Nigerian society.

The Lt. General Victor Malu's speech

By Chief Sunday Awoniyi, *CON Aro of Mopa*
Wednesday 1st February 2006.

Lt. General Malu did not say he regretted not overthrowing Obasanjo. It is wrong, and even mischievous, to cast headlines suggesting that Lt. General Victor Malu said he regretted not having overthrown Obasanjo. He did not say so.

But I can see how irresistibly tempting it is for headline casters to grab the relevant portion of his speech and give it the twist he never intended.

In his contribution to the discussions at the General assembly of the Arewa Consultative Forum, ACF, on Monday 30th January, 2006, at Kaduna, Lt. General Malu spoke from notes, not from a written text. Yet, he was amazingly articulate, swaying the audience with the passion of a patriot, from the light headed to the serious, all in good humour.

The import of the speech was that he was a believer in democracy, and a well trained and principled officer who always insisted that principles must be applied. Many things went wrong while he was Chief of Army Staff, about which the public did not know, he said, and because of his belief in democracy and his loyalty to Obasanjo, he did not organize to overthrow him to effect a change.

For example, he spoke with what was clearly professional pain about the way the Americans found Obasanjo as a willing tool who allowed them access to our military to update their own skills, a thing which General Sani Abacha would not have allowed. The excuse for allowing the Americans into our military was to train the Nigerian military in peace-keeping. Peace keeping, General Malu said forcefully, was a field in which Nigeria has vast experience to teach other armed forces. Peace keeping is neither nuclear nor chemical warfare; it is infantry job in which the Nigeria military has had long experience to impart to others.

Jokingly, he said that he considered it a blessing that he was kicked out of service or else he might have changed from being a democrat to something else and the audience burst into laughter. This was what he said humorously. He did not say he regretted not toppling Obasanjo. Things had become so bad, he said, and that we were so vulnerable that our small neighbour like Benin Republic could disgrace us militarily, and that he was glad he was no longer Chief of Army Staff.

I have spoken to several responsible persons present at the meeting, who caught the flavour of the proceedings, and they all agree that the General did not say he regretted not having overthrown Obasanjo, nor was he advocating, in anyway, a coup against the present regime.

Ordinarily, one would have ignored the erroneous newspaper captions. But the reaction of government agents to any criticism of the government of today, and the sheer speed with which they reacted to General Malu's remarks, looks to anyone knowledgeable about the ways of this administration, like the laying of the foundation for a frame up, to attribute false motives to a formidable soldier and democrat to facilitate and give credence to some nefarious future action.

In a proper democratic setting, General Malu's statement about which Aso Rock is huffing and puffing would have been regarded merely as a comic relief by an "old soldier" to amuse an audience of brothers and sisters, most of whom were seeing him in flesh and blood for the first time.

In the US, Israel and the UK, retired Generals and diplomats for that matter, do get together to issue joint statements against the policies of the government of the day. Lt. General Malu, one of our greatest and internationally acclaimed soldiers, has spoken as a democrat and a stickler for principles. He merits the thanks of all democrats.

Chief Sunday Awoniyi, CON
Aro of Mopa

Malu *Cont. from pg. 1*

He was quoted as saying that, "Maybe because I was loyal to Obasanjo, I would have done what I would have done; what I was supposed to do, but I believed in democracy. Because I was a principled and trained officer, I insisted on principles being applied.

"For that, I disagreed with General Obasanjo on certain issues. I told him that if he thought that he made me Chief of Army Staff as a favour, I think he should tell me who to hand over to," he said, according to one of the dailies.

But Chief Awoniyi said that General Malu's contributions at the meeting was read from a note and not a prepared written text. "Yet he was amazingly articulate, swaying the audience with the passion of a patriot, from the light headed to the serious, all in good honour.

"The import of the speech was that he was a believer in democracy and a well trained and principled officer who always insisted that principles must be applied. Many things went wrong while he was Chief of Army Staff, about which the public did not know, he said, and because of his belief in democracy and

his loyalty to Obasanjo, he did not organize to overthrow him to effect a change."

Chief Awoniyi also said that the retired General was speaking in jest when he made his delivery on the coup issue. Says Chief Awoniyi: "Jokingly, he said that he considered it a blessing that he was kicked out of service or else he might have changed from being a democrat to something else and the audience burst into laughter. This is what he said humorously. He did not say he regretted not toppling Obasanjo. Things had become so bad, he said, and that we were vulnerable that our small neighbour like Benin Republic could disgrace us militarily, and that he was glad he was no longer Chief of Army Staff.

"I have spoken to several responsible persons present at the meeting, who caught the flavour of the proceedings, and they all agree that the General did not say he regretted not having overthrown Obasanjo, nor was he advocating, in anyway, a coup against the present regime."

In a telephone chat with *Daily Trust*, General Victor Malu (rtd) said that he did not

advocate for a coup, and challenged the government to officially charge him. "They can't stand criticisms, so they should charge me. I'm well prepared," he said.

Similarly, Chief Awoniyi upbraided government, saying that it should learn to bear the criticisms of its citizens. "The reaction of government's agents to any criticism of government of today and the sheer speed with which they reacted to General Malu's remarks, looks to anyone knowledgeable about the ways of this administration, like the laying of foundation for a frame up, to attribute false motives to a formidable soldier and democrat to facilitate and give credence to some nefarious future action."

But according to the Senior Special Assistant to the president on media matters and publicity, Mrs. Oluremi Oyo, the charge of treason is up to legal pundits to explain, but that "his statement is regrettable coming from a senior officer who had risen to the highest point in his chosen career," she said, adding that General Malu has only exercised his fundamental human rights guaranteed by the country's constitution.

News

Electoral bill runs into legal hurdles in senate

By **Habeeb I. Pindiga, Asst. Political Editor**

The senate yesterday suspended debate on the Electoral Bill following legal obstacles on the passage of the bill.

The bill expected to regulate the 2007 elections, was presented for clause-by-clause consideration when senators pointed out some superfluous provisions they said must be deleted.

Senator Mahmud Kanti Bello first noted that the bill lifted verbatim, several constitutional provisions which he said make the document unduly voluminous.

His view was re-echoed by one-time chairman of the senate committee on electoral matters, Senator Oserhiemen Osunbor, who reminded the senate that a Supreme Court

ruling on the Electoral Act, 2000, outlaws lifting of constitutional provisions in draft laws.

He contended that there was no need to repeat provisions of the constitution in a law.

Responding, chairman of the senate electoral committee, Senator David Brigidi, said stakeholders had told the panel that there was nothing wrong in the contentious repetitiveness.

He was backed by some senators who argued that if the lifted items were deleted, the bill will be too small.

At this point, President of the Senate, Chief Ken Nnamani, said there was no need for a bill to be volumi-

nous if that will not add to its quality.

He said the US Constitution was a small but concise document. "If brevity would sacrifice volume in the electoral bill, so be it," Nnamani added.

Following prolonged arguments, the senate decided to stand down further debate on the bill till Tuesday next week.

Meanwhile, the joint committees on the judiciary and electoral matters were mandated to find out more about the Supreme Court's ruling and advise the senate according.

Only two clauses in the bill were adopted as recommended by the committee before arguments on the verbose items arose.

Nigeria is to experience a total eclipse of the sun for 30 minutes on March 29, 2006.

To avoid panic, the federal government yesterday directed the Ministry of Information and National Orientation to commence a massive enlightenment campaign on the forthcoming eclipse.

Briefing State House correspondents after the weekly Federal Executive Council (FEC) meeting in Abuja yesterday, the Minister of Science and Technology, Prof. Turner Isoun, stated that his ministry presented a memorandum on the expected eclipse to President Olusegun Obasanjo.

The eclipse, he explained would occur between 9.15 and 9.45am on March 29, and will cover five states in the South West and North-West geo-political zones of the country.

The states to be affected are Oyo Kwara, Niger, Zamfara and Katsina while there will be a partial eclipse in the remaining parts of the country including the federal capital territory.

Nigeria to experience 30 min eclipse

By **Joe Oroye**

The realignment of the moon, sun and the earth, he explained further, will spread through Europe, Africa and Asia, based on the calculations of experts in physics, astronomy and mathematics using the Newtonian principles.

Government, he said, has directed the Information Ministry and the Police to enlighten the Nigerians of the impending eclipse to avoid panic.

The science and technology ministry, he said is to compile the National Geo-Information policy while an inter-ministerial committee to be headed by Prof. Isoun has been constituted to prepare the draft.

Other members of the committee include the ministers of defence, environment,

solid minerals, works and water resources.

The March 29, 2006, eclipse will be the fifth eclipse occurring in the country, the others were in 1898, 1947, 1959 and 2001.

Meanwhile, the federal executive council has approved the water rehabilitation project at the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria in Kaduna state at a cost of N410 million to be completed in one year.

Also approved was the relaying of the rail track along Iju road in Lagos at a cost of N105 million.

The Minister of Transport, Dr. Precious Sekibo, also informed journalists that approval has also been given for the Zuba, Abuja soil erosion control project at a cost of N107 million, while the Amaiteke, Orlu-Gully erosion control project is to cost N258 million.

Fire guts Ibadan CBN building

From **Olumide Bajulaiye, Ibadan**

Ibadan the capital of Oyo state, yesterday woke up to an ugly incident as the Ibadan branch of the Central Bank of Nigeria [CBN], located at the ever-busy commercial centre of Dugbe was gutted by fire.

No casualty was however recorded apart from a member of the Civil Defence Corp who fainted during the operation and was revived by members of the Red Cross Association who revived him promptly.

Investigations by our correspondent revealed that the fire which gutted the entire last floor of the seven-storey building was said to have started at about 6.00am, but was not noticed until about 8.00 am when workers started reporting for work.

But for the prompt announcement from the Radio Nigeria Station close to the incident, rescue operations in form of fire fighting might not have come when it did.

At about 9 o'clock, only one fire fighter vehicle was battling the conflagration that emanated from the floor that houses the Conference, Development and Finance Department of the apex bank where files and other records are kept.

The branch manager of the bank, Mr. Jerry Okafor, told newsmen that the real cause of the fire cannot be immediately ascertained as it was the first of such an experience under his headship.

According to Okafor, "we don't know the cause of the fire as you can see we are already here. All we need now is how to put out the fire. All valuables and other important documents are not affected".

Asked whether he suspects anything that could have been responsible for the outbreak, he said he could not suspect anything, "but I know that we usually switch off all electrical appliances before we go home. I cannot say what the cause of the fire is because this is the first experience. It is just unfortunate".

The Assistant Commander of the Civil Defence Corps, Mrs. Adebisi Adeyemi, also told newsmen that the water hydrant and the water pipes leading to the floors were not functioning, such that the fire-fighters that got to the place quickly ran out of water and went back to refill.

When Mr. Okafor was asked about the state of the water

pipes and hydrants however, he left without answering the newsmen.

A worker in the bank who pleaded anonymity, said that the fire could have been as a result of electrical spark from one of the air-conditioners as according to him, a small explosion was heard before the fire escalated.

The experience of the deplorable condition of the nation's emergency handling system was again brought to fore yesterday as the two fire-fighting vehicles sent to the bank were ill-equipped to combat the fire which was raging on the seventh floor. They soon ran out of water at about 9.05am and were seen running out for a refill. A water tanker seen standing in the compound of the bank was empty and so useless in the circumstance.

Armed soldiers had to be deployed to the area to keep hoodlums away from looting the bank or any other establishment in the area. Frustrated however that the heavily-armed policemen and soldiers did not allow them to have a field day, the hoodlums hauled stones at the security men calling them 'ole' (thief).

The state's Deputy Commissioner of Police, Mr. Jonathan Johnson, showed to reporters the minor injury he sustained on his left leg as a result of the intense stone hauling, one of which hit him. "At that stage, I instructed my men to withdraw", Johnson said.

It took the combined efforts of men of the state fire service as well as those from the PPMC, SUMAL Foods, The polytechnic, Ibadan and RCC as well as the fire service of the NIHORT to douse the inferno at about 11.37am.

One of the early callers at the incident was the deputy governor of the state; Alhaji Hazeem Gbolunmi who was accompanied by the Special Adviser

to the Governor on Security, Mrs. Comfort Alebiosu-a retired Police Commissioner, the Secretary to the State Government, Chief Olayiwola Olakojo, among others.

A former governor of the state, Dr Victor Omololu Olunloyo, also visited the scene, saying that the fire fighters should have gone for water at the basement of the nearby Cocoa House that contains over 100,000 gallons of water.



Deputy Speaker House of Representatives, Hon. Austine Okpara, Chairman House Committee on Banking and Currency, Hon. Clever Ikisikpo and the Sub-Chairman House Committee on Banks and Banking, Hon. Lawal Garba during the public hearing on a bill to amend the Nigerian Insurance Corporation Act 1988 and to Re-enact the NDIC Act 2005.

Deposit Insurance scheme for low income depositors -NDIC MD

By **Anas A Galadima, Asst. Business Editor**

The Managing Director of the Nigerian Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC), Mr. Ganiyu Ogunleye, says the Deposit Insurance Scheme (DIS), is meant to cater primarily for low income depositors in the country.

He said the scheme is not meant to cover big depositors because they are not as vulnerable as the small depositors in the event of bank failure.

Speaking yesterday at the joint Committee on Banking and Currency and Justice of the House of Representatives in Abuja, to amend the NDIC Act of 1988 and re-enact the NDIC Act 2005, Ogunleye said the proposed Act seeks an upward review of the Maximum Deposit Insurance Coverage (MDIC) from the current N50, 000 to

N200, 000, adding that contrary to what was widely believed, the N200, 000 was not too small as it covers over 90 percent of depositors in the system.

MDIC is the maximum amount that the corporation can guarantee payment to depositors in the event of bank liquidation.

The proposed new N200, 000 MDIC is being viewed as being too small by large depositors who consider it as insignificant compared to what they stand to lose in the event of bank failures.

Ogunleye said the new 200,000 figure was arrived at after a research was conducted in 2004 to determine the appropriate amount to be fixed.

The new Act also seeks to empower the board of the

corporation to review, on a regular basis, the MDIC to reflect changing economic conditions rather than always having it to go through a rigorous process at the National Assembly.

According to him, the proposed law will also allow the corporation to review the premium rates that banks are mandated to pay annually under the deposit insurance scheme. Currently, all banks are required to pay equal rates irrespective of the level of their risk exposure.

The new Act proposes a differential premium rate which will allow different rates to be charged depending on a bank's risk exposure as obtained in the insurance industry. Also, the Act, if amended, would confer the status of a liquidator to the corporation, a status which it was stripped of in 1998.

Mr Ogunleye emphasized the need for the new Act to limit court actions against the corporation, pointing out that court cases have unduly delayed the liquidation of Savannah Bank and Peak Merchant Bank. The delay, he said, has led to a situation where depositors are made to go through undue hardship because their monies cannot be paid.

"If you have a bank liquidated about four years ago and up till now the case is still in court, it is not good for the country because depositors are suffering", he noted.

The House committee recommended a recapitalisation of the corporation so that it is strengthened and made capable of insuring the 25 mega banks in the country, considering their current sizes.

NEWS



Governor Ahmed Mohammed Makarfi of Kaduna State, inspecting the parade, at the Armed Forces and Remembrance day celebration held in Kaduna...recently
Pix: Shehu K. Goro

NASS wont back amendments - Sen. Dansadau

By Emmanuel Bello,
Political Editor

The Northern Senators Forum has warned that state governors face an uphill task convincing the National Assembly to assent to the amendment of the 1999 constitution.

Speaking exclusively with *Daily Trust*, secretary to the Northern Senators Forum (NSF), Senator Ahmed Dansadau, said in spite of the governors decision, two-third members of the National Assembly is firmly against the project.

"I can assure you that two-third members of the National Assembly are vehemently against any plans to amend the constitution which will facilitate a third term for governors and Mr. President.

"I don't see how they will get past us because we hold the aces literally," he said.

He also contended that there was no way the governors will convince the National Assembly as most of the members and senators are convinced that the third term has no bearing with the aspirations of Nigerians.

"It is not even about us. The majority of Nigerians do not want a third term. So what are we talking about? If our people don't want a thing, you don't expect us to go ahead and support it. We represent the people," Sen. Dansadau said.

The governors, he said are free to support the third term agenda because they may not be responsible to the electorates as the National Assembly.

He said that governors are as members of the executive could thus, accept the dictates of the president.

According to Dansadau, no amount of cajoling or blackmail will stop the National Assembly from opposing the third term issue especially as the joint committee was devoted to the non-im-

plementation of the agenda.

Senator Dansadau also said that he is personally in contact with his Zamfara state governor. "The first thing I do when I'm in the state is to visit the Zamfara state governor. But I'm waiting to see if he can ever ask me to support a nefarious position. So far, he has never said so."

He said that the public hearings on the constitutional amendments are on course, pointing out that the only problem is the financial challenge which the committee hopes to upset with the current budget.

"Well, as soon as we have the resources, we would embark on the public hearing," he said, adding that contrary to popular perception, the hearings are not staged managed.

Former AIG faults constitutional review

Alhaji Hamman Misau, a retired Assistant Inspector General of Police has re-echoed the widely held views that the current proposal to amend the 1999 constitution was a road map to the extension of time in office for the president and other elected officials.

He also stated that the EFCC was a hunting dog for the president to annihilate his political opponents, stressing that the fight against corruption was cosmetic as both the EFCC and the ICPC have failed to beam their searchlights on the presidency.

Alhaji Misau in an interview with *Daily Trust* in Bauchi, Wednesday, explained that there was a lacuna in the quest to amend the constitution at an eleventh hour of the Obasanjo's regime.

From Tashikalmah Hallah,
Correspondent (Bauchi)

stressing that the Obasanjo government spent seven years in government abusing the constitution with impunity.

According to the former AIG, "there was no aspect of the constitution that the federal government implemented since its inauguration in 1999. I stand to be corrected, but you can tell me. You're a journalist, at least you know much better than me. But let me ask, why

do we need to amend the constitution now? Have we tried to implement the constitution properly and it didn't work? Is it not to give the President the much touted third term?"

"Alhaji Shehu Shagari

was President of the country between 1979 and 1983, before military adventurers toppled him. His administration has been the best. He worked with the 1979 constitution and did not think of amending the constitution. The 1999 constitution is a replica of the 1979 constitution, then why the need to amend it when the government refused to adhere to its tenets?

"I think what needs to be amended in the constitution is section 308 which grants immunity to the president, governors and their deputies. We don't need it; it gives room for stealing," he added.

However, he urged members of the National Assembly to be cautious in amending the constitution, adding that "they should remember they're our elected representatives. They should listen to our voices and act accordingly."

Alhaji Misau also faulted the performance of the federal government, saying that the President Olusegun Obasanjo led government has failed the nation, adding that the President has succeeded in imposing his acolytes as leaders of the party thereby paving way for his one man show government.

"In 1979, Chief Adisa Akinloye was the party chairman of the NPN, Shagari was the President. But Shagari was answerable to Chief Akinloye. Thus, there was party supremacy, but the same cannot be said of today's PDP. The president is the party. He has appointed his men as party executives. They cannot challenge him on anything. That is why every-

body in the party is talking about third term".

Alhaji Misau also faulted the anti-corruption crusade of the federal government saying that the ICPC and the EFCC are hunting dogs for the president to annihilate his political opponents.

"I think the issue of fighting corruption should start at the top and not from the bottom because if there is sanity at the top, certainly the bottom will be clean. But I don't think this is the case of the EFCC and the ICPC. They're tools used by the president to hunt his

political opponents. Or where is the permanent secretary in the ministry of defence. Yes, you may say the former education minister and the former president of the Senate, but there is report that most of the corruption perpetrated in the country are from the presidency".

The issue is not amending the EFCC law or those of the ICPC, but let the crusade start from the top and everybody will believe the president.

Fire guts NNPC mega station in Gusau

The newly commissioned NNPC mega fuel station in Gusau was on Monday gutted by fire.

The fire which occurred at about 9.30 p.m., destroyed parts of the mega station, resulting in long queues at the few other stations which had petroleum products in stock.

The quick intervention of the NNPC fire services saved the station from complete destruction.

The fire was said to have been caused by a spark from a petroleum tanker that was off-loading fuel at the station.

The manager of the station, Alhaji Bello Mohammed, declined comments on the incident yesterday, saying, "I am not competent enough to talk to the press."

Mohammed, however, told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) that he is waiting for further directives from the heavy transformers

PHCN axes 15 employees over fraud

Five months after the Ekiti state business district of the PHCN set up its anti-corruption unit, 15 members of staff have been sanctioned for various corrupt practices.

Mr Harold Johnson, the Business Manager of the district, told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), yesterday in Ado-Ekiti that their offences included theft of the company's property and connivance with customers to defraud the PHCN.

Other offences include the collection of meter installation charges without remitting such funds to the company's accounts and the illegal reconnection of disconnected debtors' lines for a fee.

Johnson said two of the fraudsters had their appointments terminated, three were suspended indefinitely, while the others were either queried, warned or downgraded.

He attributed the success of the anti-corruption drive to the cooperation of the public, saying the company will always need information on the bad eggs in its ranks.

Both PHCN staff and customers found to be involved in corrupt practices would now be prosecuted in courts in addition to bearing the normal in-house penalties, the business manager stressed.

Shagari traces insecurity to corrupt policemen

Second Republic President, Shehu Shagari, has traced the high level of insecurity on the country's highways to what he called "corruption by some bad eggs" in the police force.

Shagari took this stand on Tuesday at his Sokoto residence when the Sokoto Zonal Commander of the FRSC, Mr Charles Theophilus, paid him a courtesy visit.

According to him, "a lot of vehicles which are not supposed to be allowed to move are allowed to do so by these bad eggs in the Nigeria Police for selfish reasons."

gent change in this direction", noting that many overloaded vehicles and other rickety ones are allowed to move freely on the highways.

Shagari lamented that "often, you will even see motorists, particularly the commercial ones, throwing money at the police even without stopping at the designated police checkpoints".

In his remarks, Theophilus said the FRSC in Sokoto, Kebbi and Zamfara states is determined to sanitise the highways and appealed for urgent relocation of illegal commercial vehicle loading points in the

Sokoto metropolis, noting that the FRSC is determined to sanitise the highways and appealed for urgent relocation of illegal commercial vehicle loading points in the

News

Water shortage hits Abuja city

Residents of Abuja and environs have been hit by irregular water supply in the past few days. NAN reports that most parts of the city, unlike before, were witnessing intermittent water supply as most taps in residential areas have dried up due to poor supply. Some houses also do not get supply for 12 hours and sometimes for a day.

"Water supply is now poor in the territory," Mrs Mada Cordelia Eke, a housewife, told NAN in Garki district at the weekend.

"It is unlike in the past when we used to have regular and steady supply of water everywhere," she said. Another resident, Malam Garba Musa, said: "sometimes we see tiny black particles in the water."

An official of the FCT Water Board told NAN that the shortage was a result of overwhelming demand arising from the growing population of the city and satellite towns. The official who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the number of water connections in Abuja and its suburbs have increased.

"As you may be aware, our city has grown tremendously in the past few years. This has resulted in overwhelming demand for water.

"Consequently, the water production from our treatment plant located at the Lower Usuma Dam in Bwari area council, is no longer enough to meet the current demand.

"As a result, some areas of our network are experiencing inadequate or no supply," the source said.

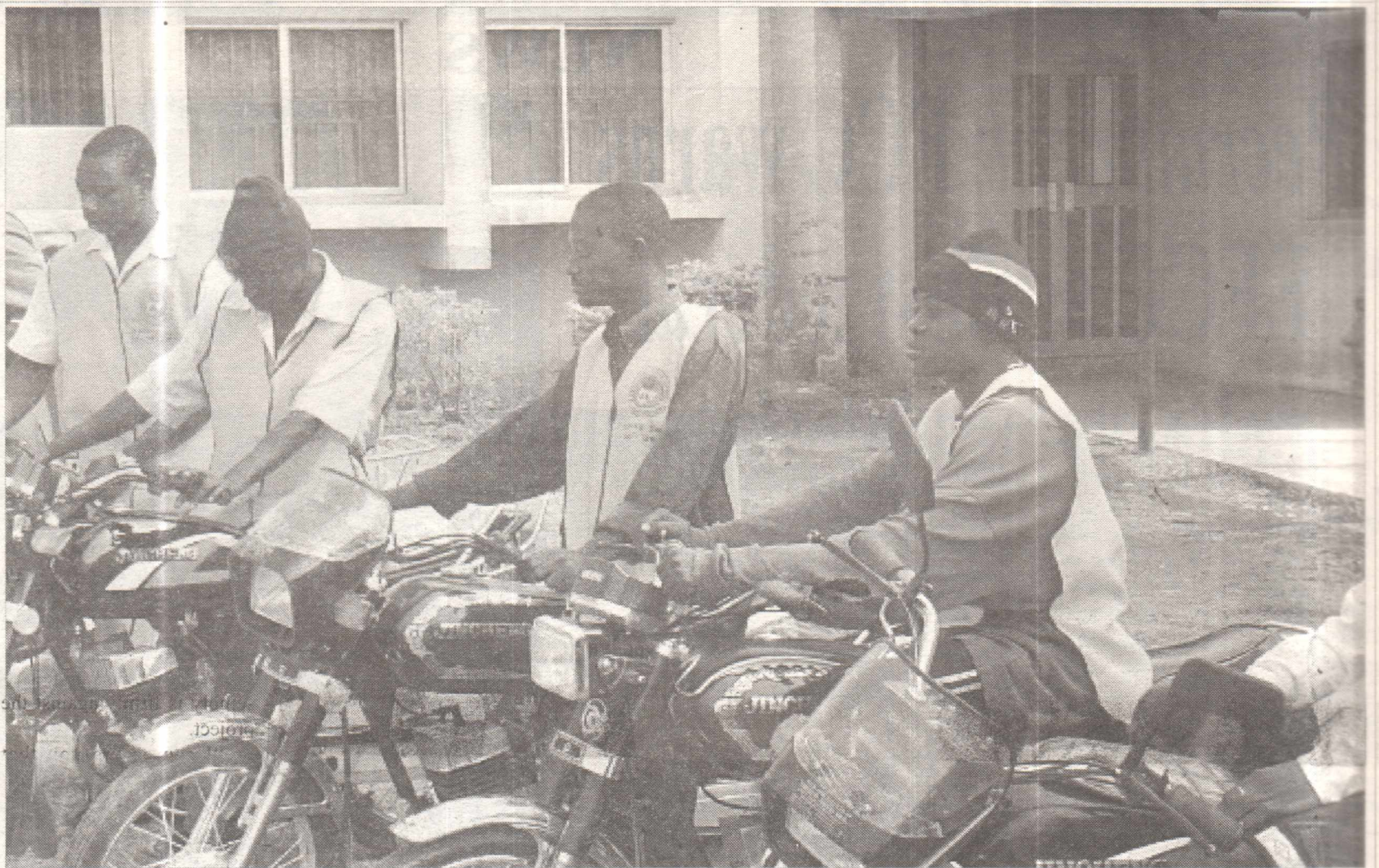
Most people have resorted to storing and buying of water from areas that have supplies or fetching water from government offices.

The FCT Water Board supplies water from the Lower Usuma Dam water treatment plant.

However, the construction of a new treatment plant and a larger dam reservoir is ongoing, under the Gurara water transfer scheme.

A water board official said that when completed, it is expected to address the current water problems in the territory. Meanwhile, the Water Board is currently carrying out a re-validation of water consumers in the city to ensure proper billing.

Recently, residents of the city and its suburbs have been confronted with outrageous bills which they describe as crazy and unrealistic. They called on the water board to start fresh billing of all consumers for "fairness and equity".



Commercial motorcycle riders in Gwagwalada area council of the FCT join the crusade on smooth census 2006.

Meteorologist explains Abuja downpour

Meteorologist, Mr Dominic Eyoh, has attributed the recent heavy rain in Abuja and its environs to global changes in weather pattern.

Eyoh, meteorological manager, Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport (NAIA), Abuja, made the observation in an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Abuja.

"Since the weather is controlled by nature and activities of man around the world, once in a while, we experience some changes on the weather situation as is currently the case," Eyoh said.

"For some weeks now, there has been a consistent weakening of the sub-Saharan high pressure belt, a weather system which is primarily responsible for the rising and transportation of dust down to our region at this time of the year.

"This weakening tendency has not allowed the pressure belt at the dust region to attain its usual maximum value of about 1,035 HPA, a critical surface pressure value that usually supports the raising of dust," he said.

The meteorologist said that the present weather situation has created an enabling environment for the rain bearing winds from the ocean to surge to the hinterland and force the dry and dusty Northerly wind components to temporarily recede Northward. According to him, this situation is responsible for the heavy thunderstorms

that was recorded in Lagos on January 26.

"By Friday, Jan. 27, the Northerly wind components have not been able to regain its strength and momentum and the moisture influx from the ocean continued as far as latitude 11 degrees North,

far above the location of Abuja," Eyoh said.

Consequently, clouds started forming in the early morning hours over Abuja and its surrounding towns, Eyoh added.

He said the corresponding temperature of 36 degrees Celsius over Abuja in the past one week provided the needed energy that the moisture influx from the ocean required to develop into rain

bearing clouds. According to him, the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NIMET), is currently monitoring the entire scenario to enable it alert the public on changes in weather pattern.

"If it is ascertained that the rains will commence a bit earlier this year as the current situation points to an official statement will be issued," Eyoh said.

Abuja and its environs

had early last Saturday morning, witnessed a downpour which was described by some residents as a surprise rainfall that was accompanied by strong winds and thunderstorms. Most parts of the capital city were either flooded or littered with debris from winds.

Power and water supplies to most parts of Abuja were also disrupted following the downpour.

FG approves N100m for erosion control

The Federal Executive Council has approved the award of a N100 million contract for erosion control at the Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike, Imo state.

The institution's outgoing Vice-Chancellor, Prof.

Ogbonnaya Onwudike, announced this to newsmen yesterday at Umudike near Umuahia.

The contract was among many projects approved for the university in 2005, he said. The vice-chancellor also announced that the Due

Process Office in the Presidency has approved the construction of the first phase of the university's secondary school.

He said the office has also approved the purchase of vehicles, construction of laboratories, library and

roads, as well as the supply of computers.

Onwudike said his administration has addressed the problem of water supply on campus through the construction of six boreholes, as well as the electricity supply problem with the assistance of the Education Tax Fund (ETF).

The ETF has sponsored the building of two new academic blocks during his tenure, he said.

Onwudike added that the Niger Delta Development Commission and the Presidency were currently building three new hostel blocks.

Kebbi allocates 3,000 hectares for rice production

Governor Adamu Aliero of Kebbi state says his government is set to allocate 3,000 hectares of Fadama land to a foreign company for large-scale production of rice.

The governor announced this yesterday in Birnin Kebbi while receiving Course 28 military officers of the Command and Staff College, Jaji, who were on a study tour of the state.

"We have already arranged for the allocation of 3,000 hectares of uncultivated land along the River Niger in Dandi local government area to a foreign agricultural company based in Thailand to produce rice in a large quantity," he said.

Aliero explained that the

move was based on the desire to make judicious use of land and encourage local farmers to embrace large-scale farming.

He said the foreign firm would provide an opportunity for local farmers to learn

modern agricultural techniques. Earlier, the leader of the visiting team, Navy Capt. S.U. Chinwaiba, had told the governor that they were in the state to study its socio-economic and political conditions.

FG rehabilitates Nasarawa-Alushi loop road

The federal government has approved the immediate rehabilitation of the Nasarawa-Loko-Alushi loop road in Nasarawa state.

A statement from the Ministry of Works issued by the Chief Press Secretary, Mr. Lawrence Ojabo, said that Gitto Construction (Nig) Limited will handle the rehabili-

tation. The statement said that contract for the construction of a bridge over River Benue linking Toto to Oweto also in Nasarawa and Benue States have been advertised.

The bridge construction, the statement said, would be under the new Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) arrangement. The statement quoted Works Minister, Adeseye Ogunlewe, as say-

ing that government was fully aware and committed to its responsibility to provide good roads all over the country in order to accelerate economic development.

The statement added that the ministry has worked out an arrangement through which all stakeholders, including members of the National Assembly will cooperate in the equitable allocation of funds.

NEWS

Recruitment: FCC warns EFCC against federal character violation

The Federal Character Commission (FCC) has warned the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), against violating the principles of the federal character in the ongoing recruitment exercise of cadet and junior officers.

A statement from the FCC said the commission would not hesitate to nail the EFCC should the commission deviate from what was observed during the first screening exercise held under the supervision of the FCC.

"FCC warns that should there be any deviation from what was observed during the

By Mohammed S. Shehu,
Reporter

interview, FCC's hammer will not be withheld from falling on the EFCC," the statement said.

FCC while commending the crimes commission for complying with its screening parameters during the first phase of the exercise, urged the EFCC to make the entire exercise free and fair to its logical conclusion.

The statement, signed by the chairman, judiciary committee, Hon. Obasi Ofia, said the aptitude test which took place between 23rd and 26th of January, was supervised

by the FCC in compliance with the commission's mandate.

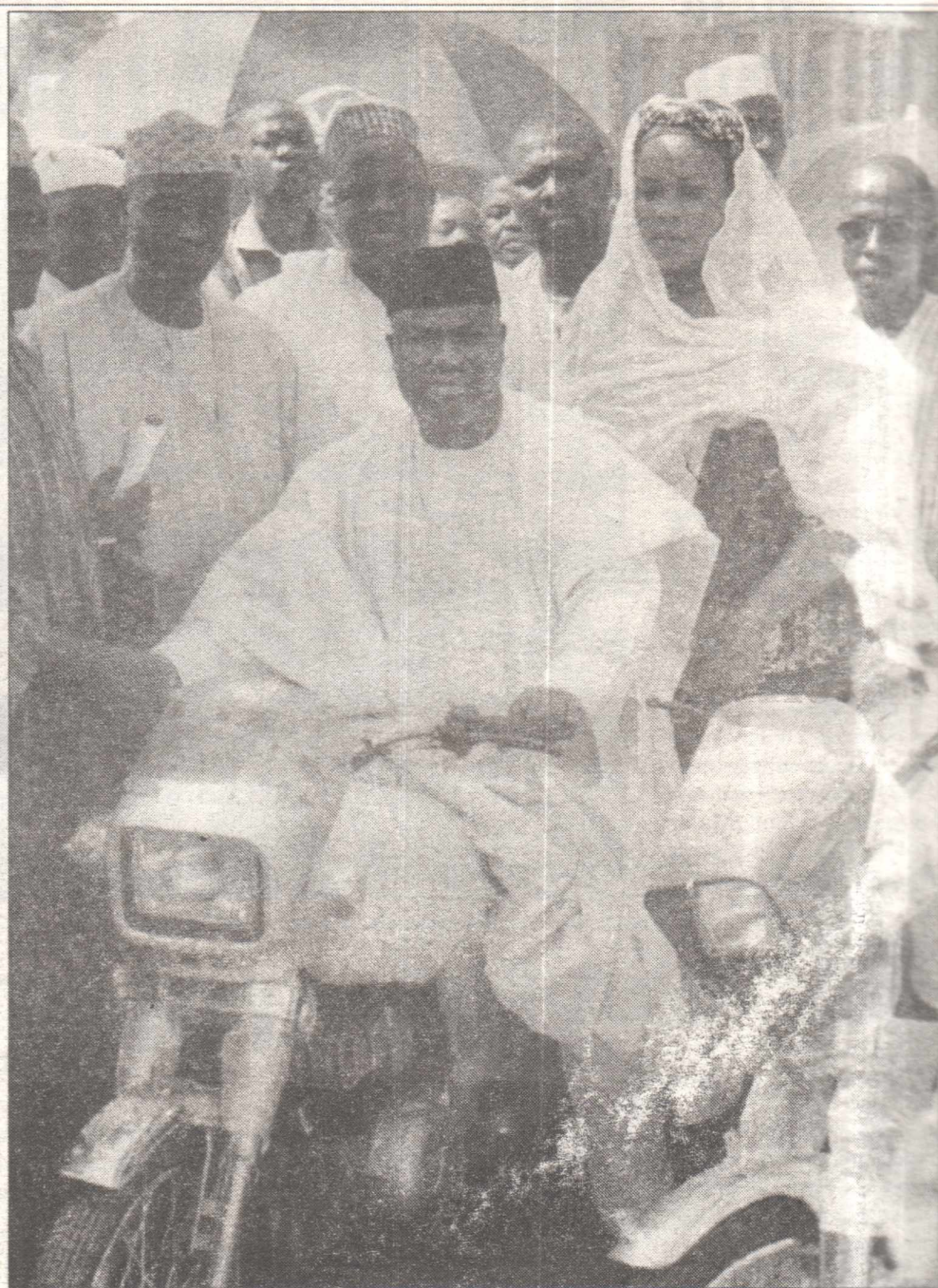
"Observers from the FCC came up at the end of the main exercise based on all available evidence that the EFCC's interview so far, was worthy of commendation and emulation provided that the final selection follows the pattern of the interview. This is because, during the interview, the thirty six states and the FCT were equitably represented."

"We are happy to note that questions at the interview centred more on the academic qualifications as it relates to the functions of the EFCC and their suitability for the employment," the statement said.

Following the development, the statement said that Mr Ofia has directed the acting secretary to the commission, Mr Effeh P. Ekrika, to represent the commission at the final selection process to ensure that at the end, there would be fair play and justice.

According to the statement, a total number of 420 candidates scaled the aptitude test for cadet officers while 156 officers scaled the test for the junior officers.

The committee on judiciary is entrusted with the responsibility of overseeing employment in government ministries and agencies that falls under the purview of the committee.



Member, House of Representatives, Hon. Dahiru Bornoma, test running one of the motorcycles he presented to members of his constituency during the youth empowerment in Adamawa State...recently

FUT Yola expels 16 students

Authorities of the Federal University of Technology (FUT) Yola have expelled 16 students from the school, suspended 11 for a period of one or two academic sessions and issued a last warning to two over alleged academic misconduct and anti social behaviors.

The Vice Chancellor of the university, Professor Abdullahi Yusuf Ribadu, said in Yola yesterday that the decision was approved at the 109th Senate Regular Meeting in line with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Students Discipline of the university. He said the offences committed by the affected students range from examination malpractice, assault as well as unethical and immoral behavior on campus.

Professor Ribadu equally emphasized that the watchword of the university is to uphold the quality of education which the institution is known for; adding that any student caught in any form of violence will face appropriate disciplinary measures.

According to him "FUTY is meant for only serious minded students who are ready to acquire knowledge and skills and not a dumping ground for unserious ones".

The vice-chancellor added that already the Act-

From Hamza Idris,
Correspondent Yola

ing Registrar of the institution has been directed to retrieve from the affected students, the university's identity card and any other property of the school in their possession and to leave the university premises immediately.

Though the names of the affected students or their faculties were not revealed by the vice chancellor, it was however reliably gathered that most of them are in their final stages of studies in the university.

Release of hostages: EU thanks FG

The European Union (EU), has expressed appreciation to the federal government over its efforts to secure the release of the kidnapped expatriate oil workers.

The appreciation was conveyed by the Austrian Ambassador to Nigeria, Dr Christian Fellner, when he paid a courtesy call on the Foreign Affairs Minister, Amb. Oluyemi Adeniji yesterday in Abuja.

"This indeed is a green light for us Europeans to work together with you so that peace and security can reign in the region," he said.

Fellner also requested for

regular dialogue between the EU and the African Union, adding that the dialogue will boost cooperation and progress between the two unions.

Responding, Adeniji said the present administration was poised to let peace and security reign in the country for the progress of both Nigerians and their friends, adding that the trouble in the Niger Delta region will soon be amicably resolved.

Adeniji also expressed appreciation for the contributions of the Europeans and their friends in the region, adding that the dialogue will boost cooperation and progress between the two unions.

AGF stalls OPC leaders' trial

The trial of six leaders of the Odua Peoples Congress (OPC), could not continue yesterday because of the absence of the prosecution, the Attorney General of the Federation (AGF).

The OPC leaders were charged before a federal high court in Abuja for alleged treasonable felony, illegal possession of prohibited firearms and belonging to an unlawful society.

The accused persons are Frederick Fasheun, Gani Adams and Ajayi Olushola.

Others are Mudashiru Adeniji, Oyinlola Awe and Wahab Isiaka.

At the resumed hearing yesterday, counsel representing the accused persons, Wahab Shittu, frowned at what he called lack of diligence on the part of the prosecution.

Shittu urged the court to invoke the provisions of section 28 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CPC), which gives the court power to dismiss complaint against an accused on ground of non appearance of the prosecution.

He said that his clients

have been in custody for about three months while the prosecution was not willing to go ahead with their trial.

He posited that Section 35 (4) of the constitution stipulated a maximum period of two months for conclusion of trial of an accused after plea has been taken.

Shittu urged the judge, Justice Chinyere Chikere, to discharge the accused persons or alternatively, release them on bail.

Justice Chikere noticed that there was an endorsement

on behalf of the prosecution, in the court's cause list but wondered why there was no representation by the prosecution.

She however refused the application of the counsel for the accused persons on the grounds that the prosecution should be given a fair hearing and time to explain their absence.

She adjourned the case to Feb. 13, for definite trial and directed that the office of the AGF be put on notice.

Court removes Kwali area council chairman

An Abuja election tribunal, Monday upturned the election of Alhaji Mohammed Gimbe Bazama as the chairman, Kwali Area Council, Abuja.

Alhaji Gimbe Bazama of the PDP lost his seat to the ANPP chairmanship candidate, Alhaji Ibrahim Gambo Umar, now deceased.

Alhaji Ibrahim Gambo had dragged Gimbe Bazama before the election tribunal contesting the result of the March 27, 2004 chairmanship election.

Giving his verdict, the

By Benjamin Auta,
Reporter

man of the tribunal, Justice U. A. Ogakwu, set aside the judgement of the lower court and returned the ANPP candidate as the duly elected chairman having scored the highest votes cast at the election.

The late chairmanship aspirant under the All Nigeria Peoples (ANPP) had alleged that he had won the election with more than half of the majority votes but victory was given to the PDP.

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

INSIDE

Prof. Ayagi's attackers arrested

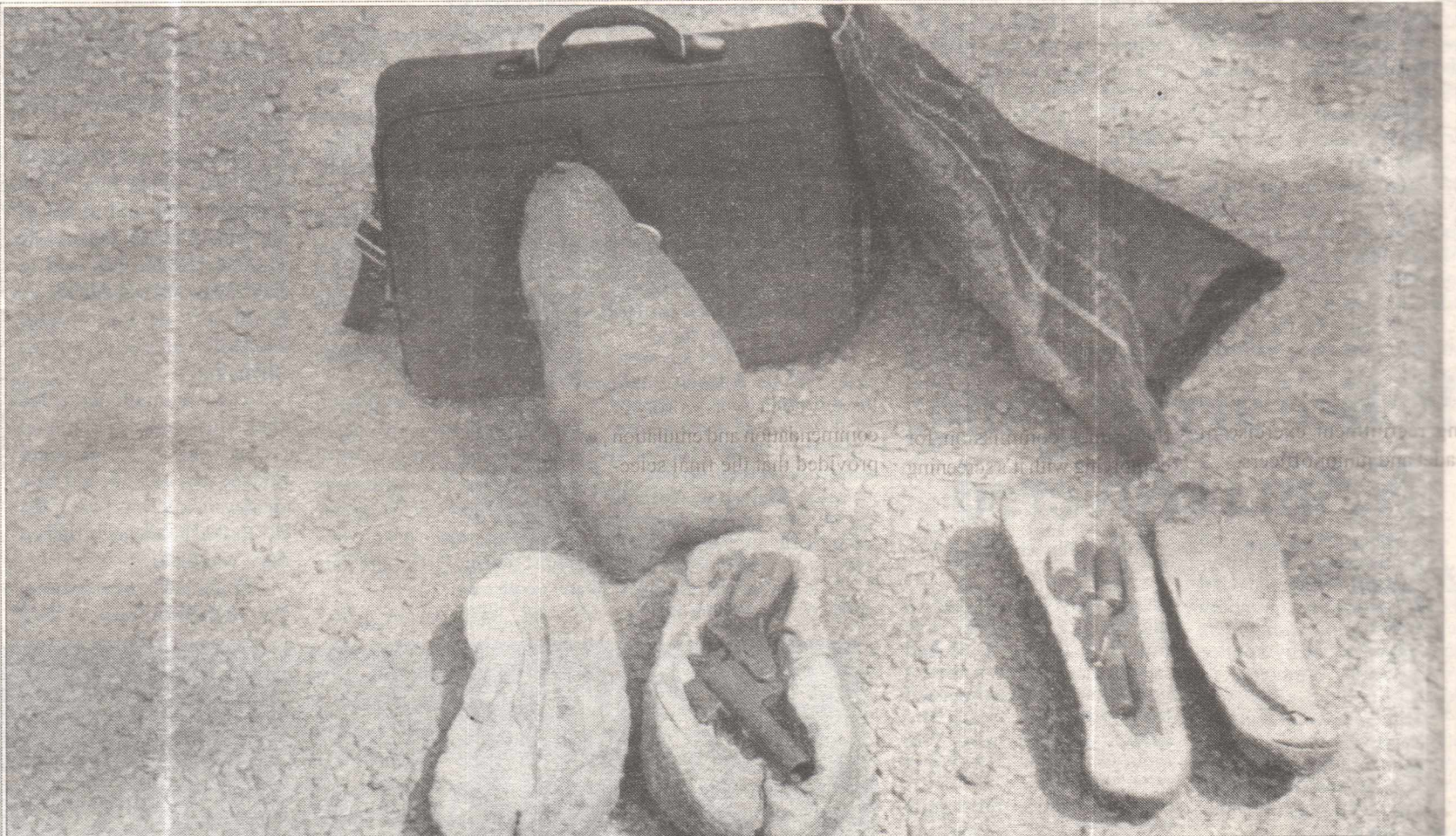
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Five in court for arson, N3.7m worth property lost

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Police arrest gang, N.5m recovered

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Pistol and some bullets detected inside tubers of yam by the Nigeria Police...recently..

Police arrest FCT magistrate

The police in Abuja have arrested a dismissed magistrate in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) judiciary, for alleged criminal diversion of N2.3m over be-

By Benjamin Auta Reporter

longing to the family of his late friend.

He is also being accused of issuing a dud clueque to

the family of the deceased, Altai Tella Yabo.

Bala Haruna was reportedly arrested on the directives of the Inspector General of Police, Mr. Sunday Ehindero, following a petition he received from four widows of the deceased, Larai, Diya, Fati and Aisha. The IGP was said to have directed the AIG Zone seven to investigate the case. The dismissed magistrate was arrested in the early

hours of Wednesday by detectives handling the investigation. Bala Haruna was alleged to have issued a N2m dud cheque to the wives of the late Alhaji Yabo after allegedly selling the deceased property in Kubwa, a suburb of Abuja for N4.5 million in July 2004.

When journalists met the former magistrate at the Wuse Police station, he confirmed that he has the balance of

N2m. Infact but could not release the money to the wives and 23 children of the deceased because the buyer of the property has not been given the original title deeds of the property by the family.

He also confirmed that the late Alhaji Yabo's family gave him N170,000 to off-set the liabilities of the deceased to the Bank of the North, but that did he add not remit the money.

Four nabbed over theft of pilgrim's luggage

Four people suspected of stealing pilgrim's luggage at the Ilorin international airport are now in police detention.

From Abdulrazaq Adebayo, Correspondent Ilorin

grims and the safety of their luggages.

When contacted on phone, spokesman of the state police command, DSP Gideon Marcus, said he has not received any report about the incident as at press time.

The four suspects were arrested by members of the vigilante group for allegedly stealing pilgrim's luggage at the processing centre of the airport.

They were arrested while trying to cart away the alleged stolen luggage with forged documents having disguised like fresh pilgrims just arriving from Jedda to claim their luggages.

Leader of the vigilante group at the airport, Malam Aliyu Ibrahim, said the suspects have been handed over to the police.

Mallam Ibrahim said that the group was compelled to set up a surveillance team to fish out fake pilgrims following security lapses noticed in the wake of the arrival of pil-

cries over loss of luggages among pilgrims have become common place over the years.

Some pilgrims alleged over the years that airline officials and staff of the Directorate of Pilgrims Affairs at both the federal and state levels often connive to deprive them of their luggages.

But the Pilgrims Welfare Board and airline officials denied the allegations, insisting that most of the baggage declared missing are either stolen by co-pilgrims or abandoned at the airport in Jedda.



Senior police officers displaying one of the rifles during the week on the table alongside other weapons during a press briefing in Kaduna.

Crime & Punishment

Five in court for arson, N3.7m worth of property lost

Five men have been dragged before an Abuja Chief Magistrate's Court for allegedly committing arson, which led to the destruction of the house of the commissioner of the Federal Character Commission.

The five men, Idris Umaru, Joseph Ngwuke, Mbah Nicholas, Ifeanyi Okoro and Joseph Udeh who are said to be staff of the Morgan Environment Service are standing trial for the offence of joint act and mischief to which they pleaded not guilty.

According to the prosecution report made available

By Ruby Rabi, Senior Reporter

to Daily Trust, one Tope Daramola reported to the police that the five suspects who work for Morgan Environmental Services located at plot 21, Gana Street, Maitama, Abuja had cut the grasses behind the residence of Dr. S.A. Daramola which is being occupied by the commissioner of the Federal Character Commission, Alhaji Shehu Mohammed.

The report alleged that the suspects were warned by neighbours not to set fire on

the grasses which they did not heed, but rather set the grass ablaze and left the premises.

The fire was said to have extended to a flat nearby and burnt the first floor of the building, destroying property worth over N3.7m.

The prosecuting police officer, Inspector Samuel Onoja, told Chief Magistrate Adepoju Ajoke that in view of the plea of the accused persons, he would require some time to complete investigations and prepare for trial. He did not oppose to the bail of the accused persons.

The counsel to the suspects, Nelson Adosah, made an oral application for the bail of the accused persons and urged the court to exercise its discretion in their favour.

Chief Magistrate Adepoju Ajoke admitted the suspects to bail in the sum of N500,000 each in like sum, and adjourned the matter to February 7, 2006 for further hearing.

The police in Kano have announced the arrest of the leader of a suspected armed robbery gang that attacked Professor Ayagi in November last year.

Shehu Muhammad and one Nuhu Bello said to be members of the alleged gang were paraded before newsmen yesterday.

The state's police commissioner, Alhaji Muhammad D. Abubakar, said that one Yakubu Hassan, suspected to be a receiver of their stolen items, was equally nabbed by the police.

The commissioner stated that the same gang confessed to the police that they raided 13 houses within the state metropolis in recent time, during which one person was killed.

Alhaji M. D. Abubakar said also that items recovered from the gang includes 182 A. K. 47 rifles, several rounds of ammunition, one white bus, three locally made pistols, one pump action rifle and one macro pistol.

He said three other

Prof Ayagi's attackers arrested

From Yusha'u Adamu Ibrahim, Correspondent (Kano)

suspects, Musa Muhammad, Haruna Usman and Mustapha, were arrested for armed robbery.

Mustapha was alleged to have attacked one Mrs. Taiwo Ogunjobi and robbed her of the sum of N126,000, while Haruna Usman was said to have been arrested with an automatic disaster pistol allegedly preparing for an operation.

The commissioner added that Mustapha Muhammad was arrested with a toy pistol and the sum of N56,000. The money he said was part of the N126,000 he allegedly robbed Mrs. Ogunjobi.

In another development, the command said it had

arrested 74 suspected criminals said to be dealing in Indian hemp.

He said that three vehicles were recovered from two suspected car snatchers, who confessed to have stolen five more vehicles which are yet to be recovered by the police, adding that three master keys were equally recovered from them.

The Kano police boss, who reaffirmed the police commitment to tackling crime in the state, said that all the suspects were arrested within two weeks after the police embarked on daily raids across the state.

He therefore called on the public to supply the police with useful information to enhance their work, adding that soon police in the state would equally embark on stop and search operations at midnights.

Police arrest gang, N.5m recovered

A gang that allegedly rob passengers in commercial vehicles around the FCT, a manner commonly referred to one chance, has been apprehended by a police anti-robbery squared in Abuja.

The FCT commissioner of police, Mr. Lawrence Alobi, announced their arrest as he paraded the suspects before newsmen at the Police Command in Abuja.

Mr. Alobi, who gave the names of the suspects as Philip John, Raphael Oko and Otega Uduma, said the gang used to operate in a Toyota Liteace bus with registration number XA 217 GAD.

Answering questions from this reporter, one of the suspects, Philip John, explained that they operated the bus as a commercial vehicle.

He said when they picked passengers they suspected to have money or other valuables, the gang would rob the passengers as the vehicle moved along.

Since the vehicles with which one chance is being operated belonged to the gang, victims of such attacks were usually thrown out of the vehicles at isolated locations after they had been robbed while the vehicles sped off.

Daily Trust learnt at Nyanya and Garki bus stops that vehicles being operated as one chance do not normally stop at designated bus stops to pick passengers.

Speaking to this reporter, a food vendor at Mararaba, Anty Beauty, said that she was twice a victim of one chance. She said while other members of the gang will pose as passengers in the vehicle, the driver and his conductor will be calling for passengers, saying, "one chance and we go, one chance and we go."

Ant Beauty said, "they move, picking passengers along the road. They select passengers that look responsible who they believe they can get something from. They will never carry the number they cannot overpower. Most of their victims are passengers who are in a hurry to go to where they are going. They do not go to bus stops to pick passengers."

On her experience in the hands of the one chance ope-

By Shehu Abubakar, Reporter

rators, Anty Beauty said on the two occasions she was involved, the suspects had quietly placed their victims at gun point, searched them and their luggage while the vehicle was still moving and took away their money and other valuables.

"As soon as they start robbing the passengers, the vehicle will divert to busy expressways in the city where neither the police nor the road safety corps men would stop a vehicle for checking because of the busy nature of the roads. When they finish robbing the victims, they stop under a bridge or at a quiet area and push them down and pull off," she said.

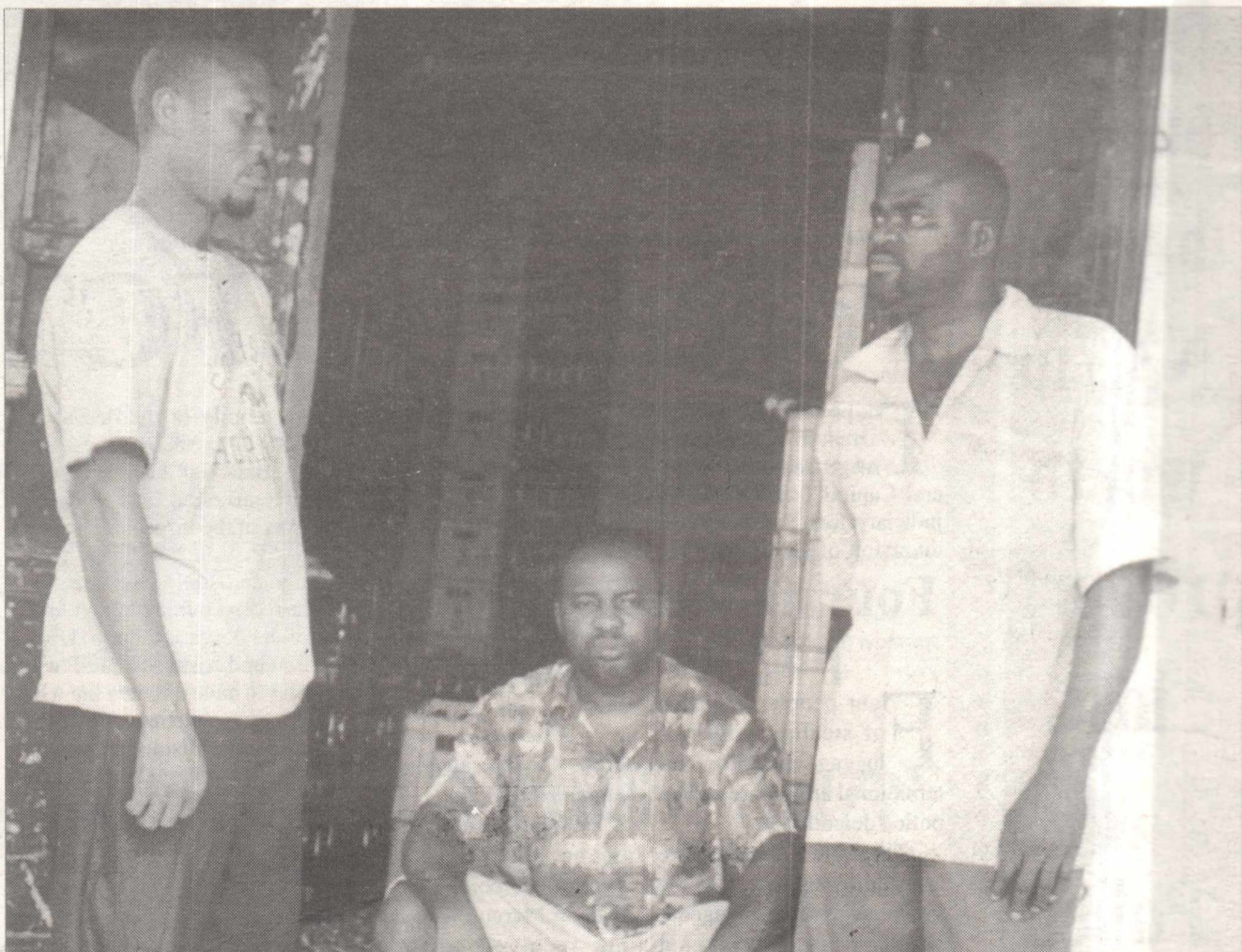
Mr. Alobi said the three suspects paraded had earlier picked one Mrs. Ubi A. as a passenger from Nyanya to Garki and robbed her of the sum of N597,000 before they forced her out of the vehicle.

Mrs Ubi, according to the police boss, quickly alerted the anti-robbery squad who chased the gang, arrested them and recovered the money. Some members of the gang were however reported to have escaped arrest and are being trailed by detectives.

Investigation by this reporter revealed that of late, Abuja women have formed the habit of disguising in cheap dresses and travelling in buses within the capital city, rather than hire taxis or use their private cars when carrying huge sums of money.

Confirming this, an official of Garki Business Women's Association, Hajiya Taiye Olugosun, said, "it is worse when you hire a taxi. The driver will divert somewhere, rob you and abandon you. When you drive in your car, you risk the chance of being robbed and the car snatched from you. And now the buses are not also safe. I think something should be done about security in Abuja," she said.

Meanwhile, Mr. Alobi has assured that his men will not relent in their efforts towards making sure that the territory is rid of all forms of criminals. He assured that the one chance suspects will soon be charged to court.



Suspects nabbed by officials of NAFDAC Wednesday at their illegal factory where they manufacture assorted fake drinks at Karu, Abuja.

NAFDAC parades makers of fake drinks

The National Agency for Food and Drugs Administration and Control (NAFDAC) yesterday paraded three persons for allegedly brewing adulterated beer at Karu, a suburb of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja.

The suspects are Innocent Eho, who is the manager; Akheire Ijehon and Philip Okoh, both working for him. Parading the suspects before newsmen, the head of

By Abubakar Haruna, Reporter

FCT NAFDAC, Pharmacist Bolarinwa Yusuf, said that the suspects were arrested during their production hour.

"The gesture came into being about a week ago when we issued directives to carry out investigations in collaboration with an informant who confirmed that they normally do it in the night. Therefore, we came on Monday at about

5:30am and arrested three of them inside a shop where they were producing fake beer.

"We found that they were using Wilford Stout bottle in their act which they sold to people as Guinness Stout. So, when we arrested them, they told us that they were doing it for economic reasons," Bola explained.

While maintaining that the suspects are going to be prosecuted, he also added that they use Omo to ensure that the pressure of the beer would come out the original. Earlier, the leader of the

suspects, Innocent Eho who denied making fake alcohol, confirmed that they were getting the bottles from Benin in Edo State.

"Honestly, we don't use Omo to make it foam like the original beer. We are getting these bottles from Ikpobar Hill in Benin, Edo State."

He added that he learnt the business from a person in Benin.

According to him, they produce 20 crates per days, adding that after the production they distribute them to their various customers.

CRIME & PUNISHMENT

Danjuma shot Apo six traders

— says another witness

Hearing continued yesterday in the murder trial of six police officers over their alleged involvement in the killing of the six Apo traders.

As at yesterday's session, two witnesses, Yakubu Filibus and Ibrahim Garba, both constables working with the Garki division of the Nigeria Police Force, appeared for the prosecution.

In his testimony, Ibrahim Garba, who was led by Chief Chris Uche (SAN), stated that on June 7, 2005 at about 8:30 pm, while on patrol at Gimbiya Street, Inspector Suleiman Audu, head of the patrol team, received a distress call about a robbery taking place at the Crown Guest Inn, close to Gimbiya Street.

He said Inspector Audu and Haruna went to the scene of the robbery and on their return, reported that the robbers had fled the scene of the crime.

Garba said that at about 1:30 am, Deputy Commis-

By Benjamin Auta, Reporter
sioner of Police Danjuma Ibrahim met the patrol team and directed that the team be on the alert and that they should thoroughly search all vehicles.

The constable said while DCP Danjuma was still talking to them, he saw a vehicle coming out of Gimbiya Street and they flashed their torch lights at it, at which the vehicle slowed down.

According to him, when the vehicle came closer, the occupants shouted *oga na wa o*, before he could ask the driver to pack, adding that while the driver was trying to stop, DCP Danjuma used his car to block the already stopping vehicle.

"He tried to block them the first time, they dodged and the second time, he blocked them and the car hit his car," he said.

Garba added that the driver of the car (a 406) in which the six traders were driving tried to reverse, he got closer to them to talk with them, but DCP Danjuma

Inspector Audu to fire.

"I heard the first shot. When I turned, I saw the DCP holding the rifle, then I ran and stood behind him," Garba said.

He said the DCP exhausted the whole rounds of his ammunition in the gun before he pointed the rifle at the car and ordered everybody to come out, following which a lady and the

driver came out. Garba further said that Danjuma ordered them to search the car in which they saw some male occupants at the back seat shattered with bullets and lying motionless with blood on their bodies.

He also described how Danjuma ordered them to write statements which they did four times, while they were also taught what to

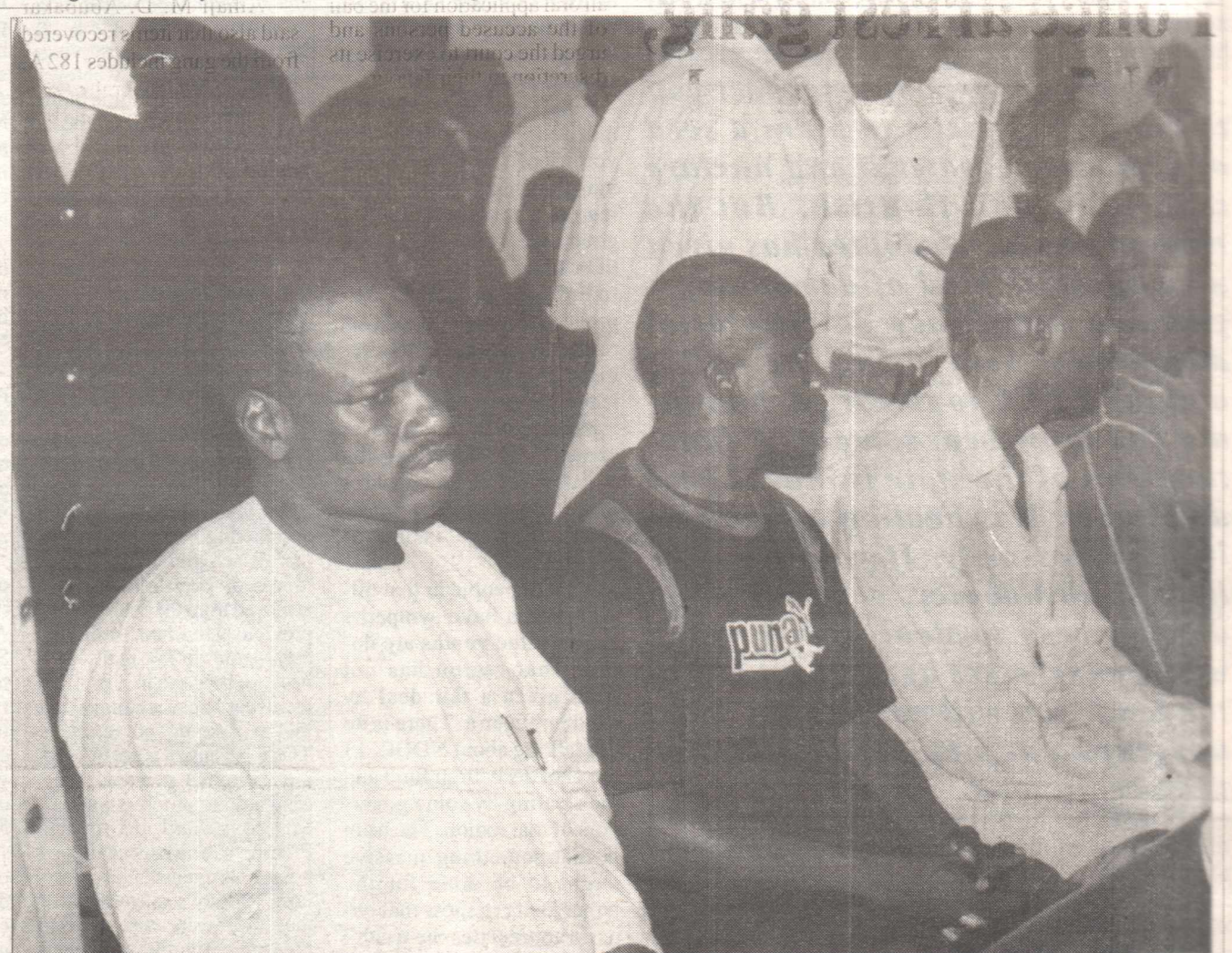
say when they appeared before the panel of investigation set up by the Inspector-General Police.

The witness said they changed their statements at the Force Headquarters when officers in the CID unit told them to cooperate and write the truth.

While answering questions from the lead defense counsel, Ricky Tarfa (SAN),

Garba said he could not confirm the rounds of ammunition collected by Inspector Suleiman Audu.

He said Danjuma also did not inform them that there had been a robbery incident at Gimbiya Street when he ordered them to be on the alert. Hearing continues today with more witnesses appearing for by the prosecution.



FLASH BACK: DCP Ibrahim Danjuma (left) and other police suspects in the murder of the Apo traders, at the Abuja High Court on 5/7/2005.

Police confirm death of five in Lagos

Four persons, including a sixty-one year old man, died in an unclear circumstance in Lagos, the police said yesterday.

The 61 year-old man was said to have died in hotel at Shomolu area after an affair with a middle-aged married woman, now reported to be on the run.

The Lagos State police spokesman, Mr Olubode Ojajuni, confirmed the incident to *Daily Trust* yesterday in Lagos. He said the 61-year-old deceased is a resident of house number 1 (MOI), Thomas Drive, Akoka.

He said the man was found with blood flowing from his mouth in the hotel room after the woman had taken to her heels.

After hours in the room, one of the workers in the hotel was said to have gone to check on them, only to discover the lifeless body of the deceased on the bed.

He was moved to a private hospital where he was confirmed dead.

Ojajuni said efforts were being made to arrest the woman. In a related development, a security guard attached to a sea food company in LSDPC Industrial estate, Alaba in Ojo area of Lagos was also found dead inside the company's pre-

From Bola Ojuola in Lagos
mises on Sunday.

The security guard identified simply as 'Ali' was said to have gone to work that day, only for his corpse to be discovered by his colleagues in the morning.

Similarly, the corpse of one Emmanuel has been recovered from his room at 2, Apala Street, Agege. Emmanuel was said to have gone to bed on Saturday without any complaint.

Daily Trust learnt that neighbours got suspicious when he did not come out in the morning. They checked his room and found his body spread on the floor. Ojajuni said while the cases were under investigation, the police had moved the corpses to mortuary for autopsy.



Mr. Ehindero, IGP of Police

Scholar challenges human rights groups over sentence of rapists

An Islamic scholar in Kano, Sheikh Mohammed Bin Usman, has challenged human rights activists in the country to voice out their opinion on the death by hanging sentence passed on two men who raped and killed a three year old girl recently. Sheikh Bin Usman spoke in an interview with *Daily Trust* in Kano.

He noted that because the judgment was made by a Shariah state, the human rights organisations had kept mute over it.

"I have been expecting them since the judgement

From Jamilah Nuhu Musa
Correspondent Kano

was passed to comment on the issue but they have not done so and this is quite worrisome, as the people claiming to be human rights vanguard, especially the women who fought against the adultery judgement against Safiya and Amina."

Continuing, he said "I have expected them to come and say, now that a small girl of three has been defiled and killed, therefore we stand by the judgement that has been handed out.

But, because a shariah state did that, they have

kept quiet over the issue." He lamented the appeal by the rapists and drew the attention of government and the people of Kano to the fact that the judgement was appropriate.

Sheikh Mohammed Bin Usman commended the Shekarau administration for the stand it took on the rape case, stating that the government would receive the blessings of Allah hereafter.

The Islamic scholar urged the Shekarau administration to view other crimes with the same seriousness.

According to him, it is

not only rape, 'the issue of armed robbery, killings and other societal problems should be looked into with a view to eliminating them'.



Justice Muhammadu Lawal Uwais

Idang Alibi on Thursday

idangabili@yahoo.com

A word for the president

My dear President, I have, on several occasions in this column, endorsed your policies, policies and programmes. I am one of those who are not tired of assuring Nigerians that you mean well for our dear country. That, some may not agree with some of your actions but that ultimately, you do what you do out of deep passionate love for Nigeria.

I have said this not so that you can give me kudos, but to lay a basis for what I intend to say in this love letter to you. I have drawn your attention to this fact so that you would not think

that I am convinced that it is God, and not the efforts of any man, that brought you back to power a second time in 1999. Since it is God that is responsible for any man's elevation or promotion, have you consulted with him on this third term desire? I just wish to remind you that those who are called by God need to listen to him at all times or else, they will fall from grace to grass.

The second issue I think you are also not handling well is the Presidency-engineered "Hurricane Impeachment" which has so far claimed two governors. As

ers, know that thou too will be occupying a throne. It is a fact of life that those you remove from office unjustly will not be saying prayers that you should remain in your own office. Please, reflect on what I have said here and put a stop to any process that has been put in motion to impeach another governor. You should not set ambush against yourself.

The third and final matter I am worried about is the way you are handling the agitation in the Niger Delta region. One of your former ministers once said your government's approach to that crisis is a mixture of carrot-and-stick.

I may not agree with the methods adopted by the youths of the Niger Delta but there can be no denying the fact that they have a good case. If we admit this, then there is need for you to adopt the carrot approach. Dangle a lot of carrots at the people of that region and the youths will leave the trenches.

Your government is at present not addressing the agitation for a better deal for that region with the sensitivity that the issue requires.

A lot of people in that oil-rich region have sympathy for what the youths are doing. That region has not been given a fair deal by Mother Nigeria. There is no use talking about NNDC, 13 per cent derivation fund and the stealing by some governors of that region. The truth is that something massive ought to be done for the Niger Delta to show that Nigeria appreciates the wealth that is coming from that place.

My president, in politics, gestures or symbols or appearances do a lot of good for the psychology of those governing. I, therefore, request that you relocate your office to Port Harcourt for at least one week and while there, engage in some actions aimed at ameliorating the plight of the Niger Deltans. If you do this, it will calm the violent agitation in that place.

The present attempt to pacify the people through violence may ignite a civil war. Foreign powers who are interested in the crude oil of the Niger Delta may sabotage Nigeria by cutting a deal with the oppressed oil bearers.

You need wisdom, tact and astute diplomacy to handle the crisis. Do not be tempted to use violence against a people whose cry is justified. God listens to the cry of the oppressed.

Please, reflect on all these. Wisdom may proceed from the mouth of babes. I wish you the best in your efforts

"One thing some of us expect you to do for Nigeria is to plant a seed of democracy, water it and nurture it to grow and flourish. But the method you have adopted has given us a peculiar kind of democracy - garrison democracy or dictatorial democracy. Your using the police and the EFCC to terrorise, humiliate and brow-beat some high functionaries of the state is indeed very detestable. It is heating up the polity unnecessarily. If you truly believe in democracy, you will adopt due process to deal with anyone who transgresses against the law of the land. You will not need to adopt unscrupulous methods to achieve a democratic end."

that I am one of those uncharitable critics of yours who see nothing good in any of the things you're doing.

Sir, because I have essentially been your admirer, I am profoundly disturbed by the way you are handling three issues which have a great impact on the polity.

The first is the allegation that you intend to go for a third term in office. Your silence on this issue is not golden. It is very disturbing. This is not an issue that calls for silence as an answer. Rather, it requires a categorical denial. This is a matter that you should address in a national broadcast on radio, TV, telling Nigerians to read your lips that you are not going for a third term.

Sir, you may not be aware of it, but the truth of the matter is that if you manipulate the system to remain in office beyond 2007, history will be so unkind to you. It will forget all the efforts that you made to re-engineer Nigeria and programmes of self-sustaining growth and development and record you as one of the villains of Nigeria.

You may not know it but

much as I detest the misbehaviour of a lot of our governors, I detest with equal vehemence the method you have adopted in dealing with them. Your method is crude, unscrupulous, undemocratic and against the spirit and letter of our federalist constitution.

One thing some of us expect you to do for Nigeria is to plant a seed of democracy, water it and nurture it to grow and flourish. But the method you have adopted has given us a peculiar kind of democracy - garrison democracy or dictatorial democracy.

Your using the police and the EFCC to terrorise, humiliate and brow-beat some high functionaries of the state is indeed very detestable. It is heating up the polity unnecessarily. If you truly believe in democracy, you will adopt due process to deal with anyone who transgresses against the law of the land. You will not need to adopt unscrupulous methods to achieve a democratic end.

As a Christian, I want you to remember the law of sowing and reaping. If you take

Opinion

The high hypocrisy of our Northern governors

By Ali Turi

Before I dwell on my subject-matter, let me first and foremost pray for the repose of the soul of the late Sir Ahmadu Bello, Sardauna of Sokoto, who was also the Premier of Northern Nigeria who was killed on 15th January 1966. May the Almighty Allah grant him eternal rest, amin. I would also like to acknowledge the effort of the organiser of his 40th year commemoration, the Arewa House, for a job well done.

My concern in this piece reflects on the behaviour of our Northern elite, governors and other stakeholders in the Northern project as regard their attitude towards the legacies of the late Sardauna. It is most unfortunate that only lip service is given to preserving, let alone improving, whatever he had left as at the time of his death. Seminars and symposia are organised year in year out but they only end up as mere talk-shop, with no sincere commitment in pursuing or continuing with the ideals of what the man really stood for or of the North of his dream.

As usual, at the recent congregation in Kaduna, everyone that mattered and the cream of Northern establishment were all in attendance. For some, maybe they were there to only show their faces for fear of being criticised for not attending. What is synonymous to such a gathering is that at the end of it all, no significant improvements or even changes are achieved from the deliberations previously reached. In all honesty, some do not really care because they are in a position to effect those changes but they will simply not do them.

This is because it is not in keeping with their personal interest. They are simply being self-centred, a word that the late Premier had always cautioned his people against. Our governors, "today's custodians of the North" were there; as usual buzzing around in their jeeps blaring with sirens and floating their *babbanriga*, pretending to identify with Sardauna's cause while all they cared about is themselves, their families and their political cronies.

The late Sardauna and his team of patriots had so far been the greatest thing that had ever happened to the North since and before our independence. Such noble men like the late Prime Minister, Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, Ahmadu Ribadu, Aliyu Makaman Bida and a host of others, toiled day and night to make what Northern Nigeria is today.

The Sardauna left behind a lot of legacies such as the New Nigerian Development Company (NNDC); Bank of the North; New Nigerian Newspapers; Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, a solid educational foundation, and Arewa Textiles, just to mention a few. With the exception of the NNDC, all the other institutions are in a pathetic situation. Meanwhile, our so-called custodians of his legacies look the other way or are pretending to be addressing the issues. These are people that are the direct beneficiaries of all Sardauna's legacies and yet they

these institutions from their present predicament. Despite their periodic meetings in Kaduna where they make promises, nothing seems to have changed. Otherwise, how can they explain their non-contribution of the N1bn per state as agreed among themselves in order to salvage the Bank of the North before the expiration period given by the Central Bank of Nigeria during the consolidation period? As a result of their callous behaviour, that bank will never be the same again, since it is no longer the property of the people of Northern Nigeria alone. The fate of the New Nigerian Newspaper is still hanging in the balance. Since the committee set up and headed by Alhaji Aliko Mohammed Dan-Iyan Misau to study the problem and proffer solutions to the ailing newspaper submitted its report last year, nothing has been heard since then. Now with the 2007 elections around the corner, I doubt if the recommendations of that report will be studied and implemented. Most of the governors are busy conniving with Obasanjo to plot a third term agenda for him and themselves. The first-timers are angling for a second term. The only reason why we are having a print media today in the North is through courageous individual effort.

The two vibrant newspapers namely the *Daily Trust* and the *Leadership* owned by Alhaji Kabir A. Yusuf and Samuel Nda-Isaiah respectively, are due to their managerial and entrepreneurial skills. Instead of our governors to concentrate on building universities with no qualified candidates to fill their quota on federal universities, emphasis should have been made to improve on our public schools that are in the shadows of their past. They have been utterly neglected with no facilities, no adequate manpower to give these young lads the solid educational foundation that they so desire and deserve at this critical stage of their life to enable them to compete with their peers across the Niger. By the time those basic educational necessities at that level are provided and the impact felt, nobody will say no to the building of more universities. The quota of most of the states is being filled by other candidates from across the Niger

who simply change their names/particulars through the collaboration of some Northern saboteurs.

Talking about universities, the Ahmadu Bello University, one of the greatest legacies of the late premier is seriously in dire need of funds. This is seriously affecting its academic activities. It is another area that needs the urgent attention of our governors. If they allow ABU to crumble, it will amount to a great disservice to the region and history will not forgive them. What is most annoying is that almost all the Northern elite are beneficiaries of that institution; yet they exhibit such lukewarm attitude to the university. My advice is that they should borrow a leaf from their Southern counterparts who do not wait for government to fund their institutions of higher learning.

The situation at the Arewa Textiles is even worse. Several appeals by the workers to the state governors to come to their aid have not yielded any positive result. The workers have now resigned their fate to God.

Conclusion

These are some of the important blocks of the Sardauna legacies that need serious and urgent attention of the governors. Unless the various problems being confronted by the institutions are tackled by all the powers that be and especially the Northern governors, all their rhetoric about Sardauna will just be hypocritical and abusing the trust bestowed on them by the entire North.

The future of the North lies in our hands; it is our collective responsibilities as adults that have benefited one way or the other from what the Sardauna left created. We should endeavour to maintain the same for our children even if we cannot improve on them. History will not forgive us especially those charged with the act of governance levels.

As for those third term protagonists in our midst who are ready to mortgage the future of the North because of their greed and blind ambition, they should please tread softly as it all amounts to betrayal of the Northern people. It is time the North charted a common cause for us irrespective of our political or religious leaning to stand as one people and one destiny.

Ali Turi, No. 19, Maikano Road, Kaduna.

"The Sardauna left behind a lot of legacies such as the New Nigerian Development Company (NNDC); Bank of the North; New Nigerian Newspapers; Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, a solid educational foundation, and Arewa Textiles, just to mention a few. With the exception of the NNDC, all the other institutions are in a pathetic situation. Meanwhile, our so-called custodians of his legacies look the other way or are pretending to be addressing the issues."

CENSUS 2006 TO BEGIN WITH MAD PEOPLE

News



YOUR LETTERS

Hajj 2006 and Nigeria's foreign policy

If the record of the past decades of hajj operations is a failure, what would a successful strategy look like? The true picture as we have seen from the 2006 hajj operation is considerably more complicated. To craft a policy that would turn the tide in favour of smooth future hajj operations, we need to first of all identify key points where controversy is being generated. In public discussions of hajj, it is usually assumed that the problem is centred on logistic. This perception owes no doubt to the fact that greater sufferings here and in Saudi Arabia are caused by the carriers contracted for the airlift of pilgrims. A comprehensive strategy must be centred on some points. First, the Directorate of Pilgrims under the direct supervision of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs must maintain the central coordinating role. Second, state governments must not be allowed to single-handedly arrange logistics, including accommodation for their pilgrims, no matter the state of their competence. Third, recognising the violability of hajj exercises and what they mean to Muslims, the Presidency should not be seen wielding undue influence in the selection or appointment of key officers for the exercise. Fourth, the office of Amiral Hajj or similar official team must be constituted by a standing committee at the National Assembly on religious matters. In each of these areas, Nigeria can do better. We can begin by recognising how the nature of the problem dictates the tools that should be used.

Acknowledging that hajj is performed outside Nigeria, then it follows that the task of performing it is first and foremost one for consular and diplomatic authorities. One area in which joint effort

is called for is in building resources and skills, as well as in making travel documents more fraud-resistant. Nigeria's foreign policy must be reshaped to reflect the fact that hajj operation holds real attraction for a large number of people. We need to consider how we go about it in the sense that the challenge it is facing is heightened by the fact that the exercise is enmeshed in corrupt practices. It would be a mistake to suggest that the grievances of pilgrims are wholly detached from what goes on in the states pilgrims' welfare offices. And, to a large extent, the federal government is blamed for not exercising

oversight as was the case when State Pilgrims' Welfare Offices were staffed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The international community, especially the Saudi authorities, have identified this as a major need by insisting on the demand for the Nigerian Hajj office in Jeddah to conform to the existing diplomatic conventions.

What can be done about State Pilgrims Welfare Boards? It is fair to say that little was done at ensuring that the plight of pilgrims from the affected states was at the forefront of their government's grievances. State representatives to the pilgrims' board must have good background

knowledge of not just the Arabic language and Islamic studies, but also the history and current affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. As a practical matter, this means appointing a competent person who has the confidence and the ear of the state chief executive/governor working intensively with the Directorate of Pilgrims to care for their citizens while they're on pilgrimage. This will help rebuild confidence, and above all, demonstrate that hajj; especially from the point of view of the "Shariah-compliant states" is important and vital state instrument.

One final area I agree that we could see tremendous im-

provement is pressing the Presidency to hands off on hajj affairs. The envisaged reform being considered would leave foreign in conjunction with Internal Affairs Ministry responsible. Some may argue that the National Assembly does not need to do anything and that the hajj policy is self-centred but fair to all and any revision would smack of appeasement. Our policy towards hajj is something about which ONLY Muslims can disagree. The important thing is to recognise that we cannot debate our way to greater participation. There are too many Muslims who are at risk of losing their fortunes if re-

forms are not adequately carried out. I have since believed that deeper government involvement in hajj operation has never yielded the desired result. The need to demonstrate to Nigerian Muslims that the aims of government are sincere and beneficent lacks merit since it lacks the capacity to provide the much required relief.

A comprehensive policy on hajj becomes necessary that will encourage rapid withdrawal of government from hajj affairs in order to limit the damage our pilgrims have suffered over decades. Another consideration is that we must look into areas such as accommodation, transportation and pilgrims' outfit like sandals, umbrella, water flask and ihram wear. These could be handled by contracted carriers of pilgrims. Private carriers like Pakistan International Airways (PIA), the Indonesian Garuda Airlines have for several decades been responsible for supplying logistic, as well as kits to their hajj nationals. With little encouragement, our private carriers like the Kabo Airlines can do just as well.

The federal government has the authority to set into motion the process of meaningful disengagement from hajj operations that could pave way for greater private participation. I believe this will reduce the level of threats and raise the credibility level of the government. It will also improve the quality of the entire hajj exercise both with personnel and services. The federal government should not be linked to people's discontent, especially on charges of religious oppression.

There are too many people who are at the risk of being radicalised.

M. K. Iyasu, P.O. Box 123, Old Karu 900008, FCT, Abuja.

World Cup: The ouster of our African giants

The last has not been heard of the ouster of our African giants as it were. Talking about Nigeria, Cameroon and the like across the continent and beyond, there has been big debate and commentaries by all stakeholders in the terrain. In as much as we agreed in the case of Nigeria's inability to make it essentially on the ineptitude of soccer administration, I also want to agree with the school of thought that says African debutants cannot be good representation.

To further stress this fact, the Nations Cup is a good testing ground for them to convince or prove their sceptics wrong. To my mind, for FIFA to have enacted laws that made countries like Angola, even Togo qualify ahead of teams that had remained relevant and in demand, calls for a review of that clause. Not only that, FIFA and the host nation (Egypt) have already lost tremendously in terms of followership and tickets sales at least from the African continent. As earlier stated, FIFA

would be free to have a rethink when enacting laws that allow mediocre to participate in their competitions, particularly the World Cup. The world governing bodies' claim that the goal project initiatives did the magic is not

accepted; it does not promote the game. Rather, it takes the shine off the mundial.

With this development, I'm emphatically saying here that for any of the African teams vying for honours at the world stage to make a

meaningful impact, that team would only manage a semi-final ticket, but would certainly not be at the Egypt 2006 grand finale. Mark my words.

Henry Igyundu, Garki, Abuja.

Re: 2007: Governor Bukar Abba's burden and the ANPP in Yobe

I write to draw the attention of your regional editor, North-East in his publication on the above-captioned matter on page 32 of your publication dated Friday, January 27th 2006 in which he analysed the current Yobe State politics come 2007. He made mention of the major tribes in Zone B Senatorial District of the state as the political stakeholders in the area, but inadvertently or intentionally forgot to mention the tribe of Ngamo as one of the major tribes in the area. For any meaningful and unbiased political equation in the zone, the tribe of Ngamo ought to be considered as a factor in the distribution of offices, be it elective or appointment with the view to

getting their mandate in any election or otherwise.

Lest we forget, presently, about 70%, 30%, 35% and 10% of the people in Fika, Fune, Potiskum and Nangere Local Government Areas respectively are Ngamos. And both the Mai of Gudi in Fika Local Government Area and that of Fune in Fune Local Government Area are Ngamos. Further to this, it is on record that Gadaka, which is part of Fika Local Government Area, is the second largest town after Potiskum in the zone and the sixth largest town in the state is 99% predominantly Ngamo.

Abdullahi Bego in his article further asserted that the Kare-Kare are known for their block voting during elec-

tions if their tribesman is contesting an election which ultimately makes them emerge victorious. I strongly dispute this fact which is not true as evidently explained thus: In the 1999 general elections, a Kare-Kare man contested senatorial election under the platform of PDP with an Ngizim man under the platform of APP, now ANPP and he lost to the Ngizim man.

With the above facts in mind, Ngamo as a political entity is to be reckoned with in any political calculation not only in the Zone and Yobe State but also in the North-East sub-region of the country.

Idriss Saleh Bahbi, Anguwarum, Nahua, Gombe Road, Potiskum, Yobe State.

Opinion

What's G23 up to in Sokoto?

The G23, a so-called pressure group for good governance in Sokoto State presented to the press a harangue detailing what they felt was bad about the Sokoto State government which they called a "monopoly" and the state governor "the chief priest." This is most uncharitable coming from a group that knows what the position of a leader is in the religion they profess and the constitution they claim to defend. What is even more disturbing and annoying is the comparison with Hitler and Mussolini, which the group made with the state governor. One is baffled as to what led to this wild and unfortunate comparison between the people that supervised the destruction of innumerable human lives and caused untold hardship to the human race with Governor Bafarawa who tries in his own way to bring smiles to the faces of the people he leads.

What the G23 wants the outside world to believe is the blatant disregard of what obtains on ground in Sokoto State whose government is open and deals directly with the people at the grassroots who voted it into office in 1999 and repeated the feat in 2003. The long speech by Nuhu Adamu on behalf of the association showed that the members of the association are not in tune with the realities of governance in general and

By Suleiman Sodangi

Sokoto State government's in particular.

They feel that the state does not need the dualisation of its urban roads, because as they claimed, "three-fourth of the city's (Sokoto emphasis mine) inhabitants" could not afford "three square meals!" One is tempted to ask how this statistics of poverty in the ancient city of Sokoto was arrived at by the association and when the business of governance was changed to being a Father Christmas whose responsibility is to provide food to the governed.

What every government does is to ensure the provision of a conducive atmosphere for the citizens to carry out their individual and collective engagements. These include subsidising agricultural inputs and enhancing business practices in the state. To the best of my knowledge, and indeed every Sokoto indigene's, the government of Attahiru Dalhату Bafarawa (Garkuwan Sokoto) has not been found wanting in any of these areas of human endeavour. This could be seen in the purchase of 100 tractors, 250 powered hoes (hand-operated tractors) and procurement of adequate fertiliser by the government, which were sold at subsidised prizes by the state government to the people. These have gone a long way in build-

ing the economic capacity of farmers in the state through increased agricultural yields.

The state government also gave out various types of loans to the people in the state through its Poverty Reduction Agency, which included buses, motorcycles and of late, cash given to businessmen to create wealth and generate employment.

These are what the government is doing and not giving out "three square meals" to the state indigenes as the G23 wanted it to be. What we have, therefore, is a government that is teaching the people how to catch fish and not to give them fish to eat.

In the areas of services to the people of the state, the G23 saw nothing good in what the Bafarawa government is doing. They were economical with the truth when they said schools in the state didn't have furniture and other instructional materials. It is a well-known fact that the state government has spent upwards of two hundred million naira (N200,000,000) on the purchase of furniture for post-primary institutions in the state and another sum of over N200,000,000 was expended on furniture for primary schools in the state. There is so much furniture in schools across the state such that one finds excess furniture kept in the premises of secondary schools, an indication of oversupply of the facilities.

It must be recalled that parents in the state used to take their wards to secondary schools with desks and chairs as pre-condition for admission to state schools before the coming of Bafarawa as governor of Sokoto State.

The state government in its effort to bring health services closer to the rural dwellers has upgraded Gada, Tangaza and Rabah PHC's to General Hospitals equipped with adequate facilities to carry out their activities. The Specialist Hospital was renovated and furnished, an arm of the Murtala Muhammed Hospital was completed and put to use, while the General Hospital at Dogon-Daji was renovated, expanded and furnished by the Bafarawa government. In addi-

tion, new Primary Health Centres were built at Tureta, Danchadi, Kuchi, Kebbe and Karfen Sarki in Tureta, Bodinga, Kebbe and Gudu local governments respectively.

At various times, the state government has purchased and distributed drugs and medications worth millions of naira which were administered to patients in the state free of charge. Over ten million naira (N10,000,000) worth of anti-retroviral drugs were purchased and distributed to various centres in the state for distribution to people living with HIV/AIDS free of charge. It is, therefore, not true for the G23 to report that the hospitals in the state don't have "even syringe." Medicines and drugs are perishables but the state keeps on reimbursing the drugs in the hospitals all over the state. Since the group is out to smear the good name of the state government, they could not see anything good in what it's doing for the betterment of its people.

Many people living in and outside the state don't know anything about G23 or the people that constitute it. What is clear, however, is that the G23 is made up of people who can at best be called failures. They failed in their chosen careers and are frustrated in life. Instead of blaming themselves or their stars, they're venting their anger and vituperations on the state governor who has nothing to do with their misfortunes.

The Bafarawa government has been paying salaries, leave grants, other allowances and retirement benefits to its over sixteen thousand employees as and when due. Vehicle refurbishing, furniture and motorcycle loans were given to the civil servants. In addition, the state government has built 500 housing units which it sold to the civil servants on owner-occupier basis. For God's sake, what else is the government expected to do for the civil servants?

Many people outside the state are not aware of the fact that the Bafarawa administration in Sokoto State has been purchasing and distributing application forms for admission into

universities for state indigenes in addition to paying for WAEC and NECO examination fees. To crown it all, the administration pays registration fees for students that got admitted into tertiary institutions in the country. This irrespective of whether the child is that of a farmer or a civil servant. To every reasonable observer, it would be seen that the policy favours the civil servants whose children are more in school than the ordinary people.

Very recently, the administration released the sum of seventy-two million naira to the Ministry of Education for the settlement of examination and registration fees charged by NECO, WAEC, Grade II and other examination bodies in the country. This is certainly a commendable gesture by the Bafarawa administration although the G23 sees nothing good in that.

Throughout its existence as a revered institution, the Sultanate Council of Sokoto was never known to have been engaged in partisan politics. No one has ever used it as a springboard to attain political prominence. Not even the famous Sir Ahmadu Bello (Sardauna Sokoto), the first and only Premier of Northern region, a scion of Uthman Dan Fodiyo and member of the council, ever used the council to attain political position.

This current effort by the G23, some of whose members claim descent from this important umpire, to use the institution to score political goals at best can be described as an unfortunate escape, which would neither assist the members nor the impartial fatherly role of the Sultanate Council.

As far as anyone can remember, both the Sultanate Council of Sokoto and the state government under Bafarawa's leadership hold each other in high regard and there has never been a situation when any of the two was ever heard complaining about the other. It is people and groups like G23 that create and over-blow problems.

No government that is worth its salt would sit down and watch the lives and property of its subjects being destroyed by hooligans in whatever name as hap-

pened in Sokoto some months back in what people called *Sunni-Shi'a* crises. Some people who know perhaps including members of G23, ignited chambers of hatred among the hitherto peace-loving and peaceful people of Sokoto such that they began to kill their kith and kin in an effort to rid the ancient city of *Shi'a* followers. In the process, innocent people were killed and maimed and some people who don't wish the state and its people any good hijacked the issue in order to, as they naively believed, kill many people and get the president to declare a State of Emergency in the state. This would have got them, on the platter of gold, what they couldn't get through the ballot box i.e. the governorship of Sokoto State. And because the state governor stood by his oath of protecting lives and property of people in Sokoto and the perpetrators of the murder and arson of innocent souls and their property, the G23 claimed that the government's action was a human rights abuse! One thing I want the group to know is the fact that no right is absolute and there is just a thin line between where an individual's right stops and where another's begins. They should also know that a citizen loses his right once he denies the same right to another citizen. That is justice and fairness, which democracy preaches.

The G23 doesn't have to lie against the person or government of Alhaji (Dr) Attahiru Dalhату Bafarawa to score political goals. Let them come out and join partisan politics to challenge his party democratically at the polls and show the level of support they enjoy among the populace. Of course, G23 is not a party, so they have to look for another platform outside ANPP, AD and PDP which they said are under the control of Governor Bafarawa. If they have grassroots support as they claim, they can make the least known party strong in Sokoto State.

Suleiman Sodangi is of Vanguard of Concerned Citizens, Sokoto, Sokoto State.

Politicians must live and let live. May the Almighty save our people from the hands of desperate and over-ambitious politicians.

Hayatu Mohammed Hussain is of the Writer's League, Abuja.

"What every government does is to ensure the provision of a conducive atmosphere for the citizens to carry out their individual and collective engagements. These include subsidising agricultural inputs and enhancing business practices in the state. To the best of my knowledge, and indeed every Sokoto indigene's, the government of Attahiru Dalhату Bafarawa (Garkuwan Sokoto) has not been found wanting in any of these areas of human endeavour."

The whole of Maiduguri was shocked to learn about the attack on the person of Hon. Mohammed Kumalia, a member representing the good people of Maiduguri metropolitan federal constituency in the House of Representatives by some "top men" of the Borno State government under the command of the state chief executive. *Haba!*

Since the news broke, there has been palpable tension in the air with people discussing it at every gathering of up to two people. What happened in Maiduguri on that fateful Saturday the 17th of December, 2005 was completely alien to the political atmosphere of Borno. Since the day of NEPU of the late Alhaji Aminu Kano; NPC of the late Sardauna of Sokoto and AG of the late Chief Obafemi Awolowo, through to the present-day political dispensation, Borno has never witnessed the kind of political tragedy and violence being openly exhibited and arrogantly supported by those in power in the state as now. The state gover-

Who is after Hon. Mohammed Kumalia's life?

By Hayatu Mohammed Hussain

newspapers (Weekly Trust of December 24th-30th and the *Daily Sun* of 24th December, 2005) clearly indicate that there is a real threat to Hon. Kumalia's life.

As a Borno citizen, I am aware that all these attacks are as a result of the alleged undeclared ambition of Hon. Kumalia to contest the governorship of Borno State come 2007. But my concern here is, when has it become a crime to harbour a political ambition; more so an undeclared one? If we can go back to the basis of faith, I ask: who gives power to man? Who takes away power from man? It is the Almighty and no amount of machinations can change these facts of life. The way God gave Senator Ali Modu power as governor of Borno State today is the same way He will give another person at anytime He chooses, be it in 2007, 2011 or

any other time and it can be Kumalia or any other person.

If Alhaji Mala Kachallah as governor of Borno State (1999-2003) did not threaten to kill or attack Senator Ali Modu Sheriff when Sheriff was vying for the position of governor in 2003, then Governor Ali Sheriff should leave everything to God and not unnecessarily harass and threaten Hon. Kumalia's peace and life.

Let political sanity return to Borno and save people the agony of unwanted injuries and destruction of properties all in the name of politics, when in fact the whistle for political campaigns has not yet been blown.

While we continue to monitor developments in this regard, I ask all elders of Borno to intervene to avert this developing political catastrophe. As the late Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim would say, let our politicians play politics without bitterness.

They should respect and honour our age-old tradition of

playing politics without violence, tragedy, intimidation and harassment of perceived political enemies for which Borno had all along been known. Our poli-

"Let political sanity return to Borno and save people the agony of unwanted injuries and destruction of properties all in the name of politics, when in fact the whistle for political campaigns has not yet been blown."

News

UNICEF charges Nigeria on poverty eradication

The UNICEF representative in Nigeria, Mr. Ayalew Abai has said that Nigeria needs sustained efforts in order to meet the goals of eradicating extreme poverty, eliminate gender disparity in education, reduce mortality rates and ensuring an improved standard of living for Nigerians.

Speaking yesterday at the launch of the state of the world's children report at the United Nations (UN) house, Abuja, Mr. Abai said Nigeria's current policy on environment and strong political will, coupled with increased allocation of resources to social investment puts the country on the verge of attaining some of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

By Sunday Ejike Benjamin,
Senior Reporter

with ease.

He said Nigeria's 2005 reports on MDGs showed a high potential to attain targets like achieving universal primary education, ensuring environmental sustainability and developing a global partnership for development, noting that these efforts are geared towards improving the living standards of Nigerians need to be sustained.

The UNICEF country representative however noted that the situation of children in the country and the world at large need to be looked at by focusing on specific issues pertaining to child survival, development, protection and participation and

urged government to ensure that the rights of children to health, education, equality and protection are met in the country.

In his remark at the launch of the state of the world's Children report 2006, the Chief Economic Adviser to the president, Dr. Osita Ogbu said government's economic policies for the country are being pursued for the benefit of Nigerian children.

According to the Dr. Ogbu who chaired the occasion, government's reform programmes are geared towards addressing the ills of the nation and to also position the country for rapid development, noting that children, whom he described as future leaders of the country are put into consideration in the formation of any policies in the country

Chief Medical Directors in government health institutions have been mandated to ensure that HIV positive Citizens of the country on government's treatment programme get free Antiretroviral drugs in compliance to government's recent directives.

The minister of health, Prof. Eytayo Lambo gave the mandate in Abuja at a meeting with Chief Medical Directors and Medical Directors of tertiary Institutions on the Federal Government policy of the free ARV to People Living With HIV/AIDS and Antenatal care Services to HIV positive women as well as free Antenatal Care service to HIV positive women.

He equally told the bosses of tertiary health institutions to also provide necessary support that would ensure that HIV positive women get free antenatal care services in their hospitals as well as ensuring sustainable intervention.

According to the minis-

HIV treatment: FG urges compliance

By Abdullahi Gulloma,
Reporter

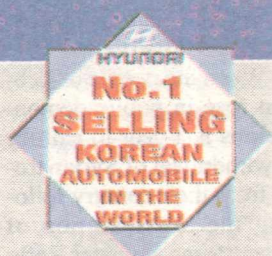
ter, government decided to make ARV treatment and antenatal services to HIV positive women free in view of the financial burden faced by an average family with the disease and also the risk of resistant strains due to non compliance and adherence to treatment.

The minister said that an assessment of ARV stock carried out recently in treatment sites showed that there is an existence of multiple parallel programmes at facilities. Poor record keeping and reporting from sites of both patients and supplies of logistics activities at sites, poor storage conditions of ARVs at sites and wastages as a result of drug expiration due to lack of utilization or overstocking.

To overcome the lapses experienced in the past, government, ministries has taken some steps, which he noted include: the training of officers in the sites on the use of the Patients Management and Monitoring forms (PMM) and Programme management evaluation forms and the harmonization of storage and distribution of ARV drugs.

Prof. Lambo urged that there should be appropriate storage conditions for ARV drugs at all sites as poor storage compromises the potencies of the drugs and thereby jeopardizing efforts being put into the programme. He declared that his ministry is considering redistributing drugs between facilities to address stock imbalances to minimize expiration of the ARV drugs.

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Trust International

Foreign & Diplomatic

Hamas 'revolution' and a theory for the 'new middle east'

By Abdullahi Bego,
Assistant Editor

In speech after speech since his controversial, nay illegal decision to invade Iraq nearly three years ago, President Bush of the United States has spoken about his vision for a 'new' Middle East, where countries in the region are 'free' and 'democratic' and respect the views and human rights of their peoples. This 'torch' of freedom, which, according to him, would extend from Damascus to Tehran, would see countries in the region joining the league of free societies across the world.

When the people of Lebanon rose in public demonstrations last year to call for the withdrawal of Syrian troops from their country following the assassination of former Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri, President Bush had used the media spotlights of the events to draw the attention of Middle East leaders to the voices and cries coming out of Lebanon, which he described as one more signature of the people's yearning for democratic change in the region.

These speeches, while being too upbeat about the prospects of US interventionism, have given not a few people a reason to be grudgingly confident that after many years of playing politics with key issues in the Middle East, the US was now serious to address fundamental political concerns in the region, especially as they relate to resolving the tortuous Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Indeed, many had expected that the same US which had continued to beat the drums of freedom around the world would lead the 'crusade' to stem up the pressure on its key allies in the region

to open up their 'closed' systems and allow for increased popular participation in the processes of decision making, as well as concede other basic freedoms which have been denied the people. But it seems that all these are appropriate when it comes to certain countries in the region and not others; and it certainly appears that President Bush's 'new' Middle East approach is not as democratic or as benevolently democratic as it is made to seem.

The clearest explication of this fact was the recent landslide victory of the Resistance Movement, Hamas in the Palestinian parliamentary election. The Hamas victory has not only debunked traditional theories about power relations in the Middle East, it has also raised fundamental questions with regard to the seriousness of the United States and its European allies in supporting the quest for real peace between the Palestinians and Israelis.

The Hamas revolution, as some people have called it, has understandably sent shock across Israel and the United States. These countries know that Hamas was unlike Fatah, whose ten years in power in Palestinian politics were dogged by corruption and cronyism, which the US and Israel condoned; because Fatah would acquiesce to pressure to follow the Middle East 'road map' along alleys and contours designed and deemed appropriate by Israel itself.

In contrast, Hamas has been in the opposition and has, since the beginning of the second Palestinian Intifadah

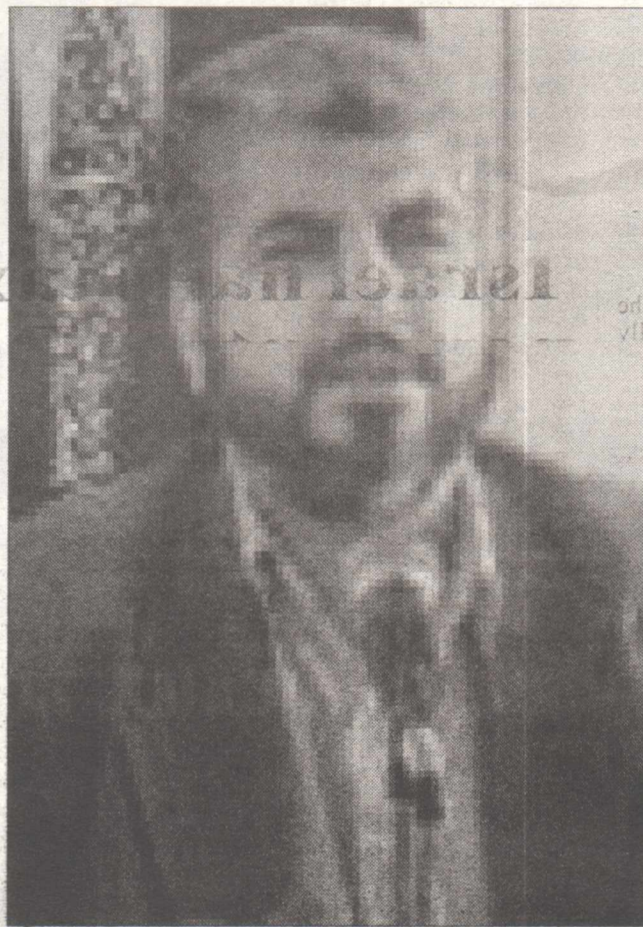
in 1997, resorted to armed struggle as a means of resisting the illegal Israeli occupation.

It was also heavily involved in the running of Palestinian social services, such as schools and hospitals, and has proved to be a dependable ally of the Palestinian people, with its ideology built on the total political, economic and geographic emancipation of the Palestinian people and the improvement of their objective social conditions.

Its leaders, such as Khalid Mish'al, were victims of targeted Israeli attacks while Israeli bullets felled other prominent Hamas leaders such as Ahmad Yasin and Abdulazeez Rantissi. Painful experiences of history have therefore made Hamas a group that would not give in to cheap blackmail.

The massive votes the Palestinians gave Hamas at the last parliamentary election was clearly not a declaration of war against Israel as some people have mischievously imputed. It was a revolt against Fatah and its 'soft' approach to matters of life and death in the Palestinian society, a universal acceptance of the Hamas Resistance Movement as the most credible platform for emancipation from over forty years of Israeli occupation, and a big challenge to received wisdom, which has been trumped up for years that without 'leaders' that the US and Israel can do business with, the Palestinians would fall short of attaining their objective of an independent homeland.

That Hamas, now victorious in election, has not renounced its commitment to armed struggle against the occupation and has refused to recognize the State of Israel



Khaled Meshal, Hamas leader

have made the US, Europe and Israel to threaten not to sit on the same table with the new Palestinian leadership.

In recent days, there were also threats about the US cutting millions of dollars in aid to the Palestinian Authority and of Israel withholding customs receipts payable to the Palestinians; funds that the Palestinian Authority always need to run basic services and pay thousands of employees in the civil and security services, unless Hamas 'renounces violence' and give a commitment to recognize Israel.

It thus seems that for participating in a free and democratic election, which the US and the European Union have encouraged and even funded, the Palestinian people are being punished for electing Hamas to lead them.

But just what is democracy? Or, more appropriately, what is the American administration's conception of democracy? Is it to re-elect incompetent apparatchiks, who have failed to revolutionize the Palestinian condition and use resources judiciously or is it about the 'freedom' of the Palestinian people to elect leaders of their choice? Why is Hamas winning an election any less democratic than, say, the coalition of Shi'a parties in Iraq, which was voted into power by a majority of votes cast under American superv-

ision?

It is clear that, nowadays, democracy is no longer that system of government, which comes into being through the people freely exercising their rights to be led by leaders of their choice. But this conception of democracy is eternally weak and doomed to fail, once the antinomies in people's lives continue to become glaring and apparent to them, as was the case with the Palestinian people.

It is my considered opinion that there would be serious implications if the US, Europe and Israel refused to do business with Hamas or withheld long standing aid packages, which were known to have been misused by the Fatah administration in the past.

One, Hamas might get its views that the so-called Middle East Quartet was not genuinely concerned with the Palestinian condition, more legitimated. Ordinary Palestinian people are likely to be further alienated by the US and the rest of the West, and would then continue to back Hamas in its policies since it has become their only credible alternative.

On the other hand, Hamas itself might turn to the Muslim World for support and funding, and there is no doubt that the funds would flow. Countries like Syria and Iran, as well as Libya and even Saudi Ara-

bia would definitely provide assistance to the Palestinian people, as they always have. No one in the Muslim World really doubts the capacity or integrity of Hamas to use funds judiciously, and such funds are in fact better managed by the Hamas Resistance Movement, as it records of service in the Palestinian public sphere have shown.

If this turns out to be the case, the lines dividing Hamas and Israel as well as the United States would become sharper; and this would lead to the hardening of the positions on both sides of the divide, which would further make illusive the much-needed peace between the Israelis and the Palestinians.

Indeed, the real danger in alienating Hamas is that President's Bush's vision for the 'new' Middle East would backfire. Already, there is a high degree of aversion to the US administration among ordinary people in the Arab and Muslim World.

Many of these people are being led by regimes which are not democratic but which are being supported by the US itself either because they support the 'war on terror' or because they have agreed to be subjugated to US will in international relations. It then follows that the ordinary peoples of these countries would continue to yearn for change but a change that would upset the status quo and bring radical leaders who might not kowtow to American position, as the Hamas 'revolution' has shown.

Thus, rather than make worse a 'bad' situation, Israel and the US as well as Europe had better engage Hamas in the peace process.

In my view, Hamas' decision to participate in the parliamentary election is, *ab initio*, a signification of its desire to incorporate democracy and dialogue in its legitimate struggle. This can be strengthened by opening lines of communication, which can create further understanding of the issues at stake.

It would be foolhardy for anyone to want Hamas to renounce its armed struggle without having anything concrete in return, especially now that it is in a clear leadership position. This is the bitter reality that must be recognized and internalized by all those genuinely wishing a way out of the Israeli-Palestinian crisis.

"It would be foolhardy for anyone to want Hamas to renounce its armed struggle without having anything concrete in return, especially now that it is in a clear leadership position. This is the bitter reality that must be recognized and internalized by all those genuinely wishing a way out of the Israeli-Palestinian crisis."

Trust International

Middle East & Asia

Saddam fails to appear in court

Saddam Hussein's trial has resumed in open session without the chief defendant or any defence lawyers.

Just three of eight defendants attended proceedings, and a court-appointed defence team was installed.

The regular defence team wants the Kurdish chief judge to quit, saying he is not impartial as his home town of Halabja was hit by poison gas in 1988.

The ex-Iraqi leader and seven others are on trial for the 1982 killings of 148 Shia villagers - charges they deny.

The trial, which resumed on Wednesday after a delay and a closed session blamed by court officials on "procedural issues", has been adjourned until Thursday.

Of the eight seats in the centre of the court usually occupied by Saddam Hussein and his co-defendants, just three were taken when legal arguments began.

Among the missing were the most senior defendants: Saddam Hussein's half-brother Barzan al-Tikriti, former Vice-President Taha Yassin Ramadan and ex-judge Awad Hamed al-Bandar.

The court heard five prosecution witnesses, among them a woman who testified that she was arrested by Saddam Hussein's security forces and tortured in prison.

She said she was stripped naked, hung by her feet and kicked repeatedly in the chest by then intelligence chief Barzan al-Tikriti, the Associated Press news agency reports.

Earlier, defence lawyer Khalil Dulaimi issued a statement saying his team would "boycott the trial" until their demands were met.

Mr Dulaimi set out 11 conditions for the defence to end its boycott, including moving the trial "to a country which can offer security".

Judge Rahman said from the start that he would not tolerate outbursts.

Saddam Hussein and two other defendants left the courtroom on Sunday, with

one dragged out. The entire defence team subsequently left in protest.

Judge Raouf Abdul Rahman replaced Rizgar Amin as chief justice after he resigned in January over criticism that he had been too lenient towards the defendants, allowing them to dictate proceedings and thus letting the trial to descend into chaos.

The new chief judge says he wants to get on with the trial and will not tolerate disruption.

He took a much stronger line than his predecessor on Sunday, stating that he would not tolerate any defendants making political speeches or disobeying his authority.

Israel halts tax payments to PA

Israel has decided to suspend the payment of taxes and customs duties to the Palestinian Authority, a spokesman for Israeli PM Ehud Olmert has said.

Ranaan Gissin told the BBC payments would cease because the Palestinian militant group, Hamas, had won last week's parliamentary elections.

The Oslo accords dictate Israel and the PA pay each

other for various services.

Palestinian Economy Minister Mazen Sunnuqrut has said such a move would be an "irresponsible and grave decision".

A payment of around \$55 million was due to be given to the Palestinian Authority on Wednesday.

But Mr Gissin said no payments would be made for now as Hamas was a "terrorist group".

In a speech to thousands of supporters Wednesday, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad lashed out at the United States and vowed to resist the pressures of "bully countries" to constrain Tehran's nuclear program, a day before the UN nuclear agency is likely to vote to haul the country before the Security Council.

Speaking hours after President Bush's State of the Union address, the Iranian leader derided the United States as a "hollow superpower" that is "tainted with the blood of nations" and said Tehran would continue its nuclear program.

"Nuclear energy is our right, and we will resist until this right is fully realized," Ahmadinejad told the crowd in the southern Iran city of Bushehr, the site of Iran's only nuclear power plant.

"Our nation can't give in to the coercion of some bully countries who imagine they are the whole world and see themselves equal to the entire globe," he added.

The crowd responded with chants of "Nuclear energy is our right!"

Referring to Bush directly and the US-led Iraq war, Ahmadinejad said: "Those whose hands are tainted with blood of nations and are involved in wars and oppression in any part of the world... we, hopefully, in the near future will put you on trial in courts

Iran won't be cowed - President

that will be set up by nations."

Iran's defense minister also warned all countries Wednesday against considering an attack on Iran's nuclear installations: "Any attack against Iran's peaceful nuclear facilities will meet a swift and crushing response from the armed forces." Gen. Mostafa Mohammad Najjar said, according to the official Islamic Republic News Agency.

The comments came after Bush increased the pressure on Iran over its nuclear program, saying in his address Tuesday night that "the nations of the world must not permit the Iranian regime to gain nuclear weapons." He said the United States "will continue to rally the world to confront these threats."

The International Atomic Energy Agency's 35-nation board of governors is to meet in Vienna, Austria, on Thursday, and is expected to report Iran's nuclear program to the UN Security Council. The five permanent members of the Security Council agreed Tuesday that Iran should be hauled before the powerful body.

The top UN body has the power to impose economic

and political sanctions, but none of those measures is immediately likely. Under the deal agreed to by Moscow and Beijing - previous opponents of referral - the Security Council will likely await a new IAEA report at the next board meeting in March before deciding on substantive action, leaving more time for talks with Iran.

Iran's Foreign Ministry said in a statement Wednesday that the permanent members' decision to recommend that Iran's nuclear file go to the Security Council violated the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

Two mass circulation newspapers, Kayhan and Jomhuri-e-Eslami, urged the government Wednesday to withdraw from the treaty if Iran is referred to the council.

"Iran's withdrawal from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty would be a protest against America and its allies' blackmail," wrote Hossein Shariatmadari in an editorial in the hard-line Kayhan. Shariatmadari is an influential conservative who is close to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Iran insists its nuclear program is civilian only and has no other purpose than to generate power. Enrichment can produce either fuel for a nuclear reactor or the material needed to build a warhead.

ADVERTORIAL

RE: FCDA Sales of Shops at Wuse Market

Our attention has been drawn to the advertorial titled FCDA Sales of Shops at Wuse Market, part of which dealt with disparity in the reserved prices for the sale of Wuse Market Shops.

In the advertorial it was stated that "For some curious reason it was only *Daily Trust* that made an error". This statement is incorrect and has made it look as if the error was intentional.

We wish to clearly state that the error was not made by *Daily Trust* but rather by the advertising agent that brought the advertisement to us which was why as soon as the agent brought the corrected version we published it in our edition of Tuesday, January 30, and February 1, 2006. On pages 8 and 39 respectively.

We regret any misrepresentation or embarrassment this might have caused the FCDA and the general public.

Signed:

Salisu Ibrahim Mohammed
Group Advert Manager



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Odd World

Actress sues magazine over swimsuit "photo"

An Indian actress has lodged a complaint with police against the local edition of British men's magazine Maxim after it used a faked picture of her in a skimpy swimsuit, police said Tuesday.

The magazine has apologized for the incident and hoped the issue would be resolved amicably.

Khushboo, a major South Indian star of the 1990s, met the police commissioner of Chennai, capital of Tamil Nadu state, late Monday and filed the complaint.

"The magazine's publisher telephoned me to apologize and also promised to meet

me and discuss some settlement," Khushboo said.

"He has not kept his word. I will not accept any out-of-court settlement now and will file a defamation suit against Maxim."

The editor of the Indian edition of Maxim, Sunil Mehra, said he hoped Khushboo would not take the matter further.

"We are deeply apologetic for causing any inadvertent hurt and offence to Khushboo," Mehra told Reuters by telephone.

"We are in the business of respecting and celebrating rather than denigrating women. It's an unfortunate epis-

ode and I hope it will be resolved amicably."

Chennai police chief R. Nataraj said copies of the magazine would be seized.

"We will certainly proceed as per law," he said.

Maxim, a men's lifestyle magazine, was launched in India earlier this month.

A mother of two, Khushboo is recovering from a major controversy caused by her remarks that there was nothing wrong with premarital sex so long as the girl protected herself against sexually transmitted diseases and pregnancy.

Although she apologized for the comments made last year, conservative social and political groups have physically attacked her, including hurling eggs, sandals and tomatoes whenever she stepped from her house.

And in a bid to breathe life into her Hindi film career, she once appeared on the cover of a film magazine kissing another actress — one of India's first public shots of women kissing.



An undated file photo shows Indian actress Khushboo during a film shoot in the southern Indian city of Chennai. Khushboo has lodged a complaint with police against the local edition of British men's magazine Maxim after it used her morphed picture in a skimpy swimsuit, police said on January 31.

Whales choose mates based on singing — Research

It's long been thought that singing is used by whales to attract mates or repel rivals, but new Australian research indicates the serenades may be the basis on which the females select their sexual partners.

University of Queensland researchers said Wednesday that they believe the male's songs are part of an elaborate courtship ritual between humpback whales as they appear to be directed more towards females than to warn off rival males.

"The male singers are spending a lot more time singing with the females," said researcher Joshua Smith.

While he cannot say the songs attract the females, they do facilitate sex.

"Certainly there's evidence for courtship. It seems to certainly be a courtship display that facilitates mating interactions with females," he said.

Smith said the characteristics of the song were possibly being used by the females to assess the singing males.

"The way they structure the songs, perhaps using particular elements like higher or lower frequencies and how well they do that could reflect attributes of that male such as his fitness, maybe his age," he said.

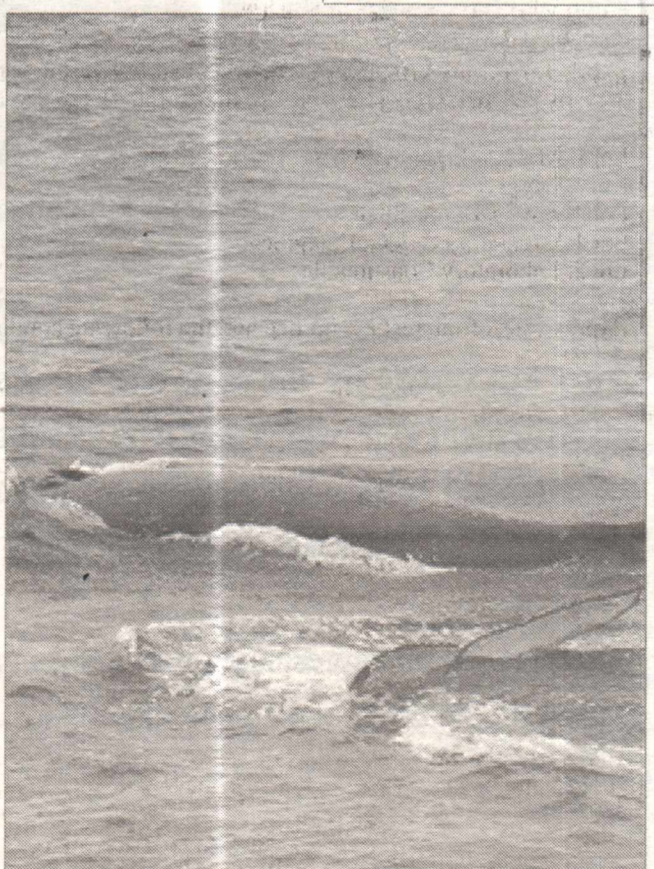
He said the songs, made up of chirps, moans and barks, were repetitive but structured and could be detected as far as 20 kilometres (12 miles) away.

"The singing can last as

long as 10, 15, 20 minutes to as long as 23 hours — on average we are looking at three hours," Smith said.

Smith has worked with a team of scientists and volunteers to track whales off the eastern Australian coast for three years as the seawallers migrate south from their breeding areas near the Great Barrier Reef.

"We've still got such a long way to understanding the humpback whales and the social systems involved," he said.



Two humpback whales breach as they move out of Sydney harbour, in June 2005. It's long been thought that singing is used by whales to attract mates or repel rivals, but new Australian research indicates the serenades may be the basis on which the females select their sexual partners.

Microsoft founder too rich for tax computer to handle

Microsoft founder Bill Gates, the world's richest man, said the tax office in the US has to store his financial

data on a special computer because his fortune is so vast. "My tax return in the United States has to be kept on a special computer because their

normal computers can't deal with the numbers," he said at a Microsoft conference held in Lisbon.

"So I am constantly getting these notices telling me I haven't paid something when really it is just on the wrong computer," he added in comments broadcast on television.

"Then they will send me another notice telling me how bad they feel they that they sent me a notice that was a mistake," he said.

Gates's fortune is put at 47 billion dollars (38.9 billion euros), according to the latest list of the world's rich published by Forbes magazine.

Last month Time magazine named Gates and his wife Melinda, along with rock star Bono, its "Persons of the Year" for 2005, citing their charitable work and activism aimed at reducing global poverty and improving world health.

The couple's Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has a 29 billion dollar endowment making it the world's biggest charity.

The doting husbands association?

A group of Japanese men hoping to encourage the nation's legions of workaholic husbands to head home early and show their wives some appreciation have proclaimed Tuesday "Beloved Wives Day."

The group, which calls

itself the "Japan Doting Husbands Association," urged men to get home by 8 p.m. and say thanks to their wives for all they do.

"Many men can't put their feelings of gratitude toward their wives into words. Work is number one for them," the non-profit group says on its Website, <http://www.aisaika.org>

"This attitude is putting Japanese marriages under great pressure."

Statistics bear this out. Japan's divorce rate has risen steadily over the years. In 2004, more than one in three marriages ended in divorce.

The group urges men to improve the marital mood

through five "golden rules" including going home early, calling wives by their given name and looking them in the eyes when talking.

Many Japanese husbands call their wives "you" rather than addressing them by name, or in some cases merely grunt.

The group's homepage includes a column where husbands can write down feelings they are too shy to say out loud.

"I'm sorry I had a car accident. I'm sorry I'm away so much on business trips. I'm sorry I end up sleeping at the office so often," said one from a man in Kanagawa, near to Tokyo.

Disgruntled GP becomes love doctor

A disgruntled New Zealand doctor has turned from pills to prostitutes, winning a license to convert his former medical practice into a brothel.

Dr Neil Benson closed his practice in Coopers Beach, about 155 miles northwest of Auckland, late last year after a dispute with his local health organization over after-hours care, the New Zealand Herald newspaper reported.

practicing medicine for the past 18 years, said he decided to turn to the world's oldest profession after someone else considered renting his empty medical center to open a brothel.

"I thought, 'why don't we run it ourselves?' It would be a viable business and I was unemployed," he said.

"It's about providing a private service and maintaining confidentiality, which is what my medical practice was about. It's not a big leap, really," Benson said.

New Zealand legalized prostitution and began licensing brothels in 2003.

Benson, who said he has the support of his wife and four children, has been granted a brothel operator's certificate and plans to open an upmarket bordello next month named Whalers.

"Everything I have ever done is high quality. The standards of my medical practice were high and will carry over to the brothel environment," Benson said.

Trust International

World Report

Putin warning over 'puppet' NGOs

Russian President Vladimir Putin has defended tighter controls on NGOs in Russia, saying he will not allow foreign "puppeteers" to control them.

He was commenting on the recent spying row in which Moscow accused British diplomats of making secret

payments to non-governmental organisations.

"We are for their funding being transparent... we don't want them led by puppeteers from abroad," he said.

However he ruled out any expulsion of the British diplomats concerned.

NGOs must not be used by some states as an

instrument of foreign policy on the territory of other states

"Let them stay... It will be nicer for us to know that we can keep an eye on these people," he told reporters at his annual Kremlin news conference.

He said the case "will not lead to a lowering of the level

of our relations with Britain" - relations he characterised as "robust".

Mr Putin has signed a law giving the authorities wide-ranging powers to monitor the activities and finances of NGOs.

The new powers, which include the right to suspend

NGOs should they "threaten Russia's sovereignty or independence", have been condemned by both domestic and international rights groups.

The rules are widely seen as a Russian effort to prevent any Ukraine or Georgia-style revolution spearheaded by NGOs.

The FSB security service - the main successor to the Soviet KGB - has accused Western intelligence agents of using NGOs to foment revolution in the former Soviet Union.

The authorities' new powers cover the activities of numerous charities in Russia as well as non-profit groups promoting human rights and democracy. Human rights activists have also attacked Russia's current chairmanship of the G8, accusing Mr Putin of authoritarian methods.

But he hit back on Tuesday, saying Russia's role in the grouping of leading industrialised countries was backed by all the leaders in it. "No-one is against our active participation in this club. No-one wants the G8 to return to a group of fat cats," he said.

Mr Putin said Russia's economic growth last year had exceeded expectations, even though many Russians

were still poor.

He also said that the G8 was not only about the economy but about global security.

Mr Putin warned of the danger of a revolution in Uzbekistan, saying it could turn the Central Asian state into "another Afghanistan".

Russia has avoided putting pressure on the authorities in Uzbekistan, despite international outrage over their harsh crackdown against opposition activists.

Mr Putin covered various other issues at his news conference:

He urged the Palestinian group Hamas, triumphant after its election victory, to engage in a peaceful dialogue and acknowledge Israel's right to exist.

He sharply criticised Georgia's pro-Western leaders, who have blamed Russia for a chronic shortage of gas. "What have we heard and seen from the Georgian leadership? Just insults against us," Mr Putin said.

He defended Russia's close relations with Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko, who has been sharply criticised in the West for muzzling his political opponents. "This is not support for the regime, it is support for the fraternal Belarussian people," Mr Putin said.

Spain PM visits troubled enclaves

The Spanish prime minister has arrived in the enclave of Melilla in a visit which could re-ignite tensions with Morocco,

which claims the territory.

Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero is the first Spanish leader to visit the North African enclave in 25 years.

He will visit neighbouring Ceuta, also claimed by Morocco, on Wednesday.

The territories have struggled to cope with the influx of hundreds of African

migrants trying to reach Europe, and were the focus of riots last year.

The visit is intended to be seen as a show of support for the cities and reassurance from Spain.

The territories have been under Spanish rule for more than 500 years but Morocco claims sovereignty over both.

Moroccan media has condemned the visit, describing it as "unfortunate" and "provocative".

The territories are also seen as stepping stones into Europe.

Thousands of migrants attempt to storm razor-wire border fences and enter the enclaves from Morocco every year in a bid to enter Spanish territory.

Such attempts last year culminated in the deaths of several migrants following clashes with Spanish and Moroccan police.

Eight Iraqis killed in Baghdad bombing

A bomb exploded alongside a group of Iraqi men waiting for work in eastern Baghdad on Wednesday, killing at least eight and wounding more than 50, as a new video from kidnappers threatened to kill two German hostages if Germany fails to stop cooperating with the Iraqi government.

Witnesses said a man placed a bag full of explosives near a cart that sold tea to the workers as they waited for daily construction jobs, said Col. Ahmed Abboud, chief of police in the New Baghdad area where the explosion occurred.

"The people did not suspect him when he first came with the bag because all workers carry their food in bags," Abboud told The Associated Press.

The attack happened around 7 a.m. at an intersection crowded with bystanders near a Sunni Muslim mosque. Abboud and another police official, Capt. Mohammed Jassim Jaber, said at least eight people were killed and more than 50 wounded.

Also Wednesday, U.S. troops fired on an approaching Canadian Embassy convoy that failed to obey signals to stop in the heavily fortified Green Zone in Baghdad, but there were no injuries, said U.S. military spokesman Lt. Col. Barry Johnson. A Canadian Embassy spokeswoman in Jordan said four Canadian diplomats were in one of the vehicles, including the charge d'affairs.

In a series of apparent sectarian killings Tuesday, police found the bodies of 16 handcuffed and blindfolded young men around Baghdad, and gunmen shot dead the wife and two sons of a Sunni Arab cleric north of the capital. A roadside bomb also killed a British soldier in southern Iraq.

Kidnappers threatened to kill Thomas Nitzschke and Rene Braeunlich if Germany does not close its embassy in Iraq, withdraw all the German companies from Iraq and stop cooperating with the Iraqi government within three days.

The videotape aired on Al-Jazeera television showed Braeunlich speaking and clasping his hands in front of him as if begging. No audio was heard.

The two men were abducted last week in the northern industrial city of Beiji.

The video came a day after Jill Carroll, a 28-year-old freelancer for the Christian Science Monitor also held hostage, appeared veiled and weeping in footage on Al-Jazeera. U.S. officials said they have ruled out meeting the kidnappers' demand to release all Iraqi women in detention. "Everything is being done to work with those who might have influence, and there are an awful lot of people who are calling for her release," U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Tuesday.

More than 250 foreigners have been taken captive since the war started and at least 39 have been killed.

Reporters Without Borders, an international journalist advocacy group, said it would send representatives to the Middle East to promote a campaign in the Arab media for the release of Carroll, who was seized in Baghdad on Jan. 7.

The father of a kidnapped Canadian Christian activist urged the release of his son and three colleagues.

"I appeal for the captives, of my son and his three

friends to release them unharmed," Dalip Singh Sooden said on Al-Jazeera Tuesday. His son, 32-year-old Harmeet Singh Sooden, was seized Nov. 26 in Baghdad.

British Cpl. Gordon Alexander Pritchard, 31, was killed Tuesday as he led a three-vehicle convoy hit by a roadside bomb in Umm Qasr, near the border with Kuwait.

He was the second British soldier killed in Iraq in as many days, making his death the 100th British military fatality since the conflict began in March 2003.

The 8,000-strong British contingent is based in the Shiite south, which is less violent than the Sunni Arab areas to the north where most of the 136,000 U.S. troops operate.

Two children died during a clash between U.S. troops and insurgents in the western town of Hit, U.S. Marine spokesman Capt. Jeffrey Pool said.

Two other Iraqis were shot and killed when they violated orders for residents to stay in their homes during raids by paramilitary troops backed by U.S. forces in Samarra, 60 miles north of Baghdad, police said.

Three Iraqi soldiers were killed and six wounded in a gunbattle in Buhriz, a tense Sunni Arab town 30 miles northeast of Baghdad.

In the volatile western Baghdad neighborhood of Ghazaliyah, 11 bodies were discovered in a truck, all shot in the head, police added. Five men's bodies were also found near a sewage plant in the eastern Rustamiyah district where sectarian death squads often leave corpses. It was not known if they were Sunni Arabs or Shiites.

Sunni Arab and Shiites extremists have been carrying out reprisal killings that have claimed hundreds of lives and sharpened sectarian tensions as Iraqi politicians try to form a new government after Dec. 15 national elections. The killings come at a time when U.S. officials are pushing the Iraqis to include more Sunni Arabs, who form the backbone of the insurgency.



Iraq President Jalal Talabani

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

FRAMEWORK AGREEMENTS FOR SUPPLY OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT, DRUGS AND CONSUMABLES, AND LABORATORY EQUIPMENT AND CONSUMABLES.

The Department for International Development (DFID) have requested Crown Agents Nigeria Ltd (CANL) to carry out the procurement process to provide the Health Commodities Project (HCP) with supply of a range of medical equipment, drugs and consumables, and laboratory equipment and consumables to primary and secondary health care facilities throughout various states in Nigeria.

In order to ensure efficiency of supply to HCP, Crown Agents Nigeria Ltd is looking to establish framework agreements for the duration of 4 years for the following lots:

- Lot 1: Medical Equipment Kits
- Lot 2: Drugs
- Lot 3: Medical Consumables
- Lot 4: Laboratory Capital Equipment
- Lot 5: Laboratory Consumables

Expressions of Interest are invited and the following conditions for participation apply:-

- < Valid manufacturer's licence and GMP/GDP Certificate will be required, as well as NAFDAC registration certificate where appropriate.
- < Audited financial accounts from the past three years.
- < Bidders must prove technical capability by submitting suitable track records.
- < Company registration certificate.

Following successful evaluation of the expression of interest tender documents will be made available to short-listed companies upon receipt of payment GBP 50.00.

Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below before 14.00hours, Nigeria time, on the 6 February 2006. Expressions of interest should be submitted in a sealed envelop and marked "HCP - Framework Agreements".

For information also refer to the OJEU advert, issue number 19793-2006, dated 27 January, 2006 available on-line on the following web-site: <http://ted.publications.eu.int>

Crown Agents Nigeria Ltd
Plot 512 Durban Street
(Beside Airwave Hotel)
Wuse II
Abuja

Trust International

Africa

Liberia places travel ban on ex-ministers

President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf of Liberia has told former transitional government members to stay in the country pending a financial audit.

All former officials are to

be audited in an attempt to ensure accountability and transparency, the government says.

Last week the president said she would investigate allegations that officials had

sold government property.

The interim regime ruled from the 2003 ousting of Charles Taylor until Mrs Johnson-Sirleaf took office in January.

Mrs Johnson-Sirleaf came to power promising to tackle

the corruption that has retarded the development of resource-rich Liberia for decades.

"Consistent with its policy of ensuring accountability and transparency in government,

the government of Liberia will shortly commission a comprehensive audit of all government agencies and public corporations," a government statement said.

"In order to avoid a situation where vital

questions are not answered during the audit, the government hereby calls on all former officials ... to remain in the country until such audit is commissioned and concluded."

Competition for diamonds and timber in Liberia and neighbouring Sierra Leone fuelled a 14-year war in Liberia, which ended in 2003 with the election of former warlord Charles Taylor.

Mr Taylor resigned and sought exile last year as a new rebellion threatened to overrun the capital, Monrovia. A peace deal led to the election of Mrs Johnson-Sirleaf.



President Johnson-Sirleaf has promised to fight corruption

Zanzibar lifts ban on pregnant school girls

A three-decade law banning pregnant girls from attending school has been scrapped by MPs in Zanzibar.

Under the ban, girls under 18 who became pregnant on the semi-autonomous Tanzanian islands had to drop out of school and could not return.

Women's groups had

been campaigning to abolish the law saying it infringed on the girls' human rights.

The BBC's Ally Saleh in Zanzibar says it has been hailed as a landmark for the predominantly Muslim archipelago.

This is one of a number of

gender sensitive decisions Zanzibar has made in recent months, our correspondent says.

Following elections last October, 30% of MPs are now women - the quota set by regional bodies - and there are

four female ministers in Zanzibar's cabinet.

The opposition Civic United Front staged a walkout during the parliamentary vote, saying it did not recognise the new government claiming electoral fraud.

Rebels force Congo radio station off air

Rebels in eastern Congo forced a local radio station off the air after a wave of fighting and looting in the troubled Central African nation, an international media watchdog group said Tuesday.

Separately, a U.S.-based human rights group urged Congolese authorities and U.N. peacekeepers to arrest renegade former army commander Laurent Nkunda, whose fighters were allegedly responsible for the recent outbreak of clashes in the area.

New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists said Radiotelevision La Colombe, the only radio station in the small town of Rutshuru, shut down Sunday after rebels looted equipment and threatened reporters working there. Rebels also robbed a guesthouse housing journalists "who fled in fear of their lives."

Fighting between government troops and rebels loyal to Nkunda broke out Jan. 18 in the area around Rutshuru near Congo's eastern border with Rwanda. At least eight combatants were reported killed in the clashes.

After a brief period of calm, fighting resumed again over the weekend, New York-based Human Rights Watch said in a statement.

The radio station belongs to governor of the North Kivu province. It broadcasts local news well as Radio France Internationale transmissions in the Francophone country.

Nkunda gained notoriety

in 2004 when his forces briefly seized the key eastern city of Bukavu, farther to the south on the shores of Lake Kivu.

Nkunda was a commander of rebels backed by neighboring Rwanda during Congo's 1998-2002 war, which drew in the armies of half a dozen African nations.

Human Rights Watch said it had "documented summary executions, torture, and rape committed by soldiers under Nkunda's command in Bukavu in 2004 and in Kisangani in 2002," where it said Nkunda's fighters summarily executed 160 people during an attempted mutiny.

The rights group said that in the latest violence in eastern Congo, "both rebel forces and Congolese army troops have raped and otherwise attacked civilians and looted their property. Tens of thousands of Congolese have fled to neighboring areas or across the border to Uganda."

The central government, based in the faraway capital, Kinshasa, has struggled to regain control over the eastern reaches of the country, which had been lawless for years, carved up into fiefdoms by rival rebel groups.

About 16,000 U.N. troops are deployed to bolster security in the Europe-sized country.

Congo voters have approved a new constitution for their vast country and presidential elections are scheduled in the first half of 2006, the first multiparty poll in decades.



Education Team Leader

The British Council and its key partners, Action Aid Nigeria and Cambridge Education have been managing the DFID funded Capacity for Universal Basic Education (CUBE) project to provide support to the government of Nigeria towards the achievement of Universal Basic Education in Nigeria.

The British Council now wishes to recruit a number of experienced Education Specialists with planning/project management skills to work as Education Team Leaders in a limited number of states within Nigeria.

The period of appointment for this post will be up to 24 months including an initial probationary period of 6 months. The person appointed will be classified as a consultant to this project and will be paid a daily fee rate to cover all her/his costs. The Education Team Leaders will be based in the identified state and will work closely with the senior state Ministry of Education team within the state.

The person recruited should have the following knowledge, abilities, experiences and qualifications:

Knowledge of:

- * Education reform in developing countries in relation to sector wide approaches
- * Decentralised educational planning in developing countries
- * Approaches to capacity development and effective use of technical assistance

Abilities to:

- * Work strategically and facilitate, influence and plan initiatives effectively and creatively within a landscape of multiple agencies and participants
- * Undertake complex analyses and draw implications from complex data
- * Work flexibly with energy and initiative with a range of stakeholders and demonstrate cooperative behaviour
- * Understand the complexities of individual, organisational and institutional change
- * Facilitate and plan initiatives effectively and creatively
- * Assist with the development of sector wide approaches in education at state level
- * Generate enthusiasm at state, LGA and community level for UBE initiatives
- * Use and evaluate framework planning and a range of other tools as means of clarifying and focusing development initiatives
- * Develop Monitoring and Evaluation strategies at state level
- * Know when and how to use different investigative approaches for project initiatives
- * Negotiate and broker processes which enable people and organisations to work more effectively together
- * Develop and lead interdisciplinary teams to achieve high levels of performance
- * Communicate and present ideas effectively

Experience:

- * Demonstrated capacity to advise senior politicians and officials in ministries of education involving education reform, management, planning and service delivery
- * Consultancy, capacity development and the management of complex development situations involving national stakeholders, funding agencies and technical providers
- * Held senior positions within Government service or international/national organisations
- * Project management of consultancy, training and workshops
- * Experience of working in multi-sectorial and multi-national teams
- * Effective implementation of monitoring and reporting processes to clients and beneficiaries

Qualifications:

- Postgraduate degree in education or development
- Strong education background in the area of basic education
- Significant management experience
- More than 10 years relevant experience

All applicants should submit:

- a covering letter identifying their skills and competencies for the posts
- their CV, a maximum of four pages long
- an indication of their current salary levels or consultancy fee rates and their expected daily fee rate
- the name and contact details (including email addresses) of two professional referees
- an indication of when they would be available to take up the post

Applications for the posts of Education Team Leaders under this DFID funded and supported project should be submitted to:

UBE Administrator
British Council
Plot 2935
IBB Way
Maitama
PMB 550 Garki
Abuja

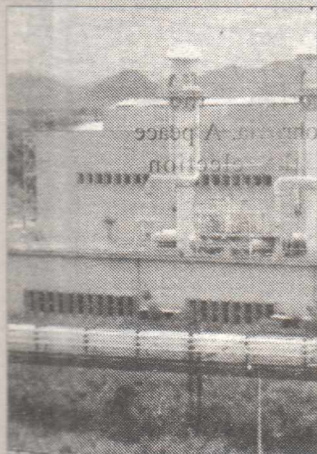
The closing date for this recruitment will be two weeks after this advertisement.

Business Trust

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BPE allots NAHCO shares to subscribers

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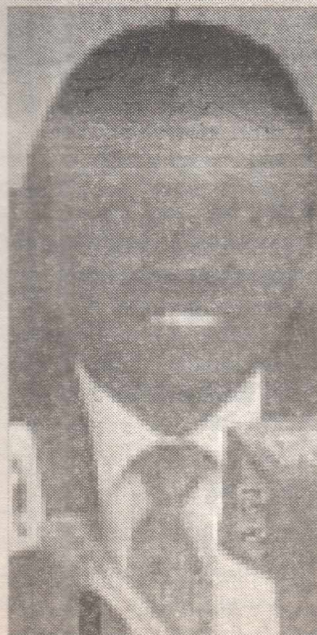
How corruption threatens global healthcare

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Kenyan minister resigns over fraud

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From left, Minister of State, Finance, Mrs. Nenadi Usman, Permanent Secretary, Finance, Babajiro Ogunsola Ogunkua and the Chairman, Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriation, Senator Effiong Bob, in a brainstorming session during the Finance Ministry's budget defence at the National Assembly...recently.

Chanchangi denies engine problem on Abuja bound aircraft

The management of Chanchangi Airlines has debunked reports that one of its Boeing 737 aircraft on a flight from Lagos to Abuja on Sunday January 15, 2006 developed an engine problem mid-air around Lissa village in Ogun State.

Two members of the National Assembly, Usman Balkore and Mohammed Kabir who were in the aircraft, had told journalists after their flight that it suddenly changed to high altitude of 33,000 feet above sea level, with a malfunctioning air-conditioning system that suggested that the plane had engine problem.

The lawmakers also complained that the plane at that point, jerked, and that it was abnormal to fly that high.

The Airline however said yesterday a reaction after it said it had investigated the report, that though it was true the plane flew at that altitude, there was nothing abnormal in that since its engine has the capacity to fly as high as 35,000 feet above sea level.

By Austine Odo, Business Editor
Ibrahim Adamu, the Airline's media assistant told *Business Trust* that even at 33,000 feet above sea level, the particular aircraft, a Boeing 737, could maintain stability without negative effects on its engine.

"When an aircraft develops engine problem, it naturally and mechanically descends instead of ascending, because a damaged engine would be unable to effectively propel the aircraft at high altitude", he said.

Adamu added that the plane was equipped with aircraft radar, which enables the pilot to see any on-coming aircraft, thus preventing any collision, and that the air-conditioning system is usually switched off at a take-off time to enable the engines augment the needed powers for take-off.

"The two lawmakers also said that the aircraft's engine banged, causing the plane to jerk, they probably have not

heard of turbulence in the air that usually causes an aircraft to shake. Our pilot, with a strong aircraft, was able to fly

Akwa Ibom sensitizes indigenes on capital market

As part of arrangements to inaugurate a branch of the Nigerian Stock Exchange soon in Uyo, the Akwa Ibom State capital, the government has embarked on sensitization of indigenes on the need to invest in the capital market.

Speaking in a one day seminar specifically to sensitize members of the Akwa Ibom State executive council yesterday, the state governor Obong Victor Attah said it was timely to stimulate the business and investment potentials of the exco members with a view to making them future drivers of the enormous opportunities needed to launch Akwa Ibom to a modern business haven.

Obong Attah who was represented by his deputy, Sir Micheal Udofia lauded the special assistant to the

governor on budget and planning and the ministry of finance for organizing the seminar on a timely theme. He expressed concern that if the 91 newly completed projects covering water, electricity, roads, and others which are based on AKSEEDS reforms programme plan and have gulped billions of naira are not fully utilized it would mean that the government "was blowing after the wind".

"Will these opportunities be unutilized like those in the past or will our people invest and create values out of those opportunities? Will these resources be left for outside investors only or how are you ready to take advantage of the soon to be commissioned branch of the Nigerian Stock Exchange in Uyo?", he asked.

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Obasanjo invites Spain to invest in Nigerian gas

By Joe Oroye, State House

President Olusegun Obasanjo on Tuesday in Abuja urged Spain to explore investment opportunities in Nigeria's energy sector. He made the statement at a meeting with a delegation from Gas Natural of Spain, led by the chief executive officer, Mr Carlos Torralba at the presidential villa Abuja.

The president said Nigeria is in dire need of energy and urged Spanish companies interested in gas exploration to come and invest in energy development in Nigeria.

President Obasanjo assured the delegation that the federal government was prepared to encourage and support the Spanish company's participation in the gas sector.

In his brief, the leader of the delegation Mr. Carlos Torralba said that his company which was already buying Nigeria's liquefied gas (LNG) and crude oil, was interest in developing an integrated LNG project in Nigeria from the exploration and production of gas to build one or more LNG trans-

Business Trust

Privatisation Update

BPE allots NAHCO shares to subscribers

The Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) has allotted a total of 160,755,700 shares to subscribers of the Nigerian Aviation Handling Company Limited (NAHCO) shares during its initial public offer which took place between October 31, 2005 and November 28, 2005.

Director General of the BPE, Mrs. Irene Chigbue spoke during a meeting of the share-allotment committee in Abuja on Tuesday where she noted that the shares of the company were over subscribed to the tune of 200 percent.

A total of 180 million shares were offered for sale while a total of about 306 million shares were applied for, almost doubling the number of shares offered for sale.

An analysis of details of the shares allotted shows that while other states of the

Stories by Anas A. Galadima,
Asst. Business Editor

federation and FCT shares oversubscribed, those of Adamawa, Nassarawa, Plateau and Sokoto states were undersubscribed.

While a total of 3,600,000 shares were allocated to Adamawa state, only 3,236,600 shares were bought by indigenes of the state resulting to an under-subscription of 363,400 shares.

For Plateau state, indigenes were entitled to a total of 3,600,000 shares while only, 31,22,200 shares were bought, leaving 477,500 shares unsubscribed.

Sokoto state indigenes, according to a table made available by the BPE, were entitled to 4,950,000 but only 4,808,500 shares were bought leaving 141,500 shares unsubscribed.

Nassarawa state indigenes were entitled to

2,250,000 but only 1,988,400 shares were bought, leaving 261,600 shares unsubscribed.

All other states together with the FCT had their shares oversubscribed.

Mr. Benjamin Dikki, Director of Transport and

...to undertake IPOs for six companies

The federal government will through the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) undertake initial public offers for 6 public owned enterprises within the year, as part of its privatization programme for 2006.

The companies are Capital Hotels Limited, Nigerdock Nig. Plc, Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Nigerian-Re, African Petroleum and Nicon Insurance.

Director General of the bureau made this known during the meeting of the Nigerian Aviation Handling Company (NAHCO) share allotment committee. The privatization agency has already sold the government's majority stake in the six companies.

The initial public offers would see the disposal of 49 percent government equity in the affected companies to members of the Nigerian Public.

FG moves to sell stallion properties

The federal government has called for acquisition of four choice properties belonging to the Stallion Property and Development Company (SPDC) Limited.

The properties include two plots of land in Abuja, one in Nassarawa state and a 13 floor storey building in Ajoose Adeogun Street, Victoria Island, Lagos.

A source in the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) told *Business Trust* that bidders would be required to submit sealed bid bonds before the end of February 2005. The stallion properties and Development Company is one of the about 40 public enterprises slated for sale by the BPE within the year.

A total of 24 companies were sold in 2005 resulting in the realization of about N43 billion as proceeds from sale of such companies.

Aviation at the BPE said the excess money for over subscribed shares would be returned to their owners.

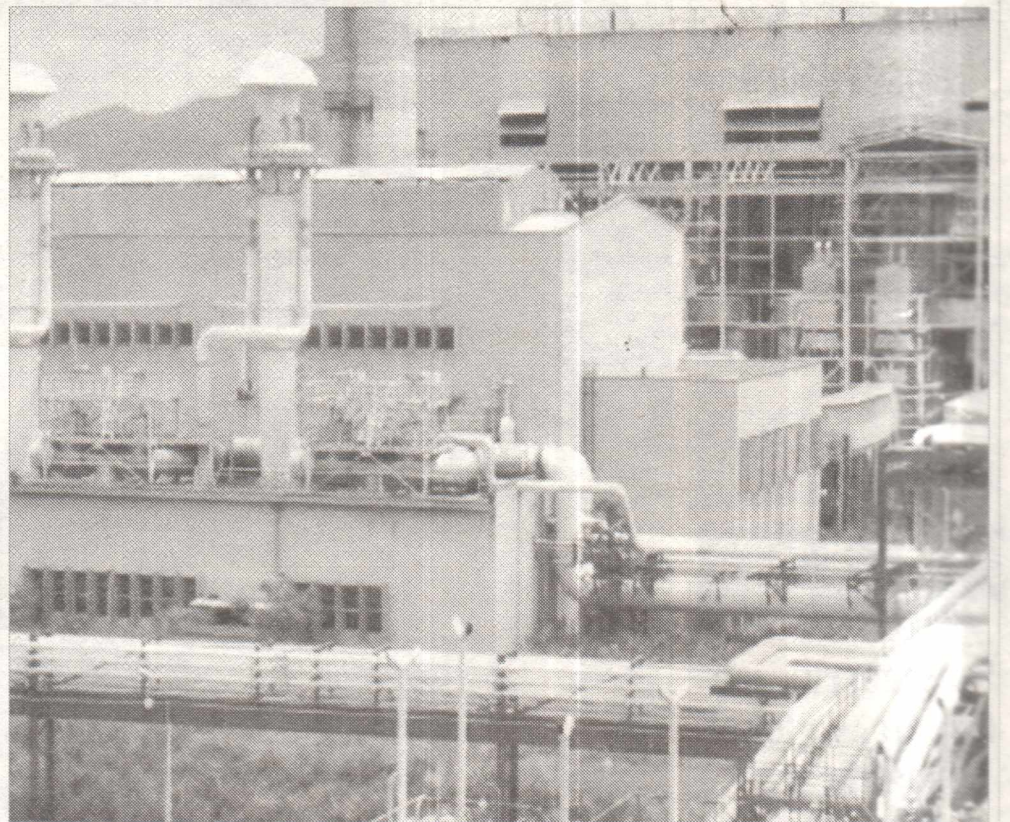
Alhaji Baba Mohammed, Assistant Director and Head of capital markets at the BPE said "we will ask state investment companies to

pick up the shares for re-allotment to their indigenes.

If they fail to pick up the shares within a specific period, we will have to re-allot the shares."

The shares were allocated to all states of the federation on basis of federal

constituency. Kano and Lagos states had the highest allocations of 10.8 million shares each while FCT, Bayelsa and Nassarawa states had the lowest allocations of 900,000, 2.5 million and 2.5 million shares respectively.



The Thermal Power Plant/Turbo Blower Station of Ajaokuta Steel Company Limited.

List of federal government companies slated for sale in 2006

1. Airport Concession
2. Central Packages of Nigeria
3. Aluminium Smelting Company (ALSCON)
4. Nigeria Telecommunications (NITEL)
5. Ihiechewa Oil Palm
6. Ayip Eku Oil Palm
7. Jebba Paper Mill
8. Nigeria Newsprint Manufacturing Co. Oku-Iboku
9. Sunti Sugar
10. Le'Meridian Hotel
11. Kaduna Refinery
12. Port Harcourt Refinery
13. Peugeot Automobile Nigeria (PAN)
14. Anambra Motor Manufacturing Co.
15. Lafagi Sugar Company.
16. Sheraton Hotel IPO
17. Oil Service Companies
18. Lagos International Tradefair Complex
19. Stallion Property Development Company (SPDC)
20. Nigeria Gas Company
21. 9 LPG Plants
22. Warri Refinery & Petrochemical
23. 17 Successor Companies to PHCN
24. Ports Concession (Warri, Calabar and Koko)
25. Iwopin Pulp & Paper Company
26. National Arts Theatre
27. 6 National Stadia
28. Onigbolo Cement Company
29. Save Sugar Company
30. Chemical Company, Senegal
31. Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation
32. 11, River Basin Development Authorities
33. 5, National Parks
34. 2, Development Finance Institutions
35. National Hospital Abuja
36. National Transmission Company (PHCN)
37. National Inland Water Ways
38. NIPOST
39. Tafawa Balewa Investments
40. Nigeria Railways

Shares of the following companies would be sold through Initial Public Offers (IPOs)

1. NITEL
2. Transcorp Hilton
3. Nigerdock
4. African Petroleum (AP)
5. Sheraton Hotel and Towers, Abuja
6. Nigerian Re-insurance

KATSINA STATE SCHOLARSHIP TRUST FUND

Katsina College Compound
Kofar Sauri Road,
Private Mail Bag 2026
Katsina, Nigeria.
Tel: 065-432141



KATSINA STATE SCHOLARSHIP TRUST FUND (POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE)

As part of the efforts to boost education in Katsina State, His Excellency, the State Executive Governor, Alh. Umbaru Musa Yar'adua (*Mutawallen Katsina*), inaugurated a Scholarship Trust Fund and mandated it to examine the current scholarship policy with a view to coming up with an improved policy that will enhance the sponsorship of the state's indigenes to higher institutions across the country and beyond.

In the light of this therefore, the committee is hereby calling for memoranda from all and sundry to enable it to accomplish its assignment. Submissions could be made in writing addressed to "The Secretary, Policy Review Committee" Katsina State Scholarship Trust Fund, Katsina College Compound, P.M.B. 2026, Katsina. All submissions are to be made on or before 8th February, 2006.

People outside Katsina may wish to submit their recommendations to any of the following:-

1. Alhaji Salisu Bature Dan-kanjiba- No. 2 Unguwar Sodangi, Malumfashi
2. Ibrahim Shema-Isah, Kaita College of Education, Dutsin-ma.

Furthermore, public hearing will be conducted on 8th February, 2006 at the Trust Fund Conference Hall, Katsina College Compound, Kofar Sauri Road, Katsina

Signed:
ABUBAKAR IBRAHIM KANKIA
COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Business Trust

How corruption threatens global healthcare - TI

Corruption in healthcare systems remains a global problem in both poor and rich countries, and more must be done to stamp it out, a report says.

Anti-corruption body Transparency International looked at the more than \$3

trillion (£1.7 trillion) the world spends on health services each year.

It said that at least 5% of funds could be being lost, be

it Cambodia's or the US's Medicare public healthcare scheme.

The body has called for strengthened codes of con-

duct and more transparency.

Its Global Corruption 2006 report found that the health sector remains an attractive target for abuse, due to the large amounts of money involved and the complexities of many healthcare systems.

At best corruption can mean hospitals or patients having to overpay for services, at worst it can mean people dying because of counterfeit drugs.

Even in countries where regulations are in place, it can be hard to police.

Alan Maynard, York University professor and Transparency International (TI) also found - perhaps unsurprisingly - that the poor were worst affected by corruption, because they were less able to afford to pay the small bribes that can sometimes be demanded in some countries.

It recognised five general areas of healthcare corruption:

Embezzlement and theft - which it said could occur at any level down from central government to the actual patient.

Corruption in procurement - engaging in collusion, bribes and kickbacks in purchasing drugs or equipment,

resulting in overpayment or reduced quality.

Corruption in payment systems - such as waiving fees or falsifying insurance documents.

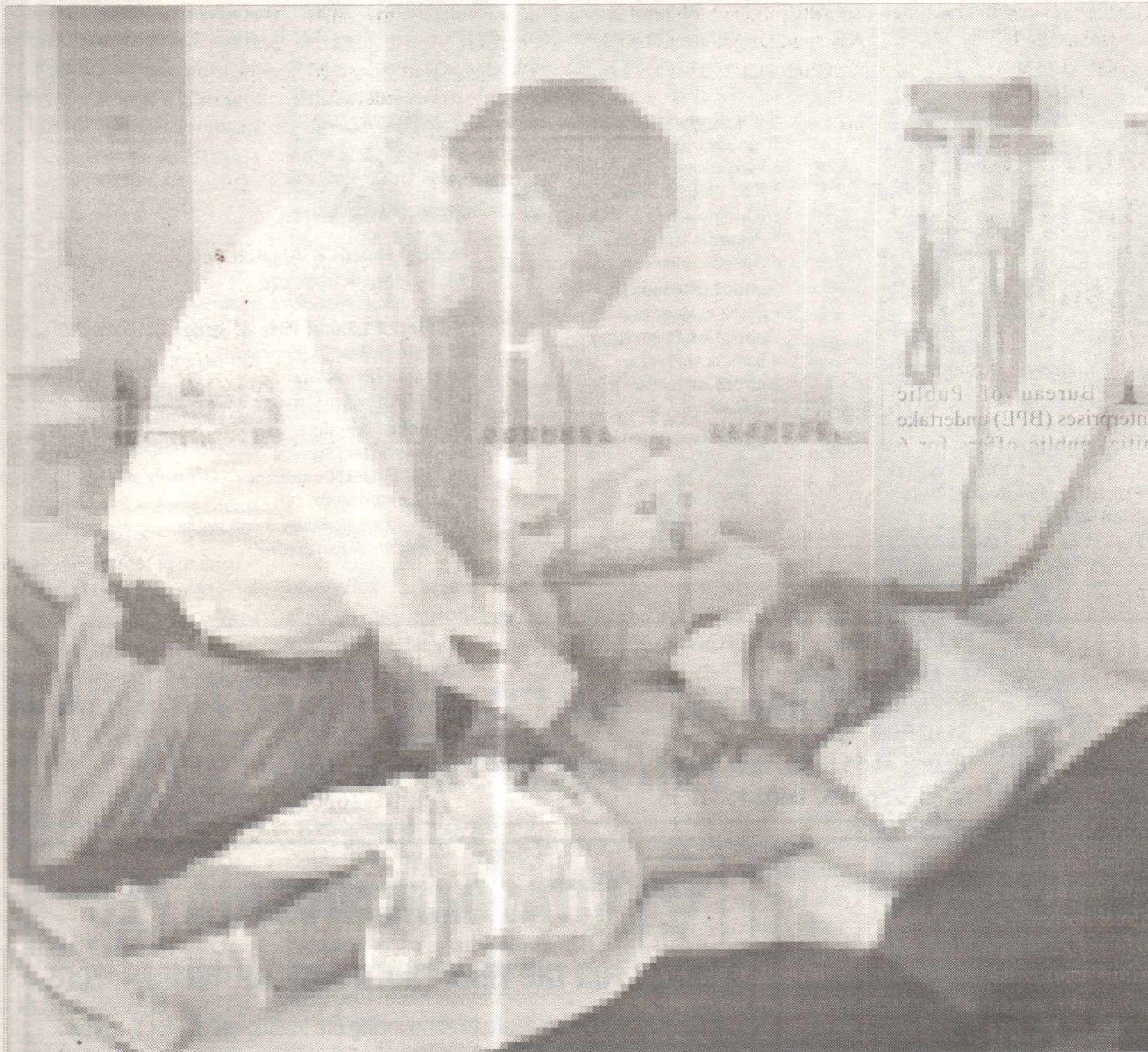
Corruption in the pharmaceutical supply chain - drugs diverted or stolen.

Corruption at the point of health service - such as doctors demanding or accepting bribes in order for a patient to secure quicker treatment.

In its recommendations to better tackle corruption, Transparency International said, "Measures must be taken in the context of a country's health system."

But whichever the nation, it said corruption needed to be tackled through greater transparency, such as the publication of health budgets and performance; and improved codes of conduct and training.

Transparency International also called for health authorities to allow more oversight from members of the public, and that corruption could further be better tackled through greater protection for whistleblowers, decent wages for medical staff, stricter conflict of interest rules, and more rigorous prosecution.



Corruption means a lesser service for patients

Does money save life?

Have you had to bribe your way back to good health?

In many African hospitals, patients have to pay under-the-counter fees to get treated and shell out for drugs that should be free. They may also face pressure to attend expensive private consultations.

A recent report from The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) estimates that only 53% of the population have access to health services in sub-Saharan Africa. But if you're among the lucky ones, do you still have to check your wallet before you get sick?

Would you prefer to do this rather than face a life-threatening wait in a hospital corridor? Do your health workers care whether you live or die?

The truth is money talks. If you have money you can get anything and also get away with anything. But who is to say that the same doesn't happen in other parts of the world. I was in Ethiopia this summer and I had to bribe

the staff in the hospital in order for my grandma to see the top doctors there.

Aklasia, Denver, Colorado

In Uganda, as far as I know, health workers are in most cases overwhelmed by the number of patients considering that we have very few referral hospitals, and even dispensaries. In such circumstances, anything can happen to save one's life. Many people prefer going to private clinics and hospitals for help and you know what it takes to go there.

Mwesige Godfrey, Kampala, Uganda

It is absolutely incredible that health workers trained to look after people, consider money first.

Mohamed Barrie, Freetown, Sierra Leone

It's a trend in Africa that must be stopped, corruption has cost people their lives.

Victor, Eket, Nigeria

In our country bribing does not exist but negligence by health personnel is due to

low morale resulting from poor remuneration packages offered to them. Despite all the above the health personnel are human beings and it's very doubtful if they wish their patients to die.

Benard Wundaninge Mwafuliwa Kamenya, Dwangwa, Malawi

Money is power. I believe that money can solve any problem here in Africa. This is due to poverty and corruption. For somebody to have VIP treatment you must have money. If you have no money, it means there is no respect and you are nobody.

Allanie Njateni, Malawi

The poor rural folks in my village, prefer to visit traditional healers rather than go to hospital. Payment for such treatments are not necessarily by cash. The traditional doctors accept chicken or goats too as a form of payment. Most importantly the payment only takes places when you've recovered.

S. Malinga, Kampala, Uganda

Our health workers receive their salaries late and are poorly paid. Hospitals in Zambia do not have drugs and the perfect drugs are found in the drug stores owned by friends to doctors.

Chibwinja Francis, Kitwe, Zambia

In government institutions, not only do you have to pay under the table for consultation, you would be required also to pay for virtually everything: drugs, plasters, even blood - which can be lethal considering that the source may be questionable.

Abdulai Musa, Lagos, Nigeria

It is the social and ethical responsibility of countries that are able to subsidise health care in Africa, as well as, in all impoverished or unwilling regions of the world to do so. No one should be made to choose between health care and money.

Michael Elliott, Billings, USA

Rid Nigerian hospitals of corruption so the poor can

enjoy minimum health service. Health should be for all as oppose to health for the rich few in Nigeria.

Mike, Birmingham, UK

It is very unfortunate that the corruption in Africa and especially Nigeria is gradually killing the poor. This is because the poor resort to traditional medicine to survive since the government cannot supply the drugs needed.

Nuvalga Donga, Taraba, Nigeria

Some people can afford to spend thousands on frivolous plastic surgery operations while others are neglected from receiving basic healthcare. If you are rich you will be seen first by the doctors and at hospital. The service and advice on how to take care of your self is even better.

Tanya, Dallas, Texas, USA

Money plays a major role in our health delivery system. The recently introduced health insurance policy claims to

reverse this trend. However, the sad reality is that the policy only takes charge of minor diseases such as malaria and other diseases which are not expensive to treat.

Abdul-Mansuur Ibrahim, Accra, Ghana

It is a shame that a lot of people in some African countries like Nigeria have to bribe in order to be treated in hospitals. Health service should be free to all.

Kemi Babalola, London, UK

If you aren't willing to give some "kola," you die

UE, UK/Nigeria

It's literally a do or die situation out there. If you aren't willing to give some "kola," you die; it's as simple as that. Oh, I forgot; there's an alternative: private treatment in the best European clinics for those connected to the so-called health minister.

UE, UK/Nigeria

Only the rich ones survive illness and the poor are saved only by the grace of God

Plato Owulezi, Nigeria

ADMISSION! ADMISSION! ADMISSION!
March / April Session!

STUDY IN MALAYSIA...EARN UK, U.S & AUSTRALIAN DEGREES.



INTI College Subang Jaya (ICSI)
3, Jalan SS15 8
47500 Subang Jaya, Selangor

INTI International College Penang (IICP)
10, Pesiaran Bukit Jambul
11900 Penang



INTI College Sarawak (ICSK)
Jalan Stampin Timur
93350 Kuching, Sarawak

INTI College Malaysia (ICM)
Jalan BBN 12 J, Bandar Baru Nilai
71800 Nilai, Negeri Sembilan

DEGREE PROGRAMMES

- E. Eng (Hons) Electrical & Electronic Engineering
- UK Degree Transfer Programme
- Civil Engineering
- Electrical & Electronic (Engineering)
- Mechanical Engineering
- Manufacturing System (Engineering)
- BA (Hons) Accounting
- BA (Hons) Business Administration

- BA (Hons) Finance
- BA (Hons) Marketing
- BA (Hons) in Business Information Technology
- BA (Hons) Multi-Media Computing
- B.Sc (Hons) in Computer Science
- B.Sc (Hons) in Software Engineering

**Admission Ends
MARCH 31st,
2006.**



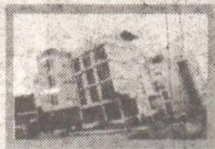
Degree Programs Offered:

School of Management

- B.A (Hons) Accounting & Finance
- B.A. (Hons) Business Administration
- B.A. (Hons) Accounting
- B.A. (Hons) Marketing
- Diploma in Management
- Diploma in Logistics Management

School of Pre-University Studies

- Foundation Program
- London Board Modular 'A' Levels



School of Engineering

- B. Eng. (Hons) Communication & Electronic Engineering
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- B. Eng. (Hons) Chemical Engineering

School of Information Technology

- B.Sc. (Hons) Computing
- B.Sc. (Hons.) Business Information Systems

School of Architecture, Management & Surveying

- Foundation in Architectural Studies
- B.Sc. (Hons) Architectural Technology
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- Diploma in Architectural Studies
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School of Medicine

- Doctor of Medicine (MD)

School of Pharmacy

- Bachelor of Pharmacy (Hons.)

School of Nursing

- B. Nursing (Hons.)



School Health & Applied Sciences

- B.Sc. (Hons) Biotechnology
- B.Sc. (Hons) Food Science & Nutrition

School of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences

- B.A. (Hons) Mass Communication
- B.A. (Hons) Psychology
- B.A. (Hons) English Language & Communication

School of Music

- B. Music (Hons.) Classical
- B. Music (Hons.) Contemporary
- Foundation in Music

(All degrees are moderated & awarded by the University of East London)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

Adamu & Associates

Uko Essien Ibok / Suleiman Bawa,
Suite 5, NNPC Housing Estate,
Office Complex, Area 11, Garki Abuja.
Tel: 234-9-3149384, 08023501528.

Zaria Academy

Mr. Reuben Nyikwagh &
Malam B. Yero
Tel: 069-551738, 069-550938
08057266396, 08054531235.

McDaniel & Partners

Livy Iwunze,
Princes Plaza, 2, Araromi Street,
Moloney, Lagos.
Tel: 01-2630111, 08033069844.



VITAFOAM NIGERIA PLC
RC 3094
NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the next Annual General Meeting of the members of **VITAFOAM NIGERIA PLC** will be held at the Sheraton Lagos Hotel and Towers, Mobolaji Bank-Anthony Way, Ikeja, Lagos on Thursday, 2nd March, 2006 at 10 o'clock in the forenoon for the following purposes:

Agenda

1. To receive the Report of the Directors, the Balance Sheet as at 30th September, 2005 together with the Profit and Loss Account for the year ended on that date and the Reports of the Auditors and the Audit Committee thereon.
2. To declare a dividend
3. To elect Directors
4. To approve the remuneration of Directors
5. To authorise the Directors to fix the remuneration of the Auditors.
6. To elect Members of the Audit Committee.
7. To consider and if thought fit, pass the following resolution as Ordinary Resolution
"That pursuant to Article 142 of the Articles of Association of the Company, the Directors having so recommended, it is desirable to capitalise the sum of N81,900,000 out of the General Reserve in the books of the Company and accordingly that such be set free for distribution amongst the Members on the Register of Members at the close of business on the 10th day of February, 2006 (in proportion to their respective shareholdings in the Company at that time) on the condition that the same be not paid in cash but be applied in paying up in full at par 163,800,000 new shares of 50k each, to be allotted and distributed, credited as fully paid up to and amongst such members (or their respective nominees) in the proportion of one new share for every four shares held by them on that date, the shares so distributed being treated for all purposes as capital and not as income, and the Directors shall give effect to this Resolution on receipt of the necessary permission from the Authorities."

PROXY

A member of the Company entitled to attend and vote is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and vote instead of him. A proxy need not be a Member. A form of proxy is enclosed and if it is to be valid for the purpose of the meeting, it must be completed and deposited at the Registered Office of the Company not less than 48 hours before the time for holding the meeting.

DIVIDEND WARRANT

If the payment of the dividend recommended is approved, the warrants will be dispatched by Friday, 17th March, 2006 to the holders of shares whose names are registered in the Register of Members at the close of business on Friday, 10th February, 2006.

CLOSURE OF REGISTER AND TRANSFER BOOKS

The Register of Members and Transfer Books of the Company will be closed from the commencement of business on Monday, 13th February, 2006 until the close of business on Friday, 17th February, 2006 both dates inclusive, for the preparation of the dividend payment.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

In accordance with section 359(5) of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990, all nominations in writing of Members for election to the Audit Committee should reach the Company Secretary at least 21 days before the time for holding the Annual General Meeting

Dated this 13th January, 2006

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

Registered Office:
Oba Akran Avenue
Ikeja, Lagos.

Oluwole Adisa
Company Secretary



VITAFOAM NIGERIA PLC
RC 3094

RESULTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2005

The Directors have pleasure in announcing the trading results for the year ended 30th September, 2005 with comparative figures for the previous year.

| | 2005 | 2004 |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | N'000 | N'000 |
| Turnover | 3,525,480 | 3,650,990 |
| Profit Before Taxation | 173,492 | 402,234 |
| Taxation | (61,845) | (130,000) |
| Profit After Taxation | 111,647 | 272,234 |
| Proposed Dividend | (98,280) | (196,560) |
| Profit Retained for the year | 13,367 | 75,674 |

DIVIDEND

The Directors recommend to members, the declaration of a final dividend in respect of the year ended 30th September, 2005 of N98,280,000.00 representing 15 kobo per 50 kobo ordinary share. If the payment of the dividend recommended is approved, the warrants will be dispatched by Friday, 17th March 2006, to holders of shares whose names are registered in the Register of Members at the close of business on Friday, 10th February, 2006.

CLOSURE OF REGISTER AND TRANSFER BOOKS

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The next Annual General Meeting of the Company will be held at the Sheraton Lagos Hotel and Towers, Mobolaji Bank-Anthony Way, Ikeja, Lagos State on Thursday, 2nd March, 2006 at 10 o'clock in the forenoon.

Dated this 13th January, 2006

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

Registered Office:
Oba Akran Avenue
Ikeja, Lagos.

Oluwole Adisa
Company Secretary

BUSINESS TRUST

International

Survey identifies rise in global corruption

Corruption is on the increase in a majority of countries around the world, according to a study by global pressure group Transparency International.

People in 48 of the 69 countries covered in its annual Global Corruption Barometer survey said corruption had risen over the past three years.

The survey showed that taking bribes was particularly prevalent in Africa, Eastern Europe and Latin America.

Political parties were the most corrupt bodies for the second year in a row.

They were followed by parliaments, police and judicial systems.

In central and eastern Europe, customs officials were seen as the most corrupt.

Transparency International's (TI) survey is timed to coincide with the United Nations' global Anti-Corruption Day.

The results of this survey are a call for alarm for people Transparency International's Huguette Labelle

It found that in 13 countries more than 50% of respondents said corruption had increased a lot over the past three years - Bolivia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, India, Israel, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines and Venezuela.

Only six countries said it

had decreased - Colombia, Georgia, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Kenya and Singapore.

TI said corruption also extended to the education system of many countries, and that this could have a detrimental effect on their future development.

Its chairwoman Huguette Labelle said corruption was "a major problem of our times".

"Its most deadly impact is on the poor," said Ms Labelle.

"If people are pessimistic, they will not feel they can do anything about it."

"The results of this survey are a call for alarm for people.

"It can change, but it requires leadership, will and pressure."

People in Africa appeared to pay the most in bribes, the report found, with Cameroon, Ghana and Nigeria the worst.

Households in these three countries spend more than

20% of their income on paying bribes, the survey found.

President George W Bush has warned the US must break its "addiction" to oil, in his State of the Union address.

He said the US was too reliant on oil, often from "unstable" countries, and had to find alternatives.

The Middle East featured strongly in the speech, in which Mr Bush warned of

Bush warns on heavy dependence on oil

"danger and decline" if the US failed to face up to outside threats.

Security and the economy were also dominant themes of the speech, at the start of a critical election year.

In his televised, prime-time address, Mr Bush described the nation's dependence on imported oil as "a serious problem".

"The best way to break this addiction is through technology," he said, pledging to seek a 22% increase in funding for clean energy research, including nuclear and renewable energy.

He said he was aiming for a 75% cut in US oil imports from the Middle East by 2025.

Warning against isolationism, Mr Bush said the only way to "secure the peace" and protect Americans would be through leadership.

He vowed to fight to defend freedom, whose advance was "the great story of our time".

The only way to control our destiny is by our leadership

Mr Bush described Iran as a nation "held hostage by a small clerical elite that is isolating and repressing its people".

He urged Iranian citizens to assert their freedom from their rulers, and said "the nations of the world must not permit the Iranian regime to gain nuclear weapons".

He called on the Palestinian election victors, Hamas, to "recognise Israel, disarm, reject terrorism, and work for lasting peace".

US-led forces were winning the war in Iraq, Mr Bush insisted, saying a hasty withdrawal would "abandon our Iraqi allies... and show that a pledge from America means little."

One of his sternest critics on Iraq, Cindy Sheehan, whose son died there on US active service, was arrested in the Capitol building before the speech got under way, reportedly as she prepared to unfurl a banner.



King Abdullah II of Jordan and Laura Bush, First Lady of the US, at the World Economic Forum in Jordan.

Chinese bank managers charged for money laundering

Two former Bank of China managers have been charged in the US with stealing \$485m (£272m) and attempting to launder the money through Las Vegas casinos.

Xu Chaofan, Xu Guojun and their wives were charged with 15 counts of racketeering, money laundering and fraud, the US Justice Department said.

The two men tried to launder the Bank of China's money through Hong Kong, Canada and the US, the department said.

The alleged scam, which ran from the early 1990s, was uncovered in 2004.

Authorities in the US said the fraud scheme also involved the brother-in-law of

one of the bankers, Kuang Wa Po, who is currently described as a fugitive.

A sixth man, Yu Zhendong, was detained but later sent back to China to face racketeering charges after agreeing to cooperate with the investigation.

Assistant Attorney General Alice Fisher and Nevada US Attorney Daniel Bogden said that the two Bank of China managers set up shell corporations in Hong Kong and moved the bank's money into fake firms and personal accounts.

"The indictment charges the defendants with launder-

ing a significant amount of the stolen money through Las Vegas casino accounts," they said.

The two men later attempted to emigrate to the US from China with their wives by obtaining false identities and entering into sham marriages with naturalized US citizens, the Justice Department said.

The two couples and their accomplices were detained by US authorities in 2004, the department said.

State-owned Bank of China is one of China's leading commercial banks.

Kenyan minister resigns over fraud allegation

Kenyan Finance Minister David Mwiraria has resigned after being linked to a corruption scandal that has shaken the Kenyan government.

The multimillion dollar "Anglo Leasing" corruption scam involved contracts for a company that existed in

name only. Mr Mwiraria, who is one of President Mwai Kibaki's key allies, has said the allegations against him are false.

President Kibaki was elected in 2002 promising to end corruption which has plagued Kenya.

Mr Mwiraria said he was

stepping aside in order to clear his name, after he was mentioned in a report by former anti-corruption chief John Githongo.

The 31 page report, leaked just over a week ago, alleges that he and three other top ministers blocked investigations into the Anglo Leasing Scandal.

"The allegations made against me... cast serious aspersions on my character and integrity, have greatly disturbed me," said Mr Mwiraria, reading his resignation letter live on Kenya television.

He requested that investigations were made into the Anglo Leasing affair "so that the truth and the facts of the matter can be established".

"As I step aside, my conscience is clear that I have served the Kenyan people with dedication and honesty, and have not been party to any irregularity, criminal or unethical conduct," he said.

Enron prosecutor accuses officials of lying

Opening argument in case against Lay and Skilling details alleged fraud; defense lawyer says there was 'no evil.'

Ken Lay and Jeff Skilling knew there was a "ticking time bomb" at Enron Corp. but chose not to disclose the accounting problems that would eventually lead to the biggest business failure in history, a U.S. prosecutor said Tuesday at the trial of the two former CEOs.

A day after a jury of eight women and four men was seated, Assistant U.S. Attorney John Hueston told the panel in his opening argument: "This is not a case about accounting. It's about

lies and choices."

Hueston said Lay and Skilling told lie after lie about Enron's finances, and that they had key facts; with those facts, he said, they sold tens of millions of dollars of Enron stock.

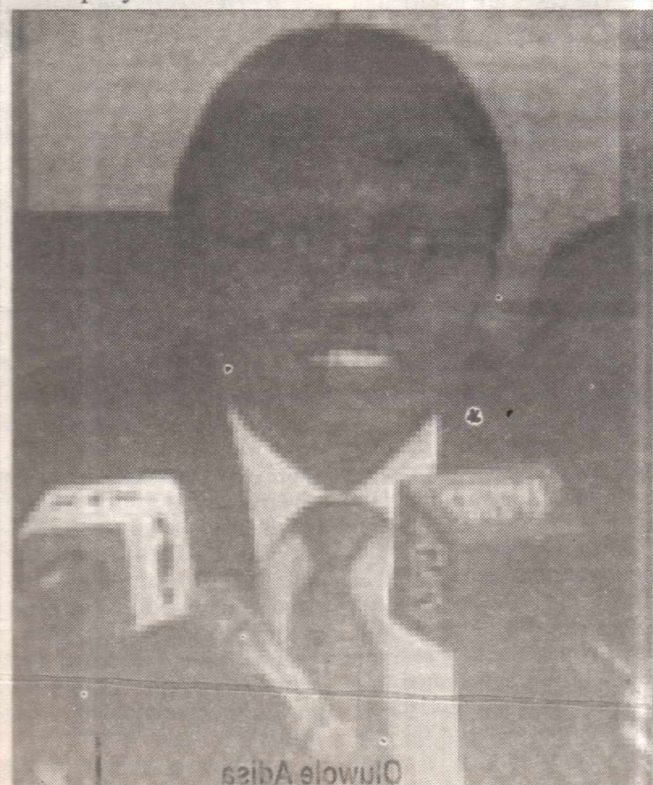
But Skilling's attorney, Daniel Petrocelli, said his client never led a criminal conspiracy. "This is not a case of hear no evil, see no evil, because there was no evil," the defense lawyer said in his opening arguments.

Both Lay and Skilling appeared relaxed as they took their seats in the courtroom, shaking hands and hugging their lawyers. Skilling was seen smiling and chatting

with Sean Berkowitz, a member of the government's legal team.

The two ex-Enron executives face more than three dozen fraud and conspiracy charges accusing them of lying to investors about the company's finances while they lined their own pockets by selling millions of dollars in stock.

Lay's attorney, Michael Ramsey, said that his client accepted responsibility for the bankruptcy of Enron. "But failure is not a crime," he said. "Bankruptcy is not a crime. Enron was in fact a cutting edge company. Ken Lay was at the front of that."



David Mwiraria

| Currencies | | | | |
|------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | URO | YEN | U.S.S | UK£ |
| uro | 1 | 142.51 | 1.2107 | 0.6819 |
| Yen | 0.0070 | 1 | 0.0085 | 0.0048 |
| U.S.S | 0.8260 | 117.71 | 1 | 0.5633 |
| UK£ | 1.4604 | 168.48 | 1.7754 | 1 |

| Commodities | | | |
|-------------|----------|--------|--------|
| | EXCHANGE | LEVEL | CHANGE |
| ENERGY | | | |
| Light Crude | NYM | 67.92 | -0.43 |
| Natural Gas | NYM | 9.32 | -0.07 |
| METALS | | | |
| Gold | CMX | 575.50 | 4.90 |
| Silver | CMX | 988.50 | 11.00 |

Prisons - Prisons boss

former controller-general of prisons, Jarma, the self-accounting status of the prison was relentlessly fought for, with the ministry. We thought we had won the battle then, but shortly after that, if you send a letter directly to the minister, he would ask you to pass it through his permanent secretary, that is how things started. So we started passing our memos to the permanent secretary, because if it goes to the minister, he would not treat it, but ask you to go back to the permanent secretary. It became so pronounced during Ayu's period, and since then it has been like that. Anyway it is only the prison's that tried to enforce and implement this self-accounting status. The immigration system never did, maybe because they did not fight for it. So all their projects and award of contracts are still done by the ministry. As long as we are with the ministry, it would be difficult for us to be fully self-accounting.

What are the implications of that?

It is the implication that we are crying about. We are not free to do what we should do, and that affects performance.

Does the prison generate money, since you are asking for freedom?

No, we don't generate money. Although it is one of our duties to generate revenue, through industry and agriculture. But I told you that our industries are not functional, so we don't generate anything.

Do you think the prisons can be self-sustaining, if allowed?

No, we can't be self-sustaining, although the federal government has been thinking of empowering us through industry and agriculture. There is no reason why the farms we have, if they are well managed, if they are well funded, we would not be able to produce enough food to feed the inmates. That is our focus, and that is why the government is talking about partnership with the private sector, if they can assist us, because in some country's abroad, that is what they do. They can send their expatriates, and go along with us to cultivate the farms.

If we produce food we can use it to feed the inmates, or possibly sell it, and use the money to buy things to feed the inmates. But you must know that whatever we generate goes into the coffers of government. So until another financial year comes, and they release money to us, we can't go on with the farming. Moreover the majority of those in prison are the awaiting trial prisoners, you don't take them out to go and work on the farms that are open, that also constitutes a problem.

Some inmates don't get food to eat, what do you do with the funds that are released to feed them, how do you manage it?

I am surprised to hear that some inmates don't eat, and the prison officers don't handle any funds meant to feed the inmates. Someone is awarded the contract to feed the prison-

It used to be one person in the past. But now we have broken it into pieces, so that one person feeds the inmates for two months. We have also prepared a time table and menus for the inmates. They are supposed to eat three square meals a day. What you are saying is strange. In some place NGOs even bring foods to supplement what the government has given. The federal government spends N150 per meal each day, for each prisoner.

Speaking on rations, last year some averment was made to pay contractors. Now some officers are saying that how did the service source that bulk money to pay off the contractors. Others are saying that after the averment was approved by the federal government, another averment was raised, and they are questioning it.

The first averment we made was from the salary account. It was N1.9 billion, and it was money set aside to be used for recruitment, and when the contractor had not been paid for 2 years, it became a problem. The government had approved N1.6 billion to pay the contractors, but the ministry of finance had only released N600,000, and the N1 billion was not released. So we had to carry over the N1 billion alongside other liabilities, that was accumulating right from 2005. So we got the money and the president approved, and everybody approved, and the money was used in settling the contractors.

The other averment we did, the instruction was from the ministry of finance. The government agreed that we could do another averment to take care of staff welfare, because we were not adequately funded. For instance, you are talking of welfare, the welfare of the prisoners, it was not good at all. So we made some major adjustment to sort out funds for payment of welfare, and to some others, including the payment of electric bills and the rest of them. That was why that was done, and it was authorised by government. It was not only for us, there was a general circular to that effect.

How then do you rate the morale of your officers?

Very low, their morale is very low. Let me give you the reason why I say this. This is because we were not able to pay for their domestic arrears allowances, and even the promotion arrears were not paid. The reasons were that at the beginning of the year it was not budgeted for, because the circular did not even come out, so there was no provision for it. Again the money we used in paying the contractors is what we would have used. As a result of that there were problems everywhere, people were writing, complaining about the non payment of their allowances. Another thing is the fact that many of their allowances were not also paid because some people were promoted and their promotion allowances have not been paid, some have been paid but not all have been paid.

The UN has a standard for

to what extent would you say Nigeria has conformed to this standard?

Standards vary depending on the country and other circumstances. I cannot categorically tell you if we have reached the standard, since we have just mentioned now that it is against the UN standards to take awaiting trial men into the prison, because they are not supposed to be with us. But somewhere else, so that we can have ample time to look after convicted criminals as this is our main focus.

Again, there are some rights that are being trampled on, like rights to decent living, because each prisoner has that right, but when you accommodate 100 prisoners where 200 should be, the result is that the number has exceeded what was estimated. So these are the things that will make you feel we are not meeting the UN standards.

With the recent jailbreak that has left prisons in such disarray, how would you rate the situation in the prison?

I want to give you insight into what happened at our

business in the prisons, that they collect money and give phones to the inmates to contact their families and friends. But you almost forget again in a hurry, that it was alleged that Al Mustapha and others used handsets while in the prison, to plan a coup against the government, and the case is still on.

Is it true that some prisoners have been condemned to death, and the governors who are supposed to append their signature have refused to do so?

I think that is true, because I mentioned it to Mr President, who said that even if he was given the death penalty of a prisoner, he would not sign it.

I went to Abeokuta and appealed to the executive governor, that some of these people have been on death row for ten years, why not commute their sentence to life, because as soon as they are commuted, they come out from that place, and become normal human beings. He promised that he will look into this, as many of them have exhausted their process of appeal. They are only waiting for the executive governor to

things.

Sir, is it true that a particular country wanted to build an ultra modern prison in Nigeria, and the country was denied the privilege.

Well, I don't know how you got this information, but it has just been brought up. We saw a letter to that effect, and we saw another letter written by the former minister of internal affairs Dr. Iyordia Ayu to that effect. But I don't know whether it was a request or a proposal. I don't know, but now we have set up a committee to go back and pursue that letter. We have asked them to go to the embassy, minister of finance, foreign affairs, and find out the source, and why it was stalled, and whether we can re-start the programme.

Which country is that?

I think it is Austria

Has any effort been put into resurrecting the insurance policy for prisons staff, since you mentioned your worries over prison staff welfare?

An incident happened in Benin, a staff died, and the corpse was kept in the mortuary for the time being, and

Kaduna. It is a full fledged training institution which takes care of young offenders, until they are up to the age of eighteen. This one at Ilorin is mostly for boys which accommodate up to 200 boys. It has all sorts of training facilities, which includes vocational training, and a real school which includes a computer section. It is well furnished, well equipped and it's a beautiful place which has been commissioned. The Kaduna Borstal Institute which holds up to 400 students will now be decongested. I also want to state that the Borstal Institution took more than 10 years of construction in Ilorin, before it was completed. Hopefully before the end of this month, we will become functional. We intend to commission the drug laboratory in Kuje which we have just completed. We will also be commissioning the prisons hospital at the prisons village along airport road. It is a full fledged hospital which will serve both the family and staff of the service.

During your last prison session, you mentioned putting square pegs in square holes,



Prisoners learning to make furniture at the Kuje prison.

prison in Abeokuta. After the riot many of those convicted were still missing, and we discovered that inside their private parts, they wrapped cell phones in papers, and they normally use them to make calls. We were able to catch them. And again we had to clear the structures around the prison walls, because some of these people throw GSM sets over the walls for the prisoners to use, and the inmates will then use newspapers to securely wrap the sets, and put it into their private parts for safe keeping. One cannot deny the fact that there are some bad eggs in the service, since some officers smuggle phones into the yards for the prisoners. There was a rumour, although it has not been substantiated, that some officers were conducting phone

append his signature, so they can be executed.

If it is within your powers as the CG of prisons to append your signature to the death sentence, would you do so, or would you rather the practice be dropped?

Because of the circumstances we find ourselves in, I will say that we should maintain the death penalty, even though they said two wrongs can never makes a right. I think it will still be a form of deterrent to others.

But people were still arguing that even if the practice of firing squads is continued, others still go and rob after witnessing a death by firing squad.

Well I still believed that the fear of being killed still deters a lot of people from doing bad

when it was time for the burial and the grave had been dug. It was found out that there was no money to pay the mortuary, and so the grave was covered. So that made us to see the light. That is why we immediately believed we need an insurance to cover the staff. We have done everything, and the insurance scheme has taken off, starting from the first of January this year, and the minimum amount a staff can contribute is N100 monthly, which will amount to N50,000 in the case of death. Permanent disability will also attract payment from the insurance company. So this is what we have done in order to improve staff welfare. Like you have mentioned, the only project we have commissioned now is the Borstal institute in Ilorin, which is similar to that of

how far have you gone in implementing that scheme, which is restructuring the prison.

After that session of brainstorming, what we did was to set up a committee, which was given the responsibility to determine, examine the morale, qualification and experience of the staff. On the committee we have a Senator, a former commandant, and different people from various walks of life, who can determine who will be there, and who should not be there. Again too we have made proposals to the Honourable minister, I believe that the time has come for there to be some drastic change in the sector, and many people that are not performing will be moved. If it is noticed that they are not where they should be, we will restructure the system.

Business Trust

1ST-TIER SECURITIES

THE NIGERIAN STOCK EXCHANGE

REPORT AS AT WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2006

| Company Name | No of Deals | Quotation(N) | Quantity Traded | Value of Shares |
|---|--------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| ADSWITCH PLC. 2 | 1.36 | 15,000 | | 20,400.00 |
| Sector Totals | 2 | | 15,000 | 20,400.00 |
| AGRICULTURE/AGRO-ALLIED | | | | |
| LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC. 1 | 1.56 | 15,000 | | 23,400.00 |
| THE OKOMU OIL PALM COMPANY PLC. 5 | 17.80 | 9,834 | | 174,757.20 |
| PRESCO PLC. 5 | 11.70 | 6,600 | | 77,220.00 |
| Sector Totals | 11 | | 31,434 | 275,377.20 |
| AUTOMOBILE & TYRE | | | | |
| DUNLOP NIGERIA PLC. 21 | 2.60 | 121,141 | | 305,231.35 |
| R. T. BRISCOAE PLC. 20 | 6.00 | 49,442 | | 293,804.05 |
| Sector Totals | 41 | | 170,583 | 599,035.40 |
| BANKING | | | | |
| ACCESS BANK PLC 159 | 2.83 | 15,288,349 | | 43,047,944.37 |
| AFRIBANK NIGERIA PLC. 39 | 9.10 | 161,529,738 | | 1,469,920,615.80 |
| DIAMOND BANK PLC 3 | 7.75 | 3,943,411 | | 30,561,435.25 |
| FIRST CITY MONUMENT BANK PLC 9 | 5.11 | 112,999 | | 577,424.89 |
| FIDELITY BANK PLC 2 | 2.93 | 19,000 | | 55,670.00 |
| FIRST BANK OF NIGERIA PLC. 766 | 33.18 | 7,419,799 | | 246,398,021.06 |
| GTBANK PLC. 342 | 13.07 | 5,128,452 | | 67,885,910.10 |
| INVESTMENT BANKING 12 | 4.57 | 973,800 | | 4,450,266.00 |
| INTERNATIONAL MERCHANT BANK PLC. 6 | 0.84 | 981,381 | | 824,360.04 |
| INLAND BANK (NIGERIA) PLC. 1 | 1.81 | 10,000 | | 18,100.00 |
| INTERCONTINENTAL BANK PLC. 173 | 8.85 | 8,571,361 | | 74,140,150.19 |
| NATIONAL BANK PLC. 5 | 2.80 | 2,301,055 | | 6,442,954.00 |
| OCEANIC BANK PLC 59 | 5.89 | 496,829 | | 2,910,044.04 |
| PLATINUM BANK PLC 1 | 2.60 | 1,300 | | 3,380.00 |
| UNITED BANK FOR AFRICA PLC. 167 | 12.40 | 709,983 | | 8,625,785.74 |
| UNION BANK NIGERIA PLC. 131 | 25.48 | 407,156 | | 10,374,334.88 |
| UNITY BANK PLC 6 | 2.50 | 26,556,752 | | 66,391,880.00 |
| WEMA BANK PLC. 25 | 3.74 | 164,511 | | 615,271.14 |
| ZENITH BANK PLC 28 | 19.64 | 87,498 | | 1,718,460.72 |
| Sector Totals | 1,934 | | 234,703,374 | 2,034,962,008.22 |
| BREWERIES | | | | |
| CHAMPION BREWERIES PLC. 2 | 1.95 | 24,500 | | 47,775.00 |
| GUINNESS NIGERIA PLC. 79 | 101.02 | 259,539 | | 26,370,413.73 |
| NIGERIAN BREWERIES PLC. 342 | 36.96 | 2,814,820 | | 104,081,042.78 |
| Sector Totals | 423 | | 3,098,859 | 130,499,231.51 |
| BUILDING MATERIALS | | | | |
| ASHAKA CEMENT PLC. 73 | 34.10 | 1,557,639 | | 53,330,631.04 |
| BENUE CEMENT COMPANY PLC. 1 | 6.50 | 10,000 | | 65,000.00 |
| CEMENT COMPANY OF NORTHERN NIG. PLC 10 | 7.25 | 53,023 | | 371,385.25 |
| NIGERIAN ROPES PLC. 2 | 1.60 | 11,509 | | 18,414.40 |
| WEST AFRICAN PORTLAND CEMENT CO. PLC. 134 | 16.09 | 924,897 | | 14,928,818.96 |
| Sector Totals | 220 | | 2,557,068 | 68,714,249.65 |
| CHEMICAL & PAINTS | | | | |
| BERGER PAINTS PLC. 14 | 3.82 | 61,324 | | 234,032.66 |
| CAP PLC. 13 | 8.86 | 9,240 | | 81,880.44 |
| D. N. MEYER PLC. 7 | 3.74 | 21,500 | | 81,975.00 |
| NIGERIA-GERMAN CHEMICALS PLC. 3 | 4.10 | 16,065 | | 66,049.80 |
| Sector Totals | 37 | | 108,129 | 463,937.90 |
| COMPUTER & OFFICE EQUIPMENT | | | | |
| NCR (NIGERIA) PLC. 3 | 1.33 | 15,014 | | 19,847.62 |
| Sector Totals | 3 | | 15,014 | 19,847.62 |
| CONGLOMERATES | | | | |
| A. G. LEVENTIS NIGERIA PLC. 5 | 1.06 | 35,900 | | 38,338.00 |
| CHELLARAMS PLC. 11 | 3.27 | 160,981 | | 531,229.40 |
| HELLAS PLC. 2 | 0.83 | 536 | | 444.88 |
| JOHN HOLT PLC. 2 | 1.54 | 13,440 | | 20,697.60 |
| P. Z. INDUSTRIES PLC. 89 | 16.20 | 595,329 | | 9,644,329.80 |
| S. C. O. A. NIGERIA PLC. 3 | 0.97 | 8,958 | | 8,450.38 |
| U.A.C. NIGERIA PLC. 113 | 16.21 | 627,591 | | 10,167,257.48 |
| UNILEVER NIGERIA PLC 202 | 20.50 | 2,381,057 | | 47,697,125.55 |
| U.T.C. NIGERIA PLC. 17 | 0.70 | 293,770 | | 209,489.00 |
| Sector Totals | 443 | | 4,117,562 | 68,317,362.09 |
| CONSTRUCTION | | | | |
| COSTAIN (W.A.) PLC. 2 | 1.09 | 1,579 | | 1,721.11 |
| JULIUS BERGER NIGERIA PLC. 6 | 22.15 | 3,439 | | 72,938.05 |
| Sector Totals | 8 | | 5,018 | 74,659.16 |
| FOOD/BEVERAGES & TOBACCO | | | | |
| 7-UP BOTTLING COMPANY PLC 37 | 27.00 | 172,380 | | 4,649,059.55 |
| CADBURY NIGERIA PLC. 113 | 65.51 | 182,030 | | 11,890,496.84 |
| FLOUR MILLS NIGERIA PLC. 83 | 25.49 | 302,920 | | 7,679,968.83 |
| NIGERIA BOTTLING COMPANY PLC. 80 | 62.46 | 897,679 | | 54,718,262.09 |
| NESTLE FOODS NIGERIA PLC. 55 | 190.00 | 74,389 | | 14,139,283.10 |
| NORTHERN NIGERIA FLOUR MILLS PLC. 2 | 16.25 | 2,428 | | 39,455.00 |
| UNION DICON SALT PLC. 1 | 5.17 | 200 | | 1,034.00 |
| Sector Totals | 371 | | 1,632,026 | 93,117,559.41 |
| FOOTWEAR | | | | |
| FOOTWEAR & ACCESSORIES MAN. PLC. 2 | 0.29 | 3,841 | | 1,113.89 |
| LENNARDS (NIGERIA) PLC. 2 | 0.63 | 10,000 | | 6,270.00 |
| Sector Totals | 4 | | 13,841 | 7,383.89 |
| HEALTHCARE | | | | |
| EVANS MEDICAL PLC. 7 | 2.33 | 41,680 | | 101,670.20 |
| GLAXOSMITHKLINE CONSUMER NIGERIA PLC 32 | 10.00 | 110,101 | | 1,106,648.72 |
| MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC 5 | 5.36 | 7,688 | | 41,207.68 |
| NEIMETH INTERNATIONAL PHARM. PLC. 4 | 3.23 | 9,004 | | 29,082.92 |
| Sector Totals | 48 | | 168,473 | 1,278,609.52 |
| HOTEL & TOURISM | | | | |
| TOURIST COMPANY OF NIGERIA PLC 1 | 3.80 | 10,000 | | 38,000.00 |
| Sector Totals | 1 | | 10,000 | 38,000.00 |
| INDUSTRIAL/DOMESTIC PRODUCTS | | | | |
| ALUMACO PLC. 5 | 1.13 | 83,000 | | 93,790.00 |
| B.O.C. GASES PLC 4 | 3.00 | 41,000 | | 122,440.00 |
| NIGERIA ENAMELWARE COMPANY PLC. 1 | 3.46 | 200 | | 692.00 |
| FIRST ALUMINIUM NIGERIA PLC. 3 | 0.73 | 247,291 | | 176,576.61 |
| VITAFOAM NIGERIA PLC. 85 | 4.86 | 422,170 | | 2,036,647.99 |
| VONO PRODUCTS PLC. 8 | 1.20 | 64,364 | | 77,159.34 |
| Sector Totals | 106 | | 858,025 | 2,507,305.94 |
| INSURANCE | | | | |
| ACEN INSURANCE COMPANY PLC 1 | 0.66 | 15,000 | | 9,900.00 |
| AIICO INSURANCE PLC. 4 | 2.39 | 462,487 | | 1,105,343.93 |
| CORNERSTONE INSURANCE CO. PLC. 36 | 1.30 | 2,216,415 | | 2,826,934.85 |
| CRUSADER INSURANCE PLC. 18 | 1.65 | 428,250 | | 714,678.35 |
| LASACO ASSURANCE PLC. 1 | 0.70 | 13,410 | | 9,387.00 |
| LAW UNION AND ROCK INSURANCE PLC. 2 | 1.03 | 8,530 | | 8,524.70 |
| MUTUAL BENEFITS ASSURANCE PLC 1 | 0.79 | 3,333 | | 2,633.07 |
| NIGER INSURANCE CO. PLC. 13 | 2.80 | 196,840 | | 540,210.00 |
| PRESTIGE ASSURANCE PLC. 3 | 2.20 | 25,000 | | 55,060.00 |
| ROYAL EXCHANGE ASSURANCE PLC. 11 | 2.80 | 44,104 | | 125,219.20 |
| STANDARD ALLIANCE INSURANCE 1 | 1.36 | 10,000 | | 13,600.00 |
| UNIC INSURANCE PLC. 22 | 1.18 | 741,268 | | 857,687.17 |
| WEST AFRICAN PROV. INS. COY. PLC. 17 | 3.15 | 293,212 | | 894,464.64 |
| Sector Totals | 130 | | 4,457,849 | 7,163,642.91 |
| MACHINERY (MARKETING) | | | | |
| BLACKWOOD HODGE (NIGERIA) PLC 3 | 0.56 | 116,137 | | 64,036.72 |
| Sector Totals | 3 | | 116,137 | 64,036.72 |
| MANAGED FUNDS | | | | |
| C & I LEASING PLC 9 | 1.22 | 79,755 | | 97,301.10 |
| Sector Totals | 9 | | 79,755 | 97,301.10 |
| JAPPAUL OIL & MARITIME SERVICES PLC 20 | 1.82 | 476,000 | | 879,421.00 |
| Sector Totals | 20 | | 476,000 | 879,421.00 |
| PETROLEUM(MARKETING) | | | | |
| AFROIL PLC. 4 | 0.54 | 109,900 | | 58,783.53 |
| AFRICAN PETROLEUM PLC. 107 | 44.00 | 1,240,693 | | 53,441,232.54 |
| CONOIL PLC 91 | 90.00 | 361,910 | | 31,761,933.82 |
| ETERNA OIL & GAS PLC. 11 | 2.70 | 650,295 | | 1,772,897.45 |
| MOBIL OIL NIGERIA PLC. 51 | 163.00 | 68,883 | | 11,078,404.02 |
| OANDO PLC 148 | 92.20 | 256,287 | | 23,507,057.27 |
| TEXACO (NIGERIA) PLC. 35 | 114.00 | 29,287 | | 3,271,559.30 |
| TOTAL NIGERIA PLC 33 | 182.01 | 44,751 | | 8,153,156.79 |
| Sector Totals | 480 | | 2,762,006 | 133,045,024.72 |
| PRINTING & PUBLISHING | | | | |
| LONGMAN NIGERIA PLC. 2 | 3.34 | 8,000 | | 26,720.00 |
| Sector Totals | 2 | | 8,000 | 26,720.00 |
| REAL ESTATE | | | | |
| UACN PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT PLC. 36 | 9.12 | 516,348 | | 4,496,657.00 |
| Sector Totals | 36 | | 516,348 | 4,496,657.00 |
| TEXTILES | | | | |
| AFPRINT NIGERIA PLC. 6 | 2.02 | 78,704 | | 2,081.25 |
| UNITED NIGERIA TEXTILES PLC. 6 | 7.00 | 85,669 | | 160,900.27 |
| Sector Totals | 12 | | 164,373 | 162,981.52 |
| Overall Totals | | | 256,006,170 | 2,256,962,008.22 |

| TOP 10 TRADES YESTERDAY | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|-------------------|--------|
| SYMBOL | VOLUME | VALUE | TRADES |
| NAL | 2,301,055.00 | 6,442,954.00 | 5 |
| UNILEVER | 2,381,057.00 | 47,697,125.55 | 202 |
| NB | 2,814,820.00 | 104,081,042.78 | 342 |
| DIAMONDBNK | 3,943,411.00 | 30,561,435.25 | 3 |
| GUARANTY | 5,128,452.00 | 67,885,910.10 | 342 |
| FIRSTBANK | 7,419,799.00 | 246,398,021.06 | 766 |
| INTERCONT | 8,571,361.00 | 74,140,150.19 | 173 |
| ACCESS | 15,288,349.00 | 43,047,944.37 | 159 |
| UNITYBANK | 26,556,752.00 | 66,391,880.00 | 6 |
| AFRIBANK | 161,529,738.00 | 1,469,920,615.80 | 39 |
| TOP 10 GAINERS | | | |
| SYMBOL | LAST CLOSE | YESTERDAY'S CLOSE | CHANGE |
| TEXACO | 111.00 | 114.00 | +3.00 |
| MOBIL | 160.01 | 163.00 | +2.99 |
| CONOIL | 87.50 | 90.00 | +2.50 |
| NBC | 60.41 | 62.46 | +2.05 |
| OKOMUOIL | 17.02 | 17.80 | +0.78 |
| OANDO | 91.50 | 92.20 | +0.70 |
| TOTAL | 181.50 | 182.01 | +0.51 |
| UBA | 11.90 | 12.40 | +0.50 |
| UNILEVER | 20.00 | 20.50 | +0.50 |
| UAC-PROP | 8.70 | 9.12 | +0.42 |
| TOP 10 LOSERS | | | |
| SYMBOL | LAST CLOSE | YESTERDAY'S CLOSE | CHANGE |
| NB | 38.00 | 36.96 | -1.04 |
| GUINNESS | 102.00 | 101.02 | -0.98 |
| DNMEYER | 3.93 | 3.74 | -0.19 |
| CFAO | 3.44 | 3.27 | -0.17 |
| EVANSMED | 2.45 | 2.33 | -0.12 |
| ROYALEX | 2.90 | 2.80 | -0.10 |
| NIG-GERMAN | 4.20 | 4.10 | -0.10 |
| LIVESTOCK | 1.64 | 1.56 | -0.08 |
| JAPAUOIL | 1.90 | 1.82 | -0.08 |
| NIGERINS | 2.88 | 2.80 | -0.08 |

CPC refutes advertisers' claim of surcharge

The director general of the Consumer Protection Council (CPC), Mrs. Ify Umenyi, has described as false, reports that the CPC collects from members of an advertising association (ADVAN), a surcharge for advertisements placed in the country annually.

Mrs. Umenyi said the Council has neither ever collected nor is in the process of collecting any such fee from any firm or individual advertiser for the placement of advertisement in the country.

According to the director general, in as much as the council's enabling law, Act No. 66 of 1992, gives it the mandate to monitor all advertisements in the country, and makes it an offence for any person to issue or aid in issuing wrong advertisement about a consumer item, the CPC has all along discharged this statutory responsibility through its participation in the Advertising Standards Panel of the Advertising Practitioners Council of Nigeria (APCON), and does not charge anybody any fee for doing so.

She explained that, having realized overtime from the deluge of complaints received by the Council that some business organizations hide under the cover of advertisement to rip-off Nigerian consumers through spurious, deceptive, illegal and unwholesome sales promotions, the CPC with effect from May 1, 2005, introduced the Consumer Protection (Sales Promotion) Regulations to enable it monitor and supervise sales promotion activities in the country.

The regulations, according to her, mandate the council to verify the genuineness of all sales promotions to ensure that they are legal, decent, honest, faithful and not designed to abuse consumers and that it clearly outlines methods to be adopted by the CPC in the supervision of sales promotion activities.

These range from participating in the meetings of the planning/ implementation committee of the promoter to checking, inspecting or testing of products, that is the subject matter of the promotion; verifying claims or prizes won by consumers or participants; ensuring that such claims or prizes are delivered or presented promptly to the winners; investigating complaints arising from such sales promotions and generally ensuring that the interests of consumers is protected.

KANO TRUST

Female passengers: 450 Achaba riders face imprisonment

No fewer than 450 commercial motor cycle operators, popularly called *Achaba* riders, may be sentenced to six months' imprisonment or pay N5,000.00 fine for contravening the Kano State law, which bans them from carrying female passengers.

It would be recalled that in a move for total implementation of *Shari'ah*, the state's House of Assembly recently passed a law that banned the carrying of women passengers by the *Achaba* riders, and even set up a mobile court to prosecute the culprits.

The commander general of the HISBAH guards, whose mandate was to ensure compliance of the law, Sheikh Yahaya Faruq Chedi, told newsmen that the 450 culprits

By Mustapha Isah Kwaru, Correspondent (Kano)

were arrested by his men during a routine operation on the major roads.

Sheikh Chedi pointed out that since the enactment of the law, about 2000 *Achaba* riders had been arrested for defying the law, saying they would be prosecuted batch-by-batch.

He explained that HISBAH has so far transferred the cases of some *Achaba* riders to the mobile court for onward prosecution.

The commander-general stated that out of the 2000 motorcycle operators arrested for defying the law, 80 have been released, because extensive investigation has revealed that the women they

carried were either their wives or relatives, not ordinary passengers.

The HISBAH boss noted that the new law was not enacted to witch-hunt or intimidate anybody or group of people, but to sanitize the Muslim community from adultery and other anti-Islamic activities.

Sheikh Chedi observed that the law has achieved 90 per cent success, saying the ugly trend of carrying women passengers has been minimized.

He said the *Achaba* riders are making meaningful contributions towards minimizing the sufferings of passengers posed by inadequate commercial buses, pointing out that as a Muslim, the *Achaba* men should always conduct their business in

compliance with the Islamic principles.

He however warned that government should not hesitate to unveil effective strategies

to ensure that it curbs any act capable of thwarting the hitch-free and successful implementation of the law.

Sheikh Chedi argued that

since *Adai-Daita Sahu* tricycles were launched to carry women passengers, the *Achaba* men have no justification of defying the law.



Governor Shekarau doing official foundation laying of the new Tamburawa water treatment plant.

Kano, Abuja pilgrims accuse officials of negligence

Pilgrims who performed the just concluded *hajj* from Kano State and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) have raised alarm on what they described as 'serious neglect' they suffered from the government officials who were sponsored to guide and take care of them at the holy land.

In separate interviews with *Kano Trust*, the pilgrims alleged that the officials failed to meet their responsibilities in spite of the huge amount of funds voted for the purpose.

Alhaji Yakubu Mohammed, who performed the *hajj* from Kano, expressed dismay that government earmarked millions of naira as a proactive device to ensure that the worshippers conducted successful and hitch-free *hajj*, but alleged that the officials saddled with such mandate could not prove that the funds were spent for such purpose.

He said when Governor Ibrahim Shekarau doled out money for securing accommodation for the pilgrims in Saudi Arabia, the officials misinformed him that rooms that would contain four to eight bed spaces would be provided.

According to Alhaji Mohammed, to the surprise of the pilgrims, the rooms provided for them contained bed spaces for ten to forty persons, and were too far from the *Harami*.

The pilgrims also said that even the funds budgeted by

By Mustapha Isah Kwaru, Correspondent (Kano)

government meant for feeding the 7000 pilgrims at the Arafat were mismanaged as only plates for 2000 pilgrims were provided.

While commenting on his grievances and flaws that greeted the activities of *hajj* officials, an Abuja pilgrim, Alhaji Auwalu Jibrin, alleged that worshippers were subjected to untold hardship.

According to him, there were no proper and effective accommodation and transportation arrangements for the pilgrims, saying most of them were conveyed on the *rope* of the vehicles.

He also alleged that the officials collected money from

the pilgrims under the guise that rams would be bought for ritual (*hadaya*) on their behalf, but argued that none of the pilgrims ever witnessed when his ram was slaughtered, or even seen a piece of fresh meat of the ritual ram.

However, all the pilgrims advised the concerned authorities to shun the use of agents in acquiring accommodation for pilgrims, rather they should select honest and dedicated officials to take care of them and secure foreign airlines to airlift the pilgrims to the holy land to curtail unfortunate incident where thousand of pilgrims were stranded due to the failure of the domestic airlines in the exercise.

Spanish investors to use waste for power generation

A group of Spanish investors has indicated their interest to assist in the provision of adequate electricity to the people of Kano State by converting waste products to electricity.

The delegation, which paid a visit to the state governor, said its mission in the state was to compliment the state government's efforts towards providing self-electricity supply.

Speaking through the group leader, Mr. Antonia Torrejon, said such initiative would assist the state government to revive the

By Aliyu S. Machika, Correspondent (Kano)

strength of its economic sector, especially the hundreds of companies which seized production due to poor supply of electricity to the state.

According to him, putting their plants was not a difficult task, but the transportation of the equipment, which he said would cost a lot of funds.

Mr. Torrejon therefore solicited the support of the state government and its agencies in transporting the equipment from Spain to Nigeria.

Earlier, the state governor, Malam Ibrahim Shekarau, had assured the delegation of his

government's support to the initiative.

Represented by the state's commissioner of commerce, industry and cooperatives, the governor maintained that Kano is experiencing inadequate power supply and therefore expressed the hope that with the coming of the investors who can generate up to 192 megawatts of electricity, such problem would be solved.

Malam Shekarau further called on the Spanish team to submit all their proposals, including that of solar energy, for government's consideration.

NDLEA impounds N7m Indian hemp

The Kano State Command of the National Drugs Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) has impounded 732kg of Indian hemp valued over N7m from a dismissed ex-soldier,

Ibrahim Abdullahi, even as it also arrested an eighty-year old man, Muhammadu Many, who was suspected to have been specialized in cannabis business.

The state's NDLEA commander, Dr. Wale Ige, who briefed newsmen when he paraded 13 different drug traffickers arrested by the command, said the ex-soldier was nabbed while attempting to convey the Indian hemp to Borno State, while the eighty-year old man was earlier arrested in connection with selling of cannabis.

Dr. Ige explained that the community leaders of the second accused intervened in the case and effected his release, when he signed a declaration that such crime would not be committed again.

The commander expressed dismay that in spite of the old age of the man, coupled with the promise he made to abandon the illegal business, NDLEA men caught him for the second time.

He said the ex-soldier was

also arrested in Kaduna for dealing in Indian hemp, but he subsequently jumped bail. Other suspected drug traffickers paraded by the command include 20-year old Suleiman Abdulra'uf who was in possession of cocaine, a teenager of JSS III in secondary school, Garba Yahaya; 25-year old Nazifi Isah, who was arrested when he attempted to smuggle Indian hemp to an inmate of the Kano Central Prison.

The commander said the suspects would be handed over to the police for onward prosecution, to serve as a deterrent to others.

Dr. Ige noted that such series of arrest signified the dedication and zeal of the command towards total eradication of consumption and selling of drugs.

He opined that the federal crusade for the fight against drugs trafficking could only yield fruitful result with the collective support and participation of the general public.

EKO TRUST

Pandemonium in Isolo as robbers battle police

Stories by Olumide Bajulaiye, Correspondent (Lagos)

There was pandemonium Monday night at Isolo area of Lagos as a gang of armed robbers who were operating at a petrol station engaged a team of policemen in a gun duel.

At the end of the shoot-out which was said to have lasted close to an hour, the leader of the gang was gunned down while others escaped in two unmarked vehicles.

Several persons including petrol attendants, commuters and motorists plying the route were reportedly wounded in the incident.

Reports said the robbers, numbering over twelve, stormed Komo filling station in two commercial buses, pretending to have come to buy fuel.

About five of them were said to have disembarked the buses and ordered everyone, including those who came to fill their tanks to lie face down. They reportedly robbed their victims of cash, GSM handsets and other valuables.

Two of them were said to

have pointed a gun at the head of one of the attendants, ordering him to show them where the money realised from the day's sales was kept.

While they were on it, two teams of policemen from Isolo division who were hinted of the operation swooped on the robbers, following which a gun duel ensued.

Some stray bullets were said to have pierced some vehicles.

About eleven of the bandits were said to have escaped in their unmarked vehicles when it became apparent that they could not withstand the police who came fully armed. They reportedly left behind their leader who was shot in the stomach.

Confirming the incident, police image-maker Mr Olubode Ojajuni said one locally made double barrel gun and one live cartridge were found on the dead robber and eight expended shells recovered.

Censors board to clamp down on pornographic film sellers

The National Film and Video Censors Board (NFVCB) is planning a clampdown on sellers of pornographic films within the Lagos metropolis. The public relations manager, south-west region of the board, Mrs Abosede Francis, disclosed this in Lagos recently.

Mrs. Francis said the board was already working on modalities to enable it to launch the crackdown on those selling such films within and outside the state, because they are dealing in illegal materials.

According to her, the board's monitoring team is already moving round with a view to closing up on all those dealing in pornographic films.

She said the job of monitoring the country for such illegal act should not be left in the hands of the board alone, saying that every law-abiding Nigerian must be involved. She called on the people to always furnish the board with information on the activities of illegal film operators to enable the board to take appropriate action.

Francis recalled that in line with Decree 85 of 1993,

which set up the board, it moved into Abuja not too long ago and closed down some shops reputed for selling pornographic materials while one of the major distributors of *Mpouka*, a pornographic film, was arraigned before an Abuja High Court.

In addition, she said the board would clamp down on those selling films that are not classified by the board.

The NFVCB was set up to classify and censor films produced locally or internationally meant for the Nigerian market. However, nobody is authorised to produce or sell pornographic materials in the country,



Otunba Femi Pedro, Lagos State deputy governor, laying a wreath in honour of the victims of Ikeja Military Cantonment bomb explosions at Oke-Afa Isolo, Lagos

Pix: Oladipupo Odunewu

Extortion: Mile 2 commercial drivers cry out

Commercial drivers plying Mile 2-Badagry expressway in Lagos have called on the federal government to checkmate the activities of security operatives along the route whose major pre-occupation is extortion of money from them.

The drivers said the security operatives were making life unbearable for them because they are shorting their daily earnings.

"Although we know the road leads to the border between Nigeria and Benin, but the uniformed men mounting roadblocks here are not for security but extortion," a commercial driver lamented after he was made to part with N100 notes at three roadblocks consecutively, a few metres before Ijanikin.

Before that point, he said he had been "settling" the security operatives right from Badagry but in varying amounts.

A commuter, who gave his name simply as David, said he passes the route

every week because his business is based at Badagry. He corroborated the drivers' view, saying that the security operatives use all sorts of threats to extort money from drivers.

"They have one mentality that any commercial vehicle coming from Badagry end must have one contraband goods, so they must collect money even if they

don't search the vehicle," he said.

Another driver suggested that the roadblocks be reduced because they are not only too many, but because they are not offering any security. He stressed that despite the numerous roadblocks, criminals still operate unhindered in the area.

"They are fighting for

their pockets," he said, adding that the drivers are already used to them. From Oke-Afo to Ijanikin, there are more than seven roadblocks with different security agents.

Investigations show that because of the security operatives' penchant for extortion, contraband goods still pass through them into the country.

LASG to audit admissions into sec schools

Auditing of admissions into all model colleges and up-graded secondary schools may have begun in Lagos State.

The development came even as the state government spoke of plans to introduce a new admission policy for pupils into junior and secondary schools in its domain beginning from the next academic session.

The state's Commissioner for Education, Olakunle Lawal, dropped the hint at a stakeholders' summit on the Lagos State Government Education Management Systems (LASGEMS) introduced by the Tinubu administration

as part of efforts to computerize the school system in the state.

According to Lawal, the era of manual enrolment of pupils into public secondary schools would end with the pilot phase of LASGEMS, even as he informed that the long term plan would be to capture every pupil in private and public schools into modules.

The computerization, which the commissioner noted would be in three modules with several components, is expected to create a central clearing house for the education sector.

"The system will make the school life easy for pupils, teachers, tutors and parents in the storage and retrieval of information, research, planning and implementation of government policies.

"Its primary objective is the provision of concise and dependable information through technology for the use of education managers in the state. This database on education will be the first of its kind in the entire country and has once again reinforced the position of Lagos State as a pacesetter in natural reform issues."

According to him, the introduction of the system became imperative, as the population of pupils in Lagos schools has become uncontrollable: a situation Lawal said was making the management of the education sector increasingly complex and more demanding.

"Over 40 million data items are generated and processed annually for primary, junior and senior secondary schools. LASGEMS is a critical project in the ongoing re-engineering of the education sector for improved performance," he said.

The commissioner listed the benefits of the programmes to include elimination of ghost pupils, on-line real-time processing and inquiry, examination planning and management, resource management and accounting, contact management and student transfer management, among others.

Lawal assured that the state would issue all pupils in its domain with the state's identity cards within the next eight months, saying the system would tackle the issue of political office-holders laying claims to schools they never attended as their alma matter.

Police arrest student for alleged cultism

Police in Lagos have arrested a student of Yaba College of Technology (YABATECH), Lagos, for allegedly being a member of one of the secret cult in the institution.

When contacted on the arrest, the Lagos State Police Command spokesman, Olubode Ojajuni, confirmed the incident. He said the suspect, one Shoderu Omokayode, with Matriculation No. F/ND/041/341086 and

a civil engineering student was arrested by two security guards attached to the institution at the first gate at dawn last Saturday.

According to him, the suspect, along with his friend now at large, had approached the two night guards to open the school gate for them, threatening to shoot the guards if they refused.

A hot argument ensued between the suspects and the security guards until the ar-

rival of a team of anti-robbery policemen from Sabo Division, Yaba following a distress call.

The police arrested the suspect while his colleague took to his heels. When searched, an automatic pistol model P-25 made in the USA was found on the arrested suspect. He also confirmed he belongs to *eibe* (Blue Beret) confraternity group of the institution.

Inside Politics

2007 Presidency: Where are the candidates?

33 political parties without presidential candidate, possible tenure extension for the incumbent and the silence of the opposition 10 months to go, combine to question the nation's preparedness for the first-ever civilian-to-civilian transition...

In recent months, the rumoured plan by General Obasanjo to succeed President Obasanjo has exposed the soft underbelly of northern political power brokers like General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida, who assured other stakeholders in 1999 that the incumbent would vacate office at the appropriate time. The unfolding scenario has all the trappings associated with a somehow similar attempt by late General Sani Abacha to succeed Alhaji Sani Abacha. The Kano-born Kanuri infantry General's candidature was endorsed by what late Bola Ige described as the five fingers of a leprous hand. At the moment, beneath all the usual conspiracy buff regarding a possible tenure extension, lies the concern of many Nigerians that the anticipated power shift to the North in 2007 may well be a pipe dream.

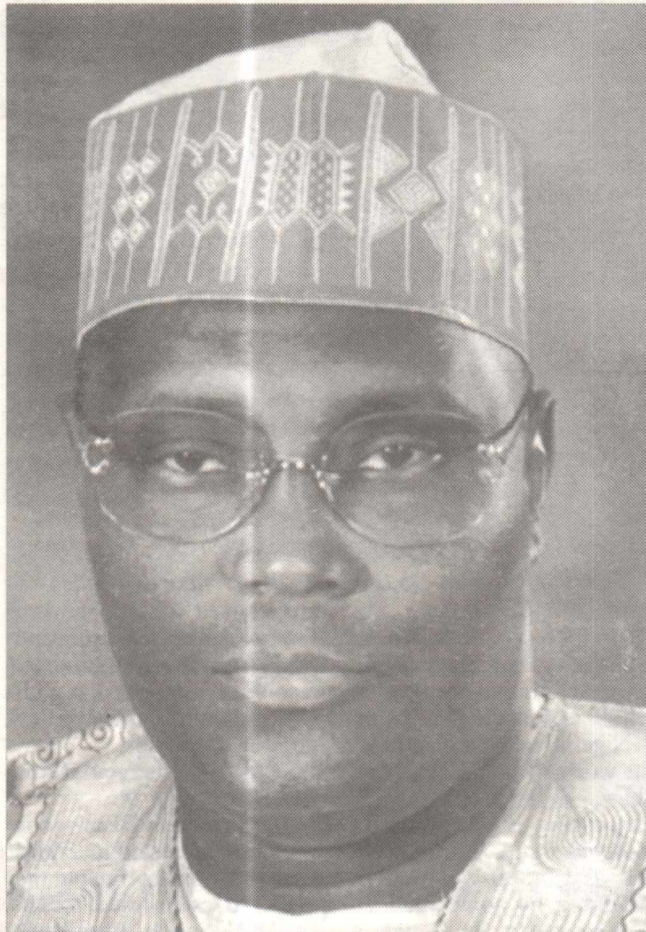
In recent months, a chain of events have laid bare the latest challenges confronting the nation's six-year old democracy, the worst being the fragmentation of the ruling PDP into rival groups, each with something to hide and something to lose. Expectedly, the political terrain has been overheated by the speculated tenure extension project and the uncertainty about whether opportunists would not eventually truncate the process; or the more puzzling question of who succeeds the incumbent as Nigeria sails close to 2007.

The significance of the question of a successor for the incumbent, according to pundits, could be seen from the fact that with only ten months left to the first-ever civilian-to-civilian transition, no serious contender has emerged yet. Some analysts are even insisting that the 2007 presidency would be the turn of an imaginary "dark horse". It however remains amazing that out of the 33 political parties in the country, none has thus far announced its candidate for the presidency. This is probably the first time it has taken so long to know which presidential candidate would emerge from what political party, in the nation's history. Months back at the Southern senators' Forum, declared that power should

By Nasir Dambatta,
Assistant Editor

would boycott the presidential polls. This has raised further fears about the

slogans. For instance, Senator Mantu and Governor Ahmed Mohammed Makarfi's vehicles' windscreens were reportedly pelted with fresh eggs. As



Vice President Atiku Abubakar

feasibility of the gentleman agreement on power shift. The insistence of northern senators' forum on the shift of power to the North in 2007 only helped in further polarization over the fate of the nation's presidential seat. The two conflicting positions, analysts have variously warned, would only rekindle the dreaded cancer of regional chauvinism.

Amidst all the conflicting positions being canvassed and conspiracy buff, lies the anger of many a northerner against the rumoured third term plot. Few months back, thousands of youth groups from the north besieged the Kaduna venue of northern senators' meeting, following the suspicion that the meeting was designed to endorse "Life Presidency" for President Obasanjo. Prominent northerners like senator Nasir Ibrahim Mantu were shocked to discover on their way out of the venue that they were running into an ambush. Most of those senators and other prominent politicians suspected of openly or tacitly supporting tenure extension plot narrowly escaped lynching

chief host, it was a bad week for Governor Makarfi to have had his guests so treated. Several other politicians suspected of the same political sin had their clothes and vehicles stained when fresh eggs were being freely thrown at them by the youth groups. The security personnel at the venue had tough time trying to control the mob with limited success. Surprisingly General Muhammadu Buhari was hailed by the youths who chanted "Sai Buhari!"

Reports also said former President Ibrahim Babangida who was also present "escaped in another vehicle bearing Kano plate number". Many of the protesting youth groups called on Senate Majority Leader Dalhatu Sarki Tafida, Senator Hambagda and deputy senate president Mantu to resign immediately, for alleged involvement in a teleguided constitutional review. This point the "Northern Youth Alliance for

There is the growing consensus among political analysts, that the possible self-succession by the incumbent may have pitched many northern senators against their electorate, this being the first time they were collectively subjected to such an embarrassment by the youths in their immediate constituency. The obvious implication, it seems, is that there could be no hiding place for elected officials who support a possible tenure

the more public sympathy for Atiku. It seems the feeling among northerners is that the current travails of the Vice president represent a deliberate ploy to deny the north its turn in 2007.

That the nation is oscillating between confusion and anomie could be seen from the fact that at least two elected governors have lost their mandate to processes less than constitutional, with their colleagues across the nation keeping mute. They broke the silence recently by reportedly endorsing constitutional amendment, which has for many months been associated with possible tenure extension. When a national daily published the names of governors in support of possible tenure extension, none among them (till this minute) has disowned the report openly. But many of them are presently at war with whoever is even rumoured to have governorship ambition. Heard the "bad news from Gombe" and Bauchi? The National Assembly too, seemed to have joined the conspiracy of silence over the travails of the two governors, including Ladoja - whose removal is still the subject of widespread public condemnation.

Undoubtedly, this is the most significant period in the nation's political history because the first-ever civilian-to-civilian transition is about to take place. The possibility of tenure extension for the incumbent President and governors may well spell doom for this historic transition. There is certainly no excuse for the near-total absence of Presidential candidates within the 33 registered political parties. There is equally no excuse for a constitutional review by a government that should have by now been preparing for its exit. The constitution may not necessarily be the nation's immediate need and government will be better off leaving that responsibility to its successors, who may have all the time in the world to do such an exercise anytime it so chooses in 2007. It is hard to justify even the absence of serious campaigns by those that should expectedly be handed over the baton of power by the incumbent president and by the governors. The terrain seems to have been suffering the chilling effect of a not-so-organised transition that has failed to effectively take off less than one year to the expected handover. The question remains, how prepared is Nigeria, given the aforesaid problems to make history by allowing a



Governor Ahmed Sani of Zamfara

Democracy", the "Frontier Movement", "Inuwar Matasan Arewa" and many others sought to prove by sending senators scurrying for cover in Kaduna. At a recent meeting in Arewa House Kaduna, other northern notables were physically challenged by youth, as some of them were pelted with pure water sachets. None of these youth groups appeared less prepared for the war against the possible tenure extension of the incumbent president.

extension for President Obasanjo.

In the same vein, the frosty relationship between the president and his Vice, Atiku Abubakar has also fuelled serious emotion in Atiku's immediate constituency. The refrain in the north is that the president is working hard to prevent the Vice president from possibly emerging as the region's presidential candidate in 2007. Consequently, the more the Vice President's interest is hurt by the president's men

"Undoubtedly, this is the most significant period in the nation's political history because the first-ever civilian-to-civilian transition is about to take place. The possibility of tenure extension for the incumbent President and governors may well spell doom for this historic transition. There is certainly no excuse for the near-total absence of Presidential candidates within the 33 registered political parties. There is equally no excuse for a constitutional review by a government that should have by now

Inside Politics

Third Term: Will Obasanjo make a broadcast?

...Awoniyi's Kaduna speech revisited

I Chief Mathew Okikiola Aremu Olusegun Obasanjo, the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces hereby declare to you all, my fellow Nigerian compatriots, that I will not seek the nomination of my party, the PDP, or of any other party for that matter, as candidate for the presidential election in the year 2007. I declare further, and irrevocably, that if I am drafted I will decline to stand".

A short, simple, sharp statement in those words or similar words will lay the speculations on third term to rest. This is the belief of Chief Sunday Bolorunduro Awoniyi, former Permanent Secretary and Chairman of the Arewa consultative Forum (ACF). Awoniyi demonstrates exceptional brilliance when it comes to the written word, just as he does when he speaks. He actually put the speech together in the hope that Obasanjo would be courageous and wise enough to buy and use it for the good of the nation: to douse the growing tension in the polity generated by his speculated third term project.

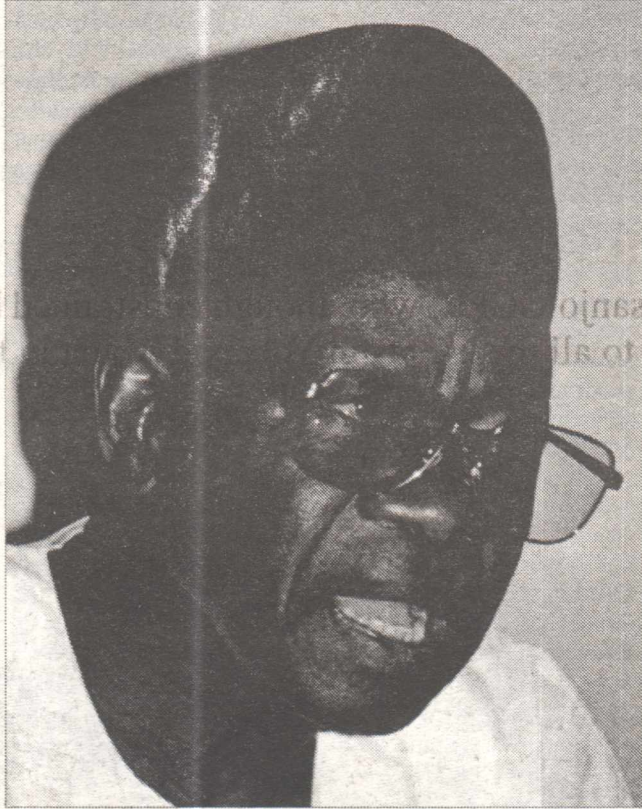
On Monday, this week, in Kaduna, at the Annual General Assembly meeting of the ACF, Awoniyi, who claims to have been Obasanjo's friend since 1966, had put this bit in his remarks to the gathering. But the question remains: will Obasanjo make such a broadcast? It is doubtful if he will ever do. Perhaps, if he had wanted to do it, the mere fact that Awoniyi had suggested it would make him not to do it. In 1998/99, when Obasanjo was seeking the support of the north for his presidential aspiration, he had reportedly signed an agreement that he would be fair to the north just as he would be fair to other part of the country and that there was nothing in his past relationship with the north that suggested that he would be unfair to them while in the saddle.

The issue of agreement came up in the early part of 2002 when there were reports that the north was angry that Obasanjo had betrayed them by denying them certain ministerial positions, which he agreed would be ceded to them. But Obasanjo had said there was no such agreement. However, Alhaji Lawal Kaita said that there was an agreement, which Awoniyi signed for Obasanjo. Awoniyi had fired back at Kaita, in an interview with this correspondent, saying there was indeed an agreement, which he drafted for Obasanjo when some younger northern elements wanted a commitment from him when he was looking for the support of the north in 1998, but that he did not sign it for Obasanjo; that Obasanjo signed it himself with his usual "O.O. Obasanjo". Awoniyi had said

By Sufuyan Ojeifo,
(Special Correspondent)

that the Nicon Hilton Hotel writing sheet on which he drafted the agreement and on which Obasanjo signed was taken away by Professor Jubril Aminu.

National Executive Council of ACF. There is a convoluted project for Obasanjo to have a third term as president; and in the manner of African presidents, many other terms thereafter. I am giving this free public service to my fellow citizens.



Chief Sunday Awoniyi, Chairman ACF

The President was to later say in a syndicated interview with six national newspapers that he did not sign any agreement, even though the north had their own in some so-called strategic ministries (some of which were said in circles to have been specifically agreed would be given to the north). No matter, the agreement drafted by Awoniyi and duly signed by Obasanjo existed; that Obasanjo signed it was a commitment that he would comply. This time round, the broadcast speech drafted by Awoniyi, in service to his friend, on how to put the speculations on third term to rest, does not need the signature of the president and will never get it. Perhaps, what it needs or can get, at most, is some adoption and/or adaptation by the president as input into his position on the speculated third term agenda to the world, if decides to sincerely address and dismiss it as a non-issue (meaning that he does not harbour any such desire).

If Obasanjo had nipped the speculations in the bud, the tension in the polity over third term would not have been generated. Awoniyi would not have bothered himself, at 74, to mount the podium to campaign against alleged plot by Obasanjo to prolong his stay in office beyond May 29, 2007. Speaking at the ACF meeting on the third term agenda, Awoniyi had stated, after his preachment about restoration of northern unity for the good of Nigeria, thus: "At this point, I would like to speak just as Chief Sunday Awoniyi, and not as Chairman of the

"I am doing so with the background of 40 years acquaintance and knowledge, come July this year, of our president, the principal actor and beneficiary of the third term project. I plead with all genuine lovers of this country to believe me when I say that President Obasanjo wants a third term more than he has ever wanted anything. He will do anything, risk anything, including the peace and harmony of this country, to achieve it". Awoniyi had further and specifically addressed the issue under three sub-heads, to wit: presidential attack on third term critics; put to rest speculations on third term; and, Obasanjo must go. Hear him:

Presidential attack on third term critics

"I am told that when the knife of a surgeon probing a wound touches a raw nerve, no matter how mildly, the patient howls. In like manner, the mildest advice or the most civilized criticism of the third term project is greeted with the most savage attack from the presidency. To mention just a few examples:

That courageous intellectual and patriot, the Catholic Archbishop of Abuja, Most Rev. John Onaiyekan was told off, in no uncertain terms, when he dared to suggest that those dragging Mr. President into the third term agenda should desist from their activities and that there were other Nigerians who could effectively lead our country.

Recently, our late and only Nobel laureate Wole Soyinka, for daring to speak against the third term and

against the mal-administration of the Obasanjo regime, was derided as irrelevant and that he had achieved nothing except his founding of the Pirate Confraternity and introducing indiscipline and cultism into our university



President Olusegun Obasanjo: Will he make a broadcast?

system. Professor Chinua Achebe, one of the world's greatest living writers, a man who is a great credit not only to Nigeria but to the black man the world over, has also been abused by the presidency for expressing his feelings on national issues, particularly the disgraceful events in Anambra, his home State.

General Yakubu Gowon, a former Head of State, who governed this country in a humane, god-fearing and man-caring manner, in war and peace, was berated in a mannerless and impudent way, for suggesting that the lesson of his own experience and those of two other former Heads of State should guide our president on the third term issue. This is the same Gowon, who when he was head of State, and Obasanjo's Commander-in-Chief, advanced the career of Obasanjo and acceded again and again to his pleas and lobbyings for favours on several occasions that I have personal knowledge of, and indeed had hands in, often against the strong opposition and advice of senior military officers. This is the same Gowon who, in spite of Obasanjo's unjust accusations and attempts in 1975 to extradite him from the UK to Nigeria to be shot after the dimka coup, nonetheless, in the true Christian spirit of forgiveness, this same Gowon overlooked all the malicious harm which Obasanjo had planned against him, and joined President Shehu Shagari (both northerners) to plead and prevail on the Abba House of Representatives to stop impeachment

proceedings against Obasanjo in 2002. Today, it is that same Gowon who is being abused and derided as unqualified to advise on the third term agenda. And we are warned not to describe the president as an ingrate!

Individuals who speak up, and journalists who write critically against third term project are threatened with "God's swiftest and most sever judgement". This we

sharp statement in those words or similar words will lay the matter to rest".

Obasanjo must go
"Nobody around the president has the courage to advise him against his ambition to continue in office after 2007. He will sack them with ignominy and gloat over their discomfiture if they dared. They know what I am saying is true. Yet, our Mr. President needs to be told the unpalatable truth for his own good and for the good of Nigeria. This is why, as someone who still has some soft spot for him, I want to take the thankless step of treading on dangerous grounds to render Mr. President this service of pleading with him to leave office in 2007: Mr. President, you know I cannot deceive you. The truth is that you have blown the greatest opportunity given to any man to build a Nigeria in which we can all be proud and win the respect rather than the derision of the world. Even those close to you say so in despair.

"You have sworn twice on the Holy Bible to 'preserve, protect and defend the Constitution'. As a self-proclaimed born-again Christian, please do not break your oath. We need in your place a leader whose Nigerian-ness is absolute, a respecter of every man's dignity, who because of his basic human decency and genuine fear of God, and his righteousness and generosity of spirit, can reconcile opposites and enhance the internal cohesion and harmony between and among our peoples. We have endured enough deceit, insincerity, vindictiveness, political rascality and crass boorishness in the last six years. We are tired of unpresidential behaviour and the bullying and abuse of innocent citizens and foul language in public in full glare of the media, nationally and internationally. Our children deserve better example at your level. We need a change. And as you yourself once advised General Sani Abacha to please 'Go', it is now your turn, OBJ please 'GO'. Just go. We want to regain our balance.

"Finally, dear Segun, the greatest legacy you can leave behind is to work with usual energy to ensure that your successor is the true choice of the Nigerian people through a transparently honest, free and fair election. Such a legacy will match your other legacy, which I know you cherish so much, i.e. the legacy of the one, and only great African General who handed power voluntarily to civilians on 1st October 1979. May God give you the wisdom and courage so to do". Reports from Kaduna said that there was standing ovation for Awoniyi on the remarks, which were salutary to the growing agitations of Nigerians against third term or tenure extension by Obasanjo. Will the president borrow useful pieces of advice from Awoniyi's Kaduna sermon?

are advised is a euphemism for assassination, murder and thuggery- the immemorial resort of tyrants playing god! Hitler, Lenin and Stalin are good case studies.

Put to rest speculations on third term

"If President Obasanjo is truly not interested in a third term bid, then let him put the matter to rest once and for all. In 1968 when President Lyndon Johnson, the 39th president of the United States of America, saw that the war in Vietnam had divided the country, almost to the exclusion of other important national issues, he decided to save his country from the debilitating division by putting his job on the line. He made a widely publicised statement to his American people that he would not seek his party's nomination for the president of the US and that if drafted, he would decline to serve.

"In like manner, our dear President Obasanjo should douse the stress in the Nigerian polity and confound all the doubting Thomases about his third term ambition by a simple radio and television broadcast as follows: I, Chief Mathew Okikiola Aremu Olusegun Obasanjo, the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces hereby declare to you all, my fellow Nigerian compatriots, that I will not seek the nomination of my party, the PDP, or of any other party for that matter, as candidate for the presidential election in the year 2007. I declare further, and irrevocably, that if I am drafted I will decline to stand. A short, simple,



APPRECIATION

I would like to use this medium, on behalf of myself and the members of my family, to express our warm appreciation and gratitude to the many people, Nigerians and non-Nigerians alike who responded to the wedding invitations of my son, Adarnu who married Safina, and that of my daughter, Aisha whose hand we gave out in marriage to Alhaji Abdullahi Babalele.

Our special thanks go to the President, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo GCFR, who, though constrained by exigencies of duty did us the honour of sending a befitting representation to all the events in Yola and Abuja in the person of his daughter, Mrs Iyabo Obasanjo-Bello.

We also have special thanks for the warm presence of former Heads of State, General Yakubu Gowon, GCFR; General Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR; General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida, GCFR and his very supportive wife, Maryam and, coming all the way from Ghana, Mrs. Nana Agypong Rawlings, the former First Lady of the Republic of Ghana.

Our deep appreciation goes to the President of the Senate, Senator Ken Nnamani; the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Alhaji Aminu Bello Masari; Senators and Honourable members of the National Assembly; the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Chief Ufot Ekaette and the Head of Service of the Federation, Alhaji Yayale Ahmed for being present.

Our profound thanks and appreciation also go to the host Governor, His Excellency, Boni Haruna and all those Governors and Deputy Governors of the States who found the time to be with us.

We are also thankful to the Judges of our various courts; Ministers, Advisers, Religious Leaders, Women and Youth Leaders, Members of States Houses of Assembly, Commissioners, Board Chairmen and Members and the leading officials of all the political parties and in particular, those of the PDP who joined us in both Yola and Abuja.

We also like to extend our warm thanks and appreciation to our father and chief host, the Lamido of Adamawa, H.R.H. Alhaji Aliyu Mustafa; the numerous Emirs and Chiefs who brought colour, dignity and prestige to bear on the events as well as Diplomats representing various nationalities in Nigeria for their presence.

To all those businessmen and women from all four corners of Nigeria and abroad who were there, we say a big "Thank you!" We thank party men and women, and our numerous supporters and well-wishers who turned up in such numbers that we never expected. We commend Law-enforcement agents for their diligence on their job and Journalists for their vigorous interest and support. We have been deeply touched by this enormous show of goodwill and support.

Finally, we reserve our profoundest gratitude and thanks to God Almighty who allowed the events to take place in atmosphere of complete peace, joy, harmony and satisfaction. We thank God that all our guests, from both far and near made it back safely.

We thank everyone for their support.

May Allah bless all of us, and also continue to guide and protect this land of ours.

Signed:
Atiku Abubakar,
Turaki Adamawa,
Vice President,
Federal Republic of Nigeria

News



Vice President Atiku Abubakar (right), in a discussion with Governor Boni Haruna of Adamawa State during an official presentation of First Class Staff of Office to HRH Hama Batta, Homun Saul Jeriel Swade, in Demsa, Adamawa State ...recently.

Group sues EFCC, seeks order to probe Bauchi govt

Three citizens of Bauchi State: Usman Ahmed Bakaro, Attaib Mahmood and Naseer Danladi Abubakar, have sued the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), seeking the court to grant them order of *mandamus* compelling the EFCC to investigate cases of corruption levelled against the officials of the Bauchi State government.

The plaintiffs hinged their action on the alleged refusal of the defendant [EFCC] to investigate their allegations as they contained in the eight petitions they submitted to the anti-graft commission between October 13, 2005 and January 4, 2006.

The refusal, they said, had negated their fundamental rights as citizens of Bauchi State and want the Federal High Court sitting in Abuja to declare whether having regards to sections 6 and 7 of the Act establishing the EFCC has a statutory duty to investigate their complains or allegations submitted to it.

The plaintiffs, in a sixteen paragraphed affidavit in support of the originating summons, stated that they were amused with the speed the EFCC went to investigate a case of corruption levelled against some employees of the Bauchi State government, but failed to investigate their complains even when they have provided some documentary evidence to assist the commission in its investigation.

"The defendant's [EFCC] act of neglecting to cause investigation to be conducted on our petitions contrasts sharply with the speedy attention that was accorded an earlier complain from the Bauchi State government against some employees of the state government, which

From Tashikalmah Hallah, Bauchi

the defendant not only investigated but had made some monetary recoveries from some suspects before the Bauchi State government withdrew the complain for inexplicable reasons."

The plaintiffs averred that "on each occasion after we submitted a petition as enumerated in paragraph seven above, we followed it up with personal visits to the defendant's office in Abuja to inquire about the action that

is being taken about our petitions."

However, they regretted that despite their numerous visits to the office of the EFCC, the commission has not shown any interest to investigate their complains, hence they resorted to the legal action.

"I know as a fact that up until date no investigation has commenced on our petitions and the defendant has given no indication that it intends to carry out any investigation whatsoever on these complaints".

Taraba: COE moves to introduce dress code

In its effort to fight immorality, the Taraba State College of Education, Jalingo, is planning to introduce dress code for its students.

The provost of the college, Mr. Joshua Garba, who spoke during the matriculation of the newly admitted students in the college for the 2005/2006 academic year, said the dress code, if introduced, would go a long way in reducing the increasing rate of immorality in the college, particularly among female students.

According to the provost,



Reverend Jolly Nyame of Taraba

the seductive manner of students' dressing, especially female students, is making the college environment no longer favourable for teaching and learning.

The provost, while welcoming the newly admitted students, warned them to beware of acts capable of exposing them to the deadly HIV/AIDS, as well as engaging in cult activities.

In his remarks, the Taraba State Commissioner of Education, Mr. Solomon Jadana, charged the newly admitted students to pursue their studies vigorously and to desist from anything that could undermine their academic pursuit.

He called on the college lecturers to be faithful to their students and instill on them only acceptable values that can develop them and the society. He warned that hard times await lecturers who indulge in illicit relationship with their female students.

A total of 3,646 students matriculated for the 2005/2006 academic session.

Obasanjo commended over replacement for Ayu

From Hir Joseph, Correspondent (Makurdi)

Various interest groups in Benue State have commended President Olusegun Obasanjo over the nomination of Mrs. Grace Ogwuche to replace sacked minister Dr. Iyorchia Ayu.

Foremost among them is an Idoma socio-cultural and political organization, *Opiatoha K'Idoma*, which rose from an emergency meeting in Otukpo yesterday, with a resolution to drum support for the new minister.

Briefing newsmen at the end of the meeting, which attracted opinion and political leaders from the area, the group's general secretary, Mr. Adoka Adaji, said, "We have resolved that President Obasanjo be commended for considering an Idoma person in his government as minister."

He therefore urged her to take her elevation as a call to contribute to the positive development of Benue State, adding, "She should be prepared to do the Idomas proud by way of standing out as a true ambassador of Benue State."

Mr. Adoka Adaji disclosed further that the meeting also deliberated on the agitation for power-shift to Idomaland, a development which has taken a centre stage on the political landscape of the state.

According to him, "We also resolved that the quest for a governor of Idoma extraction in 2007 must be pursued with vigour and called on the Idoma people to support the power-

shift agitation".

"The meeting also condemned the rising spate of armed robbery in Idomaland and particularly in Otukpo town, where it is now virtually impossible for residents to sleep with their eyes closed," added Mr. Adaji.

Assassinated Anglican cleric buried

The remains of the assassinated administrative assistant to the Bishop of Anglican Diocese, Bida, Archdeacon Elijah Yisa, were interred on Tuesday.

Yisa was buried at his hometown Katamba-Bologi in Edati local government area of Niger State, as reports the *News Agency of Nigeria*.

The cleric was reportedly murdered by two unknown persons in his residence at the church premises on the night of January 24.

In his funeral sermon at the Cathedral Church, Bida, on Tuesday, the Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Jonah Kolo, extolled the virtues of his late administrative assistant, saying he had lived a fulfilled life.

The bishop, however, expressed regret that such a horrendous incident had never occurred before in the history

of the church in the Nupeland.

He prayed God to prevent any recurrence and reminded the killers that God is waiting for them to come forward to confess their sins.

According to the clergyman, "the killers only yielded themselves to Satan for the purpose and Satan is the Christians' adversary."

The bishop quoted Psalm 139, verses 7-12, saying that because of the knowledge of God, no one could run away or hide from Him.

The cleric also appealed to members of the congregation to provide relevant information to investigating officers in line with the spirit of community policing.

He announced that the church had declared a week of fasting and prayer in honour of the late archdeacon.

URGENT RECRUITMENT

A reputable fast growing Community Bank in Kogi State requires for immediate employment suitably qualified candidates for the following vacant positions:

- (i) INTERNAL AUDITOR
- (ii) OFFICER
- (iii) CLERK

QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE

1. INTERNAL AUDITOR:

Candidate must possess a recognized university first degree or its equivalent or professional qualification in Banking/Finance/Accounting with a minimum of 5 years experience in Banking.

Exceptional skill in Banking examination and computer literacy will be an added advantage

Age 25-35 years.

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Age 21-35 years of age.

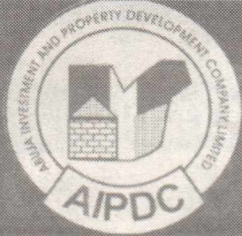
REMUNERATION: Very attractive and good opportunity for growth.

HOW TO APPLY: All applicants are expected to apply in their own handwriting to be accompanied with detailed and updated C. V and evidence of academic background and experience, including certificates. Applications should be sealed and sent within 14 days of this publication to:

THE ADVERTISER

P.O. BOX 7761

ABUJA, FCT.



ABUJA INVESTMENT AND PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LTD
FEDERAL CAPITAL ADMINISTRATION
SALE OF NEW SHOPS AT WUSE MARKET, ABUJA

PREAMBLE

This notice is for shop owners in the former Agric Sector in the Wuse market, whose shops were demolished during the sanitization exercise of February 2005. This notice also covers shop owners whose shops have been earmarked for demolition in anticipation of future re-development of certain areas in the market.

Further to this, the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory, Mallam Nasir Ahmad Elf-Rufai has approved the provisional offer for sale of the new shops presently under development by Abuja Investment and Property Development Company Limited (AIPDC).

These shops are located within the former agric section in the market and are being offered on the basis of "first right of refusal".

Please note that the period allocated for this category of owners is two (2) weeks from the date of this advertisement, failing, which the shops will be made available to the general public for sale.

Consequently, the under-listed shop owners whose applications were earlier received by the Abuja Markets Management Limited (AMML) along with those whose shops have been marked for demolition are hereby invited to come forward to collect their letters of provisional offer from the head office of Abuja Markets Management Limited located on the 3rd Floor, Tofa House, Plot 770, Central Business District, Abuja, Nigeria on or before Friday February 10th, 2006.

Table with columns: S/N, BLOCK NO, SHOP NO, SECTION, NAME. Lists 199 shop entries with details on block, shop number, section, and owner name.

SIGNED: MANAGEMENT

Contact: No. 4 Nkwere Crescent, Off Muhammadu Buhari Way, C PMB 302, Garki, Abuja Nigeria. TEL: (09) 314 4870, FAX: (09) 314 4871

ABUJA FCT

A total of 3,646 shops are being offered for sale.



The state government which against some employees of Branch 2 state government

News

Americans want Nigerian scientist, Oyibo, honoured

African-Americans in the diaspora have called on Nigeria to mobilise governments of the continent to create the African International Prize for Science and Technology to rival the Nobel Prize, and to nominate US-based Nigerian scientist Professor Gabriel Audu Oyibo as its first winner.

The chairman of the committee in support of Prof. Oyibo's God Almighty's Grand Unified Theorem (GAGUT) in the United States, Mr. Clemson Brown, made the call at a lecture organised by Ahmadu Bello University (ABU); Zaria recently.

He said African governments, especially Nigeria, should take an urgent action as there are plots by the Western world to suppress this great scientific discovery by an African, who is regarded by the white man as an inferior being.

Mr. Brown said the great scientific discovery by Professor Oyibo is one achievement no white man had been able to achieve since the death of Albert Einstein. He expressed fear that if "we do not jointly laud, celebrate and announce to the whole world this great historical landmark achieved by one of us, the Western world may eventually hijack and declare one of them as its originator, as they have done in the past.

"The whole world is in dire need of this discovery with the equation Gijji=O. The Creator sent it through an African. Let us not mock God by rejecting our own and waiting for someone else to honour him or claim the discovery for themselves.

"Our refusal to honour Professor Oyibo for this wonderful discovery means rejection of the blessing of our Creator and our ancestors. In doing so, we will find ourselves following blindly those who have demonstrated time and time again that our interests and well-being are not first on their agenda," my Brown said.

The chairman of the committee in support of GAGUT asked African governments and scientists to join hands to uplift African people the

From Waziri Isa Gwantu, Zaria

world-over by creating mechanisms to recognise the genius of Professor Oyibo, 'who has proven to the whole world that the black man, given an enabling academic environment, cannot only compete favourably with his white counterparts, but has the potential of excelling in all forms of human endeavours.'

"Evidences of this abound from monuments and inventions that revealed Africans and their descendants as the

pioneers and leaders of the world's civilisation and it is also evident that they continue to pioneer inventions in the modern era," Mr. Brown added.

Lamenting that despite contributions by eminent African scientists like Benjamin Banneker, a mathematical genius who used the architecture of ancient Egypt as a model to design and build the city of Washington DC, and Daniel H. Williams III who performed the first open heart surgery in modern medicine, to mention a few, none of them is either mentioned today in the United States nor rewarded.



Magaji Garin Katagun and one-time commissioner in the then North Eastern state, Late Alhaji Mohammed Mahdi died at his residence on Thursday 26th January, 2006 after a prolong illness. According to National Primary Healthcare Development Agency. The deceased was a recipient of the order of the Niger (OON). He has since been buried.

Leprosy Day: NAFDAC gives lepers N1m

Worried by the poor living conditions of people suffering from leprosy, the National Agency for Food and Drugs Administration and Control (NAFDAC) Tuesday donated N1m to six leper communities in Nigeria to help them live a better life.

Making the donation at a symposium organised by the Ministry of Health to celebrate the 2006 World Leprosy Day in Abuja, the Director General of NAFDAC, Prof. Dora Akinyili, said the money was to be shared to six leper communities in Borno, Enugu, Ondo, Kano,

Abubakar Haruna, Reporter

Cross River and Kogi states. Presenting the N1m cheque, Mr Kola Ali, the deputy general manager of Union Bank, said the money was intended to assist in rehabilitating people affected by leprosy.

Speaking at the symposium, the Minister of State for Health, Mrs Helen Esuene, said the day was set aside globally to create awareness and mobilize support towards leprosy control and the need to address the issue of integration and rehabilitation of people suffering from leprosy.

On the control of leprosy, the minister said the number of lepers in the country has significantly dropped from 250,000 in 1989 to 5,348 in 2004. With this, she declared that Nigeria has attained the set elimination target of less than one case per 10,000 since 2001.

She further stated that despite the development, the prevalence of the disease is still high in some states, such as Adamawa, Benue, Cross River, Ebony, Gombe, Jigawa, Kano, Nasarawa, Taraba, Yobe, Sokoto and Zamfara states.

"To effectively tackle the problem of leprosy, the Federal Ministry of Health established the National Tuberculosis and Leprosy Control Programme to coordinate activities aimed at reducing the prevalence and the incidence of tuberculosis and leprosy to the extent that they are no longer public health problems," the minister said.

A/ibom invests N7bn on rural dev

Akwa Ibom State has invested N7bn on rural development in the last two years.

The state's Education Commissioner Dr. Doratus Okon disclosed this in an interview with the Daily Trust.

He said that out of the amount, N4.2bn was spent on 243 electricity projects in the thirty-one local government areas of the state, and another N3bn on other projects across the state.

Dr. Okon said the state government could not leave the task of rural development to the councils alone because it wants its impacts felt in the rural areas by impacting positively on the lives of the people. "Every ward has felt the impact of the state govern-

From Edet Ekanem, Uyo

ment. This is unprecedented in Nigeria. We have completed 682 projects across the state, out of the total number of 812 projects, including mini-water projects," he said.

Speaking on the quality of work on completed projects, the commissioner said jobs were executed according to specification, adding that a monitoring team was set up to verify compliance with quality before payment was made to contractors.

The commissioner advised beneficiary communities to take appropriate measures to protect the facilities provided in their domains to improve their standard of living.



Africa Leadership Forum

CALLING CIVIL SOCIETY GROUPS IN NIGERIA

(NGOs, CBOs, FBOs, Labour, & Media)

Democratic Leadership Training Workshop (DLTW)

Since May 1998, the Africa Leadership Forum has organized 18 editions of the Democratic Leadership Training Workshops (DLTW) across the regions of Africa. The workshops were held in Dakar, Accra, Nairobi, and Windhoek respectively. In addition, two sets of six workshops were held in Nigeria. The impact of training on past participants has been transformatory.

The Africa Leadership Forum is organizing in 2006, a series of training workshops for Nigerians in the private and public sectors, youth organizations, media, labour organizations, NGOs as well as community leaders. As in the past, the primary objectives of these workshops among others are to:

- Provide opportunity for political networks and linkages towards positive participation at both lateral and vertical levels.
- Enhance and to sharpen participant's leadership skills in participatory democracy and governance

Method of Application

A two-page resume giving full description of yourself, place of residence, profession, your local government, and state. Also, applicant should state previous leadership position(s) and experience(s) with a statement of his/her understanding of leadership and what he/she intends to gain from during the workshop. Please indicate the fastest means of communication. (e. g. e-mail, surface mail, or courier)

Condition for Participation

Participants selected for the workshop are expected to pay a token commitment fee of N2,000 upon arrival and also bear the cost of their travel expenses to & from the workshop. The Africa Leadership Forum will be responsible for participant's accommodation and feeding only. Women are especially encouraged to apply. Past alumni of the DLTW need not reapply to these workshops.

Workshop Group: Civil Society Group

Workshop Date: 5th - 10th March 2006

Application Deadline: 20th February 2006

(NGOs, CBOs, FBOs, Labour, & Media)

Venue: Conference Hall, Africa Leadership Forum, #1, Bells Drive, Km 9 Idiroko Road, Ota, Ogun State.

Further Enquires:

Contact, Workshop Coordinator, Tel: 0802302253 or 039 722730-3, FAX: 039 722751,

Email: democraticleadership@africaleadership.org Please visit our website for more details at www.africaleadership.org

News

Nigeria to host food security summit

President Olusegun Obasanjo has given the nod for the hosting of a summit on food security in Africa, billed for Nigeria in September, 2006.

The thrust of the summit is to discuss and proffer solutions to the problems of availability, acceptability and affordability of food on the continent.

The summit, which is in line with the 1996 Rome Declaration on World Food Security and the World Food Summit Plan of Action, is to be held under the aegis of the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) and the African Union (AU).

By Godwin Tyonongo, (Abuja)

Inaugurating the local organising committee for the summit in Abuja, Agriculture and Rural Development Minister Mallam Adamu Bello regretted that the global community is yet to attain the goal of success to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet the dietary needs of their people at all times.

He described as pathetic, the situation where developing countries, particularly Africa, account for about 94 per cent of the over 852 million global population considered nutritionally insecure.

This situation, he said, is attributable to inadequate access to means of production, such as land, water, farm inputs, requisite technology and credit facilities.

Bello noted that the food security situation in Nigeria, though better than most African countries, still needs to be improved upon.

He said further that the institution of interventionist programmes, such as the National Special Programme on Food Security, National Fadama Development Project II, Root and Tubers Expansion Programme and the Presidential Initiatives on Cassava, Fish, Livestock and Maize, were aimed at ensuring food security in Nigeria.

The committee has the ministry's permanent secretary, Ms. Ama Pepple, as chairman, while its membership is drawn from NEPAD, the security agencies, apex farmers association of Nigeria, ministries of commerce, finance, information, national orientation, internal affairs, water resources, environment, foreign affairs and the National Planning Commission.



Mr. J. K. Tsokwa, Assistant Director of Labour, right, discussing with JEA Obasuyi, Assistant State Secretary of NWCSSAN and Comdr. Musa Ukpo, left, at the Agric and Allied Workers Union of Nigeria, state delegate conference held in Kaduna ...recently. Pix: Shehu K. Gora.

Traders protest impending demolition at Wuse market

By Abdullahi M. Gulloma, Reporter

Occupants of the popular glass shops in Wuse market have protested the planned demolition of the structure by the authorities in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), saying that the move 'is ill-conceived'.

One of the leaders of the glass shop occupants, Mr. Haruna Yakubu Opara, told *Daily Trust* that the occupants of the shops would resist attempts by FCT officials to deprive them of the ownership of the shops under the pretext of demolition.

According to him, the reasons canvassed by the officials of Abuja Investment and Property Development Company (AIPDC) and Abuja Market Management Limited on the impending demolition are not cogent and would not stand the test of time.

"Expanding Wuse market by way of multiple storey buildings makes no economic safety or aesthetic sense in a country where the economy does not give room for efficient disaster management. Consideration should be made for the limited space available for commercial transaction and easy movement of people, goods and vehicles," he said.

Mr. Opara also faulted the decision of the FCT officials to build storey buildings in the market, saying that it will re-congest the market and make business transactions extremely difficult.

He said that the money earmarked for the erection of the storey buildings at the Wuse market should be used by the authorities to develop Mabuchi, Wuse and Maitama

Muslim group raps Denmark over alleged blasphemy

By Abubakar Haruna, Reporter

Assembly of Muslims in Nigeria (AMIN) has condemned the alleged blasphemous cartoons published in Denmark's daily newspaper, *Jylland-Posten* and a Norwegian magazine, which according to it, ridiculed the Prophet Muhammad.

A press statement signed by the chairman of AMIN, Sheikh Sheriff Ibrahim Saleh Alhusaini, and made available to *Daily Trust* yesterday, said that the alleged cartoons first appeared in different settings in the Danish largest circulation daily, *Jylland-Posten*, on September 30, 2005 and was reprinted on January 10, 2006 in one of the Norwegian magazines.

The statement reads, "Islamic scholars and Muslims in Nigeria are appreciating moves by some European countries, like Germany, in establishing a department for dialogue with the Muslim and Arab world in order to consolidate mutual understanding and to achieve harmony and peaceful coexistence among nations. But unfortunately, the recent incident, and the deliberate silence of governments of Denmark and Norway on such a sensitive issue, shakes the confidence of Muslims world-wide in such departments and other European governments because of their silence on a provocation which affects many billions of Muslims emanating from members of the European Union.

"It goes without saying that one can never be a Muslim without believing in all prophets, including Jesus Christ and Moses, Peace Be upon Them. But unfortunately, such incident, which occurred in a Christian dominated community with minority Muslims, will send a dangerous signal to other places, and will affect negatively the cordial relationship which has been existing for centuries among Muslims and Christians world-wide.

"The recent incident, if not seriously addressed, will undermine all efforts being exerted by esteemed scholars world-wide, to enlighten youth and groups to shun the use of violence, which always consumes innocent people.

"Therefore, the Assembly of Muslims in Nigeria, AMIN, in no uncertain terms, strongly condemns such publications and is support-

served apology from the governments of Norway and Denmark to Muslims world-wide on this incident, as well as taking necessary measures to protect the freedom and sanctities of all groups and individuals equally.

"The Assembly of Muslims in Nigeria, AMIN, calls loudly on all Muslims in the world to boycott immediately all products of Denmark and Norway in a continuous and

effective manner. This unfortunate incident does not affect Prophet Muhammad only, but also affects all prophets and messengers of Allah, especially Jesus Christ and Moses, peace and blessings of Allah be upon them who came to the whole humanity with good tidings, spreading guidance, preaching peace, stability and prosperity for all mankind."

NUC to publish list of accredited programmes

By Abdullahi M. Gulloma, Reporter

The National Universities Commission (NUC) has said that it will publish the list of accredited programmes in all Nigerian universities by February 28, 2006 in order to put an end to the unhealthy practice of graduating students whose mature programmes have not been accredited.

The executive secretary of the commission, Professor Peter Okebukola, who disclosed this to newsmen in Abuja, said that the publication would be widely distributed to all organizations and agencies to ensure that graduates from any unaccredited mature programme are not mobilised for the National Youth Service Corps.

The NUC scribe said also that the commission would make sure that students who graduated from the unaccredited programmes are not employed or allowed to go for studies in Nigeria and other parts of the world.

He said that the measure was necessary because some universities have failed to present their mature programmes for accreditation by the commission during its November 2005 accreditation

affected universities continue to graduate students from mature programmes that have not been accredited by the NUC.

"Since only accredited programmes are deemed fit to put out graduates into the Nigerian economy, all such unaccredited should immediately cease to admit students," he said.

Meanwhile, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) has selected the National Universities Commission to partner with it to host the International Conference on Quality Assurances scheduled to take place in Nairobi, Kenya, between February 6 and February 8, 2006.

The conference is expected to take stock of international, regional and national experiences in order to develop effective mechanism for accreditation of institutions and programmes, among other things.

The NUC is billed to present papers on quality assurance in higher education in Nigeria, lessons for the African region, as well as on the Nigerian Experts and Aca-

Emir gives panacea for agric dev

By Hassan Idris, Senior Reporter in Jalingo

The Emir of Muri, Alhaji Abbas Jidda Tafida, has said that Nigeria can only achieve success in agriculture by addressing issues of skill building, technology and soil management.

Alhaji Tafida, in an interview with *Daily Trust* at his palace in Jalingo, stressed that "the first issue of agriculture in the whole world is the question of skills, technology and the knowledge of farm management, as well as the development of sound agricultural research base where new facts will be uncovered."

On the efforts of the West African Rice Association, the emir said the body tried by producing NERICA rice seed-

in Nigeria. He however blamed the Obasanjo administration for neglecting mechanized agriculture, saying "we all had high hopes when President Obasanjo told us that a lot of tractors were coming, but we ended up without seeing the tractors."

He said the policy on mechanization should be that of the federal government by choosing one standard tractor company to manufacture tractors in Nigeria.

According to him, state governments have no organised action on soil management, and regretted rampant bush burning which he

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 to
A Man of Distinction



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MALLAM BELLO IBRAHIM GWANDU, MFR, FCIT
 (Turakin Gwandu)
on his 55th Birthday.

We are proud and happy to be associated with your aspirations and dynamic services to our people and the nation at large
 May God continue to guide and protect you, (Amin).

—●— Signed ●—
Management



NEWS

Israel assesses proposed agric research centre in Minna

As Israeli team of experts concludes its fact-finding tour of Nigeria for the establishment of the proposed International Centre for Agricultural Research and Training in Minna, Niger State, Governor Abdulkadir Kure has pledged his government's total commitment toward the speedy realization of the project.

The governor made the pledge when he paid a courtesy visit on the Israeli Ambassador to Nigeria, Mr. Noam Katz, in Abuja, during which the experts briefed them on their findings, after an extensive tour of agricultural facilities in the state.

The proposed Maizube Abu-Turab International Training Centre (MAITC) is a collaborative effort among MASHAV - the Israeli centre for international coopera-

By Abdullahi M. Gulloma, Reporter

tion, the federal and Niger State governments, to be hosted by Maizube Farms Limited and Abu-Turab Farms, both located in Minna.

Governor Kure said he was impressed with the efforts made so far by the experts in putting together the action plan for the establishment of the centre, and expressed the desire to have a copy of the draft report to enable his government to make a technical input into it.

Ambassador Katz expressed delight for playing host to the governor, stressing that with the elaborate briefing received from the experts, it was possible to set up the centre which according to him, would serve not only the people of Niger State and other Nigerians, but the West African sub-region.

According to him, from the preliminary assessment report which would be presented to the governor, the mission to establish the centre is feasible, adding that with the state government's recommendation, the experts would then do a de-

tailed report when they return to Israel.

The two Israeli experts, Yeshayahu Stern and Evelyn Rosenthal, during their two-week assessment tour of facilities in the state visited Abu-Turab Farms, Maizube Farms, and Nomadic Primary School, in Minna.

They also spoke with officials of research institutes and international organizations willing to collaborate in the promotion of the centre, which is planned to be a public-private project (PPP).

Governor Kure was accompanied on the visit by the permanent secretary in the state's Ministry of Agriculture, Alhaji Umar Danyaya, and the state's liaison officer in Abuja, Mr. Umar Salihu. The deputy head of mission in the Israeli Embassy, Mr. Yair Frommer, was also present at the briefing.

Last week, the ambassador paid a similar visit to the Niger State governor in Minna to solicit the support of the state government for the project. The Israeli government is expected to provide the technical know-how for the establishment of the centre.

FAAN to hold sixth annual conference

By Mustafa Abubakar

The Fulbright Alumni Association of Nigeria (FAAN) will hold its sixth annual conference, tagged Kano 2006.

Its brief prepared for the 28th annual conference received by *Daily Trust* indicated that the conference, which is to hold between 15th -18th February, 2006 at Bayero University, Kano, will include the theme: Nigeria-US relations: the challenges of International understanding in the new millennium."

In addition, sub-themes, which include political and diplomatic relations, economic relations (AGOA, WTO, NEPAD), cultural exchange (education, sports, arts, etc), science and technical cooperation, defence and security, multilateral relations and global partnership for development, social development (healthcare, social security, housing etc), gender development and issues, poverty and hunger, youth development and issues, information and communication technology, mass media relations, infrastructural assistance and partnership, environment issues and development, research and development shall be presented by eminent scholars across the globe.

2nd class stool puts Idoma, Igede at war

Trouble is brewing between the Idoma and Igede ethnic groups in the South of Benue State following the installation of a new second class chief into the Igede traditional council.

The grapse of the Idomas is the perceived breach by the Igedes of the Benue State edict of 1991, which empowers only the Odi Idoma and the Idoma tradition council to endorse and recognise second class chiefs in Benue south.

The Igedes had earlier in the month installed a new chief, Jonathan Abankira Agene, to replace the late Ikwande Idikwu.

The Idoma traditional council, rising from a meeting, issued an eight-point communiqué, nullifying the installation of the new Igede chief which the council alleged, was masterminded by the chairmen of Oju and Obi local government areas.

From Hir Joseph, Correspondent (Makurdi)

Describing the selection and installation of the new chief as contravening the culture and tradition of the Idoma Kingdom, the communiqué signed by the council's secretary, Mr. J. O. Abubakar, warned the new Igede chief to stop parading himself as a second class chief as his appointment was illegal.

The council however said it would make proper recommendations for the selection of a new chief for Oju and Obi local government areas, adding that "whoever is appointed should be known and addressed as Ada in Idoma Kingdom."

But in a swift reaction, the Igedes who have been seeking autonomy and the upgrading of their chief to a first class status, independent from the Ochi Idoma, refused to budge

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- Graphic Designer
- In-flight Services Interior Stowage Controller
- In-flight Services Development Controller
- In-flight Services Interior Cabin Supervisor
- Ticketing Agents - Kano
- Acct Asst - Treasury
- Acct Asst - Finance
- Internal Auditor - Audit & Control
- Internal Auditor - IT & Process
- Sales Support Executive (Abuja & Port Harcourt)
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To be considered, you need to have the skills and experience for each of the roles as seen on our website job section www.virginigeria.com. All future job opportunities will be featured regularly on this site.

How to Apply

Interested applicants who meet the criteria should apply by sending an electronic copy of their CV to careers@virginigeria.com. All applications for these jobs should have the title of the role as subject title. E.g. Route Analyst, Schedule planner etc.

Note: Applications for these positions would close as stipulated on the website. Only short listed applicants will be contacted.



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|-----|------------|--------------------------------|-----|------------|------------------------------|-----|------------|-------------------------------|
| 26 | 52182955BH | AMBROSE CHINWEIKE OBETA | 8 | 52100272AD | SADIQ ABDULLAHI ADEIZA | 151 | 52103164JB | FRANCISCA NNAMODE OPHEMEGBE |
| 27 | 53159263AI | NWANKWO SIMEON OLUUBUBE | 9 | 52060301FF | ALAOWU JOMBO JR | 152 | 52846420GC | IKENNA NZUBE-IBHOIA |
| 28 | 53137901HE | MARTINS NWAININYINA ANI | 10 | 53005546CB | OLUNMI MILO LO A IEL | 153 | 52190665HA | IFEOMA METUH |
| 29 | 53292511AB | AKAN MONDAY *KAPNAH BC | 11 | 53373135EH | ONYE BEATRICE UWASOMBA | 154 | 52181892AF | ARINZE NNAMDI OKECHUKWU |
| 30 | 52194857AH | OLUSHOLA OJO | 12 | 52125900HE | UBONG CHRISTIAN ETANG | 155 | 52184466ED | LILIAN UGOCHE IKHIGBULAM |
| 31 | 52519475DD | YINKA ELISA AFOLAYAN | 13 | 52572335EI | CYNTHIA AN UK CH | 156 | 52482669GF | GRACE OGUCHI WU TOYIN DICKSON |
| 32 | 52190569GH | JOSHUA JOGWU IDOKO | 14 | 52050970BI | ADEDEJI RAHMAN BAKARE | 157 | 52184198HB | EMEKA ANAKWU AKANWQKE |
| 33 | 52501865JF | OLUKAYODE ADEDAMOLA ADEKANYE | 15 | 52185097JA | EZEKIEL GBENGA AYODELE | 158 | 52192568IE | CHINWENNIP P OORI |
| 34 | 52389330ED | HALIMAT ONONO OYIBO | 16 | 52260979AG | LATEEF BABATUNDE AJIKOBI | 159 | 52192358DF | UJUNWA OKOCHUKWU NWOSU |
| 35 | 53369781CB | OKARA BRUTUS OKARA | 17 | 52183277JF | ABDUL N ABUBAKAR | | | |
| 36 | 52182729BG | AONDONGU HENRY AGU | 18 | 52292203DG | ADEDEJI RICHARD ADESHILE | | | |
| 37 | 53283949HJ | DUTS M SALMA ALIYU | 19 | 52404935HJ | BLESSING MUTIATAMINU | | | |
| 38 | 52510059FE | IJAI LASSA | 20 | 52489325HJ | FUNMILAYO OLUWATOYIN AJ-YI | | | |
| 39 | 53320857DC | ABDUL B DIKWA | 21 | 52024979AD | IFEOLU > LANIYAN > | | | |
| 40 | 52182709HG | ANAS AHMAD SANDA | 22 | 52039729IC | ONYEKA EMMANUEL OKOBOSHI | | | |
| 41 | 53265035HG | MILCAH PRECIOUS HOGA | 23 | 52271227BB | GBEMISOLA TOLU AKINTADE | | | |
| 42 | 52196236EB | SULEMAN MOHAMMED LAMORDE | 24 | 52279541JF | IFIOK ISAAC EDUOK | | | |
| 43 | 52192610FF | FATIMA AMINU | 25 | 52501877JF | OLADIPU KAYODE ABUDU | | | |
| 44 | 53001519HE | YASMIN AHMAD AMINU | 26 | 52509712CI | FRANO IS ADAKOLE UJI | | | |
| 45 | 52494695HB | MURJA USMAN | 27 | 52511050JI | CHIKE JUNIOR OGBELEJE | | | |
| 46 | 53224520IA | UMMU-SALAMAH UMAR | 28 | 52741108GJ | UKUEKU DAFE | | | |
| 47 | 52841457BD | RAMSEY ABUCH OMEGO | 29 | 52133571FA | AYODEJI EMMANUEL AKINWU | | | |
| 48 | 52183268IG | EMINE JUSTIN OKOLIE | 30 | 52393068IB | KABOWE TITI OYIN TAREBI | | | |
| 49 | 52521949TA | PATRICIA OLUBUNMI ACCOLATSE | 31 | 52658475DG | ADEBANKO TITUS WASELUN | | | |
| 50 | 52843260DG | SAMUEL NHONYI BIKI | 32 | 52314486CA | ADELEK TITUS ARUNA | | | |
| 51 | 52024588BC | AYANTAYO ISAI AH AYANKUNLE | 33 | 52397175HJ | SULAIM HABEB OLAWALE | | | |
| 52 | 52607671GB | ENOH ONYEKAC-I CHUKWUOCHA | 34 | 52394817BH | ANINO I JO | | | |
| 53 | 52907306FF | FLOXY NNENNA IHEUKWUMERE | 35 | 52992184EG | JUSTINA CHINENYE CHUKWUE | | | |
| 54 | 53179617FG | NTIEDO CLEMENT IKONO | 36 | 52249787CA | LOVELYN ITOHAN OJEMEKELE | | | |
| 55 | 52567722BG | UWEMEDIM EZEKIEL UBENGAMA | 37 | 52417196FJ | EMMANUEL PETER UKI | | | |
| 56 | 53027133FG | ZAKARI ISSA | 38 | 52956945DD | ETTA IFOLU EDET | | | |
| 57 | 52865997BG | ZAINAB TANKO ELEJO | 39 | 52054538IB | ABDI I RAHMAN ALHASSAN | | | |
| 58 | 52185094AC | PEACE NNENNA OKORIE | 40 | 53371320GA | KEHINDE OLASURO OYINLOYE | | | |
| 59 | 52841445EJ | DAVID EMEKA CHIKEYONYIA | 41 | 52196088JH | GEORGE OCHE ONOJA | | | |
| 60 | 52188385CD | EZE KENNEDY KENECHUKWU | 42 | 52647747BG | KI CSLEY F OPORO | | | |
| 61 | 52126410JG | OLUWAKEMI A OLUBODUN | 43 | 52185150CI | PA AONDOWASE ATSENGA | | | |
| 62 | 52367290AJ | MARIYASANIBUHARI | 44 | 53381537GB | OLUWATOSIN PETER AJIBOYE | | | |
| 63 | 52183893BG | CHIEME OGBEYALU CHUKWU | 45 | 52960580IJ | EBRI OKOBE UDUMA | | | |
| 64 | 52021493IC | UCHENNA STELLA ELECHI | 46 | 52523168BC | ALIYU J MOHAMMED | | | |
| 65 | 52022824GG | BIBIAN CHIOMA IDAM | 47 | 52181575ID | BEATRICE AISHATU NDAHI | | | |
| 66 | 52189620AE | PRECIOUS I OHIRI | 48 | 52253584HF | SOLOMON ABAB BENARD OJONUGWA | | | |
| 67 | 52827222DI | IGWE SAMUEL NDUBUISI | 49 | 52160591IC | SOLOMON MATHEW | | | |
| 68 | 52260395BC | OGBU BLESSING IJOMA | 50 | 52472925AD | ABDULHAMEED YAHAYA QWUNA | | | |
| 69 | 52016204EB | CHUKWUMA NWOSU EKEH | 51 | 53320360GI | BENSON AIYIWULU YUNANA | | | |
| 70 | 52884610HE | MINTY IDARA DOUGLAS | 52 | 52521944JF | INDIANDEYE ERNEST JOSEPH | | | |
| 71 | 52336383JF | DEJI JOHN OLAGBEMIRO | 53 | 52183646HI | OLUWAFISAYO OLUWAKEMI DADA | | | |
| 72 | 52195911EG | JULIET OGBONNE CHUKWU | 54 | 52196788DI | KAYODE O A LAWANI | | | |
| 73 | 53323985FH | TOLUOPE AKINPELU | 55 | 52363207DI | ESTHER JUMMAI PETERS | | | |
| 74 | 52498863IA | SURURAT OLABISI OWONIKOKO | 56 | 52781631BI | SEDIQ ABDULMALIK | | | |
| 75 | 52767990DA | COMFORT ANASE BELLO | 57 | 52846848JF | HAUWA ABUBAKAR MUHAMMAD | | | |
| 76 | 52184730CH | JEMILA KOFWOROLA DUDUYEMI | 58 | 52229918AI | NABILA IDA TANIMU | | | |
| 77 | 52846488FC | PROMISE SAMUEL EGBE | 59 | 53321771JG | YALWAI ADAMU MADARA | | | |
| 78 | 52034129AE | OLAKITAN SEUN AIYELABOLA | 60 | 52363641IG | EMMANUEL WABIAA OBIDA | | | |
| 79 | 52206586DB | IYIWOLAWA BECKY OLU-ALABI | 61 | 52022824GG | ONYNYECHI CHUKWU | | | |
| 80 | 52263933GI | YEWANDE MOTUNRAYO ABIODUN | 62 | 52188481IG | JANE EWERE MARTINS | | | |
| 81 | 52171873JL | ASANYA UCHENNA JULIET | 63 | 52196385HF | MARYAM OLUWASEUN ALAYANDE | | | |
| 82 | 52843195DH | FALEKE OLUWAFOLAKEMI ABIM-OLA | 64 | 52194037EC | SAHEED OLALEKAN KOLA AFOLABI | | | |
| 83 | 52192294DD | OKEYA OMOBOLADE OLAWUNMI | 65 | 53673109CC | OJONUGWA LUCKY QGBAJE | | | |
| 84 | 52368156DA | ZAINAB KALGO IBRAHIM | 66 | 52356641ED | FUNKE TITILAYO ISHOLA | | | |
| 85 | 52980960FJ | KAMILA ANGO ABDULLAHI | 67 | 52187949HA | SULEIMAN ABDULLAHI MUHAMMED | | | |
| 86 | 52362245BC | HALIMA MOHAMMED TUKUR | 68 | 52036557JC | MOBOLAJI OLIVIA ENIOLORUNDA | | | |
| 87 | 52635088GG | CHARLES NYECHA OKOCHA | 69 | 52841559JF | BABATIMI SEGUN AWONIYI | | | |
| 88 | 53319782FG | JOHN UEBARI NUNIEH | 70 | 52181635JH | MARIA ONAIYEKAN | | | |
| 89 | 52766646IF | FATIMA IYE ABDULLAHI | 71 | 53237314BD | MOYOSOLA ADETUTU FI NI | | | |
| 90 | 52187972AB | FATIMA ADAMU ADAMU | 72 | 52188975JG | CHIJOKE ONYEKACHI K I U | | | |
| 91 | 52183813GC | CAROL EBELE IZUEGBU | 73 | 52192362CD | ENENO WILLIAM UDOH | | | |
| 92 | 52769217DF | ADEDIOWURA BUSAYO OGUNS->YI | 74 | 53321169GG | MERCY CHERECHUKWU CHUKWU | | | |
| 93 | 52846229DF | FABOYOTEMITOPE RUTH | 75 | 52192694JE | KALU JAMES OJI | | | |
| 94 | 52708773HE | SOLOMON IMBASU ESAU > | 76 | 53015246CB | ADETOKE ADENIKE J ODA | | | |
| 95 | 52040360DC | ELIZABETH OL>FUNKE ASHIRU | 77 | 52525521DE | ODE MAHONEY OKP | | | |
| 96 | 52187153DD | NKEMAKON O UFELLE | 78 | 52185632DH | OBIAJULU JOSEPH O W E | | | |
| 97 | 52247198CH | CHETANNA BINYEREM ACHARA | 79 | 52181575ID | BEATRICE AISHATU NDAHI | | | |
| 98 | 52190880AH | JANET FOLAYEMI FAL->YI | 80 | 52184775IG | IBRAHIM ADEYINKA LAWAL | | | |
| 99 | 52373889JH | AHMAD ISMAIL BELLO | 81 | 52980353DH | NUHU ENESSI ABU SALAM | | | |
| 100 | 52845674AJ | RUKAYA AHMAD TUKUR | 82 | 52864274EE | JOSHUA AYOTUNDE ADINZE | | | |
| 101 | 52373694AD | RABI UMAR USMAN | 83 | 53184031AG | ANITA ALAERE ANYAEBUNAM | | | |
| 102 | 52847250JE | EMMANUEL IRAYA | 84 | 52270142GF | OLUWAGBENGA O OYEWUSI | | | |
| 103 | 52379620HD | EMMANUEL EHNOMEN OHUNYON | 85 | 52486002FH | ADEDUNMOLA S KIRAT TOLANI | | | |
| 104 | 53349362HB | CHARLES IKECHUKWU UGWUODO | 86 | 52387181II | OBIORA IFEANYI ALIBOH | | | |
| 105 | 52593918JF | NWANDO NKECHI OBI > | 87 | 53340648CD | RASHIDA LAWAL | | | |
| 106 | 53300382FG | ITORO M BASSEDA | 88 | 52269128AD | DARE SOFOLAWO SAMUEL | | | |
| 107 | 52181923AJ | EJIOFOR SOMKENE ERIMMA | 89 | 52190289DE | CHINELLO ZOE CHINAKA | | | |
| 108 | 52192302AJ | OMOTOSIMI YEJIDE ADU WQ | 90 | 52907809AB | JANE CHIOMA OSUJI | | | |
| 109 | 53264317JG | DOOSE PRECIOUS TARGEMA-TAKEMA | 91 | 52843392CI | ALI ALHASSAN | | | |
| 110 | 53319344BC | OJI ANTHONY ISU | 92 | 53373190HG | RASHEED ADEKUNLE ADEGBOYEFA | | | |
| 111 | 53054163FI | NIMOTA N.Y-HAYA | 93 | 53027317IG | EZEKIEL MIHAEL ADEOLA | | | |
| 112 | 52416300DB | BALIKIS A GAMBARI | 94 | 52885198DB | JEREMIAH PADU SHEANYIGNA | | | |
| 113 | 52196227GI | DINATU BABA WAMBAL | 95 | 52334922BG | DANIEL O OKEREKE | | | |
| 114 | 53341950JE | JOSEPH KAYODE ALATISHE | 96 | 52971136IF | TOSAN ERURAJOLO | | | |
| 115 | 53262444IJ | SAMUEL OJONUGWA ATAGUBA | 97 | 52270436GF | OLUWAGBENGA O OYEWUSI | | | |
| 116 | 53321345CD | YUSUF BABAJIDE USMAN | 98 | 52124688GG | ABAYON MICHAEL OGUNJOBI | | | |
| 117 | 52339631FB | IHEANYICHUKWU HILARY UKPABI | 99 | 52954299BH | ADAK GENEVIEVE OGBENNA | | | |
| 118 | 52196696BJ | VALENTINE EMEKA OKEKE | 100 | 52846344ED | IFEANYI CHUKWU DANNY OPI | | | |
| 119 | 53319787EB | NNADUBEM OKADIGBO MOGHALU | 101 | 52095359DG | OBIJON OMONYE | | | |
| 120 | 52283316CC | VERONICA OBIAMAKA OKAFOR | 102 | 53375901DI | AFULU OPEYEMI ADEJUMO | | | |
| 121 | 53319404CG | GIDEON OKEOGHENE OBAROOVIEMUNO | 103 | 52866273BC | SIFUN SUNDAY AYODELE | | | |
| 122 | 53382185FH | OLUWATOYIN NAOMI LEWU | 104 | 52188792GD | INOCENT UGWU OKWOR | | | |
| 123 | 52319909EH | MUTIAT M ABDULSALAMI | 105 | 52981424CF | CHIOMA MAUREEN EZIAN | | | |
| 124 | 52713575CE | MIEBI CHARLES DAUNEMIGHA | 106 | 52881972AG | SUNDAY OLAWALE AKIN | | | |
| 125 | 52687962DJ | BASSEY OKON IBOKETTE | 107 | 52292203DG | ADEDEJI RICHARD ADESHILE | | | |
| 126 | 52843047JD | IKENNA EMMANUEL OJKE | 108 | 52050970BI | CHIEMEZE UZO A MIB | | | |
| 127 | 52657578BB | MARYAM ADETOKUNBO ESANWA | 109 | 52050970BI | ULUKPOSO ATIANASSA MARK | | | |
| 128 | 52194736HJ | LIONARD CHIKIEZE | 110 | 52050970BI | SAMUEL OLALEKAN O OGUNDE | | | |
| 129 | 52506216EA | CHIOMA T IHEANACHO | 111 | 52050970BI | OBIANJU C NE-ADP | | | |
| 130 | 52188997DA | Owolabi TEMITOPE ANIMASHAUN | 112 | 52050970BI | THEOPHILUS AYO UNDE MAJLACU | | | |
| 131 | 52846272CB | QUEEN JOSEPH | 113 | 52050970BI | ABDULGANIYI OMOYI ABDUL AZE | | | |
| 132 | 52186317BJ | JEREMIAH CHIDINMA IBE | 114 | 5319813GA | ISLAKA DAMI AFRANUSA | | | |
| 133 | 52865689GH | SEGUN KIKI | 115 | 52181464CI | NYIAM ULYNES OJEB | | | |
| 134 | 52196738IH | GODSENT OSAGIE IMIANVAN | 116 | 52183776HG | ABIDEMI OYIN | | | |
| 135 | 52184685GF | ELIZABETH O IBEZIM | 117 | 52690731HI | DAVID ASHABU ABRAHIM | | | |
| 136 | 52192265CD | NKIRU JANE NWABUDIKE | 118 | 52147036AH | AUGUSTIN OBI OGUNSANYA | | | |
| 137 | 52126361EJ | AMINU OGBONGBEMI ROMOKE | 119 | 52841616CB | CHUKWUEMELIYACINTH CHUKWUE | | | |
| 138 | 53187573FA | RUTH AMARA OKOLO | 120 | 53149665JA | VICTOR OLUWASEUN OJTTOJU | | | |
| 139 | 52843733HC | DANIEL BULUS | 121 | 52846213AE | IKECHUKWU PATRICK OKOROA | | | |
| 140 | 53040052AC | ANULIKA OGECHUKWU OB>AGA | 122 | 52269128AD | DARE SAMUEL SOLOLAWO | | | |
| 141 | 52411787IH | NAFISAT ONYOZA SALIU | 123 | 52864030JH | ANAZU SAADAT SALIHU | | | |
| 142 | 52846669JB | DANIEL NWAEEZ | 124 | 52825068AB | YAKUBI FEMI OGB | | | |
| 143 | 52183866JH | OKECHUKWU EMMANUEL EFFODUH | 125 | 53152621EJ | NWADITO UGOCHE OBOJEEFA | | | |
| 144 | 52239665CF | ESSIEN ABIA | 126 | 52380847HI | HANZA SULAIMAN | | | |
| 145 | 52281102GI | PETER EJEH EJEH | 127 | 52979801EE | ADEDEJI OLUWASEUN ADESHILE | | | |
| 146 | 52362775HB | ABDULKARIM A SHAIBU | 128 | 52183105FC | UCHUKWU MOSES OLUWAKEMI | | | |
| 147 | 52181213AF | SYLVESTER TOCHUKWU OKEKE | 12 | | | | | |

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|-----|------------|--------------------------------|
| 106 | 52349309CA | STEPHEN ABAKU OHIMAIN |
| 107 | 52843717CD | TIJANI ABDU SALAM EROMI |
| 108 | 53382477FE | HAKEEM ENEYE MUHAMMED |
| 109 | 52490615IJ | CHINEDU SABRINA OKIYA |
| 110 | 53323780JA | DANJUMA JOSEPH |
| 111 | 52336164HD | EDWARD NABIBI |
| 112 | 52351243DI | ABDUL ENDURANCE |
| 113 | 52194882CJ | SAMUEL PEREQWEI KENTEBE |
| 114 | 52052599HI | OBINNA ANTHONY BOSAH |
| 115 | 53209790DI | OSAYANDE GABRIEL OSADOLOR |
| 116 | 52978198AD | ABUBAKAR SADIQ MUSA |
| 117 | 52403974FC | CHIGOZIE PHILOMINA ACHUKWU |
| 118 | 52770979IE | ABDULLAH HARUNA |
| 119 | 52125267DD | BABATUNDE SAMUEL OLAWOYE |
| 120 | 53321710JC | ODILI MARKANTHONY IWUOZOR |
| 121 | 53320071GC | ADENIKE MORILI ASHIMOLOWO |
| 122 | 53323179FA | NDU>UISI AMADI OME |
| 123 | 52778365EC | GL>RIA OMOWUMI ARQONKHALE |
| 124 | 52846202DH | IKHUORJA DONALD IGHODALO |
| 125 | 52197017CG | LINDA KEMDILI NWAZIRI |
| 126 | 52768912HH | SEIDU KADIRI |
| 126 | 53319946EJ | PRISCA UCHECHUKWU ONWUEME |
| 128 | 53054210BE | RUKAYAT A AMBALI |
| 129 | 52842028EG | HAPPINESS AKUNNA OKECHUKWU |
| 130 | 52836753GA | ADEBIYI ADEKUNLE FOWOKAN |
| 131 | 53263201EJ | LINDA OYERIKE ONIGBINDE |
| 132 | 52897863GA | ANURIKA FAVOUR NWABUGWU |
| 133 | 52823069IB | QUEEN AKPEJI OZIOMA |
| 134 | 52195210BF | OMITE FATIMA USMAN |
| 135 | 53113312CE | MABEL ENAHORO |
| 136 | 53324176GG | MONDAY IDOKO |
| 137 | 52862142DI | SILAS DAMIAN ONUH |
| 138 | 52402090HI | FEMI TITUS ALUKO |
| 139 | 52192726FJ | OLUWASEYI ANTHONY AYODELE |
| 140 | 52351615IG | SHOLA AIYEDIPE |
| 141 | 52895451CB | SALIHU OYIZA KATUMI |
| 142 | 53159556AC | OKAGBUE CHINWE |
| 143 | 53347220JF | MOHAMMED OBANUWA |
| 144 | 52843226DA | ORITSE MAYIWA EMUAKPEJE KELVIN |
| 145 | 52296884FI | TEMITOPÉ ADE>AYO GBADAM>SI |
| 146 | 52656050DG | FAVOUR OMOYEMI AYIVI AJAVON |
| 147 | 53305162HC | CHIVIR NYAYO |
| 148 | 52146061CC | ABIOLA OMOLOLU TAWQSE |
| 149 | 53269236DI | TIJANI ALIDU ABDULLAH |
| 150 | 52194645GB | AKPABIO M.C ANIETTE |
| 151 | 52420390IA | EMECA CHARLES NNANNA |
| 152 | 52654391GG | KATHERINE AKUNNA UBOM |
| 153 | 52993200AF | KAZEEM>>>OLA ADEKANYE |
| 154 | 53005369GH | GLORIA ENE INYANDA |
| 155 | 52356991GA | SAMUEL AKO UGWOKÉ |
| 156 | 53102997CG | OMOBOLANLE OLUWASEUN OMONIYI |

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

| S/NO | REG NO | NAME |
|------|------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | 52650945CF | OPUADAH OGBUJI |
| 2 | 52396292BC | ABDULRASHEED VYUSUF |
| 3 | 52490143FA | AUGUSTA ISIOMA ELUMELU |
| 4 | 53339649BD | ELIZABETH EMOTIMI SESE |
| 5 | 52634708EC | LINDA NKECHI ACHUGBU |
| 6 | 52397294BD | OLOWA JOHN ANTHONY |
| 7 | 52419874HG | BUSOLA ISIAKA OPEMIPO |
| 8 | 52738423HD | DONGO ELVIS BABATUNDE |
| 9 | 52443300CG | ADEBAYO RAHMAN SALAU |
| 10 | 52489110EF | ALBANNA YUSUF YUNUS |
| 11 | 52452883IG | CHRISTANA NKECHI OGIDI |
| 12 | 52663929GH | ADELOYE JUNIOR FALAI > |
| 13 | 52087161IF | OMOIKE JOHN EREWELE |
| 14 | 52415246IJ | AKPANASIARA IKOABASI EDWARD |
| 15 | 52260700GH | FELICITA AKUDO MADUAKOLAM |
| 16 | 52277436AI | JULIET NONYELUM CHINELI |
| 17 | 53290229FH | ONUK NELSON IKIE |
| 18 | 52620974BJ | FRANK D>YE INORU |
| 19 | 52190286ED | NZUBECHUKWU NJEKWE |
| 20 | 52292254HH | OGHENEAGA NEWMAN EBAH |
| 21 | 53133014II | OSANYINRO KOLADE SAMUEL |
| 22 | 52711932AG | KENNETH OCHUKO DENEDO |
| 23 | 52951006AC | ETINOSA FLORENCE OJO |
| 24 | 53371001EH | ABAYO>I ABDULKAREEM ABIODUN |
| 25 | 52442685CI | ENOBONG GRACE UKAPS |
| 26 | 53274491DC | OMOTOLA OLATUNBOSUN O |
| 27 | 52387731IH | USMAN ENESI |
| 28 | 52236116AC | HADIZA GALI ALA |
| 29 | 52527638IF | MARGRET CHRISTIANA ODEY |
| 30 | 52194337BF | IBRAHIM BOMOI |
| 31 | 52510074AJ | PETER OCHEME |
| 32 | 53320713HG | SANI SAKABA |
| 33 | 52502084CA | RUKAYA ATTAIRU ABDULKADIR |
| 34 | 52281828CE | BIDEMI JOSEPH ZANNU |
| 35 | 52471422FA | AHMED YAHAYA |
| 36 | 53322169HD | SAMBO ISHAQ SIDIQ |
| 37 | 52013015AF | EMMANUEL CHUKWU |
| 38 | 53322809JD | CHIMAIJEM UDE KAMA |
| 39 | 52340804CE | NIMZE WALA SAURI |
| 40 | 52978707CI | SAMSON BAKO MADUGU |
| 41 | 52181931IC | MOHAMMED AUWAL IBRAHIM |
| 42 | 52658453AF | PWADADI NEWTON TAMUNAKAI |
| 43 | 52757905CB | PRIN ESS EKIYE PRISCILLA |
| 44 | 53321877HG | NWACHI FELICITY NGOZI |
| 45 | 52016408BB | MARY CHIOMA ADUWA |
| 46 | 52765721EH | AGADA OJOMA SERAH |
| 47 | 52183028IJ | MIKAH GABADI AZAKA |
| 48 | 52086166GD | EMMANUEL ENAHORO EJEREGBE |
| 49 | 52841397JG | MODESTA NKECHI EZERIOHA |
| 50 | 53320601CE | GREG ONU CHUKWU |
| 51 | 52846597BG | OKOI UBI OKOI |
| 52 | 52881860FE | JOSEPHINE CHAT GEORGE ASAKE |
| 53 | 52195704IF | CHIOMA CHINWENWA AGBUKOR |
| 54 | 52501586FJ | DYALYA LEAH FALUM |
| 55 | 53235987BH | OLUWADAMILOLA TITULOPE OSEKI>A |
| 56 | 52847088JF | ACHEME AUGUSTINE AMBRUSE |
| 57 | 52846484GE | YOHANA G CHANKADDA |
| 58 | 53069652FE | LYDIA SANI |
| 59 | 52360786CE | CHUBADO HADIZA MUHAMMED |
| 60 | 52030132GE | PETERRBUNOR P |
| 61 | 53323875JG | KINDERLES>LARENWA>>R>>ROG ON |
| 62 | 52094606GA | KALU UDUMA KALU |
| 63 | 52351847GJ | KABIRU FS ABDULKAREEM |
| 64 | 53069700AH | HELEN SANI |
| 65 | 52359320FH | EMMANUEL OLUMIDE AKINBUWA |
| 66 | 52193224FG | PETER AGBQ >OR |
| 67 | 53320178DC | KELVIN EBINPRE YIBOWEI |
| 68 | 52846568AG | GRACE BRENDA EDEGINAM |
| 69 | 52841975BB | RAPHAEL CHINONSO NWABUEZE |
| 70 | 53321725EH | AMEH DANIEL EMMANUEL |
| 71 | 52885408IA | ALIYU SULAIMAN MASHEGU |
| 72 | 52362116BB | FADILA TIJANI |
| 73 | 52355037AF | OSAZE EDITH OBAKPOLOR |
| 74 | 53322826EC | OKWUN ONYEMA MBA |
| 75 | 53322809JD | CHIMAIJEM UDE KAMA |
| 76 | 52847106EB | ONUKWUE CHINONSO AUGUSTINE |
| 77 | 52881746AI | EUCHARIA UKAMAKA OBIORAH |
| 78 | 53306078EA | YERONICA MBACHIVI> UGAND>N |
| 79 | 52843008BG | FRANKLIN UDEY EJIN |
| 80 | 53319164GH | FUNMILOLA OLABIMPE KUKOYI |
| 81 | 52191021GJ | UZOCHUKWU JONATHAN OFONYIRI |
| 82 | 52194026FH | HENRIETTA AKUNNAYA UGWU |
| 83 | 52881880JB | SULE JOHN |
| 84 | 52604240HC | ONUOHA PAULINE C |
| 85 | 52846273BI | SAMUEL AYANTOYE |
| 86 | 52196914EE | PATIENCE OSENENYE OMENI |
| 87 | 52188432HG | CHARLES KINGSLEY |
| 88 | 52183575JH | ADEYEMI ADEKUNLE TITUS |
| 89 | 52846513HE | GLORIA I MUOH |

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| 90 | 52846219ID | ABDULLAH ASO KA JRA |
| 91 | 53322795DI | LONGINUS OKAFOR IKECHUKWU |
| 92 | 52843029FA | CALEB OLUWASEUN AJAYI |
| 93 | 52181779FD | JANE OBICHI JOEL |
| 94 | 52235222GF | CI>DERELLA MAKUT |
| 95 | 52979132BE | MERCY JATAU |
| 96 | 52951006AC | ETINOSA FLORENCE OJO |
| 97 | 53143289BC | DANIEL ONIMISI ONUCHI |
| 98 | 52846801ID | REUBEN AYODELE JOSEPH |
| 99 | 52047929CD | OLAJIDE AKINYANJU JULIUS |
| 100 | 52351758EF | NANCY ADEOLA OLADIPO |
| 101 | 52180963HG | RICHARD OJONUGWA ODUH |
| 102 | 52848365EH | PEACE ELEJOI ACHOR |
| 103 | 53319591EH | MAUREEN EMENGO ANTHONY |
| 104 | 53321443CA | LOWOLEN> EMO>TOSIN SAMSON |
| 105 | 53007033CC | LAWRENTA ITOHAN OBEAHON |
| 106 | 52183440BH | JENNIFER IFUMNAYA ODIACHI |
| 107 | 52848019BI | ZAINAB AJUMA SULEIMAN |
| 108 | 53113766CA | CHUKWUMA PETER OHAI |
| 109 | 52841454CC | AMINA HALILU |
| 110 | 52846568AG | GRACE BRENDAN EDEMINAM |
| 111 | 52190749BC | IDU FIDELIS IDAGU |
| 112 | 52185242ED | ZAINAB IBRAHIM OWODUNNI |
| 113 | 52993068BD | JOSEPH MAKUN JIYAH |
| 114 | 52843288EJ | JOSEPH AKOR DAVID |
| 115 | 53320659EE | JIDEFOR LOUISA N |
| 116 | 52847129GJ | KEHINDE LAWRENCE LAWAL |
| 117 | 52846573II | KENNEDY UGORJI |
| 118 | 52255013FG | KAYODE ISAAC AWODELE |
| 119 | 52846670II | NELLY REUBEN CHINENYE |
| 120 | 52515903HJ | MOYEME TRACY AGBATOR |
| 121 | 53268908JH | NANA OIZA JATTO |
| 122 | 52181143CB | OYELEKE OMONIKE OPEYEMI |
| 123 | 53321879HA | ONAH IKENNA PETER |
| 124 | 52992959EJ | TASALAT AKABA JIBRIL |
| 125 | 52184233GD | JUDE ARINZE NWACHUKWU |
| 126 | 53185319CC | BAWA J M KAGARA |
| 127 | 52362238DD | PATRICIA LADI OCHIGBO |
| 128 | 52770976JD | CHUKWUDI CHRISTIAN UGWUANYI |
| 129 | 52885692AE | HANNATU MOHAMMED IDRIS |
| 130 | 52765005GB | JOY ELENWA MAKOJI |
| 131 | 52735590DG | PAULINA CHIZOBA EJIMIKE |
| 132 | 52769866CI | CHIDINMA VICTORIA IHEDI |
| 133 | 52154514HH | UDOYE CHUKWUDI JOHN |
| 134 | 52864507CE | SEGUN ADEBAYO OJEDA |
| 135 | 53357667IF | JUDE JOSEPH IMHANYEHOR |
| 136 | 52529932AG | HABIB GAJU UMAR |
| 137 | 52508289CJ | ONYEKACHI NWACHUKWU |
| 138 | 53385395DA | FALILAT GOMINA |
| 139 | 52183954CH | OBIANUJU P OKEKE |
| 140 | 52193543GJ | OLUBUKOLA JOB CECILIA |
| 141 | 52181667AB | ABDULLAH M GARBA |
| 142 | 52190714CA | JOSEPH AGHEDO |
| 143 | 53323273FJ | NKWO FELIX AZUBUIKE |
| 144 | 52182752EE | FRANCISCA UGONMAH ROWLAND |
| 145 | 52354749JD | MERCY OGADINMA IROH |
| 146 | 52191068CF | ELIJAH DAMILARE JOSHUA |
| 147 | 53341994FJ | GIFT NKECHI OKEREKE |
| 148 | 53069547HI | CHIBUZOR DANIEL EMMANUEL |
| 149 | 52845637ID | SONIA BUKOLA QODE |
| 150 | 52955095FE | VICTOR EDET ESEIGBE |
| 151 | 52186397HA | EMMANUEL KALU EZE |
| 152 | 53069322HE | ATOJUN MERCY |
| 153 | 53322889EH | CHINENYE JANE EMEKA |
| 154 | 53324533GC | KAYODE EZEKIEL OGUNDANA |

FACULTY OF MEDICINE

MEDICINE

| S/NO | REG NO | NAME |
|------|------------|------------------------------|
| 1 | 52297534EI | BELLO OMOWUNMI ENITAN |
| 2 | 52196265FB | OBONG INYANG ANYANG |
| 3 | 52185128JE | EMMANUEL CHIBUEZE IHEGARANYA |
| 4 | 52143784GD | ELIPA DEI OLUWABOKOLA OSHO |
| 5 | 52181930FI | ALICE ENOISE AGBO |
| 6 | 52194969HF | ENOABASI ETIMM ETUK |
| 7 | 53321674AJ | ABDULRAHMAN TOBI YUSUF |
| 8 | 52560704CB | CHIBUZO EJEMEKA |
| 9 | 52503543AI | JUDE UCHE ONYELU |
| 10 | 52143704BC | OMOLOLA TUIBI OSHO |
| 11 | 53158129BF | UCHENNA JUDE CHUKWURAN |
| 12 | 52292018AJ | CHIKI CHIMEZIE NWABUO |
| 13 | 52843387ED | UGWUNJEI UCHENNA O |
| 14 | 52246099CG | OFFIONG OBOT UFFEN |
| 15 | 52051350EC | TEBEREN OGWENEKAWA |
| 16 | 52186380CE | DABEDOCHUKWU UZOAMAKA OKOLI |
| 17 | 53385700IF | ENESICHATTA MINKAILU |
| 18 | 52843408HH | SAMUEL OKPANACHI OGWU |
| 19 | 52183445AC | EMMANUEL PAUL ODIBA |
| 20 | 52192767GJ | TOLULOPE ELIZABETH ADESINA |
| 21 | 52362336DA | EMMANUEL OLUWATOSIN BISRIYU |

FACULTY OF SCIENCES

BIOLOGY

| S/NO | REG NO | NAME |
|------|------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | 52083897IA | ENDURANCE NAGBONMA OJO |
| 2 | 52054514FG | LINDA GIDEONDI ENE |
| 3 | 52554841FD | CONSTANCE ANURIKA NW OSU |
| 4 | 52134329AH | SANUSI MONSURU ARISEKOLA |
| 5 | 52507027DC | NKIRUKA HANNAH UGWU |
| 6 | 53323219CH | JOSHUA AYOKUNLE AYENI |
| 7 | 52186992DB | CHUKWUNONSQ EKENE CHUKWUDI |
| 8 | 52952468HI | FRANCISCA AMALA OBIDIKE |
| 9 | 53067212AC | ADEKUNLE ADEWUMI JOSHUA |
| 10 | 52770617AG | AMINA SHEHU AHMED |
| 11 | 52949149EE | ABDULLAH JIBRIL |
| 12 | 52895382DE | SHOLA BETTY > E |
| 13 | 53140015DH | MUJIBATQTUYO |
| 14 | 52377949EC | MUSA AHMED KABIR |
| 15 | 52194209BH | OKPALA CHITEZIE IFEANYI CHUKWU |
| 16 | 52285716JH | BEBEDICT OLUWASIEUN ANANII |
| 17 | 52770935CC | EBENEZER OLUWASHEYE GBOLUWAGA |
| 18 | 52847025JA | ALIYU MOHAMMED KOLO |
| 19 | 52031914FD | PAUL RALABA AKINRINLOLA |
| 20 | 52350560FA | TEMITOPE AKIRARA |
| 21 | 52196179BI | OLUWASEGUN JOEL ADEGOKE |
| 22 | 52765361GI | OLATUBOSUN OJONUGWA OSITUGA |
| 23 | 52157627EI | EDITH ADESIRI INOBA |
| 24 | 52846357FH | NKECHYI ERE IFESIKA |
| 25 | 52465925FB | TOOCHUKWU EXCELLENCE OMEJE |
| 26 | 53321824BE | KOREDE DANIEL AYENI |
| 27 | 52196487GE | OMOLOLA OMOREMI IYANTAN |
| 28 | 52770986GD | FAITH UKEDONO ONOJA |
| 29 | 52843668HD | ABDUL MALIK YUSUF |
| 30 | 52543301EE | IZUCHUKWU VINCENTJAY NWQSU |

CHEMISTRY

| S/NO | REG NO | NAME |
|------|------------|------------------------------|
| 1 | 52274648DA | STELLA EFFIONG KOFFI |
| 2 | 52493673DD | QNYEBUCHI HILLARY NNAJI |
| 3 | 52836268GA | ADEBAYO ADERONKE JELILAT |
| 4 | 53142864CG | ABDULWASIU OLAWALE SALAUDEEN |
| 5 | 52928323FE | RASHEED JOLAYEMI OYEBANJI |
| 6 | 52048792FD | AYOMIDE OLUWASEGUN QGUNSOLU |
| 7 | 52929468BE | ADEREMI SUNDAY ADEMOLA |
| 8 | 52285728GB | CHIGOZIRIM ORJI |
| 9 | 52318962HF | ABI DUN RAJI IDRIS |
| 10 | 53323107HC | FOLORUNSO JUNIOR MOYEGUN |
| 11 | 52183762CB | RAIMOT ADEFOYEKE AMUSA |
| 12 | 53323185DC | ODOH IFEAYI THOMAS P |
| 13 | 53323050EJ | CHIDI HENRY ASONYE |
| 14 | 52947768BG | AMINA DANGE |
| 15 | 52846257GG | UCHECHUKWU ANTHONY OGWUDA |

| | | |
|----|------------|-------------------------|
| 16 | 52362713GD | MUOKA OBIANOJU IJEOMA |
| 17 | 52895370HA | MURTALA MUHAMMED O NUHU |
| 18 | 52086152AI | GETRUDE ONYINYE AGUN |
| 19 | 52846782ED | CHINOMSO VIVIAN UKAH |
| 20 | 53322250CE | AISHA ABDULLAH GUMEL |

PHYSICS

| S/NO | REG NO | NAME |
|------|------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | 52478847IF | PHILIP EGBE ENYA |
| 2 | 52207292EH | OLSoola OLATUNDE SALAKO |
| 3 | 52196546IB | UCHECHUKWU FESTUS OKECHI |
| 4 | 52181273BJ | AYODEJI RASQ AKINTOYE |
| 5 | 52280048CJ | OKONTA IGWE NELSON |
| 6 | 52846934HC | DOTUN SUNDAY AJALA |
| 7 | 52227989DG | BOLUWATIFE A AKINTAYO |
| 8 | 52570570AI | OKOGWU KELECHI NANNA |
| 9 | 53353338HE | ESTHER ADENIKE AKINLOTAN |
| 10 | 52185650IA | AUDU OLAOLUWA WUSHISHI |

MATHS/STATS/COMP

| S/NO | REG NO | NAME |
|------|------------|------------------------|
| 1 | 52482825IC | UCHENNA VINCENT OKPALA |
| 2 | 52419689EJ | ADAMU FAITH |
| 3 | | |

| | | |
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| 8 | 53369731HE | ABIDEEN TOPE ADEKOGBE |
| 9 | 52412887IF | BABATUNDE ADEBAYO MACAULEY |
| 10 | 53172755HI | CHIKA OZURUMBA SANDRA |
| 11 | 53365653IG | ANTHONY EMEKA UDEH |
| 12 | 52419195HG | TERRI IMOGEN IORSHASE |
| 13 | 52498737HA | TOLULOPE EMMANUEL ENIAYEJU |
| 14 | 52056118JE | ABDULNASIR IBRAHIM ABUBAKAR |
| 15 | 52185199HF | IKENNA BASIL NWADIKE |
| 16 | 52250468BE | NGOZI DEBORAH OKOLIE |
| 17 | 52415898HD | SABDAT OYIBO |
| 18 | 53356017II | BABATUNDE SEUN OLORUNTOLO |
| 19 | 52300017GI | ABDULRAHMAN ITOPA YUSUF |
| 20 | 52364711ID | ESE ONOMHEN EIGBADON |
| 21 | 52486747FD | OLUWAFEMI JAMES DOSUNMU |
| 22 | 52255566EG | AMARA UCHANMA |
| 23 | 52394801CD | AROME ATTAL VICTOR |
| 24 | 53277768JF | MARTIN EZECHI UWALAKA |
| 25 | 53342277ID | FEYISARA RAFIAT ADELEYE |
| 26 | 52185144EG | IJEOMA SHEILA EBERE PHILLIPS |
| 27 | 52715675CJ | BENJAMIN O ANTHONY |
| 28 | 52515325GH | CHARITY IJEOMA EZEKOWELUME |
| 29 | 52184498EE | MUHAMMED NURENI OLOGUNTERE |
| 30 | 53015932JH | MUYIWA BLESSING ALI L |
| 31 | 52391832AG | SULAIMAN BOLAJI MAHMUD |
| 32 | 52687367HI | KLAIRE COSMAS EDET |
| 33 | 53284739DH | EMMANUEL OKWULUDO EYIMOGA |
| 34 | 53252412BI | SLIM IYAJI WONAH |
| 35 | 52513539JA | AMINA ALI UMAR |
| 36 | 53304533BJ | JOSEPH MKUMA WAROH |
| 37 | 52181167EG | MUHAMMAD SANI CHIROMA |
| 38 | 52801977BG | BARKA ABDULLAHI |
| 39 | 53021730GG | PATIENCE SANI MARKE |
| 40 | 52949516BA | RALIYA GARBA BELLO |
| 41 | 52133984HC | BABATUNDE KOLAWOLE GIWA |
| 42 | 53321614IJ | IVIE UDUEBHO |
| 43 | 52181929JI | ABOMEILE ALASA |
| 44 | 52982911CG | MUSADDIQ MUSTAPHA ADAMU |
| 45 | 52719861IB | CYRIL R DIO |
| 46 | 52186098JE | CHIKA MERCY NWANKWO |
| 47 | 52641610JE | EMIZIBO SEIKEGBA > |
| 48 | 53272962GA | STEP EN OLABISI FATOKUN |
| 49 | 52357008AJ | CLAIRE OMAWUMI ARASE |
| 50 | 52082180JA | MASURETU B.A MOMOH |
| 51 | 52769052EF | MAUREEN BLESSING ILEGOGIE |
| 52 | 52982924IE | BELLO A GIREI |
| 53 | 53218838FE | CHINEDU AUGUSTINEAUGWU |
| 54 | 52864279CJ | GIFT TAIYE OMONIWA |
| 55 | 52847116BB | FAWWAZ IBRAHIM ABUBAKAR |
| 56 | 52628734BJ | NENE ADAOGO IWUANYANWU |
| 57 | 52531197HI | ADEYEMI ABIOLA SUNDAY |
| 58 | 52478495HE | FRID > BANABAS BALOGUN |
| 59 | 53054317IB | ADEOLA BOLUWATIFE ADE-DOSUMU |
| 60 | 52388446HG | AZIZAH DAHIRU YAHYA |
| 61 | 52184243DD | DAVID DADA GUNKAT |
| 62 | 52499084JG | EDAH SAMUEL OLUWATOSIN |
| 63 | 52374680FC | GRACE OZOHU OGOGO |
| 64 | 52191007BE | CHIA IORNUNBE ABEKE |
| 65 | 53262753DF | OHUNENE ADETUTU ONUMANYI |
| 66 | 52186944HI | TIJANI ADEIZA UMAR |
| 67 | 52843786BA | BILKISU ABUBAKAR |
| 68 | 52845200DG | FNICHOLAS EZE ASOGWA |
| 69 | 53321678JB | SABA SANI MUHAMMAD |
| 70 | 52847119AC | MAIMUNA MUHAMMED |
| 71 | 52356567HB | SALMA H. SANDAH |
| 72 | 53029811HD | NGUEMO JESSICA NYAM |
| 73 | 52674078HI | ALEXANDER EFFIONG EDEM C |
| 74 | 52894881IC | ERDOO GRACE BINGA |
| 75 | 52939389DA | OLUWADAMILOLA GBONJUBOLA AWEDA |
| 76 | 53365243FF | OYEWOLE SEDARA |
| 77 | 52986578ID | AGAH RICHARD EGWU |
| 78 | 53333070FI | MOMOH KUBURA TKHADJAT |
| 79 | 52187181EG | AYOTUNDE OLUGBENGA ADELUYI |
| 80 | 53027736JA | DARA SHAMSUDDIN AHMED |
| 81 | 52186419AE | IFEOMA GLORIA ORJI |
| 82 | 53215962EJ | OMOWUNI VICTORIA ILELAKINWA |
| 83 | 52122137BE | OMOLOLA AMUDALAT QJKIT > |
| 84 | 52339472ED | UMUTYER KATHERYN MADOR |
| 85 | 53060080FI | ADEBOWALE SIKIRU ADEBAYO |
| 86 | 53385615EJ | JUBRIL ENESI ABDULLAZEEZ |
| 87 | 53368488CA | EFOFA SUNDAY OSAGIE |
| 88 | 52190216FJ | IKE EMMANUEL |
| 89 | 52354784IF | IBE USHIANG KALU |
| 90 | 52182847FA | UREN NUHU MAKUT |
| 91 | 53024280HJ | AMINU ADAVURUKU ZUBAIR |
| 92 | 53060152DG | ADESOLYE TAOFEEK LATEEF |
| 93 | 53060079GB | BABALOLA AVIS ONISABI |
| 94 | 52190997EE | ELIZABETH TOLULOPE IJIREMI |
| 95 | 52843060FE | CHINWE NKEMDILIM CHIDOZIE |
| 96 | 52182998IC | MQNDAY SAMUEL |
| 97 | 52190391BJ | LUBEM UGBOR |
| 98 | 52207505IH | LAWRENCE JIDE OLAOSEBIKAN |
| 99 | 52377784FC | ABDUL GANIYU YUSUF |
| 100 | 52846860AD | ABDULQODIR AYINDE MOHAMMED |
| 101 | 52195718ED | OLUWANIYI ELIJAH AJAPE |
| 102 | 52134772DG | OLUSEYE ITUNU-OLUWA OLUTIMAYIN |
| 103 | 52192406IF | USMAN YAKUBU |
| 104 | 53321216CC | SABINUS Q QNUEGBU |
| 105 | 52193257FE | JOHN ASEKHAME MOMOH |
| 106 | 52190871HJ | IVIE AVIOMO OKUJAYE |
| 107 | 52179896HG | ESTHER O EKWEREMADU Q |
| 108 | 52188316DG | ODIDOM MAURICE IDIEGE |
| 109 | 52042148AD | IBRAHIM OGUNGBAMIWA DELE |
| 110 | 52984513HA | IKENNA R CHUKWUODOZIE |
| 111 | 53319739JI | JENNIFER EMENGO |
| 112 | 53385848CJ | ABDULMALIK SULEIMAN |
| 113 | 53007558JG | SUSAN TAIYE DANIA |
| 114 | 53069658DG | EMEKA OTUCHIA |
| 115 | 52187486AE | STEVEN CHUKWUEMEKA NDIDI |
| 116 | 52516760DA | BLESSING KAFAYAT ATEB |
| 117 | 53342140AJ | AISHA ALIYU ALKALI |
| 118 | 52185580JG | EMMANUEL ONYEKA ONWUKWE |
| 119 | 52600129IG | EMMANUEL A AISIKU |
| 120 | 52181684EH | CHINELO JANET EZEAMAMA |
| 121 | 52843332BE | ISHAQ ABIODUN BELLO |
| 122 | 52193937FB | UKUWA.C. SCHOLARSTICA |
| 123 | 53322766CI | MUHAMMAD S ALI |
| 124 | 52337591GA | CINBANNA JIKA BOBBO |
| 125 | 52337536DB | EMEKA ANTHONY OKEKE |
| 126 | 52181545HG | MUSA ABDULFATAI ADEWUNMI |
| 127 | 52181548GH | UCHEOMA ORDO R |
| 128 | 52864331GH | TIMOTHY OLAGOKE DARE |
| 129 | 52348874GE | JOSEPH BAMIDELE OLORUNSADE |
| 130 | 53262923BA | OGOCHEKUNWU CHRYSTLE OGUAMANAM |
| 131 | 52879730EC | OKPOJU OGBOLE |
| 132 | 52434273EE | CHINWE AMAECHI PHILOMENA |
| 133 | 52189665GD | AYELA-PREYE MIEBI |
| 134 | 52306284IF | DLAPO ABOSEDE AJILORE |
| 135 | 52841892GG | STEPHEN UGBEDEJO ALIFA |
| 136 | 53321683HG | FAITH OSAS. OKUNOROBO |
| 137 | 52776110BH | SMART OSOMAH AGBA |
| 138 | 53069735JG | ANTHONY EDAFE OVRODE |

GEOGRAPHY

| | | |
|------|------------|----------------------------|
| S/NO | REG NO | NAME |
| 1 | 52629128AB | ATIM-ATEDZE >YOHEN JUDE |
| 2 | 53322904AC | ZAINAB ONIZE IBRAHIM |
| 3 | 52360385GD | JOLLY CHUKWUMA EZENWA |
| 4 | 52337845HE | NATHANAL FOM PAM-TOK |
| 5 | 52845688CH | EMMANUEL ADERIN KANABZENGA |
| 6 | 52778888CH | ATIMUWA RIMIE |
| 7 | 52843081II | TINA BOHON |
| 8 | 52361603JF | FRIDA |
| 9 | 53323968BB | ADAMU ALIYU ADAMU |

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| 10 | 52196857CB | GODWIN ENEJI OTARU |
| 11 | 52194091HE | ZULKIFILU ALIYU |
| 12 | 52883838DH | MAHMOOD MUSA MAHMOOD |
| 13 | 52196204EA | PATRICIA DAVID EJIMS |
| 14 | 52185993CB | ALIYU MUSA |
| 15 | 53138491FA | OLAJESUTOMI OMOTOLA OLOWE |
| 16 | 53262405BC | JUSTINA ALAGBE |
| 17 | 52842143IJ | HENRIETTA MOMOH |
| 18 | 52020499FH | ELIZABETH TONBRAATTI |
| 19 | 52170781GH | CHUKWUEMEKA ALEX ECHC UDEKWU |
| 20 | 52184007GC | OGON AMEN VERONICA |
| 21 | 53382333AB | SESAN OLUSEGUN TOLUHI |
| 22 | 52335247BB | JOHN TYOKULA PAASE |
| 23 | 52354276FH | AJEFU AJEFU JOHN |
| 24 | 52829695II | NGOHEMA JUDITH AKAATA |
| 25 | 53268339FI | MOHAMMED HASSAN RAFINDADI |

POLITICAL SCIENCE

| | | |
|------|------------|--------------------------------|
| S/NO | REG NO | NAME |
| 1 | 52277603IJ | OTOBONG SAMUEL UMORFIK UMOREN |
| 2 | 52184601CG | ADEMOLA CORNELIUS OMOLOLA |
| 3 | 52228339FD | NWAAMAKA TOCHUKWU >IEKWE |
| 4 | 52500260GA | LILLIAN IFEOMA ANEKE |
| 5 | 52487441AI | NICHAEL UCHEENNA ANUFORO |
| 7 | 52823391IF | MIKE GBENGA OLAOSEBIKAN |
| 8 | 53365347DE | JUMOKYE ABIMBOLA AWOPETU |
| 9 | 52054099EA | OTONYE EMMANUEL ALAGOKA |
| 10 | 52607916AF | CHRISTAINA CHUKWUOCHA |
| 11 | 52098671IH | DAWNY AGUELE |
| 12 | 52506897DE | ISMAILA DANJUMA SANNI |
| 13 | 53219709GA | EZE CLETUS EJIKE |
| 14 | 52185540CC | BABATUNDE ISAAC AROWOJOBE |
| 15 | 52185206FE | ADINI SUNDAY |
| 16 | 52587119CF | OYINTAR LA FEKORIGHA |
| 17 | 53318777GE | IROAKAZI IBEAWUCHI MICHAEL C |
| 18 | 53375830BD | AKINBOSOLA AMBROSE AKINOSI |
| 19 | 52712662EH | CHIEMEKA CHIKAO>ILI OKWUOSA |
| 20 | 52954846CF | EMEKA VICTOR OKOYE |
| 21 | 52341558JA | BUKATA DEMAND ISHAKU |
| 22 | 52476239FC | SANI MUHAMMED DANTINI |
| 23 | 52501601BE | JONATHAN MAFUYAI WALLANG |
| 24 | 52982310ID | SAMUEL ILIYA GWAZA |
| 25 | 52635280HC | ADIGUN RUKAYATU TAJU |
| 26 | 52389654BE | PWANORI MAXWELL KHOBE CO |
| 27 | 52487963JB | ABUBAKAR BABA ABUBAKAR |
| 28 | 53321394HA | PRINCEWILL OKHUMAYA |
| 29 | 52578844BI | BENEDICT LUKA WAHWASH |
| 30 | 53320271EE | JUIWARIYAT ABUBAKAR TALATU |
| 31 | 52842029ED | CHIMEZIE UZOMA |
| 32 | 52196812FJ | OLUWAPELUMI ADEKUNLE OMINYI |
| 33 | 52712917FI | AMAEBI SURI QYAREDE |
| 34 | 52709110DD | SAGBAMAOWEI TERNENCE EKIEGHA |
| 35 | 52184806JA | BABATUNDE O ARQTIOWA |
| 36 | 52843713DF | ABDULAZEED TAIWO AKANDE |
| 37 | 52362038FB | AHMED BELLO MOHAMMED |
| 38 | 53319988CA | JOHN OJILA |
| 39 | 52843046JG | UGBEDE UMORU |
| 40 | 52022254DA | IFEOMA JENNIFER NWOKPORO |
| 41 | 52180654DD | ANAYO JOHN ONUGHA |
| 42 | 52977087DI | AMINU MSHELLA ALLISON |
| 43 | 52841606FB | OBESH OSHITA OSHITA |
| 44 | 52491622HF | ALONGE JOHN OLATUNBOSUN |
| 45 | 52846227JF | OLUWASEUN ADEDOYIN AKANBI |
| 46 | 52931048CH | ABDULMAJEED A OBABU |
| 47 | 52843166CH | MICHAEL ANUKU |
| 48 | 53321409CF | SAMUEL CHINONSO MADUFORO |
| 49 | 52185489HI | WILLIAMS EFFIONG EDET |
| 50 | 52185409CH | OLUWAMAYOWA ADEYEMI AWANI |
| 51 | 53258805EF | ABDULLAHI OGRIMA ISSA |
| 52 | 52190760HG | LAILA JUNAIDU MAINA |
| 53 | 52840934DA | MUSA MUHAMMAD EL HABEEB |
| 54 | 52196551GG | OLAJOYE OBAFEMI |
| 55 | 52185415AJ | NEMI PRESCA ARIWERIOKUMAUU U U |
| 56 | 52988579JE | ADAMU DANJUMA |
| 57 | 52192641FJ | HADIZA MOHAMMED KAUGAMA |
| 58 | 52510078JE | OKECHUKWU CHRISTOPHER OSUAGWU |
| 59 | 53141477BG | PRAYSE NANLEP DASBAK |
| 60 | 52365929BI | OCHANYA NAANZEM OKOYE |
| 61 | 52192618DB | UZOAMAKA ADAORA OKOYE |
| 62 | 52864098HI | EMMANUEL ATADOGA OCHENI |
| 63 | 52184154AJ | CHINWE GRACE EZEUGO |
| 64 | 52190851JE | WINIFRED MEMBER TYOASUGA |
| 65 | 52674023EJ | STANLEY CHIDUBEM ONYEJIHAK |
| 66 | 52337854EH | ABUCHI DAVID UMEANAEDOBE |
| 67 | 53265498EF | UGONMA BRIDGET METUKA |
| 68 | 52583363EB | JOEL IFEANACHO ENEBELI |
| 69 | 52878851GA | AHAM JUNIOR L ONYEBUCHI |
| 70 | 52187110GF | IBUKUNOLUWA STEPHA > OMOYEMI |
| 71 | 52185169GI | ADEDOLAPO RASHEED GBADEBO |
| 72 | 53269270HI | PATRICK UNOGWU QBANDE |
| 73 | 53242567GF | FOLORUNSO GABRIEL ODANAOGUN |
| 74 | 52189725HH | TEMITOPE ADEBISI COKERL |
| 75 | 52412626JG | IZUCHUKWU UGOCHUKWU CHINONYE |
| 76 | 52186913HE | ANAYO STEPHEN SORONNADI |
| 77 | 53319396HE | OYILAGU OZIOMA NICOLE GODLINE |
| 78 | 52365527GA | PRECIOUS IYE ILONAH |
| 79 | 53142283CD | MAKAIT JULIE RINDAP |
| 80 | 52843166CH | MICHAEL ANUKU |
| 81 | 52270284CH | AGNES JESSICA IB ALE |
| 82 | 52196551GG | OLAJOYE OBAFEMI |
| 83 | 52362038FB | AHMED BELLO MOHAMMED |
| 84 | 52187502FD | DAYO JOSHUA OWOYELE |
| 85 | 52184410BH | IFEOMA ONYEKACHUKWU UDEZE |
| 86 | 52354037JF | MFON GABRIEL |
| 87 | 52339148EF | AGBO FREDERICK BEN-ONJEWU |
| 88 | 52845790BC | EMMANUEL AIGBOVBIOISA OHIZE |
| 89 | 52830889JF | TAREMBER MATHIAS INYAREGH |
| 90 | 53262858BB | JOHNSON OTOBO JOHN |
| 91 | 52195529CI | OHIWERE MARATHA OSEN |
| 92 | 52185927CF | JOSEPH ANEKWE |
| 93 | 53185408EG | PRINCELY C NWACHUKWU |
| 94 | 53304437BG | DAVID OGODA |
| 95 | 52182763BB | FOLAJIMI JOHN AKINFOLAJIMI |
| 96 | 53319692DF | OLUWASEUN ABIDEMI OSUNSANAYA |
| 97 | 52703483DG | EDIRI OGHENEJODE |
| 98 | 52196699BA | CHUKWUMA GODWIN UZQMAH |
| 99 | 52081926HG | OSAMA EREDIAUWA |
| 100 | 52881501GE | CHINENYE JONATHAN AZUBUOGU |
| 101 | 53322986EH | TEGHESE GEORGE OSULA |
| 102 | 52196809GI | OKEREAFOR FERDINAND TEMPLE |
| 103 | 53320914FF | PASCHAL C ABABIE |
| 104 | 53267787GF | DANIEL ELOHOR OSIEMETE |
| 105 | 52183289IC | DORCAS T MUTFWANG |
| 106 | 52843468JB | IBRAHIM OSHOGWEMOH |
| 107 | 52183940GJ | NTA NSIKANABASI EKPO |
| 108 | 52192264CG | ABIDEMI O AIYEGBUSI |
| 109 | 53218480BG | CHUKWUEMEKA K NWANKWO |
| 110 | 53319125IH | RAFIAT BUKOLA AJIBOLA |
| 111 | 53335164CI | OLALEKAN.A.OLUFEMI SOMOTUN |
| 112 | 53045720HA | ADENIYI SULKIFLI GANIYU |
| 113 | 53322906JD | AGABGE SIMON |
| 114 | 52504407DF | CHIJOKE VALENTINE OKEKE |
| 115 | 52042621DJ | CHRISTOPHER DICKSON |
| 116 | 52348943FJ | AYOTOPE JOHN BALOGUN |
| 117 | 52660971BH | IFEANYI SAMUEL NWAKUDU |
| 118 | 52257511DB | OLUWATOSIN ISRAEL ARAGA |
| 119 | 52190257DD | SAMUEL OKON EDDIE Q |

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| 4 | 52707871GE | PREYE YOUMU |
| 5 | 52627218AI | IBIFUBARA PECULIAR LUCAS |
| 6 | 52601496FJ | SHEILA IYE ONOJA |
| 7 | 52398755JC | ANTHONY EKENE OKWUEDOE |
| 8 | 52389439AH | ONOMA QGONNA AJENE |
| 9 | 52402748EE | ONYEKACHI LIVINUS UGOAMADI |
| 10 | 52789102DF | U>HENNA OLISANDAVI ANWADIKE |
| 11 | 52728221CH | IWUEGBU AKUDO OBY |
| 12 | 52260717BG | AISHA ISOMINE MOORE |
| 13 | 52843140AI | HALIDU KASIM |
| 14 | 52417579HE | IFEANYI PAUL IKWUEME |
| 15 | 52046923DE | TAIWO AFEZ OYENEYE |
| 16 | 53222672JF | NDIDI BLESSING OKONKWO |
| 17 | 52529181BF | MAKINDE PALESTINA |
| 18 | 52042619EF | OGBONNA AJA PETER |
| 19 | 52399120GE | TAWAKALITU ABIODUN QJQRA |
| 20 | 52396910AB | OLUWASEYI AISHAT ADEWALE |
| 21 | 52960039DG | GILBERT TAWO OWAN |
| 22 | 52181725CB | ASUKU ONAYI HABIBAT |
| 23 | 52182810GE | VICT R NEBANAT GAMBA |
| 24 | 52183771JB | HUSSEINI BUHARI ADAMU |
| 25 | 52979305HH | AISHA AHMED DANTANKO |
| 26 | 53068291GD | DAKUP JUDE MANSHA |
| 27 | 52330707FB | NOAH OLUWAFUNMINIYI ODETUNJI |
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SPORTS

EGYPT 2006 AFRICAN NATIONS CUP

Eguavoen: 'We're lucky'

Coach of the Super Eagles, Augustine Eguavoen, has said that his team was lucky to beat Senegal in Tuesday's Africa Nations Cup cracker in Port Said.

In a game the Teranga Lions had the upper hand and could have gone three goals up in the first half, Nigeria came from behind to 'steal' a 2-1 win.

"This group was full of

great drama," Eguavoen said.

"Before this last round of matches, the four teams in this group all had big chance to qualify.

"But I think we were lucky. I'll count our team as the

luckiest team in the group.

"Look at the match against Senegal for example. We could have gone down by two goals and we would have struggled to come back. Same in the second half.

"But nonetheless, we managed to turn things around and we came out victorious. Three points is the most important thing.

"I was not surprised by the result of the Ghana-Zimbabwe match.

"I always give teams a chance. I say congrats to Senegal for qualifying with us."

Looking forward to the quarterfinal clash with Tunisia, Eguavoen believes the support the Eagles have been enjoying in Port Said will be to his team's advantage.

The former Eagles captain said: "Tunisia is a very solid team, we all know that.

"Technically they are very strong, tactically they are very strong too.

"We played against them in 2004 in the semi-finals and I think we were unlucky to lose that match.

"But right now we are at home in Port Said. We've won everybody to our side and we have to prove to them that we're at home.

"We all know this is a very crucial stage. Anybody who loses goes home.

"We're glad to remain here in Port Said and we want to remain in this competition."



Siasia praises Enyeama

Assistant coach of the Super Eagles, Samson Siasia, has showered praises on Eagles goalkeeper, Vincent Enyeama, for his outstanding performance at the Africa Nations Cup, describing Enyeama as one of the pillars of team.

Coach Siasia, who guided the Nigerian U-20 national team to the final of World Youth Championship in Holland last year told Nigeriansportsonline.com:

"Enyeama is a very good goalkeeper and the best player in the Super Eagles squad.

"And the way you can know a good goalkeeper is when he is always in the game and pushes the team on.

Enyeama has made some daring saves that has kept us going in this championship."

Siasia added that if not for the former Enyimba International star's excellent and

outstanding performances in this championship, maybe the Super Eagles would have conceded so many goals.

Siasia said that it is because of Enyeama's saves that Nigeria have continued to progress and if he continues to find his form, Nigeria is as good as getting to the final.

"Enyeama has been very consistent from our match against Ghana and in the match against Senegal on Tuesday, he made more than two saves that could have wrapped up the game for the Senegalese."

Another player who has won Siasia's heart is Chidi Odiah.

The former Eagles striker said: "That boy (Odiah) is good and has gained confidence with every match. My admiration for him comes from the way he supports the attack and he's quick recovering rate in all the games."

Siasia also said that their next opponent, Tunisia, may not be an easy nut to crack but he is confident that at the end of the day, the Eagles will triumph.

When reminded that the Tunisians stopped the Eagles at the 2004 African Cup of Nations in Tunisia, Siasia said that was two years ago, that it was time for the Eagles to take their pound of flesh.



Crunchy...Senegal's Souleymane Diawara, right, tackles Nigeria's Stephen Makinwa during their African Nations Cup Group D match in Port Said on Tuesday

We deserved to beat Eagles -Sarr

The coach of the Teranga Lions of Senegal, Abdoulaye Sarr has said that his team deserved to beat the Super Eagles of Nigeria in Tuesday's Group D tie at the Africa Nations Cup in Egypt.

"I think we deserved to win this game. For 80 minutes we dominated and played quality football.

"We lost concentration in the last 10 minutes. The first goal we conceded was a goalkeeping error.

"That killed our morale. We needed to be strong but we weren't.

"But I'm consoled by the fact that we qualified.

"Our primary objective here is to qualify. We achieved that even when we lost today and we're happy.

"I congratulate Nigeria for finishing top of the group."

Sarr would go on to explain why he substituted Man Of The Match, Diomansy Kamara.

"I felt Kamara was tired and we wanted to strengthen the team defensively by introducing a fresh leg.

"It didn't work out in the

end. But that's football for you.

"We've qualified and I think we rightly deserved to.

"Now we have to make the team ready for our next game against Guinea.

"We played a very high

standard football in the first 80 minutes against Nigeria but threw everything away in the last 10 minutes.

"But you can be sure that you'll see a better Senegal in the quarter-finals."

MTN Man Of The Match

award winner, Kamara, said: "We're happy to have qualified even though we lost a game I thought we should have won.

"I'm so happy and I think this team can only improve in the subsequent games."

Bonus rumpus hit Eagles camp

Contrary to report that all was well in the camp of the Super Eagles in Port Said, plans to slash the bonus of the support staff of the team almost caused disaffection in the camp.

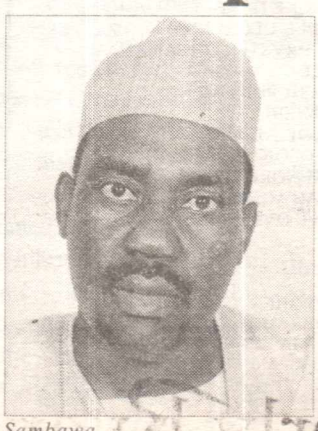
Competent sources told hotspotslive.com that the Sports Minister, Samaila Sambawa had ordered a reduction in the bonus of the team doctor, physiotherapist and other support staff.

Sambawa had directed that they be paid \$2500 half of what they were suppose to be paid as bonus or be paid \$400 as daily estacode, which did not go down well with the support staff.

The minister felt as civil servants, they could not stand up to resist his orders, but that was wrong, because they kicked against the directive, and even requested for their replacement.

Our source told hotspotslive.com that the Minister realised the implications of the team returning home, the distraction that would cause in the camp, and had to soft-pedal on the issue.

The support staff had wondered why the Minister would be talking about reducing their bonus, when it had always being the practice.



Sambawa



Finance

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Sports

EGYPT 2006 AFRICAN CUP OF NATIONS

Familiar look about last eight

The African Nations Cup quarter-final line-up has a familiar look about it with five of the qualifiers having reached the same stage two years ago. Only hosts Egypt, their opponents on Friday the Democratic Republic of Congo and World Cup-bound Ivory Coast were not in the last eight in Tunisia in 2004.

This has served to reinforce the strength of the old order in African football at a time when a change had been threatened by the likes of Angola, Ghana and Togo qualifying for the World Cup for the first time.

Egypt have made up for the disappointment of an early exit in Tunisia by winning their group and more importantly ensured that local interest in the tournament has been heightened.

Guinea were surprise winners of Group B with a 100 percent record and according to midfielder Pablo Thiam are brimming with confidence.

"The results have reinforced the potential in our squad," he told Reuters.

Cameroon's meeting with the Ivory Coast on Saturday

renews hostilities from the World Cup qualifiers when Cameroon won both at home and away yet finished behind the Elephants in the race for a place in Germany later this year.

A dramatic 3-2 win for Cameroon in Abidjan in September was the most thrilling of all of the World

Cup qualifiers played in Africa over the last three years.

The two teams traded blows like punch-drunk heavyweight boxers before a hat-trick from Achille Webo settled the game in Cameroon's favour.

This time they meet at Cairo's Military stadium,

preceded by Nigeria's game against title holders Tunisia.

It is a repeat of the semi-final in 2004 when hosts Tunisia won 5-3 on penalties after a bruising draw.

"Tunisia are technically and tactically a very smart team. I expect it is going to be hard for us," warned Nigeria coach Augustine Eguavoen.



Absences to blame for Cup exit, says Dujkovic

Coach Ratomir Dujkovic blamed absences for Ghana's African Nations Cup exit after a 2-1 defeat in Group D by Zimbabwe on Tuesday.

Ghana, who bowed out on goal difference, became the third team after Togo and Angola to fall at the first hurdle in Egypt after

Midfielder Laryea Kingston was then banned for four matches after a red card against Senegal and forward Mathew Amoah missed Tuesday's game through injury.

"We didn't have our best team as everybody knows, without Essien, Muntari, Gyan and today Amoah. It

and that was an opportunity for them.

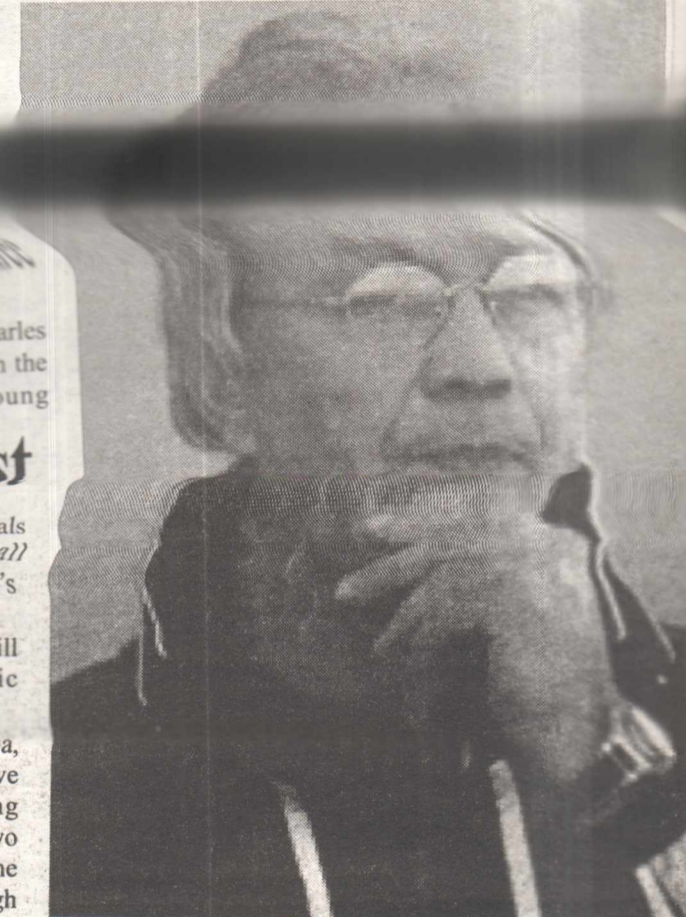
"Maybe today we didn't play as people expect but generally speaking Ghana is a World Cup team.

"The World Cup is very far away so we have time to prepare our team...and we will be stronger than we were today."

team's last-gasp elimination after registering their first win.

"Unfortunately, I have to accept it," he said. "We left it until late, but hopefully next time will be come back much

stronger. "It's important to win at least and it shows that we were just unlucky to qualify — apart from Nigeria the three other teams won one game each."



Dujkovic... he blames his team's exit from Nations Cup to the absence of key players.

to be a success, tournament director Khaled Abdelaziz told Reuters.

Egypt's nervous start to the tournament dissipated in a thrilling second-half performance against the

Ivory Coast in their first group game at the weekend when they scored twice for a 3-1 win and top place in Group A.

They start as favourites against the Congolese, who only won their opening game and scraped through on goal difference.

Officials said a capacity 78,400 crowd was expected for Friday's meeting at the Cairo International stadium.

Egypt's quarter-final is preceded earlier in the day by a west Africa derby between Guinea and Senegal, who also limped into the last eight despite losing their last two group games.

Senegal edged out World Cup finalists Ghana on goal difference to claim second place in Group D, even after losing 2-1 to Nigeria on Tuesday in Port Said.

They now travel west to Alexandria, some 200km from Port Said, where a buoyant

lost influential Chelsea's central midfielder Michael Essien, holding player Sulley Muntari and striker Asamoah Gyan before these finals.

It was very tough, difficult for us because we were under pressure to win or draw and Zimbabwe played without any pressure

points. Zimbabwe coach Charles Mhlauri tried to look on the bright side of his young

... says he prepares for the worst

Ghana coach Ratomir Dujkovic has said he has prepared himself for fierce criticism after his team's early exit from the African Cup of Nations.

The West African side, which will be making their debut at this summer's World Cup finals, were knocked out of the tournament after a surprising 2-1 loss to Zimbabwe in their final Group D match on Tuesday.

"I have to accept criticism because this is part of the job," Dujkovic told the BBC's Network Africa programme.

"When we win everyone says nice things about us but people are angry when we lose."

Losing 1-0 to Nigeria in their opening group game, Ghana put themselves back

into contention with a 1-0 win over Senegal in their second match.

A draw against Zimbabwe would have taken the Black Stars to the quarter-finals but Dujkovic is aware that the unexpected defeat and elimination from the tournament will lead to calls for his dismissal.

"I am not worried, we coaches always have our luggage ready to go."

The Serbian coach is

expected to debrief officials of the Ghana Football Association on the team's return to Accra.

"I have to see what will happen there," Dujkovic said.

Having worked in Asia, Latin America and his native Yugoslavia before taking Rwanda to these finals two years ago, he is aware of the sort of feelings that run high when a team performs beneath expectation.

Mikel's lawyers demand warring clubs put player first

John Obi Mikel's lawyers last night called on Chelsea and Manchester United to end their dispute for the good of the Nigeria international's career.

United wrote a letter last May demanding that Fifa impose a transfer ban on Chelsea and expel them from certain competitions for their alleged illegal approach for the player. Mikel again requested that United release him from his contract - something Fifa's disputes chamber is arbitrating - and urged interested parties to open constructive dialogue.

The statement said: "The player is caught in the middle of this dispute between Manchester United and Chelsea. He is intent that

that should change. To achieve his footballing dreams he demands that matters are resolved quickly between those interested in his future. He has put himself in the hands of the footballing authorities and he calls upon them to intervene. To which end I and his agent are willing to meet whoever, whenever and wherever to break this deadlock."

Mikel helped Nigeria beat Senegal 2-1 in Port Said to reach the quarter-finals of the African Nations Cup on Tuesday. Mark Wright has been

dismissed by Peterborough for what the club described as "gross misconduct" after an alleged dispute with the centre-back Sean St Ledger

Preston have rejected an approach for their manager Billy Davies from Leicester.

Liverpool's Champions League success helped turn an £18.22m loss into a pre-tax profit of £9.5m for the last year. Turnover was up 32%, to £121m.

Arsenal's manager Arsène Wenger has urged Thierry Henry to sign a contract extension before he knows whether Arsenal will be in next season's Champions League.

Mido doubtful for Egypt q-final

Egypt striker Mido is doubtful for the host nation's African Nations Cup quarter-final against DR Congo on Friday, coach Hassan Shehata said.

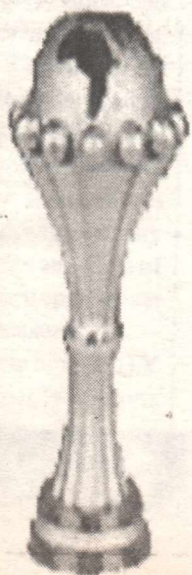
A national hero in Egypt, the Tottenham Hotspur forward limped off in the first half of Saturday's 3-1 Group A win over Ivory Coast.

"We have no serious

injuries except for Mido," Shehata told a news conference on Wednesday.

"He's having treatment but it's not certain if he's going to play the next game or not."

Mido scored Egypt's first goal of the tournament in a 3-0 win over Libya. Shehata's side are favourites to reach the semi-finals.





ANPP

ALL NIGERIA PEOPLES PARTY

ALL NIGERIA PEOPLES PARTY

National Secretariat, Bassan Plaza, Plot 759, Central Area, Behind NICON

Insurance Plaza, Abuja-Nigeria.

Tel: 09-6700075, 2347558 E-mail: anpp@anpp.org.ng



ANPP

ALL NIGERIA PEOPLES PARTY

NOTICE OF NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (NEC) MEETING

I am directed by the National Chairman of our great Party, the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP), Chief Don Obot Etiebet to summon a meeting of the National Executive Committee as follows:

Date: Friday, February 10th, 2006bn
Venue: New National Secretariat Bassan Plaza Plot 759, Central Area Behind NICON Insurance Plaza, Central Business District, Abuja
Time: 3.00 pm Prompt
Attendance: Invitation letters according to the list of those eligible to attend have been issued

NEC MEMBERS TO ATTEND

1. National Chairman;
2. Deputy National Chairman (North and South);
3. National Secretary; Deputy National Secretary;
4. National Treasurer;
5. Deputy National Treasurer;
6. National Organising Secretary;
7. Deputy National Organising Secretary;
8. National Financial Secretary;
10. Deputy National Financial Secretary;
11. National Legal Adviser;
12. Deputy National Legal Adviser;
13. National Publicity Secretary;
14. Deputy National Publicity Secretary;
15. National Welfare Officer;
16. Deputy National Welfare Officer;
17. National Auditor;
18. Deputy National Auditor;
19. National Women Leader
20. National Youth Leader
21. 6 National Vice Chairmen (representing the 6 zones);
22. 6 Assistant National Secretaries;
23. 6 Assistant National Organising Secretaries
24. 6 Assistant National Financial Secretaries;
25. 6 Assistant National Legal Adviser (Zonal);
26. 6 Assistant National Welfare Officer (Zonal);
27. 6 Assistant National Women Leader (Zonal);
28. 6 Assistant National Youth Leader (Zonal);
29. State Governors (7);
30. State Chairmen of the Party & Chairman FCT (37);
31. 18 EX-Officio (three from each Zone);
32. The ANPP Senate leader;
33. The ANPP Deputy Senate leader;
34. The ANPP Whip in the Senate;
35. All other ANPP Senators;
36. The ANPP House leader;
37. The ANPP Deputy House leader;
38. The ANPP House Whip;
39. One member of the House of Representatives, from each of the 36 States of the Federation and the FCT (18);
40. One speaker or a leader in the House of Assembly to represent each geopolitical zone (5);
41. Any invited Observer;

Sani D. El-Katuzu
Sani D. El-Katuzu

National Secretary

Sports

EGYPT 2006 AFRICAN CUP OF NATIONS Barakat receives BBC award

Egypt midfielder Mohamed Barakat received the prestigious BBC African Footballer of the Year award in Cairo on Wednesday.

The 29-year-old was instrumental in helping club side Ahly to the African title, a fact which led him to lift the prized award ahead of Cameroon striker Samuel Eto'o, and Nigerian marksman Obafemi Martins.

A delighted Barakat, who had his family by his side, admitted: "This award will certainly lift the spirit and morale of the whole Egyptian team."

"I know that this award was won because of my form for Ahly, but the star of that team is not one individual but the team itself."

Barakat becomes the first North African player to lift the trophy, was selected by the readers of the BBC's African football website and listeners of Fast Track, on the BBC World Service.

Previous winners include Ghana's Sammy Kuffour, Senegal's El Hadji Diouf and Nigeria's Jay Jay Okocha, who won the award twice.

Although Barakat said he is happy to stay with Ahly for the remainder of his career, he is keen to move to a top European club if the opportunity presents itself.

"My profile will have been

enhanced in receiving this trophy, and it's my ambition to go and play in Europe.

"If it happens, then wonderful. If not, then I know I'll still be happy with Ahly."

Barakat received the award in the presence of Egypt coach Hassan Shehata and colleagues Ahmed "Mido"

Hossam, captain Ahmed Hassan and goalkeeper Essam Al Hadary, who made a surprise appearance at the ceremony.

The award will certainly boost his morale, as Egypt take on DR Congo in their African Nations Cup quarter-final match on Friday.

Bafana Bafana return to jeers from fans

Players of South Africa's national side were confronted by angry fans on Wednesday, after their poor performance at the African Cup of Nations.

Arriving at Johannesburg Airport on Wednesday, the police had to shield some of the players as they made their way through irate fans.

The team lost all three group matches at the tournament and failed to score a single goal.

Winners of the 1996 edition of the tournament, Bafana Bafana made an undignified first-round exit in Egypt after

defeats to Guinea, Tunisia and Zambia.

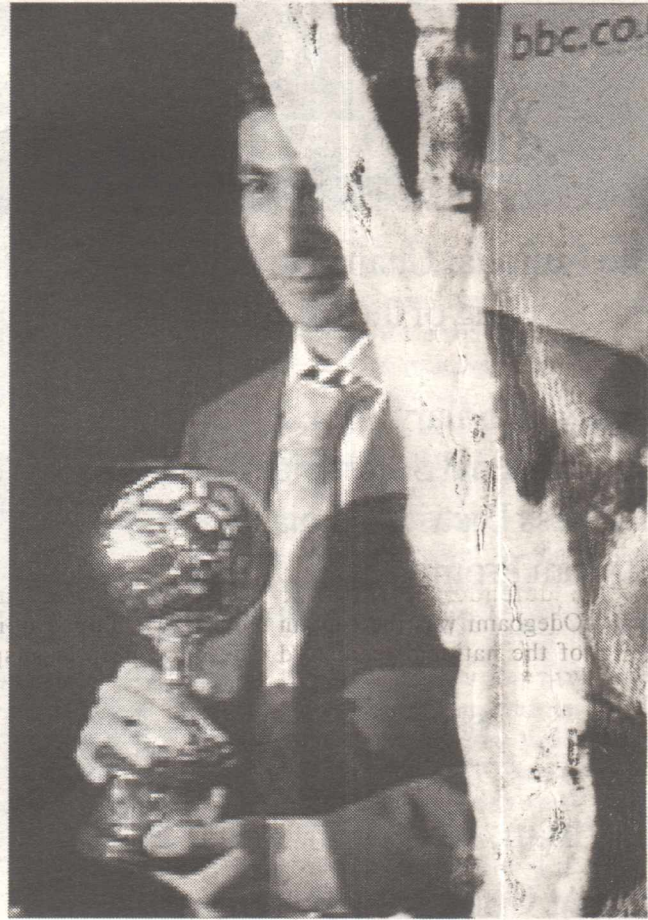
It has also failed to qualify for this year's World Cup in Germany, but will be at the 2010 edition as host.

Ted Dumitru, coach of the side, apologised for what he admitted was an unacceptable showing at Africa's most prestigious football tournament.

"First of all, a big sorry to the nation," Dumitru said.

"To all of you, we failed to meet even the lowest expectations."

Captain Sibusiso Zuma said there were no excuses.



Egyptian playmaker Mohammed Barakat accepting his award

Nations Cup halfway report

The group stages are over but exactly who will be crowned African champion for 2006 remains to be seen.

Each of the 16 teams that came to the Nations Cup with high hopes are now in the dark corners in which they can lick their wounds.

This is the time to check in and see how wrong I was with my pre-tournament predictions.

And much to my delight, I got a few things right, like picking World Cup qualifiers Togo, Ghana and Angola to be first-round casualties. But enough blowing of my own trumpet here is my halfway report:

EGYPT
The Pharaohs, more than ever, will feel like they are carrying the weight of a nation into the quarter-finals.

The expectations of the home fans are so high they are almost stifling.

That said, the jury is still out on the Egyptians, for nobody is sure exactly how good they are.

The Pharaohs were my initial choice to win the Nations Cup but I have seen plenty to make me change my mind.

Grade: B+
IVORY COAST

Most pundits are saying a lot of positive things about the Elephants and they have had a fairly good Nations Cup so far.

What worries me though is that the Elephants do not have quite the same spark upfront as they did in the qualifiers, possibly due to the absence of grief-stricken Yaya Dindane.

The Ivorian balance sheet is in profit because of wins over Morocco and Libya but Cameroon is a tough cookie.

Grade: B
LIBYA

Upon arrival in Egypt, one Libyan official made the stunning claim they could win all their matches, insisting that they were not in the country to sight-see.

But I suspect not many are falling off their stools with surprise at Libya's first round exit.

It was a remarkable effort for the Green to make it to Egypt 2006, but they still have many lessons to

learn.

Grade: E
MOROCCO

Talk of self-inflicted misery! After finishing as runners-up in Tunisia, the Atlas Lions have just had a Nations Cup to forget.

But there was a certain air of inevitability about their elimination before the business-end of the tournament.

Seeking Philippe Troussier less than a month before the big kick-off was not exactly clever, and the Atlas Lions may have descended further into crisis after their first-round exit.

I have a lingering fear that unless Badou Zaki can be persuaded to come back, Morocco will be going nowhere fast.

Grade: E
CAMEROON

Simply awesome, but can it last? Samuel Eto'o has scared everyone with his pace and always threatens to score or make a goal.

In my opinion, Cameroon have the stamp of champions and are the team to beat in the knock-out stages.

Unlike Tunisia 2004, the Indomitable Lions look as if they believe in what they are doing and seem to trust each other more.

They may be on the brink of something special but what a test the Ivory Coast will be in the next round!

Grade: A+
ANGOLA

The search for answers has already begun after the Palancas Negras missed out on a quarter-final place by the skin of their teeth.

Their defenders were pushed around and their attack, with the exception of Akwa, looks decidedly mediocre.

How Angola will perform in the World Cup is a fascinating question. I honestly do not see them doing anything in Germany. Do you?

Grade: C+
TOGO

Stephen Keshi led the Hawks through an astonishing qualifying

By Farayi Mungazi,
BBC Sport

campaign but could not repeat the magic in Egypt.

World Cup giant-killers? You must be having a laugh, except there was nothing funny about Togo's performances.

Internal disputes over bonuses undermined morale and Keshi's spat with the team's talisman Sheyi Adebayor was of no benefit to anyone.

Grade: D
DR CONGO

DR Congo fans view the clash with Egypt as an opportunity to put their country back on the African football map.

Unfortunately for Congolese supporters, I have seen no evidence so far that their beloved Simbas can beat the Pharaohs and prolong their stay in Egypt beyond the quarters.

So passports at the ready, please!
Grade: C
SOUTH AFRICA

Have you ever watched a football match and wished you were having your teeth pulled out instead?

Well, watching South Africa in their opening game against Tunisia made some of us pine for the dentist's chair. It was that ugly!

At times Bafana Bafana looked like a collection of individuals who had just met at a bus station moments before kick-off.

Ted Dumitru's side picks up my 'Worst Team of Egypt 2006' award.

Grade: F
TUNISIA

Surely no one could have anticipated that Tunisia would be as difficult so spectacularly by Guinea and concede top place.

The defending champions were beaten senseless by Guinea and now face a difficult quarter-final tie against Nigeria.

The Tunisians were not at their best, and they know that. But I have a feeling that they have held something back for the knock-out

stage.

Grade: B
GUINEA

Guinea are not the best side in the tournament but they do have the look of a team that expects to compete with the best and win.

And the results speak for themselves, most notably that outrageous victory over Tunisia.

Something about their grit and determination suggests they might just find themselves in the semi-finals.

Grade: B
ZAMBIA

Can anyone think of reasons why Zambia should have qualified for the quarter-finals? Answers on the back of a postage stamp, please!

Not surprisingly, the blame game is in full swing but is Coach Kalusha Bwalya really responsible for the team's failures? I think not.

The reality that people must face up to is that you do not win the Nations Cup with a bunch of amateurs, a fact that officials must admit in private if not in public, where they will doubtless remain defiant.

Anyone who expected Chipolopolo to win this tournament should look out of his bedroom window and count all the pigs flying past!

Grade: D
ZIMBABWE

If you are going to go down, then do so in a blaze of glory.

The Warriors did just that, beating Ghana 2-1, but it was the underdog that was left howling at the full moon.

But the tournament exposed one major problem facing Zimbabwe - except for a couple of players, the Warriors are generally small in stature and have difficulty playing against large, physical teams.

Charles Mhlauri's men also lacked concentration at vital times during their matches and desperately need to shake the habit of being threatened by anyone in their future.

tournament.
Grade: E
NIGERIA

Give up on Nigeria, one of those teams that could end up in the doghouse or on the winners podium.

They looked like champions in the making against Ghana, went off the boil against Zimbabwe and then showed flashes of brilliance against Senegal.

At the top level, such inconsistency can be disastrous. There was a catalogue of disturbing errors in all three games.

Sure, they have missed Jay-Jay Okocha but they will also learn to play without him because this is the skipper's national swansong.

Grade: B
GHANA

They came, they played and they went back with their tails firmly between their legs.

There can be no question that the Black Stars are kicking themselves for failing to beat Zimbabwe in their final game.

But why did they produce such stagnant football at a tournament where they were expected to reproduce the form that took them to the World Cup finals?

It is difficult to know how the Black Stars will progress from here, but draw breath and regroup for Germany they must.

Grade: D
SENEGAL

Senegal qualified for the quarter-finals but did they really deserve to?

Something is clearly not right with the Teranga Lions, and they have shown absolutely nothing in the group stage, and one could argue that they made the quarter-finals almost by default.

It seems inconceivable that they will win this tournament, but of course stranger things have happened in football.

Grade: D



Ghana's Laryea regrets exit

Ghana midfielder Laryea Kingston has expressed guilt about the Black Stars first-round exit from the African Cup of Nations.

Kingston missed the Black Stars final group game against Zimbabwe, which they lost 2-1, after picking up a red card in their previous game against Senegal, which led to a four-match suspension.

"I feel very bad about it because most people back home will say the problem is from me. If I had been in the team, things could have been different," Kingston told BBC Sport.

"I'm very disappointed about the situation because my aim is to let people in Africa and the world know me. It's very unfortunate that I had problems in this tournament," he lamented.

Kingston watched from the stands as his colleagues succumbed to defeat against the Southern Africans.

"This was the first time I was not playing with my colleagues and I felt I had let the team down," he intimated.

Like most Ghanaian fans at the Ismailia Stadium on Tuesday, the player admitted that the Black Stars played poorly against the Zimbabweans.

"I don't know what was wrong with the team. But we did not have six key players on the field and it affected the way we played."

In the meantime, the Ghana Football Association has appealed to the Confederation of African Football against Kingston's record ban.

Meanwhile, the player joins his new club Lokomotiv Moscow at their training camp in Spain on Thursday.

The Russian club are preparing for their Uefa cup tie with Sevilla on 15 February.



Laryea

Sports

Odegbami hails Eagles, but...

Former captain of the national team, Segun Odegbami has saluted the Super Eagles "for their show of gallantry in beating the Teranga lions of Senegal" to top their group at the on-going African Cup of Nations in Egypt.

Odegbami who played pivotal roles in Nigeria's 1980 Cup of Nations win at the National Stadium in Surulere in Lagos, described the Eagles success over their adversaries in an interview with *KICK OFF* as "fantastic, and a display of the stuff for which champions are made."

According to the legendary striker, "The team needs to tighten up loose ends in order to really do well in the competition."

For Odegbami, the team should strive to play together as one. For now they only show individual

brilliance."

He counsels the team. "They have no choice but to build into a viable team. We have always known the defence to be the weak point of the team, but that is the manifestation of the weakness of other departments of the team. If they learn to play as a team, they will go very far."

Odegbami's two other colleagues in the national team have different views about the performance of the Eagles.

Idowu Otubusin who was a defender at the time Odegbami was the captain of the national team told *KICK OFF*, "These Eagles cannot win the Cup with their attitude towards

games."

According to the man popularly called "Slow Poison" in his playing days "the Eagles take too long to come into the game. If Senegal had utilized their earlier chances they would have beaten Nigeria by at least four goals and that would have been too late for them."

"There is no way they could have survived Cameroon or Guinea if they played the way they played against Senegal. The team needs to work on the defence for they lose concentration too easily. The central defence pair is suspect, and there is no serious person in the midfield making passes for

attackers.

"The attackers too have problem. Everybody is unduly eager to score and record his name on score sheet. This team has a lot of work to do if it is to win the Cup."

Ifeanyi Onyedika, who was also a member of the 1980 Cup of Nations winning side criticised the Eagles "for being too defensive in their match against Senegal."

He argued that, "If you look at the competition so far, the Eagles have been lucky for they have allowed their opponents to dictate the game to them most especially in the first half. This is not good for they cannot be lucky all the

time.

"If not that Kanu, who has been coming to rescue

them, the story would have been different. The team as a whole lacks creativity."



Super Eagles midfielder Garba Lawal, left, congratulates two-goal hero Obafemi Martins

Eagles gun for revenge against Tunisia

High-riding Super Eagles have told *KICK OFF* they will be going all out here on Saturday to dethrone champions Tunisia and avenge the semi-final defeat they suffered at the hands of the Carthage Eagles two years ago in Tunisia.

Eagles coach Austin Eguavoen told *KICK OFF*: "In 2004 we were unlucky

to lose to Tunisia on penalties in the semi-finals but this time we are very much at home in Port Said and we hope to take our revenge."

Eagles goalkeeper Vincent Enyeama, who has been in superb form at this championship, also echoed the thoughts of his coach.

"It will no doubt be a very tight game but we

hope to pay them back for the defeat we suffered two years ago because we are in Egypt to win the Cup," the Israel-based goalkeeper said after he was picked as the LG Player of the Match against Senegal.

Eguavoen also spoke on Tuesday's dramatic finish in the 'Group of Death' in which the Eagles stopped Senegal 2-1 and Zimbabwe

upset World Cup finalists Ghana 2-1 but failed to qualify for the last eight.

"It was a dramatic finish," he said. "All four teams had a chance of making it to the next round before the final matches but we were the luckiest team of the group because we could easily have been 2-0 down in the first half but came back late in the game to beat Senegal."

Tunisia'll be no match, says Adeb, others

The Carthage Eagles of Tunisia will pose little or obstacle to the Super Eagles' quest to zoom into the semifinals of the 25th African Cup of Nations when both clash on Saturday in Port Said, according to analysts who assessed the teams preliminary matches.

The analysts, who hailed the Eagles for coming from behind to beat the Teranga Lions of Senegal penultimate day, were

By Patrick Andrew, Asst. Head Sports Desk

of the view that the defending champions do not possess the character, flair and materials to stop the Eagles from moving on in the tournament.

"I don't see the Eagles losing to the Carthage Eagles. They do not have the character, flair and the quality of players that can outshine the Nigerian lads. The Tunisians struggled

through the preliminary matches and it was obvious they wanted to avoid the Eagles.

"Though, we started slowly but the boys picked up steam with every passing game. The Eagles graduated their play, responded according to the strength of opposition which is the mark of a team with depth of character and quality," Lumumba Adeb, the Special Assistant to the President on

National Assembly Matters, said.

Adeb, who is the Proprietor of JC Raiders, a professional league club, said the Tunisians would be unable to match the strength of the Eagles. He noted that the changes made by the technical crew have shown that Nigeria do not only have a good bench but can respond to situation positively.

Similarly, Martins Odiete, a sports analyst lauded the

Eagles for "placing the Teranga Lions where they belong in the back waters of African football."

It was a good match that brought to the fore Nigeria's ability and character as well as restore hope that the cup is ours. I do not see the Carthage Eagles posing any serious threat to the Eagles advancement in the tournament."

David Ngobua equally wrote off Tunisia, stressing that they

can not stop the Eagles unless the Nigerian side suddenly become complacent.

"Tunisia beat Nigeria? Excuse me. Look, forget the fluke victory in the 2004 edition of the tournament. It was largely because of the one change who made dubious substitutions at the most inauspicious time. So far, it is clear they do not have the team to beat Nigeria."

They applauded the Austin Eguavoen-led technical crew for making the necessary changes in the team with the resultant bite to their attacking formation, noting that the gap that existed between the midfield and the upfront is being gradually closed.

"I was in the Eagles camp in Egypt last weekend and did meet with the boys. They were happy, disciplined and in high spirit. There is cordial relationship among the players and the coaches. They are focused and ready to take on any opposition" said Adeb.

The Eagles defeated the Lions of Senegal on Tuesday to book a clash with the Carthage Eagles, who stopped them on penalties two years ago in the semifinals. The victory was a revenge of the defeat they suffered four years ago in Mali when the Senegalese beat them on penalties. In both instances, the Eagles went on to win the

Premier League: El-Kanemi in N6m debt

The Nigeria Football League has denied Premier League club, El-Kanemi Warriors registration forms for the new season because of the club's N6, 079,000 debt owed coaches and players.

The implication is that the club may not participate in the league this season if the management fails to honour its financial obligation to the coaches and players before the deadline fixed for February 14.

Of the amount, only N38,000 will be paid into the coffers of the NFL while the balance belongs to the players and coaches, who had lodged complaints against the management

verdicts.

Apart from the Warriors, who may lose their place in the Premier League, Gabros and NPA face similar threat due their N1,099,000 and N2,463,000 debt owed players, coaches, and for cards fines and assault on match officials.

Gombe United, Kwara

United, Lobi Stars, Wikki Tourists have their names written in red ink and may face severe sanctions because of owing amounts ranging from three hundred thousand to about seven hundred thousand naira respectively.

Meanwhile, only four clubs which have met their financial obligations have collected

registration forms as at yesterday. The clubs are 3SC, Rangers, Berger, and Tornadoes. Before they were issued forms, they redeemed their debts and are therefore the only clubs which have formally began processing for the season that is fixed to kick start on February 14.

Tunji Babalola, the head of

football department in the NFL, disclosed that premier league clubs collectively owe N16, 391,000 out of which the sum of N8, 359,000 is due the NFL and the balance players, coaches of respective clubs and match officials assaulted during matches.

Saraki dissolves Kwara Utd board

The Kwara State Governor, Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki, has approved the dissolution of the board of management of the Kwara United Football Club.

According to a

From AbdulRazaq Adebayo, Correspondent (Ilorin)

the State Government (SSG), Alhaji Salman Adelodun Ibrahim, the dissolution of the board, which takes immediate effect, is to pave way for a new board to be

course.

The statement further said that Governor Saraki had approved that the Special Adviser for Sports, Alhaji Zakari Mohammed, should act as the Sole Administrator of the Kwara United FC until a new board is

Meanwhile, Governor Abubakar Bukola Saraki, has commended the outgoing members of the board for the meritorious service they had given their fatherland, adding that they should be ready to serve again whenever their services are

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EDITORIAL

Police strike again?

Police authorities in Nigeria are said to be making frantic efforts to stop a strike action threatened by the police rank and file. The faceless group trying to organise the strike are attributing it to the longstanding grievances affecting especially junior police officers. Such grievances range from lack of promotion to poor pay and non-payment of some allowances. The police authorities are however saying that they have been able to abort the possibility of the strike action, just as the group organising it is saying the contrary is the case.

Our concern is to find out why, in spite of the claim by government that since it came to office in 1999, it has provided huge sums of money to the police force, yet junior police officers are still complaining of poor pay, non-payment of some allowances and other related problems. On the other hand, many who know the workings of the Nigeria Police claim that it remains one of the worst organisations in terms of welfare of its staff and good working conditions.

In many cases, we hear that police on emergency duties do not get their allowances paid; those on transfer resort to private means to get to their new duty posts and a visit to even the Abuja Command of the police reveal that newly-posted policemen or those on transfer are reduced to sleeping in corridors and any other empty space within the respective state police commands.

There is also the common complaint of police vehicles without fuel and police stations without stationeries. In these circumstances, one cannot even raise the issue of feeding those detained in police cells. Similarly, it is no secret that state and local governments virtually run the police forces in their areas in terms of providing supporting vehicles and funds. Apart from the obvious implication of those paying the piper dictating the tune, it also leads to the question of what happens to the funds set aside every year in the name of the police. All this is happening in spite of the annual running cost provided in the police budget.

This newspaper feels that the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC needs to complete its unfinished business on the Nigeria Police. Or if the EFCC cannot do it, let the National Assembly investigate the rot in this all-important law and order institution in the country. It is not enough as the EFCC has done to single out the former Inspector General Tafa Balogun and jail him for stealing the force blind.

The EFCC or whoever else is given the job needs to also thoroughly check the force and see what needs to be done to make the Nigeria Police an accountable organisation that also takes care of its own. Anything short of this could continue to provide the justification for many of the shortcomings of police personnel in Nigeria. Doing nothing about the problem will also provide the justification for agitators who will want to see a repeat of at least the partial strike action which led to the sack of one-time Inspector General of Police, Musiliu Smith a few years ago.

In the meantime, the police authorities will need to address the grievances of its men in order to ensure that nothing happens to jeopardise the security and well-being of citizens and foreigners alike who appreciate the law and order duties of a truly motivated Nigeria Police Force. The police force cannot be strong enough to carry out its duties if it continues to treat its most important resource - its officers and men - with disdain.

DAILY TRUST

THURSDAY COLUMN

Thursday, February 2, 2006

Third Term: Will Obasanjo save Nigerians the anxieties of Abacha days?

By Wilson J. Myenguron

African leaders have the tendency and/or reputation to hold on to power indefinitely; and sadly, this has been part of African leaders' political history for decades. The desire to hold on to power indefinitely is because of the fact that political leadership in most African states is one without transparency, responsibility and accountability.

Reuben Abati, the celebrated writer and columnist in *The Guardian* newspaper was quoted as saying that, "One mistake that President Obasanjo has made is that he has managed to unite his enemies and given them a common cause around which they can organise themselves. That is not a good thing for any leader."

Thus, to my mind and to the minds of many concerned Nigerians that desire that our nascent democracy thrives despite all odds, the Obasanjo-led administration that has recorded tremendous achievements had by either an act of omission or commission forced the teeming Nigerian population and/or electorate to remember and reflect on the Abacha years with the infamous jingle of "who the cap fits;" which was a bad joke gone too far. Regrettably, the idea was that for Abacha by some kind of political magic (wand) to transform his military uniform or *khaki* into that of a civilian and rule for life. The idea was supported by a section of naive political parties or groups and/or leaders existing then, which Bola Ige referred to as the "five fingers of a leprous hand." Sadly, of course, Abacha never lived long enough to wear the cap. Death caught up with him.

The Abacha sad experience had not served as a lesson to the political class and/or the nation, which most African nations look up to for the continent's total emancipation from bad political rule, hunger and underdevelopment. Instead, what we are being forced to see today is an increase in the number of bootlickers, militicians, sycophants, free riders and praise-singers calling on the incumbent President Olusegun Obasanjo to extend his tenure to a third term. Then comes the question and/or poser: Will President Obasanjo save Nigerians the mind-boggling anxieties of the Abacha days by declaring his intention or make his opinion public on the ongoing third term debate sooner than later?

Regrettably, Abacha's deeds were unpopular and his death was "celebrated" by a large percentage of Nigeria's teeming population. With the inglorious demise of Abacha, we thought that we had learnt a lesson and we had seen and heard the last of third, fourth and life term agenda. Alas, it is not so! The bulk of the Abacha politicians, militicians that form the Obasanjo-led administration at all levels are at it again, and the hitherto "Uncle Sege" enemies (let us not remember the president's travails in the hands of his enemies and/or incarceration in prison during the Abacha junta days) are still alive. Mr President has managed to unite himself with his enemies and given them a common cause around which they can organise themselves and again make nonsense and/or play on the intelligence of the over 120 million Nigerians.

To borrow a leaf from Reuben Abati's earlier assertion, that is not a good thing for a leader in the person of President Obasanjo who is making spirited efforts to drastically reduce the level of corruption that has enveloped us as a nation and introducing workable economic reforms aimed at putting the country on the positive or better path to progress.

The emergence of the Constitutional Review Campaign for a third term for the president is not too surprising to some of us reflecting on the Abacha "who the cap fits" days. The only 'innovation' is that some flat-footed non-performing governors, senators, representatives, et al who have failed the electorate and looting under the immunity clause cover, including those that have jumped bail and come into the country amidst jamboree by ignorant electorate are part of the third term agenda. It is perceived that the first attempt to extend the tenure of the present administration was made during the National Political Reform Conference (NPRC) but the plot was opposed by well-meaning Nigerians.

The questions that readily come to mind and/or need urgent answers on the third term quest are enormous. But whatever the answers, this writer and many well-meaning Nigerians oppose any action on the part of the person and/or administration of President Obasanjo that will make them continue day-by-day to harbour mind-boggling anxieties like in the Abacha days.

Mr President is being urged to remain steadfast as a statesman per excellence and save the country from political turmoil and/or series of crises, as most Nigerians

are not favourably disposed to the third term agenda and equally not in support of any attempt to toy with the constitution for the main purpose of making key political office-holders including Mr President to stay in office beyond the year 2007. If the constitution must be amended by the present administration, issues like equitable power sharing/zoning principle based on the present four-year term with a chance for a second term should be well-defined and/or addressed so that all the geo-political zones could have a shot at the presidency seat with ease and that no individual or geo-political zone holds on to power for long.

More so, power is concentrated at the centre. There is a need for the decentralisation of power to reduce the quest for or make the presidency not too attractive. We may need for a start three Vice Presidents based on North, East and South pre-independence arrangement with enormous responsibilities or powers to manage effectively available resources and/or funds so distributed equitably to emancipate Nigerians from hunger and underdevelopment within a very short time-frame.

Nigerians expect a lot from the 88-member Committee of Joint Houses of the National Assembly for the review of the 1999 Constitution headed by Senator Ibrahim Nasir Mantu. If the '88 Wisemen' work with the fear of God or based on the oath they have taken, Nigerians will have a constitution amended based on the above suggestions and many other good suggestions that have been presented by well-meaning Nigerians. If the 88-member committee acts otherwise and legalise political office-holders' continuous stay in office including Mr President beyond the year 2007, that will portend gross betrayal and a serious fraud that will do this country no good but will bring about the disintegration and partitioning of the country. God forbid!

If they succeed in this bid, it will speak of our country as a banana republic and take us back into time. Above all, it will make nonsense of all the sacrifices we have made as a people to free the country from military dictatorship and install nascent democratic rule; hence a trying democratic rule is adjudged globally to be better than any known best military rule or dictatorship.

Moreover, credible presidents of some African countries like Thabo Mbeki of South Africa and John Kuffour of Ghana have advised strongly against the scam and the grievous implication it will have for Nigeria and the rest of Africa. It is on record that past African leaders like Omar Bongo Ondimba of Gabon; Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe; Gnassingbe Eyadema of Togo; Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire (DRC) and Idi Amin Dada of Uganda held on to power in their various countries for a long time as if they were holding on to life itself. Amazingly, those of them that have died all died shamefully without befitting burials to reflect the high positions they had occupied. But in this same Africa, we had a president like Nelson Mandela who was in power for a single term despite all his sacrifices even at the cost of his life for the freedom of his own people.

In Nigeria, the desire to hold on to power has a history that begins with the Gowon era. Gowon did not want to relinquish power after initiating a transition programme that was to terminate in 1975, which led to his being toppled in a military coup in 1976. In like manner, Ibrahim Babangida through his inglorious deceptions created all forms of transition programmes and political party structures to hold on to power. In the process, trillions of naira from the federal treasury useful for the socio-economic development of Nigeria was expended. This is not to mention again the Abacha years with the infamous jingle of "who the cap fits" and the public funds loot that characterised his administration and/or tenure that ended on a sad note - his dramatic death. I am to add that critics of the Abacha junta days had opined that Abacha's inglorious exit saved Nigeria from disintegration.

Could well-meaning Nigerians join me and urge President Obasanjo to save Nigerians the anxieties of the Abacha days? Mr President should more than ever before demonstrate statesmanship and safeguard our nascent democratic experience and also save the nation from disintegration and/or political turmoil of great magnitude that could make the citizenry undermine his administration's invaluable achievements over the years. Finally, Mr President is being urged to kindly leave active politicking or political arena come year 2007 when the ovation is louder.

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