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Progress is the Activity
of Today and the
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Tomorrow**



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Alh. Muhammad Danjuma Goje

STAR FEATURE


*Murtala's
administration: "Sharp,
sweet and all too
short"*



Pages 22 & 35

**COUNT DOWN TO CENSUS 2006
(21 - 25 March)
29 DAYS TO GO**

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Courtesy: National Population Commission

Muslim leaders, CAN condemn riots

Jama'atu Nasril Islam (JNI), Assembly of Muslims in Nigeria and the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) have condemned the violent disturbances in Maiduguri and Katsina at the weekend even as they blamed it on the anxiety over the alleged third term bid of President Olusegun Obasanjo.

From Sani Babadoko, in Kaduna & Isa Sanusi, in Abuja

The JNI Secretary General, Justice Abdulkadir Orire and CAN Secretary in the state, Rev. Joseph Hayab, reiterated that in the north, the politics of third term is finding violent outlet through religion.

Justice Orire said: "In truth, I will like to tell our leaders that the cause of the problem is the politics of *Tazarrce*. President Obasanjo should come out clearly to tell Nigerians that "I am not part of the third term agenda. I will not

exceed the term allotted me by the constitution and the governors should do the same."

"The country is tense because everybody has been fed with the rumour of a third term and no one has come out to deny or confirm the rumour, that is why the bottled up tension is now finding expression through these violent outbursts," he added.

Orire said the violence in Katsina and Maiduguri occurred because the two cities are venues for the North-West and North-East public hearings on the constitution.

He said, the demonstrations against the Danish cartoon blaspheming prophet Mohammad was only a pretext, as even the CAN has condemned the said cartoon, adding that Muslims should think of their counterparts in other parts of the country where retaliatory measures could be taken.

"The JNI is calling on all religious leaders to come together to talk to our followers not to do anything which portrays and blackmails religion as the root cause of the crisis."

The CAN secretary, Rev. Joseph Hayab, said in his reaction that the Christian religion is against blasphemy and that CAN has condemned the offending cartoon, adding that he sees no reason why Churches and shops belonging to Christians should become the target of any protests.

"The politics of the third term agenda is the cause of the violent demonstrations because the people are against it and religion is the only issue that can appeal to the emotions and lead to such protests.

"The cartoons have not been published in Nigeria. No one in Borno or Katsina has

seen the cartoon, so how can it be the cause of the violence? Rev. Hayab wondered.

He said in Maiduguri, 32 churches were burnt while two priests were among the over 10 persons killed and

blamed the Borno state governor, Modu Sheriff, for the crisis because of his outspoken support for the third term.

He said the Borno state government should take responsibility for the crisis.

Chairman, Assembly of Muslims in Nigeria, Sheikh

**See more on
Pages 4 - 7**

Ali makes case for 3rd term

The national chairman of the ruling People's Democratic Party (PDP), Dr Ahmadu Ali, at the weekend summoned a meeting of leaders of the party in the North Central states reportedly to drum up support for the amendment of the 1999 constitution.

By Hammeed M Bello, who was in Lokoja

was to consult with party members in the zone, even as he said similar meetings are going on in other zones of the country. Other party leaders in the hierarchy would attend those other meetings, he said.

Although Ali avoided a question by newsmen as to whether or not he supports a third term agenda for President Obasanjo, sources at the meeting however confirmed to *Daily Trust* that he mobilized support for the constitutional amendment as the surest way to legally achieve the third term agenda.

A source who attended the meeting said Ali eulogized the president over the debt relief secured for the country which he described as an independence. "Debt cancellation is the second independence Obasanjo won for Nigeria and the PDP government brought it about so you have a reason to clap for

Cont. on Pg. 2



A victim of bullet wound being rushed to the hospital in Katsina by a Hizbah member.



Rioters burning tyres on a street in Maiduguri... Weekend.

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PUBLIC HEARING Mantu c'ttee gives priority to govt officials, monarchs

Bans debate at centres

Government officials and traditional rulers are to be given priority attention at the public hearings by the National Assembly Joint Constitution

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

Review Committee expected to begin on Wednesday across the country.

A directive to this effect was contained in a circular signed by the committee's scribe, Oluayemi Ogunyemi, circulated to leaders of the six tour groups and obtained exclusively by *Daily Trust* in Abuja at the weekend.

The hearings are to hold on Wednesday and Thursday in Lafia (North-central), Katsina (Northwest), Maiduguri (Northeast), Osogbo (Southwest), Abakaliki (Southeast) and Port Har-

Cont. on Pg. 2

News

Muslim leaders *Cont. from pg. 1*

Shariff Ibrahim Saleh Al-Hussaini, also condemned the violence in Maiduguri and has urged the Borno state government to bring the culprits to book.

The scholar described as unfortunate and against the teachings of Islam, the decision by some people to unleash violence on innocent people who have nothing to do with the blasphemous cartoons, adding that no problem can be solved through violence.

Sheikh Al-Hussaini commended the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) and followers of other religions for supporting Muslims in their protest against the blasphemous cartoons.

"Therefore, AMIN condemns in strong terms, the

unprecedented violence which occurred in Maiduguri on Saturday and resulted in the loss of more than 15 innocent lives and the destruction of invaluable properties," the Sheikh said.

According to him, all *Ulamas* are united in the condemnation of the violence that erupted over the weekend, adding that: "We hope our christian brothers in Nigeria will listen to the voice of logic."

The Muslim leader also described the violent clashes as manifestations of poverty and other social illness, pointing out that: "We are living with our Christian brothers peacefully, nothing can justify the harming of our brothers in other religions."

Mantu c'ttee *Cont. from pg. 1*

court (South-south).

Ogunyemi's circular, NASS/JCCR/18/1, titled 'Rules/Procedure for public hearings', dated February 15, said the order of priority should be reflected uniformly across the six hearing centres.

No debate is to be allowed on presentations made and any person who attempts to flout the procedure would be forcefully ejected by security personnel, the document said.

Part of the circular reads: "Seating arrangements should accord with protocol and enhance the flow of information and exchange of ideas. Priority should be given to government functionaries and traditional rulers by seating them conspicuously."

"Also to be accorded priority in seating arrangements are party leaders, opinion leaders and union leaders. They should be followed by registered presenters and or speakers who should be seated separately from members of the public."

Members of the public are to occupy the last row while registered presenters should sit at the third row, the circular said.

Team leaders are given powers to order the forceful ejection of "any member of the public who conducts himself in a disorderly manner likely to jeopardise the work of the committee when the need arises."

Ali *Cont. from pg. 1*

yourselves," he said.

Ali, we learnt, urged the meeting to ensure that the North Central states sensitize their people to give maximum support to the public hearings on the review of the constitution by the National Assembly which begins tomorrow.

Ali said while answering questions from newsmen that he was aware that some people have gone to court to challenge the ongoing constitutional amendment process, but that the challenge would be futile because the National Assembly has the constitutional mandate to amend the laws.



Dr Ahmadu Ali, PDP National Chairman.

Hostages: Security beefed up in Niger-Delta

From Ikenna Emeka
Okpani, Bureau Chief, Port
Harcourt

Security has been beefed up at oil installations in the Niger-Delta to forestall further attacks and taking of hostages following the kidnapping of nine expatriate oil workers from a Shell facility in Delta state.

The names of the hostages are Cody Oswald (American), Russel Spell (American), Macon Hawkins (American), John Hudspith (Briton), Anthony Santos (Filipino), Arak Suwana (Thai), Sansaak Mhadmho (Thai), Shavlyaly (Egyptian), and Saysal Mohomeo (Egyptian).

Reacting to the incident, the federal government regretted the hostage taking, describing them as criminal elements of the Niger-Delta.

A statement signed by the

Minister of Information and National Orientation, Frank Nweke, said: "Their actions must be condemned by all persons of goodwill within and outside the country and no attempts must be made to glamourise these criminal perpetrators."

The federal government adds that: "The incidence is purportedly in response to an alleged attack by the military but the federal government wishes to state that no such attack ever took place."

Our reporter gathered that securitymen have been deployed to various installations with specific instructions to ensure the security

of all workers including expatriates. Access to major oil company offices and facility has become more difficult as visitors are quizzed thoroughly before they are allowed in.

Tension in the oil-rich region heightened following the taking of new hostages by militia groups a few days after those kidnapped in January were released. The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta who claimed responsibility for the action had warned that they would embark on actions that would make it difficult for Nigeria to export crude if certain conditions were not met and had gone ahead to issue an ultimatum which expired last Sunday.

Stakeholders are afraid

... CNPP blames Obasanjo over crises

By Sufuyan Ojeifo,
Special Correspondent

Conference of Nigerian Political Parties (CNPP) has blamed President Olusegun Obasanjo for the worsening security crises in Niger-Delta, saying that he masterminded the "monumental corruption in the oil industry and the political system" that was at the root of the problem in the region.

In a statement issued yesterday in Abuja, the CNPP cited the electoral fraud of 2003, "which imposed the former Governor of Bayelsa State, DSP Alamieyesiegha and his ilk as leaders of the zone, thus denying the people the opportunity to elect people of their choice", as an instance of the corruption in the political system.

According to the three-page statement signed by the group's National Publicity secretary, Mr. Osita Okechukwu, "The CNPP bemoans the worsening national security in the Niger delta region and calls on the Federal Government to save Niger Delta and save Nigeria by taking immediate actions to stem the wave of violence, topped by repeated hijack of oil workers".

While sympathizing with the families of soldiers who died in the crisis as well as the innocent and defenceless civilians who were trapped in the inferno, the group said it could not foresee peace in the region when the controller of the oil industry was very insensitive to the alienation and dislocation of the people.

The group lamented the pre-occupation of the Obasanjo administration with the process of constitutional amendment aimed at tepid extension instead of advancing "the gains of Section 162(2) of the 1999 Constitution through a bill to increase the percentage of allocation that does not require constitutional amendment".

Besides, it slammed the administration for allegedly lacking the capacity to formulate a holistically packaged project to transform the Niger Delta region with oil windfall.

The CNPP further challenged Obasanjo to make public the records from the African Union books, "The African Union estimates that

corruption costs Africa about \$148 billion annually or 25 per cent of Africa Official Gross National Product (GNP)", stressing that "from the President's accounts, Extractive Industries dominate the economy of most African countries and Nigeria tops most African countries in this regard.

"CNPP challenge is predicated on the truism that President Obasanjo has the data and names of those who raped and defrauded Nigerians; it is contained in African Union books, the 1st Interim Financial Reports of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative and the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation.

"He is shy to explore the UN Convention on corruption, which most countries have endorsed because his hands are suspicious. Let him pursue the recovery of stolen money with the passion which he pursued the late General Sani Abacha's loot".

The group observed that the anti-corruption war could not be total, but selective as long as Obasanjo who, according to it, doubled as Minister of Petroleum covers monumental fraud in the industry, maintaining that the amount looted from the nation's coffers could transform the Niger Delta and the nation and return peace to the crisis-ridden region.

"The contradictions that bedevil President Obasanjo's anti-corruption crusade was exposed recently by the Senate Committee on Upstream Petroleum resources over the inflated Escravos Gas-to-Liquid project that was awarded by NNPC to Halliburton at \$2.9 billion, as against \$1.1 billion recommended during Jackson Gaius Obaseki tenure at the NNPC and less than \$1 billion was used in executing a similar project in Qatar.

"The Revenue Mobilisation and Fiscal Commission had severally alerted the nation on the reckless and corrupt manner President Obasanjo and his cronies loot in the oil industry.

that the development would affect plans to resolve issues in the Niger-Delta ahead of the visit by a delegation from the United Kingdom to Rivers state.

Already, some foreign governments have warned their citizens to keep away from the Niger Delta.

Only last week, the visiting British Foreign Secretary, Mr. Jack Straw, called on governments in the region to ensure that monies meant for the development of the area do not go into private bank accounts.

He said the states in the Niger-Delta must ensure transparency and good governance as that was the only way to ensure peace and security in the region.

The foreign secretary who was speaking in Port Harcourt at a joint press conference with the Governor of Rivers State, Dr. Peter Odili, at the end of his one-day visit to the state, said his country will continue to assist efforts to strengthen governance and security in the Niger-Delta.

He said every level of administration in the country should do everything to raise the confidence of the people in their capacity to cater for their needs, including protection of lives and property and provision of infrastructure.

In his remarks, Governor Peter Odili had said the issue of security in the delta should be viewed from two perspectives which includes the capacity of the security agencies to respond adequately when there is a clear case of criminality in the region and the need for oil companies to keep faith with any memorandum of understanding reached with host communities.

He said most of the problems encountered were as a result of failure on the part of oil companies operating in the area to meet such agreements.

Oil coys underpay FG by N71bn

By Hamisu Muhammad,
Business Reporter

- Report

An audit report of the Nigerian oil and gas sector released by the Nigerian Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (NEITI) over the weekend revealed that oil producing companies may have underpaid the Federal Government not less than N71 billion in Petroleum Royalty Tax between 1999 and 2004.

The report which was the second audited report of the oil and gas industry since the establishment of the NEITI said that the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) which is saddled with the duty of computing oil royalties to oil companies, allowed these upstream companies to use parameter that suit them to arrive at what they deem fit as royalty to Government making underpayments of N 7 1 , 3 5 7 , 7 2 0 , 0 0 0 (\$509,698,000) from 1999 to 2004.

A Royalty tax is payable on the amount of crude oil produce by a company every month.

The report which was presented on Friday at the Transport Hilton Hotel to the civil society revealed that DPR

wrongly taxed oil producers, page 17 of the interim report shows that Shell Petroleum Developing Company (SPDC) royalty was assessed by DPR from 1999 to 2004 as \$2,837,519, but the company paid \$3,030,756.

Mobil was assessed by the DPR to pay for the same period, \$2,294,779, but in its "kind" gesture, paid \$2,555,749 with a positive variance of \$ 260,970 for Nigerian government.

But some of the oil producing companies paid below the "generous" offer by the DPR.

This is aptly shown in the table reproduced from page 17 of the NEITI Second Interim Report on Financial Flows 1999 - 2004.

Although, the report did not say if they variance was as a result of criminal conspiracies between DPR officials and affected companies, but explained "from our discussions with DPR officials, the discrepancies were attributable to the use of different variables and parameters by both the DPR and the upstream com-

panies in the computation".

Consequently, read the report on page 17, "DPR in 2004 set up a joint review team comprising DPR, Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) and Nigerian National Petroleum Company (NNPC) to verify the data input for Royalty calculation by the upstream producing companies.

Addax Petroleum Development Nigeria Limited leads the pack with a total underpayment of \$153,889,000 followed by Continental Nigeria Limited with a total sum of \$106,426,000. Agip leads the big producers, underpaying Nigeria \$98,302,000 in oil Royalty.

But the Hart group, which carried out the Audit in conjunction with SS Afemikhe Consulting Ltd, was quick to explain that, "we could not verify the above under payments because of the parameters and input data used by the joint review team to carry out the reassessment were not made available to us".

News

EFCC arrests lawmakers in Taraba

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has detained the leadership of the Taraba State House of Assembly, members of the committee on local government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Secretary to the State Government, three Commissioners and their permanent secretaries and the

From Ado Adamu, Correspondent Jalingo

Accountant General of the state. The detained state officials were invited to the EFCC, Lagos office, on the February for questioning, and have remained in detention investigation into allegations against them. Daily Trust gathered that the nine lawmakers were arrested in connection with petition against the House by a law maker to the

EFCC alleging that the Ministry for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs has been deducting the sum of N800,000 from the accounts of the local governments of the state every month which is shared by 20 members of the state assembly. Investigations further revealed that the member who wrote the petition is among those deprived of partaking in the monthly affairs of the state assembly.

Sources confirmed to Daily Trust that the four non-benefiting lawmakers are from Bali local government areas. The three commissioners and their permanent secretaries, together with the Accountant General of the State are being investigated for their roles in a contract for the construction of the Dome tent in Jalingo Motel alleged to have been inflated to N400 million.

The Secretary to the State Government was arrested three weeks ago to clarify some state projects and confirm revelations by some government officials.



Former President, Alhaji Shehu (right) welcomes Minister of Water Resources, Alhaji Mukhtari Shagari, when the Minister visited him at the Shagari Farm in Sokoto... recently

N10m: Mantu takes self to EFCC

Deputy Senate President, Senator Ibrahim Mantu, has presented himself for investigation to the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), over allegations made by Governor Joshua Dariye of Plateau State over the sharing of the contentious N1.16 billion ecological fund. Dariye alleged that Mantu got N10 million from the funds.

By Isa Sanusi, Reporter

that from the Ecological funds he was alleged to have diverted the sum of N100 million was given to Obasanjo's campaign while N10 million was given to the Deputy Senate President, Ibrahim Mantu.

A copy of the deputy Senate President's submission to the EFCC, obtained by Daily Trust said that Mantu voluntarily submitted himself to the EFCC and is willing to offer any information that will aid investigation.

The state pioneering purposes of particular interest to me into allegations which received very wide publicity in the media is where he mentioned that he gave me N10 million during the Presidential campaign in 2003, over two years after he had collected said funds from the federal government.

"I have voluntarily come here (EFCC) to submit myself to your esteemed commission to be investigated on this matter."

The Deputy Senate President had earlier challenged Dariye to produce evidence that he got the said amount from the diverted funds.

The Director of Operations of the EFCC, Mr. Bala Chiroma, who received Mantu said that the commission has already begun investigation into Governor Dariye's allegation. He then told Mantu that the commission will seek his attention when necessary in the course of investigation.

Mantu's submission to the EFCC says: "I have gone through sundry and wild allegations by the governor of Plateau State, Chief Joshua Chibi Dariye, as to how he purportedly diverted funds meant for solving ecological problems in Plateau state. Governor Dariye had revealed

3rd term: S/West NASS members meet to endorse Obasanjo

Olumide Bajulaiye, Correspondent Lagos

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), lawmakers from the South-West in the National Assembly are to meet in Ado, Osun state, this week to ask the president to continue in office after his second electoral mandate expires next year.

A prelude to the move, our correspondent learnt that the PDP state Houses of Assembly Speakers met at the weekend in Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State, to prepare grounds for the legislators' decision.

An earlier parley of the Speakers on the same issue scheduled for Abeokuta, the Ogun State capital could not hold. Sources said that the visit of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), leaders in the state and the absence of two or three Speakers disrupted the arrangement.

At the meeting, it was further gathered, the lawmakers, mainly from the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), will also call for an amendment of the 1999 constitution.

The move, according to sources, would enable the president have a smooth ride if eventually he makes a u-turn to yield to calls to extend his tenure in office.

Only recently in Abeokuta, the Ogun state capital, at the South West Zonal Expanded Committee meeting of the PDP, the governors in the zone endorsed the President's

continuation in office next year. The host governor, Otunba Gbenga Daniel, Segun Agagu (Ondo), Ayo Fayose (Ekiti), Olagunsoye Oyinlola (Osun), Bayo Alao-Akala (Oyo), and chieftains of the PDP- Olabode George, national vice chairman, and South West vice-chairman, Senator Yinka Omilani, were in attendance at the crowded historic civic centre named after the winner of the June 12, 1993 presidential election, Bashorun M.K.O. Abiola.

Also among those present at the meeting were Minister of Housing and Urban Planning, Dr. Olusegun Mimiko, chief Okanlawon Soboyede, secretary, PDP South West, Chief Joju Fadairo, chairman, PDP, (Ogun State), Chief Lanre Rasaki, Speaker, Ogun Assembly, Mrs. Titi Sodunke-Oseni, Chief Tunde Oshurinde and some members of the House of Representatives from Ogun State.

Daily Trust learnt at the weekend that the outcome of the legislators' meeting would go a long way to give impetus to calls for the third term agenda. It was further gathered that the support for the elongation of tenure is informed by the reasoning that the president should continue in office to consolidate on the myriads of achievements recorded by his administration. According to them, President Obasanjo needs to consolidate on his achievements before leaving office for another person. "The lawmakers want to take a cue from the governors who recently endorsed the president for a third term, and to quickly show their support to the call they decided to meet and take a consensus stand," a source told our correspondent.

"Two issues have been slated for discussion; the first one is the third term, while the second one is the need for the lawmakers to support the move to amend the 1999 Constitution to pave easy way for the third term thing for President Obasanjo.

"You know if the constitution is amended, it would be easier for the President to stay in office beyond 2007, thus making him go for the third term," the source added.

PDP criticizes Tinubu over utterances on Obasanjo

Olumide Bajulaiye, Correspondent Lagos

The leadership of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), in Lagos state has taken a swipe at Governor Bola Tinubu over his recent comments that President Olusegun Obasanjo is an ingrate.

In a statement issued at the weekend by the state chairman, Chief Rasheed Williams, it said the party felt concerned about such repeated utterances by Governor Tinubu which he described as "indecent, crude and lacking in cultural values".

"We note with dismay, the repeated utterances of the governor and his aides on President Olusegun Obasanjo which are clearly unsavoury, crude and devoid of cultural values. Or shall we say the governor is getting drunk by the lust of office? Otherwise, our understanding is that anyone with the right background would not have addressed the President with such foul language.

"It is high time he realised that etiquette, morality, decency and decorum are part of the values of his exalted office as a governor. "Of course, our culture places premium on respect for elders and he should know better."

In the same vein, a governorship candidate in Lagos state, Dr. Adedeji Aganga-Williams, has faulted the comments credited to the Lagos state governor, Senator Bola Tinubu, describing President Olusegun Obasanjo as an ingrate, saying it was needless and unwarranted.

In a statement released from his base in Austria, the aspirant noted that apart from the fact that the remarks were alien to Yoruba culture and any other culture in Nigeria where due respect is given to an elder, it was unhelpful, unnecessary and unbefitting of somebody who is an executive governor of a state. "The remarks do not show that the governor understands how democracy operates in advanced democracies—something he claims to know. Even in the United States, the president is addressed with respect and courtesy."

the urge to score a cheap political point. "It is because of the respect bestowed on their institution that has made friends and foes take cue and hence hold other office holders in the highest esteem," he added. He urged the governor to concentrate on governance of Lagos and stop using his office to further his personal agenda.

States, where Nigeria's democratic system is adopted from, he should know better that operators in that system hold themselves in high esteem, even if they have to disagree," Aganga-Williams added. He said respect for institution and office holders surpasses

Corruption: CNN, not fair to Atiku - Aide

By Emmanuel Bello, Political Editor

Media consultant to the Vice President, Malam Garba Shehu, has criticised the Cable Network News (CNN) for portraying the Vice-President, Atiku Abubakar as the ring leader of the corruption syndicate in Nigeria.

Reacting to a documentary shown on "Inside Africa," a CNN programme and in which the anti-corruption crusade of the Obasanjo administration was lauded, Malam Shehu said that foreign media outfits should cross-check their material before presenting them as news.

"We take exception to attacks on the person of the Vice President, Atiku Abubakar, who has remained consistent in his support for the federal government."

"The CNN was not fair in targeting the Vice President and his perceived loyalists as corrupt people. There was no attempt to even cross-check with the parties involved," he said.

It would be recalled that the president and his deputy have been reported as not enjoying a cordial working relationship with plans to impeach the latter said to be hatched. The ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) was also said to be considering ways of dropping the Vice President from the party, a charge Barrister Ibrahim Shema denied recently.

A source in the Atiku camp however, recently suggested that the Presidency has not relented in witch hunting the Vice President, with the latest plot being an attempt to use the foreign media to discredit the embattled number two man. This, according to it will serve as a precursor to a major move against him; one of which is believed to be a renewed attempt to remove him using the National Assembly.

Police Strike: Benue Command keeps men under check

Today's planned strike by the rank and file of the Nigeria Police Force may not hold in Benue State as the state police has placed its dissatisfied men under strict surveillance.

From Hir Joseph, correspondent (Makurdi).

and file, the planned strike may not take place in the state.

A police sergeant who pleaded anonymity, said the development may jeopardize their plans for today's industrial action.

"Like they did the first time, they want to use some persons as scape-goats", said the sergeant who, however, disclosed that the planned strike has 100 per cent support within the state police command.

The command at the weekend, summoned the police officers in the state and warned them on the consequences of any strike action.

Although the Force Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Mr. Samuel Jinadu, expressed optimism that with the level of discipline and checks on the rank

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NEWS

MAIDUGURI RIOTS

Normalcy returns after weekend violence

Social and commercial activities have gradually returned to normalcy in Maiduguri, the Borno State capital after it was abruptly interrupted by a crisis at the weekend, in which 15 people lost their lives and property worth millions of naira were destroyed.

The Police Public Relations Officer in the Borno State Police Command, ASP Bashir Mohammed told *Daily Trust* yesterday that preliminary findings by the police showed that in addition to the 15 dead, 11 churches, five hotels and several shops and business premises belonging to both Christians and Muslims were torched, even as the police have arrested over 100 suspects in connection with the crisis.

The crisis broke out around 10 am on Saturday when members of the Borno Muslim Forum, an umbrella group for Muslim organisations in Borno State, was holding a scheduled public lecture at the Ramat Square, Maiduguri on the "personality of the Prophet Muhammad (SAW)". The occasion was also designed to express dismay with the publication of offensive cartoons about the Prophet Muhammad in Danish and other European newspapers.

Both the Borno State government and the Borno Muslim Forum have condemned the disturbances as very unfortunate and ran contrary to the teachings of Islam.

In a release made available to *Daily Trust* and signed by the chairman, Alhaji Babagana Aji and secretary general, Musa Muhammad Zarami, the Borno Muslim Forum dissociated itself from the violence, saying "Islam does not support violence and destruction of lives and property, especially places of worship".

The release added that the Borno Muslim Forum did not consider fellow Nigerians as responsible for the blasphemy of the Prophet, adding that it has even commended the position of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) and the Vatican which have both condemned the cartoon's blasphemy.

Eye witnesses told *Daily Trust* that as the public lecture organized by the Borno Muslim Forum started, a pickpocket was caught trying to steal money and so people swooped on him trying to beat him. Members of the First Aid Group of the Jama'atu Nasril Islam (JNI) tried to save the man by handing him over to the police, who were mobilized to the venue to ensure the protection of law and order.

However, the police used teargas to disperse the youths who had gathered around the pickpocket, thereby causing panic and sending people to seek for cover.

Our correspondent gathered that the police use of teargas at the venue appeared to be the trigger to the crisis, as youths who were gathered decided to throw objects at the police, chanting "God is Great".

The police were said to retreat back to the nearby Dandal Police Station, where they continued to fire teargas to send youths who had gathered around the area away, but by that time, the panic caused by the use of teargas had spread to other parts of the city. Scholars and other invited

From Abdullahi Bego, Regional Editor (North East)

guests who were seated at the Ramat Square to leave the venue.

Daily Trust reports that as the situation at the Ramat Square became confused, some youths set around four vehicles belonging to the Nigeria Civil Defence Corps, whose offices are located at the Ramat Square, on fire and went to the streets to set bonfires.

In a chat with *Daily Trust*, the Secretary General of the Borno Muslim Forum, Mallam Musa Muhammad Zarami, said that before the first teargas was released, the speaker on the podium, who is the chairman of the Borno Muslim Forum, Alhaji Babagana Aji, was commending the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) for taking the bold step to condemn the offensive cartoons about the Prophet Muhammad, adding that both invited guests and organizers of the event were taken aback when they saw people running shelter-skelter amidst the smoke caused by the exploded tear gas canister.

"We had scheduled to say a two-raka'at prayer to seek for God's intervention against the attack on Muslims and Islam by the Danish and other European cartoons after the public lecture. However, once the teargas started and people were getting panicked, we quickly said the prayer and asked people to return to their houses peacefully. We had earlier told the Police and the State Security Service (SSS) through written letters about our intention to hold the public lecture and had asked for police presence to ensure the occasion went smooth", Zarami said.

The Secretary General of the Borno Muslim Forum, who added that the event was widely publicized in the electronic media in Maiduguri before it held, explained that the gathering was never meant to be a public procession or to breach public peace, but was only designed to hold and end within the Ramat Square for only a period of two hours during which lectures and prayers were to be said, adding, "we have explained that to the police very clearly".

However, as the setting of bonfires along roads and streets close to the Ramat Square started, the situation quickly deteriorated, with several hundreds of youths moving around town in groups to set fire to shops, places of worship belonging to the followers of the Christian faith and attacking people.

Speaking to *Daily Trust*, the Borno State Chairman of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Reverend Joshua Adamu, said the crisis was unfortunate because both Christianity and Islam preach the gospel of peace and do not call to violence.

The CAN chairman expressed disappointment that security agents were not available to disperse the rampaging youths when the crisis started, adding that he stood by watching for nearly four hours while youths burnt down his church.

"For security agencies, I would call on them to be more vigilant. I spent around four hours on Saturday with the youths demolishing my church as the

crisis was going on but there were no security agents available to stop the crisis from spreading", he said.

Bystanders in several areas of Maiduguri were forced to run for their dear lives when the youths became very violent. In many places, metals and rods owned by businessmen who deal in building materials were carted away and used to destroy signboards and just anything standing along the path of the rampaging youths.

Many eye witnesses said that the inability of the police to come out immediately in full force to disperse the rampaging youths as the crisis was spreading, until after more than three hours when the burning was well underway, might have been one of the factors which led the crisis to escalate.

Our correspondent noted that in almost all parts of Maiduguri where youths were setting bonfires and torching places, men of the police were not present at the beginning, as they remained around their stations for upward of three hours before mobile policemen started moving around town to disperse the youths.

The Borno State Governor, Alhaji Ali Modu Sherrif, who learnt of the disturbance as it was getting out of hand, drove to the Post Office and Ramat Square Areas to prevail on the youths to stop the attacks and the burnings, but the youths could not listen. The Governor later drove himself to the Maimalari Army Barracks along Baga Road, where he got a detachment of military personnel to be deployed to the crisis scene.

Daily Trust, which saw the military vehicle and mobile police escorts driving behind Governor Sherrif towards the Ramat Square Area, noted that the presence of the military personnel immediately sent away several hundred youths who had continued to set bonfires along Baga Road up to the Ramat Square.

In a broadcast to the people of the state hours after the disturbance, the Borno State Governor said he was "shocked and disgusted" by the disturbances, saying that although the state government sympathized with the emotion of Muslims over the cartoon publications which satirized the Prophet Muhammad, the government would not condone acts of lawlessness. "The government would not tolerate this situation and wish to state here that the perpetrators of this act would be dealt with decisively", he said.

The Governor also blamed some political opponents, whom he said tried to use innocent citizens to foment trouble. "The government is aware that some disgruntled elements in the society would want to use this situation to achieve their personal political ambition using innocent citizens to foment trouble", he said.

Governor Sherrif, who appealed for calm and urged the people of the state to go about their normal activities without any fears, also added that a 'high-powered committee' would be set up to assess the level of damage to property and persons affected by the crisis "with a view to rendering assistance where necessary".

Speaking to a reporter at the Maimalari Army Barracks, the Governor said

Police Commissioner, Alhaji Mohammed Abubakar, had acknowledged that at the beginning of the crisis around the Ramat Square, the policemen present "were overpowered by the number of the crowd", explaining however that the situation was later brought under control when more policemen were deployed with the help of other security agencies.

The police chief explained that around 105 suspects have been arrested while investigations continue.



Our peaceful programme was disrupted – Muslim Forum

Alhaji Babagana Aji is chairman of the Borno Muslim Forum, organizers of the Maiduguri public lecture on the Prophet Muhammad (SAW). He spoke to *Daily Trust* on the crisis. Excerpts

DT: What can you say with regards to the crisis on Saturday following the public lecture you organized?

Aji: It was very unfortunate that it ended that way. Our intention was to get Muslims to express their dissatisfaction with the Western world with regards to the depicting of our Prophet Muhammad (SAW) in cartoons. We organized a peaceful programme and invited scholars of high repute to come and deliver lectures. Unfortunately, the programme had hardly started before it was disrupted.

DT: What is your understanding of what led to the crisis itself?

Aji: Well, as of now, I can't say definitely that this or that led to the disruption of the programme but all that we noticed was smoke of teargas as I was giving the opening remarks. As soon as we noticed the smoke, we stopped the programme, said two raka'ats of prayer and asked people to return to their homes peacefully.

DT: Did you inform the police of the event before you started?

Aji: We did write to them. Indeed, immediately we noticed the teargas, we dispatched some of our officials to the police headquarters. When they went they couldn't meet the police commissioner. They however met the head of the mobile police who said their priority is to calm the situation and restore law and order.

DT: Why do you think some youths went about setting places on fire?

With regard to eye witness accounts that the first tear gas canister exploded by the police at the venue of the public lecture was the trigger of the panic that snowballed into the crisis, the Police Commissioner would only say that "investigations would reveal what really happened".

The government has set up an administrative committee of inquiry led by the Secretary to the State Government, Ambassador Ahmed

Babajidda, to establish the immediate and remote causes of the disturbance; identify the extent of damage to public and private property and suggest ways to prevent future recurrence.

The Borno State Governor has also met with representatives of the Igbo community as well as other non-indigenes in the state where he expressed regret for what has happened and pledged to do everything necessary to ensure the protection of people's lives and property.

Aji: This is not the first time that things like that have happened. There is a lot of communication gap between the youths and the elders. We were all witnesses that even when we had eclipse of the moon, for instance, some of these youths go out without the knowledge of their elders or parents to commit a lot of disruption.

At the beginning of our programme, we made it clear to all those gathered that Christians are not our enemies. They were some of the first people that condemned what was done to the Prophet (SAW) by the Danish and other European newspapers. The State of the Vatican also condemned it. So, we made it clear that Christians have in fact supported our concerns, so they are not our enemies.

DT: So, given the way you conceived the programme and went about conducting it, how do you feel when, at the end of the day, the whole situation was turned into one of violence?

Aji: It is very unfortunate; especially when someone organizes something in a peaceful manner in the name of religion, for that thing to be turned into something else. We sincerely express our sympathy to those affected and pray that such thing would not occur in the future. We also hope that the government would take the necessary steps to ensure that such things do not happen again.

DT: At your level in the Borno Muslim Forum, are you considering coming out with programmes to enlighten Muslim youths on the need for peaceful conduct in any situation they find themselves, for instance?

Aji: Those who caused this disturbance are not part of the Islamic organisation

that we have. They are not even the Almajiris who are being accused. They are people who are on their own, who are roaming the streets, who used the situation to attack and cause confusion for their selfish aims. It is the duty of all Islamic organisations, governments and indeed everyone, to help in educating the youths in our society, in helping them with means of livelihood so that they don't engage in these kinds of things.

DT: Muslims and Christians have enjoyed peaceful relations in Borno State over the years. Do you fear that the crises like the one at the weekend would put strain on this relationship?

Aji: Well, Islam is a religion of peace. Borno is also given the title of the home of peace. Islam recognizes Christianity and Judaism and considers their adherents as people of the Book. It is Haram (unlawful) in Islam to attack places of worship, especially churches and synagogues. It is mentioned in Suratul Hajj in the Holy Qur'an.

As I said, those who did what they did in Maiduguri are ignorant of Islam; they have their motives, which might be economic motives. We condemn what they did and we dissociate ourselves from them totally. We also hope that the government and all religious groups in the state would come together to address these problems.

We also call on the Christian community and even Muslims who suffered loss to see this unfortunate event as not religious. It is not religious and it is also not political. We hope people would understand that our programme was peaceful and that what happened was not caused by Islam, but by people who have nothing to do with Islam.

NEWS

MAIDUGURI RIOTS

CAN calls for caution in Adamawa

The Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), in Adamawa state has called on Christians in the state not to panic over the unfortunate religious riots in Borno and Katsina states over the weekend.

The CAN public relations officer, Pastor Pardon Imodu, who in company of other Christian leaders from different denominations, visited churches within Jimeta metropolis, advising Christians to maintain peace and remain prayerful.

The visit to Churches, according to him, is part of measures taken by CAN officials in the state to douse tension over the Maiduguri and Katsina riots which he said has the tendency of spreading if not properly

From Hamza Idris
(Correspondent Yola)

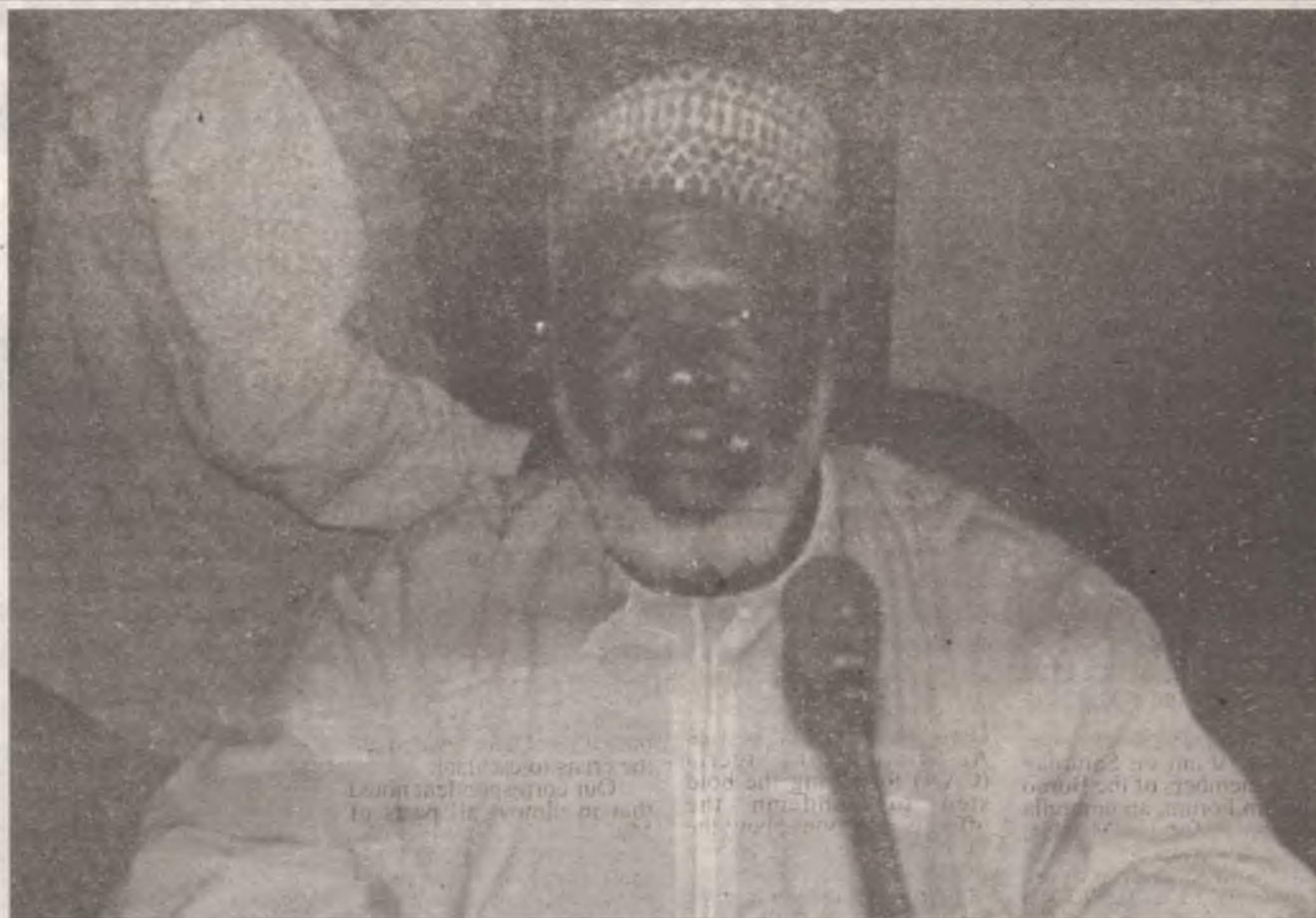
addressed.

Daily Trust investigations revealed that despite the recent religious upheavals, Church activities went on as usual in the city of Jimeta.

CAN however called on parents to check the activities of their children as well as advised against unnecessary arguments and quarrels which may provoke crisis.

It was also gathered that the early morning visit to churches by CAN officials was meant to drive home the need to promote peace.

When this reporter went round Yola, the state capital, security agents were seen on alert with a view to forestall the spread of the crisis to Adamawa state.



Rev Joshua Adamu, Chairman, CAN, Borno State

Christian and Muslims leaders must ensure peace – CAN Chairman, Borno State

Reverend Joshua Adamu is Chairman of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), in Borno State. He spoke to Daily Trust about the crisis.

What is your understanding of the crisis that erupted in Maiduguri on Saturday?

Those publications made by some European newspapers are unfortunate. In our religion, we revere the prophet and it is not allowed that you speak ill of anyone not to talk of the prophet. In any case, we have disapproved of what they wrote and we do not support it.

We are living peacefully in Maiduguri. Without any intimation, we saw this violence. Even I escaped narrowly. What happened was unfortunate because both Islam and Christianity always preach the gospel of peace. In both Christianity and Islam, we are working to be admitted to heaven. No one can go to heaven through violence or crisis.

What call would you make to both Christians and Muslims in Borno State?

I would call on our Christian brothers to be patient. We are not going to take any retaliatory measures. God suffices for us.

I would also call on the Islamic scholars in Borno state to always try to teach their pupils and followers - I know the Kanuri people do not like violence or crisis - to ensure that Muslims and Christians continue to live peacefully in the state, to prevail on our peoples to be peaceful in their conduct.

For security agencies, I would call on them to be more vigilant. I spent around four hours on Saturday with the hoodlums while they were

demolishing my church as the crisis was going on but there were no security agents available to stop the crisis from spreading.

The security agencies should do whatever is necessary to protect the lives and property of people of the state.

Yobe Governor condemns Borno violence, tightens security

From Isa Umar Gusau,
Correspondent (Damaturu)

Governor Bukar Abba Ibrahim has condemned the violence and has directed that security be tightened in Yobe state.

The governor who was speaking with journalists yesterday on the Maiduguri violence, said although he was yet to be briefed on the exact cause of the violence, described the killings as most unfortunate.

He charged the Borno state government to investigate the crisis.

"The Maiduguri incident was most unfortunate and uncalled for, unwarranted and should be condemned by all and sundry in no uncertain terms. Information on the incident is still sketchy. We are not sure what exactly led to it. But from reports, there was the burning of churches, shops and infact deaths.

"This should be condemned in its totality. I have lived in Maiduguri since my childhood and this is the first time this never happened before. Of course, many factors come to play in every given situation, thuggery, politics, restiveness and

more," Governor Ibrahim noted.

He said while the blasphemous cartoon has been condemned across the world, the Borno violence, according to him, has reduced the gravity of the blasphemy to a local issue.

"It is very correct to disapprove of the blasphemy that is most necessary. But for some people to cause confusion and violence that is unacceptable. As it is, we don't know who caused the incident but whoever that is responsible has done so much harm to our polity," Governor Ibrahim said.

Governor Ibrahim said that with the proximity of Borno to Yobe, there was absolute need for him to tighten security, assuring that he has held series of meetings with religious leaders and security agents in Yobe state to guard against the crisis spilling over to the state and he called on all Nigerians to embrace peace and live in harmony just as he tasked all tiers of government in the country to fight poverty and unemployment.

Gov Sherrif sets up inquiry committee

From Abdullahi Bego,
Regional Editor (North East)

Governor Ali Modu Sherrif of Borno State has set up an administrative committee of inquiry to look into the weekend civil disturbances in Maiduguri.

The committee, headed by the Secretary to the State Government, Ambassador Baba Ahmed Jidda, has the Brigade Commander of the 21 Armoured Brigade, Maiduguri, the Borno State Commissioner of Police, Alhaji Mohammed Abubakar, the Director of the State Security Services (SSS) and the state commissioner for works Alhaji Ali Mai Sangayama, as members.

Other members of the committee include the Chairman of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) Borno State, the education commissioner, Alhaji Kaka Mallam Yale, the commissioner for information, Alhaji Modu Fannami Gubio, the sports commissioner, Mr Peter Biye as well as the spokesman of the Igbo community in Maiduguri, Dr Anthony Uba.

Inaugurating the committee in Maiduguri yesterday, Governor Sherrif said the crisis in Maiduguri at the weekend has done damage to the image of Borno as the 'home of peace', adding that the rationale behind the setting up the committee is to ensure justice, equity and harmonious co-existence

among the various peoples of the state.

The governor added that although the disturbances was occasioned by a planned peaceful demonstration against offensive cartoons against Prophet Muhammad

by the Muslim community, some hoodlums took advantage of the situation to cause the destruction of lives and property.

Sherrif charged members of the committee to do a thorough job, explaining that for democracy and development to become entrenched, "we must all unite to give peace a chance".

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News

KATSINA RIOTS

One dead, 105 arrested

The Nigeria police have confirmed the death of one person and the arrest of 105 others during weekend's protest in Katsina.

Confirming the story, Force Public Relations Officer, Haz Jwendi, a Deputy Commissioner of Police (DC) said many people were injured including two policemen.

He said the situation in the town has been brought under control.

The protest was sparked by a coalition of Muslim groups to show disapproval of a Danish newspaper cartoon depicting Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) as well as the holding of the public hearing on the review of the constitution in Katsina.

The organisers gathered at the Jama'atul Nasril Islam headquarters amidst several speeches and resolved to proceed to the Government House to present two letters on their grouse to Governor Umar Musa Yar'adua.

By Lawal Ibrahim,
Katsina

On reaching the Government House, they were denied entry by a detachment of heavily armed policemen.

Their request that their leaders be allowed in to deliver the letters were equally turned down by the leader of the policemen.

It was at this juncture that the crowd became restless. The police responded by firing teargas canisters into the air and later live ammunitions.

The protesters however stood their ground and challenged the police.

As a result, witnesses said, many more shots were fired by the police as a result of which one person was killed.

Later at a press conference, the state's commissioner of police, Alhaji Muhammad M. Abbas, said the coalition of Muslim organisations only sought for permission to conduct an open air preaching

against the blasphemous publication and not to demonstrate or send a letter to the

governor.

He said his men were compelled to shoot into the air

because the protesters could not be dispersed by tear gas smoke, more so as they threw

stones at the policemen. He described the death as unfortunate.



The street in Katsina during the crises



One of the bonfires set



Victim lying in hospital bed

Security beefed up in Kaduna

Security has been beefed up in Kaduna in the wake of the violent demonstrations that engulfed Maiduguri and Katsina at the weekend.

As from last Friday, heavily armed mobile policemen, soldiers and plainclothes security men have been patrolling strategic points to avoid any spill over of the crisis.

Kaduna has been the scene of violent sectarian crisis since 1989, with the Zangon-Kataf crisis and similar violent crisis occurring in 1991, the 2000 sharia riots that resulted in the death of an estimated 2,000 people.

Sources close to the security agencies in the state said Governor Ahmed Makarfi has left no stone unturned to prevent any band wagon effect.

Also at the weekend, religious leaders from the Jama'atu Nasril Islam (JNI)

From Sani Babadoko,
Kaduna

and the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), met and deliberated on the situation and both appealed to their followers not to be part of the violent demonstrations in other parts of the country.

Meanwhile, normal activities continue in all parts of the state and reports say security has also been beefed up in Zaria and Kafanchan.

It was learnt that the state security council met at the weekend to review the situation and take adequate measures to ensure security of lives and property.

The state government has reassured residents of their safety and advised that rumour mongers or persons trying to instigate others into acts of violence be reported to security agents.

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NEWS

KATSINA RIOTS

Why the state nearly burn

The pessimist would no doubt take exception to the choice of heading but for the optimist and of course those in authority, it would amount to over exaggerating what happened in Katsina town over the weekend which left one person dead and many others seriously injured.

Since it became known that Katsina would host one of the constitution review

By Abdu Labara, who was in Katsina

print media in Europe.

What in cense many people the most is governor Umar Musa Yar'Adua's alleged role in "smuggling" Katsina as one of the centres for the constitution review hearing as it was initially not among the states to host the hearing.

Allegedly, governor

shortly before the prayer inviting people to a lecture the following day to be held at the Kangiwa state secretariat of the Jama'atul Nasril Islam (JNI). The ostensible topic of the lecture was the offensive Danish cartoons. This writer who happened to have attended one of the mosques where the announcement was made later learnt that the constitution review hearing

Saturday lecture but expectedly, the prime of fury was the hosting of the constitution review hearing by Katsina State which many of the speakers view as an endorsement of the alleged third term bid of President Obasanjo with not a few people in the state seeing governor Yar'Adua as one of the apostles of the agenda.

It was there then decided that after the lecture, the people would match peacefully to the government house to present a protest letter on the two issues to the governor.

Around 12:00 p.m., the protesters left the Kangiwa JNI secretariat, a stone throw from the Katsina Central Police Station (CPS) and headed for the Government House chanting "Bamu son third term," "Ba mu son gyaran kundin mulki" (We don't want third term, we don't want constitution review,) among other slogans.

However, before the matchers reached the vicinity of the Katsina seat of power, the police, in the gear had already cordoned off the area around the government house halting the protesters in their track and ordered everybody to "disperse." Not giving their ground the protesters requested that their leaders be allowed to go to the government house and present the protest letter to the governor, a request sternly refused by the police which had by then been reinforced.

With neither the police not the protesters willing to

give ground, it is anybody's guess as to what happened next because the police started shooting tear gas into the crowd as well as live bullets ostensibly into the air but some of which somehow found targets among the massed protesters on the ground. A stampede thereby broke out with some of the protesters taking to their heel away from the police while others charged at the police trying to confiscate their weapons.

The 'fever of the protest' soon caught up with other parts of the town when reports of the violence spread like the proverbial wildfire. Soon motorcyclists and car owners were spotting fresh leaves on their vehicle with some chanting "to hell with the third term", "we don't want third term," "we don't like Umaru, we don't like Obasanjo" and other unprintable slogans.

Soon also, rumours started spreading that the police had shot "many" people dead. This later development was capitalised by some miscreants who quickly massed themselves wielding dangerous objects such as knives, cutlasses, daggers, swords, bottles and clubs moving from one place to another smashing shop doors and windows indiscriminately shouting "Ba mu yarda ba sai mun dauki fansa" (We do not agree, we want revenge,) "Abacha ya yi gaskiya" (Abacha was right) in reference to Obasanjo's incarceration by the late Head of State.

Not unexpectedly, the police reacted to this new challenge in their usual over

kill manner moving about in vehicles shooting tear gas indiscriminately in houses as well as chasing away any group of people they encountered. This was in turn reacted to by youths who started bonfires of motor tyres along all the key roads in the town to impede the progress of the robing police.

The police then responded even more heavy handedly when they went about arresting people indiscriminately whether they (people) were driving, riding or walking on foot. They would stop or chase at the people and whoever was unlucky to be caught was manhandled, arrested and taken to the police station where they were subjected to further heavy handedness.

Angered by the stories of the police acts of brutality, a group of youth in a fit of anger headed for the governor's family house at Yar'Adua quarters intending to set it ablaze but were chased away by the timely arrival of a vehicle load of mobile police.

Even as all these were going on discussion at most "majlis" (hang outs) was centred on the alleged third term with most people expressing bitter resentment at the proposed constitutional amendment.

The people of the state seem united in their resentment of a third term for Obasanjo as demonstrated by the Saturday protest which happened to mark a watershed in the history of the "docile" home of "heritage and hospitality" which seemed to hitherto meekly agree to whatever government directed.



Unknow person lying in critical condition with bullet wound on his head (he was feared dead) after.

hearings, there had developed an under current of tension fuelled by the people's resentment of the alleged third term agenda of the President and some of the state governors.

Further fuelling the tension in the predominantly Muslim state is the blasphemous cartoons against Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) first published by a Danish newspaper and later reproduced by other

Yar'Adua, in his argument supporting bringing the exercise to Katsina said that the citizens are docile who may bark but definitely not capable of biting, unlike places such as Kano and Maiduguri that do not suffer fool easily. This was the buzz in many places in Katsina town on Friday and the following fateful day.

On Friday an announcement was made in many Juma'at mosques

slated for Katsina for 22nd and 23rd of February was the unmentioned topic for the JNI lecture. It was kept secret because, according to a source close to the organisers, the police would not have allowed it to hold if they knew about the second topic.

To be sure, the Danish cartoon and the lack of concern shown by governments in the country were discussed during the



Medical personnel saving the life of a victim.



Isyaku Ilu Barde being attended to by medical personal but died after.

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

Detention of under-aged boy: Family petitions Human Rights Commission

The family of an under-aged boy, Innocent Chima Anorue, who is presently languishing in Kuje prison for allegedly being a member of the outlawed "Bakassi Boys", has petitioned the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), seeking the intervention of the body to secure his release.

Anorue 16, according to the petition signed by Mr. Francis Uwagbanjo, on behalf of the family, was arrested by the police on November 20, 2005 in a park at Aba, Abia state while returning from the village where he had gone to visit his sick mother, Mrs. Patricia Anorue.

In the two-page petition, titled: "Detention of an under aged boy at Kuje prison", dated February 10, 2006, the family claimed that the boy hails from Umofor Umunumo in Ehime Mbano local government area of Imo State and that he was born on 29th December, 1989 and baptised under the Diocese of Okigwe South Anglican Communion on December 25, 1997 by Venerable J. Ononiwu.

Anorue has already been charged to a federal high court in Abuja along with thirteen others on a two-count charge, bordering on alleged illegal possession of prohibited firearms, namely one baretta pistol with number A0 73342, ten rounds of live ammunition, one SMG rifle without valid license or permit, and thereby committed an offence contrary to sections 3,4, and 8 of the Firearms Act, chapter 146 and punishable under section 28 of the same Act.

The other charge reads: "That you on or about the 20th day of November 2005, at Ariaria-Eyimba Junction along Aba-Port Harcourt expressway Aba, Abia state, within the jurisdiction of the federal high court, without lawful authority, promoted native war to wit: carrying on war-like undertaking by attacking and killing Hausa traders and aiding and incit-

From Sufuyan Ojeifo
(Special Correspondent)

ing Igbo youths to attack and kill Hausa traders and thereby committed an offence punishable under Section 42 of the Criminal Code Act, Chapter 77." Anorue was listed as the 13th accused person aged 20 in the charge sheet pre-

pared by the Director of public Prosecutions of the Federation, S. Aliyu, for the Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice.

But, according to the family, "Despite his plea to his captors that he did not participate in any riot, he was taken to a police station in

Aba where he was forced to agree that he is 20 years instead of 16 years. He was questioned by the officer there and his responses written down for him including his age.

"At Kuje prison, the warden was also said to have refused to detain him on age

grounds but the police officer produced the charge sheet where 20 years had been written for him".

The family, in the petition copies of which were sent to the senate committee on Women Affairs and the House Committee on Women Affairs, appealed to the

NHRC for its intervention and help for the underaged boy.

"Save Master Chima from these undeserved agonies. Help save the lives of his parents especially, his sick mother whose condition is worsening by the day. Looking forward to your prompt action", the petitioner said.



Amara Chukwu Transport Service Luxury bus intercepted by officers and men of the Customs Federal Operations, Kaduna with several bags of substance suspected to be indian hemp and illegally imported textile materials...recently.
Pix: Shehu Abubakar.

Boy, 18, escapes kidappers snare

Eighteen year old, Master Gedeon Bassey of the Government Secondary School, Obubra Cross River state, was alleged to have recently escaped being kidnapped by suspected men of the underworld.

Master Bassey, Senior prefect of his school escaped the kidappers trap in Calabar where he was brought from Obubra, in an 18 seater Hiace bus.

Master Gedeon from Ofehera-Obubra said he was

From Bassey Ita,
Correspondent Calabar

kidnapped, forced into the vehicle by six stern looking youngmen wearing dark glasses along the Obubra road as he was returning from school.

According to him, he was immediately blindfolded with a black cloth as they drove off. He said he was manhandled and asked not to shout or he would be killed and thrown out of the vehicle.

"They sat-down discuss-

ing how they were going to dispose of me to their client, arguing among themselves that the client must be called on phone to bring the money first and meet them before they hand me over to him".

However, "their plans failed as I ran away from them in Calabar".

Bassey said on arrival in Calabar, they alighted and stood out near the vehicle discussing final modalities for his sale. Just then, he removed the black veil, and

seeing that they had kept a distance away from him, he ran out of the vehicle and escaped.

He said that they actually threatened to shoot him but he was not deterred as he ran into a man's house far away from them.

Although the man threatened to implicate me thinking I was a criminal, I carefully explained the situation to him, and he gave me N500 to transport me home, he hid me from the men and took me to

a Church.

Master Bassey became a tenant at the Presbyterian Church, at Akim where members received him.

He was identified through his school uniform and an identity card which carried his position/designation as the senior Prefect of the Government Secondary School, Obubra. Commenting on the matter, a member of the Church, Mr Felix Etim, said Bassey's escape was by divine intervention.



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CRIME & PUNISHMENT



Comptroller, Customs federal operations, Zone B, Kaduna, Dr. Hussein Suleiman Kangiwa (left) inspecting N32 million worth of imported textile materials arrested by his men in a SOBIC group of company luxury bus in Kaduna...recently. Pix: Shehu Abubakar.

Traditional doctor in court for abducting housewife

A traditional medicine doctor, Malam Mu'azu Maimagam, has been arraigned before the Dutse higher Sharia court for allegedly abducting a housewife and forcing her to marry him as compensation for curing her sister of a certain illness.

From Hassan A. Karofi, Dutse

The prosecution alleged that the man who hails from Dogon Karfe in Jos, Plateau state, connived with the mother of the married woman to lure her to travel to Jos in order to visit her family.

On reaching Jos, however, Aisha was forced to marry the traditional doctor despite not being divorced.

According to the prosecution, the husband, Habibu, reported the case to the Dutse police station and investigations in Jos confirmed the development. The prosecution is asking the court to punish the accused under section 122 and 139 of the Sharia penal code.

When the judge, Khadi Aminu Abubakar Garam, asked the accused whether he committed the crime he denied the charge.

The sisters of Aisha, testifying, informed the court that they were disturbed by the connivance of their

mother with the traditional doctor to marry off Aisha without being divorced from her original husband and that was why they informed Habibu of development.

They revealed that their mother had found herself in a dilemma after their sister developed a serious illness and could not get better.

It was after the traditional doctor had successfully cured their sister that he demanded the hand of Aisha in marriage or nothing.

The mother, they alleged travelled to Dutse, took Aisha to Jos and married her off to the traditional doctor.

"It was after we realised the consequences of the action that we phoned to inform Habibu about what is actually happening," the sisters told the court.

When asked by the court what he wanted, Habibu asked the court to return his wife as well as punish the accused for abducting her against her wish.

Khadi Aminu Gwaram, after listening to all the witnesses, adjourned the case to March 1, for judgement.

ITF boss docked over corruption

The trial has resumed at the Plateau state High Court of the Industrial Training Fund (ITF), boss, Professor Olu Akerejolu and the immediate past chairman of the organisation, Otunba Adegboyega Bello for alleged corrupt practices.

By Ruby Rabi, Senior Reporter

off the prosecution's case tomorrow by calling two more witnesses.

The duo were arraigned by the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), on a 16 count charge including transfer of money from one vote to another for corrupt enrichment.

The case has suffered several adjournments in the past at the instance of the accused persons who filed different motions seeking to stop their trial.

The president judge, Justice Yargata Nimpar, late last year dismissed the preliminary objection raised by the accused persons and ordered the ICPC to proceed with the trial, insisting that the commission has been able to establish a prima facie case against them.

When the case came up for mention last Thursday, the ICPC's legal team led by Mrs. C. I. Onuogo, called six witnesses to testify against the accused persons.

Mrs. Onuogo who is the Head, prosecution department of the anti-graft commission, is expected to round

The prosecution told the court that the accused persons were arraigned under section 25 sub-section 5, sections 12 and 19 of the ICPC Act which forbids public officers from virement.

Chief Alex Iziyon (SAN) and Mr. O. H. Oki, representing the accused persons, are also expected to open their defence tomorrow when the case resumes.

Professor Akerejolu, the incumbent DG of the ITF was alleged to have transferred various sums of money allocated to some projects to other projects and also conferred undue corrupt advantage to himself in the discharge of his official duties.

erred undue corrupt advantage to himself in the discharge of his official duties.

The immediate past chairman of the fund, Otunba Bello was alleged to have conferred corrupt advantage on himself and relatives in the award of a contract to RemBay Nigeria Limited.

Robbers kill SYNTAX director

The Executive Director (Finance), of a Kaduna based construction company, SYNTAX, Malam Abdullahi Idris, alias "Hafiz" has been killed by armed robbers on the Abuja - Kaduna road.

From Waziri Isa Gwantu, Correspondent (Zaria)

had a problem.

"When he finally stopped on the assumption that they were policemen on duty, one of them approached them and shouted thunderously, 'why didn't you stop immediately?' While he was trying to explain that the car had a problem, the fierce looking man aimed at his chest with a gun and fired," Nazifi told Daily Trust.

"On seeing this horrible and unbelievable development, the two of us out of fear rushed out of the car, but one of the robbers came towards us and hit me with a wood on the neck. Before I knew what was happening, I found myself on the ground sweating and expecting my own share of the shots. But as God will

have it, one of the robbers asked me to get up and drive off," he said.

He said "I looked round for one of the survivors, Muhammad Ali, who up to now cannot explain what they did to him. By the time Muhammad Ali and I entered into the car, we saw Malam Abdullahi bleeding profusely as a result of the gun shot. At this juncture, the robber that shot him looked at him and said, 'Innalillahi Wa Inna Ilaihi raji'un!' he is not even the one. Anyway, it is not our fault, because he refused to stop immediately when he was asked to do so."

Born on November 15, 1968, the deceased was able to memorise the Holy Qur'an at the age of 11.

"We however managed and drove off and headed towards Kaduna, where we saw policemen and their car packed by the roadside. We approached them and told them what had happened. They advised us to rush him to St. Gerard's Hospital at Kakuri, Kaduna where he finally gave up the ghost," he lamented.

The deceased who is survived by his aged father, Malam Idris, wife and four children has since been buried according to Islamic rites.

POLICE COMMISSIONERS TELEPHONE NUMBERS

1. Abia State	088-222868, 088-220073
2. Adamawa State	075-674012, 624012
3. Akwa Ibom State	085-200008, 201711
4. Anambra State	048-550022
5. Bauchi State	077-6542621
6. Bayelsa State	089-490060, 490132
7. Benue State	044-532962, 044-553015
8. Borno State	076-232915, 232043 ≤
9. Cross River State	087-231101, 230663
0. Delta State	956-281485, 280441 ≤
11. Ebonyi State	043-25134, 20325
12. Edo State	052-253798, 253520
13. Ekiti State	030-250000, 250709
14. Enugu State	042-250335, 042-256257
15. Gombe State	072-223135, 221158
16. Imo State	083-233343, 083-2307113
17. Jigawa State	064-721138, 721128
18. Kaduna State	'062-249762, 062-245653
19. Ka no State	064-645862, 646469
20. Katsina State	065-431703, 430914
21. Kebbi State	068-321585, 320254
22. Kogi State	058-220999, 250709
23. Kwara State	031-221612
24. Lagos State	01-4960200, 4962157
25. Nasarawa State	047-221349
26. Niger State	066-221496, 066-221903
27. Ogun State	039-241500, 243117
28. Ondo State	034-240109
29. Osun State	035-243363, 240330
30. Oyo State	02-2412824, 2412322
31. Plateau State	073-457969, 073-451968
32. Rivers State	084-23347, 236471
33. Sokoto State	060-232896, 2335375 080-34228561
34. Ta raba State	079-222550, 223124
35. Yobe State	076-522141, 522145
36. Zamfara State	063-202603
37. FCT Abuja	09-2341800

NSCDC boss directs all state commands to be at alert

Following civil disturbances in some parts of the country, the Chief Executive of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), Dr. Ade Abolurin, has directed all state commands of the corps to be on alert.

By Ruby Rabi, Senior Reporter

directors and unit heads at the corps headquarters, Abuja.

He gave this order during a meeting he had with his

He advised officers and men of the various state commands to be up and doing to ensure that there is no room for security lapses in the country.

Working with the security report at hand, he advised that the populace should cooperate with personnel of the corps in order to ensure that they discharge their duties accordingly and to give relevant information that will help to protect lives and property irrespective of the security challenges.

News

Dariye: Rep accuses EFCC of constitutional breach

House of Representatives member, Hon. John Longhor, has accused the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), of constitutional breaches by preventing the Plateau State House of Assembly from discharging its constitutional responsibilities because of corruption charges against governor Dariye.

Dariye has been accused of mismanaging about N 1.6 billion ecological funds which the EFCC is investigating.

Longhor, representing the Mangu area of Plateau State in the House, said "Ribadu has to allow justice to prevail," adding that the EFCC is not free from guilt because it has allegedly received foreign aid without declaring them publicly.

The State Assembly, which according to him, has the legal right to investigate the matter, has more information than the EFCC on the ecological funds issue, adding that the governor is accountable only to the Assembly.

"The Plateau State Assembly has already set up a committee to investigate the whereabouts of the said ecological funds and they should be allowed to do their job."

Longhor alleged also that N100,000 Dariye paid to the EFCC as part of the ecological funds have not been acknowledged.

He said also that the Di-

By **Hammeed M Bello,**
Assistant Editor

saster Committee of the House of Representatives which recently summoned the governor over the said ecological funds, has no right

to do so because the House does not have such powers.

He said the matter is in court and that the committee did not table the matter before the House before proceeding to summon the governor.

MRDD registers new members

The newly registered political party, Movement for the Restoration and Defence of Democracy (MRDD), on Friday registered new members.

A statement from the party's headquarters in Abuja, said most of those registered are decampers from other parties including the All Nigeria People's Party (ANPP), the People's Democratic Party (PDP) and the All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA).

The statement said the new members are from Katsina, Bauchi, Ebonyi, Enugu, Rivers, Delta and Oyo states putting the number of those registered at 9,851. Some of the names listed as newly registered members are Hon. Silas Justice from Rivers; Edem Ibanga from Akwa Ibom; Eledua from Edo; Adamu Bulkachuwa from Bauchi and Hashim Rimi from

By **Hammeed M Bello,**
Assistant Editor

Kogi state.

Welcoming the new members to the party's headquarters, a leader of the party, Chief G. Idaminana, urged them to play active roles in promoting the idea of the party so as to meet the aspirations of Nigerians to provide an alternative government that is responsive to the needs of the people.

While welcoming all Nigerians to join the party, the statement assured them that it "will accord them the status of founding members."

Idaminana said in the statement that state executives of the party in many states have been constituted, and that by the end of the month, the executive committees would be constituted in all the states. He advised all the members of the party to avoid politics of bitterness.

Third term is Nigeria's problem - EU

Heads of Mission of the European Union (EU) delegation to Nigeria on a visit to Kaduna state, say the third term bid of President Olusegun Obasanjo is Nigeria's internal problem and they do not hold any position on the matter.

Addressing newsmen at the end of their three-day official visit to Kaduna State at the weekend, the 14 EU Ambassadors to Nigeria said much as they are concerned about political developments in Nigeria, it was not their brief to dictate the workings of the Nigerian constitution.

"Much as we are concerned about political developments in Nigeria, the issue of a third term or the workings of the Nigerian constitution is entirely the internal affairs of Nigerians. It is a Nigerian problem not ours," the British High Commissioner declared on behalf of his colleagues.

On the on-going demonstrations against the blasphemous Danish cartoon that portrayed the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) in bad

From **Sani Babadoko,**
Bureau Chief, Kaduna

light, the delegation said the EU supports religious harmony and regretted the publication.

"In this spirit, the EU Heads of Mission intend to underline the importance of religious tolerance and peaceful co-existence between people of different faiths and will discuss ways of fostering the harmony that already exists between Christians and Muslims in Kaduna State," the delegates added.

The EU delegation also expressed appreciation for the federal government's efforts to fight corruption and expressed willingness to assist the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) to expose Nigerians who have stashed looted monies in their various countries.

The EU Heads of Missions also looked into the operations of European companies in Kaduna state as well as the wellbeing of their nationals working in the North-West region with the view to

encourage further investments in the area.

During the visit, the delegation met with different stakeholders including state authorities, non-governmental organizations, religious leaders and traditional rulers and exchanged views on economic developments and socio-political issues in the northern states.

The delegation also visited the Kaduna International Trade Fair which opened at the weekend.

The delegation includes Ambassadors Dr. Christian Fellner (Austria) the leader of the delegation, Leonidas Tezapsidis (Head, European Commission to Nigeria), Richard Gozney (British High Commissioner), Dirk van Eeckhout (Belgium), Ville Lahelma (Finland), Yves Gaudel (France) Dr. Wolfgang Manig (Germany), Haralambos Defaranos (Greece), Dr. Ferenz Kato (Hungary), Liam Canniffe (Ireland), Aart J. M. Verdegaa (Netherlands), Dr. Emil Rapcea (Romania), Dr. Igor Hajdusek (Slovakia) and Lars-Owe Persson (Sweden).

FELICITATION

The Speaker, Kaduna State House of Assembly, the Rt. Hon. Muhammad Yaro Farakwai, on behalf of all the honourable members and staff, wishes to felicitate with His Royal Highness, the Emir of Zazzau, Alhaji (Dr.) Shehu Idris, CFR, on his 70th birthday anniversary.



ALHAJI (DR.) SHEHU IDRIS, CFR,
Emir of Zazzau

The Seventy years you have so far spent in this world have been most fruitful and exemplary, contributing immeasurably to the development of peace and unity of this country.

You have successfully presided over the Zazzau Emirate for the past three decades, building bridges of trust and optimism.

You are indeed a role model worthy of emulation by all Nigerians.

May Allah (SWT) continue to grant you long life, good health, guidance and protection in the years to come. Amen!

Signed:
RT. HON. MUHAMMAD YARO FARAKWAI
SPEAKER, KADUNA STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

REFLECTIONS

By ISSA AREMU

Bird Flu: Between flu and fluke

If only birds could talk, we would have been able to ascertain the veracity of the ailment for which the only preferred human solution so far is complete and total annihilation of birds as it were! Yours sincerely went through the downloaded US Embassy guide on how to cope with the dreaded avian flu; my conclusion is that the human race is under attack through a chicken ailment. The messages include: "Do not keep birds as pets," "Do not sleep near poultry," "Wash your hands with soap and water after any contact" ad infinitum. I am yet to read the guide about how humanity will cope a day after a nuclear war (God forbid!), but the guide so far on the deadly HN51 virus is scary enough. Going by the logic of this US guide, it is a case of *see-no-bird, touch-no-bird*; a scare that flies in the face of local official sermon that well-cooked birds are as safe as non-infected birds.

The outbreak of avian influenza virus is already officially-acknowledged in a number of states. Observers however note that like anything, the Nigerian variant goes with its ever notorious peculiar mess. Already, not a few observers share the perspective that what is at hand might be a bird fluke as distinct from the globally-acknowledged decried bird flu! The first question is that why would a disease long identified in Asia and Europe get us clearly-unprepared? Is this not how we once squandered the great opportunity to halt the spread of HIV/AIDS because of official feet of clay, which proved incapable of preventing the early curtailment? President Gorge Bush of the United States had appropriated \$70 billion last year to get America prepare for the flu pandemic. For a country that is still import-dependent on poultry parent stock, with illegal trafficking in poultry birds in Nigeria and the threat of a full-blown avian flu in the air, it was a scandal that the drafters of this budget made no provision for

emergency response to a threat that everybody knew to be inevitable. The official rhetoric about reinventing agriculture is undermined by the lack of coherent policy options to protect the sector in normal and emergency times. The outbreak of the flu was first reported in a minister's farm! Are we to believe that other anonymous farms have not been as vulnerable much much earlier? What about our inspection system in times of emergence like this? If the minister's farm was as vulnerable, what does it say about the confidence of people in government that is meant to protect them? There are cynics who have argued that the ease and promptness with which the government announced the compensation breakdown have much to do with the class status of the poultry farmers rather than the real commitment to encourage full disclosures by all farmers and contain the spread of the disease. Time will tell when eventually we see the breakdown of how the sum of \$2 billion set aside for disbursement is spread among the low and high poultry owners. How this sum is paid out will tell whether we are actually dealing with flu or a fluke.

Meanwhile, the media had been dominated by reports about series of government meetings with donor agencies to cope with the challenges of avian flu. In fact, government's partners to combat this new scourge have been defined only in terms of external donors and external donors alone! Government officials announced with fanfare the receipts of \$25

million support from the US government while instantly the World Bank announced the approval of \$50 million loan (note: loan not grant) to fight the disease. In fact, the ease with which the World Bank loan was contracted and announced gives the impression of some bankers waiting in the wing for an epidemic to return the country back to indebtedness; another pandemic the recent celebrated controversial debt deal was supposed to rescue us from. The critical issue here is that is the government saying that without external donors and another round of indebtedness, we are incapable of fighting the bird flu? We are donor-dependent to fight malaria, donor-excited to fight HIV/AIDS and now donor-driven to halt bird flu. Where is our true test of real commitment when we cannot allocate domestic resources to where they are needed even as we taunt external reserves as mark of sound economic management? It is time Nigeria learned from India which rejected aids and credits after Tsunami disasters, but went ahead to independently cope with the disaster and even offered assistance to other affected countries like Indonesia and Thailand. Aids and credits promote "unfreedom" as the great wisdom has it that those who pay the piper dictate the tune. Amartya Sen, the winner of the Nobel Prize in Economics in 1988 and the author of *Development as Freedom* warned that development "requires the removal of major sources of unfreedom."

"The critical issue here is that is the government saying that without external donors and another round of indebtedness, we are incapable of fighting the bird flu? We are donor-dependent to fight malaria, donor-excited to fight HIV/AIDS and now donor-driven to halt bird flu."

Opinion

Mantu at 59: Who is afraid of Mantu?

By Rogers Edor Ochela

Much has been written and said about Senator Ibrahim Mantu. But there is no mistaking the fact that Mantu has acquitted himself creditably as a politician and a model in governance. It is a generally acknowledged fact that governance and service in recent times have undergone wide-ranging mutilations in terms of meaning, focus and interpretation in our clime. This is so much that the younger elements in our polity are unfortunately beginning to have a distorted idea or appreciation of the real meaning of governance and service. These words have a challenging meaning in a democratic society such as ours. Let me quickly add that they embody discipline and loyalty.

Emerging as a model in this country can be akin to passing through the furnace of fire. Here, even the most patient man faces uncommon tribulations. A situation where a political leader wakes up to find himself at the epicentre of unwarranted criticisms can be most challenging and disturbing.

Sages made the time-honoured statement long ago about the pedigree of ordinary mortals that populate the face of the earth. Some, they, philosophised, are born great; some have greatness thrust on them, while others achieve greatness. For Senator Ibrahim Mantu, the Deputy President of the Senate, the truth is that he achieved greatness by sheer dint of hard work. Mantu, a well-polished politician is in the class of progressive politicians who see politics as a vocation and an avenue for service rather than a profession. He is in politics essentially to uplift the standard of the *hoi polloi* otherwise generally known as the common man. Right from his youth, he seized the little opportunities available to him to work the extra mile in order to carve a niche for himself. He is a shining example of his generation - self-assured and eminently fulfilled.

A forceful and blunt speaker who relishes logic and common sense, his tenacity for hard work and his self-esteem are well-known. His analyses of issues are usually done with vigour. As a politician and senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, he has proved his mettle. In a nation where democratic dividends appear illusive and sometimes utopian, Mantu with a mindset that is completely service-driven is actually giving Nigerians in general and members of his constituency in Plateau State in particular the much sought after dividend. To those who are close to him and those that have been following the trajectory of his political life and energy-sapping assignment as Deputy Senate President, Mantu's devotion to duty, development and unbridled patriotism remains legendary. He views his assignment as politician as a veritable opportunity to leave indelible imprints on the canvass of history.

One might be tempted to say that providence has been rather generous to him. What makes his case unique is that in a nation where people plot their ways to position of leadership with the basest of desperation and using any and every means available, he has managed to lead a life of service, being a politician and senator, an opportunity that has come to

man more than any other Nigerian in history. That perhaps accounts for why his supporters and critics alike now weave all kinds of myth around him perpetuating the view that he is "as straight as a pole," morally, that is.

He has taken leadership to a high level of politics of performance. He has demonstrated within the short time that he is not only a visionary but also a goal-getter who sees possibilities where others see difficulties. With all his actions, he has demonstrated that it is still possible to be in a position of leadership without being besmirched by the muck and dirt symptomatic of Nigerian politics. Without mincing words, Mantu has internalised Pa Awolowo's work ethics. In the immortal words of the late sage: "I have never regarded myself as having the monopoly of wisdom. The trouble is that when most people in public life and in the position of leadership are spending whole days and nights carousing in clubs in the company of women of easy virtue, I, like a few others, are always at my post working hard at the country's problems and trying to find solutions to them. Only the deep can call to the deep."

A man who is self-reliant, positive, optimistic and undertakes his work with the assurance of success has drawn to himself the creative powers of the universe. Undoubtedly, Mantu is a reflection of that statement. He is one Nigerian who has never appeared to want to be anyone else, anything else but MANTU, an undisputed humanist.

The Deputy Senate President equally exemplifies the Gandhian exhortation, to live so that others may simply live. To be in his presence or to follow the trajectory of his public career and private conduct is to become aware that there is a man who judges people, to paraphrase Martin Luther King Jr., not by the tongue they speak but by the content of their characters. He is indeed an engaging personality, profoundly original.

It has become glaring that the towering personality of Senator Mantu is on a daily basis rattling various quarters including those whose ambition to prime public offices are mere figment of their imagination. For some of the politicians, the high standards and performance levels introduced in the business of governance by Mantu will be a Herculean task to surpass. Mantu's background to those who know has no room for indolence, blackmail and gossip. Excellence and hard work are at all times manifested in his art of governance. His appetite for the best constitutes a great influence to public officers to those who interact with him.

The constancy with which abuses are rained on the senator gives one cause for concern. And that some journalists allow themselves to be used in this ignoble act is simply confounding.

The calculated efforts of his detractors to make him lose focus are well fashioned against a man with an admirable unshakable moral compass and a strong belief in the sanctity of the office. He has come to

mark as an effective politician who made palpable transformational impact on his society. He will, above all be remembered for his uncommon touch with fellow human beings regardless of their stations in life.

In fact, few have been so steadfast in pursuit of a common cause. Few have professed as much social commitment to the burning issues of our time. He stands poles above his contemporaries in his vision of a modern Nigeria. In fact, writing about Mantu bestows an air of satisfaction, because he represents a class of Nigerians who combine organisational ability and political astuteness. No study of Nigerian history would distort his role - that he is a man of fearless disposition, a strong believer in the workability of the Nigerian project.

Recently, Mantu was in the eye of the storm over the near botching of the recently-concluded hajj exercise in which over 12,000 intending pilgrims were stranded at various airports across the country and could not be airlifted. The travellers wanted him to remain alive. But reliable sources have it that one of the planes was paid \$40 million in September 2005 before the appointment of Mantu as Amirul Hajj in November/December 2005, just two weeks to the commencement of the airlifting of pilgrims. It is also to his credit that the activities of passport and visa racketeer that have the criminal predilection for fleecing pilgrims were halted since his functions as Amirul Hajj are merely supervisory.

He has been variously accused of being an Obasanjo lackey who is working assiduously to elongate the tenure of his mentor. But the amiable senator has been quick in repudiating these nefarious allegations. On the alleged plots to make the president stay in office longer than the constitutionally-mandated period, he said that "nobody has the right to extend the mandate of any office-holder," insisting that such responsibility lies with the electorate.

In his numerous battles with Joshua Dariye, the governor of his home state has complained repeatedly that the Presidency has fortified Mantu with power and unleashed him on the state leading to the declaration of a state of emergency. This is true to some extent. But on the whole, "Mantu's involvement in the declaration of emergency was driven by his ultimate desire to put a halt to the senseless killings of innocent souls and return the near-anarchic state to the path of peace and sustainable economic growth", declares an elder in the state.

Befuddled by the monumental achievements of this illustrious son of the state, a prominent indigene of Plateau State who pleaded anonymity said "Mantu has achieved a lot and positively touched the lives of thousands of fellow compatriots. You can trust and believe in him, for his heart is good and true. Forget the media hype that he has not achieved anything."

Contrary to the machinations of his detractors, Mantu remains committed to his legacy and inheritance.



YOUR LETTERS

Denmark should not incur God's wrath

In my life, I give utmost, incomparable love and regard to all apostles (Holy Prophets) of God Almighty more than anything on earth. This love that I have in them is beyond whatever I can say. In short, it's more than how I love myself, my parents, including my family and everything.

These apostles or prophets include Prophet Muhammad, Jesus, Moses, Haroun, Joseph, Solomon, Ezekiel, Isaac, Idris, Ilyas, Loui, Isma'el, John, etc. May the peace and blessings of God Almighty be upon all of them, Ameen.

So, at any point in time, I am ready to attack any person or group who directly or indirectly blames, accuses or abuses (Wa Iyazu Billah) any of those prophets. I will not hesitate in reacting to or attacking such person(s) by any means possible, even if I would lose my life.

I am quite confused, bewildered, even unable to have sound sleep right from the day when I heard about the unfortunate event of a cartoon drawn up about Prophet Muhammad, along with words of humiliations against him, which were done by a Denmark newspaper and supported by Norwegian Republic too. May the highest punishment of God Almighty cover and be upon all these countries right from them to eternity, amen.

In short, this action by them is no surprise to the Muslim ummah globally; hence, the USA and Britain were the first countries in the world to have described Muslims as terrorists, because of the hatred they have for Muslims. As such, doing anything in collaboration with other countries in what they called "War against Terrorism" just

to destabilise and see an end to the Muslim ummah globally is not surprising.

The war against Afghanistan, Iraq, Palestine; economic sanction against Libya and attempts to stop Iran from establishing nuclear station are all part the plans of these two countries to destroy the Muslim

ummah globally.

Therefore, whatever Denmark and Norway newspapers may produce against Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), many scientists had done so, but were are they now? In short, they're dead and in hell fire now.

President George Bush i.e. in his first eid-il-Fitr texts to

US Muslim and Muslims worldwide said and I quote: "Assalamu Alaikum! Well, I did it; I thought I would stutter! I have been practising to say this greeting in Arabic for many days! OK, it is short, only a couple of words, but I am not so good at the language of people that I don't like.

Now don't get me wrong, I love the Arabs; they are fine people I need the votes of Arabs in Dearborn and other places in America. They are fine people."

Also, take the case of Salman Rushdie who wrote a book called *Satanic Verses* where he abused the Prophet of Islam; and consequently,

the Iranian Islamic leader then, Ayatollah Khomeini, declared him wanted, with the promise of a gift of millions of dollars for anybody who would kill Rushdie.

Rushdie left his country, India and Britain granted him asylum. And up till date, he is living there, because Britain is 100% in support of what Rushdie did.

Fortunately, the decisions taken by most Muslim-dominated countries in stopping every kind of dealings with Denmark and Norway including refusing to buy or using their products is a welcome idea.

In my state, Kano, the two nations' flags were set on fire at the state Assembly secretariat, and was supervised by the Assembly chairman on behalf of the entire Muslims in the state, while the contracts that had since been negotiated between the Kano State government and Denmark for billions of naira for electrification project, as well as the purchase of buses have all been cancelled now. And the following Nido and Dano milk products should not be purchased by Muslims, because they come from the two countries.

Lastly, may God Almighty in the name of his prophets so far mentioned daily punish these countries with poverty, hunger, sicknesses, and earthquakes including any person or country that supports the evil done by the two countries, ameen.

Salisu Abdullahi Chedi resides in Kano.

Still on Nigerian agenda beyond 2007

I read with keen interest a write-up with above-titled published in *Daily Trust* of Thursday 27th October, 2005. The article was written by Idy Umoren, the National Secretary South/South and the topic was "The Nigerian Agenda Beyond 2007."

I felt religiously obliged to respond to the issues he raised. The writer failed to understand who Dr Peter Odili is in Nigerian politics. He narrowed himself to South/South issues only even though it is the area that he was acquainted with.

I am not holding any brief for Chief Odili, but rather to put the record straight for proper understanding. We all acknowledge the sterling qualities of his Excellency, Sir Peter Odili in Nigerian politics. The stabilisation of peace, law and order in Rivers State is a yardstick for a focused leader who never shies away from his responsibilities. The diverse ethnic groups who are living peacefully with one another conducting their businesses for a livelihood have added glamour to the whole scenario. This makes Dr Peter Odili a man of great talent and endowment whose political sagacity is not in doubt. In the country not to talk of the South/South area where he comes from.

Peter Odili's impressive performances and the positive impact of his people-

oriented programmes were felt in such areas as education, agriculture, health, roads, rural development, housing, water supply, and electrification. These have endeared him to his people who came out en masse to

vote him for a second term. Odili's diligence, patriotism and contributions to nation-building were evident in his flag of discipline and fundamental ideology. He is a true Christian by the attributes of

2007: Dahiru Bornoma deserves re-election in Adamawa

This brief but illuminating objective presentation is intended to give honour to whom honour is due. This is the synoptic story of a simple and humble member of the House of Representatives, who through his cheerful giving and reaching out has over the years touched and changed many lives of people from his state irrespective of status, faces, religion or ethnic colouration. The man of the moment is Hon. Dahiru Bornoma, member representing Yola North, Yola South and Girei Federal Constituency, Adamawa State is no doubt lucky to have a man of great vision, mission and foresight like him. It is the expectation of the writer that this publication will be a useful resource material to aid the people of Adamawa State in making a positive and informed choice when the chips are down in 2007.

Four golden virtues capture Hon. Bornoma's rise in service namely hard work, commitment, humility, loyalty and abiding faith in God. These were

recognised early in his career and harnessed to enhance his best potential, which are deeply appreciated everywhere he had worked. No one can keep count of the number of indigent students of Adamawa State on his scholarship whom he is empowering educationally. His doors and arms are always open to all. It is a shared testimony of all that this assistance he gave freely, doing so without looking back. None saw him without speaking warmly of his simplicity, kindness and generosity. This write-up cannot enumerate his achievements in the National Assembly for his constituency because it is another book of its own.

He distinguished himself as a worthy ambassador of Adamawa State in the National Assembly because he facilitated the employment of several into immigration and customs, etc.

I am therefore advising the good people of Adamawa State to support this gentleman for any political post in 2007.

Ibrahim Kwaji, Jabi, Abuja.

exemplary life, a professional medical doctor in the service of humanity, and a true administrator by the show of gracious inspiration.

Peter Odili is an exemplary pillar who has devoted his time and wealth to the service of God and humanity without expecting rewards on earth. Testamentary evidence is the laurels, awards and accolades he received from various religious organisations in the country. A fact that even his detractors acknowledge is Odili's humility, kindness, simplicity to all manner of people irrespective of tribal and religious affiliation. We are proud, very proud of him. We believe God has sent him as a channel for the emancipation of our people. We pray for more years of Chief Odili's visionary leadership to our great nation.

Thank You.
Aminu Nuhu Wali Yakasai,
Chairman, Kano State Grassroots Youth Mobilisation Council. [KSGRYMC].

Reactions to articles published in this paper may be directed to the editor via the email address: editor@dailytrust.com



LPG Supply to the Domestic Market:

Invitation for Expression of Interest by Stakeholders

INTRODUCTION

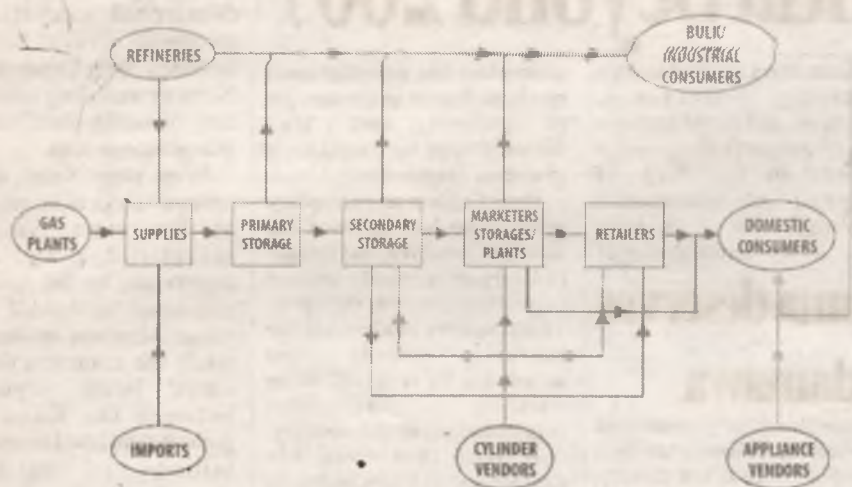
Nigeria LNG Limited is progressing its review of the characteristics of the domestic LPG market and installations. This is part of the plan to expand its business portfolio to make bulk LPG available from Bonny for onward supply into the domestic market and to encourage the setting up of a domestic supply chain for LPG. To this end, NLNG is inviting Expressions of Interest from stakeholders and potential investors in the domestic LPG sector to participate in further dialogue in support of this objective.

BACKGROUND

Nigeria LNG Limited has built an excellent reputation as a reliable supplier of LNG and LPG worldwide. It now wishes to extend this role, as a good corporate citizen, to make bulk LPG available for supply to the domestic market. The ultimate aim of this collaborative action with other stakeholders is to help ensure that LPG is available to Nigerian households and commercial consumers reliably and at market prices.

NLNG recently concluded a study with the aim of identifying, and better understanding key elements in the domestic LPG supply chain, schematically shown as below:

COMPLETE SCHEMATIC REPRESENTATION OF LPG SUPPLY CHAIN



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

All players, existing and potential, are expected to communicate their formal Expression of Interest to partake in the respective downstream activities of the supply chain by providing the following information:

- Name and Address of Company
- Nominated Contact Person
- Current Business Interest and Portfolio
- Area of Specialisation or Particular Interest in the LPG Supply Chain giving either of the following:
 - If a current player in the domestic LPG industry, information on installed facilities and current business capacity.

- For prospective investors, information of plans to participate and future projections.

FURTHER ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTIVES

As a direct follow-up to the study and the Expressed Interests, NLNG will evaluate and engage with the downstream players and stakeholders with the specific objectives of:

- Acquainting stakeholders of NLNG's objectives and plans towards making bulk LPG available for supply to the domestic market.
- Creating full awareness of the new opportunities in the industry with a view to stimulating investment in the sector.
- Determining the preparedness and capability of other players in the supply chain (existing and potential) to take LPG from NLNG to the end users.
- Ensuring the widest participation possible.
- Receiving additional feedback and input from the stakeholders.

The interactive engagement with the identified players will help define the next steps required to establish a reliable LPG supply chain for the domestic market, identifying potential customers, and the timeline for this next phase.

CATEGORISATION OF RESPONDENTS

Taking account of the supply chain above, it is envisaged that respondents can be categorized into groups as follows:

1. Marketers (Major and Independent)
2. Logistics Providers
3. Importers
4. Equipment Suppliers
5. Cylinder/Appliance providers
6. Retailers
7. Financial Institutions & Investors.

RESPONSES

The Expression of Interest letter/package should be sent in an envelope marked

"LPG Domestic Supply Expression of Interest".

and addressed to:

The Managing Director,
Nigeria LNG Limited,
C & C Towers,
Plot 1684 Sanusi Fafunwa Street,
Victoria Island, Lagos.

For the attention of **The Expansion Coordinator**

Or sent by email to the address Chinasa.Ego-Osuala@nlng.com to reach the addressee on or before 10th March 2006.

Management.



Trust International

Africa

Ten die in Libya cartoon clash

At least 10 people have been killed and several injured in Libya in clashes during a protest outside an Italian consulate, according to police. Police confronted protesters who had set fire to the building in the port city of Benghazi, in the latest protests over the Muhammad cartoons. They were said to be angry at Italian minister Roberto Calderoli, who had worn a T-shirt displaying the drawings.

Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi has called for his resignation. Mr Berlusconi was on the campaign trail in central Italy when he was forced to return to Rome to coordinate a response to the protests.

Speaking to Italian radio, Mr Berlusconi said the policy of the Italian government was one of respect for the Islamic religion.

The unrest began on

Friday evening, when a crowd of about 1,000 protesters surrounded the consulate, Italian officials said.

Libyan police tried to hold them back by firing bullets and using teargas, he said.

"At least 10 demonstrators have been killed according to the police who sent me that toll," said the first secretary of Italy's embassy Domenico Bellatoni.

According to police, the crowd splintered off from a larger, peaceful demonstration in downtown Benghazi and headed towards the consulate.

The Italian foreign ministry said protesters broke into the grounds and set the first floor of the building on fire.

Libyan state television showed pictures of cars set alight and firefighters trying to extinguish the flames.

Stones were thrown at the building. Television footage showed ambulances taking casualties away from the scene. The Libyan government has said it regrets the violence, which went on for a few hours.

It blamed the violence on what it called a small irresponsible group that it said did not reflect the Libyan spirit. There have been worldwide protests since the

publication of the cartoons satirising the Prophet Muhammad in Denmark's Jyllands-Posten newspaper last September. Islam bans any depiction of Muhammad or Allah.

Reprints in other European countries have inflamed tensions even further. Most of the protests have been targeted at Danish interests. On Friday, Denmark temporarily shut its embassy

in Islamabad after days of violent protests in Pakistan.

This is the fifth embassy that Denmark has closed since the cartoon row sparked off. Missions in Iran, Syria, Lebanon and Indonesia are all temporarily shut.

The Italian minister who sparked off the Libyan protests, Roberto Calderoli, is a member of the anti-immigrant Northern League

party. He is also minister without portfolio in charge of institutional reform.

Earlier this week, Mr Calderoli said in an interview that it was "time to put an end to this story that we need to dialogue with these people".

Mr Berlusconi said he had contacted Umberto Bossi, leader of the Northern League, and both had agreed that Mr Calderoli should step down.

New DR Congo constitution adopted

The new constitution in the Democratic Republic of Congo has officially been adopted, giving the country a new flag and a new legal framework.

Although the constitution has formally come into force most changes will only happen after elections due in June.

The constitution, approved in a referendum, is meant to transform DR Congo into a real democracy. The text says the president has to be elected and is only allowed to rule for two terms of five years. He also has to share power with an elected prime minister.

The parliament has to be elected and a judiciary is independent. All this is new for DR Congo, a country which is trying to emerge from years of war and which had its last free elections 40 years ago.

The constitution was promulgated in front of the president of the African Union, Denis Sassou Nguesso and the South African President Thabo Mbeki, who acts as a mediator in the DR Congo crisis.

In the ceremony, also attended by the former warlords who currently sit in DR Congo's power-sharing government, the new flag was

put up.

It comprises the colour blue to symbolise peace, crossed by a red line and hedged by two yellow lines - red to recall the blood of the four million who died as a result of the war and yellow for the vast mining of deposits of DR Congo.

Elections are due before the end of June. The constitution says that until then the former warlords who are currently ruling the country remain in place.

Rwanda's ex-leader loses appeal

Former Rwandan President Pasteur Bizimungu has lost his appeal against a 15-year jail term imposed in 2004. During the appeal, the country's first post-genocide president had told the Supreme Court his arrest and conviction were "politically motivated".

He was arrested in 2002 after trying to form a political party and convicted for embezzling state funds, inciting violence and criminal association.

A BBC correspondent in Kigali said the courtroom was packed for the ruling.

The Supreme Court also rejected the appeal of former Transport Minister Charles Ntakirutinka, but acquitted six other co-accused colleagues.

The BBC's Geoffrey Mutagoma says Mr Bizimungu was in court wearing a black suit.

The courtroom was so full

Zambian president kicks off election campaign

Zambian President Levy Mwanawasa has pledged to improve the country's economy at the launch of his election

campaign to seek a second term in office.

"My administration had so many achievements within the past four years," Mwanawasa said at a political rally in northern Zambia on Saturday.

"I now want to work hard and improve the living standards of the people and develop the economy," he said Sunday at a ruling Movement for Multiparty Democracy (MMD) rally in the town of Kasama about 800 kilometres (500 miles) northeast of the capital.

The president was quoted in local papers Sunday saying he would call for presidential, parliamentary and local government elections after July this year but could not give a definite date on when the polls would be held.

"There is great need for us to start serious campaigns because elections can be held in July, September or even October. It's only myself who knows," Mwanawasa was quoted as saying by the state-run Sunday Mail.

Under the Zambian constitution, the serving president is the only one

who has powers to set the dates for the elections.

Mwanawasa urged the MMD to start campaigning for him at grassroots level, the newspaper said.

"There is no need to wait and that is why from this minute, I officially open campaigns," Mwanawasa told the rally.

The MMD has begun the process of picking parliamentary candidates to stand in this year's general elections, being contested by all major political parties in Zambia.

Some 70 percent of the 11 million people in landlocked Zambia, in southern Africa, live below the poverty line.

Egypt finds deadly bird flu virus

Egypt has detected its first cases of the deadly H5N1 bird flu strain in three areas in the country, including the capital, Cairo. The government confirmed that the virus was found in four chickens in Cairo, two in nearby Giza and one in Minya, 220km (135 miles) south of the capital.

The health ministry said tests were carried out on people living nearby, but no human cases had been detected.

Ministers have held an emergency meeting to discuss the situation.

"The central operations room for following bird flu received... the first positive result of analysis of samples afflicted with the virus

H5N1," the prime minister's office said in a statement.

The cases were confirmed earlier by officials from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

The FAO's Dr Talib Elham was quoted by the Associated Press as saying the disease appeared to have moved north after an infected bird was taken to market in the capital, Cairo.

The first cases of H5N1 on the African continent were confirmed last week when the virus was found in Nigeria.

The disease has spread west from its original hotspot in South-East Asia. Cases have also been confirmed in Europe.



Crowds welcomed the adoption of the constitution.

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The Royal Highness
ALHAJI (DR.) SHEHU IDRIS, OFR
(The Emir of Zau Zau)

Long live the Emir
Long live Zau Zau
Long live Kaduna State
Long live Federal Republic of Nigeria

Signed:
Management



Trust International

World Report

US Mideast democracy plan backfiring - Iran president

Washington's push for Middle East democracy is resulting in across the board victories for militant Islamic movements, Iran's hardline President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has boasted in an interview.

Ahmadinejad also branded Western democracy as a "lie", said Islamic militants would not be disarmed and predicted the defeat of the "myth of an invincible and eternal Zionism" enshrined by the state of Israel.

Middle East tour to push efforts to spread democracy and counter what the United States views as an increasingly aggressive Iranian policy.

"The American slogan of democracy has had the reverse

effect in Iran, Iraq, Lebanon and even Palestine. Everywhere in the Islamic world, when there are free and fair elections, the Islamists and groups favouring resistance are winning," the ultra-conservative president told the official news agency IRNA Sunday.

"The myth of an invincible and eternal Zionism and its ideal (of a greater Israel) from the Nile to the Euphrates was given a pounding by the 1979 Islamic revolution and has been in retreat ever since," he said.

"The retreat of oppression from Iran, Lebanon and even Palestine are important victories. The Palestinian people voted for resistance to continue and the ideal of a Palestine free of

occupation, and not politics in the shadow of Zionism," he added, referring to last month's legislative election win by Hamas.

"This is a first step and other successes will come."

Ahmadinejad, who himself scored a shock election win last June in the face of more moderate Iranian forces, also argued that "people do not believe in the lie of Western democracy".

"The Palestinian brothers are aware of the enemies' objective to transform the forces of resistance, those against occupation and the partisans of martyrdom into political wheel-dealers and Western-style democrats," he insisted.

French President Jacques Chirac has arrived in India for a whistle-stop visit aimed at bolstering trade and civilian nuclear cooperation with the emerging economic powerhouse.

Chirac arrived mid-afternoon on a special aircraft at a military base adjacent to New Delhi's main airport accompanied by his wife Bernadette.

He was to meet members of the French business community yesterday before beginning the brief formal leg of his trip today, when he will hold talks with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and other leaders.

Chirac, whose visit will be followed by the arrival of US President George Bush in early March, has said he will seek to boost slim trade levels with Asia's third-largest economy where growth is running at an eight percent clip.

Accompanied by five cabinet ministers and a business

French president arrives in India for trade, nuclear talks

delegation, the French president, who arrived in India after a visit to Thailand, said one of his aims was to "develop economic exchanges and boost them significantly".

Fuel-hungry India and France, which relies on nuclear power for its energy needs, will also discuss future civilian nuclear technology cooperation.

"If we don't help India produce electricity using nuclear power, we would let develop in India a chimney for greenhouse gases," Chirac said Saturday in Bangkok.

"The minimum we must do is to let India respond to its energy needs without becoming a major polluting nation," he said.

"I wish that we could, within the non-proliferation framework

and existing agreements, help India respond to this need," he said.

French nuclear companies could be big winners if a landmark Indo-US agreement to supply New Delhi with long-denied civilian nuclear technology is approved by the US Congress.

Chirac, who last visited India eight years ago, and Singh are due to sign a declaration on the development of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes before the French president leaves early Tuesday.

But nuclear cooperation between Paris and New Delhi hinges on a breakthrough in deadlocked talks between India and the United States on their bilateral deal struck last year.

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Trust International

Middle East

Newspaper apologises for cartoons as troops enforce curfews

Nigeria and Pakistan have deployed troops to prevent a repeat of violent protests over Prophet Mohammed cartoons as the Danish newspaper that first published them apologised again to Muslims.

The Pakistani capital Islamabad was sealed off to thwart a rally by six hardline Islamic parties while Nigerian troops enforced a curfew in two cities after 16 people died and 11 churches were torched in rioting on Saturday.

Almost five months after publishing 12 cartoons of the prophet to highlight what it described as self-censorship, the Jyllands-Posten newspaper printed a full-page apology in a Saudi-owned pan-Arab newspaper Sunday.

It was the strongest expression of regret yet from the newspaper, but stopped short of saying sorry for printing the cartoons, instead apologising for the turmoil they caused.

"These drawings apparently hurt millions of Muslims around the world, so we now offer our apology and deep regret for what happened because it is far from the paper's intention," said the statement in Asharq al-Awasat titled "Apology" in big bold letters. "We did not set out to offend or insult any religion. We apologise for being misunderstood and reiterate that we did not intend to target anyone... I hope this clears the misunderstanding and God

bless," the statement said.

At least 32 people have been killed and dozens wounded since Tuesday in violent riots over the cartoons that swept through Libya, Nigeria and Pakistan.

Muslim religious and civic leaders across the world have insisted anger will be quelled only with a clear and unequivocal apology from the newspaper and the Danish government for the cartoons considered blasphemous by most of the world's estimated 1.3 billion Muslims.

Others have said it is too late for an apology, calling for legislation in Europe that would outlaw caricaturing or insulting religious symbols.

Following the deaths of five Pakistanis in riots last week, an alliance of six Islamic parties known as Muttahida Majlis-i-Amal (MMA) vowed to defy the ban despite the lockdown in Islamabad.

City police chief Sikandar Hayat told AFP "every possible step" had been taken to prevent the rally or any attempts to incite violence with 5,000 police and 800 Rangers troops deployed.

"It's a curfew-like situation in the city," MMA spokesman Shahid Shamsi told AFP, insisting the "peaceful" rally would proceed despite the arrests of many of the group's leaders.

Fearing further sectarian violence after the deadly riots a day earlier, Nigeria drafted in

police and troop reinforcements to enforce a curfew in two cities in its majority Muslim north.

Fifteen people were killed on Saturday when Muslims protesting against the caricatures in the Borno state capital Maiduguri turned on the Christian minority, burning shops and churches, police spokesman Haz Iwendi said.

A protester was killed and another injured when police in the city of Katsina opened fire on a crowd of stone throwers, he said.

"Police and military personnel are on the streets in joint patrols to ensure that there's no repeat of the unrest," local reporter Abdullahi Bego told AFP by telephone from Maiduguri.

"It's Sunday, and Christians are going to church, and so there is fear that someone might try to foment trouble," he added.

Police have sealed off the centre of the Pakistani city of Islamabad to prevent a protest planned against cartoons showing the Prophet Muhammad.

A number of organisers were detained including the leader of a hardline alliance of six Islamist parties.

The row has sparked protests in many countries, with 16 killed in Nigeria.

Speaking for the first time since the row erupted, the Danish cartoonist says he does not regret the drawings, which he said were inspired by



Pakistani Muslim protesters run as police fire teargas shells during a demonstration in Islamabad. Nigeria and Pakistan have deployed troops to prevent a repeat of violent protests over Prophet Mohammed cartoons as the Danish newspaper that first published them apologised again to Muslims.

Pakistan blocks cartoon protests

terrorism.

Kurt Westergaard - who has been in hiding since a Pakistani cleric offered money for his death - told a Scottish newspaper he had not anticipated the controversy sparked by his work.

He said the cartoons were intended as a protest against double standards in Denmark and western Europe - a reference to perceived taboos in addressing aspects of Islam.

The cartoons have angered Muslims across the world. Islamic tradition prohibits any depiction of Allah or the Prophet.

Qazi Hussain Ahmad, a senior leader of the Muttahida Majlis-i-Amal (MMA) alliance, was detained in Lahore and put under house arrest before he could travel to Islamabad for the planned march.

Islamabad police chief Sikandar Hayat told the AFP news agency that "every

possible step" had been taken to block the rally, with 5,000 police and 800 troops on duty.

Another MMA leader, Fazul-ur-Rehman, tried to reach the centre of the city with a group of supporters, but police fired tear gas to disperse them.

In other minor incidents, police fired warning shots after protesters threw stones.

The ban on the Islamabad rally, imposed after violence at similar protests last week left five dead.



ZARIA ACADEMY SHIKA ZARIA

P.O. Box 532 Zaria

069: 550938, 551740, 551742, 551743 (08054531235, 08059280585, 08057266396, 08054531239)

Admission into JS1 & SSI * 2006/2007 Academic Session * Entrance Exam.

The management of Zaria Academy wishes to inform the public that the Entrance Examination for admission into JS1 and SSI of 2006/2007 session will take place on Saturday 25th March, 2006 at 9.30am Applications are invited from boys who are in the final class of their primary schools and who will be aged at least 10 and not more than 12 years on 31st August, 2006 for JS1 admission. For SSI admission, applications are invited from boys who have completed their JSS with credit in the English Language, Mathematics and at least 3 other subjects and who will be aged 13 and not more than 15 years on 31st August, 2006.

Method of Application

Application forms for the entrance examination will be issued on the payment of non-refundable fee of N2, 500.00 only for JS1 and of N3, 000.00 only for SSI at the following selling centres:

- Zaria Academy, Kilometre 10, Zaria - Funtua Road, Shika, Kaduna State.
- Sacred Heart School, Independence Way, Kaduna, Kaduna State.
- Panaf Nursery, Primary and Secondary School, Ethiopia by Gabon Street, Barnawa, Kaduna.
- New Capital School, No. 19, Kwame Nkrumah Road, Asokoro, Abuja. F.C.T.
- Lugbe International Academy, Lugbe Phase 11, Abuja. F.C.T.
- Roberto International Primary School, Wuse II, Abuja. F.C.T.
- Nadi International School, Yola, Adamawa State.
- Fariah Nursery/Primary School-Fadamar Mada, Bauchi, Bauchi State.
- Plateau Private School, Bauchi Ring Road, Jos, Plateau State.
- CBDA Primary School, Maiduguri, Borno State.
- Hadid Pharmacy, Tarauni Shopping Complex, Sabo Bakin Zuwo Road, Kano State.
- The Bells Comprehensive Secondary Schools Boys and Girls, Ota, Ogun State.

With the installation of the latest information technology facilities to enhance learning, Zaria Academy is aiming for greater heights from the enviable standard it already maintains. The Academy possesses a fully automated and computerised environment, including, intranet, internet, voice over IT, Computer Lab and System engineering, an integrated website and a V-SAT infrastructure that ensures real-time communication between parents, the school, students and the general public. These facilities have been set up to further enhance the quality and standard of education of the students.

Examination Centres

There will be three examination centres:

- Zaria Academy, Kilometre 10, Zaria Funtua Road, Shika, Kaduna State.
- New Capital School. No. 19, Nkrumah Road, Asokoro, Abuja, F.C.T.
- The Bells Comprehensive Secondary Schools for Boys and Girls, Ota, Ogun State.

Application forms may also be purchased at the examination centres on the day of the examination. Parents who intend to do that should ensure that they arrive at the centre by 8.30 am; bringing 2 recent passport-seized photographs for each candidate.

For further information, visit or call 069-550938, 551740, 551742 or 551743 and call phone Nos. 08054531235, 08059280585, 08057266396, 08054531239 or visit our website: www.zariaacademy.edu

Signed:

Reuben U. Nylkwagh, M.A.

Principal.

Trust International

Odd World

Man allegedly bites off girlfriend's nose

A family sitting down to dinner had to call police and an ambulance after a man allegedly bit off the nose of his girlfriend, authorities said.

Jody Bennett came out of a back room of a north Tulsa residence on Thursday with a napkin over her face and said her boyfriend, identified as Greg Hill, had bitten her nose.

Medics responding to the house saw that Bennett's nose had been severed and called police.

"We looked around and tried to find a nose but couldn't find it," Cpl. Larry Edwards, a police spokesman, said. "I think he swallowed it."

An ambulance took Bennett, 37, to a local hospital where police talked to emergency room personnel about pumping Hill's stomach to see if the nose was inside, police Cpl. Shane Tuell said.

"They said, given the acid in the stomach, that it would be a futile effort to try and do that," Tuell said.

The nose is made prima-

rily of cartilage and other soft tissues that stomach acid can dissolve quickly.

The couple live in California, and the other people at the house didn't know what led to the assault, Tuell said.

Officers used pepper spray on Hill, 45, after tussling with him as they tried to take him into the custody, Edwards said.

Hill denied biting

Bennett's nose, police said.

He was booked into the Tulsa Jail on complaints of aggravated assault and battery, resisting arrest and destroying evidence.

Bennett could receive help from domestic violence groups to recover from her injury if she cooperates with Hill's prosecution should a criminal charge be filed, Tuell said.



A patient practices walking with a prosthetic leg during a physiotherapy session.

For the second time in three months, a 16-year-old California girl who lost a leg in an accident has had her artificial limbs stolen.

Melissa Huff, an Arcadia High School student who uses a \$16,000 prosthetic limb to play softball for the school team and another one, valued at \$12,000, for everyday use, said both were taken from her bedroom Tuesday.

"I was picking up my little brother from school when my mom called me and asked where I left the two prosthetic legs," Huff, who lives in the Los Angeles suburb of Temple City, told Reuters in an interview.

Girl's prosthetic legs stolen for second time

"I knew right then that it had happened again."

Lisa Huff, her mother, said she came home around midday on Tuesday and found the room shared by Melissa and her older sister a mess. Only the prosthetic limbs were missing.

Police say they were talking to the girl's friends, neighbors and relatives for information about the missing legs.

In November, thieves broke into the Huff residence and took just her prosthetic limb. After that incident,

Melissa's prosthetist and a local real estate company donated about \$16,000 for a new limb. The stolen limb was discovered in the teenager's backyard about a month ago, apparently thrown there by the thieves.

Melissa lost her real leg two years ago when a driver accidentally ran into her as she stood in front of her middle school.

She said she intends to get back on the field this week and just practice throwing until she gets another prosthetic limb.

Stripping away the mystery

Amsterdam's famed red light district held its first ever "open day" Saturday as its peep-shows and brothels gave crowds of wide-eyed visitors free entry to help shed the area's increasingly negative reputation.

Armed with a list of 25 establishments opening their doors and flinging back their red curtains, hundreds of tourists and locals seized the opportunity to see a prostitute's bedroom, watch a brief live peep-show or chat to a lap dancer.

Harrowing reports of forced prostitution and human trafficking have caused a public outcry in recent months and even prompted calls from councillors for the 800-year-old red light district to be shut down, to the fury of many sex workers.

Stories of petty crime and gang violence also dominate. "The open day is partly to promote the red light district but also to help change the image of the area be-

cause we think it is too negative," said organizer Mariska Majoor, a former prostitute who now runs an information center on the district.

"There are not just problems here," she added.

Prostitution has been fully legal in the Netherlands since 2000, and sex workers are self-employed and subject to tax.

However one rights group estimates that around 3,500 women are trafficked to the Netherlands each year from eastern Europe and Asia to work in secret brothels or illegal escort agencies, where they are often held captive and abused.

Tourist authorities admit the district — a clutch of narrow alleys and canals lined with sex shops, brothels and neon signs — is as big an attraction as Amsterdam's museums and coffee shops, where marijuana is freely smoked and sold.

Every night visitors throng the streets, agog at the scantily clad women sitting behind huge red-lit windows, but only a fraction venture inside.

"This is a very good idea," said 28-year-old Dutchman Maarten Ritsema, grinning after experiencing his first ever lap-dance at the Bar La Vie en Proost.

Car mechanics in Britain pricier than lawyers

Car mechanics in Britain can be more expensive to hire than lawyers or doctors, a magazine reported.

Customers frequently pay more than 100 pounds per hour for labour by mechanics at franchised dealers, according to "What Car?" magazine.

Variable across Britain, hourly labour rates are predictably cheaper in Scotland, where Vauxhall charge 49 pounds, and more expensive in London, where BMW charge 140 pounds, accord-

ing to research carried out by the magazine, published Friday.

The report said a "locum" doctor one who stands in for a regular doctor and charges between 350 and 500 pounds per day is cheaper, while even a junior criminal lawyer will charge a comparatively low rate of 30 pounds an hour.

The publication said "consumers could save hundreds of pounds if they shop around and do their research. Quite simply, dealership labour rates for repair bills

are just too high."

What Car? researchers discovered that technological advances have made previously simple jobs more time-consuming, and it is car owners who are bearing the financial burden.

For example, to replace a main-beam bulb on an Audi A2 can cost as much as 66 pounds, though the bulb itself costs only 3.96 pounds.

The magazine said consumers should be aware that they can use non-franchised dealers and still keep their warranty.

In order to protect their warranty, customers should make sure the car company used is VAT-registered, uses manufacturer's parts and follows their guidelines for the work.

Police hunt blowtorch-wielding robber

A robber who used a blowtorch to threaten a drug store worker and a gas station clerk was being sought for two failed heists, authorities said Friday.

The man went into a Rite-Aid store on Jan. 31 and demanded cash. He pulled a self-igniting propane torch out of a bag, lit it and pointed the 2-foot flame at a worker, authorities said.

The clerk refused to give him money and yelled at the man, who fled. About 15 minutes later, however, he pulled the torch on a gas station cashier, San Diego County sheriff's deputies said.

The cashier pulled a stick from behind the counter and began to hit the robber, who fought back with the blowtorch and then ran outside.

The fight continued until he threw the torch, which missed the clerk and landed near gasoline pumps.

The bandit fled in a car oc-

cupied by a woman. The station worker was not injured.

Authorities described the bandit as a 5-foot-2, 220-pound man in his 50s or 60s. He wore a tan fishing hat.



A mechanic works on a car in a garage. February 2006. Car mechanics in Britain can be more expensive to hire than lawyers or doctors, a magazine reported.



Carlos Pina puts the finishing touches on his sculpture depicting singer Mick Jagger of The Rolling Stones on Copacabana Beach in Rio de Janeiro.

CONGRATULATIONS @70

The Board and Management of British American Tobacco Nigeria congratulates **H.R.H. Alhaji (Dr.) Shehu Idris, CFR**, the Emir of Zazzau on the occasion of his 70th birthday.

We wish your Royal Highness more years of fruitful service to the nation.



BRITISH AMERICAN
TOBACCO
NIGERIA

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Business Trust

Currencies

West African

Unit of Account

Country	N Equivalent
The Gambia	6.0320
Ghana	0.0143
Guinea	0.0588
Liberia	1.8633
S/Leone	3,563.84
Nigeria	192.48

Parallel Market

	Average
Dollar	144 145
Pounds	261 175

Flight schedule

Virgin Nigeria

Los - Abj: 7.00am, 10.55, 6.55pm
 Abj - Los: 9.00am, 12.55pm, 8.55pm
 Los - PHC: 7.55am, 3.00pm
 PHC - Los: 9.00am, 4.45pm
 Los - Acc: 2.55pm, 3.35pm
 Los - Douala: 6.30am
 Douala - Los: 8.30pm

Bellview Airlines

Monday - Friday
 Lagos Abuja
 0650, 0950, 1130, 1400, 1600, 1955
 Abj - Los: 0800, 1130, 1320, 1600, 1800
 Los - P/H: 0715, 1130, 1320
 Los - Kano - 0630

Saturday & Sunday

Los - Abj - 0800, 1130, 1600, 1950
 Abj - Los - 0800, 1320, 1600, 1800
 Los - P/H - 0800, 1340, 1700
 P/H - Los - 0945, 1520, 1830
 Los - Kano - 0800
 Kano - Los - 1130

IRS Airlines

Los - Abj - 7.15am, 8.15am, 11.00am, 12noon, 3.00pm, 4.15pm,
 Abj - Los - 10am, 11am, 1.00pm, 2.00pm, 4.15pm, 5.15pm.
 Los - PHC - 11.45am, 12.45am,
 PHC - Los - 1.30pm, 2.30pm,
 Los - Kan - 5.30pm, 6.45pm,
 Kan - Los - 7.45am, 9.00am.

Weekend

Los - Ab - 9.15am, 10.15am, 1.00pm, 2.00pm, 11.00am, 12.00pm, 9.30am, 10.30am,
 Abj - Los - 11.00am, 12am, 2.45pm, 3.45pm, 12.45pm, 11.15am, 12.15am,
 Los - PHC - 11.5pm, 2.15pm.



(L-R) Mr. Aigboje Aig-Imoukhuede, Managing Director/CEO, Access Bank Plc, Dr. (Mrs) NDI Okereke-Onyuike, DG, NSE and Mr. Herbert Wigen, Deputy MD, Access Bank Plc, during the bank's Facts Behind the Figure...recently. Pix Oladipupo Odunewu.

States must remit 10% income to LGs - RMAFC

The Revenue Mobilization Allocation and Fiscal Commission has reiterated its position that States and Federal Capital Territory must adhere strictly to the provision of the recent Act of National assembly which compels them to remit 10% of their Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) to their local government councils.

By Anas A. Galadima, Asst. Business Editor
 Commission, Engr. Hamman Tukur disclosed this in Jos at Sensitization Seminar organised by the Federal Capital Territory Authority (FCTA) Abuja at the weekend.
 A statement from the commission said Tukur disclosed that, previously, the operation of the Joint Account was bedevilled

by so many abuses thus necessitating the enactment of the Monitoring of Revenue of Revenue Allocation to Local Government Act, 2005, which is designed to remove the authority of State Governments over their Local Government Councils and enhance transparency in their operations of the Joint Accounts.
 "They are mandated, in addition to the contribution of 10percent of their IGR, to ensure that monies from the Federation Accounts meant for LGCs are promptly paid and distributed in accordance with the provisions of Section 162 of the 1999 Constitution" the statement said.

initiatives in developing its other vast natural resources in the solid minerals and agricultural sectors.
 He therefore enjoined all tiers of government to diversify their economy, especially now that United States and other nations have threatened to reduce their dependence on oil, as source of energy by 2025, a situation that could have negative consequences on Nigeria's monolithic dependence on oil as major source of revenue.

Shareholders ask bank MD to quit

Shareholders under the umbrella of Progressive Shareholders Association of Nigeria have called on Union Bank of Nigeria Plc group managing director, Dr. Godwin Oboh to vacate office on or before March 31, 2006.

Analysts in the capital market said that the bank may be finding it difficult selecting a credible successor to Oboh who has one of the most successful tenures as CEO in the bank.

Earlier in his remarks, the Minister of Federal capital Territory Administration, Mallam Nasir El-Rufai stated that FCT as remains the only second tier government that disburses 10percent of its monthly Internally Generated Revenue to the councils. The Minister who was represented by Mr. F. B. Bilala added that all funds from monthly Federation Account Allocation due to the area councils are fully and promptly remitted to them without any deduction.

The seminar was attended by relevant stakeholders at the Federal Capital Territory Administration and Area Councils that included their chairmen, councillors and treasurers.

According to them it would be an eye-sore to allow the "3rd term" disease that is plaguing Nigeria to enter the banking sector.
 Speaking in Lagos through their national president, Mr. Benson Okezie, the shareholders stated that even though Dr. Oboh was supposed to leave office since last year there is no visible sign that the man intends to go.

For Okozie although Oboh achieved a lot in the bank, in order to ensure good corporate governance the man should vacate office in the overall benefit of all stakeholders of the bank.
 Speaking to *Business Trust* via telephone, UBN spokesman Mr. Francis Barde said that Oboh's tenure was extended till the end of March by the board and shareholders and his critics should wait until that time before complaining.

He noted that the discovery of crude oil and its exploitation seem to have stifled the nation's

The rates set out are based on market expectations for 14 Feb 2006 2:01am.

It would be recalled that Dr. Oboh's tenure was controversially extended for six months for what his supporters said was to enable him conclude the bank's consolidation, even though UBN Plc already had well over N25 billion demanded by Central Bank of Nigeria (CBM) for banks that must

recapitalise. Opponents are saying that it is just about a week to the month of March and yet there are no signs of a successor.

He noted that the discovery of crude oil and its exploitation seem to have stifled the nation's

The rates set out are based on market expectations for 14 Feb 2006 2:01am.

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Nigerian Inter-Bank Offer Rate (NIBOR)

7 Days	4.7500
30 Days	10.3333
60 Days	11.0000
90 Days	10.7500
180 Days	10.9833
270 Days	0.0000
365 Days	11.2350

Foreign Exchange Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Dollar	131.86	132.86
Pounds	239.27	241.09
EURO	164.42	165.66
YEN	1.20	1.21
WAUA	193.58	195.04
RIYAL	35.15	35.42
CFA	0.240	0.250
Rand	20.54	21.55
S/Dollar	8.00	9.52
Yuan	16.00	17.00

29th July, 1975 to 13th February, 1976 was a period of 200 days made distinct in Nigeria's history by its stone-cast historical significance, whatever the perspective one holds, and whatever the degree of significance one could allot to such occurrences. It constitutes a unique and indispensable factor in the execution of the Nigeria project, the construction and reconstruction of the Nigerian nation-state and its affairs.

The period derived its significance from its shortness. So far, it remains the shortest period of administration in the country since independence. Its activities, policies and programmes, which were conducted and implemented with dispatch, and which still attract contrasting responses from Nigerians and foreigners concerned, depending on the perception of historical occurrences one has.

It was the period covered by the military administration of the late General Murtala Rufa'i Mohammed, more known as Murtala Ramat Mohammed, who took over the leadership of the country as Head of State after the second coup d'état in its history on 29th July, 1975, and was assassinated in a botched coup on 13th February, 1976.

Its critics would always lampoon it as wholly pregnant with a show of courage, destroying what the nation had painstakingly built five years after the civil war. Its lovers, even if at least in principle, would always cheer it as a precious period of time, illuminating the ages the country attained and would attain for as long as it exists. On this basis, every year, groups and institutions commemorate the assassination of General Murtala Mohammed, the initiator and spearhead of all occur-

Murtala's administration:

"Reformers are like shooting stars. They appear suddenly and illuminate the firmament, and disappear as quickly as they have appeared." – Yusuf Maitama Sule

By Uthman Abubakar,
Senior Reporter (Features)

rences in that period.

In keeping with this tradition, the Centre for Democratic Research and Training, Mambayya House, of the Bayero University, Kano, organised a memorial symposium to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the assassination of the late General, at the Indoor Sports Hall, Kofar Mata, Kano City, his hometown, on Monday, 13th February, 2006, with the theme: *The Leadership Question and the Quest for African Development*.

The founding president of the Republic of Namibia, Dr. Sam Daniel Nujoma, was the Chairman of the occasion, elder statesman, Alhaji Yusuf Maitama Sule, gave a brief profile of the late General, while Professors Ali Alamin Mazrui, Patrick F. Wilmot and Jibril Aminu delivered symposium papers.

Dr. Nujoma recalled that Nigeria, under the leadership of General Murtala Mohammed was fully involved in the liberation struggle in Southern Africa, as a result of which the Frontline States became known as such, as Nigeria provided material support and provided military training to SWAPO Freedom Fighters.

"Millions and millions of naira were given to SWAPO directly, and through the OAU Liberation Committee. Nigeria as a member of the United Nations Council for Namibia played a critical political and

diplomatic role, where she ensured the speedy implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution on Namibia, and other colonies on the African continent," he recalled, noting, "It was through this support and solidarity that the Portuguese colonial regimes in Mozambique and Angola, the British colonial regime in Southern Rhodesia, as well as the minority white apartheid regime in South Africa and in the former South West Africa (Namibia) were dislodged from power, and accepted the demands of the African National Liberation Movements to self determination and genuine freedom and independence."

According to Dr. Nujoma, "General Murtala Mohammed did not only give Nigerians the confidence and fortitude that led them to boldly face the socio-economic problems that have daunted this great nation, but also worked passionately hard to elevate Africa to the higher levels of achievement in shaping her own destiny, and in playing a prominent role in the world affairs."

He recalled how in November 1975, the government of General Murtala Mohammed recognised the MPLA government led by President Augustinho Neto as the legitimate authority in Angola. "This he has accomplished through an effective diplomatic tactic by mobilising African opinion through the OAU on behalf of the MPLA, and against the FLNA - UNITA Coalition which



Professor Ali Mazrui

was supported by some African and western powers."

Dr. Yusuf Maitama Sule gave the profile of the late General whom he described as a great man, one born great, had greatness thrust upon him and achieved greatness. He recalled that as a student, Murtala was brilliant, as a soldier, he was courageous, and as an administrator, he was just and fair.

The elder statesman postulated: "Reformers are like shooting stars. They appear suddenly and illuminate the firmament, and disappear as quickly as they have appeared," and described Murtala as a reformer, saying: "Murtala came suddenly and illuminated the firmament, and, of course, a few

months after, he disappeared, but he left behind the light he came with. He gave us exemplary leadership."

He said Murtala came at a time when Nigeria needed somebody who would instil discipline in the society, raise the moral tone of the society and fight corruption.

In his symposium paper titled: *Political Leadership and Comparative Martyrdom: From Lumumba and Kennedy to Sadat and Murtala*, Professor Ali Alamin Mazrui, Director, Institute of Global Cultural Studies and Chancellor, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Nairobi, Kenya, recalled that the three most significant assassinations

in post-colonial Africa occurred in three of the largest countries in the continent – Nigeria, Egypt and the former Belgian Congo, which are linguistically diverse – Anglophone Nigeria, Arabic speaking Egypt and Francophone Congo, where Murtala Mohammed, Anwar Sadat and Patrice Lumumba, respectively, were assassinated.

"If Lumumba was a martyr to the sovereign integrity of the Congo, and Sadat was a martyr to regional peace in the Middle East, Murtala was a martyr to the cause of disciplining Africa's largest national population – the Nigerians," Professor Mazrui posited.

He observed that the most persistent of all social and political pathologies of Africa as a whole is corruption, stressing it as the most persistent of all post-colonial maladies in governance, and lamenting that unfortunately, Nigeria has often been ranked among the most corrupt of all countries in the world.

"This is where Murtala Muhammed enters the stage of history as a warrior against corruption. In the war against Biafra, Murtala had been a man of action, but not necessarily a man of vision. But in Nigeria's war against corruption and indiscipline, Murtala Muhammed was a man of vision, as well as action," he observed.

Professor Mazrui however picked holes in the way the late General went about the war against indiscipline.

"In this second war against indiscipline, Murtala Muhammed was not always



Business Trust



Mr Bayo Ligali (right) MD/CEO, Dangote Pasta Plc, presenting a bus key to Hajia Farida Dankaku at the presentation of gifts to distributors at Ikorodu, Lagos ...recently. Pix: Oladipupo Odunewu

EU solicits investments for Nigeria

From AbdulRaheem Aodu, Correspondent (Kaduna)

European Union has charged the federal government to make the Nigerian business environment more conducive for its investors and business to assist in diversifying the economy.

Speaking during the opening ceremony of the 27th Kaduna International Trade Fair, the EU president who was represented by the Austrian ambassador to Nigeria, Dr. Christian Fellner said EU supports the efforts of Nigeria and ECOWAS and is in full commitment to the development of Nigeria and Africa.

"It is a pleasure to be pre-

sent here today, EU is the biggest trading bloc in the world and a big trading partner for Nigeria. We however solicit for further opportunity of investments in Nigeria. We also need a conducive environment to contribute in diversifying the economy of Nigeria," Dr. Fellner who is the spokesman of the 19 EU ambassadors to Nigeria said.

"We have gained a lot in Nigeria, we have strong trading partners inside EU with a lot of mutual benefits to be derived. Also, EU-Nigeria partnership will bring together a big market that would enjoy the benefits of economies of scale," he added.

Retrenchment gale envelopes insurance sector

From Abdulwahab Isa, Business Correspondent (Lagos)

Staff rationalization by insurance firms in the wake of the on-going reforms sweeping through that sector has heightened fears within rank and file of employees of underwriting firms, investigations have shown.

Findings by *Business Trust* confirmed that existing 103 underwriting firms will shed substantial employees, more so as sector experts reasoned that 85 per cent of

existing insurance firms would merge or be acquired outrightly. Though the exact staff strength of all insurance firms put together is not ascertained some people put it in several thousands.

The banking sector whose first phase of consolidation was concluded December eased out over 9,000 of hitherto existing staff of 89 banks back into the labour market through mergers and acquisitions. Some banks, oblivious of pain and trauma resulting from redundancy evolved a "mouth watering" severance packages to outpace voluntary disengagement.

In the case of the insurance sector for instance, analysts are of the view that rationalization is a must given the level of on-going talks on mergers and acquisitions among insurance firms. However, the regulatory body for the sector, National Insurance Commission (NAICOM) is said to be working on guidelines in this direction. Speaking with *Business Trust* on telephone from Abuja, NAICOM, spokesman Mike Umeh said his organization was aware of the implications of the reforms especially on staff engaged by insurance firms and it will come out with guide lines in respect of that. Umeh, though did not expatiate on the expected guideline, *Business Trust* learnt the aspect that concerns employees would be tabled for discussion in the next meeting to be held by the commissioner of insurance with insurance chieftains and their umbrella body, Nigeria Insurers Association in attendance.

Also speaking with *Business Trust* in Lagos on the fate of staff of insurance firms in the aftermath of re-capitalisation, managing director of Crusader Insurance Plc, Mr. Gabriele Abidoye did confirm that like the scenario in the banking sector, the number of insurance industries will reduce with many people losing their jobs.

PHCN loses N140m facilities to vandals

By Hamisu Muhammad, Business Reporter

Power Holding Company of Nigeria PHCN, says about N140 million worth of its facilities was brutalised by what it described as "ill informed and crude vandals" in recent attacks on its personnel and facilities across the country.

Speaking with energy correspondents in Abuja last week, the head of Public Affairs of PHCN, Mrs. Efurio Igbo said that reports reaching PHCN management showed that at Ikorodu, an irate mob beat up PHCN personnel, set ablaze the company's office, private and official cars over the death of a boy electrocuted as a result of illegal connection in a home.

"Our officials had disconnected the residence where the boy met his death", she said, "he could have only been electrocuted as a result of illegal connection that gave power to the disconnected house", she posited.

"The incident led a mob to descend on our facilities and staff and the value of damage is put at N20 million", she said.

"In Calabar", she went on, "soldiers stormed our office and beat up everyone at sight including Journalists who were attracted to the commotion", she said, "they force-

fully took away scores to their barracks and further brutalised them", she said, "all under the claim that their barracks was not supplied electricity during one of the African Cup matches", she said.

"In Festac, on Road 22", she continued, "we lost not less than N120 million as a result of vandalism of our property and equipments all this February over claims of poor power supply", she said.

Narrating more tales of attacks on PHCN staff, Igbo said that at Isale-gangan on Lagos Island, PHCN personnel who were on disconnection assignment were almost lynched by gangsters and normal residents who accused the PHCN of not supplying constant power to the place.

"Customers should pay their bills as long as they have consumed electricity", she said.

She said that PHCN has Customer Care Centres all over the country, with "customer-focused, proactive and result-oriented officers", that are always handy to hear complains from customers and ensure that the problem is addressed.

"If there is no electricity in a particular place", she noted, "we lose revenue, create a bad image for ourselves and affect economic activities in the communities", she posited, "so we have created Rapid Response Centres in all the eleven zones of the coun-

try so that we don't have these negative fallouts", she said.

"Any of our customers that has a problem about our services", she advised, "they should approach any of Care Centres or any of our Public Relations officer.

FG, states, LGs share N252 billion in February

By Anas A. Galadima, Asst. Business Editor

The federal government, 36 states of the federation and all local governments in the country have shared a total of N252.8 billion as allocation for the month of February, 2006.

Out of this amount, N242 billion was given to them as statutory allocation while N10.7 billion was shared to the three tiers as revenue accruing from the collection of Value Added Tax (VAT).

Of the total N252 billion shared for the month, the federal government got a total of N132 billion, and the 36 states got a total of N67 billion, while local governments in the country received a total of N53.4 billion.

Speaking after the Feder-

ation Account Allocation Committee (FAAC) meeting in Abuja on Friday, Minister of finance Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala who does not usually attend the meeting said she was at the meeting to assure the state commissioners of finance that the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) would be made to remit all funds generated to the federation account.

After remitting the funds, she said, the committee would then refund to the NNPC the amount spent on fuel subsidy for the month.

"We talked about the NNPC and the way we'll handle the subsidy and what I understand is that provided the NNPC remits what it holds, everybody has also agreed that we'll pay them the subsidy that is helping keep the price of petroleum products in the country steady", she said.

The finance commissioners last month walked out of the FAAC meeting in protest against NNPC's continuous under-remittance of funds generated from the sale of crude oil in the country.

The corporation paid only an initial N40 out of the N107 billion generated in December 2005, thereby withholding a total of N67 billion which it claimed was used for fuel subsidy.

Following President Olusgun Obasanjo's interven-

Africa accounts for 4% world investment - NACCIMA

From AbdulRaheem Aodu, Correspondent (Kaduna)

Nigerian business stakeholders have been urged to rise up to challenge posed by poor investment flow.

President of the National Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (NACCIMA) Chief John Odeyemi said during the opening ceremony of 27th Kaduna International Trade Fair that Africa contributes only 4% of the world investment flow which he put at \$280 million.

"Only 4% of the over \$280

million world investment flow is found in Africa of which Nigeria and South Africa accounts for more than 80%. So we need to evolve policies and steps that would put Nigeria in the fore front to redress the imbalance," he said in a speech read on his behalf by NACCIMA vice president, Dr. Stephen Adaji.

Odeyemi urged the government to eliminate multiple taxation, promote non-oil

export and support small and medium scale enterprises in order to boost the nation's economy, and chart a course for sustainable growth.

"We hope this fair will create a much desired springboard to bring local and foreign investment to the country. We appreciate government's efforts in reducing economic and financial crimes, boosting rapid growth in telecommunications and improving on infrastructure," he said.

Business Trust

MANAGEMENT TIPS

Control your anger at the work place

If there's one emotion you are supposed to keep bottled up, it's anger - which means big business for anyone giving lessons to those who find it difficult to control themselves. But is anger as bad as it's made out to be?

"I have never seen a more flagrant contempt of court", said Scottish judge Roderick MacDonald last month, after a teenage girl giving evidence in his courtroom

By Brendan O'Neill

educational sector, personnel managers, and anyone else "dealing with their own or another's anger".

BAAM says its mission is to "extinguish the flames". "Anger is a natural human reaction", it says. "It is powerful. If not channelled correctly it is dangerous. It has massive social implications on your family, your career and ultimately

Britain is reportedly the top road rage country in the European Union - 80.4% of drivers claim to have been involved in road rage incidents, and one in four drivers admits to having "committed a road rage incident".

Then there's "shopping rage" - Britons spend 407 hours per person per year shopping, and over half of us have stormed out of a shop due to "bad service" or

proof of an "emotionally conformist" climate.

"Emotionally we are encouraged to 'let it all hang out'. But some emotions, such as anger and passion, have clearly been deemed unacceptable," says Furedi.

"Society praises some emotions but stigmatises others. There is now an authoritarian framework of acceptable emotions and behaviour, and if you step outside of that framework then you clearly need to be managed and re-educated."

Anger inspired campaigners for votes for women

Dr Tana Dineen, the Canadian-based author of *Manufacturing Victims* and a well-known critic of what she refers to as the "psychology industry", says the anger management lobby overlooks one important thing - anger can be a good thing.

Some of the great social advances of the 20th Century, such as votes for women and civil rights for blacks in America, were spurred by individuals' feelings of anger.

"Anger can be positive", says Dr Dineen. "It used to be thought of as a generally

normal and common emotional reaction evoked by something in the external world that the person thinks is wrong. If attention is paid to that, rather than to the internal situation, certainly anger can spur people on to actions that produce positive change."

Indeed, being angry was once positively celebrated. Think back to the "angry young men" of the late 1950s and early 1960s, those authors and playwrights such as Alan Sillitoe and John Osborne who peopled their books and plays with brooding blokes who wanted to take on the world.

Arthur Seaton, the working-class factory hand

who hated his bosses in Sillitoe's *Saturday Night and Sunday Morning*, later played by an angry young Albert Finney in the film version of 1960, declared: "I'm a bloody billygoat trying to screw the world, and no wonder I am, because it's trying to do the same to me..."

Dr Dineen reckons the likes of Arthur Seaton would be sent off for a course in anger management these days, to have his emotional imbalance corrected. "We should defend anger from the interfering grasp of psychological theories and treatments", she says.

Culled from *BBC news Indepth*



Anger disrupts smooth operations at work.

swore at him and told him where to go.

How did he punish the 15-year-old? By putting her on probation for a year and ordering her to attend anger management classes.

"Anger management" is all the rage - not only for youngsters who fall foul of the law, but for stressed-out bosses who bark at their workers, tense school kids who display signs of bullying behaviour, and football managers who take their frustrations out on the "effing ref".

That includes Ian Holloway, manager of Queen's Park Rangers. He attended an anger management course earlier this year as part of the BBC's Stress Test programme, following a series of run-ins with refs and after players complained about the "rollickings" he gave them in the changing room.

It is powerful... if not channelled correctly it is dangerous

British Association of Anger Management: The management of anger has become big business; there is a veritable industry devoted to helping us keep our tempers in check.

The British Association of Anger Management (BAAM), the UK's "centre of expertise" on anger and conflict management, has a team of consultants, counsellors and trainers who offer anger advice to the general public, children and teenagers, government bodies, corporations, the

YOU..."

Stress-beater?: The California-based company Anderson and Anderson describes itself as the "first global anger management training provider". It has Certified Anger Management Facilitators in the US, Canada, South Africa, Mexico, England, Ireland and Italy, offering anger management tips to everyone from law enforcement personnel to corporate executives to schoolteachers and their charges.

Anger 'can spur people on',

Is this rise in anger management a good thing, promising to transform us into happier, less-stressed, calmer citizens? Or does it smack of an attempt to enforce emotional conformity - threatening to make society placid, passion-free and ever-so-slightly dull?

The British Association of Anger Management (BAAM) says Brits definitely need lessons in how not to fly off the handle.

It says that in a survey, 65% of office workers had experienced "office rage"; 53% had been the victims of bullying at work; and 45% of staff regularly lost their temper at work - which may not be surprising when you consider that the average modern working day consists of dealing with 46 phone calls, 15 internal memos, 19 items of external post and 22 e-mails.

"feelings of frustration".

Anger seems to follow Brits even when they go on holidays abroad - 14% get stressed out about time off work, and apparently there was a 400% increase in incidents of "air rage" between 1997 and 2000.

Fear and insecurity: BAAM says most of us handle all this stress, anger and rage badly. We tend to fall into one of two camps, it says: exploders or imploders. Exploders quickly move "from anger into rage"; they have "adult temper tantrums". "Exploders are irrational in their regressed state and cause harm to themselves and to those around them".

Some emotions, such as anger and passion, have clearly been deemed unacceptable

Frank Furedi: Imploders, meanwhile, bottle their anger up because of "fear, insecurity and low self-esteem". "Initially it appears to cause little harm. But imploders cannot hold the anger in forever... They are walking time bombs, just waiting to explode."

The aim of anger management, therefore, is to help people avoid being either an exploder or an imploder; to ensure that anger is channelled positively.

Others are not convinced. For Professor Frank Furedi, author of *Therapy Culture: Cultivating Vulnerability in an Uncertain Age*, the rise and rise of anger management is



Anger unsettles the hard worker.

GWAGWALADA SPECIALIST HOSPITAL P.M.B. 228, ABUJA, FCT

INVITATION FOR INTERVIEW

Following our recent advertisement for vacant positions which appeared in the *Punch* and *Daily Trust* newspapers issue of Monday 12th December, 2005, all the candidates who submitted their applications are by this publication invited for interview as scheduled below:

S/NO	POST	DATE
1.	Resident Medical Officers	1 st March, 2006
2.	Nurses	2 nd March, 2006

Venue for the interview is the conference hall of the hospital, commencing from 10.00 a.m. each day. Candidates are advised to come with writing materials and the original copies of their credentials for security.

Endeavour to attend, please.

Signed

Musa Abdullahi

Head of Administration

For: Medical Director/Chief Executive

Business Trust

1ST-TIER SECURITIES

THE NIGERIAN STOCK EXCHANGE

REPORT AS AT FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2006

Company Name	No of Deals	Quotation(N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares
ADSWITCH PLC.	1	1.55	30,000	46,500.00
Sector Totals	1		30,000	46,500.00
AGRICULTURE/AGRO-ALLIED				
LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC.	2	1.17	17,500	20,475.00
THE OKOMU OIL PALM COMPANY PLC	6	18.00	7,320	134,910.00
PRESCO PLC.	6	11.06	18,800	207,541.00
Sector Totals	14		43,620	362,926.00
AUTOMOBILE & TYRE				
DUNLOP NIGERIA PLC.	14	2.47	225,501	567,324.47
INCAR NIGERIA APLC.	2	0.90	24,034,441	21,630,996.90
R. T. BRISCOAE PLC.	23	5.33	41,968	226,486.85
Sector Totals	39		24,301,910	22,424,808.22
BANKING				
ACCESS BANK PLC	177	2.60	5,170,097	13,587,323.83
AFRIBANK NIGERIA PLC.	18	9.10	471,558	4,291,177.80
DIAMOND BANK PLC	1	7.75	50,000	387,500.00
FIRST CITY MONUMENT BANK PLC	1	5.11	12,500	63,875.00
FIDELITY BANK PLC	1	2.93	4,000	11,720.00
FIRST BANK OF NIGERIA PLC.	851	39.00	14,264,894	556,614,922.45
GTBANK PLC.	291	13.80	4,941,109	67,897,370.01
GUARDIAN EXPRESS BANK PLC	44	1.51	8,276,800	12,497,968.00
INVESTMENT BANKING	3	4.57	206,000	941,420.00
INTERCONTINENTAL BANK PLC.	253	10.30	13,177,582	133,331,167.97
NAL BANK PLC.	1	2.80	100,000	280,000.00
OCEANIC BANK PLC	68	5.85	9,836,359	57,624,931.54
PLATINUM BANK PLC	2	2.60	17,000	44,200.00
UNITED BANK FOR AFRICA PLC.	107	12.11	1,792,107	21,676,390.18
UNION BANK NIGERIA PLC.	143	25.48	434,201	11,063,441.48
UNITY BANK PLC	1	2.50	4,000	10,000.00
UNIVERSAL TRUST BANK PLC	1	0.48	15,000	7,200.00
WEMA BANK PLC.	11	3.74	138,076	516,404.24
ZENITH BANK PLC	25	19.64	117,856	2,314,691.84
Sector Totals	1,999		59,029,139	883,161,704.34
BREWERIES				
CHAMPION BREWERIES PLC.	3	2.31	21,300	49,359.00
GUINNESS NIGERIA PLC.	87	104.00	187,639	19,394,118.01
NIGERIAN BREWERIES PLC.	254	36.55	999,356	36,543,570.33
Sector Totals	344		1,208,295	55,987,047.34
BUILDING MATERIALS				
ASHAKA CEMENT PLC.	128	33.71	1,629,888	55,581,667.37
BENUE CEMENT COMPANY PLC.	13	6.50	287,795	1,870,667.50
CEMENT COMPANY OF NORTHERN NIG. PLC	6	7.00	155,420	1,087,940.00
WEST AFRICAN PORTLAND CEMENT CO. PLC.	112	18.16	869,407	15,816,746.82
Sector Totals	259		2,942,510	74,357,021.69
CHEMICAL & PAINTS				
BERGER PAINTS PLC	7	3.78	13,877	52,103.23
CAP PLC.	5	8.86	20,807	184,099.85
D. N. MEYER PLC.	9	3.45	29,000	100,048.00
NIGERIA-GERMAN CHEMICALS PLC.	4	4.20	97,858	411,003.60
Sector Totals	25		161,542	747,254.68
COMPUTER & OFFICE EQUIPMENT				
NCR (NIGERIA) PLC.	4	1.49	16,797	24,803.61
THOMAS WYATT NIGERIA PLC.	1	0.39	1,500	585.00
TRIPPLE GEE AND COMPANY PLC.	20	0.38	132,722	50,680.10
Sector Totals	25		151,019	76,068.71
CONGLOMERATES				
A. G. LEVENTIS NIGERIA PLC.	5	1.14	34,918	39,467.55
C F A O NIGERIA PLC.	9	3.40	54,958	188,911.82
CHELLARAMS PLC.	3	0.83	11,462	9,513.46
P. Z. INDUSTRIES PLC.	103	16.20	3,180,266	51,520,309.20
S C O A NIGERIA PLC.	1	0.97	208	201.76
U.A.C. NIGERIA PLC.	84	17.00	571,566	9,593,230.05
UNILEVER NIGERIA PLC	125	20.51	547,024	11,145,131.34
U.T.C. NIGERIA PLC.	10	0.69	12,896	8,898.24
Sector Totals	340		4,413,298	72,505,663.42
CONSTRUCTION				
CAPALBETO	3	13.30	5,000	66,500.00
COSTAIN (W.A.) PLC.	4	1.09	1,740	1,896.60
JULIUS BERGER NIGERIA PLC.	4	21.51	6,400	137,694.00
Sector Totals	11		13,140	206,090.60
FOOD/BEVERAGES & TOBACCO				
7-UP BOTTLING COMPANY PLC	31	30.00	290,955	8,611,531.71
CADBURY NIGERIA PLC.	160	60.47	2,275,027	138,118,688.35
FLOUR MILLS NIGERIA PLC.	96	28.30	845,908	23,757,987.64
NIGERIA BOTTLING COMPANY PLC.	31	61.00	86,989	5,330,200.72
NESTLE FOODS NIGERIA PLC.	50	189.00	48,128	9,103,696.04
NORTHERN NIGERIA FLOUR MILLS PLC.	3	14.99	6,300	94,437.00
Sector Totals	371		3,553,307	185,016,541.46
HEALTHCARE				
EVANS MEDICAL PLC.	7	2.54	32,392	80,329.36
GLAXOSMITHKLINE CONSUMER NIGERIA PLC	39	10.15	583,390	5,880,032.13
MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC	1	5.36	2,110	11,309.60
MORISON INDUSTRIES PLC.	2	0.76	6,437	4,892.12
NEIMETH INTERNATIONAL PHARM. PLC.	2	3.23	6,200	20,026.00
Sector Totals	51		630,529	5,996,589.21
INDUSTRIAL/DOMESTIC PRODUCTS				
ALUMINIUM EXTRUSION INDUSTRIES PLC.	1	2.18	27	58.86
ALUMACO PLC.	6	0.98	18,817	18,440.66
B.O.C. GASES PLC	6	2.50	53,000	132,260.00
FIRST ALUMINIUM NIGERIA PLC.	14	0.70	223,400	155,125.00
VITAFOAM NIGERIA PLC.	26	3.25	175,549	590,117.79
VONO PRODUCTS PLC.	14	1.06	509,200	559,452.00
Sector Totals	67		979,993	1,455,454.31
INSURANCE				
ACEN INSURANCE COMPANY PLC	1	0.73	40,000	29,200.00
AIICO INSURANCE PLC.	4	2.39	25,179	60,177.81
CORNERSTONE INSURANCE CO. PLC.	10	1.45	354,873	496,622.11
LAW UNION AND ROCK INSURANCE PLC.	2	0.95	20,000	19,000.00
MUTUAL BENEFITS ASSURANCE PLC	1	0.79	2,000	1,580.00
NIGER INSURANCE CO. PLC.	21	3.12	339,188	1,038,564.46
PRESTIGE ASSURANCE PLC.	9	2.49	252,880	630,991.88
ROYAL EXCHANGE ASSURANCE PLC.	3	2.90	21,623	62,706.70
STANDARD ALLIANCE INSURANCE	8	1.17	86,385	102,443.55
UNIC INSURANCE PLC.	14	1.26	453,498	556,680.12
WEST AFRICAN PROV. INS. COY. PLC.	8	3.06	137,195	422,764.30
Sector Totals	81		1,732,821	3,420,730.93
MANAGED FUNDS				
C & I LEASING PLC	10	1.14	142,266	161,039.44
Sector Totals	10		142,266	161,039.44
MARITIME				
JAPAL OIL & MARITIME SERVICES PLC	6	1.81	328,005	593,739.05
Sector Totals	6		328,005	593,739.05
PACKAGING				
NAMPAK NIGERIA PLC	10	1.38	124,600	166,699.50
Sector Totals	10		124,600	166,699.50
PETROLEUM(MARKETING)				
AFRICAN PETROLEUM PLC.	91	40.20	628,843	25,262,297.77
CONOIL PLC	66	89.80	41,227	3,696,437.99
ETERNA OIL & GAS PLC.	6	2.54	450,540	1,144,441.80
MOBIL OIL NIGERIA PLC.	38	165.00	133,717	21,752,917.12
OANDO PLC	114	91.00	410,199	36,892,265.27
TEXACO (NIGERIA) PLC.	24	109.00	51,639	5,654,425.90
TOTAL NIGERIA PLC	28	183.00	106,577	19,483,953.60
Sector Totals	367		1,822,742	113,886,739.45
PRINTING & PUBLISHING				
ACADEMY PRESS PLC.	5	1.50	1,057,415	1,586,122.50
LONGMAN NIGERIA PLC.	1	3.49	1,050	3,664.50
Sector Totals	6		1,058,465	1,589,787.00
REAL ESTATE				
UACN PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT PLC.	15	9.31	109,472	1,022,651.24
Sector Totals	15		109,472	1,022,651.24
TEXTILES				
AFPRINT NIGERIA PLC.	3	0.40	2,200	880.00
UNITED NIGERIA TEXTILES PLC.	21		208,493	425,486.00
Sector Totals	24		210,693	426,366.00
Overall Totals	4,088		102,987,366	4,423,611,392.59

TOP 10 TRADES AS FRIDAY

SYMBOL	VOLUME	VALUE	TRADES
UBA	1,792,107.00	21,676,390.18	107
CADBURY	2,275,027.00	138,118,688.35	160
PZ	3,180,266.00	51,520,309.20	103
GUARANTY	4,941,109.00	67,897,370.01	291
ACCESS	5,170,097.00	13,587,323.83	177
GUARDIANXP	8,276,800.00	12,497,968.00	44
OCEANIC	9,836,359.00	57,624,931.54	68
INTERCONT	13,177,582.00	133,331,167.97	253
FIRSTBANK	14,264,894.00	556,614,922.45	851
INCAR	24,034,441.00	21,630,996.90	2

TOP 10 GAINERS

SYMBOL	LASTCLOSE	FRIDAY'S CLOSE	CHANGE
MOBIE	160.50	165.00	+4.50
OANDO	90.00	91.00	+1.00
TOTAL	182.00	183.00	+1.00
7UP	29.20	30.00	+0.80
CONOIL	89.00	89.80	+0.80
CAP	8.50	8.86	+0.36
UACN	16.70	17.00	+0.30
BERGER	3.60	3.78	+0.18
GUARANTY	13.62	13.80	+0.18
AP	40.02	40.20	+0.18

TOP 10 LOSERS

SYMBOL	LASTCLOSE	FRIDAY'S CLOSE	CHANGE
CADBURY	63.65	60.47	-3.18
ASHAKACEM	35.01	33.71	-1.30
TEXACO	110.10	109.00	-1.10
NBC	61.56	61.00	-0.56
WAPCO	18.33	18.16	-0.17
DUNLOP	2.60	2.47	-0.13
ETERNAOIL	2.67	2.54	-0.13
CHAMPION	2.43	2.31	-0.12
VITAFOAM	3.37	3.25	-0.12
PRESTIGE	2.60	2.49	-0.11

NSE turnover falls

Turnover of 448.4 million shares worth N5.33 billion in 20,541 deals was recorded last week, in contrast to a total of 527.8 million shares valued at N8.7 billion exchanged previous week in 19,208 deals.

There were no transactions in the Federal Government Development Stocks Sector, State Government Bonds and Industrial Loans/Preference Stocks sectors.

The Banking subsector was the most active during the week (measured by turnover volume), with 342.8 million shares worth N3.4 billion exchanged by investors in 9,596 deals. Volume in banking subsector was largely driven by activity in the shares of Oceanic Bank International (Nig) Plc, Access Bank Plc and Intercontinental Bank Plc. Trading on the shares of the three banks accounted for 198.7 million shares, representing 57.9% of the subsector's turnover. The Automobile and Tyre subsector followed on the week's activity chart with a turnover of 25.1 million shares valued at N25.2 million in 208 deals. Last week, the Banking subsector led and was followed by the Building materials subsector.

The All-Share Index rose by 0.6% to close on Friday at 24,093.55, while the market capitalisation of listed equities closed higher at N2.60 trillion.

Twenty-six stocks appreciated in-price during the week, lower than the forty-two in the preceding week. First Bank of Nigeria Plc led on the week's gainers' table with a gain of N4.70 to close at N39.00 per share while Mobil Oil Nig Plc followed with N4.50 to close at N165.00 per share. Other price gainers in the top 10 category include: Guinness Nigeria Plc (N4.00), Flour Mills Nig. Plc (N2.20), 7-Up Bottling Co. Plc (N2.000), Okomu Oil Palm Plc (N1.00), Unilever Nigeria Plc (N0.61), UACN Plc (N0.60), Intercontinental Bank Plc (N0.59) and Presco Plc (N0.56).

Forty stocks suffered price depreciation, higher than the thirty-one that suffered the same fate in the preceding week. Total Nigeria Plc led on the decliners' table, dropping by N7.95 to close at N183.00. Cadbury Nigeria Plc followed with a loss of N6.57 to close at N60.47 per share. Other price losers in the top 10 category include: Nestle Nigeria Plc (N6.00), Big Bottling Co. Plc (N6.00), Vitafoam Nig Plc (N1.76), Ashaka-Cem Plc (N1.41), Texaco (N1.10), Oando Plc (N1.03), African Petroleum Plc (N0.95) and Julius Berger Nig Plc (N0.64).

The price of Vitafoam Nigeria Plc was adjusted for dividend of N0.15 per share and bonus of 1 for 4 as recommended by the director.

Supplementary Listing: A total of 163,000,000 shares were added to the shares outstanding in the name of Vitafoam Nigeria Plc following the bonus of 1 for 4 as recommended by the director.

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End of Discussion

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0805-7759889

VICTORIA ISLAND (2)

01-8520007, 08034799698

APAPA

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IJESHA

01-8520202, 01-8520776, 8520203, 0805-7761004

ABUJA

0805 4099999,
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08034099999, 08042133869.

PORT HARCOURT

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0803 4277777, 0803 4299999

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08037040138.

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SENIOR STAFF VACANCIES

The following short-listed candidates are invited to attend either written test/interview or interview only on the dates allocated against their names:

Day 1: WRITTEN TEST (Tuesday, 7th March, 2006)

a) POST APPLIED FOR: Pharmacist I

S/N NAME OF APPLICANT	STATE OF ORIGIN
1. Isa Ardo Shehu	Adamawa
2. Anya Kenneth	Enugu
3. Dauda Kwaghe Teri	Adamawa
4. Yaduma Caleb Philemon	Adamawa
5. Stephen U. Shakarho	Delta
6. Mrs. Ochemu Linda Ada	Benue
7. Asea T. Augustus	Benue
8. Adamu Bapelel	Adamawa
9. Mrs. Mojekwu Chizoban Jane	Anambra
10. Philip Faith	Imo
11. Chukwudike Onyinye Jane	Enugu
12. Anzali Dauda Kato	Kaduna
13. Alhassan Okutepa	Kogi
14. Tumba Sunday	Adamawa
15. Tamori Michael O.	Kwara
16. Timothy Mmanger	Benue
17. Ibrahim M. Talba	Adamawa
18. Biyama Haniel Haziel	Adamawa
19. Otaah Gerald N.	Enugu
20. Mrs. Esho Ronke	Kwara

b) POST APPLIED FOR: Admin Officer I

S/N NAME OF APPLICANT	STATE OF ORIGIN
1. Tude I. Amusain	Kogi
2. Ignatius Papa Tizhe	Adamawa
3. Soguna M. Daniel	Adamawa
4. Abdullahi Ibrahim Himma	Gombe
5. Jamila Buba Imam	Borno
6. Ahgad Bappa Danladi	Adamawa
7. Muhammad Auwal Abubakar	Adamawa
8. Shehu Usman Bakari	Adamawa
9. Musa Umaru Girei	Adamawa
10. Sanusi A. Rufai	Adamawa
11. Abubakar Moh'd Mustapha	Adamawa
12. Aliyu Moh'd Mustapha	Adamawa
13. Haruna Usman Bassi	Borno
14. Muktar Mustapha	Adamawa
15. Raji Muhammad Tukur	Adamawa
16. Peter Godwin Wada	Adamawa
17. Ibrahim Hassan	Adamawa
18. Usman Abdulrahman Yakubu	FCT

c) POST APPLIED FOR: Admin Officer II

S/N NAME OF APPLICANT	STATE OF ORIGIN
1. Evelyn Ngozi	Enugu
2. Agbeniyi Olusegun A.	Oyo
3. Kabiru Sbaibu Mohammed	Gombe
4. Anyiam Hannash O.	Imo
5. Ammah Inuwa Usman	Adamawa
6. Halima Abubakar Bobboi	Adamawa
7. Hellandendu Nunyi	Adamawa
8. Udoma Phil Ikechukwu	Imo
9. Asma'u Sahabo Yusuf	Adamawa
10. Mohammed A. Abdulkadir	Kano
11. Ahmed Rufai Isa	Adamawa
12. John O. Orefuye	Ogun
13. Idris Zubairu Lawan	Adamawa
14. Abdulrazag Ishaq	Adamawa
15. Mrs. Hiradi U. Banu	Adamawa
16. Shadrach Philip Harris	Gombe
17. Kure Z. Vandi	Adamawa
18. Salihu O. Yakubu	Kogi
19. Musa Usman	Adamawa
20. Abdullahi Sarki Marafa	Nasarawa
21. Nathaniel Winston Waziri	Adamawa
22. Yahya Halilu	Adamawa
23. Makama Sani	Kaduna
24. Iliyasu Zaman	Kaduna
25. Joseph Rimamayang	Taraba
26. Iliya Romanus	Adamawa
27. Abdulnasir Umar Hamman	Adamawa
28. Aliyu Umar Modibbo	Adamawa
29. Aminu Umar Mohammed	Adamawa
30. Dan Asabe Alu Nyase	Taraba
31. Mansurah Moh'd Buba Ardo	Adamawa
32. Auwal Bala Umar	Taraba
33. Mohammed Usman	Adamawa
34. Ahmed Muhammed Saad	Gombe
35. Ilseca Mapaso Jime	Adamawa
36. Yusufu Isa O.	Kogi
37. Aliyu Babba	Adamawa
38. Hauwa T. Nyako	Adamawa
39. Aniofido Samuel Sydney	Enugu
40. Aisha Saad Tahir	Adamawa
41. Asma'u Aliyu Mustapha	Adamawa
42. Ndagi Umaru	Kwara
43. Cindy F. Shalzim	Adamawa
44. Fadimatu Idris	Adamawa
45. Belh Mohammed	Adamawa
46. Rahina Shettima	Borno
47. Mustapha Ibrahim	Adamawa
48. Nwabuko Christian C.	Abia
49. Jacob Waliwari	Adamawa
50. Tahir M. Tarfa	Adamawa
51. Usman Yahya Faisal	Adamawa
52. Ahmed Abdulrasheed	Adamawa
53. Kabiru Hassan Wasagu	Kebbi
54. Hassan Iyal B	Adamawa
55. Aernyi Humphrey T.	Benue
56. Mustapha Raji	Adamawa
57. Abdulkadir Magaji	Adamawa
58. Abubakar Salihu Musa	Adamawa
59. Fadimatu Moh'd Dodo	Adamawa
60. Linda Absalom	Adamawa
61. Aliyu Hammajoda	Adamawa
62. Ilim, Oryendaga Peter	Benue
63. Jerome Michael	Kogi
64. Ishaya Bedan	Adamawa
65. Abubakar Umar Chubado	Adamawa
66. Bashir M. Idris	Kebbi
67. Abubakar Buba	Adamawa
68. Mohammed Raji	Adamawa
69. Bello Abdullahi	Adamawa

70. Bashir Bornoma	Adamawa
71. Nwabugwu Coleman C.	Anambra
72. Elna Peter Wada	Adamawa

d) POST APPLIED FOR: Accountant I

S/N NAME OF APPLICANT	STATE OF ORIGIN
1. Garga Elijah Gaman	Adamawa
2. Abbo John Derricks	Adamawa
3. Ijeoma G. Okoli	Anambra
4. Babangida Hamza	Adamawa
5. Joseph M. Ndazata	Adamawa
6. Joshua Malgwi	Adamawa
7. Dauda Peter Bulugina	Adamawa
8. Abah Peters Emmanuel	Kogi
9. Olubiyi A. Joseph	Lagos
10. Nwankwo Chukwumeka	Abia
11. Musa S. Jery	Adamawa
12. Abdulhamid Bappa Shalumma	Bauchi
13. Ibrahim Papka Ijai	Adamawa
14. Babayo Aliyu El-Nafaty	Gombe
15. Mauda Ahmed Bakari	Adamawa
16. Rabiu Ibrahim Khandiya	Bauchi

e) POST APPLIED FOR: Accountant II

S/N NAME OF APPLICANT	STATE OF ORIGIN
1. Gbechin Terhem Daniel	Benue
2. Ithem Madukairo Onyekachi	Imo
3. Clement Tidirambi	Adamawa
4. Javan Hyellaki	Adamawa
5. Garba Moh'd Bidel	Adamawa
6. Oyinlola Olusola	Kwara
7. Bello Isa Abubakar	Adamawa
8. Maryam A. Kachalla	Adamawa
9. McDonald Mpuwa John	Adamawa
10. Chanuanaya Bernard Duguzum	Adamawa
11. Ikyunc Chiahemba James	Niger
12. Adam Shehu Ahmed	Adamawa
13. Yahaya Moh'd Bala	Yobe
14. Joseph Anakunn	Adamawa
15. Kuss Wilberforce Nyandaiti	Adamawa
16. Murtala Yusuf	Taraba
17. Kene Aguolu	Anambra
18. Maryamu Amos Kwaji	Adamawa

DAY 2 INTERVIEW (Wednesday, 8th March, 2006)

(a) POST APPLIED FOR: Consultant

S/N NAME OF APPLICANT	STATE OF ORIGIN
1. Dr. Kala Bem	Adamawa
2. Dr. Andrew Oribabhor	Edo
3. Dr. Fatai Salawu	Kwara

(b) POST APPLIED FOR: Senior Registrar

S/N NAME OF APPLICANT	STATE OF ORIGIN
1. Dr. Barake T.I.B	Kwara
2. Dr. Gaji Haruna Tatra	Adamawa

(c) POST APPLIED FOR: Senior Medical Officer II

S/N NAME OF APPLICANT	STATE OF ORIGIN
1. Dr. Musa C.L. (Mrs)	Kogi
2. Dr. Onyekwelu Cyprian Obiora	Anambra
3. Dr. Vokapwa Penuel Magomya	Adamawa
4. Dr. Wadinga D. Wadinga	Adamawa
5. Dr. Celine K. Laori	Adamawa
6. Dr. Ezekiel K. Sini	Adamawa
7. Dr. Reuben Omokafe Lawan	Edo
8. Dr. Echikwonye M.O	Benue
9. Dr. Yaru Peter Teru	Adamawa
10. Dr. Ojulu A.P	Adamawa
11. Dr. Gundiri Laghyel Boniface	Adamawa
12. Dr. Inuwa Umaru	Adamawa

(d) POST APPLIED FOR: Medical Officer

S/N NAME OF APPLICANT	STATE OF ORIGIN
1. Dr. Adetokunboh O.O	Ogun
2. Dr. Aliyu Yakubu	Kogi
3. Dr. Tulano Nicholas A.	Adamawa
4. Dr. O.O Oguamola	Adamawa
5. Dr. Adamu Adiel	Adamawa
6. Dr. Talba Aliyu Mahmud	Adamawa
7. Dr. Nyaku T. Friday	Adamawa
8. Dr. Emmanuel Apari	Abia
9. Dr. Tumba Delia	Adamawa
10. Dr. Mrs. Deborah Olubiyi	Ogun
11. Dr. Joshua Danji Solomon	Taraba
12. Dr. Sudi Abdullahi	Adamawa
13. Dr. F.A. Fakorode	Kogi
14. Dr. Baba Usman Ahmadu	Adamawa
15. Dr. Kwaghe Barka Vandi	Adamawa
16. Dr. Okafor Peter Ifeanyi Chukwu	Anambra
17. Dr. Martins O.F	Lagos
18. Dr. Ani George Ndubusi	Enugu
19. Dr. Ngilari Usiju	Borno
20. Dr. Onebunne Emeka Michael	Anambra

(e) POST APPLIED FOR: Chief Medical Lab. Scientist

S/N NAME OF APPLICANT	STATE OF ORIGIN
1. Gilbert C. Orah	Anambra
2. Wilson Dauda Wagaru	Borno
3. Kabiru Umar Moh'd	Adamawa
4. Badung S. I. Henry	Plateau
5. Bassey U. Jonah	Akwia Ibom

(f) POST APPLIED FOR: Chief Medical Lab. Scientist I.

S/N NAME OF APPLICANT	STATE OF ORIGIN
1. Bwala John Audu	Borno
2. Jolayemi. Bashir A.	Kwara
3. Umeh Okechukwu Patrick	Abia
4. Bukar Mwajim	Borno
5. Eke Bright Ifeanyi-Chukwu	Rivers
6. Yusuf Abdulkarim	Osun
7. Akpulu Stephen Peter	Benue
8. Amusa Babatunde Fatai	Lagos

9. Sulaiman Isiaka	Osun
10. Imo Ugboaku Genevieve	Imo

(g) POST APPLIED FOR: Principal Dietician II

S/N NAME OF APPLICANT	STATE OF ORIGIN
1. Elizabeth O. Nyako	Kogi
2. Mrs. Ossam S. Cromwell	Adamawa
3. Zainab Mahmoud Ahmed	Adamawa
4. Hapsalu S. Maliki	Adamawa
5. Mrs. Christie N. Kasham	Adamawa

(h) POST APPLIED FOR: Principal Medical Records Officer II

S/N NAME OF APPLICANT	STATE OF ORIGIN
1. Samuel Eneba Anthony	Kogi
2. Balah Maina Umar	Borno

(i) POST APPLIED FOR: Higher Medical Records Officer

S/N NAME OF APPLICANT	STATE OF ORIGIN
1. Peter Atanda Ola	Oyo

DAY 3: INTERVIEW (Thursday, 9th March, 2006)

- (a) POST APPLIED FOR: Pharmacist I (All Successful Candidates)
 (b) POST APPLIED FOR: Admin Officer I (All Successful Candidates)
 (c) POST APPLIED FOR: Admin Officer II (All Successful Candidates)
 (d) POST APPLIED FOR: Accountant I (All Successful Candidates)
 (e) POST APPLIED FOR: Accountant II (All Successful Candidates)

DAY 4: INTERVIEW (Friday, 10th March, 2006)

(a) POST APPLIED FOR: Chief Accountant

S/N NAME OF APPLICANT	STATE OF ORIGIN
1. Mahmood D. Sambo	Adamawa
2. Ogido Isieka O.S	Kogi
3. Adeola Ayoni Sotonwa	Ogun
4. Ibrahim Abubakar Damare	Adamawa
5. Abdullahi Bako Adamu	Nasarawa
6. Waziri Mounde Lamorde	Adamawa

(b) POST APPLIED FOR: Assistant Chief Auditor

S/N NAME OF APPLICANT	STATE OF ORIGIN
1. Umar Ibrahim Jaja	Bauchi
2. Alhassan Rayyamu Lamus	Nasarawa
3. Ahmed Moh'd Holma	Adamawa
4. Murtala Zarumi Umar	Sokoto
5. Zirra John Lazarus Oaya	Adamawa

(c) POST APPLIED FOR: Senior Admin Officer

S/N NAME OF APPLICANT	STATE OF ORIGIN
1. Abubakar Modibbo Saleh	Adamawa
2. Alh. Adamu A. Musa	Nasarawa
3. Hauwa M. Kumshe	Borno
4. Usman Modibbo Gidado	Adamawa
5. Paulina Edward Baraya	Taraba
6. Umoru Dele Castro	Edo
7. Lubna Muh'd Dodo	Adamawa

(d) POST APPLIED FOR: Information Officer I

S/N NAME OF APPLICANT	STATE OF ORIGIN
1. Raphael Rotimi Omoluabi	Edo
2. Adamu Muhammad Dodo	Adamawa
3. Barkindo M. Bunu	Adamawa
4. Usman Abubakar Parda	Adamawa
5. Nene Gwani	Adamawa

(e) POST APPLIED FOR: Anesthetic Nurses

S/N NAME OF APPLICANT	STATE OF ORIGIN
1. Abubakar K Idris	Adamawa
2. Stephen Kwada Mbelewa	Adamawa
3. Sunday A. Cromwell	Adamawa
4. Rufus T. Vashawa	Adamawa
5. Mercy L. Garba Dahiru	Adamawa
6. Abdulkarim Dona Gorum	Adamawa
7. Joel Obadiah	Adamawa
8. Suleiman Usman Modibbo	Adamawa
9. Tanko Shehu Jibrin	Taraba
10. Michael Eli Bankofiore	Adamawa
11. Umaru Hamman	Adamawa
12. Loja P. Francis	Benue

(f) POST APPLIED FOR: Paediatric Nurses

S/N NAME OF APPLICANT	STATE OF ORIGIN
1. Mrs. Greino F. Agabus	Adamawa
2. Gambo Dauda Elias	Adamawa
3. Maryam E. Danglibiya	Adamawa
4. Emmanuel Wilson	Adamawa
5. Mohammed Suleiman Bappah	Adamawa

(g) POST APPLIED FOR: Peri-Operative Nurses

S/N NAME OF APPLICANT	STATE OF ORIGIN
1. Alh. Sabo Uba Umar Mingami	Adamawa
2. Alh. Raji Umar	Adamawa
3. Jacob J. Midalla	Adamawa
4. Manassah N. Michael	Adamawa
5. Geoffrey Y. Andrew	Adamawa
6. Yakubu Hadison Hassan	Adamawa
7. Saraya Simon	Adamawa

Please note that candidates for the written test are required to come with their writing materials. Candidates must present the original copies of their credentials for sighting during interview. All candidates are to report at the centre by 9.00am daily.

Signed:
ALIYU MOHAMMED NAYEJO
 SECRETARY, BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

Supplement on Gombe State University



Gombe State Governor, Alhaji Mohammad Danjuma Goje

History

On assumption of office on May 29, 2003, the Gombe State governor, Muhammad Danjuma Goje (*Sarkin Yakin Gombe*), made clear his determination to ensure the provision of sound relevant and qualitative education in the state.

This was particularly so, given the absence of any tertiary level educational institution in the state. This was unacceptable also in view of the thousands of Senior Secondary School Certificate holders at a time of suffer competition for admission into universities with Gombe State as one of their catchment states.

To this end, a Ministry of Higher Education was created to, among other things, advise the government on modalities for establishing a state-owned tertiary institution(s).

The ministry, in turn, set up a 35 member advisory committee made up of stakeholders in the education industry, whose report led to the resolve of the state's Executive Council to establish a state-owned university, as announced after its third regular meeting on Wednesday, October 29th, 2003.

The state's Executive Council also agreed that the university should be on a single Campus and sited in the state

capital, Gombe. It also resolved that the university should be conventional to enable it to accommodate the human-power needs of both the public and private sectors in Gombe and beyond.

Similarly, the state's Executive Council in the same meeting approved the constitution of a 24-member Technical and Planning Committee.

Right from the onset, the Technical and Planning Committee found it necessary to evolve experts from the National Universities Commission (NUC), who participated in all the Committee's deliberations and offered invaluable assistance to the Committee. Other experts were also co-opted at the sub-Committee level where their expertise



Entrance to the Gombe State University.

was deemed necessary for the overall success of the Technical and Planning Committee. It is significant that the committee relied entirely on state indigenes and there were no trips overseas to facilitate its work.

With the passage of the bill for the establishment of Gombe State University by the State's House of Assembly on April 14, 2004, signing of the bill into Law by His Excellency, the Governor on May 3, 2004 and the National Universities Commission's recognition of the university on May 7, 2004, the Implementation Committee focused its full attention on physical development

as well as the appointment of the Vice-Chancellor in July 2004. The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Abdullahi Mahadi, from the world famous ABU Zaria, where he was Vice-Chancellor for several years, assumed duties on 1st August, 2004. The appointments of Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Sani Abba Aliyu; Registrar, Aliyu Kamara; Bursar, Hajiya Jummai M. Hassan; University Librarian, Mr. L. B. Mela and Director of Works, Alhaji Ahmad Nadani, were made in January, 2005, thus giving the institution a strong management team.

The Journey so far

In effect therefore, until the arrival of pioneer undergraduates on the campus in January, 2006, the University was still preoccupied with strategizing and planning. Although academic staff were offered employment and a substantial number have reported, the search for senior and middle level academics is still ongoing. The important curriculum/academic content of the programmes is receiving full attention in the light of the university's resolve to producing high quality graduates. In order to facilitate effective teaching and monitoring, the university will remain small with no prospects of overcrowding and over enrolment. The management of the university has resolved to stick to admission quotas as approved by the National Universities Commission (NUC).



Emir of Gombe, Alhaji (Dr) Usman Shehu Abubakar (CON), Chancellor, Gombe State University.



General Timothy Shelpidi, Chairman Governing Council, Gombe State University.

FACULTIES AND DEPARTMENTS

The Gombe State University is designed to be developed in stages of five years each. The first stages of its development has three faculties, with a number of academic departments under each faculty. These are:

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Dean: Dr Sani Abba Aliyu, B.A (Hons) M.A. Ph.D (ABU)

- i) Department of English
- ii) Department of History
- iii) Department of Economics and Management Sciences
- iv) Department of Political Sciences and Public Administration
- v) Department of Sociology

FACULTY OF EDUCATION

Dean: Professor, M.A. Chado, NCE (ABU) B.Sc., M.Ed (Ohio) Ph.D (Ohio)

- i. Department of Education

FACULTY OF SCIENCE

Dean: Dr. G.U Goje B.Sc. M.Sc (ABU) Ph.D (ST. Andrews)

- i) Department of Biological Sciences
- ii) Department of Mathematics/Statistics/Computer Science
- iii) Department of Geography
- iv) Department of Geology
- v) Department of Physics
- vi) Department of Chemistry

Reality

The university is now a reality and it is not just another "run of the mill"

university as obtains elsewhere. The facilities put in place, which include modern classrooms furnished with state of the art furniture, the Senate and Council Chambers and the excellent offices for lecturers and staff are something out of this world! In fact, the quality of furnishing and facilities is of the highest standards. The well stocked library and well equipped laboratories are to sight to behold. The pictures tell all the story!

And now that the first set of 370 undergraduates have commenced their lectures under the tutelage of a full complement of over 70 academic staff in the various departments and faculties, it is only a matter of time before the university matures and shall invite parents, guardians and well wishers to a convocation ceremony! It is however gratifying to note that the first set of undergraduates will on matter of days, be subjected to the matriculations oath, thus ensuring that they become bonifide students of the university.

Equally important is the point that history has been made. History has been made by His Excellency, Alh. Muhammad Danjuma Goje, the Governor, by ensuring that this citadel of learning becomes a reality.

This is in spite of skepticism and cynism by people one would ordinarily consider, as having benefited from the education policies of people like the Sardauna of Sokoto, who would go all out to support the establishment of educational institutions like a university. It is now to their eternal shame that the university is a reality, with the most excellent of facilities. Now even the children of the poor have the opportunity to obtain a first class university education in their background. In fact, His Excellency, the Governor showed his serious concern over the fees payable by students when the matter was presented to him by the university.

He grudgingly agreed to the fees of only N10,000.00 per session, which, by all

accounts, is the lowest in the country! For Goje, Gombe State University is a mission accompanied and a concrete evidence of democracy dividend for the people. And for the Governor to achieve this feat in under two and a half years, only the Almighty God can reward him.

Pictures, they say, don't lie. Enjoy yourself.

However, in accepting to establish Gombe State University, the Governor, Alhaji Muhammad Danjuma Goje, was equally concerned about the existence of a large number of Gombe State secondary school leavers who could not further their education due largely to poor SSCE and UME results; thus, he insisted on the creation of a School of Basic and Remedial Studies. The school which is housed within the university campus admitted its first of about 600 students in the 2004/2005 academic session.

In a nutshell therefore, the Goje-led administration in effect, established two (2) tertiary institutions within a period of two years i.e the School of Basic and Remedial Studies (SBRS) and the University itself. This is a feat which is difficult to match. And to think that the two institutions are both manned by highly dedicated and motivated academic and non-academic staff, it is only a matter of time before products of these two institutions make their mark on the national landscape.

Signed

Malam Aliyu Kamara
Registrar



Prof. Abdullah Mahadi, Vice Chancellor, Gombe State University.



IT WORLD



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Earnest Ndikwe, NCC boss

Globacom
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ranch, 35 towns

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Mobile TV

US criticises
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L-R: Hajia Amina Usman, regional operations manager (North), MTN, Dr. Bashir Gwandu, executive commissioner, Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), and Mr. Mike Ikpok, general manager (North), MTN, during the 7th MTN Y'ello season prize presentation ceremony held in Abuja...recently.

Starcomms
 expands
 coverage in
Kano

Starcomms, has activated two new cell sites to enhance its coverage of the Kano metropolis. The new sites, located at Bompai and the Bayero University, Kano (BUK), brings to ten the total number of Starcomms cell sites in the ancient city. This will also ensure complete dominance of the Kano market and the subscribers of Starcomms can now enjoy complete coverage in Kano through the delivery of high quality voice, data and fax services.

This represents just another phase in Starcomms' on-going programme of providing complete coverage in all of its areas of operations, including Lagos, Maiduguri and Port Harcourt.

Starcomms has consistently dominated the Nigerian PTO sector, not only in terms of having the largest subscriber base of over 250,000, but also in the quality of its network, customer service delivery, and unparalleled product and service innovation

'Lack of funds stalls technological development'

The National Biotechnology Development Agency (NABDA), says paucity of funds is responsible for the slow pace in the deployment of biotechnology in the country.

NABDA Director General, Bamidele Solomon, told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), at the weekend in Abuja, that the agency urgently needs funds to fast track the deployment of the technology.

Solomon said that the agency specifically requires about N3 billion to put in place the necessary facilities that would enable the technology contribute to national development.

"We need about N3 billion to set the stage, get the right facilities and encourage and mobilise researchers to get on board and popularise the technology in the country," he said.

He said that the country need to invest heavily in the technology if it must remain relevant and competitive in the global market. Solomon said that biotechnology would drive the 21st century in terms of food security, job creation, wealth generation and poverty reduction, hence the need for Nigeria to tap into it.

He said that the agency has mapped out strategies to involve universities, polytechnics and research institutes in the propagation and deployment of the technology.

By Hamisu Muhammad,
 Assist. IT Editor with agency
 report

"We need funds to engage professors, lecturers and research fellows in constructive research and development projects to scale up the technology in Nigeria," he said.

He also identified capacity building as another critical area where the agency needs funds to invest and sustain the technology in the country.

Meanwhile, the agency says the absence of a national policy on bio-safety is affecting investment in genetically modified (GM) products in the country.

NABDA director general,

said that lack of national policy has discouraged foreigners from investing in that area of technology in the country.

"A lot of investors who came to Nigeria to establish companies that will engage in GM products quickly abandon the plan as soon as they discover we have no national policy in place," he said.

Bamidele told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), at the weekend in Abuja that a draft policy was being articulated for the National Assembly's consideration.

The policy, he said, would ensure that reputable companies and individuals chose the country for safe and peaceful GM activities as well as ensure that the practice conformed with internationally

acceptable standards.

He said that the policy would open the floodgate to genuine investment that would generate employment among the nation's growing unemployed youths.

He said that Nigerians do not need to bother about the efficacy or otherwise of genetically modified products.

"GM products are safe and have never been proven in any part of the world to have harmful effects on humans, animals and the environment," he said.

He said that Nigeria has not introduced any GM product into the market, adding that research and tests have reached advanced stages for GM cassava and beans in the country.

Vmobile's network expansion to consume N270bn

Vmobile plans to invest a minimum of \$ 2 billion (about N270 billion) over the next 24 months to achieve nationwide network coverage and excellent quality of Service under its project R.O.S.E. programme.

The company also said during the period, over 3,000 base stations will be deployed across Nigeria and a transmission backbone constructed across Nigeria.

Vmobile's Acting Head of Public Relations, Emeka Oparah, who disclosed the new winning towns in the Vmobile Quarter 2 SMS competition, said the winning towns will be brought into the company's coverage map

From Bright Ewulu, Deputy
 Business Editor in Lagos

within 45 days of the announcement of the result.

New winners that emerged in the competition are Lessel, Yelwan Duguri and Elengu.

Lessel, a community in Benue State in North Central Zone of the country with the Town Code 1631, came top in the quarter 2 phase of the competition followed by Yelwan Duguri, Bauchi State (town code 1070) and Gelengu, Gombe State (town code 1121) both in the North East regions of the country.

According to Vmobile's Acting Head of Public Rela-

tions, the three winning towns will be brought into the company's coverage map within 45 days of the announcement of the result.

Mr. Oparah explained that the competition has been very keen, especially after the company made it possible for voters to check the voting statistics.

Vmobile said SMS Competition was introduced last year under its expansion programme, project R.O.S.E (Rolling Out Service Everywhere), to give Nigerians the opportunity to bring their communities into the coverage map more quickly than normal expansion would allow.

Agency
 simplifies science
 for primary
 schools

The National Agency for Science and Engineering Infrastructure (NASENI), has introduced a kit aimed at simplifying the teaching of science at the primary school level.

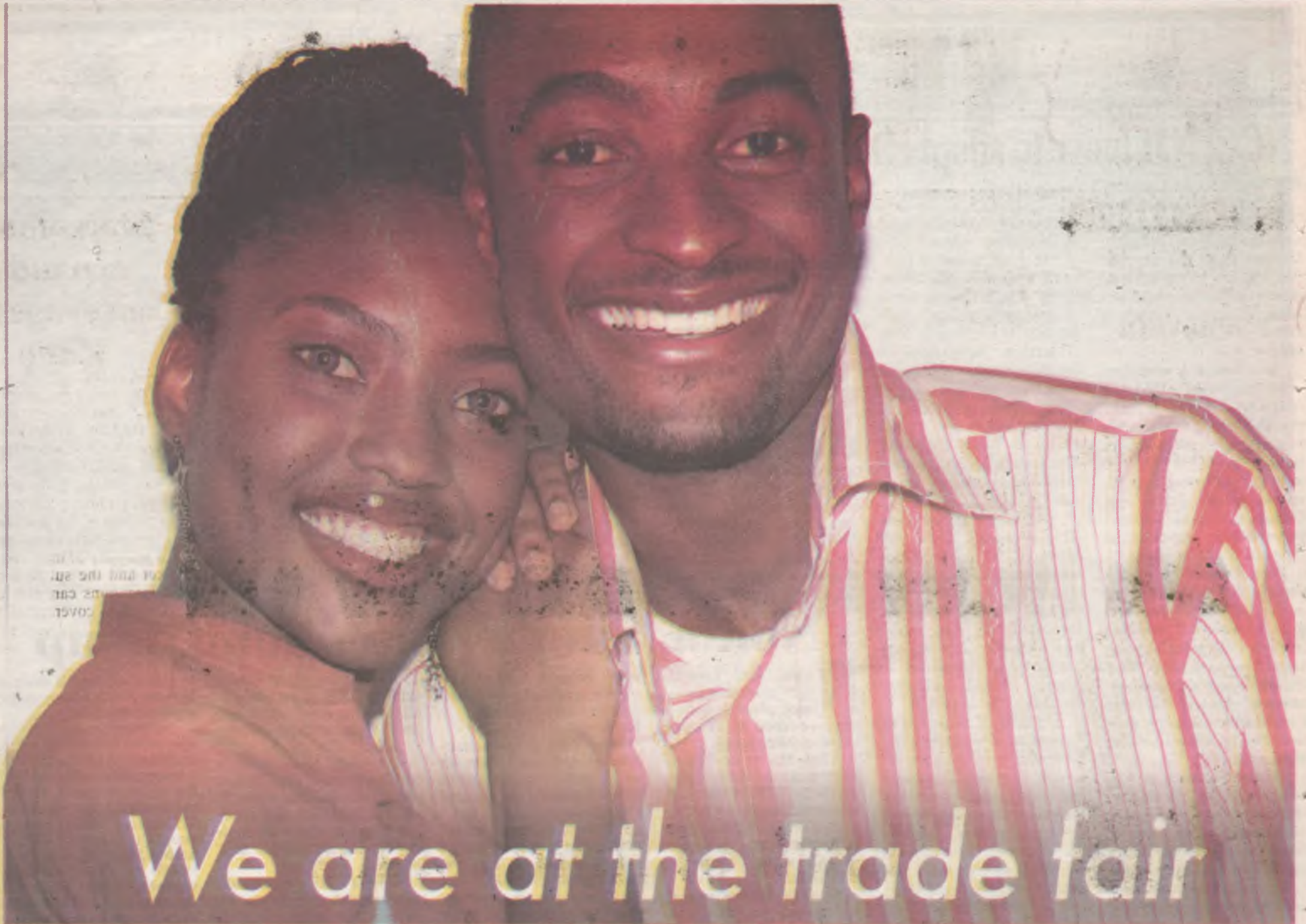
NASENI Director General, Olusegun Adewoye, told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), at the weekend in Abuja, that the kit known as Primary Science Kit (PSK), would encourage pupils to embrace science.

Adewoye said that the agency invented the kit as part of its contributions to popularise science among pupils.

He said that science and technology hold the key to the country's socio-economic development and that the need to attract pupils to the field could not be over emphasised.

"We have noticed some level of decline in the way youths embrace science subjects and the only way to reverse the situation is to put out this kit," he said.

According to Adewoye, the kits are developed to enable pupils explore and observe their environment and develop basic science process skills that will position them to manipulate, interpret data and formulate models on their own.



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IT WORLD



NCC, NJI move to adopt eDocumentation

The Nigeria Communications Commission (NCC), in conjunction with the National Judiciary Institute (NJI), has moved to introduce a computerized method of justice administration, "Electronic Documentation" in the judiciary system.

In a three day workshop organised for judges in Abuja recently by the NCC in collaboration with the NJI to acquaint and keep the judges updated on the existing and emerging legal issues in Information and Communications Technology (ICT), so as to carry out their duties effectively.

Paul Usoro, SAN, in a paper presented titled "Law as it relates to internet and internet activities" said that there is need for the Nigerian Legal System to adopt what is called "Electronic Documentation" which includes Certification Authority, duly issued by accredited certification authorities.

According to him, the functions are, issuance, revocation and suspension of electronic certificates creation of electronic signatures and chronological records and conservation of data messages and guarantee for

By Michael Williams

electronic certificates issued by foreign providers.

He further noted that, some countries like Singapore and Malaysia have been using the method which guarantees any transactions of electronic documents with stipulated laws, with common features and characteristic of basic definition of different electronic signatures with status and legal effect and established authorities and regulatory agencies.

The Nigeria Evidence Act, however does not appear to be sufficient to accommodate the concept of electronic documents that can only be read in electronic format. The law only provides for manual and conventional signature in proof of the extension of a document, Usoro said.

He told *IT World* that there is need to modify the Evidence Act to accommodate electronic document and records, data protection and privacy, laws should also be enacted as handmaidens to the electronic transactions specific laws in doing so, the judiciary system will have less difficulties in handling

cases of telecommunications and other electronics.

It is imperative that NCC should add the licensing and regulation of certification authority under its purview pursuant to the Nigerian Communication Act, 2003 law and regulations to protect consumers who are trading by electronic means, he said.

Usoro in his paper, called for legal and system reforms, saying that the NCC is the vantage to facilitate the reforms by working in concert with stakeholders such as the legislature and the Nigeria Telecommunication and Technology Development Agency (NITDA), with the judiciary well-equipped with ICT infrastructures to acquaint with technological development



The Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC), Registrar General, Mr. Ahmed Al-Mustapha (middle), being assisted by the Director/Secretary of the commission's board, Dr. Dennis (left) and the Director, Business names, Julius Ayoala Omono (right), displaying the e-payment card introduced by the Commission recently in Abuja. Pix: Kennedy Egbonodje.

Nokia, Sanyo plan phone tie-up

Nokia and Japan's Sanyo have announced plans to form a joint venture to develop future mobile phones.

They aim to work together to make new mobile phones for the CDMA standard, the market leader in the US.

The deal which they hope to finalise later this year, offers distinct benefits to both firms.

It will enable Nokia which is dominant in Europe, to

boost business in its weaker markets, while it could help Sanyo turn around its fortunes.

Last year, Sanyo announced plans to cut 15 percent of its global workforce to reverse falling profits and halve its debts.

You could almost characterise it as a partnership of two weaknesses, Analyst Nick Ingelbrecht, said.

"Sanyo is in a weak financial position and has a

dwindling amount of money and resources to put towards developing new handsets," said UBS analyst, Fumio Osanai.

"Joining hands with a strong player like Nokia would be a positive move."

The deal will also allow the firms to share the high development costs for new phones.

Nokia whose worldwide market share is about 34 percent, has so far struggled

to gain a substantial share of both the North American and Japanese markets.

Although many Japanese operators use the standard common in 3G in Europe - and a unique standard called PDC for older phones - several mass-market carriers use the US-style CDMA. Having access to Sanyo's CDMA technology should help boost its share of these regions, while Sanyo in return should see an increase in its general global sales.

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- Must be below 50 years of age

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Kindly include your contact information (daytime address, email, telephone number) on your CV and ensure that we receive your application within two weeks of this publication.

ONLY SHORTLISTED CANDIDATES WILL BE CONTACTED

IT WORLD

US criticises Microsoft, Yahoo, others over China

Four leading US technology companies have been accused of helping China to subdue political strife in return for access to its internet market.

The accusation was levelled against Microsoft, Yahoo, Cisco Systems and Google at a Congressional hearing on the ethics of doing business in China.

US Lawmakers last month accused them of giving into pressure from the Chinese government by censoring websites.

The four companies defended their co-operation with Beijing.

They conceded that restricted online access was

not ideal, but argued that it was still valuable for the people of China.

China's 111-million internet population is second in size only to the US.

The House International Relations subcommittee's top Democrat, Tom Lantos, told representatives of the companies that they had accumulated great wealth and power, "but apparently very little social responsibility".

"Your abhorrent actions in China are a disgrace. I simply don't understand how your corporate leadership sleeps at night," the Associated Press quoted him as saying.

Surveying internet use and impact in five Chinese cities

(2MB) Last month Mr Lantos said there had been "a string of disturbing incidents" in which US-based companies had "caved in to Beijing for the sake of profits".

Media watchdog Reporters Without Borders has accused Yahoo of providing China with information that helped to identify and convict two internet writers.

Li Zhi was jailed for eight years in 2003, after posting comments that criticised official corruption. Writer Shi Tao was sentenced to 10 years in prison in April 2005 after criticising human rights abuses.

And Google came under fire last month after it announced it would block politically sensitive terms on

its new China search site, in agreement with conditions set by Beijing.

China's rapidly expanding

Vodafone is set to launch its own brand of handsets after signing a five-year deal with China's Huawei Technologies.

The world's biggest mobile phone operator by revenue said it expected to supply the new 3G handsets in 21 countries by September this year.

Neither side gave any further details about the size or cost of the order.

It marks Huawei's its first significant move into the European market. Last year, it had considered making a £600m bid for telecom

equipment firm Marconi. However, Huawei ditched the plans when Swedish firm Ericsson acquired most of the UK company's assets.

"This agreement offers us a great opportunity to expand into new regions alongside the world's leading mobile community," said Ping Guo, senior vice-president at Huawei.

Vodafone's chief marketing officer Peter Bamford said the agreement would allow it to offer more 3G phones at more competitive prices.

"This agreement with Huawei shows the cost

benefits Vodafone's size and global reach can bring to our customers," he added.

UK-based Vodafone also revealed on Wednesday that it now holds a 96.8% share of South African investment firm VenFin and holds an effective voting interest of 98.1%.

Vodafone is paying about \$2.4bn for the deal which give the group access to VenFin's 15% stake in South African mobile phone operator Vodacom - taking Vodafone's share in the mobile firm to 50%.



Man displaying a newly designed mobile television at a technology fair

Globacom switches on Obudu cattle ranch, 35 towns

Globacom has connected a popular tourist attraction Obudu cattle ranch in its high-speed roll out across the country with 5 towns and cities joining the network last week. This brings to 25 the number of towns which have been hooked onto the Glo network in the last four weeks. This follows close on the heels of roll out in ten towns rolled out earlier in the first two weeks of January.

A release by the company said theatest on Globacom's roll out map is Obudu cattle ranch, Nigeria's foremost natural tourist resort along with surrounding communities. The ranch, which hosted a mountain race recently, is one of Africa's exotic conservation sites renowned for its natural beauty and wildlife interspersed with state of the arts, modern facilities. Tourists, workers and residents in this beautiful resort can now communicate with friends and family based anywhere in the world on the 2.5G Glo network with the opportunity of also sending enhanced text and pictures by Glo Multimedia Messaging Service (MMS).

The last few also days saw Glo Mobile penetrating deeper into Benue state as it rolled out in Oju, Anywuoqbu, Ochimodi, Ega, and Ogengen.

In Imo state, the towns of Nkwere and Ideato have now been switched on.

Also covered in the last one month are Iju/Itaogbolu in Ondo State, Odekpe in Anambra, Keffi in Nassarawa, Itoikin in Lagos, Omu-Aran in Kwara, Uwana, Afikpo and Amezi in Ebonyi States.

Other towns covered are Owode-Yewa, Ago-Ilaro, Oke-Odan, Ilaro and Idiroko in Ogun State, Igbere in Abia, Igbetti, Pariya in Adamawa state and Ogboro in Oyo State.

Speaking at the launch in Lagos recently of a new N200 SIM and the bonanza of 180 Kia Picanto cars which Globacom is giving to subscribers in 180 days, the head of the company's Consumer Marketing unit, Mr. Chris Ehime, stated that the fast roll out was in line with Globacom's desire to extend its services to every part of Nigeria. He said that the network has already covered most of the major cities in the country and is now moving into all the other towns and cities.

According to Mr. Ehime, the increase in network coverage and the subsequent increase in subscriber base would not have negative effects on network quality.

He disclosed that Globacom has the capacity for ten million, moving towards 12 million, subscribers meaning that it could conveniently accommodate the current subscriber base of over 5 million and take on millions of new subscribers within a short period.

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ALL NIGERIAN YOUTHS CALL ON CHIEF DON ETIEBET TO RESIGN HIS CHAIRMANSHIP POSITION OF ALL NIGERIA PEOPLE'S PARTY (ANPP)

Nigerian Youth leaders from different organizations all over the federation, namely Area Youths, Ohaneze Youths Forum, Odua Peoples Congress, Odua Youth Movement, Middle Belt Youth Movement, Niger Delta Youth Congress, South-South Youth Council, National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS), ANPP Youth Leaders, under the umbrella of National Youth Alliance, rose from emergency meeting on 13th February, 2006 in Makurdi, Benue State and discussed the internal wrangling in the major opposition party, ANPP and state of the nation and we resolved as follows:

- 1) That the internal wrangling in the opposition party, All Nigeria People's Party, ANPP, is generating undue tension and animosity in the country.
- 2) That the internal crisis is self-induced and motivated as a result of gross misconduct, greed, selfishness and gross incompetence by the national leadership of the party.
- 3) That the Chairman of Board of Trustees, Rear Admiral Augustus Aikhomu (rtd), resigned due to this incompetence, greed and selfishness by the national leadership.
- 4) That there are many factional leaderships of the party in many states, like Sokoto, Kano, Anambra, Imo, to mention a few.
- 5) That from the information available to us, many chieftains of the party and their members are decamping to other political parties because of the incompetence and gross selfishness by the national leadership.
- 6) That the national leadership ought to have summoned NWC meeting and NEC meeting to ratify the resignation letters tendered by some officers of the party and other sensitive issues, but the national leadership failed to convene the meeting.
- 7) That the NWC meeting of February 2005 and NEC meeting of March 2005 agreed to take some steps to address the problems of the party and to reposition the party, but the action has not been taken by the national leadership to actualize the resolutions of NWC and NEC meetings of March, 2005.
- 8) That Chief Don Etiebet, suspended National Chairman of the party, contributed 90% to the woes, turbulence and

incompetence of the National leadership and the entire party as a whole.

9) That the decision by the NEC meeting of the party presided by Gen. Jerry Useni to suspend Chief Don Etiebet as the Chairman is the best decision taken so far by the NEC of the party.

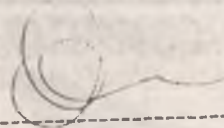
10) That we advise Chief Don Etiebet to save the country from undue tension and looming anarchy by resigning immediately as the chairman of the party.

11) That he should emulate Chief Audu Ogbeh, former chairman of PDP, who resigned on our advice and since then peace and tranquility have returned to the party.

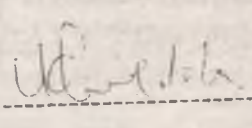
12) That we are strongly concerned about this issue of internal wrangling in ANPP because of the tension it has generated in our polity.

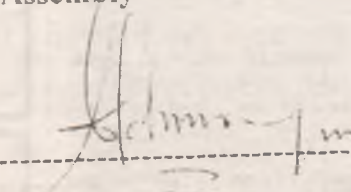
12) That we have started mobilizing our structures across the country to make the office uncomfortable for Chief Don (constitutionally and legally) in the event he fails to listen to the heartbeat of the federation by resigning as national chairman of ANPP.

LONG LIVE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA!
LONG LIVE ALL NIGERIAN YOUTH ALLIANCE!!


Hon Mohammed Binchi
[Secretary General]

Arewa Youth Assembly


Comrade Uche Iloh
Ohaneze Youth Forum


Adejoh Simon Idoko
[PRO]

Middle Belt Youth Movement

'Sharp, sweet and all too short'

committed to the due process or to procedural fairness. It has been estimated that more than 10,000 public officials and public employees were sacked without benefits. Some were dismissed because of age or health, accused of being 'dead wood'. But more were dismissed for corruption, malpractice or incompetence. The axe did not limit itself to the civil service. There were purges also in the armed forces, the police, the judiciary and the diplomatic service. There were trials on charges of corruption, and at least one state governor was executed for gross misconduct while in office," he recalled.

ment expenditures on public works, by initiating the process of reducing the money supply, partly in order to keep inflation in check, and partly to monitor money laundering, adding that Murtala Muhammed also recognised the fact that the public sector of the economy was a great source of corruption, and one solution was to make the Nigerian economy more competitive in the hope of promoting efficiency and cost-effectiveness, and that the General started encouraging the expansion of the private sector, both in new areas, and in areas previously monopolised by public enterprises.

greatest monument. All these, according to him constituted significant heroic deeds and violent martyrdom in Africa's experience.

In his own paper simply titled: *Murtala Muhammed*, former Ahmadu Bello University Sociology lecturer, Professor Patrick Wilmot said in the formulation and implementation of all policies and programmes. "The General was not doing a one-man show, but was ably supported by allies such as Generals Obasanjo, and Danjuma, and MD Yusuf, the Inspector General of Police."

Professor Wilmot described General Murtala's land-

like Murtala after 1979, its citizens would not still be taking presumptuous lessons in ideological dangers from enemies of the continent, or obeying the orders of criminals and fools.

"It is for a younger generation of Africans to immortalise Murtala by completing his mission. Even at my age I still look up to this great hero of Kano, Nigeria and Africa, together with Kwame Nkrumah, Nelson Mandela, Amilcar Cabral, Samora Machel, Augustinho Neto, Aminu Kano, Moshood Abiola and Fidel Castro," he concluded passionately.

In his own paper titled: *Sharp, Sweet and All Too*

him. But he had to be more than persuaded by the young officers who effected the change, for him to agree to be Head of State."

He reviewed the situation of the country when the General was Head of State. "During his six months rule, the whole country was on Cloud Nine. Suddenly, everyone rediscovered Nigeria and rediscovered themselves. Everyone seemed good, became nationalistic, a good compatriot and a good neighbour. The choke-a-block traffic of Lagos disappeared, with or without the *Koboko* (whip or dorina). Meat was coming from everywhere to be cooked in every pot, to feed every mouth."

Senator Aminu recalled the humility and simplicity of Murtala: "The Commander-in-Chief drove to work with little ceremony in a second hand Mercedes 230 in which he eventually lost his life. He lived in the house he entered as a Colonel. Off work, the Head of State drove himself round in his Volvo car, and was said to queue up in the supermarket."

He recalled that General Murtala drew up a political programme for the Military's exit from politics. "It was a programme that had no 'its and buts', no provisos or escape keys. He set up a Constitution Drafting Committee, and he enjoined them (its members) to consider the Presidential system, chiefly to remove the perennial controversy around the census. In governance, he instituted accountability, low profile and complete reorientation, making service to the people the first priority, in order to give

purpose to government."

Professor Aminu observed that because of character, policies and style of governance. "Murtala either did not care or grossly underestimated the evil intent of his powerful and many enemies. The enemies struck and he was gunned down in a bloody coup attempt headed by ne'er do wells in the Army. This dastardly action suddenly ended Murtala's rule. It was SHARP, SWEET AND ALL TOO SHORT."

He remarked with consolation that Murtala's shocking murder gave room for the magnificent display of loyalty by his colleagues, particularly his successor, General Olusegun Obasanjo, and his close deputies. Murtala's government and programme were faithfully implemented or maintained, including the handing over of power to an elected civilian government on October 1, 1979, and Abuja was made a reality as a beautiful federal capital.

The occasion, also attended by, among others, General Muhammadu Buhari, Governor Ibrahim Shekarau, former governor of Kano state, Alhaji Muhammadu Abubakar Rimi, first civilian governor of Jigawa state, Barrister Ali Sa'ad Birnin Kudu, Emirs of Kazaure and Zamfara, the Waziri of Sokoto, representing the Sultan, and first republic minister, Alhaji Inuwa Wada (Magajin Garin Kano), who led the Murtala family, and which lasted for three hours, all speakers, and commentators seemed to converge on Jibril Aminu's description of Murtala's administration as: *Sharp, Sweet and All Too Short*.

The elder statesman postulated: "Reformers are like shooting stars. They appear suddenly and illuminate the firmament, and disappear as quickly as they have appeared," and described Murtala as a reformer, saying: "Murtala came suddenly and illuminated the firmament, and, of course, a few months after, he disappeared, but he left behind the light he came with. He gave us exemplary leadership." He said Murtala came at a time when Nigeria needed somebody who would instil discipline in the society, raise the moral tone of the society and fight corruption. In his symposium paper titled: *Political Leadership and Comparative Martyrdom: From Lumumba and Kennedy to Sadat and Murtala*, Professor Ali Alamin Mazrui, Director, Institute of Global Cultural Studies and Chancellor, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Nairobi, Kenya, recalled that the three most significant assassinations in post-colonial Africa occurred in three of the largest countries in the continent – Nigeria, Egypt and the former Belgian Congo, which are linguistically diverse – Anglophone Nigeria, Arabic speaking Egypt and Francophone Congo, where Murtala Mohammed, Anwar Sadat and Patrice Lumumba, respectively, were assassinated.

Professor Mazrui observed that Murtala Muhammed sought to rescue the Nigerian currency from the consequences of massive govern-

Last, but not the least, he recalled, Murtala initiated the process of building a new capital – Abuja, observing that some may regard Abuja as his

mark speech at the OAU summit three decades ago, as a manifesto of African liberation, a guide to its future, believing that if Nigeria had had leaders

Short, Professor (Senator) Jibril Aminu described General Murtala as "a reluctant Head of State. Maybe his sixth sense knew what would happen to



KANO TRUST

Cleric admonishes religious leaders, scholars on HIV/AIDS

Religious leaders and Islamic scholars across the country have been urged to put heads together with a view to finding a lasting solution to the HIV/AIDS pandemic that has bedevilled the nation for long.

A Kano State renowned Islamic scholar, Sheikh Ameen Al-Deen Abubakar, who made the plea, said that since Muslims believe that there is no disease in this world that has no cure, therefore it has become a great task

By Yusha'u Adamu Ibrahim,
Correspondent (Kano)

to Muslim leaders and scholars to discover the solution to HIV/AIDS.

Sheikh Ameen Al-Deen, who described HIV/AIDS as a disaster that struck from God, said that the only solution was spiritual intervention, saying that with spiritual intervention issues like fear, guilt, hopelessness and sense of doom will be addressed.

He also called on federal, state and local governments to intensify effort in the control of the disease as well as to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on the infected persons.

Sheikh Ameen Al-Deen therefore charged married couple to always remain faithful to their partners, urging the youth in particular to desist from illegal sexual intercourse.

He noted that since the religion of Islam itself prohibits illegal sex Muslims should therefore desist from it so as to serve as obedience to the Almighty, and as protection to their lives.



Governor Ibrahim Shekarau discussing with Alhaji Ibrahim Rabilu after turbaning him as Sa'in Dutse...recently

High infant mortality rate worries KNSG

The Kano State Government has raised alarm on the growing spate of infant mortality rate in the state, saying it has unveiled effective modalities to quell the menace.

The deputy governor, Engf. Magaji Abdullahi, who stated this at the opening ceremony of Reproduction Health NGOs Policy Level Advocacy Workshop, expressed dismay over the rating in the world, and Kano State as the leading state.

The deputy governor, who described the situation as a challenge to the state government, also suggested that educating the people would assist in terms of reducing infant mortality in the state in particular and the world in general.

Engr. Abdullahi advised the organisers of the workshop to involve primary school teachers and public health operators in the seminars aimed at importing the same knowledge at the grassroots level in order to have a healthier society.

By Aliyu S. Machika,
Correspondent (Kano)

Also speaking at the workshop, the chairperson, Women in Media (WIM), Halima Ben Umar, observed that Kano metropolis constitute the major field for advocacy and policy.

According to her, this is due to the concentration of people in part and the high rate of maternal mortality, HIV and AIDS prevalence and an ever increasing population of young people.

She also added that according to the principles of working condition of United Nations, no society's health, social political problems could be resolved without empowering women and allowing them to participate fully in all the various processes of the society.

She then commended the state government for empowering women especially through small scale entrepreneurship and easy access to girl-child education in the state.

KNSG executes N57m environmental projects

The Kano State government has from January 2006 to date executed developmental projects worth about 56,786,800.65 million naira. The state Commissioner of Environment, Alhaji Muhammadu Adamu Bello, has said.

Speaking at a monthly press briefing, the commissioner said that N19,976,330 was meant for the rehabilitation of sewage treatment plant at airport road, while the sum of N20 million will be spent on drainage construction at Unguwa-Uku quarters.

The commissioner stated further that the sum of N10 million will go to the production of one million seedlings of assorted fruit trees for mass production and desert-

ification control in the state, adding that the construction of wall fence and flood control drainages at Bichi local council will cost government the total of about N7 million.

Alhaji Muhammad Bello said also that the ministry has also purchased working materials worth over N3 million,

he added that the sum of over 197,000 naira was used to purchase uniforms to both watch men and messengers of the ministry.

Other projects executed, the commissioner said, include renovation of the ministry's mosque which will cost government N143,000, en-

hancement of staff welfare through promotion of 188 senior and junior staff, and controlling of gully erosion at Jirago, Getsi, Bulbula, Rimi-Kebe, Magama, and Sharifai to Zage in Albasu, Nassarawa, Sumaila and municipal local councils which gulped the sum of about N29 million.

Census: Emir of Kazaure embarks on campaign

As the forthcoming national enumeration census draws nearer, the emir of Kazaure in Jigawa State, Alhaji Najeeb Ilussain Adamu, has embarked on a nine-day campaign tour of all districts in the area, with a view to enlightening and sensitizing the affected communities on the importance of the head count.

Alhaji Najeeb, who flagged off the tour in Dandi district, emphasised that the exercise is one of the strategies for rapid socio-economic development of a nation.

The emir noted that all tiers of government could not effectively execute developmental policies for the general overhaul of the people without identifying their population figures.

He averred that apparently realising the present situation when each section

From Mustapha Isah Kwaru,
Correspondent (Kano)

of the country is agitating for an upward increase of the federal government projects, people should not hesitate to support the forth coming census.

In his words: "Some people misconceived the rationale behind the head count exercise. I want to assure you that it will not affect your well-being positively, I urge each and every one of you to disregard such claim because those peddling such rumour only intended to sabotage governments developmental initiatives."

While charging the community to give correct and accurate information to the census officials, the royal father warned that wrong data would thwart the success of the exercise.

Alhaji Najeeb stated that

by coming out en masse for the census exercise, the people of the North would prove to the world that the region has the highest population figure as against the insinuation that domestic animals were being counted as part of their population rate.

He however, cautioned the youth to desist from drug abuse and social ills, saying they should embark on agricultural activities in the alternative to unemployment.

In his remark, the district head of Dandi, Alhaji Umar Adamu, applauded the emir for sacrificing his time to enlighten the community on the need to support the census.

Alhaji Umar, who doubles as the *Chiroma* of Kazaure, expressed delight over the turn out of the people, just as he directed village and ward heads to take the campaign to their various domains.



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Flu: LASG bans importation of poultry

As part of steps being taken to prevent breakout of bird flu in Lagos, the state government on Friday banned the importation of all kinds of poultry into the state.

The Commissioner for Information and Strategy, Mr. Dele Alake, said the decision was taken at an executive council meeting held last night.

He said to ensure the effectiveness of this measure, directive has been given that all entrance into the state be manned by security agents and other government officials.

"They will be at all the borders to stop all kinds of birds from being brought into the state. No importation of all poultry products from all the states of the country and even from the international markets", Alake said.

According to the commissioner, the EXCO had to take such a drastic preventive step to ensure that bird flu does not sneak into the state.

He also advised members of the public not to patronize smugglers of any kind of poultry in the market for the time being in order not to fall victim of the disease.

Mr. Alake explained that for the poultry products already in the market presently, officials of the Ministries of Agric and Health have gone round all the open markets to test them to be sure they are free from the flu, and so far they have not find any one that tested positive.



Senator Olorunnimbe Mamora (right) former speaker of Lagos State House of Assembly exchanging pleasantries with Hon. Adeyemi Kuforiyi speaker of the assembly at the commissioning of Sekumade/Ipakodo road by Governor Bola Tinubu
Pix: Oladipupo Odunewu

LASTMA, NURTW members clash in Agege

...30 vehicles destroyed

Pandemonium broke out last weekend in Agege area of Lagos State following a clash between the officers of Lagos State Transport Management Authority (LASTMA) and members of the National

Stories by Olumide Bajulaiye, Correspondent, Lagos

Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW), where up to 30 vehicles were destroyed.

The Ministry of Environment however arrested the situation which led to serious injuries on the part of the two warring factions, while many people have been arrested in connection with the incident.

Trouble started Wednesday night when LASTMA officials im-

pounded some commercial vehicles because their operators picked passengers on the road instead of designated bus stops.

After much plea, the vehicles were released, but the transporters insisted on maintaining status quo, a move that was resisted by the LASTMA officials. This

led to the decision of the Transport Workers Union to withdraw their vehicles from the road, while other transporters who were willing to work were prevented from doing so.

The development necessitated the invitation of law enforcement agents who had to team up with LASTMA officials to restore sanity.

Resistance by the union members led to the mayhem and subsequent reaction by the security agents. Our correspondent learnt that the clash extended to Iju Ishaga and Agbado areas as policemen and soldiers drafted to the scene to restore peace battled with the union members all the way to Iju Ishaga and Agbado.

At Iju Ishaga, the security agents overpowered the NURTW members who were trying to prevent motorists from operating.

Commercial activities in the area were grounded as vehicle operators and motorcycle riders withdrew their services, forcing commuters to trek to their destinations.

Tinubu, Muslim youths condemn blasphemous cartoon

Muslim Youths in Lagos and Governor Bola Ahmed Tinubu on Friday joined the rest of Muslims all over the world to condemn unequivocally and in strong terms the blasphemous cartoon published in the Jylland-Posten Newspaper in Denmark.

While condemning the act, Lagos State governor described the journalist act as been insensitive to Islam and Prophet Mohammed in particular.

Thousands of Muslim students in Lagos under the aegis of Muslim Student Society of Nigeria (MSSN) on Friday stormed the Lagos State Secretariat, Alausa to

protest the blasphemous cartoon against Prophet Mohammed.

The students, who arrived the secretariat as early as 10am armed with various placards and banners, condemning the cartoon and chanting holy songs, turned down all pleas from officials of the state government not to disrupt activities.

Some of the inscriptions on the placards reads thus; "Muslims say no to European Union products", "freedom of speech has limitation", "federal government safe our relationship with Denmark, France and Norway", "for peace to reign in the world stop this blasphemy", "a responsible

press is needed worldwide", among others.

Addressing the students, Governor Tinubu urged them not to be violent in their act so that they do not play into the hands of their detractors.

His words: "We should not play into their hands, because any violent reactions will give them the victory. This is what they want to achieve. They would react violently and justify that Islam is a religion of intolerance, terrorism and a Jihadist.

"We reject the portrayal totally. But we are not going to react violently. The publication might be a set up by group of people against the

rest of the world. We must maintain peace and intellectual understanding of our faith in a manner that is civil.

"As messengers of Allah we need that tolerance so that we don't give the victory to others. If we react to it violently the future of the youths might be jeopardized. There would be discrimination against us everywhere".

Tinubu urged them to maintain peace, and "ignore those who want to expose us to their evil machinations and intentions".

Earlier in his address, leader of the protesters, AbdulHammed Bankole, demanded an apology on behalf of the Nigerian Muslims

from the Danish government, and that the federal government should immediately withdraw the Nigerian ambassadors from Denmark and Norway.

"We equally want the state government to openly condemn the attack on the personality of the Mercy to Mankind, Mohammed (SAW), and stop having any relationship with the government of Denmark.

"This development is not only condemnable, but satanic because it is a deliberate attempt to systematically denigrate Islam and its institutions in order to make it less attractive to people worldwide."

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Adapted from BOI website



NORTHERN STATES DEVELOPMENT DISCUSSION GROUP (NOSDDG) **ATTENTION**

A 2- Day Preview on the implementation of the Resolutions of the National Political Reform Conference and other matters hosted by the Northern States Development Discussion Group (NOSDDG) is scheduled to be held in Arewa Suites Abuja on February 28 and March 1, 2006.

Chronic and topical issues affecting the North and indeed Nigeria to be covered include following:

- * Development of formal and informal educational systems and funding at all levels.
- * Creation of Gainful Employment for all able-bodied and physically disadvantaged persons including 'nyanbara'
- * Eradication/control of HIV/AIDS, VVF and other killer and debilitating diseases.
- * Drug trafficking and consumption.
- * Liaison with donor Nations/Agencies, NGOs, and other Humanitarian Organizations for the realization of objectives of NOSDDG Development drives
- * Topical issues as discussed during NPRC
- * Any Other Matters."

All the Delegates from the North at the NPRC and invitees are welcomed to attend.

Venue: Arewa Suites, Central Area, Abuja

Time: 1st sitting Tuesday 28th, February, 2006 at 1700hrs (5.00pm)

Reading materials on Preview available at Plot 1133 Kmusa Traore Crescent, Off Thomas Sankara Street, Asokoro - Abuja.

Signed:

Vice Admiral Murtala Nyako, GCON (Rtd)
On behalf of the Northern States Development Discussion Group

JOS STEEL ROLLING COMPANY LIMITED - IN LIQUIDATION

PUBLIC NOTICE TO STAFF & PENSIONERS

This is to notify all former Staff and Pensioners of Jos Steel Rolling Company Limited (in liquidation) that there will be a physical verification exercise as follows:

Date: Thursday, February 23rd and Friday, February, 24th 2006.

Venue: TADOW HOUSE

Inter Gender Conference Hall
(Opposite former State armour division headquarters)
Ray Field, Jos Plateau State.

Time: 8.00a.m. Daily

The underlisted requirements are important for participation in the exercise. These are:

A) Staff:

1. Staff's ID Card
2. Letter of employment into Jos Steel Rolling Co. Ltd.
3. Letter of last promotion
4. Last three months Pay Slips
5. Bank Account in which past salaries were paid and evidence of ownership of such account (e.g. Cheque book, Savings Passbook or Savings Deposit / Withdrawal booklet).
6. Each staff will also be required to supply the following:
 - Staff Number
 - Name in full (Surname First)
 - Date of Birth
 - Date joined Jos Steel Rolling Co. Ltd
 - Last grade level and steps
 - Name of Bank, Branch and Account Number

B) Pensioners - (Current and Deferred):

1. Pensioner's I. D. Card
2. Letter of employment into Jos Steel Rolling Co. Ltd.
3. Last three months Pension Pay Slips
4. Letter of Discharge from service
5. Bank Account in which past pensions were paid and evidence of ownership of such account (e.g. Cheque book, Savings Passbook or Savings Deposit / Withdrawal booklet)
6. Each pensioner will also be required to supply the following:
 - Pension Number
 - Name in full
 - Date of Birth
 - Date joined Jos Steel Rolling Co. Ltd
 - Date left Jos Steel Rolling Co. Ltd.
 - Name of Bank, Branch and Account Number

Please Note:

1. This exercise **MUST** be attended by all Staff and Pensioners.
2. Only those present for verification will be paid their benefit entitlements.
3. Payments will **ONLY** be made to those with bank accounts.
4. No further verification will be entertained after this period.

All enquiries should be directed to:

The Co-Liquidators-in-charge

JOS STEEL ROLLING COMPANY LIMITED

C/o.

ADE A. BABINGTON-ASHAYE FCA

Babington Ashaye & Co.

(Chartered Accountants)

Speedway House, 21, Araromi Street,

Off Moloney Street, Onikan, Lagos.

P. O. Box 51689, Falomo-Ikoyi, Lagos-Nigeria.

ALHAJI MUHTARI DANGANA FCA

Muhtari Dangana & Co

(Chartered Accountants)

Plot 935, Azores Street,

Off Aminu Kano Crescent,

Wuse I, Abuja

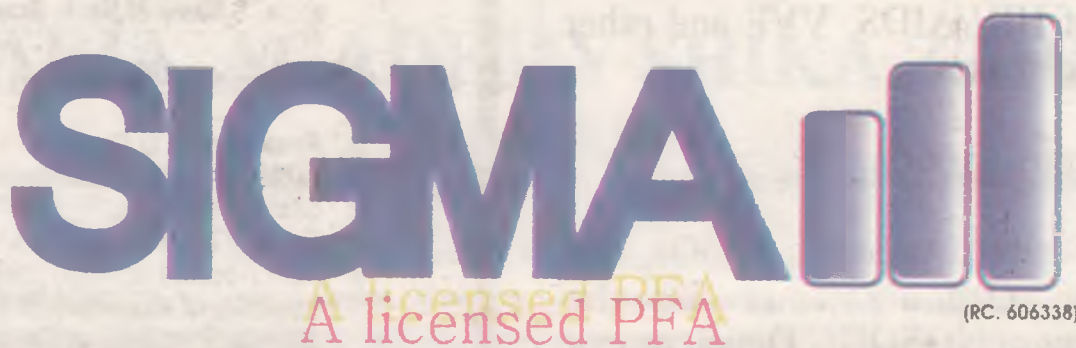


Sigma Securities Limited

(Member Of The Nigerian Stock Exchange)

CONGRATULATIONS

The Board, Management and entire staff of Sigma Securities Ltd heartily rejoice with Sigma Vaughn Sterling Pensions Ltd on the presentation of Pension Fund Administrator license by the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo GCFR today, Monday 20th February, 2006.



This is in recognition of your competence, professionalism and integrity in the financial services industry in Nigeria.

We of Sigma Securities Ltd wish you success in all your future business endeavours.

Courtesy of:

Sigma Securities Limited

(Member Of The Nigerian Stock Exchange)

ABUJA OFFICE
Plot 542, Durban Street,
Off Adetokunbo Ademola Crescent,
P.M.B 5184 Wuse II, Abuja.
Tel: 234 9-5937819
Tel/Fax: 234 9-5217280
E-Mail: sigma@sigmasec.com.net

LAGOS OFFICE
1, Davies Street
4th Floor, UBA House,
P.O. Box 75811, VI Lagos.
Tel: 234 1 265 1510; 234 1 253 2767
Fax: 234 1 265 0144



In your **1st** year, you got Award of Recognition as the First Governor in Nigeria to initiate Independent Power Project .

In your **2nd** year, you got the National Literacy Award for your outstanding contribution to mass literacy.

In your **3rd** year, you won The Healthcare Award for year 2002 as the provider of the best health services in the country.

In your **4th** year, you won Clean Up Nigeria's Crystal Award for enhancing the value of the Environment

In your **5th** year, you won the Award of Excellence from the Nigerian Canadian Chamber of Commerce and Industry

In your **6th** year, you won 3 World Leadership Awards in London

In your **7th** year, you won the Thisday Governor of the Year Award

You have proven that you have a consistent track record in high performance in governance

7th HEAVEN



Thisday Governor of the year 2006.

World Leadership Awards in faraway London.

We are happy to be associated with an able and capable leader who has transformed Lagos State from Paradise-almost-lost to Paradise Regained.



Stapercraft



The Trainers

News

Flu: 5000 birds die in Jigawa

The outbreak of the deadly avian flu virus has spread to North-western part of Nigeria in Jigawa State where 5000 chickens are confirmed dead as a result of the suspected virus, according to officials of the state government.

The confirmation came few days after several states in the federation were hit by the virus.

According to the state Commissioner of Agricultural, Research and Extension, Alhaji Kabiru Ali, the virus has affected villages of Balarabe in the border with Niger republic, Kirikasamma, Kasangar-tudu and in Ringim local government areas.

He said already experts from the Veterinary Research Institute (Vom) in Jos have arrived the state in continuation of the efforts to curtail the spread of the avian virus.

The commissioner further revealed that the situation is being studied with keen interest as all measures are being taken to ensure the virus did not become pandemic.

"We have a suspected outbreak of avian influenza in Maigatari, Kirikasamma, and Ringim local government areas in which no fewer than 5000 birds are reported dead,

and experts are currently in the state to help curtail any spread," he said.

He disclosed that "already the state government has written to the federal government officials operating in Kano with a view for then to intervene," he added.

The commissioner also announced that a meeting with livestock and veterinary experts has already strategies measures to be taken in dealing with the situation.

Daily Trust reports that already a committee has been set up by the state government on enlightenment, control and diagnosis as samples of the dead birds are currently being studied at laboratories of the Vom institute. The outbreak in the state is said to have ravaged traditional and modern breeds and in the affected councils.



(L-R) Dr. Shehu Idris, Emir of Zazzau, Alhaji Ado Bayero, Emir of Kano and Otunba Kunle Ojora, at the Departure Hall of the Murtala Mohammed International Airport, Lagos ...recently. Pix: Oladipupo Odunewu.

I wasn't quizzed by EFCC - Adamawa SSG

The Secretary to the Adamawa State Government, Dr. Piton P. Power, said over the weekend that he was neither invited nor quizzed by the security officials of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) over alleged misappropriation of public funds.

From Hamza Idris, Correspondent (Yola)

Dr. Power, who was

reacting to a national newspaper report (not Daily Trust) dated 17th February, 2006 captioned "EFCC raids Adamawa again: arrest SSG, 21 local government chairmen", stated that he was constrained to address the press over the news item which he said was capable of tarnishing his jealously guarded image within and outside the state.

According to him, "I want to state that as the Secretary to the Adamawa State Government, I was neither arrested nor invited by members of the EFCC.

"I therefore consider the news report as irresponsible, reckless, wicked and totally unprofessional.

"I therefore urge the (newspaper) to retract the report and tender an unreserved apology to me because it was totally false and done in bad faith".

The Secretary to the State Government who threatened to go to court and claim an

unspecified amount of money for the damage done to his reputation, however admitted that contrary to his alleged encounter with the EFCC, the only thing he know was that there was little wrangling between his family and his neighbours which attracted the attention of the police.

Dr. Piton Power also stated that it was not true that a large sum of hard currency was stolen from his house by

his house girl. "What happened really was that my house girl who is just 14 years of age happened to see some little amount of money in my house belonging to an association where my wife serves as a member.

"That girl took that little amount of money and gave our neighbours who are now under arrest. There wasn't anything to do with hard currency", he added.

Obasanjo sacks two PTFDF executives

By Hamisu Muhammad, Business Reporter

President Olusegun Obasanjo last Friday relieved two top executives of Petroleum Technology Development Fund of their appointments. They are Mr. Uko Nwafor, Assistant General Manager (AGM) Administration and Finance and Mallam Isa Babale, AGM Training and Operation, with

immediate effect.

A press statement signed by the Executive Secretary (ES) of the Fund, Alh. Adamu Maina Waziri, said they have been replaced by Hajiya Habiba A. Wakili, Manager, (Research Monitoring and Evaluation) now AGM, Training and Operations, Mr. Jolomi Arenyeka, formerly Manager, Finance and Accounts, now AGM Administration and Finance.

The two positions are the topmost posts in the PTFDF aside that of the executive secretary.

Waziri did not give any explanation for the changes.

But the PTFDF has recently come under the scrutiny of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) when two former executive secretaries were summarily sacked by the Presidency and quizzed by the EFCC last year.

Waziri whose appointment was in December last year, had promised to run the PTFDF in an open and transparent manner.

CSLAC task legislators on good governance

The Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CSLAC) has called on civil society organisations to commence a campaign for the immediate institutionalisation of referendum as an immediate mode by which all issues on national security can be decided.

This is the major thrust of the communiqué issued by CSLAC after a one day seminar held in Abuja recently.

The communiqué said that legislative work is too im-

By Benjamin Auta, Reporter

portant to be left in the hands of legislators alone as they are reluctant to work with Nigerian people, civil society organisation.

It further added that there is a need to bring to life the legislature so as to ensure accountability of all levels of government which will serve as a platform for democratic training by giving access to civil society for local gover-

nance.

The communiqué calls for reforms of the Independent Electoral Commission (INEC) so as to provide it with financial autonomy and make it answerable to the National Assembly rather than executive arm of government.

It finally said that the legislature has a duty to pass legislation guaranteeing their financial autonomy as a first step to political autonomy and relevance to the Nigerian people.



The Ach. Bishop of Anglican Diocese Kaduna, Rev. Idowu Feron (left), discussing with the Chairman, National Population Commission, Dr. Samu'ila Dunko Makama (right), and one of the officials, during their meeting with President Obasanjo on Census issue at the State House Abuja ...recently. Pix: Joe Orove.

FG earmarks N2b for Numan bridge in Adamawa

From Hamza Idris, Correspondent (Yola)

Hope has finally been restored to the people of Numan and indeed the entire people of Adamawa State as the federal government has earmarked N2 billion for the rehabilitation of the Numan Bridge which links the state with the adjoining states from the northern part of the country, including the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Abuja.

This was disclosed by the Minister of Works, Senator Adesiyeye Agunlewe, when he received Governor Boni Haruna in his office recently where he said works on the

half kilometer bridge which joins River Benue and River Gongola to the south would commence this week.

Earlier, Governor Boni Haruna told the minister that he was in his office to remind him about the state of the Numan Bridge which was in a serious state of disrepair.

He therefore, commended the minister and staff of the ministry for their strides in road rehabilitation and construction in the country.

STATUS OF NDE/NACRDB PROJECTS AS AT 31ST JANUARY, 2006

GOMBE STATE

Table with 4 columns: S/NO, NAME OF BENEFICIARIES/HOME ADDRESS, PROJECT DESCRIPTION, PROJECT ADDRESS. Lists projects in Gombe State.

IMO STATE

Table with 4 columns: S/NO, NAME OF BENEFICIARIES/HOME ADDRESS, PROJECT DESCRIPTION, PROJECT ADDRESS. Lists projects in Imo State.

JIGAWA STATE

Table with 4 columns: S/NO, NAME OF BENEFICIARIES/HOME ADDRESS, PROJECT DESCRIPTION, PROJECT ADDRESS. Lists projects in Jigawa State.

KADUNA STATE

Table with 4 columns: S/NO, NAME OF BENEFICIARIES/HOME ADDRESS, PROJECT DESCRIPTION, PROJECT ADDRESS. Lists projects in Kaduna State.

Table with 4 columns: S/NO, NAME OF BENEFICIARIES/HOME ADDRESS, PROJECT DESCRIPTION, PROJECT ADDRESS. Lists projects in Katsina State.

KATSINA STATE

Table with 4 columns: S/NO, NAME OF BENEFICIARIES/HOME ADDRESS, PROJECT DESCRIPTION, PROJECT ADDRESS. Lists projects in Katsina State.

KANO STATE

Table with 4 columns: S/NO, NAME OF BENEFICIARIES/HOME ADDRESS, PROJECT DESCRIPTION, PROJECT ADDRESS. Lists projects in Kano State.

Table with 4 columns: S/NO, NAME OF BENEFICIARIES/HOME ADDRESS, PROJECT DESCRIPTION, PROJECT ADDRESS. Lists projects in Kebbi State.

KEBBI STATE

Table with 4 columns: S/NO, NAME OF BENEFICIARIES/HOME ADDRESS, PROJECT DESCRIPTION, PROJECT ADDRESS. Lists projects in Kebbi State.

KOGI STATE

Table with 4 columns: S/NO, NAME OF BENEFICIARIES/HOME ADDRESS, PROJECT DESCRIPTION, PROJECT ADDRESS. Lists projects in Kogi State.

KWARA STATE

Table with 4 columns: S/NO, NAME OF BENEFICIARIES/HOME ADDRESS, PROJECT DESCRIPTION, PROJECT ADDRESS. Lists projects in Kwara State.

LAGOS STATE

Table with 4 columns: S/NO, NAME OF BENEFICIARIES/HOME ADDRESS, PROJECT DESCRIPTION, PROJECT ADDRESS. Lists projects in Lagos State.

NASARAWA STATE

Table with 4 columns: S/NO, NAME OF BENEFICIARIES/HOME ADDRESS, PROJECT DESCRIPTION, PROJECT ADDRESS. Lists projects in Nasarawa State.

NIGER STATE

Table with 4 columns: S/NO, NAME OF BENEFICIARIES/HOME ADDRESS, PROJECT DESCRIPTION, PROJECT ADDRESS. Lists projects in Niger State.

STATUS OF NDE/NACRDB PROJECTS AS AT 31ST JANUARY, 2006



OGUN STATE

1	Adekunle Ayodeji Adebayo (Mrs)	Poultry	8, Akanni Dokunmu Cres GRA Ab
2	Mr. Ayanwale A. Ayanjiyi	Business Centre	5, Sunka St, Opp. WABCO Oskoloko Ab
3	Odusote Siliat (Miss)	Business Centre	St. Paul's Demonstration Sch Opp. Frontline Hotel Iyana Olusuru
4	Mr. Adekeke T. Taiwo	Fish Farming	13/15 Cecilia Olamiran Rd Oyinrin Agbeloba junction Query RD Ab
5	Olan Comfort	Turkey Rearing	House 115 Cres 9/13 Ibara H/E Ab
6	Adebawale Abiodun Ageta Oja Odun	Piggery	Apetu Oja Odun
7	Nafisat Amodu Oke Oyinbo Qtrs Ayetoro	Fashion Designing	Oke Oyinbo Qtrs Ayetoro
8	Owayede Sulaiman Oke Oyinbo Qtrs Ayetoro	Fashion Designing	Oke Oyinbo Qtrs Ayetoro

ONDO STATE

1	Abisayo Olanusi	Sales of Soft Drinks	
2	Ogumbiyi Funke	Selling of Food	
3	Adegbade Tawfi	Block Making	
4	Arotiba Victoria	Poultry	
5	Awe Grace Omotunde	Poultry	
6	Adeleke B. Olufunke	Sales of Poultry	
7	Olufunke Kinsiru	Fish Farming	
8	Margaret O. Olufunke	Goat Farming	
9	Evung R. O. Ogunlami	Goat Farming	

OSUN STATE

1	Opadele Rachael Yeni (Mrs)	Trading	4, Oduntan Street, Obodofun, Osogbo.
2	Toyos OA. Olayiwola	Poultry	2, Adisa Olayiwola Avenue, Opp. Gov Office, Osogbo.
3	Ms. Nusrat O. Idowu	Supermarket	16, Salami Abasi Street, Wole Oja Bad, Osogbo.
4	Temitayo Sam Omaleye	Business Centre	7A, Ejire Avenue, Okafia, Osogbo.
5	Faizan Johnson Omoloye	Trading	11B Oka, Ede
6	Obuse Michael Olatunji	Trading	155, Sabo Road, Osogbo
7	Adegoke Timothy	Trading	101 Sabon Road, Osogbo
8	Ajibola Joshua Olalake	Trading	Aigunle Street, Oke-Oso, Osogbo.
9	Mrs. Rebecca Akindiyi	Poultry	20, Igbajaye Street, Oke-Oso, Osogbo.
10	Mrs. Wunmi Bola Adeyemo	Poultry	11, Omoleji Street, Wole Oja Est., Osogbo
11	Mrs. Yeni Falawumi	Trading	13, Aderemi Road, Ile-Ife
12	Mildura Aderale	Trading	23, Oke Ado, Awo.
13	Egheyemi Timothy Sam	Carpentry	6, Latona Lane, Osogbo.
14	Marouf Oyekola Odola	Trading	101, Olorunsogo Street, Dada Estate, Osogbo.
15	Omidiora F. Fatima (Mrs)	Business Centre	93, Ibadan-Iwo Road, Dada Estate, Osogbo.

OYO STATE

1	Gibson Arneya Lucky 57667c Sakoko Str, Fede Straight, Challenge South West LGA, Ibadan	Cocoa Processing	54 Mangoro Village Challenge, Iwo Express Rd, SW LGA Ibadan
2	Bello Taiwo Opp. Alb. Adebayo Tyre Seller Behind WEMA Bank Newlife Road Egheda LGA Ibadan	Hair Salon	Shop No. K14 Bodija Ibadan North LGA, Ibadan
3	Mrs. Akinjayigun Olatide Abiola Qtrs 386, Oba Monomole Iyaganku GRA, Ibadan	Lathering	No 4, Stone Rd, Dugbe Ibadan
4	Olatide Moryke Rafat No. 15 Olaye Av. Opp. Afaba Daniel Church Oregun Ibadan, Oyo State	Bread Making	No 15 Olaye Av Opp Afaba Daniel Church Oregun Ibadan, Oyo State
5	Mrs. Mary Olaniran Olyoala S 54/229 Odenakin Comp. Ifeintun Academy behind Zumaratu Hijaji, Olorunsogo, Ibadan	Photography Video	S 54/229 Odenakin Comp. Ifeintun Academy behind Zumaratu Hijaji, Olorunsogo, Ibadan
6	Wahed Abdullahi Iwe Rd, Ojo expressway Opp. Amuda Bus stop Ibadan	Poultry	C/O NDE, Fed. Secretariat, Ibadan
7	Ige James Olatide Takie, Ogbomoso, Oyo	Piggery	Ladeji Compound Gamban Village Ogbomoso Oyo State
8	Mrs. Comfort George	Palm Oil/Kernel	Adinro Industrial Estate, Oyo
9	Cina Omolola N. Block 10, Plot 27, Akiba Estate, Ibadan.	Petroleum Product Marketing	Road A, Olorunsogo Bemba, Apata, Ibadan.
10	Mr. Oguntayo Okeowo 1st Floor, Flat 2, No. 8, Oguntayo Crescent, Sagbe Bus Stop, Ibadan.	Chalk Manufacture	Ground Floor, No. 8, Oguntayo Crescent, Sagbe Bus Stop, Ibadan

PLATEAU STATE

1	Mrs. H.T. Chundua	Poultry	No. 1 Hwoline Close T/Walis Ring Rd
2	Tant Jaha Shirbe Anglo Jos 11, Ashayata Street	Knitting	Anglo Jos 11, Ashayata Street
3	Esther Nanna Pami	Fashion Designer	JP 41 Juma Street, Jos
4	Terry Nuhu	Poultry	Near ICRN Bukuru
5	Yohanna U. Daloy	Poultry	Trade Centre Kuru Near NIPSS
6	Joshua Mark	Leather Works	Trade Centre Kuru Near NIPSS
7	Tok Etrus Davou	Barbing/Stone Crashing	Near Laguma Kuru's Palace Kuru
8	Bulus Mleah	Provision/Food Stuff Sales	Mangu Hale
9	Larham Kevin, Fades	Piggery	Laguma North
10	Godfre Kumban	Carpentry	Fulayan Via Lantang North
11	Esther Longuan	Hair Dressing	Opp. Selomilar Amusement Park Jos
12	Ishak Madaki Ashom	Poultry	No 11 NESCO st Bukuru
13	Maimama Nana (Mrs)	Provision store	Behind Jossy royal Bukuru
14	Margaret P. Akabe (Mrs)	Restaurant	PFC Building 37 MFM, Wyo Jos
15	Abdulkadir Ibrahim	Poultry	No 8/13 Sarki St. Kc
16	Daloy Daju	Mechanic Store	Kuru Lo Kuru
17	Taddy Tina	Hair Dressing	Heping Near Plateau Poly B/Lea
18	Pam O. Eriba	Business Centre	47 Abbafor Fd Jos
19	Godwin E. Arifi	Tun Adhesive Cue Pro	Fed. Low Cost Jos
20	James Yakat Dia	Video Recording	5b D Drive
21	Margot Reagun Victoria	Bus Center	C/O Mr Mangut Reagen Poly, B/Lea
22	Daloy Sylvania Z.	Poultry	No SAA Crescent
23	Daboro N. Gyan	Video coverage	No 8 Jos Road Opp Bukuru Comm. Bank
24	Dinara Bandang Danjuma	Business Center	Behind Mobile F/Station Hwalche
25	Dun Ching Pam	Printing Press	COVIN Bukuru Exp
26	Gladys K. Vhomas	Poultry	Sabon Park, F/Lea
27	Elizabeth O. A. Lawal	Business Centre	Fed. Sect Provision Store Jos
28	Innocent Jiboh	Poultry	Lar Place Kaboru
29	Da Christy R.D. Lomak	Piggery	212 Edayan Zee Lantang
30	Mary N. Mbah	Provision Store	Opp JUTH Jos
31	Chofel S. Rube	Knitting	No 92 Abbafor Rd Jos
32	Michael Rebeca	Oran	Fufang Village
33	Gwom Ezekiel	Interior Decoration	Gofang Oyo Bukuru
34	Iswa Davou	Furniture	Panik Dana St Bukuru
35	Isyha Christina Phom	Restaurant	FC Building Bitemmas Kc

36	Hurvan Felicia		No 1 Boundary Rd Jos
37	Louisa Elizabeth	H/Dressing	Tebingi Estates Bukuru
38	Ima Fatima Binta	Knitting	T22 Abbafor N/Layout Behind Foto-Tek Abbafor
39	Gyang Hanatu Monday	Poultry	Opp. Plateau House of Assembly Jos
40	Jah Yohana M.	Furniture	Opp. Plateau House of Assembly Jos
41	Simon Anyawa Lihan	Restaurant	T/Wada Ring Road Jos

RIVERS STATE

1	Mrs. Love Pius Amakiri 32, Igwuruta Road, Faeka	Hair dressing	6, Mbuoji street, Amakiri Compound, Ndiye
2	Mr. Opueke Charles No. 4, Ukubie Street, D/Line Diobu PH	Commisioed Pools Agency	4, Abonema Wharf Road, PH
3	Mrs. Stella O. Asobare 41, Ikwere Road, Mile 1, Diobu PH	Fashion Design	Ground Floor 41, Ikwere rd, Mile 1, Diobu PH
4	Mr. Enyikah Austin Omuadi Village, Elele Alimini	Oil Milling/ Palm Kernel Cracking	Uzo Apu Road, Elele Alimini
5	Mr. Sobere Okon. Ngogo 23, Nnewi street, Mile 1, Diobu. PH	Kerosene retailing	23, Nnewi street, Mile 1, Diobu PH
6	Mr. Samuel Nwuche 11 rumuaghola flat b d Mandu supermarket, Rumaokoro	Plantain production	Nwuche's compd Ochiqha Town, Ahoada
7	Mr. Wakoma Benob Oliver 66, Ojike street, Mile 1 Diobu PH	Piggery	66, Ojike street, Mile 1 Diobu PH
8	Mr. Sunday Ekwewe Ekwewe's Comp, Emuoha	Electrical workshop	Ekwewe's comp, Emuoha
9	Igidi Eucharis Ifeoma 16, Weche Street, Rumaokoku village. By RSUST gate, Mile 3, Diobu. PH	Computer services	16, Weche street, Rumaokoku village By RSUST Mile 3, Diobu, PH
10	Boma D. Jemewari 46, Ohi Wall Road, Ikwere Road, PH	Hair dressing	46, Ohi Wall Rd., Ikwere Rd., PH
11	Theresa Tom Senuo 2, Ede Close, off Gbel Rd., Njoku Rumuigbo	Hair dressing	2, Ede Close, Off Oba Rd., Njoku, Rumuigbo
12	Mr. Samuel Koko 19, rumuaghola Road, By Millennium Hotel Junction, R/Okoro PH	Poultry	PH/Owem Rd., Rukpokuwa, PH
13	Godspower Onwughuta 2, Khama street, D/line Diobu PH	Poultry	RSUST Poultry Farm, RSUST
14	Hakwumeni W. Chiku Ogbogoro Rumuutumeni Rd.	Poultry	1, Harmony Ave Street, Ann Lane, Iwofe PH
15	Mrs. Ike Ethie Mercy No. 1 Hanson Ave, off Odili Rd., PH	Poultry	Blk 5, Flat 3, 2nd Ave, Elekaha Est
16	Beatrice Adoh 3, Fimma Street. PH	Fashion design	25, New Rd, Berokan, PH
17	Emanuel B. Legbori 1, Dike Close, Oginigba, PH	Cassava plantation	Yeghe/ Barako Rd., Kebera-Yeghe

SOKOTO STATE

S/NO	NAMES AND ADDRESS OF BENEFICIARIES	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	PROJECT ADDRESS
1	Naimat Muhammed	Pure water	341, Arkilla Housing Estate, Sokoto
2	Sambo Marafa Bashire	Bakery	Bashire Kasawa, Gasuwa Rd., Tambawa LGA
3	Muhammed E. isa	Poultry	NO. 2 Magaji Rafi Rd., Alkamawa Area, Sokoto
4	Amina Abubakar	G.S.M. Service	Ahmadu Bello Way, Sokoto
5	Kaburu Mohammed	Poultry	No. 78, Federal Low cost, Arkilla
6	Aliyu Malami	Business centre	25, Sokoto Teachers College off Abdullahi Fodio Rd., Sokoto.
7	Aibaji Hamza	Furniture	Mabarajani Quarters, 38, Ubangoma Rd., Sokoto.
8	Bala G. Damajigi	Tailoring	No. 15, Ubangoma Rd., Sokoto
9	Hashimu Isah	Carpentry	95, Rijija Dorowa Rd., near Smart video, Sokoto

TARABA STATE

S/NO	NAMES AND ADDRESS OF BENEFICIARIES	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	PROJECT ADDRESS
1	Mrs Esther Musa	Trading Provision	
2	Anli Adamu Idiris	Trading Provision	
3	Salanu Moh'd	Trading (fish)	
4	Amosa Adewale	Trade (computer accessories)	
5	Mike Uteng	Trade (computer accessories)	
6	Salanu Zakari	Trading Service	
7	Abubakar Zakari	Trading (fish/veg center)	
8	Aib Umaru Adamu	Tailoring services	
9	Ahmadu Habu	Tailoring services	
10	Ojo Segiola Israr	Soap making	
11	James Danka	photography	
12	Muhammed Nyah	photography	
13	Michea Obande	photography	
14	Yaro Thaddaens	photography	
15	John Habia	photography	
16	Abubakar Ibrahim	Nursery development	
17	Aishatu Ibrahim	Nursery development	
18	Jerusha Joel Andu	Knitting	
19	Gogge U Hamza	Knitting	
20	Mrs. Tina Akpan	Hair Dressing Salon	
21	Adamu Suleima	Gar processing	
22	Ab Ibrahim Hwaza	Fishery (trading)	
23	Rose Peter Murum	Confectionary	
24	Attat Aniefleki Inye	Carpentry	
25	Iraktra J Akdatse	Black Smith	
26	Daniel S Musa	Auto-Mechanic	
27	Lee Tijani	Auto-Mechanic	
28	Ezekiel Thomas N.	Rabbitry	
29	Kelsh Haggi	Yam cultivation	
30	Mr. T.T. Wakawa	Poultry (layers)	
31	Zainab Ibrahim Yusuf	Poultry (broilers)	
32	Madaki E. Itom	Poultry (broilers)	
33	Adamu Saleman	Cattle fattening	
34	Mary Ewash D. Issa	Cattle fattening	
35	Falata Aliya Bashir	Arable (rice)	
36	Suleman Yakubu	Arable (rice)	
37	Abdulkadir Moh'd	Arable (rice)	
38	Eng. Ishayaku D. Mehd	Arable (rice)	
39	Jemimah M Ezza	Arable (maize & G/Corn)	
40	Michael O. Onibolade	Poultry (broilers)	
41	Faith Balas	Auto-mechanic	
42	Mrs Deborah Osewumi A.	Catering services	
43	Fleurice Emmanuel	Computer centre	
44	Orita Pius	Hair dressing salon	
45	Owasibaji A-Aderun	Making of comp us	
46	Mrs. Effia Ehin	Printing	
47	Daniel K. Kato	Soap making	
48	Rev. Mrs. Irene O.D	Soya milk production	
49	Saleisa	Tailoring service	
50	Mrs. Cecilia Owar	Timber processing	
51	Mercy Chabai	Computer assistance	
52	Wahard Z. Abata	Textile	

YOBE STATE

1	Hussaina Uba	Trading	House 124, Waziri Ibrahim Estate, Damaturu
2	Muhammad M. Kado	Handset operator	230, Waziri Ibrahim Estate, Damaturu
3	Muhammad Ade Musa	trading	Near Pompo Primary School, Pompo Mar Ward
4	Zarah Muhammad	Fruit juice processing/ Soft Drink trading	Sabo Nfega Ward, Damaturu
5	Bakar Fannami	Tailoring	Tela Shopping Complex
6	Shettima Bala	Motor cycle mechanic (r/tisan)	Burna road, Buni Gan Oujba LGA.
7	Adamu Aliya	V. coverage	Behind Low Cost Estate, Potiskum Town
8	Lamba Babaye Saleh	Printing	Fune fune LGA
9	Adamu Momoh		Jigawa Pabulum, Potiskum LGA
10	Abdu A. Hukuma Sherif Fika	Br...	Damaturu, Sherp Fika

ZAMFARA STATE

1	Ahmed Habib Alhassan No.201 Damba Housing Unit Gusau	Crop Production	No 201 Damba Housing Unit Gusau
2	Muhammad Lamidi Hossom Bakery, Old Hison Road T/wada Gusau	Spray Painting	NATA Sabon Garage by Bye pass Gusau
3	Sagor Ibrahim Injiri 18, Yakubu Muazu Road, Gusau.	GSM Handsets, Accessory Sales	18, Yakubu Muazu Road, Gusau
4	Duhari Mohammed 99, Ffilin Nayawa Bakin Cinema Gusau.	Fashion Design	47, Ffilin Nayawa Ffilin Nayawa Bakin Cinema Gusau.
5	Muam A. Abdullah U/ Musulmi Tofa, Kwatakwashi	Poultry	Ungur Musulmi Tofa, Kwatakwashi
6	Hannah O. Abubakar 3, JB Yakubu Str, Canteen Area Gusau	P/D	Shop NT5 Federal Low Cost Area Gusau
7	Babaugida Strajo Hashim 10, Yakubu Muazu Road Chema Gusau	Poultry	Sokoto Road Opp. Fertilizer Company Gusau
8	Alh. Hassan Abdullah 16, Sabi Abacha Road T/ Wada Gusau	Trading	16, Sabi Abacha Road T/Wadw Gusau
9	Yari Abubakar Hayin Bala T/Wada Gusu	Vulcanizing	Polo Complex Shopping Centre Gusau
10	Alh. Sanusi Abduhalhi 22, Kotorokshi Road, T/Wada	Tailoring	22, Kotorokshi Road, T/Wada

WOMEN CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

S/NO	STATES	NAMES OF CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES	PROJECT DESCRIPTION
1	Abia	Jafan Women Umukahia	Food Processing
2	Abuja-FCI	Abuja Grassroot Association	Yan Production
3	Adamawa	Abuja Widows Association	Millet Farming
4	Akwa-ibom	Sulu Multi-purpose Coop Society, Puhre Town.	Smoked Fish Business
5	Anambra	Oboma Umunnachi Women Multi-purpose Coop. Society	Cocoyam Flour Processing
6	Bauchi	Kofar Idi Multi-purpose Coop. Society, Bauchi	Palm oil processing
7	Bayelsa	Amo-Ebodor Ogbu Azuama Coop. Society	Vegetable oil extraction and rice milling
8	Benue	Agir Widows Coop. Society	Fish Preservation
9	Borno	Nessi Women Multi-purpose Coop. Society, Maiduguri	Cassava Processing
10	Cross River	Dynamic Ladies Association	Maize, millet, burbisco and pepper processing
11	Delta	Ekenya Farmers Multi-purpose Coop. Society, Oko-ogbele	Poultry Production
12	Ebonyi		Root crop farming
13	Edo	Obois Etera Women Multi-purpose Coop. Society	
14	Enugu	Yvonne Women Multi-purpose Coop. Society	
15	Ekiti	Erio Ephi Royal Women Coop. Society, Erio Ephi	
16		Iredoyo Are Women Coop. Society, Ired Ekiti	
17		Awadimilchin NDE Coop., Ired Ekiti	
18		Ore Oluwa Multi-purpose Coop. Society, Adu-Ekili	
19	Gombe	Gagan Women Multi-purpose Coop. Society	
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News

FG okays 2 orthopaedic hospitals for plastic surgery

The Medical Directors of National Orthopaedic Hospitals in Kano and Igbobi, have been directed to put in place adequate machineries that would facilitate the activities of the Body Enhancement Annual Reconstructive Surgery (BEARS), an NGO which is out to bring hope to Nigerian children suffering from birth defects through plastic surgery.

The minister of health, Professor Eytayo Lambo, gave the directive Wednesday when officers of the organisation, led by its founder and president, Miss Modupe Ozuola, paid him a courtesy visit to brief him of the activities of the organisation and its plan for Nigerian children and adults in need of surgery in the near future.

Professor Lambo, who commended the organisation for its contribution in the area of surgery, said facilities at the two orthopaedic hospitals in the North and Southern part of the country will be made available for the use of health experts from the organisation free of charge.

He charged the organisation to make use of qualified hands in his activities so that Nigerians will not only get free of the services, but also get qualitative ones, and called on the medical director of Kano and Igbobi orthopaedic hospitals, Doctors Kabir Abubakar and Gbolahan Adebute respectively, to

By Sunday Ejike Benjamin,
Senior Reporter

identify and render to people who are in real need of the services of the organisation.

Speaking earlier, the leader of the BEARS team, Miss Ozuola, said her organisation, which has been carrying out successful plastic surgery on Nigerian children over the years, will this year, go beyond surgery as it will, from October this year go into the treatment of Vesico-Vaginal Fistula (VVF) and other surgeries.

She disclosed that the organisation will start by treating 3,000 patients in each of the two centres situated in the North and Southern part of the country and called on officials of the health ministry to assist the organisation in achieving its objectives.



Female students protesting against Danish products in Lagos over a newspaper publication in Denmark ...recently.

Pic: Oladipupo Odunewu

Joint account hampers rural development,

APLP scribe tells Kure

Governor AbdulKadir Kure of Niger State, has been advised to scrap the state and local governments joint account because the system has hampered the development of the rural areas of the state.

An Abuja-based businessman and the National Secretary of the All Peoples Liberation Party (APLP), Alhaji AbdulKadir Shehu Nafuntua, gave this advise in an interview with the *Daily Trust* in

From Aideloje Ojo,
in Minna

Minna over the weekend.

Nafuntua argued that the operations of the joint account system in the state had crippled the activities of the councils especially in the areas of the provision of basic amenities to the people, adding that this was because al-

locations to the councils were being diverted at the joint account meetings.

Nafuntua called on the state governor to hand off the administration of the local government funds so that their council chairmen could be allowed to use their funds for the development of the rural areas.

He described the situation whereby council chairmen were only given monthly subvention to pay salaries from the joint account as against their statutory allocation from federation accounts, as unacceptable and a plunder of public money.

Nafuntua said the non-release of the full allocations to the councils chairmen had made it impossible for them to embark on any capital project for the benefit of the people, adding that once salaries are paid, the councils do not have money to carry out projects for the people.

He also appealed to the governor to embark on more

developmental projects before he leaves office in 2007.

Nafuntua regretted that the state was still under-developed after 30 years of its creation and blamed it on the present and past civilian governments of the state.

He argued that the state was better developed during the military era in terms of infrastructures and provision of basic amenities.

Nafuntua also regretted the fallen standard of education and argued that government should have paid more attention to the upliftment of education at the secondary and technical colleges before it embarked on the establishment of the state university.

The state, he argued, lacked the qualified indigenous students for admission into the university because of the poor state of the secondary and technical colleges in the state.

Free computer training for 100 Gombe youths

About 100 youths are to enjoy free computer training in the first batch of free computer training scheme of the Faruk Bamusa Education Foundation in Gombe State.

Sponsor of the programme, Alhaji Faruk Bamusa in a speech delivered at the orientation of the 1st batch of students, said the gesture was his own way of contributing to alleviate the problems of

From Mohammed Abubakar,
in Gombe

unemployment in the society. According to him, the scheme, which aims at training idle youth on the basic usage of the computer to enable them to be self-reliant, will last for three months for each batch of 100 students with provision for expansion.

"Our aim in this programme is to ensure that youth are given the opportunity to also contribute their own quota to national development, we believe computer knowledge will assist them in achieving this," said Alhaji Faruk.



Governor Mohammed Danjuma Goje will have 20

The member, governing council of the University of Jos explained that the programme for the first batch

units of computers with about the same number of instructors, while the focus will be on teaching the students on areas such as Ms dos, computer programming and the like.

The sponsor's contributions to the development of education in the state was last year recognised by a computer institute which conferred on him the award of an "Ambassador of Literacy."

'Demolition no hinderance to census'

By Benjamin Auta,
Reporter

The Federal Commissioner of the National Population Commission (NPC) in the FCT, Dr. (Mrs.) Dotun Oduneye, has said that the recent demolition exercise in the capital city will not affect the forthcoming census exercise in March.

Answering questions from journalists yesterday during a press conference organised by the commission in Abuja, Dr. Oduneye said the commission has already demarcated areas and settlements moved to by people affected

by the demolition. "The demolition has put a lot of pressure on us, but it will not bring any set-back to the exercise. These people have moved to other areas and those areas have been demarcated," she said.

She said that the FCT is ready for the forthcoming census as finishing touches were being put in place to

Census: Prisons want inmates counted

By Benjamin Auta, Reporter

The acting Comptroller-General of Prisons, Mr. Okpara Uche Kalu, has said that it will be tragic if the prison population is not taken into consideration in the census to be held in March.

He made the statement yesterday when he paid a courtesy call on the chairman of the National Population Commission (NPC) in his office in Abuja.

Mr. Kalu said, "with over 40,000 inmates in the country and over 70 per cent awaiting

trial, it will not be good for the country if they are not counted."

The federal government, he said, will soon establish half-way homes where about 25 per cent of inmates awaiting trial and those who have nearly finished their sentences could be counted during their rehabilitation.

Responding, the chairman of the NPC, Chief Samu'ila Danko Makama, said that data gotten from prisons will assist the government and prison authorities in the provision of social facilities in the prisons.

He added that demographic characteristics of prison inmates would provide useful insight into the root causes of crimes in the country.

Chief Makama also said that counting prison inmates would be a difficult task without the cooperation and support of the Nigeria Prison Service.

He called on the comptroller-general to help census officials through access to prison premises not only during the census exercise, but also for house listing and house numbering.

ensure its success, adding that the commission has collected materials required for the conduct of census from the national headquarters.

She further said that the movement of materials to area councils takes effect from the first week of March, as adequate arrangements have been made to safeguard the materials.

On security, the federal commissioner said, "the army, air force, navy and other security agencies have jointly promised to assist the NPC during the exercise."



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**REQUEST FOR A CONSULTANT TO COMPILE AND
PREPARE A DIRECTORY OF CIVIL SOCIETY
ORGANISATIONS (CSOs) IMPLEMENTING ORPHANS AND
VULNERABLE CHILDREN (OVC) PROGRAMMES IN NIGERIA**

Background:

Activities in Nigeria, to support children who are orphaned or made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS are mainly implemented by Civil Society Organisations (NGOs, FBOs, and CBOs).

The reservoir of information on such CSOs, NGOs, and FBOs particularly at the national level in terms of location, particular area of OVC focus, scope, and programmatic area is not readily available at the moment. It is expected that this information will not only assist the FMWA in performing its planning, monitoring and evaluation role, but be of value to other agencies that are interested in working with OVC organizations at the national, zonal, state or LGA levels.

In the light of the above, the USAID-funded ENHANSE Project is collaborating with the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs to generate a directory of CSO that are implementing OVC programmes in Nigeria. This directory will aid the mapping of different OVC interventions currently being implemented in Nigeria and will be a first step towards creating a national CSO network that will be a proactive group in advocating for OVC issues within Nigeria and beyond.

In December 2005, an advertisement for the inventory of interested CSOs, NGOs, and FBOs working on OVC programs in Nigeria was placed in 4 major Nigerian Daily newspapers in collaboration with the FMWA, giving three weeks duration for submission of applications. A Consultant is currently needed to work on the information provided by interested CSOs, NGOs, and FBOs to compile the directory of OVC NGOs in Nigeria.

Qualifications:

The most appropriate person to carry out this task should be one who has a good knowledge of CSO, NGOs, FBO and the private sector operations in HIV/OVC. A minimum of Masters Degree in any of the Social Sciences, Public or Community Health is required. S/he must be competent in the use of Microsoft Word, Excel and MS Access computer programs. Must possess a strong report writing skills.

SOW:

1. Search and assess any previous compilation or pockets of available OVC inventory either at the Federal/State or LGA level.
2. Work with the key contact persons at the FMWA and ENHANSE to review the comprehensive list of responses of CSOs to the newspaper adverts, review and update the template developed and establish the procedure for compiling the various organizations' profile submission in an inventory.
3. Create a data-base
4. Classify all NGOs entries by:
 - A) Typology (CSO, NGO, FBO, CBO)
 - B) Services Type:
 - Service Delivery Environment Policy, Legislation on Child's right)
 - Health
 - Household level of care (Food, Shelter, Clothes, IGA)
 - Psychosocial support & Participation
 - Education
 - C) State
5. Document experience gained in the process (challenges, lessons learned, and how to use the directory)
6. Write a report (work out the modality with the FMWA & ENHANSE) with recommendations on how to maximally involve the CSO organizations at all levels in program implementation as part of national response to OVC in Nigeria.
7. Submit a report, directory of OVC NGOs in Nigeria to the Chief of Party, ENHANSE Project within 21 working days of the conclusion of the exercise (4 copies of the report).

How to apply:

The application (supported by relevant document) can be through surface or e-mail, should be directed to the undersigned within 2 weeks of this notice:

The Chief of Party,
ENHANSE Project,
Plot 50, Haile Sellassie Street,
Off Yakubu Gowon Way,
Asokoro,
Abuja.

Or Send by a designated file name to this E-mail Address: jsadhere@futuresgroup.com

Signed: Management

**REQUEST FOR CONSULTANT TO CONDUCT AN
INVENTORY AND MAPPING OF THE ORGANISED PRIVATE
SECTOR BUSINESSES ENGAGED IN, OR THOSE THAT HAVE
THE POTENTIAL TO SUPPORT REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH
SERVICES (RH) IN NIGERIA**

Background:

The ENHANSE (Enabling HIV/AIDS, TB and Social Sector Environment), a USAID five year funded project supports the effort of the Government of Nigeria, through the Federal Ministry of Health, Federal Ministry of Education, and Federal Ministry of Women Affairs to reposition the critical components of the reproductive health program (RH) in Nigeria in order to:

- Foster partnership between the Government, the commercial private sector and civil society to broaden and strengthened political, financial and popular support for sustained health and education programmes
- Increase access to quality reproductive health services.

To achieve these objectives, ENHANSE seeks to stimulate and improve the engagement and involvement of the organised private sector businesses (multi national) to support reproductive health interventions, in line with the national goals and Millennium Development agenda by 2015 (*eradicate extreme poverty, achieve universal primary education, promote gender equity and empower women, reduce child mortality, improve maternal health, and combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases*).

In order to contribute to the achievement of this important agenda, there is need to conduct the mapping of all the relevant private businesses at the national level with a view to identifying those that are already involved in supporting or providing RH services either to their staff, community or a population segment and to determine their potentials to contribute to the national RH, basic education and child survival programmes.

Consultant Requirements:

A Consultant is needed to carry out this assignment. The most appropriate person to carry out this task should be a person who have been very much involved in private sector initiatives or policy development and reforms, monitoring and evaluation. Must be knowledgeable about RH issues, and the workings of the health sector at the national and state levels.

The exercise would require a desk review of available documentation on the private sector agencies, and a compilation or description of private sector entities involved in RH. Complimentarily, the consultant will also carry out some personal interviews of key personnel in the organised private businesses for additional information. It is expected that the consultants will give practical recommendations on how to move forward in collaborating with the private sector on improved RH in Nigeria.

SOW:

1. Review all available data/information on private sector participation in RH services and compile a written summary of this information.
2. Develop and submit for review prior to implementation, a mapping strategy including interview and inventory tools.
3. Identify and make a comprehensive compilation of all existing and available organised private sector businesses, particularly those supporting RH programs/services
4. Rank and select the top 20 for collaboration with the ENHANSE RH policy programs.
5. Assess the status, potentials and relevance of their health and education development programs
6. Make appropriate recommendations as to how the organised private sector businesses can be maximally engaged (programmatically, and to increase their financial contributions, expenditures and involvement in the various components of RH programs.
7. The whole exercise should be concluded within **twenty (20) working days (15 days of inventory and additional 5 days for the writing and submission of the report)**.
8. Finally submit a report (4 copies) to the Chief of Party, ENHANSE Project at the conclusion of the exercise (report should include the following sections: literature review / situation analysis; mapping strategy methodology; organization listing / descriptions / assessments; recommendations).

How to apply:

The application (supported by relevant document) can be through surface or e-mail, should be directed to the undersigned within 2 weeks of this notice.

The Chief of Party,
ENHANSE Project,
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Asokoro,
Abuja

Or

Send by a designated file name to this E-mail Address:

jsadhere@futuresgroup.com

Signed: Management

REQUEST FOR A CONSULTANT TO CONDUCT AN INVENTORY AND MAPPING OF THE ORGANISED PRIVATE SECTOR BUSINESSES ENGAGED IN, OR THOSE THAT HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO SUPPORT CHILD SURVIVAL SERVICES/PROGRAMS (CS) IN NIGERIA

Background:

The ENHANSE (Enabling HIV/AIDS, TB and Social Sector Environment), a USAID five year funded project supports the effort of the Government of Nigeria, through the Federal Ministry of Health, Federal Ministry of Education, and Federal Ministry of Women Affairs to reposition the critical components of the child survival program (CS) in Nigeria in order to:

- Foster partnership between the Government, the commercial private sector and civil society to broaden and strengthened political, financial and popular support for sustained health and education programmes
- Increase access to quality child survival health services.

To achieve these objectives, ENHANSE seeks to stimulate and improve the engagement and involvement of the organised private sector businesses (multi national) to support child survival interventions, in line with the national goals and Millennium Development agenda by 2015 (*eradicate extreme poverty, achieve universal primary education, promote gender equity and empower women, reduce child mortality, improve maternal health, and combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases*).

In order to contribute to the achievement of this important agenda, there is need to conduct the mapping of all the relevant private businesses at the national level with a view to identifying those that are already involved in supporting or providing CS services either to their staff, community or a population segment and to determine their potentials to contribute to the national child survival programmes.

Consultant Requirements:

A Consultant is needed to carry out this assignment. The most appropriate person to carry out this task should be people who have been very much involved in private sector initiatives or policy development and reforms, monitoring and evaluation. Must be knowledgeable about CS issues, and the workings of the health sector at the national and state levels in this regard.

The exercise would require a desk review of available documentation on the private sector agencies, and a compilation or description of private sector entities involved in CS. Complimentarily, the consultant will also carry out some personal interviews of key personnel in the organised private businesses for additional information. It is expected that the consultants will give practical recommendations on how to move forward in collaborating with the private sector on improved CS in Nigeria.

SOW:

1. Review all available data/information on private sector participation in CS services and compile a written summary of this information.
2. Develop and submit for review prior to implementation, a mapping strategy including interview and inventory tools.
3. Identify and make a comprehensive compilation of all existing and available organised private sector businesses, particularly those supporting CS programs/services
4. Rank and select the top 20 for collaboration with the ENHANSE CS policy programs.
5. Assess the status, potentials and relevance of their health and education development programs.
6. Make appropriate recommendations as to how the organised private sector businesses can be maximally engaged (programmatically, and to increase their financial contributions, expenditures and involvement in the various components of CS programs.
7. The whole exercise should be concluded within **twenty (20) working days. (15 days of inventory and additional 5 days for the writing and submission of the report).**
8. Finally submit a report (4 copies) to the Chief of Party, ENHANSE Project at the conclusion of the exercise (report should include the following sections: literature review / situation analysis; mapping strategy methodology; organization listing / descriptions / assessments; recommendations).

How to apply:

The application (supported by relevant document) can be through surface or e-mail, should be directed to the undersigned within 2 weeks of this notice:

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Signed: Management



Africa Leadership Forum

CALLING ALL NYSC MERIT AWARD WINNERS IN NIGERIA

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 the training on past participants has been transformative.

The Africa Leadership Forum will be organizing in 2006, a series of training workshops for Nigerians in both 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 inter-political networks and linkages towards positive collaboration 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 venue of 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 for these workshops.

Workshop Group: NYSC Merit Award Winners

Workshop Date: 12th - 17th March, 2006

Application Deadline: 24th February, 2006

Venue:

Conference Hall, Africa Leadership Forum, #1, Bells Drive, Km 9 Idiroko Road, Ota, Ogun State

Further Enquires:

Contact, Workshop Coordinator, Tel: 08023073253 or 039 722730-3, FAX: 039 722751,

EMAIL: democraticleadership@africaleadership.org

Please, visit our website for more details at www.africaleadership.org

Sports

Galadima duly elected — FIFA

The FIFA National Association Committee Friday in Zurich, Switzerland, upheld the 29 December election in Kano that returned Ibrahim Galadima as chairman of the Nigeria Football Association (NFA), a top source informed. **KICK OFF.**

The 20-man committee made up of representatives from France, Haiti, Burkina Faso and Rwanda, deliberated for three hours on the crisis in Nigerian football which has set Galadima on a war path with the sports ministry headed by Sports Minister Samaila Sambawa.

Unlike it was in Cairo during the last Nations Cup, Galadima was given the chance to present his own case after allegations by the sports ministry that there were over 30 violations of the NFA statutes as regards the conduct of the elections which returned Galadima to the glass House.

Members of 'the stakeholders forum', which challenged the results the processes leading to the Kano polls and who were supported by the sports ministry, were clearly downcast when the first reports of the FIFA decision reached them.

"Pray for us," said one of the most vocal members of the forum, looking thoroughly defeated and disappointed at the Arcade Hotel in Abuja.

Returning director of sports in the ministry Amos Adamu and his predecessor, Umar Bindir, along with Permanent Secretary Ambassador Hart were locked in a meeting soon after indications from Zurich that the verdict was not in favour of the sports ministry.

Coach sees explosive Hard Court tourney

Benin City, the Edo state Capital will come alive on Monday as the Ogbe Hard Court Tennis Championship Serves off in the ancient city.

All the top Nigerian players and players from the other countries are already in Nigeria to vie for honours at the championship.

National Tennis chief coach Rotimi Akinloye has predicted that the championship will be an explosive one.



Middlesbrough Nigerian striker Yakubu Aiyegbeni stoops to head home his and Boro's second goal to seal a place in the last eight of the English FA Cup. Middlesbrough defeated Preston 2-0 yesterday

German club hunt Taiwo

Werder Bremen have joined the list of admirers of Marseille and Super Eagles full back Taye Taiwo.

The Eagles defender already has Italian giants Internazionale and Juventus on his trail and is now coveted in Germany.

Reports have suggested that Inter are ready to make a £4 million offer for Taiwo at the end of the season.

But Inter could be rivalled by Werder, who took note of Taiwo's performances at the recent African Cup of Nations.

Werder Bremen are also rumoured to have watched the defender during Marseille's Uefa Cup clash with Bolton Wanderers last week in Enland.

Marseille though would be reluctant to lose Taiwo in the summer, but their resolve could be tested by Inter and Werder.

FIFA demand repeal of Decree 101

World soccer governing body, FIFA, have demanded the repeal of the obnoxious Decree 101 on the heels of their endorsement of the NFA elections in Kano in December which returned Ibrahim Galadima as boss of the soccer association.

In a letter to NFA acting secretary-general Fanny Amun and signed by FIFA secretary-general Urs Linsi, FIFA said the soccer polls of 29 December was legitimate contrary to the position of the sports ministry which had alleged countless violations of the NFA statutes.

The letter dated 17 February and copied to Amos Adamu, Caf executive committee member; Mustapha Fahmy, CAF secretary-general, Nduka Irabor, chairman, electoral committee and Ibrahim Galadima, FIFA demanded that Decree 101

be repealed to allow the NFA respect the clauses of Article 17 of the FIFA statutes.

The FIFA associations committee confirmed FIFA's request to repeal the Decree 101 which is still in force inspite of previous commitments by Nigerian

authorities to amend the legal frame work of Nigerian football, to allow the NFA respect the clauses of Article 17 of FIFA Statutes, a read the letter.

The issue of the abrogation of the decree has therefore returned to the front burner.

English FA Cup: Aiyegbeni's brace ousts Preston

Nigeria's Yakubu Aiyegbeni scored twice as Middlesbrough ended Preston's 25-match unbeaten run to reach the last eight of the FA Cup.

The striker put Boro ahead with a ferocious left-foot strike early in the second half and then headed his second after Claude Davis failed to clear.

Preston dominated much of the match, with David Nugent and Patrick Agyemang both going close several times.

Boro keeper Mark Schwarzer saved a Youl Mawene header, while Paul McKenna went close with a free-kick.

The result was tough on the home team, who were looking to reach the quarter-finals of the FA Cup for the first time since 1966.

Billy Davies' side contributed much to the match but Boro defended well for large periods and showed that in Yakubu they have a striker of real quality.

The one low point for Boro was an injury to Fabio Rochemback, who was carried off on a stretcher before half-time after injuring his left foot.

Preston had by far the better of an opening half that was high on endeavour but low on incident.

Rochemback deflected a cross into the hands of Schwarzer and Nugent drilled a long-range strike narrowly wide as North End made the early running.

Nugent looked to pick up the ball in wide areas and ran at goal whenever possible — and the 20-year-old forced Schwarzer into action with another long-range strike after 20 minutes.

Mawene lost his marker at a free-kick but his header was well wide, while Preston had a penalty appeal turned down for a handball by Emanuel Pogatzetz.

The home team's passing and movement was impressive but they were almost caught out when Mawene found himself isolated with Yakubu on the ball.

Yakubu went down under Mawene's challenge but referee Phil Dowd waved play on.

Rochemback turned his ankle after his foot caught in

the heavy turf as he tried to avoid a late challenge from Callum Davidson at the end of a frustrating 45 minutes for the visitors.

Boro boss Steve McClaren tried to increase his team's attacking threat at the break, introducing Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink for Tony McMahon.

And Hasselbaink had a hand in Boro's opener, with Yakubu collecting his flick before taking the ball past the North End defence with a header and smashing the ball

past Carlo Nash from 20 yards.

Agyemang almost equalised in equally spectacular fashion but his 25-strike flew wide of Schwarzer's goal.

The Preston striker hit the target with another effort but this time his shot lacked power, while Nugent drilled a long-range strike inches over the Boro crossbar.

But Preston defender Davis made a bizarre decision not to clear a free-kick and was punished when Yakubu put Boro two ahead with a diving header at the far post.

Amun's a saboteur - Stakeholders scribe

The secretary of Nigeria Football stakeholders, Ahmed Shuaib Gara-Gombe has described the NFA acting Secretary-General, Fanny Amun, as a saboteur and an impediment to the development of the game in Nigeria.

Reacting to the world football governing body, FIFA, decision last Friday to uphold the December 29, 2005 NFA election that returned Alhaji Ibrahim Galadima as NFA Chairman, Ahmed Shuaib said the story would have been different had Amun not chosen part of the stakeholders forum.

best known to him altered aspects of the body of facts sent to FIFA to reflect the NFA secretariat position instead of the stakeholders without conferring with us.

"He said the letter contained abusive language, which is not true. You see, Amun must have been angling for something. The problem of Nigerian football is not Galadima, it's people like Fanny Amun who are impediments to the development of the game.

"Now, he has achieved whatever he wanted to achieve by sabotaging our efforts. I don't see how Amun could have

successfully defended the evidences we presented, since he was under detention when the Kano elections was conducted and when events unfolded.

"I don't see how FIFA would have rejected our demands had the stakeholders been adequately represented in the Zurich meeting."

On the next line of action for the stakeholders forum, Gara-Gombe said, "we are not going to conduct any fresh elections as it would be counter-productive. We will call the congress very soon to inform them on this new development."

Sports

NFA crisis: FIFA final word

By Ismaila Umaru Lere,
Assistant Editor

World football governing body, FIFA, last Friday decided to uphold the December 29, 2005 NFA elections that returned Alhaji Ibrahim Galadima as NFA Chairman thus ending the lingering crisis that rocked Nigerian football owing to the stakeholders threat to hold fresh elections by February 16 after alleging that there were over 30 violations of the NFA statutes as regards the conduct of the elections in Kano.

Before taking the land-mark decision, the Working Group for Political Matters, which took a careful look at the issues in the NFA crisis vis-a-vis other matters regarding relations between governments and member associations, met for the first time at the headquarters of the world body in Zurich, Switzerland on Friday.

Three major topics were discussed, namely, the relations between member associations and public authorities; issues of arbitration and resolving internal and external conflicts; and the special nature of sport.

Representatives of both the political and football world including president of the Working

Group Mohamed Raouraoua of Algeria and FIFA Vice-president, Lennart Johansson, who is also the president of UEFA, took part in the meeting that reached a general consensus on the nature of relations between public authorities and the football family. The participants in the meeting emphasised the necessity for the sports movement to be managed independently, while at the same time respecting national laws.

Also in attendance were members of the international football family: FIFA senior vice-president Julio Grondona (observer) and FIFA General Secretary Urs Linsi, AFC president Mohamed bin Hammam, CONCACAF general secretary Chuck Blazer, representing the confederations. However, CAF president, Issa Hayatou was unavoidably absent as he was

attending the Globacom/CAF Awards Night in Abuja.

Similarly, Polish football association president Michal Listkiewicz, Peruvian football association president Manuel Burga Seoane, representing the member associations and president-elect of FIFPro, Gerardo Movilla, representing players were all present.

"I'd like to thank the FIFA President for his initiative, which had led to this historic meeting," said Jean-Francois Lamour, the French Minister for Youth, Sports and Associations. "A true partnership already exists between the government and sports associations in France, substantiated by an annual agreement on objectives," he continued.

British Sports Minister Richard Caborn explained: "In the UK, there are mutual agreements between public authorities and associations, fans and clubs."

The FIFA President welcomed these models, commenting: "FIFA

is working in this direction with the ultimate aim of establishing such relations all around the world."

However, with conflict persisting in certain countries and on every continent, the Working Group decided to draft a standard agreement to codify basic relations between governments and associations.

Also, the key question regarding the special nature of sport was discussed from the angle of the European Union that signed the Declaration of Nice in December 2000, which, in keeping with the European constitution's treaty project, in fact recognised the special nature of sport. The European ministers attending the meeting described the survey on European football being conducted jointly by the EU and UEFA. They also gave an account of the European Commission's efforts to formulate an appropriate definition of the special nature of sport, including subjects such as the protection of minors,

national teams, training, solidarity between amateur and professional football, maintaining a level playing field, the financial health of clubs, and regulating salaries and professions linked to football, especially players' agents. These topics reflect the very essence of the work undertaken by the Task Force "For the Good of the Game".

Blatter pointed out: "These questions are not limited to Europe but are relevant to the whole world. It will therefore be interesting to compare the results of these efforts."

After the meeting, a 20-man committee made up of representatives from France, Haiti, Burkina Faso and Rwanda, deliberated for three hours on the crisis in Nigerian football. The committee observed the legitimacy of the mandate given to Ibrahim Galadima and his board in the Kano polls and ratified the results.

To further rattle the sport ministry, FIFA secretary general, Urs

Linsi conveyed the world body's endorsement of Kano election results to relevant authorities. The FIFA letter dated 17 February and copied to Amos Adamu, CAF executive committee member; Mustapha Fahmy, CAF secretary-general; Mubaka Ibror, chairman, electoral committee and Ibrahim Galadima, demanded that Decree 101 be rescinded to allow the NFA respect the provisions of Article 17 of the FIFA statutes.

"FIFA also expressed dismay that Decree 101 is still in force in spite of previous commitments by the Federal Government to amend the legal framework of Nigerian football, which will allow the NFA respect FIFA clause 17."

Observers see the recent decision by FIFA as another strong indication that the world body will henceforth not tolerate any form of interference and meddling by government and its institutions in the affairs of Nigeria football administration.

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2. Richard Aboki

Aims and Objectives:

1. To sensitize and educate indigent people on areas of education and health.
 2. To engage in the pursuit of charitable and training of young persons in the community and the state where such training is required.
- Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar - General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 565, Ndola Square, Wuse Zone 5, P.M.B. 189, Abuja, within twenty-eight (28) days of this publication.

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Secretary.

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2. Pastor Emmanuel Ashiru - Co-ordinator
3. Mrs. Edna Aina Owolabi - Director

Aims and Objectives:

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 2. To motivate and train youth leaders, wholistic development with a view to equipping them with knowledge, practical skills and change of all attitude to develop themselves towards wholeness in christ.
- Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar - General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 565, Ndola Square, Wuse Zone 5, P.M.B. 189, Abuja, within twenty-eight (28) days of this publication.

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 2. To establish Islamic schools and Islamic centers for boys and girls.
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Solicitors to the Foundation
Usman Baffa Muhammad & Co.
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2. Joy N. Muoka - Secretary
3. Joshua Chukwunem - Treasurer
4. Caleb Chukwunonye - Member
5. Albert Chizoba - Member

Aims and Objectives:

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2. To ensure grass-roots revival all over the world.
3. The revival and apostolic Christian experience among the body of Christ.

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SIGNED:
Nike Adegbayemu Esq.
2nd Floor, Aisa House
Plot 2087 H/Macaulay Way
Zone 5 Wuse, Abuja.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public that the original receipt to land application with No. 377362 belonging to MRS. COMFORT E. OGIRI is hereby declared missing. All efforts to trace it proved abortive. If found, please contact MRS COMFORT E. OGIRI of No. 2/PL 698, off Thames Street, by Ministers Hill, Maitama, Abuja or any nearest police station.

Signed:
MRS. COMFORT E. OGIRI
08033176840

CHANGE OF NAMES

Former CHRISTIANA REMILEKUM OLOGBONYO, now wish to be called MRS. REMILEKUM C. ADELERE. All documents remain valid. Federal Poly, Idah, NYSC and public to note.

I, formerly called DAVID ADAMU ADIAK, now wish to be known as DAVID ADAMS ADIAK. Former documents remain valid. N.C.W.D and public to note.

I, formerly known as OGUNFUNMINIWA CHRISTIANAH OMOWUNMI, now MRS. RAJI CHRISTIANAH OMOWUNMI. All documents remain valid. General public should take note.

I, formerly known as HAUWA ABUBAKAR ISMAIL, now wish to be called HAUWA NURA MOHD. B.U.K, NYSC and general public to note.

I, formerly known as SANI LAWAN YAKUB, now wish to be called SANI EL-YAKUB. All former documents remain valid. Bayero University, Kano and general public to note.

I, formerly known as BEATRICE UGONNA, now wish to be known as BEATRICE AKAEME. All former documents remain valid. NYSC and the general public to take note.

I, formerly known as EKAETE ABIGAIL GODWIN, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. ABIGAIL AKIBA B. AYI. All former documents remain valid. UNIUYO, NYSC and general public take note.

I, formerly known and addressed as DR. LYDIA RAKIYAAUDU, henceforth wish to be known and addressed as DR. LYDIA REGINA AIREDE. All former documents remain valid. Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto & Usmanu Danfodiyo University Teaching Hospital, Sokoto, to please take note.

I, formerly OYEWO MOFONFOLA MUSA, now OYEWO MORONFOLA MUSA AKINKUNMI. All former documents remain valid. General public to note.

I, formerly known as MISS OCHEJA ALICE ASANA, now wish to be called MRS. AKWUH ALICE ASANA. All former documents remain valid. General public to please take note.

I, formerly known as RAIYETUNBI SIMON, now wish to be called OLUTUNBI SIMON. Former documents remain valid. General public to note.

I, formerly known as ADETAYO KEHINDE BAKARE, now wish to be known as ABDULWAEZE ADETAYO KEHINDE BAKARE. Former documents remain valid. Public to note.

I, formerly YAGANA MODU SHERIFF, now wish to be known as MRS. YAGANA ALIYU MAIGARI. All former documents remain valid. Nigeria Law School, National Youth Service Corps and public to note.

I, formerly known as RUKAYYA SHETTIMA KASHIM, now wish to be known as MRS. RUKAYYA SHETTIMA. All former documents remain valid. The general public and NYSC to please note.

I, formerly known as TAIYE OLAYEMI (MISS), now wish to be known as MRS TAIYE MERE. Public note.

I, formerly known as HADIZA MODI YABO, now wish to be known as MRS. HADIZA M. KAMAL. All former documents remain valid. NYSC and public to note.

I, formerly known and addressed as AUWALU YAHAYA MUSA, now wish to be called and addressed as YAHAYA AUWALU BIU. All former documents remain valid. Federal Polytechnic Kaura-Namoda and the general public to note.

I, formerly OYEWO MOFONFOLA MUSA, now OYEWO MORONFOLA MUSA AKINKUNMI. All former documents remain valid. General public to note.

I, formerly known as FASESAN MOJIROLA OLUFUNMI, now wish to be known as MICHAEL MOJIROLA OLUFUNMI. All former documents remain valid. University of Maiduguri and public to note.

Sports

Kahn injured, but Ballack saves Bayern

An 89th-minute Michael Ballack header saved German league leaders Bayern Munich from defeat to Hannover 96 but Bayern suffered a blow when 'keeper Oliver Kahn had to leave the field injured.

Kahn bruised a thigh early in the second half and is doubtful for Tuesday's round of 16 Champions League tie against AC Milan at the Allianz Arena.

A messy header by Thomas Brdaric looked to have given in-form Hannover victory, but not for the first time this season Ballack led his team by example when he outjumped his markers to head in from Willy Sagnol's cross.

Bayern coach Felix Magath said: "Hannover started strongly and it took us a while to hit our stride.

"We had problems in the second half too, but we fought back and in the end we deserved our point."

Hannover coach Peter Neururer had promised victory over Bayern and was disappointed to have it snatched away.

"When you concede an equalizer in the 89th minute, it's infuriating. But I can't criticize the performance of my team today, they were fantastic."

With Werder Bremen rediscovering their form to win 1-0 at Borussia Dortmund thanks to an Ivan Klasnic strike, Bayern's lead at the top was cut to nine points.

SV Hamburg could move back into second place and shave Bayern's lead to eight points if they can beat Eintracht Frankfurt away on Sunday.

Schalke 04 secured fourth

place with a 2-1 win over Hertha Berlin in the capital.

German international Gerald Asamoah opened the scoring on six minutes, but Alexander Madlung pulled Hertha level.

Bosnian international Zlatan Bajramovic scored the

winner deep into first-half stoppage time of a match which ended with both teams down to ten men, with Brazilian international defender Gilberto dismissed for Hertha.

Hannover are fifth with Hertha down to sixth.

At the other end of the table, Kaiserslautern continued their revival with a 2-0 win over Arminia Bielefeld with Ivory Coast striker Boubacar Sanogo scoring both goals. 'Lautern are still third from bottom, but their fortunes are looking up.



Kahn is doubtful for tomorrow's Champions League tie against AC Milan in Munich

Bayern favourites for Champions League, says Capello

Bayern Munich are favourites to win the Champions League because of the winter break in the Bundesliga, says Juventus coach Fabio Capello.

"Bayern Munich are, in my mind, the favourites to win the Champions League," Capello told Bild am Sonntag newspaper.

"It's quite possible that we'll meet Bayern in the final. I'd even say that Bayern are

our greatest challenge to winning the Champions League."

Capello's team play at Werder Bremen on Wednesday in the knock-out round. Bayern Munich host AC Milan on Tuesday.

"At the moment, German teams have an advantage," he said, noting the Bundesliga had a month-long winter

break until late January. "We've just had an intensive phase with a lot of matches behind us. That's the same for Barcelona or Chelsea.

"All these teams are in a bit of a slump right now. But the German teams were able to rest during their Christmas break. That's an advantage for them."

Barca will be desperate for revenge

Barcelona will be even more motivated this time round in their Champions League last 16

first leg clash here on Wednesday said Chelsea's French international defender William Gallas.

The 28-year-old 37-times capped Gallas told The Observer newspaper the Catalan giants would find that extra spur from the need to avenge their 5-4 aggregate defeat by Chelsea in the same round last year.

"It will be harder because they are going to want revenge, they need revenge," said Gallas.

"When a team is hurt, they want to show their fans, and the whole world, that what happened last year was an error," added the former Marseille star.

However, Gallas said it was sad that a match fit for the final should have to be played at this stage of the competition.

"For many people, this would have been a great final," said Gallas.

"But one of us has to go out early and we will be doing all we can to make sure it is them."

- Gallas

Gallas, however, said he was very much looking forward to pitting his wits against world footballer of the year Ronaldinho, who scored a quite marvellous goal in the 4-2 defeat at Stamford Bridge last season.

"It's an honour to play against someone like him," said Gallas.

"I enjoy being up against the best players, it gives you a chance to measure yourself.

"Ronaldinho is unpredictable, you don't know if he will go left or right, all you can do is try your best to anticipate."

Gallas's fears may be spotted on as Ronaldinho returned from a two match suspension to spark Barcelona to a 5-1 demolition of Real Betis on Saturday and end a two match losing streak in the league.

Burning Issues

with

Patrick Andrew

Professional athletes and the Gateway Games

Aggressive preparations by some states for the 15th National Sports Festival tagged Gateway 2006 scheduled to hold in April has provided suitable diversion from the irritant crises which have engulfed the Nigeria football in recent times.

The fiesta was from the onset a child of circumstance designed to bring together Nigerian youths soon after the grisly 30 months civil war that tended to put a knife in the bowel of the fledgling nation.

The Gen. Yakubu Gowon administration felt that in consonance with its no victor no vanquished advocacy after the war and in order to create an atmosphere of both togetherness and unity that an event that would engender social blend among the youth from every section of the polity was inevitable. It therefore conceived of a festival that would evoke common social alliance, hasten the process of healing the wounds of the war and instilling national consciousness and reunification.

The festival like the National Youth Service Corp (NYSC) was essentially for the youth of certain bracket. However, unlike the NYSC the sports fiesta was designed to give leverage to some youths to participate for three consecutive times provided such athlete has not taken part in an international competition. This means that such athlete has not represented the country in international fiesta. In essence, the festival was designed for amateur sports men and women.

Though not the primary objective, it would seem that it became an avenue for grassroots sports development: an oasis for the generation of grassroots talents and the breeding ground for social exchange between fledglings who were exposed to the diverse cultures of the different ethnic groups in the country as the biennial festival move from place to place.

But the original concept seems to have attracted fresh objective and perception. The new understanding appears to have digressed from the concept of using the festival to breed fledglings for subsequent grooming and use at the international competitions. The fresh approach is one that is projected to boost mercantile drive of the organizers, promote investment and force corporate interest in the festival.

States sports commissioners have been unanimous in the decision to allow professionals that is already established athletes to feature in the festival. The points of argument are that their presence will spur on their amateur counterparts to redouble efforts to attain maturity. Again, it is said to be an attractive marketing instrument because not a few corporate companies will for instance be willing to put their money in an event that is featuring Jay Jay Okocha, Mary Onyali - Omagbemi, Vincent Enyeama, Samuel Peters the US-based Nigerian heavy weight boxer.

The other argument is that it would add colour and invariably glamour and the excitement that is said to have vanished from the festival. In a way it is intended to pep up the fiesta, elevates it from the woods giving it the desired status.

Albeit, the arguments are plausible and indeed is not at various with the policy trust of this administration that has insisted on divestment of its funding of sports especially football, one however wonders what may become of the grassroots development of sports using the festival as the platform.

Besides, if the festival is to foster social mix, create room for amateurs sports persons to come to certain national limelight will the presence of their more established colleagues allow them the space to come to reckoning? Granted that the number of professionals each state can feature is 11. Each state can register five players but can only feature three in a particular match.

One may ask what happens to states without professionals of reckoning in any sport? Will it not take the shine off the festival if for instance only a couple of states dominate the festival with their more established athletes? Or what is the logic of lining up the likes of Mfon Udoka and Itoro Umo against the FCT fledglings in a basketball match? Will it not defeat the purpose of an aspect of the festival; the discovering of grassroots talents?

Unless there is a sudden change of the purpose which appears to be the case, one really does not see the reason for the use of professionals in the event that has become the bedrock for the generation of fresh talents for the country.

The government, as represented by the position of the states commissioners, seems to have been hoodwinked into believing that without the presence of the professionals the festival will not be attractive enough for corporate organs to invest in. This is not quite correct because more than anything else packaging, sports policy and administrative savvy, I would want to believe, is the magic panacea needed to woo multinational corporations to invest in the festival. A rethink on this is not too late.



William Gallas, Chelsea defender



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EDITORIAL

The message from Jack Straw

The Right Honourable, Mr Jack Straw did not commit himself, but we'll like to think that leaders of serious Western countries do not travel out of their countries without a solid agenda. This is even more so if it is to an African country with the potential and problems of Nigeria.

In this context, the visit of the British Foreign Secretary, Jack Straw, to the country last week (complete with an exclusive interview with the *Daily Trust*) must have more to do with other issues of concern than the speech he delivered at the 30th Anniversary of the death of General Murtala Ramat Muhammed. For one, Jack Straw, both as a politician and as Foreign Minister of Britain, has no connection with Murtala at all. It is true that Mr Straw was, as a student activist in his university days, fighting certain variant of imperialist recklessness. But that shared no similarities with Murtala's statesmanly impatient reformer's politics.

Today, the greatest evidence that Jack Straw shares no antecedents with Murtala is in what the British government is doing to Zimbabwe at a time that Jack Straw is a mandarin of the labour party. The government of Zimbabwe has done nothing to warrant the mobilisation of economic, financial and diplomatic pressure on it by the British government, largely because it finds President Mugabe's land reform programme unpalatable.

Jack Straw must have come here, therefore, for some other things. And it is safe to assert that he came here to assess for himself our rather lurching march towards civilian to civilian transition in 2007.

Careful not to do anything to embarrass his hosts, Mr Straw has nevertheless made it clear, that the British government will not be indifferent to the current manoeuvrings that may disrupt constitutional order to serve the interest of a few political actors.

The reason for this is obvious. The demographic consequences will be a national security threat to Europe. It cannot work because the resultant instability will touch on Western oil access very badly. That would compromise Western prosperity especially at a time that the Middle East is a virtual war zone. This is a situation made even more complicated by the war drums that Hugo Chavez is beating in Venezuela against the West. And Venezuela is a major oil producer.

This is not to say that Western opposition to such aberrations as third term is only based on their interest calculations. The moral imperatives of liberalism also dictate its opposition to the blatant manipulation of democracy by African leaders.

Assuming that the moral and strategic issues involved in the third term issue in Nigeria can only make the west reject it, we at the *Trust* welcome the coming of Jack Straw. This is also in reckoning that the Americans must have accepted British leadership of Western opposition to democratic aberrations in Nigeria. We, therefore, implore the West to be steadfast in principled opposition to the third term.

Hitherto, the West had misfired in its interventions in this kind of conflict essentially because they rarely understand the political configuration in African countries. They appear to be moving from such positions into broader and strategic view of things. If they sustain it, it could mark the birth of new forms of relationship between their governments and African people based, this time, on honest and principled interactions.

Also, if this trend continues, the West would then be in a position to see through the several alibis that are being posed or would soon be invented to justify the same set of people holding on to power in Nigeria, ranging from fighting corruption to containing terrorism.

It is indeed unfortunate that, once again, Western intervention, more than domestic opposition, would be weightier in resolving a democratic impasse in Nigeria. That calls for sober domestic reflections on the nature and character of democratic project in Nigeria. But that reflection can wait until the present threat to our wobbling constitutional democracy has been contained. Then the civil society, middle class professional associations, ethnic organisations, politicians, the business people, religious leaders and so on would have to ask and answer the question as to what they actually want between democracy and dictatorship.

DAILY TRUST

MONDAY COLUMN

Monday, February 20, 2006

Bird flu: I know who is to blame

By Tunde Asaju

By now, Tony Iredia should be one staff less. And that, if he asks me, should be a woman called Asabe Abubakar. She is the reporter who in November raised vital questions about the possibility of a bird flu hitting Nigeria. She it was who wished such a terrible thing on Nigeria. She it was who invited the bird flu to Sambawa Farms and she deserves to be punished for it. Frankly, Asabe is hereby pronounced guilty and the cheek of it – on NTA, government's own megaphone. Such blatant accuracy should not be done on government medium and when they do, reporters who do that



President Olusegun Obasanjo

should be penalised to serve as deterrence.

Seriously, I am not surprised that the bird flu did finally land on our shores. Why? This is Nigeria, Africa's largest country and by far a giant in thought and not in action. Late last year, the world was jolted by a rare occurrence in Asia – Avian flu. Before you could say *wetin* concern me concern chicken, human beings were catching the scourge in their dozens. Before long, the Asians, who a few years earlier had suffered SARS were able to contain the surge. Avian flu fled from Asia and landed in Turkey from where again it was easily contained. Then it looked at the forty-something states in Africa and decided to bless us with a visit. That was in January. And where else could it have visited but Kaduna, that state that is called Liberal State? And on whose farm could it have hibernated but Sambawa Farms owned by no less a person than a minister of the Federal Republic and who in the height of controversy was away on a more pressing assignment in Egypt? And to think that some want him probed is the cheek of it. He should be honoured!

This explains why his staff was allowed to roam free for weeks even when it is possible that they could be harbouring a strain of the H5N1 virus, which could wipe out a whole community in five days. Thank God Asabe did not report that; but as they say here, even then – sack her. For if she had not reported about bird flu in November, it would not have come to Nigeria in January. As usual, our wishes have always been that bad things would not happen to us – they should happen to our neighbours so we can show off our generosity – oh

Charity!

I do not know who broke the thick wall of silence that is usually erected over matters in which ministers are involved. I think we should ask Nuhu Ribadu or Dora Akunyili to check it out. Seriously. But whoever it was leaked the secret – only after the flu had migrated to Jos and Kano and who knows where else is a saboteur and should be treated like Asabe.

These meddling Americans! Who asked them to bring protective gear? Protect who? Did they not hear that our country set aside N2 billion for compensation? Who asked them to give \$25 billion? If they didn't bring those 2000 gears, we would not have known that they were needed. Minister Lambo did not think it necessary to tell us if he bought a tablet of Tamiflu. I bet they must have given those inoculations, useless as they are, to members of the Federal Executive Council. And it suffices.

In Asia and Europe, Tamiflu, an anti-flu drug, was bought and massive immunisations carried out in places where the flu could spread to and I blame myself – are we Europeans? In Turkey, it was done? So what? Are we Turks? Is the life of a Nigerian as important as that of a European or a Turk? Questions! Why do we ask too many questions – we should just be content with what we are given – your obedient servants.

Then hear Frank Nweke the one with the Hitler moustache – journalists should be blamed for wishing that the H5N1 strain which when it enters the body of man does more havoc than HIV/AIDS on Nigerians. Indeed, Nweke swore by his clean-shaven face that there was no such link with humans. He also reminded us newshounds that we should be sensitive with issues of national security and a flu that can wipe out an entire country is of sensitive national importance and should be treated with the full cover of the official Secrets Act. Journalists! You see why I am against Asabe Abubakar now? If it were not for her, who would have known that our country ought to prepare? Who would have heard of the need for an early warning system? Who would have known that a nation's ill-preparedness in the face of annihilation should not be the concern of reporters? Nobody, except that Asabe had raised questions she should not have raised. Nobody except Asabe who was trying to incite Nigerians against their benevolent government.

Well, as for FCT which is only 150 kilometres from Kaduna, and under the jackboot of the irrepressible Nasir el-Rufai, nothing was done until the hoopla had died down (or has it?) There were no restrictions made on the movement of persons, (not even on the managers of Sambawa Farms); there were no roadblocks erected to ensure that infected birds are not sneaked to Abuja. For a federal capital overpopulated by people who have no business coming here in the first place, what is the death of a few inconsequential hundreds via bird flu? After all, if you asked Samu'ila Makama before he had raised his hands, he would tell you that this country is overpopulated already and that we should do something about it. Don't talk to me about family planning; some of my friends don't want to hear about it. Next time you want to wipe out a few unwanted peasants, go and import chicken from Indonesia – but make sure that you are a minister and thou shalt not be probed.

They tell us that the human strain of the virus is yet to hit us and we must believe this responsive system. After all, they have always done everything to earn our confidence. But if by any chance they are wrong and people are dying, we are not likely to know, because when was the last time anybody registered a birth or death? And besides, if people start dropping like flu chickens, we are (being the complacent people that we are) most unlikely to ask any questions. We simply would take our kegs, perform ablution, and thank Allah for helping Danko Makama save a few census nairas. God bless Nigeria, the giant in the limbo!