

DAILY TRUST

Trust Is A Burden

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MONDAY COLUMN

Ahmed Danfulani on:

Nigeria or a small piece of leather?

Page 5

STAR FEATURE

Defences of ancient Katsina

Page 17

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FRONT PAGE COMMENT

Opening old wounds at Oputa

When in 1999 President Olusegun Obasanjo set up the Human Rights Violations Investigation Commission (HRVIC) under the chairmanship of retired Justice Chukwudifu Oputa, many people saw it as the action of an unforgiving leader intent on getting at the Abacha administration. Those who made the allusion pointed to the original period it was meant to cover. Initially, it was to investigate violations carried out between 1993 and 1999.

After the commission itself and other Nigerians complained about the date and its implications, the president conceded and extended it to cover the period between 1983 and 1999. But then some people pointed out that the former military head of state did not want his first tenure investigated. Then as an afterthought the panel's period of investigation was extended to cover 1966 to 1999.

So, unlike the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) under Bishop Desmond Tutu, there is quite a remarkable difference in conception with the HRVIC. The HRVIC does not have the powers of clemency of the TRC and while the violation in apartheid South Africa were principally between the blacks and the whites, the Nigerian case was between soldiers and civilians.

Since it started sitting, however, several of the revelations have left Nigerians wondering if indeed it was not being converted into a theatre of the absurd where those sinking try to get as many people as the can to go down with them. However, more a serious concern is the fact that the commission appears to be opening old, if already healing, wounds.

In this regard we doubt the reconciliation purpose the petition of the pan-Igbo cultural group the *Ohaneze* over the 1966 coups and the consequent civil war between 1967 and 1970 is likely to serve. The *Ohaneze* petition alleged that the first coup was to stop the North from prosecuting the desire of the eighteenth century Islamic Jihadists to dip the Qur'an into the Atlantic. The *Ohaneze* also demanded compensation of eight trillion naira for lives lost during the 1966 disturbances and the civil war all of which, they alleged, claimed over 10 million lives.

These claims led to the counterclaims by
Continued on Page 5

FAILURE TO APPEAR BEFORE OPUTA

Obasanjo orders arrest of retired generals

President Olusegun Obasanjo has ordered the arrest of persons who ignore summons to appear before the Justice Chukwudifu Oputa panel investigating human rights violations in the country.

From Shakirat Abdulmajeed, in Lagos and Simon Imoha-Tswam

At the Lagos airport on his way to Otta yesterday, President Obasanjo, however, threw the task of the arrest to Nigerians.

"Nigerians should arrest them," he said in an answer

to a question on what he was doing to ensure the appearance of some retired Generals who have ignored repeated summons to appear before the commission.

Obasanjo gave the charge to Nigerians yesterday in Lagos on his way to Otta for a private visit.

Speaking at the weekend in an interview with BBC (Hausa Service), General Babangida explained that his non-appearance at the panel was not out of contempt for the commission or Nigeria or even out of fear.

He said since the Nigerian constitution allows an accused to be represented by his lawyers, "I don't consider it necessary to personally appear before the panel. The lawyers are there to hold my

contd. on pg 2



President Obasanjo

I have no presidential ambition - Atiku

By Suleiman Mohammed

Vice-President Atiku Abubakar yesterday returned from a three-week break abroad and debunked speculations that his absence was to enable him plan against President Olusegun Obasanjo in 2003.

Vice-president Atiku Abubakar, dressed in red suite told State House correspondents at the presidential wing of the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja that he has no presidential ambition in 2003.

"God for bid! Upstage

the president, but for those who are trying to upstage me (from office) I wish them good luck," he assured when confronted with the issue.

Media reports during the week alleged subterranean moves by the vice-president

to contest against President Olusegun Obasanjo in the 2003 race, first as speculations that the PDP caucus had advised President Obasanjo to drop the vice-president in the next elections.

contd. on pg 2

Bridegroom flees after wedding

From Abdullahi Tasiu Abubakar, in Yola

A bridegroom in Yola, the Adamawa State capital, has jilted his bride and fled the town barely five hours after the solemnisation of their marriage.

Mr. Usman Peter and Miss Fadi Zubairu were joined together in holy matrimony last week as husband and wife at a ceremony presided over by a local Imam in Jimeta, Yola, the Adamawa State capital.

Later in the evening of the same day, relatives, friends and well-wishers gathered at the venue and conveyed the bride to her matrimonial home. On arrival, however, Usman was nowhere to be found.

"He neither disclosed his
contd. on pg 2

PRIVATE SECTOR FUNDING

Presidency cautions sports ministry

By Patrick Andrew

The presidency has warned the sports ministry against compromising government's quest for full private sector participation in sports sponsorship in the

country.

The warning was contained in a tersely written memo sent to the sports ministry last week where the presidency reiterated its commitment to divest its interest in sports sponsorship, a move designed to create a leeway for the full participation of the private sector in sports.

The present administration has since inception harped about withdrawing its funding of sports and to create the necessary environment for multinational corporations to plough back part of their profits into the sector.
contd. on pg 2

Retreats to restore Forces' dignity - Obasanjo

Addressing senior officers of the Army, Navy, Airforce and the Police at the Headquarters, 2 Division of the Nigerian Army, the President said it had become necessary to create opportunities for reflection about where the services were yesterday, where they are today and where they should be going.

Recalling that the first of such retreats was held in Kaduna, where he had started as a young officer in 1959, the President said the lesson of the past and the aspirations for the future should engage participants' attention.

He said that considering Nigeria's needs today, retreats had become necessary not only for even lower cadres of the forces, but also for the different sections of the population.

President Obasanjo pointed out to members of the uniformed forces that the Nigerian Constitution is the



Mark Dac Sports Minister

NEWS

Recently dropped ministers may face anti-corruption panel

Ministers who were recently sacked from the federal cabinet may face the anti-corruption tribunal, Secretary-General of the PDP, Mr. Okwesilieze Nwodo, said in London at the weekend.

Addressing a press conference, Nwodo lamented that some of the sacked ministers did not live up to expectation.

He said the fate of the ministers was debated at a meeting of the Federal Executive Council, adding that though a decision on the issue had not been finalised, "the ministers have not escaped."

He warned that any minister or political appointee found wanting would be dropped within 24 hours, no matter his connections.

Nwodo said many "big names" in the country would also face the tribunal, stressing that many of them were so strikingly corrupt that they "do not know how to survive without cheap money."

He reiterated government's determination to fight corruption in public life, emphasising that all who want to go along with the government must change for

the better.

"People must be ready to transform, to make sacrifices, to work and not to make money as usual," he

said, pointing out that fighting corruption was the biggest challenge being faced by the present administration.

Acknowledging the enormity of the challenge, Nwodo said it would require a "magic wand to change things overnight," but stated

that fighting the scourge was the only way to save Nigeria.

He described President Olusegun Obasanjo as a sin-

cere and patriotic leader, whose contributions towards salvaging the country may not be manifest until he might have left office

FG votes over N11.24bn for roads in Gombe and Yobe States

The Federal Government has awarded contracts for rehabilitation and construction of roads in Gombe and Yobe States to the tune of over N11.24 billion.

The Minister of State for Works and Housing, Mr. Garba Madaki Ali, said this during his inspection tour of ongoing federal road projects in Gombe and Yobe States.

Mr. Ali declared as "encouraging" the quality of job exhibited particularly by the indigenous construction

companies, Alhaji Yahaya Umar and Company Ltd and Arfo Construction Company Nigeria Limited handling a 68km Mararaba-Tumu-Pindigi-Kashere-Futuk-Yalo road at the cost of over N2.3 billion and a 30km Gashua-Yusufari road at the cost of over N1.75 billion in Gombe and Yobe States respectively. Both contracts have 20 months duration.

According to the minister, the Federal Government has awarded about 80 road contracts at the cost of over N190 billion. Mr. Ali said 13 out of the 80 road contracts have been completed, and 30 more are expected to be completed on or before the end of this year.

The minister reiterated federal government's determination to complete all abandoned and ongoing road projects throughout the country.

Mr. Ali advised Nigerians to be patient with the Federal Government as the gestation period of these contracts take longer time.



Chief Tony Anenih, Minister of Works and Housing

Retreats contd. from pg 1

'supreme law of the land,' adding that the constitution defines the role of the military.

"Let constitutionality and the rule of law prevail," he stressed.

The president disclosed that Task Forces have been set up on maintenance of barracks for soldiers and the police. He stressed the need to consolidate professionalism through training and re-training.

He also emphasised the inevitability of discipline, pointing out that if discipline was absent among a uni-

formed service, "what you get is worse than a mob."

Reminding soldiers that they had an important role to play inside and outside Nigeria, he warned that they must not allow themselves to be destroyed by sexually transmitted diseases, especially HIV/AIDS for which there is, as yet, no cure.

After the opening ceremony, President Obasanjo took part in the lecture sessions where Chief Bola Ige, Minister of Justice and Attorney-General, presented a paper titled "Power and the Rule of Law in a Democratic

Dispensation" and Major General Chris Alli (rtd) also spoke on "Military Professionalism in a Democratic Setting."

The president was accompanied to the retreat by the Minister of Defence, General T.Y. Danjuma (rtd); the Minister of State for Army, Malam Lawal Batagarawa, Navy Mrs. Modupe Adelaja and Air force Engr. Dan Chuke as well as the Chief of Defence Staff, Vice Admiral Ibrahim Ogohi. The Chiefs of Staff for Army, Navy and Air Force were also present.

Obasanjo contd. from pg 1

brief."

The president's directive is coming on the heels of repeated refusal by some former Heads of State to appear before the commission to clear their names over allegations of human rights violations levelled against them.

President Obasanjo had last week advised all persons, including former leaders, summoned by the commission to appear before it to clear their names.

While speaking on a live

Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) programme "Presidential Media Chat," Obasanjo had declared, "if they don't go, they will be doing the most damage to themselves and their families. I set up the commission and I believe it should be taken seriously."

Also last week, the panel's chairman, Justice Chukwudifu Oputa, advised the former leaders to come forward and clear their names in their own interests.

Oputa, who spoke from

London on a British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) programme said: "In their own interest, it is better for them to appear... If they don't appear, well, we have another weapon on our hands.

The commission during a visit to President Obasanjo on July 19 had complained to the president about the refusal of some ex-rulers indicted by witnesses to make an appearance at the commission.



L-R: Chief Economic Adviser to the President, Dr. Magnus L. Kpakol; Minister of Finance, Malam Adams Ciroma and Minister of State for Finance, Senator Jibril Matins-Kuye during the Federal Executive Council meeting held at the State House, Abuja... recently.

Pix: Kennedy Egbon-dye

Bridegroom contd. from pg 1

whereabouts nor did he leave a message about which house we should convey the bride to," one of his friends, Ahmadu, told *Daily Trust*.

"We later found out that he had secretly fled the town, leaving the bride and the rest of us thoroughly disappointed," he added.

Daily Trust learnt that when the father of the bride heard about the sudden disappearance of his son-in-law, he asked his daughter whether she had had any quarrel with her groom before or after the marriage.

The bride reportedly told

her father that she did not have any quarrel or disagreement with her groom.

She added, however, that he had sent her a sealed envelope a few days before the marriage but she had forgotten to open it because they had met that same day and were busy preparing for the wedding ceremony.

When the envelope was opened it contained a letter in which Usman told Fadi that he was no longer interested in marrying her.

Daily Trust learnt that the bride and her father were shocked by the content of the

letter.

When they contacted some Muslim clerics over the matter, they were told that since the letter was dated before the marriage, and Usman went ahead to contract the marriage the marriage remained valid.

Daily Trust gathered that Usman, who is an electrician, had been in love with Fadi for a very long time and had always been telling his friends that he would marry her.

Atiku contd. from pg 1

The presidential aircraft, No. 5N FGO touched down at the presidential wing of the airport at exactly, 4:30 p.m.

The vice-president, looking hale and hearty said he was better off than last year.

"I missed Nigeria really. You cannot get a group of

people like Nigerians anywhere in the world. I am much better off than last year," he declared.

At the airport to receive the vice-president were the Adamawa State Governor, Boni Haruna, Minister of Aviation, Mrs. Kema Chikwe, FCT Minister,

Engr. Abba-Gana, the Special Adviser to the President on party matters, Alhaji Mahmoud Waziri and other top government officials.

Vice-president Atiku Abubakar left the country for a three-week break mid last month.

Presidency contd. from pg 1

Government has subsequently instructed the sports ministry and sports administrators to disabuse their minds over dependence on government for funding of sports programmes.

The government has rather insisted on the provision of needed facilities and required directions for management of sports.

Recently, the presidency gave the approval for the partial privatisation of the

management of the yet to be completed national stadium, Abuja, to allow for effective management, maintenance of facilities as well as to generate funds for such maintenance.

Daily Trust gathered that last week's warning was to forestall elimination of corporate bodies in the national sports associations.

The presidency's warning came on the heels of last week's election for the lead-

ership of national associations' with reports of alleged electoral malpractices, one of which may have compelled the pulling out of a multinational corporation is long standing association with athletics sponsorship.

Following government's new policy, the sports ministry has assigned to each of the twenty-eight (28) associations multinational corporations, which are to serve as financial linchpins.

NEWS

FG promotes 890 in Nigeria Immigration Service, 366 in Prisons

The Immigration and Prisons Services Board has announced the promotion of 890 officers in the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) and 366 in the Prisons Service.

A July 27 circular with reference Number CIPB/S.33/I, entitled: "Release of 2,000 promotion," and signed by the Secretary to the board, Rev. E.C. Ukaha, said that the officers were notionally promoted with effect from January 1, 2001.

It said 11 Deputy Comptrollers of Immigration were made Comptrollers and nine Assistant Comptrollers, while 44 Chief Superintendents were elevated to the rank of Assistant Comptrollers. The circular, a copy of which was made available to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) at the weekend in Lagos, added that 191 other officers were promoted as Chief Superintendents of Immigration and 287 Superintendents, while 348 became Deputy

Superintendents. It quoted the board as directing the NIS to withdraw the promotion letter of an officer (names withheld), who allegedly attended the promotion interview as a Deputy Superintendent in spite of her demotion as an Assistant Superintendent.

The Nigeria Prisons Service (NPS) spokesman, Mr. Kayode Odeyemi, stated that the promotion in the service was carried out, following an examination conducted by the Immigration and Prisons Services Board (IPSS) in December, last year.

Odeyemi said that 15 Deputy Controllers were promoted to the rank of Controllers while 54 Assistant Controllers moved

to the rank of Deputy Controllers. Also, 88 Chief Superintendent of Prisons and 209 Superintendents became Chief Superintendents, adding that the promotions took effect from January 1, 2001.



Chief Sunday Afolabi

FG awards design contracts for federal roads

The Federal Government has awarded contracts for the production of designs for all federal roads requiring either re-construction or rehabilitation. The Minister of State for Works and

Housing, Mr. Garba Ali Madaki, said during a courtesy visit on Governor Malla Kachalla of Borno State at the weekend in Maiduguri, that the contracts were awarded following government's decision not to execute any road project which had no design.

The minister, who did not disclose the cost of the contracts, however, told the governor that apart from the roads undergoing rehabilitation, at least two other federal roads had been identified in each state of the federation for either re-construction or rehabilitation. Ali said that the desire of the Federal Government was to ensure that most federal roads were rehabilitated and made motorable before the end of 2003, adding "it is a task we must accomplish."

He also scored the defunct PTF low in the area of road rehabilitation, noting that its efforts in the area fell far short of the quality prescribed for Nigerian roads by experts. "PTF did not impress us in the Works Ministry because its rehabilitation of roads stopped with filling of potholes, without giving any attention to the shoulders or the construction of drainages," he stated.



Chief Tony Anenih

Rain destroys farmlands in Kano

From Musa Umar Kazaure, in Kano

Over 5,000 hectares of farmland and crops worth millions of naira have been destroyed by ice-rain in Bebeji, Bagwan and Tofa Local Government Areas of Kano State.

A fortnight ago, the same councils' farmlands were ravaged by quelea birds.

Some of the affected farmers, who spoke to *Daily Trust*, said domestic animals such as cattles, sheep and goats also died during the ice storm. Eyewitnesses said blocks of ice as big as football, fell from the heavens and in some cases ruining thatched roofs.

The worst hit villages are Dullul, Kavyen Adam, Balawa, Kiyawa and Damau where over 200 domestic animals died. However, the ice-rain which destroyed millet, sorghum and cowpea did not claim human life.

Most of the victims who described the ice-rain as an act of God, called on the authorities to help them as all their

Alhaji Ado Kibiya, both visited the affected areas and promised government's assistance.

The commissioner, in an interview, said tractors, fertilizers and improved variety of seedlings have been provided for the victims to allow them replant and reap the fruit of their labour.

The seedlings which he said mature in just 60 days are given to the victims free of charge to alleviate the effects of the disaster which he described as an act of God.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly AVEREHI AFOLABI EZEKIEL, now AVEREHI EZEKIEL OLATUNDE. Former documents remain valid, UNICAL and public to note.



Gov Musa Kwankwaso

PUBLIC NOTICE

RICE FARMERS ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA (RFAN)
The general public is hereby informed that the above named Association has applied for registration under Part "C" of the Companies and Allied Matters Decree No. 1 of 1990.

- The Trustees are:
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 2. Mr. Evans Ekwe Nwaze
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 9. Mrs. Mariyam Dada Ibrahim
 10. Dr. S.A. Olusuyi

Any objection to the above registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General Corporate Affairs Commission, Area 11, Garki Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:
SAMSON BULUS ESQ
Hamdala Chambers, Area 7A Cornershop,
Garki, Abuja.

ABU, SSANU reach agreement

The management of Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria and the Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU), ABU branch, have signed an

agreement, he added include: national housing fund, elongation of terminal salary of executive secretarial and typist cadres, rehabilitation of roads, uniforms and protective wears, future

SSANU / FG agreements and review of facilities provided when a pensionable officer dies in service. On SSANU allowances for which a court injunction had been given, Joel said that both sides agreed to respect the legal process, saying that the two sides had agreed to find amicable ways of implementing the allowances.

He said that the two parties also agreed that the Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) of the university should be reconstituted by September.

"It was further agreed that both parties should sensitise themselves toward effecting a cordial industrial and social relationship," he said. It was also agreed that the university management, the in-house unions and the entire university community stood to benefit from regular dialogue and harmonious relationship.



Prof. Borisade

agreement on an 18-point demand by SSANU for harmonious industrial relations in the institution.

The Chairman of SSANU, ABU branch, Mr. S.K. Joel, told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Zaria at the weekend, that the agreement bordered on allowances, rent on university houses, check-off dues, loans, promotion, training and ratioanlisation exercises.

Other areas of the

UNIVERSITY OF ABUJA

P.M.B. 117, ABUJA NIGERIA
OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR
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ADMISSION INTO THE 2001/2002 REMEDIAL PROGRAMME

- 1. General:**
Applications are invited from qualified candidates for admission into the one year Remedial Science Programme for the 2001/2002 Academic Session.
- 2. Admission Requirements:**
To qualify for admission into the Remedial Programme, a candidate MUST have attempted Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics at NECO/WASC/SSCE or GCE 'O' level and should have at least three (3) credits, two (2) of which MUST be in the above science subjects.
- 3. Duration of Programme:**
Remedial students will undergo intensive studies for a year and upon passing the prescribed examinations, will enrol into one of the Degree Programmes in the College of Science and Agriculture in accordance with the candidate's performance. However, candidates will be required to process their enrolment through the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB), details of which will be explained on admission.
- 4. Method of Application**
Request for Admission Forms should be addressed to:
**THE REGISTRAR,
UNIVERSITY OF ABUJA,
P.M.B. 117, ABUJA.**
The request for forms should be accompanied by one self-addressed 223cm x 100cm envelopes with N30.00 postage stamp affixed on it and a non-refundable application fee of **One thousand Naira (N1,000)** in Bank Draft, payable to University of Abuja and drawn on any of the following Banks in Abuja.
i) Union Bank of Nigeria Plc;
ii) First Bank of Nigeria Plc;
iii) United Bank for Africa Plc; and
iv) Bank of the North
- 5. Return of completed Application Forms:**
Return of completed Application Forms, accompanied by an acknowledgment card with a N30.00 postage stamp affixed and a photocopy of the receipt of purchaser should be to the Registrar, University of Abuja, P.M.B. 117, Abuja, not later than **Friday, 28th September, 2001.**
- 6. Note**
This advertisement supersedes all previous advertisements on the same issue.

Signed:
S.S. SULE
REGISTRAR

NEWS

Jigawa spends N42m on mosques, religious materials

The Jigawa State government has spent over N42 million on materials for mosques and religious schools in the state this year.

Announcing this to newsmen in Dutse, the state Commissioner for Religious Affairs, Alhaji Babannan Rabo Aujara, said the materials, comprising building materials and electronics were distributed to schools and mosques equitably across the state. He said it was also from the money that the Hadejia burial ground was fenced and the repairs of

From Bala Mohammed Nasir, in Dutse

Birnin-Kudu Juma'at mosque were undertaken.

The commissioner explained that a school was built in Jahun at the cost of N8 million while another N1.5 million was expended on providing new culverts in the state with a school in their town. He further explained that a community from Kwalam in Taura Local Government Area was given relief materials worth N2 million as a result of the rainstorm that devastated

their houses and farms.

Alhaji Aujara, disclosed that the state has already taken delivery of 4,000 bags of cement, 1,000 microphones, 1,000 loudspeakers and 1,000 amplifiers as well as 1,000 bundles of roofing sheets which are for distribution to three towns from each of the 27 local governments areas in the state.

Fielding questions from newsmen, the commissioner said three towns from each local government were selected for the sake of equity, adding "We selected the towns in accordance with applications we received from various communities in the state."



Gov. Saminu Turaki

School threatens to expel truants

Disturbed by the alarming rate of truancy among students and their poor academic performance, the PTA of the Police Secondary School, Minna, Niger, at its meeting at the weekend, mandated the school to publish termly, a list of "truants or unserious" students.

To match words with action, the school authority, through its Vice-Principal-Adademic, Mrs. K.L. Adeyeri, published the maiden list of 206 students written off as either "truants" or "unserious" and distributed same to parents who attended the meeting.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that some students whose names appeared on the list were al-

ready panicking for fear of being punished by their parents when they arrive home for the long vacation.

The school authority in a copy of the letter attached to the list, threatened to expel such students if they fail to change their attitude next term.

"If on resumption of school next term, and there is no positive change in them, we will have no option than to expel them from school," the Vice-Principal warned in the letter of truancy.

NAN investigation revealed that some of the students had sneaked out of the school to join bad friends in town since the beginning of the term, only to return a few days to the commencement of promotion examinations.

NUC boss backs university reform

By Ikenna Emeka Okpani

According to him, the commission should be able to guide government before it takes any decision that relates to the university system.

He described his appointment as a continuation of the "achievements" of the outgoing Chief Executive Secretary, Prof. Munzali Jibril whom he described as, "a friend and a brother."

Earlier in his remarks before he landed the baton of leadership, the outgoing secretary, Prof. Jibril, said "God is the controller of power and leadership and confers such on whom he so wishes."

According to him his tenure witnessed improved funding for Nigerian Universities, comprehensive accreditation exercise for courses offered and panel visitation to all universities in the country.

Others include the registration of four private universities, curriculum reform and internet connection for over twenty-four universities.

On staff welfare, Prof. Jibril announced that he built sixty flats in Jibril Aminu Housing Estate for staff and acquired another nine at Maitama.

The new Executive Secretary, Prof. Peter Okebukola an Oyo State indigene was born on 17th February, 1951 in Ilesa, Osun State.

Prof. Okebukola has variously served as Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Lagos State University (LASU) and Acting Vice-Chancellor for the University of the same University.

The much needed reforms in our universities, which unions like the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) and others have been advocating for many years would soon become a reality.

This is so following the new Executive Secretary of the National Universities Commission (NUC) Prof. Peter Okebukola's declaration that his priority would be a reform in the university system.

He declared this during a brief hand-over ceremony at the conference hall of the

Dredging the Niger will enhance Nigeria - US trade - General Flowers

By Hammeed Bello

The dredging of the River Niger to enhance transportation and trade between Nigeria and the United States of America is a possible area of bilateral co-operation, visiting Chief of Engineers of the US Army Corps, Lt.-Gen. Robert Flowers, has said.

General Flowers, who is on a tour of African countries, told the Minister of Defence, Lt.-Gen. T.Y. Danjuma (rtd) that his tour was aimed at establishing a cordial military relationship between the US and Africa, particularly Nigeria.

In his response, Gen. Danjuma affirmed that the

dredging would make sea transportation cheaper and recalled that a US General, Rogers, had suggested to him to get the Niger dredged to aid sea transportation, when he (Danjuma) was Chief of Army Staff.

Another benefit the dredging would afford Nigeria, Gen. Flowers said the construction of a dam that would generate 4,000 watts of electricity.

Nigeria also has a military partnership with the US in peace keeping operations and combat readiness training.

Confessions at Oputa Panel not enough - Gov Osoba

From Olumide Bajulaiye, in Abeokuta

Ogun State Governor, Chief Olusegun Osoba, over the weekend declared that the confessions and testimonies of past military leaders at the Justice Chukwudifu Oputa panel in Abuja are not

enough to erase the harrowing experiences suffered by Nigerians in the hands of the military.

Chief Osoba, who made the statement at the commis-

sioning of the state hospital at Odedan ADB-assisted project, said the main objective of the military coming into power was to loot the nation's treasury and inflict injustice on innocent Nigerians.

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WEEK 1 GAME 1 WINNING NUMBERS:

8 | 17 | 33 | 41 | 46 | 50

WEEK 2 GAME 1 WINNING NUMBERS:

9 | 14 | 18 | 33 | 35 | 43

WEEK 3 GAME 1 WINNING NUMBERS:

3 | 7 | 11 | 20 | 33 | 36

WEEK 4 GAME 1 WINNING NUMBERS:

4 | 19 | 20 | 29 | 44 | 50

WEEK 5 GAME 1 WINNING NUMBERS:

8 | 12 | 14 | 24 | 41 | 45

PLAY THE NATIONAL SPORTS LOTTERY, YOU too COULD BECOME A MILLIONAIRE

DAILY TRUST

FRONT PAGE COMMENT

Continued from Front Page 1

Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF) over this dark period in our history. When the civil war ended in 1970, General Yakubu Gowon deliberately embarked on a three-pronged policy of Reconciliation, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction after declaring that there was "No victor, No vanquished". As it were, this policy has yielded results which have seen to the fastest post-war healing of wounds in Africa. Indeed, so successful had been this policy that the pre-war political alliance between the North and the East has waxed stronger.

This petition at the Oputa panel has opened that murky past and is threatening the delicate balance that has held the country together. Indeed even the so-called 'Abacha Boys' who have made the most of the commission have issued ominous warnings about the impact of these revelations on national security.

The implications of this and similar petitions are many. For instance, how is the ACF expected to accept any recommendation it considers unfavourable having been made by an Igbo chairman, Justice Oputa from whom it would be unnatural to expect complete neutrality in the *Ohaneze* petition? Even among the commission members, it would not be an easy consensus on all matters. Being human, it would be too much to expect some of the commissioners who also lost a loved ones in the January 1966 coup to accept that they were murdered to stop the Islamisation of Nigeria. Exhuming some of the issues will polarise opinions and further divide Nigerians rather than foster forgiveness and reconciliation. We believe in the maxim: 'the truth shall set you free', but half-truths and subterfuge will lead us nowhere.

The panel's chairman has not missed any opportunity to reassure witnesses that the panel is not an adversarial tribunal. The panel may not be adversarial but adverse inferences are likely to be drawn from the loose cannons from witnesses some of whom are allegedly sponsored to smear the names of former heads of state.

This has led to the challenge by some former heads of state, notably Generals Ibrahim Babangida, who based his challenge on the legality of the panel. Section 88 of the 1999 constitution empowers only the National Assembly, not the executive, to conduct such investigations as the HRVIC is doing.

Not a few people on the other hand who believes the commission has derailed from its original terms of reference. In most of the allegations made against former heads of state, it appears the evidential proof has not only shifted, but has been completely ignored by the commission such that those whom allegations are made against must now appear before the panel to disprove the allegations.

This has been the case over Umaru Dikko's petition against General Muhammadu Buhari over which Buhari and the Defence Minister, Lt. General T. Y. Danjuma were invited. Similarly, General Ibrahim Babangida has been invited over the killing in 1987 of the founding editor-in-chief of *Newswatch*, Mr. Dele Giwa, the case of which had been dismissed by a Lagos High Court. The immediate former head of state, General Abdulsalami Abubakar is also invited over the death in detention of Chief M. K. O. Abiola and sundry other allegations during his tenure.

Daily Trust is in complete agreement with President Obasanjo that no one should be above or beyond the law but believes that the legal foundation of the Oputa panel itself is precarious and its ability to reconcile Nigerians over certain issues in the past is becoming more dubious by the day.

MONDAY COLUMN

Nigeria or a small piece of leather?

By Ahmed Danfulani

Only last Sunday, the 28th of July, 2001, was the entire nation, once again solidly stood still, fervently praying for the success of our national football team, the Super Eagles! A visitor to this nation, and to any part of West Africa will not have difficulty in observing that the atmosphere was fully charged, almost everything stood still, taxis were almost not willing to operate, and hundreds of commuters were eager to return home or to somewhere, where they could comfortably watch their 'beloved' national team sail to victory. It was even confirmed in one of the dailies the next day that several shops were hurriedly closed down and some places of worship were deserted by adherents tramping to the nearest place where they could watch the Ghana-Nigeria World Cup final qualifying match.

Trust the unbeatable citizens of this great country, several were those that made quick and brisk business selling all sorts of consumables on that memorable occasion and even before, just to ensure that the laws of supply and demand or vice versa were quite fully respected. A particularly successful television station was even more brazen in its exploration of the spectators' 'emotion'; that it strategically positioned giant television screens in some important locations in Lagos, only to charge comfortably a 'meagre' sum of N200! Yes N200 – in the country's 'shining' commercial capital of Lagos where the cost of life is relatively very high, and it was confirmed that all those TV stations, beer parlours, shops and other conveniences were jammed full. The pulse of the nation reached a crescendo of beats that hardly needed a doctor to confirm the speed! Our football-crazy nation was at its best, computing possible scores, grades of defeat and the pool houses got the better of the action. And all across the football world, prayers were said in different tones for either Ghana or Nigeria, depending on where a particular bread or butter will be satisfied. Except in Nigeria, several were those countries in Africa and outside Africa that fervently prayed for the demise – a total silence – of the giant of Africa 'Those bloody Nigerians, I never liked them, I even hate their leadership of Africa; I actually prayed that they be eliminated from this World Cup' – a chap reportedly had wished.

Victory was eventually Nigeria's; the nation went into a frenzy of joy and behold, our Eagles flew to bombard the 'Black Stars' right up in the sky. Yours sincerely, a strategist and silent sports lover, quickly saw in the above national drama – the very first since my arrival in the country – an unforgettable opportunity to relate that 'indelible expression of national collective emotion', as it concerns the issues of our collective heritage – the Nation – and her survival in the comity of nations. The paintings on the colours of our rainbow may not be complete with regards to this football frenzy without a mention of other tactical and strategic ingredients that laced the contours of our nation and which on that fateful Sunday graciously reared its head. Donations came from almost every quarter to serve as a stimulant and as some would say, a 'tonic bribe' to ensure that our footballers could fly to victory. Notable of these were some chief executives of three or more states of the federation! There were other donations in cash and kind *ala* Nigeria, and nobody knows how much the nation coughed out to support our 'giant birds'. Most significantly was the unmistakable presence of our number one flag bearer, Mr. President, accompanied by 19 state governors! Yes, 19 out of 36 state chief executives.

In simple mathematical terms, the majority of our executives were all present to cheer our 'lads' to victory. The victory squad cut across political parties, geo-political zones and

ethnic regional barriers were non-existent; oh sorry – were underplayed.

In Port Harcourt, we had all the representatives of the Nigerian nation and everyone was united for a common purpose by sheer 'emotion'! There was only one message, victory – fly, Eagles fly!! There was a single purpose: Nigeria, her success, her potentials, her power, relevance and influence in the comity of nations. Where were the Bakassi Boys, the OPC, the MASSOB, the *Afenifere*, the *Ohaneze* or the 'Arewaites', the nine Ogonis etc? In Port Harcourt, they were all present but they were united by a common purpose – Nigeria!!! They were driven by a common aspiration – victory for 'our beloved land'. Quite clearly from this event, we could not but arrive at a polite conclusion: Everybody wanted Nigeria; every group and nationality present – as they were present in Lancaster House talks before independence in 1960, as they were present at Tafawa Balewa Square in Lagos on the memorable day of 1st October 1960, as they were, as they were . . . and as they were present on another recent day of 29th May, 1999!! – when they were all united to pull the rug off the khaki boys. Those present at these occasions were (are) the children of the nationalists of yesteryear – Awolowo, Azikiwe, Ahmadu Bello and all their peers at the time – singing only one tune – win Nigeria, win Eagles, win and fly the nation to the pinnacle of global sport arena – the World football Cup!

Another important deduction from this event is that 'a piece of leather' (I was told those objects are made of synthetic material) – yes a piece of a round object, was the 'golden ball' that 120 million people would rally round to collectively come together to utilise as a 'symbol of national unity'. Just imagine that of all the symbols that we could fight for in the areas of education, culture, economy etc, it is in the arena of sports that we are all bound together for a common purpose, common identity and common aspiration which implicitly translates to the unflinching 'love' for our motherland – the territory of the Niger!

To underrate the phenomenon of our commitment to Nigeria's success in football is to be completely ignorant of the subject of sports and politics among nations. To underplay the need for Nigeria's presence at the World Cup in Korea-Japan, is to be completely oblivious of the effect and impact of competition and rivalry – political, economic, diplomatic, cultural, scientific – as the basis of modern wars, expressly unfavourable to weaker nations or loose geopolitical entities. To pray for anything but Nigeria's success is to officially place oneself against the tide of history – swimming up current, 'acontrario' to the dreams and aspirations of our founding fathers. It must of course be highlighted, as students of strategy, that in all facets of international relations, what mattered most is the issue of power as a currency of exchange, and the ability to win and be effectively present at the pinnacle of world politics and sports is to be a part of the global chess players where it mattered most!

Today, sports is completely political, and nobody needs reminding Nigerians of this, against the backdrop of the Pyrrhic victory of Cameroon in the African Cup of Nations played here in Lagos last year!

Poignantly, it must be here drummed home that as much as it stands to reason that we deserve to fight for Nigeria's success at all international fora of sports and politics etc, it is definitely more honourable to fight for the survival of this same nation in all that we do. It is indeed ridiculous that at the ordinary day-to-day management of policy and politics, we conduct ourselves in a manner seriously detrimental to the survival of the Nigerian nation. It is even pathetically destructive to imagine or admit that the whole nation could come together to share a common purpose over 'a small piece of leather', only for the policy makers of that same nation and people not to be able to unite and fight for a more serious subject – education, health, economy, culture etc – that could effectively place Nigeria at the fore front of global politics. How could anyone explain that Nigeria with over 120 million citizens could not produce some of the best scientists, soldiers or other experts for the world to emulate? Nobody will take us seriously if our nation could not play on the field of power, influence and grandeur in the comity of nations.

The world of cutthroat scientific, technological and socio-strategic competition will not take us seriously if we could only excel in fraud, sports and national political brigandage. The World Cup that we must strive to win – if we are indeed players – is that which will place the nation on the threshold of power, honour and influence among nations. Nigeria has come to stay and all of us, from the highest to the lowest, must be seen to effectively and committedly work for the nation's survival in the 21st century.

Danfulani, a professor of International Relations writes from Abuja

LETTER OF THE DAY

Babangida with dreadlocks?

With utmost satisfaction, I will like to congratulate the Super Eagles for a job well done, and the generality of Nigerians for scaling through to Japan/Korea 2002, and at the same time call the attention of wing wizard, Tijjani Babangida.

Haba Tijjani, of all hairstyles you went for dreadlocks. Really it is a disappointment to me as your fan. I grew up and know that anybody I see with dreadlocks is either a mad man or a marijuana smoker, but T. J. you are none of these.

Despite the fact that you played very well and to the extent of scoring two beautiful goals T. J. I am not happy with your new looks.

Please T. J. change the style, though it is so common in The Netherlands but nevertheless change it for your fans.

Once again, congratulations.
Abubakar
Plot 108C, Aminu Kano Crescent,
Abuja

Opinion

Oputa: Beyond the *Ohaneze* and Arewa 'battle'

By Danlami Baban Takko

Perhaps not many Nigerians are still keen in watching the proceedings at the Oputa panel investigating human rights violations. The simple reason being the fact that at one time or the other, the commission was nearly turned into a centre for settling personal scores, or as one puts it 'a theatre of comedies'! I used to be in this group.

But now, I am beginning to see the commission in a different perspective, probably because it is presently better focused and following its mandate in an expected manner. I am in full agreement with the decision taken by counsel to the former head of state, General Abdulsalami Abubakar for instituting a court action against the commission for deviating from its mandate.

When people like Brigadier-General Ibrahim Sabo and sometimes Major Hamza Al-Mustapha could be allowed by the commission to exact vengeance on their 'enemies' instead of listing any of their rights so violated, the conclusion one is forced to arrive at is that personal issues have overtaken fundamental ones. Happily enough it is not the case now.

The 'battle' now is between *Ohaneze* and the Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF) the first acting on ethnic platform and are busy trading accusations with each other. The subject matter is the alleged genocidal attack on the Ibos by northerners and the murder of northern leaders by the Ibos at various times beginning from the 1966 coup.

The revelations, hot and shocking as they were, are as observed by a member of the commission 'notorious facts' which he urged both sides to exercise restraint and avoid voicing out.

To my mind, notorious is another name for fact and it is well known that facts are bitter. For now, Nigerians have to bear with such notorious revelations being made in respect of the 1966 coup, civil war, marginalisation of the Ibos and so on and so forth. The Oputa panel is there to investigate human rights violations, and, to reconcile! After all, the Ibos started it all by presenting their petition in the Enugu sitting of the commission in which they listed their grievances against the North and demanded for compensation amounting to N8 trillion, an amount described by Arewa counsel as ridiculous.

When Major Chukwuma Nzeogwu murdered the Sardauna and Major Ifeajuna murdered Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, the Ibos did not imagine the holocaust that would befall their people. They had to pay the bitter price for the foolish actions of their four majors.

No doubt the Ibos are enterprising people. Before and after the civil war they could be found in almost all the nooks and corners of Nigeria doing one business or the other. Unlike their Yoruba or Hausa fellow countrymen, the Ibos are completely detribalised. To them what matters is where their bread will be buttered although it is their greatest undoing. They easily became vulnerable to attacks wherever there is a civil disturbance because of their presence and visible business *wayo*. This is in spite of the fact that they sometimes actively participate in such disturbances just like they sided with their northern Christian brothers during the religious mayhem in Kaduna. As an extension of the Kaduna disturbances, the Ibos took what they consider to be retaliatory measures against the Northerners by systematically killing them in Aba and other cities in the East. The northerners are yet to demand for compensation on that.

The Ibos have every right to demand for compensation from whoever killed their people just as the northerners have equal right to demand for same for the killing of their leaders. Unknown to the Ibos, ever since they killed the Sardauna, the North has not been able to produce anyone like him.

Elites have been known to cause trouble the world over, and when such trouble begins they always find their way out of the country leaving countless dead bodies of the ordinary people. If his'ory is anything to go by, the Ibos should have been the last people to forget so easily how Ojukwu abandoned them halfway through the civil war only to find safe abode in Ivory Coast. The *Ohaneze* have made up their mind to open up the can of worms, the Arewa Consultative Forum should waste no time in standing up to the challenge. Already the ACF through its young, brilliant lawyers are making their marks through outstanding performances. The lesson to be derived from the brilliant outings of ACF lawyers is that the North is not after all the region of illiterates.

As observed earlier, one only hopes that the current 'battle' between *Ohaneze* and ACF is only an elitist affair. Anything beyond that will no doubt put the unity of our country at jeopardy and suspense. Once the ordinary 'masses' take over, it will be a different story.

Sittings at Oputa panel can be aptly described as the day

Obasanjo in the world

By Salisu Na'inna Dambatta

Prior to his successful outing in Genoa, Italy, the debate on the foreign trips by President Olusegun Obasanjo had been renewed with the recent criticism of the trips by some prominent Nigerians who also advised the president to stop such travels.

It is relevant at this stage to refresh our memories. For, the president had on May 29, 1999, at the Eagle Square, Abuja, promised in his inaugural speech to reverse the perceived pariah status of Nigeria in the comity of nations. His promise was informed by the clear isolation; especially from West European countries and the United States, in which Nigeria found itself.

Most countries in the European Union bilaterally or multilaterally, as in the Commonwealth, had as at May 29, 1999 slammed sanctions, albeit "smart" and mild ones, on the continental giant. Canada had closed down its High Commission in Nigeria, the United States had targeted our military, banning the training of our personnel in their military institutions, denied spares for US-made equipment in our military inventory and declared the country's premier airport, the Murtala Muhammed International, as dangerous and lacking in functional equipment. The "smart" sanctions were embarrassing, irritating and somewhat thorny. One of the results of the sanctions was the reported grounding of most of the transport planes in the fleet of the Nigeria Air Force, confirming our vulnerability.

Given this scenario, President Obasanjo has no option than to be actively engaged and engaging on the international scene to ensure first, those minor but uncomfortable sanctions were lifted, and secondly, the

friendship the country enjoys between it and the rest of the world is both consolidated and furthered.

One of the most effective forms of diplomacy among nations is contact between the highest officials of friendly countries. This could only be possible when a leader visits a different country or his own country is visited. Thus visiting other countries to meet with their leaders is a common norm in international relations and it is almost impossible for any head of government in the world to serve tenure in office without visiting foreign countries. No country is an island unto itself and reciprocity is an important convention and aspect in relations between or among nations.

Besides, there are foreign trips which are almost compulsory for leaders. In the case of Nigeria, it will be unthinkable for President Olusegun Obasanjo, barring any overriding national situation, to refuse to attend an ECOWAS summit hosted by say, Guinea or Gambia. Equally, the president would not shun a summit of the African Union, that of the Commonwealth, the one called by OPEC or even the summit of the River Niger Basin Commission in Niamey or Dakar. Please recall that, after handing over power to the elected government in 1979, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo became a toast of the international community.

He subsequently became an international statesman, who did special assignments for the United Nations and the OAU, gained important friends, and developed contacts at the global level, especially in the West. He earned for himself and

subsequently Nigeria, an enormous reservoir of goodwill in the world. It is therefore only fair for him to deploy such contacts and goodwill in the service of his fatherland.

The late Chief M. K. O. Abiola in his characteristic usage of native wisdom to illustrate a point once said that his head couldn't be shaved in his absence. It is equally true that the president of Nigeria cannot represent the country at, for example, the yearly United Nations General Assembly without being there. He could not push for additional quota for Nigeria from the Summit of OPEC countries without attending.

Nigerians should feel good that Nigeria's President was one of four African leaders that made representations on behalf of Africa at the latest G8 and Russia summit in Genoa, Italy. The activist approach of the President on debt relief for Nigeria and other African countries seem to be generating international attention and stirring actions. The presentation of the New African Initiative to the G8 and Russia summit and the subsequent approval of the detailed development plan for Africa by the summit, a new impetus in the economic development of the continent maybe witnessed.

As a result of the active participation of the President in important global meetings of world leaders, Nigeria itself has become a destination for high profile visitors. This fact shows that Nigeria is both respected and appreciated as a medium power of at least 100 million people, with vast resources and huge potentials.

That Nigeria is a force to reckon with in the world is not a possibility, it is a reality. And President Obasanjo's presence in the global scene contributed to this recognition. It is in our

national interest for the President to keep doing what is necessary on the international scene.

In fact, Section 19, subsection (a) of the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria listed the "promotion and protection of the national interest" as one of the pillars of the foreign policy objectives of the country. President Obasanjo's global campaign for debt relief for Nigeria, which is one of the major reasons for his foreign trips, is in line with the "promotion of a just world economic order" that is, subsection (e) of Section 19 of the constitution. In a nutshell, the President has all the legal, political and moral justifications to travel out on government business as frequently as it is necessary.

Since it has been clearly established that the president's foreign travels are aimed at practicalising some provisions of the constitution, it is hard to see how critics of the trips would justify their criticism of the President, who is only implementing the law of the land. It is probably only in Nigeria that a President is criticized for implementing the provisions of the constitution of his country.

The President should be praised for working hard to consolidate the fresh image democracy and his diplomatic forays brought to Nigeria. His principled resolve to keep travelling on behalf of all Nigerians is in the interest of the country. Specialists and experts in the Ministry of Foreign affairs would attest that the more he travels abroad, the better for Nigeria.

Salisu is a Chief Information Officer in the Presidency, Abuja.

Public relations, truth and credibility

By Yusuff Shoyode

The practice of public relations unarguably has been with man since time immemorial. Man both in the past and present wishes to be identified as one who is kind, truthful, credible, empathetic and generous. All these attributes will enable him to earn goodwill, confidence and support in his bids to accomplish a task from others. Therefore, relegating effective public relations actions and practice by an individual or a corporate organisation will no doubt, elicit doom and disaster. Infact, public relations practice has been overwhelmingly cultivated by modern businesses to help them achieve and consolidate their successes in this modern day of market competition.

Public relations aims, for its serious users, are to help project and propagate their activities and actions, thereby creating effective knowledge based on dissemination of undiluted and unmanipulated information through the mass media or other means of communication to their targeted publics. It is equally used to help garner goodwill, confidence and favourable image for its users. These days, Public relations practitioners are becoming powerful and highly respected managers in corporate organizations. They are now prominent in the management teams offering effective services to their employers and contributing enormously in the successes of their establishments. For those sceptics and cynics of Public relations practice, a little trial will convince them to embrace it wholeheartedly.

Modern Public relations practice started in early 20th century in the United States of America. And became very prominent in the consciousness of the people when a hitherto journalist Mr Ivy Ledbetter Lee was contracted by a coal mines company to help them avert a looming strike which the company's employees were bent in carrying out to press home some demands. This man has been described by many contemporary public relations practitioners as the "father" of modern public relations practice. He carried out his assignments with zeal, confidence and candour that could not be rivalled in his time by his peers. He was the one that brought honour and dignity to the profession. He was never found wanting, hence the respect

imbroglio, that is, in dealing with the employees, unfettered dissemination of all important and necessary information should be allowed to come to the fore. This, he believed will help douse tension, bring the employees closer to the management and eventually help in resolving the crisis. That is the short-term achievement. For a long-term achievement, he postulated that "truthfulness" on the part of the employer, that is, the management of the organisation would enable them to enlist the support, co-operation and understanding of the workers. It will also earn the employer a good image and credibility. Fortunately, Ivy Lee was obliged all his demands and then stated all the truth and the whole saga was put behind the company, the management and the workers became friendly and effective success was the hallmark of the organisation for a relatively long time after that scenario.

Now, this is how truth became sacrosanct in the modern practice of public relations. Whether highly trained or otherwise, a public relations practitioner will often be a failure with all the knowledge and ideas of this world, if he is a perpetual liar. The best antidote to any public relations related crisis whether in corporate organisations, government parastatals or even in interpersonal relationship, is to state bare truthful information and unhindered access to all messages either positive or otherwise to all the concerned publics. The sole advantage of this phenomenon is to earn credibility.

Without credibility, no public relations manager can achieve or accomplish desired good results. Whenever a public relations practitioner encourages his organisation to twist truth and or engage himself in propaganda, by dissemination of half-truth and the desired publics raise eyebrows or suspicions, then there is danger in the corner. A lie told by a practitioner or his organisation will eventually boomerang and the effect will be a colossal damage to his reputation and image and that of his unmindful employer. To regain this may take a very relatively long time. To save one of these unwarranted embarrassments, all public relations practitioners are enjoined to cultivate truthfulness and candour in all their dealings with their targeted publics. It is also incumbent on them to advise their employers who do not see beyond making profits, to be people-oriented and be truthful in all their actions and utterances.



YOUR LETTERS

Open letter to General Gowon

Your claims of an "Arewa birthright" and your denunciation of the Middle Belt (*The Guardian*, Monday, June 11, 2001) makes an interesting revelation of your insensitivity to contemporary political developments in Nigeria. Your claim is a re-enactment of the Esau-Jacob episode. Denying your Angas nationality for the Arewa birthright is not befitting to your status as a former head of state. In case you don't know, the Middle Belt movement is a struggle for a true and correct identity of the minority ethnic nationalities of the middle belt region of Nigeria who have erroneously, though deliberately, been lumped with the Hausa-Fulani of the far north. And by this systematic arrangement, these minority nationalities have been used and dumped, in addition to the deprivation of cultural, social, political and economic development.

ward of Wusasa, was disgraceful. My dear general, what further bemused me, and many of your (former) admirers, is your inability to recognise when you are being used. Your acceptance to head the "Save Nigeria National Prayer" project constituted for the Ignoble General Abacha's transmutation programme left a very bad impression in our memories. You exposed your political naivety by alluding that "former heads of state of Northern extraction who all belonged to ACF had made a solemn pledge not to engage in partisan politics..." General Babangida's involvement and manoeuvres in the current political dispensation is an open secret. And General Buhari's recent call on Muslims to vote only a Muslim president can never be anything less than partisan.

The renaissance of the Middle Belt movement is the awakening of the consciousness of the ethnic nationalities of the Middle Belt region. The movement is aimed at affirming the true and correct identity of the nationalities in the Middle Belt region, rather

than an omnibus and pseudo identity. The movement believes that Nigeria should be a country devoid of all forms of social deprivation and discrimination. A country where tribe and/or religion are not the determinants of economic or political advancement and development. The movement is an ideal that cannot be killed by whimsical denunciation on the pages of newspapers. We are aware of the desperation and restiveness of the oligarchy and its cohorts on the Middle Belt movement. The Middle Belt movement is a struggle and no amount of mudslinging can frustrate it.

I pray that our good Lord gives you the wisdom to appreciate the contents of this letter - Amen!

Long live the Federal Republic of Nigeria.
Kpang David,
No. 5, Oremeji Street,
Bariga, Lagos.

Privatisation for who?

In my capacity as the vice-chairman of the Kano zone of the Shareholders Association of Nigeria comprising of Kano, Katsina, Jigawa, Yobe and Borno States, and on behalf of the shareholders and potential shareholders in the zone, I wish to make the following comments on various developments under the ongoing privatisation exercise:

The handling of offers under the exercise has been unduly slow. Moneys paid for shares have been kept for upwards of one year without allotting the shares and without the payment of interest on them. This is most unfair and the BPE/NCP should be kind enough to review the position.

We have received complaints from our members on their various applications for shares being rejected because more than one application came from the same address with the claim by the NCP/BPE that it was a case of multiple

applications. This judgement is, to say the least, defective. Some shareholders who do not have private mailboxes use our association's office for the share purchase and all such applications have been returned. Whoever lives in Nigeria knows that neighbours, friends and relations use common mailboxes; we are surprised that NCP/BPE operatives do not know. This should be avoided in subsequent offers otherwise we would have no option but to discourage people from participating if that is what the NCP/BPE desires.

Some applications were rejected just because they have the same surname. We cannot understand the logic of this judgement. A husband, his wife, their

grown up children could be up to ten or more in the same family with the same surname. Such families get denied completely under the NCP/BPE judgement on multiple applications. Please this should be realistic. Do change in the next offers. And we demand an explanation for the decision to disallow these applications.

We look forward to seeing the privatisation fund which the BPE/NCP has midwived to assist interested Nigerians with soft loans to acquire shares. It is long overdue. Please convince us that all you keep saying to us at various fora are true. We have told our members of the loans and they are interested.

We should be grateful if the *Daily Trust* makes a comprehensive write up on the issues highlighted above and more. We would like our opinion made public and seek your kind support.

Ahmad Rabiu,
Vice-Chairman
Kano Zone Shareholders Association,
Kano State.

Who is against Tokunbo cars?

The report carried by a widely circulated newspaper of Saturday May 19, 2001 "Stella Obasanjo lobbies against tokunbo cars" is a colouration of the deceit that people have been subjected to since this administration came to power.

If actually the First Lady made such a statement, it goes a long way to show that those at the corridors of power in Nigeria are far from the realities on the ground. The First Lady needs to take some time off to sample cars on Nigerian roads. My sure guess is that she would discover that over 90 percent of the cars on the roads are tokunbo cars.

The First Lady should know that it is only a select few Nigerians that can conveniently afford brand new cars. Of course, its hard to hear an average Nigerian worker talking of buying a new car except when such a person is privileged to be close to the powers that be or consequently favoured with a jumbo contract from government. If not for such favours, it is difficult for a civil servant whose income can hardly meet his daily demands to think of buying a brand new car.

In this crucial period of national rebirth, it is unbelievable to hear a First Lady championing an elitist agenda that will have harsh

consequences on the masses.
Tom Logoma,
Denix Investments,
60A Murtala Mohammed Way,
Lokoja.

Kanu's priority misplaced

I read in the *Daily Trust* of Monday, July 23, 2001, that the Kanu Heart Foundation was going to bankroll the Eagles/Brazil friendly. I seriously believe that it would amount to the misappropriation of funds not related to the aims and objectives of the foundation.

I believe Nigeria has enough corporate bodies and wealthy individuals to finance such friendly matches. With such an announcement, I don't believe that individuals and organisations at home and abroad will consider supporting his foundation in future because he has decided to forgo saving lives of heart affected people to sponsoring friendly football matches.

He should please be cautioned.
Dominic Raj Okutue,
HND IP Co-operative Studies,
Kaduna Polytechnic,
Kaduna.

No to cosmetic changes

President Obasanjo should know that cabinet reshuffle cannot assist him on his reckless quest for leadership. We expect abrupt changes in the various sectors that will improve the living standard of the common man, not of the bunch of sycophants.

Moreover, he should do anything possible to provide us with basic needs for the rest of the years ahead so as to alleviate the suffering we received from the *Obaflation* in the past two years and try to forget next term. We will not waste our votes.

Yunusa Hamza F/Duse,
P. O. Box 1830 Gwaran,
Jigawa State.



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Foreign & Diplomatic

Moroccans renew allegiance to King Mohammed VI

The Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco in Abuja last week celebrated its national day - a day of renewing allegiance to King Mohammed VI as well as the second anniversary of his ascension to the throne. *Musa Aliyu of our Foreign Desk relives his experience.*



His Excellency, Ambassador Larbi Moukhariq and the Syrian Charge d' affaires, AbdulRahman Jokhadar.

Every Moroccan from Tanger to Lagouira, proudly gives his existence as a citizen of the kingdom and a subject of the King a stamp of credence every July 30. A lot more than an ordinary day, July 30 has a uniqueness that is embedded on a sacred background in Islam, to all Moroccans, home and abroad.

Linked to the prophet of Islam, Mohammed (SAW), July 30 is a day of renewing allegiance by the people of the kingdom. It is usually marked each year with every subject re-pledging the already existing allegiance between him and the monarch. On this day too, new allegiances are sworn to in form of oath.



His Excellency, Mr. Carl Marshall, the High Commissioner of Jamaica.

The Amir Al-Muminin (Commander of the Faithful) who in Morocco is the king personifies the sacredness of the day. He is the defender of the constitution and rights of the people. He is also an embodiment of virtues.

The allegiance, an annual event, serves as a symbol of honour. It is constitutionally prescribed in accordance with the Islamic provisions for obedience to the constituted authority.

The day also coincides with the second anniversary of the ascendance of King Mohammed VI to the throne of his ancestors.

Every Moroccan, irrespective of where he is would wish not to miss the day and in fact the celebration. This, perhaps, explains the reasons behind the gathering last Monday, July 30, 2001 at the residence of His Excellency, Ambassador Larbi Moukhariq in Abuja.

Residents of Udo Udoma Street in the high brow Asokoro district of Abuja may not hurriedly shave clean from their memory events of that day. Like other embassies and high commissions that have marked, depending on their definitions, such an occasion, the Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco recreated the aesthetics of the environment.

Guests that included Ambassadors, High Commissioners, Charge d' Affaires and other diplomats as well as top government functionaries graced the day. Moroccans from all parts of the country made themselves available also. This obviously large number of guests rendered the large expanse of the envoy's residence too little, space wise. "Salam Aleykum" translated "peace unto you" natu-

rally filled the air as each guest arrived. Like a deliberate plot to complement the unfolding beauty of the ambience, the guests traversing various races apparently wore colourful dresses with fine designs. It was like some exotic fashion parade.

On the tables were meals of an entirely Arab origin gladly beckoning guests to dine as garlic-seasoned aroma bellowed up to fumigate the large hall that served as venue. And everyone simply gave in as each munched with relish and drinks were handy to ease passage down the throat.

At the peak of it all was His Excellency Moukhariq beaming with smiles in his simple white attire (Jalabiya) while his fellow Excellencies like Ambassador Carl Marshall

(Jamaica), Babar Hashmi (Charge d' Affaires of Pakistan), Abdulrahman Jokhadar (Charge d' Affaires of Syria) and many others congratulated him for a job well done.

For Ambassador Moukhariq and every other Moroccan that marked the occasion, it was a double victory. A mandatory renewal of allegiance and a successful celebration. Here the allegiance, which serves as a symbol of honour is constitutionally prescribed, based on Islamic practices.

Every subject irrespective of where he or she was on this day would wish to be part of this celebration. This, perhaps explains the enthusiasm exhibited by the envoy and his kinsmen.



His Excellency, Babar Hashmi, the Pakistani Charge d' affaires, chatting with other guests.



Moroccan Ambassador, Larbi Moukhariq in white poses with guests.

The Amir Al-Muminin (Commander of the Faithful) who in Morocco is the king personifies the sacredness of the day. He is the defender of the constitution and rights of the people. He is also an embodiment of virtues.

TRUST INTERNATIONAL

AFRICA & THE MIDDLE EAST

Ayatollah postpones Khatami's swearing-in

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Khamenei has postponed the swearing-in of reformist President Mohammad Khatami, who was re-elected by a landslide in June.

"It is necessary to postpone the inauguration until all legal ambiguities are removed surrounding this important ceremony," Mr Khamenei said in a letter to parliamentary speaker Mehdi Karubi which was read on state television.

Uncertainty had been hanging over Mr Khatami's inauguration scheduled for yesterday because of a dispute between reformists and hardliners over appointments to the conservative-dominated Guardian Council, which oversees legislation.

BBC correspondent says Ayatollah Khamenei's

intervention could present Iran with a major constitutional crisis.

The pro-reform parliament had approved only one of the three appointees elected from a shortlist of candidates put forward by the conservative judiciary chief, Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahroudi.

Iran's constitution says the presidential inauguration must be carried out in the presence of "all the members" of the Guardians Council.

The Council has 12 members, six of whom are appointed by Ayatollah Khamenei himself, and another six nominated by judiciary head and approved by the parliament.

Mr Khatami is Iran's fifth president elected in the eight elections held since the 1979 revolution.

He received nearly 77% of the vote in June, an increase on the 70% received in 1997.

This is the first time the presidential swearing-in ceremony has been postponed, but the move is not aimed at President Khatami himself.

The correspondent says it is aimed primarily at reformists

MPs who are using every possible occasion to assert their authority against the Guardians Council who have been creating obstacles for bills passed by parliament.

Ayatollah Khamenei's letter to Mr Karubi indicates his concern that the delaying tactics by parliament are also aimed at challenging his authority, he says.

Israelis demand end to war

Thousands of Israelis have demonstrated in Tel Aviv to demand an end to what they termed an unnecessary war.

Correspondents say it was the largest demonstration by the Israeli peace movement since the right-wing prime minister, Ariel Sharon, won power last February.

The Peace Now movement has accused the Israeli government of ceasing to adhere to the rule of law and acting more like a terrorist organisation.

A senior Peace Now official, Moria Shlomot, said there was an alternative to war: a ceasefire supervised by international observers and a return to the negotiating table.

Food crisis hits Kenya

More than three million Kenyans are suffering serious food shortages after seasonal rains failed in the north and centre of the country, according to the World Food Programme (WFP).

David Fletcher, acting WFP country director for Kenya, told reporters: "Thousands of families are destitute and unable to feed their children. It is crucial we continue to feed them until the harvest early next year."

A recent United Nations survey showed that seasonal rains had only relieved drought conditions in the east and south of Kenya.

The WFP is especially concerned about the situation in 13 districts in the north and centre of the country.

According to the WFP, cattle herders have suffered

widespread livestock losses.

The agency has called for 120,000 tonnes of emergency food supplies to be sent to the area, at a cost of more than US\$60m.

As part of its operations, the WFP will continue to provide food relief to nearly 300,000 children under five, as well as to nursing mothers and pregnant women.

In addition, more than one million schoolchildren will receive a midday meal through the agency's school feeding programme.

Last year, WFP distributed food to more than four million victims of drought in Kenya.

The Kenyan government has distributed more than 100,000 tonnes of maize since February 2000.

UN launches Truth Commission in S/Leone

The Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General, Ambassador Oluyemi Adeniji, has launched the Sierra Leone Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Community Sensitisation Programme in the northern town of Makeni. UN Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) reported over the weekend.

Through the programme, the commission will inform the community on its role in the peace process. It is being supported by the human rights section of the UN Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) and Sierra Leone human rights organisations.

RUF spokesman Gibril Massaquoi pledged his group's support for the TRC, set up under the 1999 Lome Peace Agreement between the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) and the Sierra Leonean government. At the launch, the chief of UNAMSIL's Human Rights Section, Rodolfo Matarollo, said the commission would help break the cycle of impunity in the country.

"The TRC would gather a historical record and provide a balanced account of the Sierra Leonean conflict," he said. "It would allow perpetrators to apologise to victims and victims to forgive perpetrators. It would also encourage victims to give information in confidence and perpetrators to take responsibility for crimes committed. This is what we are working towards."

Church and human rights officials witnessed the launch.

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OGBARU OFFICE: Enamel Ware market, Ogburu Onitsha
NYANYA OFFICE: Area A Nyanya FCT, Tel: 09 - 234400-3
ONITSHA OFFICE: 46, Iwaka Street, Onitsha, Tel: 090 - 501732

LAFIA OFFICE: 20/21 Doma Road, Tel: 074 - 20081, 20720, Lafia.
AKWANGA OFFICE: Plot 1, Opp. Akwanga Police Div. 1 Office, Keffi Road, Tel: 047 - 52184, 52185
ABUJA OFFICE: Plot 611, Abriba Close, area 7, Garki Abuja, Tel: 09 - 2344200, 2344202.
PORT HARCOURT OFFICE: No. 60 Ikwerere Road, Port Harcourt, Tel: 084 - 231640, 231641
KADUNA OFFICE: 44, Kachia Road, Kaduna, Tel: 062-231770, 231771, 233010, 233011
JOS BRANCH: 32-34, Ahmadu Bello way, P.M.B 2126 Jos, Plateau State. Tel: 073-456275
AKWA OFFICE: 208, Azikiwe Street, Awka Anambra State. Tel: 048-553292, 553350, 553464

TRUST INTERNATIONAL

World Report

Soldiers rescue 13 Filipino hostages

The army in the Philippines has rescued 13 Filipino hostages after a gun battle with members of the militant Muslim group Abu Sayyaf, the military says.

The hostages were freed before dawn yesterday, when the soldiers stormed the militants' hideout outside the town of Isabela, the capital of Basilan island, about 900km (560 miles) south of Manila, army spokesman Major Alberto Gepilano said.

"Undetermined number of enemies was killed in the operation. Troops stormed an area where the terrorist where holed out in the jungle and at least 13 hostages were safely rescued including children," the major told the AFP news agency.

The Abu Sayyaf say they are fighting for independence

for the Muslim minority in the south of the mainly Christian Philippines.

The 13 rescued hostages were among about 35 villagers captured by Abu Sayyaf in a raid on the town of Lamitan on Basilan on Thursday.

The army spokesman said the guerrillas beheaded 10 hostages, while 12 others were either released or had escaped.

The Abu Sayyaf group in Basilan is still holding around 20 people captured during raids in May, including two Americans taken from a luxury beach resort.

One hostage freed earlier passed on a demand from the Abu Sayyaf that the government stop its operation against the militants, a military source said on Saturday.

But Lieutenant General Jose Camiling rejected the

demand. "This cannot divert us from our main objective in crushing the group," he said.

Last week the Abu Sayyaf threatened to retaliate against Christians after the government detained about 100 suspected sympathisers of the movement.

But the BBC's correspondent in Manila says their principal occupation appears to be kidnapping for ransom.

They have abducted dozens of people since May, and even before the latest kidnappings had already killed at least four hostages.

They are still holding an American missionary couple, Martin and Gracia Burnham.

They say they have beheaded a third US man, Guillermo Sobero, but his body has never been found.



American millionaire adventurer, Steve Fossett's balloon rises into the sky after being launched from the township of Northam, 100 kilometers east of Perth in Western Australia yesterday.

Solo balloonist begins world voyage

US billionaire balloonist Steve Fossett has taken off on his latest attempt to make the first solo balloon flight around the world.

Six weeks after his previous abortive attempt, the Solo Spirit slowly rose from the ground at the launch site in Northam, about 100km east of Perth, the Western Australia state

capital. Mr Fossett said he was confident before lift-off, despite weeks of delays and setbacks.

The launch won cheers and applause at Mr Fossett's mission control at Washington University in St Louis, Missouri.

Winds blowing in the wrong direction delayed the lift-off by about five hours,

but inflation of the balloon finally started late Saturday night and continued into yesterday morning.

"It is a big risk," Mr Fossett told reporters and some 200 spectators.

"I am a bit nervous about the first night," he said. "On the first night I will find out if everything works, if there are any leaks in the balloon, if there are any failures in communications and if the all-important heating works."

Earlier, Fossett said the inflation was the most critical stage of his flight.

In Fossett's last attempt, a gust of wind at Kalgoorlie toppled the helium canisters, ripping the balloon's membrane.

The balloon was repaired and readied for another attempt at the record from Northam, which was chosen for its more favourable local

weather conditions.

Fossett's balloon, which stands 43 metres (140 feet) high and 18 metres (60 feet) wide when fully inflated with 15,000 cubic metres (550,000 cubic feet) of helium and 3,000 cubic metres of hot air, is very vulnerable to winds at ground level.

The team hopes the flight eastward around the globe will take about 15 days.

The first day altitude will be 6,000 metres (20,000 feet) after which the balloon will climb 350 metres a day to a cruising altitude of 7,500 metres. Maximum altitude is 9,000 metres.

Fossett nearly succeeded in his long-held ambition of flying around the world solo in 1998, but he was dumped into the sea east of Australia by a violent thunderstorm.

This will be his fourth attempt to make the first solo global circumnavigation.



Steve Fossett

17 shepherds massacred in Kashmir

Seventeen abducted Hindu shepherds have been killed in Indian-administered Kashmir in an attack by suspected separatists.

Police say the bodies have been discovered in the remote Doda district, some 240 km north of the state's winter capital, Jammu.

Police have blamed separatist militants although no group has said it carried out the attack.

The militants were said to have kidnapped 21 shepherds who had taken their animals to graze on higher ground.

A local resident alerted police after hearing the sound of gunshots.

They rushed to the area and have now imposed a curfew to prevent news of the attack sparking further violence.

State Governor Girish Chandra Saxena and a federal junior minister and local MP, Chaman Lal Gupta, also visited the area.

"I received a telephone call which informed me that 17 people have been killed," Mr Gupta told journalists in Jammu.

One survivor told

journalists that the shepherds were abducted from makeshift shelters where they were resting, and were forced to accompany the attackers.

After a few yards they were lined up and one of the suspected militants opened fire.

Doda is a region which is 60% Muslim but has a substantial Hindu population.

Last month, suspected militants shot dead 15 Hindu pilgrims in Doda district just days after a summit between India and Pakistan collapsed, apparently over the Kashmir dispute.

Soon after the summit's failure, separatist militants said they would step up attacks against Indian forces in Kashmir.

Russia, North Korea deny missile threat

Russia and North Korea have signed a joint declaration which states that Pyongyang's missile programme is not a threat to countries which respect North Korea sovereignty.

The declaration was signed in Moscow during talks between the North Korean leader, Kim Jong-il, and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The two leaders have also voiced support for the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty - which the United States wants to dismantle.

A Kremlin spokesman also said that Pyongyang had confirmed its intention to observe a moratorium on missile testing until 2003.

The BBC's correspondent in Moscow says the visit is being closely watched by Washington, which wants to build a new missile defence shield against countries which it regards as "rogue states" - including North Korea.

Russian officials have said Moscow has

end North Korea's isolation through diplomacy and trade.

One of Moscow's plans is to build a gas pipeline to China and South Korea, which could provide the North with energy and transportation means.

Mr Putin is also expected to promise Mr Kim to help rebuild North Korea's old industrial plants and modernise its rail system.

The North Korean leader spent his first night in Moscow at the Kremlin, in the room that had also been occupied by his late father, Kim Il-sung, during his visit in 1984.

Like his father, he made a marathon nine-day train journey across Russia - prompting Mr Putin to say that Mr Kim had got to know

perhaps better than some Russian politicians."

Mr Kim is scheduled to head for St Petersburg, after visiting Russia's mission control centre and the Khrunichev space technology firm, both near Moscow.

This is Mr Kim's first trip to Russia as president and his third abroad since he took power after his father died in 1994.

Elaborate security measures were in place for Mr Kim's long journey to Moscow.

And Muscovites were left fuming as his arrival in the capital shut one of the city's main train stations to ordinary travellers for at least four hours ahead of the

Odd World

Champion rat killer wins award

A Gabonese, Isaac Biteck, has won US\$400 (about N56,000) for being the champion rat killer in the country's capital, Libreville. He killed some 3,000 rats during a two-week competition, in which a total of 12,613 rats were exterminated.

Leonard Assongo, deputy director of the Gabon Institute for Public Hygiene

said: "This campaign aims to get rid of rats, which are so harmful to health."

With some 350,000 inhabitants, Libreville is the largest city in Gabon.

It is also one of the most expensive cities in the world, as Gabon's booming oil trade means high prices in the capital.

Despite this, the city has long suffered from rat infestation.



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BUSINESS DAY

NEPA declares Enugu region worst in vandalism

The National Electric Power Authority (NEPA) has declared its Enugu operational region as having the worst case of vandalism of electricity facilities.

The General Manager, (Transmission), Enugu Region of the authority, Engr. Ndbusu Wachukwu who disclosed this in NEPA Review, stated that "Enugu as far as NEPA is concerned is No1 in vandalism of NEPA installations."

Engr. Wachukwu who highlighted various cases of the deplorable act, said the biggest and the most pathetic was that on the New Haven

From Rakiya A. Muhammad, in Lagos

Oji-River where; "virtually the whole line has been stripped naked and the cost of repairing it will be in the neighbourhood of N85 million."

On ways to curb the act, he explained that stopping vandalism is an exercise that requires a change of spirit by Nigerians.

"It requires consciousness by Nigerians and the understanding that national assets are assets that have overriding public interest and should be protected," the GM stated.

The NEPA boss who

said the issue of vandalism was giving the government some headache, however noted that government had put in place national electric monitoring committee to address to the situation.



Joseph Makoju, NEPA MD

Multinationals get directives on local content

By Ahmed Shekarau

The Federal Government has directed all stakeholders in the oil and gas industry to develop strategies that will ensure the development of local content and indigenous participation in the industry.

Handing down the directives in a keynote address at the opening of a

workshop on improvement of local content development in Abuja late last week, the Special Adviser to the President on Petroleum and Energy, Dr. Rilwanu Lukman decried the low level of participation of the indigenous companies in the oil and gas industry.

He observed that local content development and indigenous participation are not receiving the attention they deserve among the benefits envisaged by government from its investment in the upstream sector of the industry.

Lukman regretted that while the government budgets over US \$5.0 billion (about N560 billion) annually for the industry, "over 90 percent of the yearly expenditures escape the domestic economy as capital flight through technical services rendered by foreign companies and goods produced outside the country at the expense of indigenous and Nigerian owned companies."

The Presidential Adviser therefore directed that "all stakeholders especially multi-nationals, large contracting companies, consultants and service companies must, as a matter of priority, be committed to all matters concerning local content."

Shell records another spillage

Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) has recorded another incident of oil spillage involving about 1,510 barrels of crude oil along its Afam-Egberu trunk line at Kpite.

One of the six incidents reported in SPDC's

operational areas, was a major spill that resulted in the spill of about one thousand barrels of crude oil.

According to a statement from the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) made available to *Business Day*, the major incident occurred along the 12 inch Afam-Egberu trunk line at Kpite due to a hacksaw cut on the trunk line by unknown persons.

It would be recalled that few weeks ago, shell recorded an oil spill in Ogbodo community of Rivers State in which a 28 inch-Nkpoku/Rumuekpe trans-Niger pipeline bursted.

DPR seals 48 filling stations

As the DPR's Police Task Force seal defaulting filling stations across the country, another 48 stations have been affected in the ongoing exercise.

During the task force's operation in Warri/Benin/Ore zone, 28 dispensing pumps of the 33 stations visited, were sealed for under delivery.

In Kano, four stations were closed down for profiteering while another four received similar treatment in Kwara State for dispensing pumps malfunctioning.

In the Lagos area, three retail outlets were sealed for product under dispensing; two stations each were also sealed in Niger and Plateau States for profiteering and diversion.

Meanwhile, in Kaduna State, the task force raided petroleum products hideouts and confiscated products

worth about N8,700.

According to the DPR, the products were auctioned and proceeds paid into the Federal Government account.

The DPR has in recent times clampdown on over 125 fuel filling stations in the country. But the marketers have continued to divert products meant for specific stations to 'blackmarkets,' often smuggling the products outside the country



Guias-Obaseki, NNPC GMD

100% inspection best exercise -Mustapha

From Tokumbo Oloke, in Lagos

As the Nigeria Customs Service and the Pre-shipment Inspection Agency (PIA) commenced their joint destination inspection on imported goods without clean report of inspection, the Comptroller General of Customs, Alhaji Ahmed Aliyu Mustapha has described the 100 percent examination as the best exercise so far.

He made this assertion when he paid an unscheduled visit to Apapa Customs Command where he said that the exercise would continue to be an ongoing process.

According to the Comptroller General: "I came to see the progress of the 100 percent inspection especially on goods without CRI and to see the level of

"arrangement being put in place for the easy take-off of destination inspection exercise between PIA and NCS."

He urged the importers to cooperate with the service by always producing genuine documents for goods clearing.

The customs boss who disclosed that the service had realised N3.7 billion on levy since commencement of 100 percent examination in May, lamented that some groups of people were trying to blackmail the NCS over the exercise.

Said he: "There is no amount of blackmail that will deter us from carrying our duty actively as stated by law."

Niger Insurance targets N1b premium

The Managing Director/Chief Executive of Niger Insurance Plc, Alhaji Bello Zakariya'u has challenged top managers of his company to live up to the challenges posed by developments in information technology to the insurance industry, saying his firm aims to achieve N1 billion premium within the year.

Zakariya'u who made this charge in a retreat in Ikorodu, Lagos maintained that Niger Insurance Plc can only retain her pride of place in the sub-sector if her management and staff keep ahead of the competition.

According to him "the achievement of excellence requires great effort and at times, pain. The very process of confronting and addressing problems calls forth our greatest effort, and only by expending such

From Bright Ewulu, in Lagos



Adamu Ciroma, Finance Min.

effort can we achieve the desired result."

He said although the business environment is becoming tougher and riskier by the day, they cannot allow the company to suffer ruthless competition, "we must strive to win more clients," he affirmed.

The managing director gave indication that the

company taking full advantage of the on-going privatisation, going deeper into automation and computerisation.

In this direction, he said it certain that the firm's operation is bound to go through some transformations for the better.

As he said, information technology democratises a company, increases the value of invisible assets and enables the making of fast, fact-based decisions.

He urged the managers to set their minds on how to improve the present level of productivity and profitability to ensure the growth of the company.

Zakariya'u stressed that the company's team building stratagems would be maintained as the management is committed to the existence of teams.



ALSCON Managing Director, Mr. Dieter Matron (r) shaking hands with Engineer E. A. Olukoga, Managing Director of the Nigerian Gas Company (NGC) shortly after the signing of a gas sales agreement between the two companies in Abuja recently.

BUSINESS DAY

Nigerian Stock Dealings (NSE)

Price List as at 03/08/2001

COMPANY	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE	DEALS	VOLUME	VALUE
7UP	5.89	5.89	0.00	11	43,050	253,564.50
ACCESSBANK	1.36	1.40	0.04	22	1,013,940	1,402,496.00
ADC	2.59	2.59	0.00	1	650	1,683.50
AFPRINT	0.96	0.96	0.00	3	3,600	3,456.00
AFRIBANK	8.37	8.78	0.41	27	444,396	3,882,570.47
APRIPAINTS	0.60	0.62	0.02	7	17,700	10,630.00
AGIP	30.80	30.25	0.55	36	80,367	2,469,190.50
AGLEVENT	1.18	1.18	0.00	1	500	590.00
AIICO	2.83	2.75	0.08	9	55,100	155,133.00
ALEX	2.80	2.80	0.00	1	375	1,050.00
AP	19.34	19.34	0.00	18	339,504	6,566,007.36
ASABATEXT	3.84	3.81	0.00	1	200	768.00
ASHAKACEM	18.99	18.99	0.00	34	611,618	11,419,034.07
AVONCROWN	1.40	1.36	0.04	2	905	1,230.80
BATA	0.27	0.27	0.00	1	20,000	5,400.00
BCC	.79	4.79	0.00	3	4,548	21,784.92
BCN	0.64	0.64	0.00	4	1,366	874.24
BERGER	2.50	2.40	0.10	6	26,829	64,844.60
BLACKWOOD	0.73	0.74	0.02	4	4,050	3,001.00
C&ILEASING	1.36	1.40	0.04	1	20,000	28,000.00
CADBURY	23.00	23.00	0.00	76	538,591	12,011,355.49
CAP	2.27	2.27	0.00	7	4,214	9,565.78
CAPALBETO	7.0	7.60	0.00	2	1,000	7,600.00
CCNN	3.07	3.07	0.00	13	1,26,071	3,889,907.97
CFAO	2.95	2.95	0.00	15	52,073	153,720.35
CHARTERED	7.00	7.00	0.00	21	175,910	1,231,370.00
CMB	0.61	0.61	0.00	2	2,100	1,281.00
COOPBANK	2.14	2.14	0.00	1	6,000	12,840.00
CORNERST	1.47	1.47	0.00	6	98,157	144,290.79
COSTAIN	1.00	1.00	0.00	1	200	200.00
CRUSADER	2.14	2.24	0.10	2	15,000	31,600.00
DELTGLAS	6.00	5.70	0.30	1	733	4,178.10
DNMEYER	6.46	6.14	0.32	10	112,156	714,722.94
DUMEZ	2.60	2.60	0.00	3	2,800	7,280.00
DUNLOP	3.31	3.36	0.05	19	38,359	131,279.54
EKOBANK	1.69	1.61	0.08	11	116,800	189,724.00
ENAMELWA	3.95	3.76	0.19	1	5,400	20,304.00
ETERNAOIL	1.36	1.42	0.06	9	129,000	180,780.00
EVANSMED	1.30	1.25	0.05	1	1,000	1,250.00
FIRSTALUM	1.72	1.72	0.00	15	123,360	213,761.20
FIRSTBANK	23.90	22.71	1.19	199	1,919,840	43,856,279.02
FLOURMILL	14.15	14.51	0.36	38	109,450	1,597,401.92
FSB	8.67	9.10	0.43	54	513,111	4,642,441.43
GOLDEREW	0.59	0.61	0.02	6	23,243	14,178.23
GUARANTY	5.70	5.70	0.00	9	174,872	996,770.40
GUINNESS	38.95	38.60	0.35	28	23,740	921,274.40
HALLBANK	4.10	4.10	0.00	4	13,340	56,694.00
IGL	5.65	5.52	0.13	10	42,392	234,674.89
IMB	1.69	1.68	0.01	10	82,880	136,380.00
INLANDBANK	1.35	1.30	0.05	8	19,549	25,816.15
JBERGER	60.19	63.19	3.00	7	3,874	235,726.06
JOHNHOLT	1.79	1.72	0.07	14	138,329	238,199.18
JOSBREW	0.55	0.55	0.00	1	500	275.00
LASACO	0.84	0.81	0.03	4	56,500	49,350.00
LEVIBROS	23.99	24.00	0.01	73	162,671	3,885,031.21
MANNYBANK	1.96	1.88	0.08	21	329,500	623,148.00
MAY&BAKER	2.56	2.56	0.00	2	10,200	26,112.00
MOBIL	65.00	64.50	0.50	29	25,528	1,660,524.00
MORISON	3.28	3.28	0.00	1	100	328.00
NAL	5.49	5.40	0.09	89	2,314,418	12,485,714.31
NB	27.20	27.05	0.15	53	226,985	6,158,048.85
NBC	20.40	20.30	0.10	39	87,255	1,779,721.56
NCR	1.65	1.73	0.08	4	6,162	10,335.30
NEM	0.86	0.86	0.00	2	20,010	17,209.00
NESTLE	63.01	65.00	1.93	51	976,197	61,493,241.82
NIG-GERMAN	2.90	2.90	0.00	7	12,735	36,931.50
NIGERINS	5.24	5.00	0.24	2	3,671	18,355.00
NIWICABLE	2.17	2.17	0.00	5	5,800	12,586.00
NIYAMCO	3.19	3.19	0.00	1	250	797.50
NOLCHEM	28.22	27.21	1.01	33	767,471	21,842,402.12
OKOMUOIL	9.45	9.45	0.00	8	21,213	200,462.85
OWENABANK	2.80	2.67	0.13	5	10,185	27,433.95
PREMBREW	0.45	0.45	0.00	3	20,100	9,045.00
PREMPAINTS	0.88	0.88	0.00	1	100	88.00
PRESTIGE	2.30	2.31	0.01	1	4,387	10,133.97
PZ	13.05	13.20	0.15	51	179,261	2,341,789.65
ROADS	1.19	1.20	0.01	5	21,546	25,855.20
ROYALEX	7.25	6.90	0.35	8	9,585	66,756.25
SAVANNA	1.30	1.24	0.06	12	528,849	662,941.83
SCOA	2.49	2.49	0.00	4	7,913	19,703.37
SECASSURE	0.64	0.65	0.01	9	2,073,500	1,327,240.00
SKBEECHAM	2.15	2.25	0.10	3	11,974	26,834.10
SMURFIT	1.45	1.45	0.00	1	240	348.00
TEXACO	63.40	63.00	0.40	14	9,476	599,578.40
TIB	2.73	2.88	0.13	8	233,100	662,461.50
TOTAL	67.10	67.10	0.00	3	352	23,619.20
TRADEBANK	1.04	1.04	0.00	1	1,000	1,040.00
TRIPPLEG	1.23	1.17	0.06	2	31,500	36,855.00
UAC-PROP	2.85	2.85	0.00	41	1,171,700	3,339,395.00
UACN	3.67	3.50	0.17	87	841,967	3,046,541.70
UBA	13.20	12.80	0.40	60	572,822	7,339,522.41
UBN	24.02	23.70	0.32	101	580,117	13,855,577.56
UNIC	2.25	2.14	0.11	1	1,300	2,782.00
UNIONDICON	17.80	16.93	0.87	10	61,933	1,053,330.69
UNIPETROL	43.00	43.00	0.00	24	18,814	809,001.90
UNTL	4.00	3.99	0.01	3	31,500	122,085.00
UPL	3.29	3.29	0.00	1	2,955	9,721.95
UTB	4.80	4.70	0.10	31	185,591	874,916.80
UTC	1.14	1.09	0.05	11	34,842	37,977.78
VANLEER	2.90	2.90	0.00	1	100	290.00
VITAFOAM	4.30	4.37	0.07	27	120,854	521,225.20
VONO	1.60	1.60	0.00	1	133	212.80
WAPCO	21.90	21.90	0.00	48	189,955	4,155,267.70
WAPIC	1.86	1.90	0.04	5	30,000	56,103.00
WEMABANK	2.70	2.80	0.10	42	2,188,486	5,954,474.85
TOTAL				1,844	22,646,545	255,524,879.27

Nigerian Stock Dealings (NSE)

Gainers/Losers as at 03/08/2001

Gainers			
COMPANY	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE
JBERGER	60.19	63.19	3.00
NESTLE	63.01	65.00	1.99
FSB	8.67	9.10	0.43
AFRIBANK	8.37	8.78	0.41
FLOURMILL	14.15	14.51	0.36
PZ	13.05	13.20	0.15
TIB	2.73	2.86	0.13
WEMABANK	2.70	2.80	0.10
SKBEECHAM	2.15	2.25	0.10
CRUSADER	2.14	2.24	0.10
NCR	1.65	1.73	0.08
VITAFOAM	4.30	4.37	0.07
ETERNAOIL	1.36	1.42	0.06
DUNLOP	3.31	3.36	0.05
WAPIC	1.86	1.90	0.04
C&ILEASING	1.36	1.40	0.04
ACCESSBANK	1.36	1.40	0.04
AFRPAINTS	0.60	0.62	0.02
GOLDBREW	0.59	0.61	0.02
ROADS	1.19	1.20	0.01
PRESTIGE	2.30	2.31	0.01
LEVIBROS	23.99	24.00	0.01
SECASSURE	0.64	0.65	0.01

Losers

COMPANY	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE
FIRSTBANK	23.90	22.71	1.19
NOLCHEM	28.22	27.21	1.01
UNIONDICON	17.80	16.93	0.87
UBA	13.20	12.80	0.40
ROYALEX	7.25	6.90	0.35
DNMEYER	6.46	6.14	0.32
DELTGLAS	6.00	5.70	0.30
NIGERINS	5.24	5.00	0.24
ENAMELWA	3.95	3.76	0.19
UACN	3.67	3.50	0.17
OWENABANK	2.80	2.67	0.13
UNIC	2.25	2.14	0.11
BERGER	2.50	2.40	0.10
MANNYBANK	1.96	1.88	0.08
AIICO	2.83	2.75	0.08
EKOBANK	1.69	1.61	0.08
JOHNHOLT	1.79	1.72	0.07
TRIPPLEG	1.23	1.17	0.06
SAVANNA	1.30	1.24	0.06
INLANDBANK	1.35	1.30	0.05
UTC	1.14	1.09	0.05
EVANSMED	1.30	1.25	0.05
AVONCROWN	1.40	1.36	0.04
LASACO	0.84	0.81	0.03
BLACKWOOD	0.76	0.74	0.02

Summary of Transactions

DEALS	VOLUME	VALUE	No. OF COMPANIES
1,844	22,646,545	255,524,879.27	105

Summary of Transactions

The bulls lost to the bears on the floor at NSE last Friday

Trading reports collected from Abuja Area Office of the Nigerian Stock Exchange indicated that a total of 22.65 million shares valued at N225.52 million in 1,844 deals were traded on the floors of the Nigerian Stock Exchange.

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

Price Movement:

The bulls lost to the bears on the floor, with a total of 23 companies gaining and 25 losing in their share prices.

Gains were recorded in the Construction, Food/Beverages & Tobacco, Banking, Conglomerates, Healthcare, Insurance, Computer and Office Equipment, Industrial and Domestic Product, Petroleum Marketing, Automobile and Tyre, Managed Fund, Chemicals & Paints and the Breweries sub sector.

JBerger Plc led the price gainers, as it appreciated by 300 kobo to close the day at N63.19 per share, followed by Nestle Food Plc, which appreciated by 199 kobo to close at N65.00 per share.

Other price gainers include FSB (43 kobo); Afribank (41 kobo); Flourmill (36 kobo); PZ (15 kobo); TIB (13 kobo); Wemabank, SKBeecham and Crusader (10 kobo apiece); NCR (8 kobo); Vitafoam (7 kobo); Eternaoil (6 kobo) and Dunlop (5 kobo).

Losses were recorded in the Banking, Petroleum Marketing, Food/Beverages & tobacco, Insurance, Chemicals & Paints, Packaging, Industrial and Domestic Product, Conglomerates, Computer and Office Equipment and the Healthcare sub sectors.

Firstbank Plc led the price losers, dropping by 199 kobo to close at 22.71 per share, followed by Nolchem Plc, which lost 101 kobo, to close at N27.21 per share.

Other price losers include Union Dicon (87 kobo); UBA (40 kobo); Royalex (35 kobo); DN Meyer (32 kobo); Deltglas (30 kobo); Nigerins (24 kobo); Enamelwa (19 kobo); UACN (17 kobo); Owenabank (13 kobo); Unic (11 kobo) and Berger (10 kobo).

Privatisation UPDATE

NAHCO

Management, workers jostle for 11% FG shares

The management and workers of Nigerian Aviation Handling Company (NAHCO) are desperate to buy back the 11 percent Federal Government shares purportedly allocated to the foreign partners by President Olusegun Obasanjo.

The Federal Government with a 60 percent majority shareholding in the aviation handling company had shelved a proposed privatisation of the company and directed the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) and National Council on Privatisation (NCP) to allocate 11 percent of its

From Shakirat Abdulmajeed, in Lagos

withholding share capital to the foreign airlines operating in the country. They are; Sebena Lufthansa, British Airways, and Air France which now have 51 percent shares as against the Federal Government's 49 percent.

The development ran contrary to the thinking and permutation of the management and workers of NAHCO who have been criticising and protesting the federal government's proposal to privatise the company.

The Air Transport Service Senior Staff Association for Nigeria

ATSSSAN has threatened to take the Bureau of Public Enterprises and National Council on Privatisation to court if they attempt to sell or transfer the 11 percent of the said FAAN shares.

A statement issued by ATSSSAN and signed by Comrade Michael Ekugun, stated that "I want to make it abundantly clear that any subtle attempt or plan to sell or transfer the 11% of the said FAAN share to the foreign minority shareholders shall be vehemently resisted and may spark-off another round of court litigation and protest.

According to him, "we want to state that NAHCO

staffers are prepared to pay for the purchase of 11 percent of FAAN shares that is wrongly transferred to the minority shareholders which is an unsolicited gift."

ATSSSAN however assured that NAHCO staffers are prepared to pay for the purchase of the said 11 percent of FAAN shares.

But, while the union and the management engaged the BPE and NCP in war of attrition, *Business Day* investigation revealed that already the foreign partners have at their last meeting held at Hamburg, Germany appointed a Managing Director for the company.

The bid is also expected to re-write NAHCO's book to reflect the new status quo of 51-49 percent shares, determined financial position of the company and also work-out ways to expand its operations into other West African Countries.

NITEL investors can amend sale agreement

Prospective core-investors in the Nigerian Telecommunications Limited (NITEL) will be allowed to propose amendments to the agreements and licence to be issued to the eventual company that will buy the controlling shares in the national carrier.

BPE deputy director, operations, Mr. Hassan Usman said last week in Abuja that the National Council on Privatisation (NCP) will prepare the agreements and licence which is intended to be investor-friendly.

However, he said even though their inputs were welcomed, preference would be given to those bidders who proposed the fewest

By Osborne Adi JNR, Business Editor

material amendments.

According to him, the federal government and the regulatory authority, Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) will be receptive to constructive amendments, but they will not in anyway oblige to accept just any proposed amendments.

He also said that the condition of being declared shortlisted was that no other amendments to the agreement and licence will be permitted.

The NCP had earlier said the track record of bidders in successfully delivering services through their ability of rolling-out and operating large networks will be conditions for consideration.

Part of the requirements also stated that preference will be given to owners of network operators and managers over bidders with technical assistance agreement.

Bidders were also expected to provide details of how the acquisition and investment programme will be financed and to provide evidence of available financial resources.

Don't privatise NPA, MWUN advises FG

From Samson Ojo, in Lagos

Maritime Workers Union of Nigeria (MWUN) President General, Comrade Onikolaese Irabor has warned the federal government on the danger, inherent in its proposed plan to privatise the Nigeria Ports Authority (NPA).

The MWUN boss alerted that the proposed plans to privatise NPA, if eventually carry-out may result in relieving over 9,200 workers of their job.

Comrade Irabor, who made this disclosure at a press conference, in Lagos stated that according to a memo made available to him, over 75 percent of the present work force will have to go in order to make the planned privatisation of NPA to work.

Also, he explained that over 8,000 of NPA retirees and their dependants may suffer dislocations and hardship.

On government rationale for the plan to privatise NPA, despite the fact that it was not listed on the initial list of companies slated for privatisation, Irabor claimed that it was because the federal government is to make N6 billion from the planned privatisation of the organisation from the prospective buyers.

However, the MWUN boss urged the federal government to consider the broader implications of NPA's privatisation. Among these, he said, the government stand to loose to private individuals, the over N25 billion

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Change is in the air



Star Feature

The defences of ancient Katsina

Like the ancient cities of the traditional African states, the fratricidal wars engaged in by various distinct states necessitated the provisions of defence mechanisms against possible external attacks.

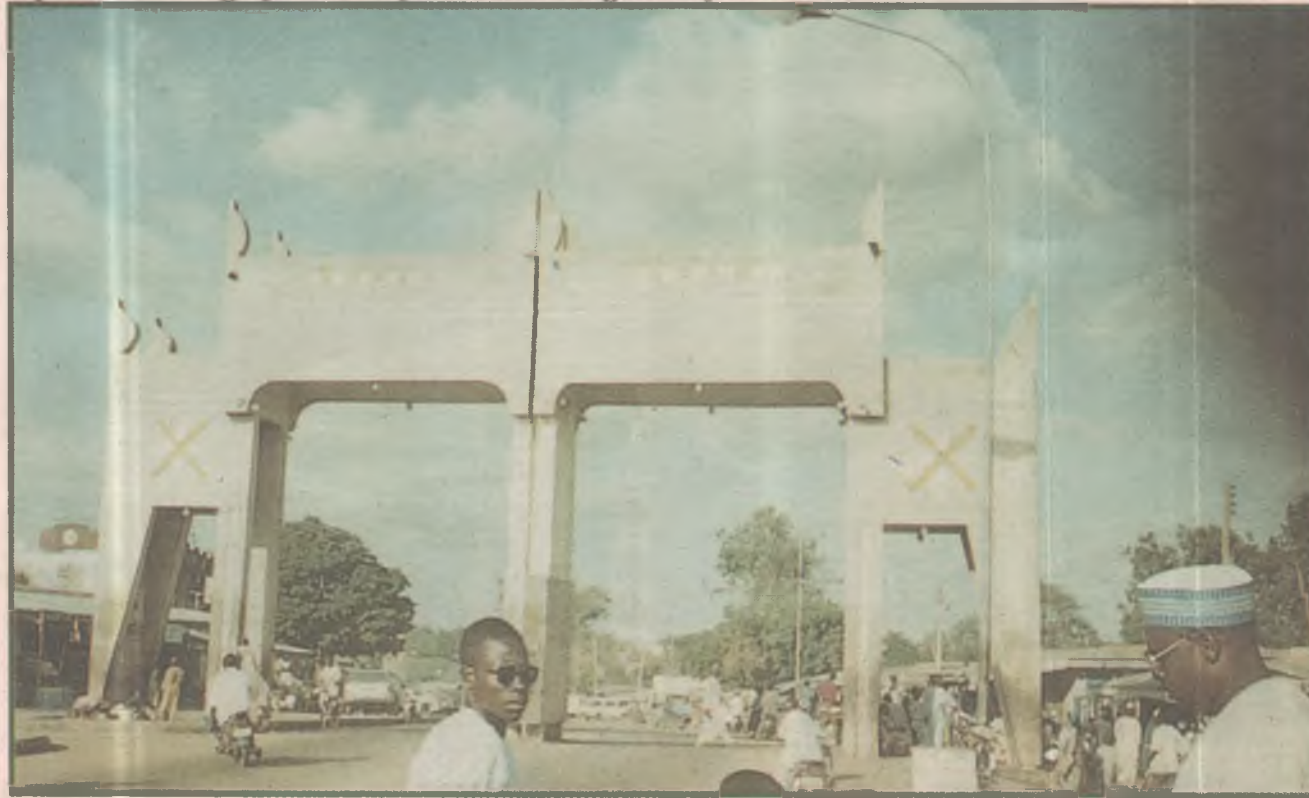
This resulted in the emergence of city gates in ancient African towns. The building of the city gates was historically a Persian or Eastern traditional defence system with a ditch built before both the gates and the walls. The Persian military system provided the gates and walls as a shield built to serve as obstacles to any intending intrusion or attack.

Since time immemorial, the city gates of Katsina like other ancient cities were purposely built to protect and to defend the city and its people from external aggression.

According to Wamban Katsina, the gates of Katsina were built to complement the military prowess of the Katsina people from abrupt and surprise insurgence from the outside.

In those days, he said, wars were like hobbies, engaged in for several reasons. To expand territorial borders, create and expand new political frontiers, increase economic prowess and develop loyalty and increase the pres-

Katsina is an ancient emirate in the northern part of the country. It has had a glorious history and centuries ago it became famous for excellence in Islamic scholarship. Katsina is also fondly called 'the home of hospitality' and many travellers and visitors to that ancient city have confirmed this. In this feature, Hassan Karofi, our reporter in Katsina explores the significance of the ancient gates of Katsina.



Kofar Durbi

During the Katsina-Gobir war, the Katsina military overran the Gobir warriors in Gobir, removed the city gate and transfer it to the present Guga gate and renamed it after the captured wife.

Like the Guga gate, the gates of Durbi Kaura, Yandaka and Samri were named after the most powerful royal member that constitute the Katsina emirate.

The Yandaka gates for

this resulted in naming the gate after the dynasty. And today the Yandaka district domain is among the kingmakers in Katsina that possess veto power to vote or not to vote any incoming king.

The Durbi gate was equally named after another powerful royalist, the Durbi of Mani.

One of the Katsina Kingmakers, the Durbi was one of the sons of the ruling house and one of the

According to Wamban Katsina, the gates were provided with security personnel to guard it and to be in surveillance should any external threat approach the city.

These security guards will automatically report any suspicious movement or suspected attack to the Magayakin Katsina who will then report to Kaura Katsina, who will then report to the Emir after which an emergency executive meeting will hold to deal with the matter.

One striking feature of the ancient gates was their firmness, strength and durability. Although some have been modified to conform with modern architecture, the vast majority still retain their traditional features.

They are made from a highly concentrated mud, with mixture of grass and "Kalwa" seed. The supporting concretes of the gates extend as a defence wall that surrounds the entire town from all angles that access the city.

In Katsina, however, the defence walls were destroyed except a little portion that survived the 1948 destruction of the historical monument.

The walls were destroyed in 1948 after the

pandemic outbreak of the killer malaria disease.

The colonial master had to invite expatriates through the United Nations to intervene in the protection crusade. It was found that ponds that developed around Katsina and its environs were responsible for the escalation of the disease, which then threatened the lives of over 50 percent of the citizenry.

It was established that as a result of the ditches that developed following he digging of mud for the building of the city walls, these ponds developed and served as breeding joints for the malaria lava that endangers the city of Katsina.

So, a decision was reached to refill these ponds to prevent stagnated water from within the city environs.

This necessitated the demolition of the ancient walls to fill the ditches that were initially dug to build the walls.

"Because there is no source of mud of the quantity then that could refill these ponds, the emirate had to resort to demolition of the walls. It was a regrettable mistake that was chosen to save the lives of Katsinawa," said the emirate source.

Despite the modernisation that greeted the ancient city of Katsina, the city gates illuminate the historical fact of the beautiful architectural and aesthetic achievement of the ancient people that inhabited the cities of ancient Nigeria.

But with ditches side by side, with a width of about five metres, the walls are joined by a 25 to 30 feet ditch to further strengthen the defence of the city from any external threat.

Beautified by the northern symbol of the criss-crossed egg-like circle, the gates remind one of the history of our forefathers, the technological defence system and innovation and splendour of our ancestry.

It also presents the knowledge of an established system carried out by the intelligence of the ancient generation and the strength and will of the builders of such massive erections.

The gates are symbolic as manifestations of our culture, our heritage, our prowess and our people.

Welcome to Katsina and welcome to the defence of the ancient city of warriors: The home of bravery and hospitality.



The Modernised Kofar Kaura Katsina

tige of the winning kingdom.

As it manifests, some of the Katsina gates tell a story of successes in war and military might.

The "Kofar Guga" i.e Guga gate in Katsina was named after the captured wife of the defeated King of Gobir, King Babari.

instance were named after the powerful Yandaka dynasty that was issued a flag by the 19th century Islamic Jihadist, Sheikh Othman Danfodio.

The present day Southern Katsina, up to the present day part of Zamfara was under the domain of Yandaka and

most powerful kingmakers in the emirate.

There are equally the Marusa gate, Kwaya gate, Gazobi gate, Sari gate, Samri gate and the Waziri gate. All these gates, were built to defend the kingdom of Katsina from both external aggression and alien incursion.



Kofar Yandaka



JARIRI: Surviving as nail-cutter in Nigeria

By Yakubu Ozohu-Suleiman
Kaduna State in Nigeria.

Audu Jariri is from Magaria State in Niger Republic, one of the West African countries bordering Nigeria from the north. Although French is the second language of Niger, he does not understand French. Rather he speaks Arabic and Hausa fluently.

According to Jariri, his name means *infant*. "My actual name is Audu. Jariri means *infant*, and it was given to me as a pet name because I was named after a respected elder in my family, who died some times ago.

Jariri had his basic Quranic education at a school in Magaria State, and never had a taste of western education. The mere sight of this man would hardly trigger one's sense of meeting a foreigner. Neither his small stature, his average height, oblong face, stubborn hair type nor his dark skin colour would show that he is a foreigner. His fluency in Hausa language even disguised his identity the more. He would easily be taken for a Hausa man, but Jariri belongs to the black race of Niger Republic. 32-year-old Jariri came to Nigeria by road through Daura in Katsina State over 20 years ago as a small boy with his father. He said: "When we first came to Nigeria over 20 years ago, I was a small boy. It was difficult to survive during our initial days. So, my father and I were begging on the street to survive. My father is old now. He is at home in Niger. He cannot travel far again.

Married with two wives and four children, Jariri is not fully settled in Nigeria. He travels at intervals to Magaria, in

"For the past 10 years my family and I have been surviving on it. I spend more of my time in Nigeria because this is where I get the major part of my income."

another Blackman, he sympathises quickly and offers assistance." Jariri



Audu Jariri: Cutting nails with scissors

In fact, it was in Kaduna that I used to stay whenever I came to Nigeria. This is my first visit to Abuja.

Jariri started his job in Kaduna State over 10 years ago. He felt he could not carry on with street begging to an old age. So, gradually, he began this job with his friends and neighbours in Kaduna State.

Jariri told *Daily Trust* that his Qur'anic School in Niger Republic sponsored him to Saudi Arabia to perform Hajj, a place where he met his first wife. He said: "In 1995, I was sponsored to Saudi Arabia by my Quranic School to perform Hajj. By this time, I had nearly perfected my business. After the Hajj, I remained in Saudi Arabia for one year and four months doing the same job of nail cutting. I was in Saudi Arabia when I met my first wife."

Jariri further informed *Daily Trust* that after the Hajj programme, he was accommodated by a

fellow Nigerian because "In Saudi Arabia, if a black man sees

another Blackman, he sympathises quickly and offers assistance." Jariri

added, "My initial days in Saudi Arabia were difficult. I was not going out and I never had anything doing. It was after sometimes that I started my job of nail cutting. But when I realised that the job was not lucrative in that place, I took to car wash which provided me with relatively better means of income. "At a time, I felt that I could no longer stay in Saudi Arabia, so I returned to my country, in 1996 and continued my job of nail cutting. For the past 10 years my family and I have been surviving on it. I spend more of my time in Nigeria because this is where I get the major part

Jariri who married his second wife after



Audu Jariri making his points

returning from Saudi Arabia in 1996 also informed *Daily Trust* that he had divorced the

woman he married in Saudi Arabia. "I presently live with only one wife, she

of my income. I only travel home at intervals to see my family and parents."

sors with hot water everyday before going out to work, He said that he also ensures that other working tools are kept safe and clear to avoid possible contractions of disease through them. Although Jariri said he sterilizes his scissors everyday before he goes out to work, just like other people in the same business, the fact that he does not sterilize the scissors immediately after using it for one person before the next person does not preclude the chances that diseases are contracted from the scissors.

The young man, who believes that economic security of the individual comes mainly from God, told *Daily Trust* that he does not charge for his services. "I don't charge people. You can give me N5, N10 or N20. It will be okay for me. In a day, sometimes I make N250, N300 or N350," he said. With this amount of money as possible daily income, Jariri believes that life would go on. "It's over two weeks since I left home, I promised my family that I would be back in a month's time. So, two weeks from now, I will be going back to Niger, but certainly I would return to Nigeria to continue my business because Nigeria has become my second home, he concluded.

Jariri further commented on his work: "I use three types of working tools. One is gas liquid or sewing machine lubricant, the second is omo solution and the third, a scissors. The gas or lubricant serves the purpose of disinfectant. If I want to cut your nails, I will first spread the oil across them and then proceed to cut immediately with the scissors. After then, I will spread the omo solution to clean up your nails." Jariri added that he sterilizes his scissors



...Disinfecting nails with gas liquid

NEWS

NSA condoles Emir over flood disaster

The National Security Adviser to the President, General Aliyu Muhammad Gusau (rtd), last week, paid a courtesy call on his Royal Highness, the Emir of Mafara, Alhaji Bello Muhammadu Barmo, in his palace to register his sympathy with the people of Talata Mafara on the recent flood disaster in the town which rendered thousands of people homeless.

The national security adviser described the incident as unfortunate and an act of God and prayed the almighty Allah to give those affected the means and courage to rebuild their houses.

General Aliyu Mohammed informed the emir of President Olusegun Obasanjo's sadness over the incident and assured him that the situation was receiving his attention and promised that the Federal Government would, after the rainy season, construct drainages that would prevent future re-occurrence of the ugly incident.

The NSA made a personal donation of N1 million for distribution to the flood victims while a donation of N100,000 was made at the occasion by Hon. Alhaji Sani

Anka representing Anka and Talata Mafara constituency at the National Assembly.

On the national security adviser's entourage included Minister of State in the Ministry of Education, Alhaji Bello Usman, *Tafidan Gusau*, two former governors of Sokoto State, Dr. Garba Nadama and Malam Yahya Abdulkarin, *Sarkin Rafin Sokoto* and one-time minister, Ambassador M.Z. Anka as

well as important dignitaries from all over the state.

In his response, the Emir of Mafara, Alhaji Bello Mohammed Barmo, thanked the national security adviser for the visit as well as his donation to the flood victims and prayed to the almighty Allah to reward him and further assured the security adviser that the money donated would be judiciously used for the purpose it was intended.

Indigenous contractors should sit up — Madaki

The Minister of State for Works and Housing, Alhaji Ali Madaki, has charged indigenous contractors to brace up to the challenges ahead of them so that they can enjoy government patronage.

He stated this at the construction site of the Federal Government funded Gashia-Yusufari road project. The road project which is being handled by an indigenous contractor, Afro Construction Company, was awarded on several occasions to three different companies but was abandoned because of the peculiar problems of the area.

The unfavourable location of the project which is far away from major towns

where spare parts could be purchased, made it difficult for broken down vehicles to be repaired on time.



Chief Tony Anenih

He stated that government was determined to encourage indigenous contractors to live up to expectations and catch up

Lagos State government will recruit about 5,000 secondary school teachers by September this year.

Chairman of the state Post-Primary Teaching Service Commission (PP-TESCOM), Alhaji Ibrahim Ajomagberin who gave this hint in Lagos last week, disclosed that over 30,000 applications have so far been received from interested candidates.

Alhaji Ajomagberin

Lagos to recruit 5,000 teachers

From Abdul Olajide, in Lagos

explained that the applicants would be subjected to various screening exercises beginning with an aptitude test scheduled for Saturday, August 11.

He said 16 secondary schools across the state have been designated as centers for the aptitude test.

The schools include;

Igboi College, Baptist Academy, Government College, Surulere, CSM Grammar School, Bariga, Ogunmodede College, Epe, Maryland Comprehensive High School, Ikeja and Ikeja High School among others.

Alhaji Ajomagberin stated further that teachers are needed for all the 36 subjects being taught in the state schools. He appealed to applicants to register at any test centre close to them, saying that each centre would only accommodate 2,000 candidates.

According to him, registration at the various centres would commence on August 1 through August 8.



Gov Bola Tinubu

15,000 applications for NAPEP in Kwara

From Abdul Laro, in Ilorin

About 15,000 applicants have applied to participate in the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) in Kwara State, although only 300 vacancies are available for this year, the state Coordinator, Alhaji Kwale Sulaiman, disclosed last week.

Speaking during a visit to the state Police Commissioner, Alhaji Ghazali Lawal, the NAPEP coordinator said the programme was established to tackle the problems of poverty in the country.

He said the presidency has approved the State Poverty Eradication Council (SPEC) to be headed by all the state governors for proper implementation of NAPEP.

In his response, the police commissioner described the programme as a laudable one which would go a long way in assisting the police to reduce crime rate in the country if well implemented.

Kano provides seedlings to quelea birds victims

Kano State government has procured new improved variety of millet seeds for distribution to victims of the recent quelea bird invasion in the seven

From Musa Umar Kazaure, in Kano

devastated local governments of the state.

The new variety of millet known as SOSAT takes only sixty days to mature and ready for harvest. Announcing the

gesture during a visit to the affected areas, the state Commissioner for Agriculture, Alhaji Ado Kibiye, advised the affected farmers to embark on the planting of the new improved seeds without delay so as to reap the benefit before the rainy season ends.

He also advised them to leave the devastated farmlands for inspection by officials of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture who would soon visit Kano to assess the damage.

Responding, the Chairman of Tofa Local Government Council, one of the worst affected areas, Alhaji Yaro Inuwa Tofa, expressed appreciation on behalf of the victims for the state government's response to the farmers' plight.

Benue NULGE demands more fund from FG

Over 20,000 members of Nigeria Union of Local Government Employees (NULGE), Benue State chapter, staged a peaceful demonstration to the Government House recently where they protested against non-allocation of revenue to local government councils in the state.

In a "Save Our Soul" letter to Senate President, Chief Anyim Pius Anyim, a copy of which was made available to newsmen, the union described the 2000 allocation as a deliberate attempt by the federal government to deny the rural populace of democracy dividend.

The letter which was read by the state President of NULGE, Comrade Ogbole Oga, said the local governments, rather than being vehicles for social engineering and rural transformation, has been reduced to paymasters.

The president, who expressed his dismay over the action of the Federal Government for deliberately starving local governments of funds, said even as paymasters, they were not even successful as many could

From Mike Elaigwu, in Makurdi

no longer pay salaries of their workers due to lack of funds.

Comrade Oga stated that because local governments are the third-tier of government and closest to grassroots, the expectation of rural people were high. While condemning the accusations of mismanagement at councils' level as the cause of rural under-development, the union attributed it to under-funding of the third-tier of government.

He said under-funding by the Federal Government was compounded by the deduction at source for the funding of primary school education which has grounded the social activities of the councils.



Gov George Akume

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

All members of the Next Generation Politicians (NGP) are hereby reminded that election of National Officers will be holding on Monday, 6 August 2001; and pre-election meeting will take place two (2) hours before time at the same venue in Abuja.

Signed:
Protém Publicity
Secretary

PUBLIC NOTICE

KUNGIYAN BADA SHAWARA GA FULANI AKAN NEMAN ILIMI.

The general public is hereby notified that Kungiyar Bada Shawara Ga Fulani akan neman has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission Abuja for registration under the companies and Allied Matters Act of 1990.

The trustees are

- | | | |
|------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. Mal. Mohammed Sambo Dukku | = | Chairman |
| 2. Mal. Usman Wasagu | = | Secretary |
| 3. Mal. Ahmed Aliyu Unashi | = | Financial Secretary |
| 4. Mal. Muhamadu Majo Bangi | = | Treasurers |

Any objection(s) to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General Corporate Affairs Commission P.M.B 198 Area 11, Garki Abuja within twenty eight (28) days of this publication.

Signed:
MAL. USMAN WASAGU
Secretary

NEWS

Navy reacts to Rasheed Raji's ejection

The Nigerian Navy (NN) has declared that it has no regrets in ejecting Captain Rasheed Raji (rtd) from his official residence as it has acted within the confines of the law.

In a press conference in Abuja last week, the Director, Naval Information, Commander S.C. Hungiapuko, told newsmen that the NN decided to grant a rejoinder to vindicate it following the controversies in the media over the ejection of Raji from House No. 21A Adeyemi Lawson Road, Ikoyi, Lagos.

Justifying its action, the Navy stated that Captain Raji, who was given more than two years notice to vacate his official quarters, following his retirement and the

By Hammeed M. Bello

subsequent re-allocation of the house to another officer, allowed pride, wealth and affluence to becloud his sense of judgement."

Following Raji's reluctance to vacate the house despite series of ultimatums, the last of which



Rear-Admiral Afolayan

expired in May 1st 2001, the Naval spokesman said the officer was forcefully ejected but following pleas from those who showed concern, the Navy allowed Raji to return to the house, provided he vacates the house by 30th June, 2001.

In a letter to the office of the Chief of Naval Staff, dated 5th June, 2000, Captain Raji claimed that the said house

was allocated to him on 26th April, 1996 by the Ministry of Works, after which he applied for owner-occupier scheme.

Raji who disclosed in his letter that his application for owner-occupier scheme was receiving attention by a federal government committee set up to look into similar situations, however, went ahead to demolish the house, rebuilding a seven bedroom complex, against the original 3-bedroom design.

NUJ gives ultimatum to New Nigerian management

The apex council of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) has given the management of the Federal Government-owned New Nigerian newspapers Friday, August 10, 2001 as

From Ibrahim Ka-Almasih, in Kaduna

deadline for the implementation of the new national minimum wage and payments of arrears of various staff and retirees benefits or face industrial action.

The National President of the NUJ, Prince Smart Adeyemi, who handed over the notice of the ultimatum to the Managing Director of the newspaper, Dr. Umar Farouk Ibrahim in Kaduna last week, noted that both the affected staff and the



Prof. Jerry Gana

union had exercised enough restraint and patience but the authorities concerned continued to be insensitive to the plight of the retirees and the staff.

Mr. Adeyemi who later addressed the Kaduna council of the NUJ, warned

Flood destroys houses in Sokoto

No fewer than 200 houses were destroyed and property worth millions of naira were reported to have been destroyed by rain storm in three local government areas of Sokoto State.

The calamity which occurred last Tuesday following a heavy down pour that lasted about nine hours was the first of its kind since the rain started this year.

From Kabir Dogon-Jaji, in Sokoto

Although no life was lost to the flood, thousands of people were rendered homeless. The affected local government areas are Gana, Rabah and Sokoto North in the state metropolis.

During a visit to some of the affected areas by Daily Trust, many victims now take refuge in government establishments such as schools, clinics and other structures in the town.

In Rabah town, a victim who spoke to Daily Trust, Mallam Shehu Dan-Inna, said he was lucky to have saved his two children who were deeply asleep when the mud roof of the room they were occupying started to disintegrate.



Gov Attahiru Bafarawa

"I believe it wasn't my making, it was really Allah's making because I cannot imagine how I quickly entered into the death trap and came out with the two children," he said.

Meanwhile, in an interview with Voice of America correspondent in the state, the council chairman, Alhaji Hassan Muhammed Rabah, confirmed the reports and said that the state governor had since visited the area.

Treasury looters threaten stability of Nigeria - NOA Director

The Oyo State Executive Director, National Orientation Agency (NOA), Mr. Segun Rumsewe, has said that the looters of the nation's treasury are the brains behind moves to destabilise the country in order to cover their sore spots.

Mr. Rumsewe disclosed this at a three-day workshop on gender violence and family poverty organised by the office of the Special Assistant to the president on Women Affairs for states in the South-West, held at the Premier Hotel, Ibadan.

He stressed that the greatest challenge being faced by the present administration was embezzlers of the country's funds who are ready to destabilise the polity with their ill-gotten wealth.

The NOA chief said further that it was now obvious that some few people in the past governments had greatly looted the treasury, noting that this was being exposed daily at the Justice Oputa human rights panel.

Mr. Rumsewe lamented that Nigeria has witnessed a lot of looting especially during the regimes of Generals Sani Abacha and Abdulsalami Abubakar that no African country could go through and survive.

He, however, urged Nigerians to be patient with Obasanjo's administration, adding that he needs some time to heal the wounds that have been inflicted on us by the past military regimes.

Rumsewe equally defended the national media tour presently undertaken by the Minister of Information and National Orientation, Prof. Jerry Gana with a team

From Yink Oladoyinbo, in Ibadan

of journalists, saying that the gains of the tour surpasses the expenses involved.

The special assistant to the president on women affairs, Mr. Titilayo Ajanaku said in her opening address,

Northern governors told to elevate educational programme

Governors in the northern part of the country have been called upon to as a matter of urgency, elevate educational programmes to adequately incorporate mass education drive.

The newly elected Secretary-General of National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS), Mallam Nasiru Sa'id Adhama made the call at a dinner party he organised for working journalists in Kano State.

Mallam Nasiru Sa'id,

that the campaign was as a result of the prolonged neglect of the womenfolk, adding that the female population has over the years become the victims of violence, physical and sexual assaults, chemical baths and intimidation in all forms.

From Jamilah Nuhu Musa, in Kano

noted that except in few cases, most northern state governors are not interested in developing their tertiary institutions. He said that it is the desire of students to see that governments in the present dispensation put education at the topmost of their agenda.

This, he said has become pertinent as education remains the dominant factor in determining development patterns in the region.

Group engages youths in skill acquisition ventures

In a bid to fight social evils among youths in its area, the Babura Youths Council in Jigawa State, has succeeded in engaging youth in skill acquisition ventures and continuing education efforts.

The chairman of the youths council, Alhaji Bello Jibrin revealed this to Daily Trust in Babura in an exclusive interview. He said the council has expended over N100,000 to sponsor its members to acquire various skills at the Sani Abacha Youth Centre in Kano last

From Bala Mohammed Nasir, in Dutse

year. He said that all those who attended the courses at the



Gov Saminu Turaki

centre in Kano are back in their respective areas within the local government and practicing what they have learnt after taking loans provided by the youths council, adding that the loans attracts no interest and is paid in installments.

Alhaji Bello Jibrin also added that his council has organised remedial courses for school dropouts in the local government this year, where one hundred and twenty (120) dropouts attended the remedial courses and have already sat for their school certificate examination for this year.

Hisba members for screening

Members of Hisba are to undergo screening in order to harmonise, regulate and promote their activities in Kano State in line with the Islamic legal system.

The Deputy Governor, Dr. Abdullahi Umar Ganduje who disclosed this after a closed door meeting with the members and representatives of eight-core local governments said that government wants to ensure that the Hisba members perform their roles according to rules and regulations.

The Hisba members are also to be on the payroll of all local government councils in the state.

Shedding more light on the meeting, the Chairman of Hisba, Dr. Aminudeen Abubakar, said that there is the need for Hisba to penetrate the society as there is gross misunderstanding of their role.

Towards this end, measures to streamline their activities

From Jamilah Nuhu Musa, in Kano

were discussed with a view to ensuring that they perform their role according to the divine laws of Islam.

Also prostitution, gambling and other social vices need to be eradicated in the society. Seminars will be organised, Hisba branches will be introduced with Hisba management committees at ward level, markets and other strategic areas.



Gov Musa Kwankwaso



INSIDE POLITICS

Presidential jet: N/Assembly was pressurised, says Girei

Amidst criticism of the nation's National Assembly over the approval of N5.4 billion for the purchase of a presidential jet, a member of the upper legislative arm has said that the National Assembly was forced by circumstances to approve the money for the purchase of the presidential jet.

Senator Abubakar Girei, who disclosed this to *Daily Trust* in his office in Kaduna at the weekend, said the position of a few senators and the entire House of Representatives was that they could not justify to their constituents the need to buy an additional jet for the president at a time when many Nigerians were crying of insecurity, hunger and unemployment, while the national carrier had no serviceable aircrafts.

"At this time when the Nigerian Airways cannot boast of two good serviceable aircrafts to service 100 million Nigerians, I cannot justify buying an additional jet for two or three people.

"At this time when there are hundreds of thousands of unemployed graduates, I cannot jus-

From Ibrahim Dan Halilu, in Kaduna

tify taking N5.4 billion to buy an additional jet," he stated.

Furthermore, Senator Girei said though some senators, including himself had opposed the approval, majority of the members of the upper house were disposed to letting the president have the jet.

"Because I hold that opinion against the purchase of the jet, if the majority of the senators are for that, then the majority carries the vote. Of course, the minority will have its say," he said.

In the case of the lower house, the senator said that the members were forced to review

their previous position of rejecting the bill on the jet purchase because the presidency threatened to starve them of funds to pay their wages.

"The presidency told them clearly, if you don't give us this jet, we will not give you money for your salary. And you know people have to survive. If the executive refused to give them money, the House will not be able to perform at all. So, instead of being crippled, they decided to give in because they had no alternative, the Senator added.

He dispelled the rumour that the National Assembly approved the jet as part of a deal for the executive to revisit the N500 million allocation for their rural constituency projects.

Gov Audu signs Kogi varsity bill

Governor Abubakar Audu of Kogi State has signed the bill renaming the Kogi State University, Ayingba after himself, despite strong opposition by the People's Democratic Party and prominent indigenes of the state.

Signing the bill that officially makes the institution

"Abubakar Audu University Ayingba," the governor described those opposed to the move as enemies of progress.

Prince Audu noted that the large turn out at the signing ceremony was an indication that those opposed to the renaming of the university were a minority in the state.

Stressing that the institution was set up to satisfy the yearning and aspiration of the people of the state, Audu expressed thanks for the honour done to him by the sponsors of the bill.

He pointed out that his gratitude was based on the fact that Kogi State belongs to a region that treats its leaders with disdain.

He revealed that even though the bill went through normal democratic process, when it was brought for his signature four weeks ago, he put it aside in order to weigh the pros and cons but had to sign it because the honour was freely given by the people of the state.

Governor Audu however observed that the honour was not personal but an exercise that would immortalise the collective efforts and vision of the present generation of Kogi citizens, who wholeheartedly supported the programme of the present administration.

The renaming he said would forever be remembered as the generation working with determination and vision who took bold steps to lay the foundation for a greater tomorrow despite the limitation.

Turning on his critics Audu said as elected leaders they should not just turn themselves into political critics but should first show what they have done with the mandate of their people to build the young state.

In his speech at the occasion, the chairman of governing council of the institution Alh. Mahmud Attah said it was his council that originated the idea of renaming the institution and some halls after some notable indigenes of the state and congratulated Governor Abubakar Audu for the honour.

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KANO

Izuogu heads new Progressive

Liberation Party

The National Progressives Forum (NPF), one of the emerging political associations seeking registration with the INEC at the weekend in Abuja, announced it has dissolved into a political party with a new name, the Progressives Liberation Party.

Dr. Ezekiel Izuogu, former interim chairman of the Progressives Forum was named as head of the interim national executive committee of the new party after a meeting of the party's national steering committee held at Agura Hotel.

A communiqué issued at the end of the meeting said the new party intends to seek registration with INEC in pursuant to section 222 and 223 of the 1999 constitution.

Similarly, the party's draft constitution and manifesto, including its logo and symbol were adopted by members of the national steering committee.



Falae

By Henry Omu

The new party reiterated its determination to salvage the country from the grip of misgovernance, corruption, injustice and poverty, just as it said the logo of the new party is a Nigerian nuclear family, comprising a man, his wife and children.

Moreover, the party said its colours are red, white and green with black at the base of the symbol. According to the communiqué, green signifies agricultural revolution; red means the struggle by progressive heroes against tyranny; white signifies transparency and the black colour represents the black race.

The party also announced a programme leading to the formal presentation and launch of the PLP throughout the country.

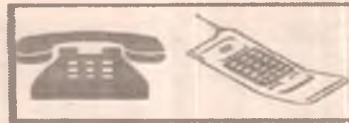
On August 16, 2001, the PLP leadership plans to address a world press conference at Sheraton hotel, Abuja; formal launching at Berger junction, Abuja on September 6, 2001; launch of state chapters beginning from September 9 - 30, 2001 and launch in the 774 council areas in the nation on October 1 - 17, 2001.

Speaking at the end of the meeting, interim chairman of the PLP, Dr. Izuogu promised that the party executive would work hard to ensure victory at next year's council elections.

He assured that the PLP leadership will be dogged in its determination to promote the ideals that progressives stand for, including wooing back all progressive politicians not yet in the fold of the party.



I.T. WORLD



IT can improve health sector, food production – Minister

By Emmanuel Ande

The Minister of Science and Technology, Prof. Turner Y. Isoun, at the weekend disclosed that Information Technology (IT) can be utilised to improve health care, food production, education system and assist government in its war against poverty eradication.

Speaking at a workshop organised by National Broadcasting Commission (NBC) for heads of engineering department of broadcasting stations in Nigeria, he said that the development of information technology especially the Internet was one of the major revolutionary changes of the last millennium.

This, the Minister said, has heralded the new millennium with globalization of technology, foods, services, human capital leading to the knowledge-driven digital economy.

The minister stated that both radio and television had changed from the traditional practices to the present trend, dominated by digital electronics, computers and the unprecedented flow of global information.



Prof. T. Isoun

longer prevent the nation from taking such a giant step to join the global information society.

He further maintained that the human resources development (HRD) required the re-en-

gineering of the educational system from the primary to the tertiary institutions, whereas training and workshop would be utilized to provide new job opportunities in the IT sector, adding that the goal is to produce 500,000 IT professionals during the tenure of this present administration through the joint effort of government and the private sector.

“The age of convergence is a challenge to our broadcast industry to use the emerging technologies to provide radio and television services to all nooks and corners of our great country,” he stated.

The minister also pointed out that his ministry had recognised the Ministry of Information and National Orientation, especially the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) as strategic partners in the public sector for the actualisation of the country’s vision and mission to transform the digital divide to digital opportunity for the nation.

Also speaking at the workshop the former head of engineering department MNTA Engr. Isaac M. Wakombo, in his paper titled “Standardising broadcasting equipment and fa-

cilities in Nigeria,” said that standardization policy would ensure that both in the acquisition, operational and maintenance processes, true and real needs were met, while there was no wastage in what is required or acquired.

He stated that by any standard, the Nigerian broadcast industry was a formidable set up and stood to reap great benefits through an organized relationship such as equipment standardization, pointing out that such benefits were to be derived in the relationship between members as well as with external bodies, such as equipment manufacturers.

Engr. Wakombo maintained that broadcasting engineering had always been very fast moving high technology, noting that, now that it had gone both digital and computer-controlled, equipment selection and subsequent management had to be approached with utmost care.

He also maintained that a meaningful attempt at installing a standardization policy required identifying what was feasible and practicable, as against what was merely desirable.

YOU AND YOUR COMPUTER

By Hassan Idris

Floppy discs and C-ROMs

The disk or diskette capacity depends on the manufacturers indication. Kilobytes mean (1,000 characters) and megabytes means more than (1,000,000 million) characters.

Some floppy diskettes sold today are Double-Sided (DS). This means the computer can process and store data on both sides of the diskette. In the past there were only single sided diskettes available but modern diskettes are Double-Sided.

The latest High-Density (HD) tend to hold more data than the Double-Density (DD) disks that are of the same size.

Floppy disks capacities

Size	Type	Capacity
5.25 inch	DSDD, double-sided double-density	360k
5.25 inch	DSHD, double-sided high-density	1.2m
3.5 inch	DSDD, double-sided double-density	720k
3.5 inch	DSHD, double-sided high-density	1.44m

*Avoid touching the inner magnetic disk area and don't expose it to the sun, heat, magnets, oil, dirt or dust.

* You can write protect your diskette by moving the small tab at the back of the disk and then open the little tab window.

Insert and remove CD ROMs

Earlier, some CD-ROM drives used a disk caddy that meant you had to put the disc in a caddy before you could insert it in the CD-ROM drive. The drives that have not got a caddy have a drawer that will slide in and out for the disk.

Always use a computer software programme's controls to open and close the CD-ROM drive.

1. The program may require you to insert the CD manually into the CD-ROM drive. If not you see an error reading message by the time you try to run the program without a disk in the drive.

2. At the end of your work ensure that you close all the files and programmes. To finish using the CD-ROM disk, stop playing it by clicking the stop button. If there is a programme click exit command on the file menu to close it.

3. Click the appropriate button by choosing the appropriate menu command to eject the CD-ROM caddy or the disk directly e.g. click the eject icon.

Working with CD-ROMs

1. Clean the CD-ROM disk with a clean soft cloth to remove finger prints, clinging hairs, and other dirt.

2. The next thing is to open the CD-ROM drive by pressing its eject button, if your drive uses a caddy, flip open the CD-ROM caddy.

3. Then grip the CD-ROM disk lightly (with your fingertips around its edge) and pick it up, the printed side should face your palm.

4. Insert the CD and centre it by placing in the drive drawer on the CD caddy if you have one. Then close its lid and insert it into the slot in the CD-ROM drive.

5. You can gently push and close the CD-ROM drive drawer or push the caddy into the drive slot and close it. Otherwise you can press the eject button again and the drive will automatically close and the disc will be ready to use.

6. If you finish using the CD-ROM disc, make sure you close any files from it that are open on screen or stop the disc if your audio disc is playing. Always wait for the CD-ROM drive light indicator to stop showing and that means the CD has stopped spinning in the drive.

7. Next, you can press the CD-ROM drive's eject button. The drawer or caddy from the CD-ROM drive will glide out. If your CD has a drawer, press it gently so that it will retract into the drive. Again, you should press the eject button again to close it.

Just like the floppy drive the CD's organise information in drives and directories similar to hard and floppy disks.

Legal and ethical issues on information communication technology convergence (I)

By Paul Ojeogwu

Information Communication Technology (ICT) has been acknowledged worldwide as the nervous system of any economy being at the centre stage of every human activity. It is no doubt bound to have both legal and ethical implications.

It is difficult to define Information Communication Technology (ICT) without reference to Information Technology (IT) and telematics. Information technology is the technology that deals with storage, processing, retrieval and dissemination of information especially using computer.

On the other hand, telematics could be referred to as the branch of information technology which deals with long distance transmission of computerized information. These definitions imply that it is restricted to system dependent on micro electronic-based combination of computing and telecommunication technologies via satellite, radio or wire etc.

Communication, information and probably the entertainment industry are merging due to the convergence of technologies and the demand of consumers who want everything through the same equipment. It is infact the merged technologies that made it possible for consumers to have a unified solution.

Rapid technological development changes have taken place over the years in information technology, the latest being the internet technology which has given mankind direct, focused access to millions of publications from around the world. It allows us to, with almost unlimited capacity, store everything we know, and access it at will. It also allows us to communicate with local organizations and global networks of colleagues with whom we might not otherwise communicate. In ad-

dition, it allows us to quickly sketch ideas in a variety of forms and freely manipulate words, numbers and images.

International and national perspective

The growing importance of information as an economic resource is confirmed by recent statistics from the developed and less developed countries alike. For instance, it is estimated that two thirds of workers in the United States are engaged on information related jobs while the rest are heavily dependent on information. United States business in the last decade was estimated to net over one trillion dollars in information technology with that sector ranking behind only to defence in its contribution to the country's Gross National Product.

As society moves away from the old technological age to the era of information technology, it has become more real that information indeed is power, because it is clear that international politics is essentially about the allocation of power. It is not surprising that there has been a growing international concern about how the various aspects of

information products should be protected. The result is the present concern about the legal and ethical issues associated with information communication and technology convergence.

As the field of use of IT is expanding, the negotiation table which before now was a small circle of the more technologically advanced and producing countries has widened to accommodate not only the newly emergent states of Europe but also the maturing economies of Asia, Africa and the less developed countries of the world. Trade disputes between developed and developing countries centre more frequently on access to information that both sides recognise as a key requirement for development and growth. This fact underlies the present imperative that must extend beyond markets and trade issues to interdisciplinary understanding, with particular emphasis on the legal and ethical issues in Information Communication and technology convergence. The paper seeks to highlight the recent attempt to redefine the scope of legality and ethics in the wake of a perceived urgency to regulate the use of works disseminated in information super highway. What is becoming increasingly clear is that while national governments should be sensitive to sectoral interests, the sustenance of their self interest

requires that there should be in place a compatible "legal regime and ethics, workable international standards and global co-operation."

Institutional reforms and systems for ICT regulation

In the past, telecommunication companies in United States were heavily regulated and strictly scrutinized by the courts, the Federal Communication Commission FCC and the congress. The rationale for this was: (i) the need to realize universal service for all; (ii) increased reliability in tasks central to the public order; and (iii) tap economics of scale and scope, in services.

Through strict regulation, the United States Bell system installed more telephones than any other country in the world. The national monopoly had almost achieved its goal of providing a basic telephone service to every American.

In 1984, the Justice Department found that the anti-competitive draw backs of continuing the AT & T monopoly outweighed the monopoly advantages. Consequently, it broke up the AT & T monopoly and formed seven regional Bell Operating Companies.

Nigeria has been following this trend. Initially the industry was regulated but in 1992, the Federal Military Government enacted Decree No. 25. By this enactment, the telecommunication industry in Nigeria was liberalized and the Nigerian Communication Commission established as the Regulatory Authority.

The NCC amongst others is mandated to supervise the deregulation of the sector and create a conducive environment for the supply of telecommunication services as well as protect the right of the consumers.

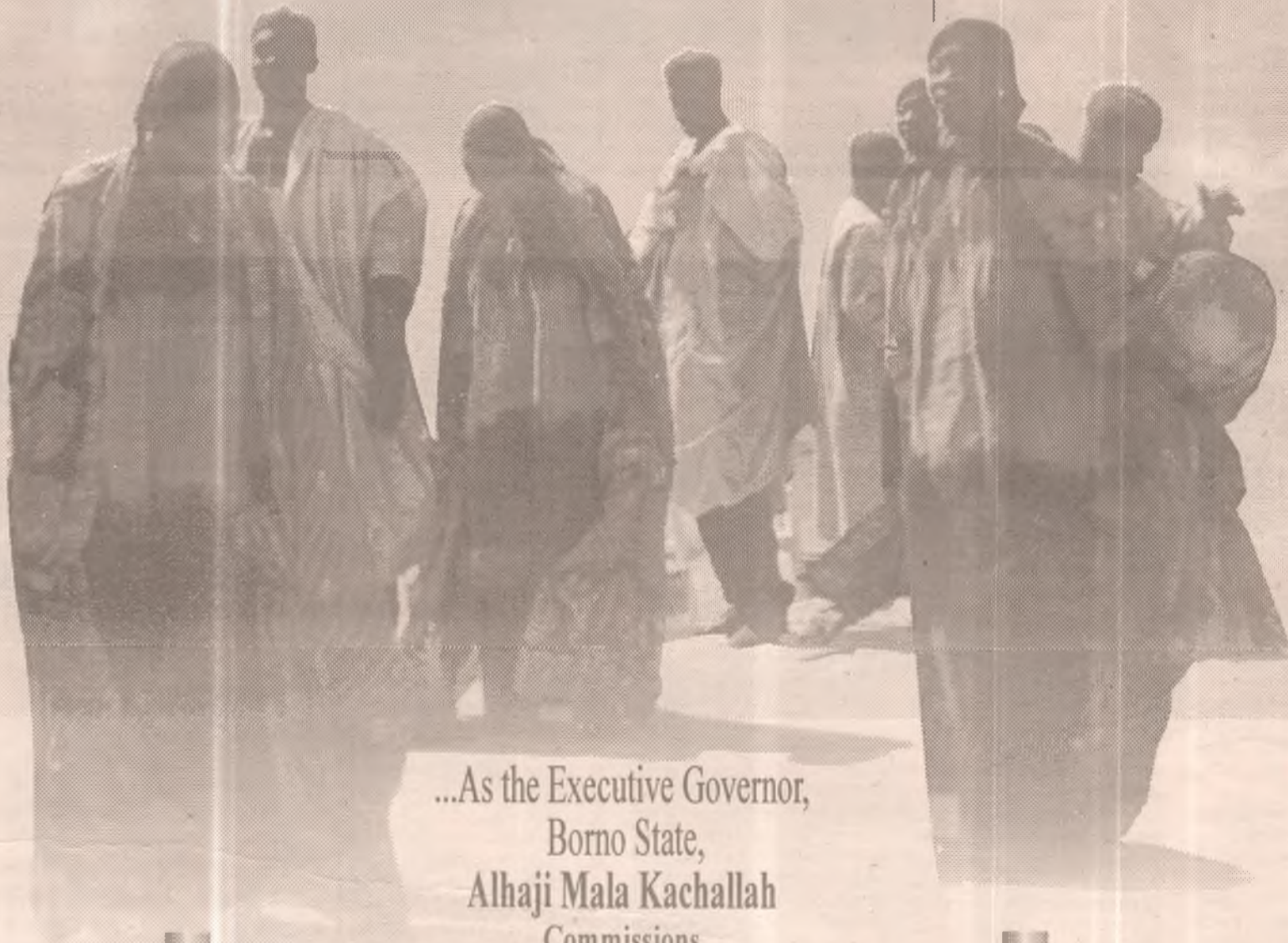
To be continued.

Ojeogwu is of the National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP), Abuja.

“As the field of use of IT is expanding, the negotiation table which before now was a small circle of the more technologically advanced and producing countries has widened to accommodate not only the newly emergent states of Europe but also the maturing economies of Asia, Africa and the less developed countries of the world.”

Monday Market, Maiduguri

now set on the path to
Prosperity...



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Borno State,
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On Monday, August 6, 2001.



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The Media Tour

What makes Orji Uzor Kalu tick?

Abia State may be young (10 years old this August) and small with a population of 1.9m, but its governor, 41-year-old Chief Orji Uzor Kalu, towers above many of his state chief-executive-colleagues if not in performance, at least is the number and size of the controversies he has managed to get himself into.

One of his earliest escapades was the famous Maiduguri donation scandal when he allegedly donated "N1m" in a carton. The beneficiaries of that donation, the Borno State government under Col Abdulmumini Aminu later found that only the top layer of the carton worth about N7,000.00 was genuine currency. The rest was just a mass of paper cut in the shape of money.

Again, in his official biography, Kalu describes as having "spent a stint in the University of Maiduguri between 1979-82 but obtained a bachelors of Science degree in political science in a Catholic University in America" (town and state not specified). This was against the popular claim that Kalu graduated from Maiduguri. There have been other accusations of ethical misconduct but none was successfully or legally proved.

Politically, since he joined politics in 1991, he won a House of Representatives election in 1992-93; He has drawn considerable attention to himself. During the tribal/religious upheavals of 2000, Kalu was among the eastern governors that made inciting remarks, which fuelled the crisis. Immediately afterwards he went to Sokoto where he celebrated the Sallah and withdrew the statement.

Then he confronted President Obasanjo on the pages of newspaper by declaring that the president was not performing well.

Surprisingly, or perhaps not so surprisingly in Nigeria, those infamous escapades, rather than lead Kalu into trouble led him instead to the most exalted position in his State.

Perhaps the reader may wonder why an assessment tour of Abia State should open with such an elaborate discussion on the person of the state governor, Chief Orji Uzor Kalu. The reason is simple: Abia State is synonymous with Orji Uzor Kalu. The entire state apparatus appears to be personified by him.

On arrival in Umuahia two things will make themselves immediately apparent to the visitor. First is that the visitor will notice, through the hundreds of Okada motor cycles, commercial buses and official vehicles that a man called Orji Uzor Kalu owned the means of transportation in the state. To ignore or protest that fact is to risk traversing the length and breadth of the state on foot. The second thing to notice in Umuahia is that someone has done an excellent job in building and/or rehabilitating the road networks that runs through the small but ancient state capital.

The 'Okada' and other commercial vehicles, according to Mr. Emeka Obasi, the Commissioner for information whose sociological mien is akin to that of the state governor, were distributed as part of the Abia state government poverty alleviation programme at affordable prices and under very favourable conditions of payment. However no explanation was offered in respect of official vehicles. A sample of one official vehicle reads: "Abia State council for art

Garba Deen Muhammad, in Port Harcourt

and culture donated by Orji Uzor Kalu." (Note: not by Abia State government).

In the construction of roads, Governor Kalu ensures that his name is conspicuously displayed either by naming a new road after himself like the high quality 3km stretch of road that leads to the newly constructed House of Assembly complex, or on the signpost describing the project, in this case client will not be the Abia state government but Orji Uzor Kalu.

It is difficult though, to fault Governor Kalu for being vain. His supporters in Abia and that means almost everyone point out that if the military had messed up the state for 15 years what is wrong with someone who is trying to rebuild it beating his chest over it? Besides, as the visiting journalists were forced to admit most of the projects were grassroots and people, oriented. A good example is the Ehinmiri Housing Estate (somehow, this project was not named after Kalu), a 1000 units housing estate that will on completion at the end of the year be sold to the people on an owner-occupier basis at the modest cost of N1.5m.

Another example is the Orji Uzor Kalu Specialist Hospital at Aba, a 200-bed hospital that will serve as a teaching hospital to the Abia State University. The hospital, which was started and abandoned between 1988 and 1991 gulped N534m with staff



Tower close to Umuahia, Abia State.

N60m rubber plantation at Amaeke Abam; and the pineapple and oil palm plantation.

In industry Governor Kalu has fixed his hope on an abandoned dream, the Abia State metallurgical complex whose foundation stone was laid in 1978 by the then General Olusegun Obasanjo. Now, 23 years after, Kalu has vowed to resurrect the dream and prove that "Igbo-made" is not synonymous with poor quality.

The complex, which when completed is expected to manufacture about three items that include aircraft and motor vehicles spare parts going as far as consumed about N388m when the journalists visited the



Governor Orji Uzor Kalu

prevalent in over 300 different sites in the state. Some of those erosion sites as witnessed by the visiting journalists have cut-off communities from the rest of the state. This was particularly noticeable in Aba where the government spent about N141m to construct a bridge and a short stretch of road to enable the people of Ugwa Community "do their christmas shopping in Aba."

In education and rural utilities, the people of Abia State have good reason to express support for their governor even though his ways and manners may be unorthodox.

There was physical evidence of the attempt by the government to transform the rural areas, an effort that is impressively

federal roads in various stages of completion in the state while in education one of the few federal Universities of Agriculture is sited in Umudike.

Like most parts of south-eastern Nigeria, crime is a serious problem in Abia State. This fact is underscored by the persuasive presence of the so-called Bakassi boys. Perhaps the best way to tell a visitor from a local person is to observe their varying reactions to gunfire: visitors will jump 10ft in the air while residents will feel reassured as the Bakassi boys routinely fire shots in the air while speeding through crowded streets in Umuahia. Even at weekends, the streets of the state capital is usually deserted as early as 9.00p.m.

Politically, Abia is a one-party state. Like a cult, Orji Uzor Kalu appears to have everybody under his control except Chief Ojo Maduekwe the bicycle-riding Minister of Transport. He is Kalu's main opposition in the state.

Even if he were residing inside the state it is difficult to see how Chief Maduekwe could triumph over Kalu given the firm control the latter has over the socio-political aspect of the state. How he does it is difficult to say. But one thing is certain: Orji Uzor Kalu is his own man. He doesn't seem to be aware that he is in any way different from anybody else. Perhaps it is this unassuming down-to-earth attitude that helps to endear him to his people. During a farewell dinner in honour of the visiting journalists, the national president of the NUJ, Mr. Smart Adeyemi, had requested on behalf of the local NUJ for a befitting



The legislative office complex probably the only one of its type in the country where all the legislators are provided offices within the complex

quarters comprising 84 flats. And what is more, health care in Abia State is free for all ages.

In Agriculture, Abia State has shown some unusual amount of enthusiasm. To complement or perhaps taking advantage of the University of Agriculture Umudike, the state government has two building plantations: the

site, however, it was not immediately apparent where the money was invested although there was visible sign that work was indeed giving on. The commissioner for commerce, Chief (Hon.) Victoria Akanwa, explained that the bulk of the money was invested not only in physical infrastructure but

also on equipment which were contained in two containers. Although Abia State enjoys a substantial amount of revenue from oil, it also suffers considerably from ecological problems, notably gully erosion. According to government officials, the state will need about N30bn to combat the erosion

complemented by community efforts.

Despite the icy relationship between Governor Uzor Kalu and the federal government, Abia State boasts of a sizeable federal government presence in the area of roads and education. In respect of roads there are over 200km worth over N3bn of



Site of gully erosion at Aba, one of many such sorry sites inspected by the journalists

press centre. In response, Governor Kalu promised to help and then added: "Mr. NUJ president, I like your politics. If you do well for your people, they elect you again for second term! May be that is the simple logic that explains how an unlikely candidate ends up in an "unsuitable" position."



Almost everything in Abia is named after the governor



Erosion site at Aba, Abia state

Features

War College pledges loyalty to civil authority

The National War College, (NWC), Abuja, the most prestigious military institution in black Africa, held its graduation ceremony for the Course 9 participants between July 23 and 27.

Although the graduation has come and gone, it has however, left an indelible mark in the sands of history of the college as its leaders have indicated a strong determination, not only to uphold democracy as the desired form of government, but to also subject themselves to civil authority.

The NWC Course 9 which comprised 60 participants, six of whom were foreigners, was inaugurated September 15 2000. The participants were 32 officers from the Nigerian Army, nine from the Airforce, seven from the Navy and two officers from the Nigeria Police Force. Others were four civil officers, one each from the Ministries of Defence, Foreign Affairs, Internal Affairs and one from the State Security Service (SSS). The six foreign participants were from Chad, Ghana, Guinea, Niger, Sierra-Leone and Togo.

The NWC Course runs through a 44-week academic programme and in course 9, like the eight earlier courses, participants receive a series of lectures on a variety of subjects including Concepts and Elements Strategy, National

By Hammeed M. Bello

Defence Capability, Types of strategy and Peace Keeping Studies. Other subjects include Military Strategies, Technology and Warfare, Defence Policy Development, the Arts of Command, Military Aid to Civil Administration, Crises Management and Joint Operations Logistics and Support at the Operational Level.

The mission of the War College is to prepare selected senior Officers of the Nigerian Armed Forces and Civilians for higher level policy, command and staff

training are to prepare Senior Officers for planning at the regional level within a co-operative regional framework, to underpin command and staff studies with a firm understanding of geographical considerations with regards to Nigeria, Africa and the world at large, and to provide knowledge of the political and strategic frameworks within which operations, in conjunction with allies are to be conducted. Part of the objectives also are to examine the principles of leadership and the art of

with certain foreign countries.

While acknowledging that no country today can insist on developing its military establishment in isolation, the President stated that Nigeria must exploit skills, technologies and philosophies of other countries.

He said that some of the threats facing nations in the post cold war era, including organised crime, illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, drug trafficking and slave trade in women and children all require a greater degree of co-operation with other nations in the areas of defence and security.

Reiterating that his administration will continue to guard the sovereignty and security of the nation, the President added that he will welcome any form of external assistance that will facilitate the promotion of our national interest and maximise the attainment of our national defence and security objectives.

While emphasising his administration's determination to drive home the process of the subordination of the military to civil authority, President Obasanjo reminded the graduands that unlike what obtained during military rule, the armed forces' budget is now subject to legislative scrutiny, deliberation and approval.

Similarly, he urged the military to resolve, individually and collectively, to uphold democracy as the best form of government for the country, rather than "the assumption of any messianic role by some elements in the military."

The President ended his speech by charging the centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution, which is an integral part of the College, to make greater inputs in strengthening the recently inaugurated African Union, a metamorphosis of the Organisation of African Unity, from the perspectives of confidence building, security burden-sharing and the promotion of peace and security all over Africa.

In his address, the commandant of the college, Rear Admiral G.A. Shiyabade, who announced his

voluntary retirement from the military to take effect after the graduation ceremony, said that the utmost challenge of the military is that of re-professionalisation, adding that democracy as the desired form of government is non-negotiable.

He disclosed that the college is making necessary adjustments, putting the existing democratic structures to work by testing them and patiently expecting results.

were awarded accordingly. Colonel A.M. Bamalli won the International Merit Award, Chief of Army Staff Prize on land operation and the Commander-in-Chief Golden Award for the overall best student. The Minister of Defence Silver Prize for academic performance was won by Colonel N.E.H. Gbonzega, the Vice President International Merit Award went to Colonel E.A. Okpoku of the Armed Forces of Ghana and the

"The NWC course which comprised 60 participants, six of whom were foreigners, was inaugurated 15th September 2000. The participants were 32 officers from the Nigerian Army, nine officers from the Nigerian Airforce, Seven from the Navy and two officers from the Nigeria Police Force. Others were four civil officers, one each from the Ministries of Defence, Foreign Affairs, Internal Affairs and one from the State Security Service (SSS). The six foreign participants were from Chad, Ghana, Guinea, Niger, Sierra-Leone and Togo."

The commandant conferred the honour of the "Fellowship of the War College (FWC) on the 60 graduands, in addition to the conferment of special honours on five participants who distinguished themselves academically in various subjects. This graduation now brings the total fellows of the college to 380.

The participants who distinguished themselves

Chief of Defence Staff merit award, won by Group Captain S.E.B. Gbedegri. Other awards won were, Chief of Naval Staff Prize won by Navy Caption G.S. Umbu, Chief of Air Staff Prize for the best paper on the development of the Air force won Group Captain S.E.B. Gbedegri and the Commandant prize for the best project won by Colonel N.E.H - Gboze.



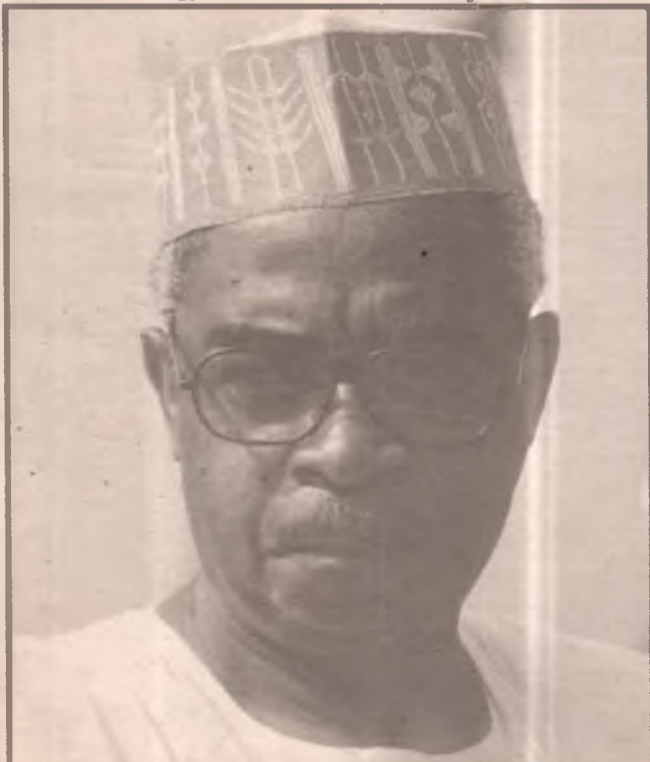
President Olusegun Obasanjo

functions in single service, joint service or extra-regimental military and civilian appointments in national and international assignments.

The objectives of the

high-level command, to plan and shape the battle field or order to meet strategic aims set at the National Defence Council level and to relate the higher management of Defence to the broader national interest so as to study the principles of resources allocation and force structuring within budget limits.

In his address, the special guest of Honour at the graduation ceremony, President Olusegun Obasanjo, who was represented by the Minister of Defence, General T.Y. Danjuma (rtd.), said that there is no defence pact between Nigeria and any other nation in the world. According to him, he made this declaration to allay the fears of some Nigerians who speculate that the country has compromised its national security and sovereignty in entering into bi-lateral military agreement



Lt. Gen. TY Danjuma (rtd), Minister of Defence



Rear Admiral GA Shiyabade, Commandant, National War College



COMMUNIQUE OF THE MEETING OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE ACADEMIC STAFF UNION OF UNIVERSITIES [ASUU-NEC]

HELD AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS (UNILAG) ON SATURDAY, JULY 28, 2001

THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE ACADEMIC STAFF UNION OF UNIVERSITIES (ASUU-NEC) MET ON SATURDAY, JULY 28, 2001 AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS AND, AMONG OTHER THINGS, REVIEWED THE STATE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JUNE 30, 2001 AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND ASUU.

NEC was disappointed, amazed and thoroughly shocked that rather than begin the implementation of the said agreement, Government and its agents have taken several steps to repudiate and undermine yet another agreement with our Union.

Specifically, NEC reviewed Government's action and or inaction in the following areas of the June 30, 2001 Agreement.

REINSTATEMENT OF SACKED/VICTIMIZED LECTURERS AT UNILORIN AND UNN
NEC feels strongly and profoundly disturbed by the diffident refusal by the Governing Council and the Vice Chancellor of the University of Ilorin to comply with the directive requiring them to immediately and unconditionally reinstate the 60 lecturers who they unjustly sacked for legitimately participating in the just concluded national strike. NEC finds their behavior an abuse of the law, disappointing and totally unacceptable.

Their brazen disregard for the consequences of their recalcitrance for the continued stability of our University system, and Government's silence in the face of such disregard for the law raise doubts as to the commitment of Government to the genuine restoration of the University system, which constitutes the central concern of the Government-ASUU Agreement of June 30, 2001. For the avoidance of doubt, the colleagues sacked at Unilorin and UNN between May and July 3, 2001 were deprived of their jobs because they refused to sign a register to repudiate ASUU national strike. The fact that the Council and Administration of Unilorin have continued to refuse to recall all 60 sacked colleagues is, first, a breach of the Agreement which provides that no one shall be victimized for their role in the ASUU national strike.

Second, the failure of the Council Administration of the University of Ilorin to reinstate the sacked colleagues is a violation of the assurance given ASUU by the Visitor through an NUC Letter of 29 June, 2001. The effect is to diminish the worth of the Visitor's future assurances on issues of trust. In any case, NEC cannot accept that the private interests of any single individual or officer should be placed above national interest. NEC has therefore resolved to demonstrate seriously its rejection of the present lawlessness at the University of Ilorin on this matter very soon.

NEC also noted the re-instatement of the Chairman and Secretary of the Union at UNN but totally rejects the attempt by Council and the Vice-Chancellor to substitute their earlier illegal suspension and termination (respectively) with warnings. NEC is disappointed that rather than the unconditional reinstatement stipulated by the letters and spirit of the June 30, 2001 Agreement, the authorities of UNN chose to warn the said union officials in breach of the said agreement. NEC therefore rejects the purported warnings. The letters of warning should be withdrawn unconditionally and immediately, in the interest of justice and peace.

NON-WITHDRAWAL OF JUNE 18, 2001 CIRCULAR TO UNIVERSITIES

NEC is disappointed and indeed disturbed that in spite of the agreement that the Minister shall withdraw his letter of June 18 2001, directing Vice-Chancellors to stop our members' salaries, stop check-off deductions and sack our members for being legitimately on strike, he has issued another letter barely five days after the agreement was signed and only two days after ASUU suspended the strike, directing Vice-Chancellors to issue warnings to our members for legitimately participating in the last strike. This is in total disregard for the portion of the agreement which forbids any form of victimization of our members for engaging in the last strike.

NEC considers this action as being in bad faith and a violation that calls into question, Government's sincerity. It is a demonstration of relentlessness, blind commitment to the unjust provocation of our Union.

NON-INAUGURATION OF IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

NEC further noted with concern the refusal of Government through the Minister of Education and the NUC to formally inaugurate the Implementation Committee as stipulated in the June 30, 2001 Agreement and wonders whether Government really appreciates the need to build confidence in its promises.

NEC finds it difficult to understand why Government has refused to inaugurate that Committee which was clearly indicated in the Agreement as a priority in the process of implementation.

The worries of NEC are further compounded by the various directives from the Minister of Education and from the NUC Executive Secretary to Universities on aspects of the Agreement outside the machinery of the Implementation Committee.

NON RELEASE OF FUNDS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF AGREEMENT.

NEC observes that in spite of the decision that certain portions of the June 30 Agreement shall be implemented by the end of July, Government has not released any funds yet for such implementation two days to the end of July. For instance, no funds have been released yet for students' hostels, workshops, salaries, etc and Government has no apologies for the breach; it has not even sent copies of the Agreement to the various Universities.

MINISTER'S STOPPAGE OF ASUU'S CHECK-OFF DUES

NEC IS NOT AMUSED BY THE MINISTER'S RECENT DECLARATION TO PRO-CHANCELLORS AND VICE CHANCELLORS THAT THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF ASUU TO CHECK-OFF DEDUCTIONS SHOULD BE STOPPED.

NEC sees such a declaration as unfortunate, especially coming from Government Officials who ought to know the consequences of such an act. NEC is convinced that the Minister of Education knows the truth but has chosen to set the stage for an unwarranted fight with the Union.

NEC knows that the ultimate goal is to deny ASUU its legitimate rights as a duly registered Trade Union, in breach of Nigerian Labour Laws and the ILO Convention to which Nigeria is a signatory. The goal is to destroy ASUU as a Union. But nobody can destroy ASUU. The military tried and failed.

NEC is unwilling to engage the Minister or anyone in another provocative and time-wasting war. It is sufficient to state that ASUU is registered with a certificate of Registration Number 19, issued on 5th August, 1978, and duly signed by the Registrar of Trade Unions (C. O. Oramasionwu). ASUU is the Part 'C' Third Schedule of the Trade Union (Amendment) Decree, 1999. Section 16A of the Trade Unions Act, Cap 437 as amended by Act No. 4 of 1996 imposes a duty on employers to deduct check-off on behalf of Unions duly registered and recognized. No provision of the original Trade Union Act (1973), or its Amendment in 1996 and 1999 justifies the stoppage of ASUU check off. The stoppage smacks of vengeance and violation of the right of association and the right of ASUU members to strike. It is a violation of Nigeria's Constitution.

In all these, NEC wonders whether, indeed some agents in Government are not trying, for some unknown reasons, to continue the destabilization of the University System, at the expense of Nigerian youths, their parents and the future of this potentially great nation. Otherwise, NEC cannot understand, and neither can any patriotic Nigerian, why so soon after the signing of such a landmark Agreement on the restoration of the education system and the happy return of normalcy in Nigerian Universities, the Government and its agents should begin another round of instigation to instability.

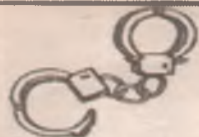
It will be most unfortunate if the efforts to subvert the agreement are not reversed immediately. NEC's meeting, scheduled to hold within the next three (3) weeks, will review the situation.

Consequently, NEC calls on all well-meaning Nigerians and those individuals and groups particularly the National Parents-Teachers Association, Committee of Elders etc who pleaded with ASUU during the last strike ('in the interest of our students') to prevail on Government and its agents to retrace their steps and show good faith, honour and integrity by beginning the immediate and faithful implementation of the Agreement. Only then can Government be seen to act in the best interest of our students, their parents and the Nigerian people in the matter of education. NEC's presumption is that the Visitor, President Olusegun Obasanjo might not be aware of these renewed threats to the recently restored peace in our Unions NEC. NEC therefore expects that the Visitor will intervene to ensure stability. The visitor ought to make good his assurances to ASUU on the reinstatement of sacked colleagues at the University of Ilorin. It is up to the visitor to ensure that all sides join ASUU to give peace a real chance.

ASUU-NEC MEETING JULY 28, 2001 UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS, AKOKA

No.	Name	Position in ASUU	Branch	Signature
1	Saint Gbilekaa	Chairman	UniAbuja	[Signature]
2	Biodun Ogunyemi	Chairman	OOU, Ago-Iwoye	[Signature]
3	Olufayo Olu-Olu	Asst. Secretary	Univ. of Ado Ekiti	[Signature]
4	Benjamin Okaba	Chairman	Univ. of Port Harcourt	[Signature]
5	Okunlola Niji	Vice Chairman	FUT, Akure	[Signature]
6	N. O. Obuzor	Chairman	RSUST, Port Harcourt	[Signature]
7	Uyi Ogbeide	Chairman	Univ. of Benin	[Signature]
3	Akin Akintola	Chairman	LAUTECH, Ogbomoso	[Signature]
9	Daniel T. Gungula	Chairman	FUT, Yola	[Signature]
10	Ukachukwu A. Awuzie	Chairman	IMSU, Owerri	[Signature]
11	Ogbonna Onuoha	Chairman	ABSU, Uturu	[Signature]
12	Y. M. Dada	Chairman	Univ. of Maiduguri	[Signature]
13	Wole Morenikeji	Secretary	FUT, Minna	[Signature]
14	R. A. Ofukwu	Chairman	UniAgric, Makurdi	[Signature]
15	M. E. Omohan	Chairman	AAU, Ekpoma	[Signature]
16	Edet P. Akpan	Chairman	Univ. of Uyo	[Signature]
17	V. E. Osodeke	Chairman	MOUA, Umudike	[Signature]
18	Nasir F. Isa	Chairman	Bayero Univ. Kano	[Signature]
19	A. U. Dikko	Chairman	UDU, Sokoto	[Signature]

20	Jude Udentia	Chairman	ESUT, Enugu	[Signature]
21	H. M. G. Ezenwaji	Chairman	Univ. of Nigeria	[Signature]
22	Awoke M. U.	Chairman	EBSU, Abakiliki	[Signature]
23	Olukayode Bamgbose	Chairman	UNAAB, Abeokuta	[Signature]
24	Wole Abatan	Vice Chairman	Univ. of Ibadan	[Signature]
25	Otas E. Ukponmwan	Chairman	OAU, Ile Ife	[Signature]
26	Q. E. Offiong	Chairman	Univ. of Calabar	[Signature]
27	N. Vancir	Vice Chairman	ATBU, Bauchi	[Signature]
28	Taiwo Oluruntoba-Oju	Chairman	Univ. of Ilorin	[Signature]
29	T. Y. Surakgt	Ag. Chairman	ABU, Zaria	[Signature]
30	B. N. Okolue	Secretary	FUT, Owerri	[Signature]
31	Andy Egwunyenga	Chairman	DELSU, Abraka	[Signature]
32	Bisi Daramola	Chairman	OSU, Akungba-Akoko	[Signature]
33	W. O. Ali	Ex-Officio	Univ. of Jos	[Signature]
34	O. A. Akinyeye	Chairman	Univ. of Lagos	[Signature]
35	O. O. Okpeh Jr.	Secretary	BSU, Makurdi	[Signature]
36	Oladijo Fashina	National President	OAU, Ile Ife	[Signature]
37	Abdullahi Sule-Kano	Vice President	UDU, Sokoto	[Signature]
38	Ogban Ogban-Iyam	Financial Secretary	Univ. of Nigeria	[Signature]
39	Frank A. Dimowo	Internal Auditor	Univ. of Benin	[Signature]



Crime & Punishment



Court orders arrest of General

By Uwem Umo

An Abuja Upper Area Court presided over by Alhaji Aliyu Abdulrahman has issued a warrant of arrest for a retired Brigadier General for contempt of the court's order.

The arrest order dated August 1, 2001, came as a result of the flouting of the court order dated July 27 restraining him from unlawfully ejecting one Mercy Mboh and her property from 8 Ontario Crescent, Maitama, Abuja.

Daily Trust gathered that Mercy Mboh is a tenant to the retired General but that he went ahead to forcefully eject her without due process.

In an affidavit in support of her motion ex-parte, Mercy Mboh stated that she is a tenant to the retired general since January 1998 paying an annual rent of N100,000 and that she has been paying her rent as at when due.

According to her, in March this year, she paid him N50,000 promising to pay the balance but when she took the balance to him in June, he rejected it.

However, he did not issue her any quit notice nor take her to court but on July 26, he allegedly broke into her room, removed her belongings and changed the locks to the room.

Daily Trust gathered that the general and his counsel misrepresented and concealed material facts before the Upper Area Court and fraudulently obtained an order of the court.

She claimed that following the unlawful break in, several of her items are missing adding that he refused to obey an order restraining him and further threw her property out of the room and prevented her from getting into the said room.

She further added that her landlord has continued to harass and intimidate her against the order of the court.

Meanwhile, the judge has ordered that the two of them should appear before him on August 24, while setting aside an earlier order issued on July 25, 2001 against Mercy Mboh.



Muhammad Uwais, CJN

Niger CJ releases 45 detainees - inmates express thanks with faeces

From Kashim Sule, in Minna

The Niger State Chief Judge, Alhaji Jibril Ndagiwo, has released 45 awaiting trial detainees who have overstayed in detention.

However, inmates, painted the prison walls with their faeces as thanks giving to apex judge and his

entourage.

Information had earlier reached the inmates in Minna prison that the judge and some members of the state prerogative of mercy committee were paying a visit during the weekend to decongest the prison when they decided to embark on the unholy act.

Daily Trust heard that the inmates lamented their plight having stayed in detention without trial indefinitely.

"Some of us," according to a freed detainee "we had not been specially brought to trial and convicted. Yet some of us are innocent of the offences that we are unjustifiably punished."

He said that they painted the prison walls with faeces as a protest against public to the inhuman treatment method to the prisoners by the government a situation that was unthinkable

The Chief Judge's mission to decongest the prison began early last month, as the prisons all over the state were bursting with suspects.

Despite the painting of the walls by the inmates with faeces, the Chief Judge and his entourage were however, not discouraged by the stench as

they continued their mission round.

Alhaji Ndagiwo said during the exercise that 25 suspects who had spent more than their years of prison term were left off the hook with their health and ages taken into consideration.

In the exercise, the Chief Judge constituted an emergency trial court to curtail the prisons overflowing capacity where a total of detainees were freed and some tried and convicted instantly.

Ten of this number had their charges commuted from culpable homicide to lesser offences while fifteen cases of armed robbery had their charges reduced to house-breaking and thereafter jailed various terms of imprisonment.

Speaking after the exercise, the Chief Judge urged the freed persons to turn a new leaf in the lives, and reminded them that the law was not intended to suffer individuals, but to serve as an instrument of correction, pointing out that whatever most have experienced be accepted with equanimity.

He further pointed out that the various handicapped facing the administration of law in the country, picking manpower as the main problem.

It would be recalled that the state Chief Judge had embarked on the state tour earlier last month to decongest the prisons which were overflowing with inmates, according to courts prosecutors in the state.

Couple charged for child theft

A 45 year-old man, Mr. Benson Ademeso and his 35 year-old wife Idowu Ademeso have appeared before a Lagos magistrate court on charges of conspiracy and child theft.

The couple, according to the police allegedly stole one Miss. Ifeoma Benjamin, aged 3 years on May 29, 2001 at about 6:30 p.m. at No. 13 Omobebi Street, Mile 12 Ketu, Lagos.

As at the time of filling this report, the where about of the 3 year-old girl allegedly stolen is yet unknown.



Musilu Smith, IGP

According to the prosecutor, the accused couple stole the child in such a manner as to prevent her parents from detecting where she was being kept.

The couple are being charged for criminal conspiracy and child theft punishable under sections 516

and 371 of the criminal code cap 77 laws of the federation 1990.

If found guilty, the accused persons may be sentenced to the maximum punishment which is fourteen years imprisonment.

According to section 371 of the criminal code law any person who with intent to deprive any parent, guardian or the person who has the lawful care or charge of a child under the age of twelve years, or with intent to steal, forcibly entitles away or harbours the child is guilty of a felony.

When the charge, No. B/93/2001 was read out to the accused couple, they pleaded not guilty. The trial magistrate in her ruling gave bail to the couple while adjourning further hearing till August 17, 2001.

In a similar development, trial in the child theft charge preferred against Mrs. Adebisi Dan Musa a.k.a. Bisket has been fixed for September 14, 17, 18, 19 and 21.

The principal accused persons Mrs. Adebisi Dan Musa along with two others were alleged to have stolen no fewer than 16 children below the age of 12 years.

At the last hearing, 10 of the children were brought to the trial venue at the Ebute Metta chief magistrate court but the accused person was not allowed to take custody of the children.



Former Major Segun Fadipe, Chief Security Officer (CSO) to former Chief of General Staff (CGS) Oladipo Diya testifying at the Oputa Panel... July 2, 2001. Pix: Kennedy Egbonodje

Fake NDA cadet jailed for fraud, impersonation

From Buhari Bello, in Jos

The Chief Magistrate Court, West of Mines, Jos, has imprisoned 21 year old Ishaya Shantuma who allegedly impersonated as a cadet of the Nigeria Defence Academy (N.D.A.) Kaduna and defrauded a man of the sum of

N7,000.00.

According to the chief magistrate, Mrs. Phoebe Longhom, the decision to imprison the suspect was based on his admission of guilt of cheating and impersonation brought against him by the police on the first information report.

By the verdict of the court, Ishaya Shantuma would spend three months in prison for the offences but was however given an option of fine of N1,000 on the two counts. Facts of the case revealed that on July 8, 2001 one Smith Adams of No. 1, Sambo Close Kaduna lodged a report to the police at the Rantya police station against the suspect and alleged that in May this year, the suspect collected the sum of N7,000 from him.

The court was also told that the suspect presented himself to the complainant as a cadet of the N.D.A. Kaduna and had promised to pay back the money in three days but failed to keep his promise and was not seen again.

Passenger stabs conductor in Yola

From Abdullahi Tasiu Abubakar, in Yola

Police in Adamawa State have arrested a passenger who allegedly stabbed a bus conductor at Jimeta motor park in Yola, the state capital.

Mr. Isa Rabi allegedly caused grievous hurt to Mr. Salisu Musa following a quarrel over transport arrangement.

Daily Trust learnt that Mr. Rabi had entered a bus in which Mr. Musa was a conductor and paid his transport fare with the intention of travelling out of Yola.

But when he realised that the bus was not being filled up quickly with passengers, he demanded his money back.

When the conductor pleaded with him to exercise more patience, the passenger got angry.

A verbal quarrel then ensued between the two before the passenger allegedly brought out a dagger and stabbed the conductor.

The victim slumped and was thought to be dead.

This enraged many people at the motor park who tried to lynch the passenger.

He was, however, rescued by the leaders of the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) in the state who hid him in their office until a team of policemen

arrived and arrested him.

The Police Public Relation Officer in the state, Mr. Anthony Placid, told Daily Trust that it was the early arrival of the police that saved the suspect and the union office from mob action.

He said the victim was admitted in the Federal Medical Centre, Yola for treatment while the suspect was facing a legal action.

Mr. Placid warned people against taking law into their own hands, pointing out that the long arm of the law would always catch-up with the breakers.

Two murder suspects remanded in Kirikiri

From Adelanwa Bamgboye, in Lagos

Lagos chief magistrate court has ordered two accused persons presently facing murder charges be remanded in the Kirikiri prison custody pending the legal advice from the office of the Lagos State Director of Public Prosecution (DPP).

The two accused persons were alleged to be members of a mob who conducted a trial by ordeal on suspected thieves.

The accused persons-Tunde Falola, 24-years and

Osaretin Ugiagbe 25, were alleged to have unlawfully killed one Oluwaseun Adeyemi and Nuradeen Oyewole by beating them to death.

Daily Trust gathered that the deceased were suspected to have stolen wrist watches on June 18, 2001 at the Baptist Academy, Obanikoro, Lagos before the mob pounced on them and gave them some beating that eventually sent them to death before the arrived of the police.

Abuja News

AIDS doctor calls patients to herbal cure

People afflicted with HIV/AIDS in the Federal Capital Territory have been advised on the need to recognise the efficacy of herbal medicine.

Speaking in an exclusive chat with *Daily Trust* at the weekend, the medical director, Enoch Hospital, Jabi, Abuja, Dr. Ifeanyi Enoch Heart, said herbal medicine provides the answer to the search for an effective and permanent cure for HIV/AIDS.

The Chinese trained doctor who operates from plot 9, Cadastral Zone B4, opposite Bouygues Camp, Alex Ekwueme way, Jabi, said the complex metabolic activities of the potents derived from natural herbs, fruits, vegetables, saps animals, could not be over-emphasised because tests and trials had proved that extracts from natural herbs were effective and capable of totally eliminating HIV/AIDS.

According to him, the herbs not only help to provide good treatment for herpes, chronic diarrhoea, tuberculosis, persistent fever and other ailments associated with HIV/AIDS, but also helps the body to "revitalise and re-generate" new cells and energise the body systems to carry on its normal functions.

Dr. Ifeanyi Enoch Heart said his medical food called "Eicco food supplements" helps act as poison to the HIV, and eliminates it from the blood and body systems.

Stories by Austine Odo

He said his drugs which also cure Hepatitis, diabetes, ulcer and other very dangerous diseases, were derived entirely from natural herbs.

He therefore appealed to government to consider the claims of Nigerians to the cure of HIV/AIDS through natural herbs as some of the claims are genuine.

Daily Trust learnt that over 50 HIV/AIDS patients have been treated by Dr.



Prof. A.B.C. Nwosu, Health Minister

Enoch Heart. Many of the patients were reported to have undergone fresh HIV screening after treatment and did not get traces of the virus any more. A patient who requested not to be named, described Dr. Enoch's treatment as wonderful. She said she almost lost hope of living until her nephew told her of Enoch hospital where she got "completely treated." This was however, not independently verified before press time.

Igbo traders object suspension of Eze Igbo

The Igbo community in Abuja appear to be divided over a move to suspend the Eze Igbo of Abuja, Chief Eze Ibe, from office.

A group recently held a news conference in Abuja where it accused Chief Ibe of several misdemeanours and called for his resignation as

the Chief of Igbo in Abuja. It said that an investigation had begun into the allegations, even as it concluded that Chief Ibe must quit.

But in a recent press interview, the Chairman of the Association of Igbo Traders in Abuja, Mr. Charles Ihe, said the purported suspension was illegal and the handiwork of a few individuals who felt they were bigger than the entire Igbo community that should have taken such a decision.

According to Charles Ihe, Igbo traders alone make up a greater percentage of the Igbo in Abuja, than any other set of Igbo and such a decision would not have been taken without their consent.

Mr. Ihe appealed to all Igbo to disregard the suspension story, adding that the group only wanted to tarnish Chief Ibe's good image.

He charged all Igbo in the FCT to continue to be law-abiding, loyal and live in harmony with not only fellow Igbo but all Nigerians as brothers and sisters.

Daily Trust gathered that apart from the traders, other notable Igbo in Abuja do not seem to agree with the purported suspension, more so, as the allegations levelled by the group have yet to be substantiated.

A prominent Igbo leader who reported that the suspension has to come

The Abuja chapter of the Nigeria Labour Congress has appealed for government understanding on the planned demolition of illegal structures and settlements in the Federal Capital Territory.

Speaking at a presentation of a 32-seater bus and a car by the FCT minister, Engr. Abba Gana to the Abuja branch of the NLC, the chapter chairman, Comrade Muhammad Zubairu, reminded the minister that not many people could afford the high cost of renting houses in the capital city when they could not even afford a decent square meal.

The labour leader advised the FCT minister to concentrate the demolition on those structures that

Abuja NLC pleads with minister on demolition

constitute health and security hazards to residents of the city, adding that it would be disastrous if people's residences are completely demolished without alternatives.

while praising the minister for success in his administration so far, Comrade Zubairu said the NLC had planned an award for him to be presented in the nearest future.

In his response, Engr. Abba-Gana said he donated the vehicles to fulfil a promise during the May Day rally, adding that the present administration in the country

was committed to the welfare of workers.



Engr. Abba-Gana, FCT Minister

Zhawa advises civil servants on retirement

The Permanent Secretary, Establishment and Pensions in the office of the Head of Civil Service of the Federation, Dr. Aboki Zhawa, has advised serving civil servants in the country

to be of good behaviour until they retire, to qualify for pension and gratuity.

Speaking in a ceremony to distribute cheques to retired federal civil servants in Abuja on Thursday, Dr. Zhawa reminded the civil servants that nothing short of complete loyalty, discipline and dedication to duty would be accepted to government in her current drive to ensure enviable working conditions for civil servants.

The Permanent Secretary who expressed satisfaction with the efforts of the retirees during their years in service, noted that it was lucrative to work till retirement, and every civil servant should aspire to it.

"It pays to retire now," he said, "we hope serving civil servants will now behave well, because if you don't behave well, and you are dismissed, you lose your gratuity, you lose your pension."

Dr. Zhawa pointed out that retired civil servants have

three legitimate and decent means of income namely - their pension, their gratuity and their private business which he said, should be of encouragement to any well meaning individual.

Dr. Zhawa advised representatives of the retirees to ensure that the payments were cleared within two weeks, pointing out that labour should also be demonstrated in seeking welfare for retirees.

A representative of the retirees who spoke on their behalf at the presentation ceremony, Mr. Daniel Onunkwo, described the prompt payment of pensions and gratuities by the present Head of Civil Service, Alhaji Yayale Ahmed, as a dividend of democracy.

He praised God and thanked government for efforts so far made for retirees.

"It is the beginning of a new life, let us make the best use of it for ourselves and for the government," he said.

The Head of Service of the Federation, Alhaji Mahmud Yayale Ahmed, had in the past, described government's new pension policy as part of measures to alleviate poverty, saying the recent streamlining and harmonising of the various processes and operations that had hindered smooth and early processing of retirement benefits should be replicated in various establishments. He advised all parastatals to effect the various increases in pension rates which were approved and took effect between January 1, 1999 and May 1, 2000 at a 150, 30 and 42 percent ratio.

Dr. Aboki Zhawa had in the past also described as deplorable, reported cases of retirees dying on queues while waiting to collect pension, noting that delayed payment had increased the number of such pensioners thereby creating unimaginable financial crisis for government.

Abuja to host Christian congress on African Unity

The Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria (PFN) has concluded plans to hold a four-day congress on African Unity in Abuja.

According to the Chairman of the organising committee, Bishop John Praise Daniel, who spoke to newsmen on the congress last week, a number of American evangelists are expected to participate in the event slated for August 14 to August 18 at the Dominion Chapel, Old Secretariat, Garki, Abuja.

Bishop Daniel said the congress is aimed at uniting people of different cultures, religious and ethnic backgrounds, to operate in peace and love. He added that the Americans would use the opportunity to explore areas of investment in

Nigeria, especially in industries as they are expected to be accompanied by their business associates.

The Bishop also announced that his team would explore the possibility of establishing a Christian centre to enable Christians of different dominations conduct their activities in a decent environment. He advised the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) to hasten work on the Christian Ecumenical centre in Garki, adding that it should be regarded as someone's property and not everybody's property.

The PFN he said, supported the idea of having a Human Rights Investigation Commission and would soon make its views known to government on the issue.

Bad roads impede business in Kubwa

By Hameed M. Bello

Traffic congestion in Kubwa town is impeding smooth running of business in the area, investigations by *Daily Trust* has revealed.

The congestion, caused by the bad network of roads and increase in the number of vehicles in the area, is affecting business appointments and punctuality to work by civil servants.

Daily Trust investigations revealed that the rainy season has rendered the access roads to Kubwa town unmotorable and aggravated by the absence of drainage system. The roads in different parts of the town are eroded, especially those in Kubwa

junction.

A resident of Kubwa town, Musa Isah, told *Daily Trust* that the population of the vehicles in the town has grown in recent times.

Unfortunately, he noted, the increase in the number of vehicles is not equalled by improvement in the roads. This, according to Mr. Isa caused the congestion.

Further investigation revealed that Kubwa town, which is a transit route for commercial vehicles plying Berger Junction and Suleja is also the terminal of buses that run between Berger Junction and Kubwa.

gathered that drivers and their conductors increase prices arbitrarily, causing tension and resultant lateness to work for civil servants.

A youth corper, Miss Chinwe Andrew, who spoke with *Daily Trust*, expressed dissatisfaction on the poor facilities in Kubwa town.

"I am not impressed with the Bwari Local Government; the government has abandoned the roads without repair," Chinwe said, calling on appropriate authorities to rehabilitate the bad roads and open up new ones, considering the persistent increase in the population of

DUMEZ (NIGERIA) PLC.

(R.C. 1656)

NOTICE OF MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the company will be held at Nicon Hilton Hotel, Abuja, on Wednesday, 19th September 2001 at 11.30 A.M for the following purposes:

ORDINARY BUSINESS:

1. To lay before the Meeting the Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2000 and the report of the Directors and Auditors thereon.
2. To declare a dividend.
3. To approve the remuneration of Directors
4. To authorize the Directors to fix the remuneration of the Auditors.
5. To re-elect the retiring Directors.
6. To re-elect members of the Audit Committee.

BY THE ORDER OF THE BOARD

CHIEF S.E NOMUOJA
COMPANY SECRETARY
DUMEZ HOUSE
7-11, SIR MOBOLAJI BANK ANTHONY STREET
LAGOS.
8th JUNE 2001.

NOTES:**PROXY**

1. A Shareholder of the Company entitled to attend and vote at the Annual General Meeting is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and vote instead of him and such proxy need not be a Member of the Company.

A form of proxy is enclosed. To be valid, the instrument of proxy should be duly stamped by the commissioner of Stamp Duties. Executed proxy forms should be deposited at the office of the Registrar, United Bank for Africa Plc, Raymond House, 97/105, Broad Street, Lagos, not less than 48 hours before the time of the Meeting.

DIVIDEND WARRANT:

2. If the Dividend recommended by the Directors is approved by members at the Annual General Meeting, the dividend warrant will be posted on 28th September 2001 to members whose names appear in the Register of Members at the close of business on 7th September 2001. The Register of Members and transfer books will be closed to the public from 7th September 2001 to 14th September 2001 both dates inclusive.

AUDIT COMMITTEE:

3. In accordance with section 359 (5) of the companies and Allied Matters Act, 1990, all nominations of members for the appointment to the Audit Committee should reach the Company Secretary at least 21 days before the Annual General Meeting.

DUMEZ (NIGERIA) PLC.

The directors have pleasure in announcing the results for the year ended 31st December 2000 with the comparative figures of the previous year.

	31/12/2000	31/12/99
	=N= '000	=N= '000
Turnover	1,815,573	1,543,310
Profit before Tax	79,425	68,856
Profit after Taxation	59,188	49,733
Proposed Dividend	20,800	20,800

DECLARATION OF DIVIDEND

The directors have resolved to recommend to the Annual General Meeting the payment dividend of =N=20,800,000 that is 10k per share less withholding tax.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD.

CHIEF S.E NOMUOJA
COMPANY SECRETARY

THE DRAWINGBOARD

KADUNA STATE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

RECRUITMENT OF STATE COUNSEL

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for recruitment of the state counsel in the Ministry of Justice, Kaduna.

1. QUALIFICATIONS: The applicants must possess LLB in Law and must have attended Nigerian Law School. Working experience is an added advantage.

2. METHOD OF APPLICATION:

(a) The application must be in applicant's own handwriting to be addressed to the Honourable Attorney - General and Commissioner of Justice, Kaduna State and submitted to the Director, Administration and Finance Ministry of Justice

(b) Must purchase and complete Kaduna State CSC form I.

(c) Photocopies of all credentials and Curriculum Vitae (CV) to be attached along with the application.

CLOSING DATE:

Applications and all supporting materials must reach the ministry on or before Friday, 10th August, 2001

Signed:

Dauda Idris Doka
(Information)

For: Honourable Attorney - General
and Commissioner of Justice



NEPA

NATIONAL ELECTRIC POWER AUTHORITY

PRESS RELEASE

NEPA Weekly Situation Report (18)

OUR BULLETIN FOR WEEK NO.18:

(22/07/2001 TO 28/07/2001)

1. PEAK DAILY GENERATION FOR THE PREVIOUS AND CURRENT WEEKS

PREVIOUS WEEK (15/07/2001 TO 21/07/2001)			CURRENT WEEK (22/07/2001 TO 28/07/2001)	
DAY	DATE	GEN(MW)	DATE	GEN(MW)
Sunday	15/07/2001	1941	22/07/2001	1890
Monday	16/07/2001	1950	23/07/2001	1887
Tuesday	17/07/2001	2024	24/07/2001	1964
Wednesday	18/07/2001	1946	25/07/2001	2055
Thursday	19/07/2001	2028	26/07/2001	2079
Friday	20/07/2001	2037	27/07/2001	1837
Saturday	21/07/2001	1951	28/07/2001	1600

2. PROJECTED AVERAGE PEAK GENERATION FOR THE PREVIOUS AND CURRENT WEEKS

PREVIOUS WEEK (ACTUAL) (22/07/2001 TO 28/07/2001)	CURRENT WEEK (FORECAST) (29/07/2001 TO 04/08/2001)
1901.7MW	2300MW

3. PEAK WEEKLY GENERATION FROM EACH POWER STATION IN THE PREVIOUS AND CURRENT WEEKS

STATION	PREVIOUS WEEK (ACTUAL) (22/07/2001 TO 28/07/2001)	CURRENT WEEK (FORECAST) (29/07/2001 TO 04/08/2001)
KAINJI	169MW	170MW
JEBBA	183MW	250MW
SHIRORO	393MW	400MW
EGBIN	873MW	876MW
SAPELE	160MW	160MW
AFAM	92MW	92MW
DELTA	297MW	297MW
IJORA	10MW	12MW
CALABAR	1MW	1MW
ENRON	60.8MW	60MW
TOTAL	2238.8MW	2317MW

(Low water level at Kainji, Jebba & Shiroro) (Low water level at Kainji, Jebba & Shiroro)

4. PROJECTED AVERAGE DAILY GENERATION FROM EACH POWER STATION IN THE PREVIOUS AND CURRENT WEEKS

STATION	PREVIOUS WEEK (ACTUAL) (22/07/2001 TO 28/07/2001)	CURRENT WEEK (FORECAST) (29/07/2001 TO 04/08/2001)
KAINJI	146MW	170MW
JEBBA	180MW	250MW
SHIRORO	261MW	400MW
EGBIN	870MW	876MW
SAPELE	148MW	160MW
AFAM	70MW	92MW
DELTA	291MW	297MW
IJORA	1.3MW	12MW
CALABAR	1MW	1MW
ENRON	60.4MW	60MW
AVERAGE TOTAL	2029MW	2317MW

(Low water level at Kainji, Jebba & Shiroro)

5. AVERAGE ESTIMATED DAILY NATIONAL DEMAND FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST, 2001= **3500MW**

HYDROLOGY

Lake water level at Kainji, Jebba and Shiroro is low at this time of the year hence reduction of generation output from the hydro based Power Stations.

However, the impounding operation of Kainji and Jebba lakes for the year 2001 has started. This is expected to bring about gradual improvement in the hydro power generation.

ENERGY SAVING

BELOW ARE SOME USEFUL TIPSON HOW YOU CAN SAVE ENERGY, BY:

- Ensuring, for example, that when they are in use, your refrigerator or freezer is not overfilled. They operate more efficiently and economically only when filled to capacity.
- Making sure that your refrigerator or freezer is not set to run colder than necessary. We recommend that you always follow the manufacturer's Instructions

- Ensuring that when using the oven for meal cooking, try to use it for a full meal rather than using both oven and surface units. If you have three dishes to be cooked at slightly different temperatures, pick the mean temperature to cook all three. (For example, the mean of 325, 350 and 375 degrees temperature is 350 degrees).
- Making sure you do not use oversized water heaters. The oversized water heater wastes energy heating unneeded water. It should in fact be avoided to reduce your initial cost.
- Switching off all appliances not in use. Especially, when you are not home, remember to switch off your water heater, air-conditioners, television sets or indeed all lights you do not need before dark.
- Switching off security lights.
- Switching off street lights during the day
- Ensuring that when cooking with the electric cooker you use pots or pans that match the ring sizes.
- Using energy-saving bulbs
- Ensuring that you do not fill the electric kettle just to make a cup of tea. Use just enough water to cover the ring. Hot water kettles come in different sizes, you may choose the one to meet your needs.

Next, we serve you the power demand and energy consumption of some domestic appliances:

APPLIANCE	TYPE	RATING	POWER DEMAND IN KILOWATT (KW)	RATED CURRENT IN AMPERES (AMPS)	NO. OF HRS. TO CONSUME ONE UNIT OF ELECTRICITY (i.e. 1 KWH)
Water - heater	50 litre	1200watt	1.2	5.2	0.8
	100litre	2500watt	2.5	11	0.4
Cooker (4-plate With oven)	Small	6000watt	6.0	26	0.2
	Regular	8000watt	8.0	34	1.2
	Large	10500watt	10.5	45	0.1
Single-plate Cooker	Portable	1800watt	1.8	7.7	0.6
Fan	Table	0.08HP	0.06	0.25	1.7
	Standing	0.1HP	0.7	0.3	1.4
	Ceiling	0.3HP	0.2	0.9	4.5
Air-Conditioner	Small	1.5HP	1.1	4.7	1
	Medium	2HP	1.5	6.5	0.7
Refrigerator	Small	0.2HP	0.15	0.6	7
	Medium	0.25HP	0.19	0.8	5
	Large	0.3HP	0.22	0.9	4.5
Television- (Black & White)		200watt	0.2	0.9	5
Television (Colour)		300 watt	0.3	1.3	3

- 1000watt = 1 Kilowatt (1KW)
- 1 HP = 0.746 Kilowatt
- 1KWH = One unit of electricity = 1KW x 1 HR. i.e. 1 Kilowatt used for 1hour.

Finally, we appeal to all our esteemed customers and all good Nigerians to endeavour to report faults promptly wherever and whenever they occur. There are faults sections and complaints centres in all our 56 district offices spread across the country. Only such prompt reports can enable us attend to faults promptly to make life a lot easier for you.

We thank you for your understanding and patience.

LET US CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER FOR THE GREATER GOOD OF OUR COUNTRY.

Management



Finidi passes Ipswich medical

Nigerian star Finidi George has passed a medical at Ipswich Town and will now consider a move to the English Premiership.

Finidi arrived in Ipswich on Thursday night and was shown around Portman Road and the club's Bent Lane training ground before continuing talks with the

club's manager, George Burley.

Burley, who missed out on signing Morocco's Hassan Kachloul earlier this year, is now awaiting an answer from the Nigerian international.

The Ipswich boss is confident of finally signing the elusive winger whom he has been

after throughout the summer.

"The talks seemed to go fairly well. I spoke with Finidi and his agent and everything at this end is agreed as far as personal terms are concerned," Burley said.

"He also took the opportunity to pass a medical with flying colours."

Burley believes the player is keen on a move to Portman Road but Finidi will first hold further talks with his Spanish club, Real Mallorca.

"We've agreed the transfer fee with Real Mallorca and I think the player is keen to come to us, but there are still one or two things to tie up."

"Once he has agreed to join us, we will immediately put in an application for a work permit. While the paperwork is going through Finidi will be coming to Ipswich to train with the squad," said Burley.

Finidi will miss Ipswich's trip to Ireland next week but all being well, he should be signed before their first match of the new season at Sunderland.

"What we will be buying is quality. He has pace, can take people on and has a good goalscoring record."

"Finidi did well in three years at Ajax and four years with Real Betis. There is no doubt about his credentials," Burley told the East Anglian Daily Times.



Ato Boldon of Trinidad and Tobago competes in the men's 100 metre qualifying event at the 8th IAAF World Championships in Athletics, in Edmonton on Saturday. Boldon qualified with a time of 10.13 seconds.

Oliseh caught up in transfer row

Nigeria captain Sunday Oliseh has become embroiled in a furious row between his agent and Spanish side Real Betis.

The Seville club, newly promoted back to the top flight, had wanted to sign Oliseh from German team Borussia Dortmund.

But the player's agent Michel Vasilievich has refused to open talks with Betis after accusing club president Manuel Ruiz de Lopera of "acting like he is in the mafia" according to website onefootball.com.

His accusation prompted a furious response from Betis coach Juande Ramos, who cast doubt on Vasilievich's right to represent the player.

He said: "There are many people who claim to have the right."

"One says that we can talk and then another one says that we

cannot. The first thing we need to find out is who really has the rights to talk about who the player will join."

"This has proved to be the most negative point of the pre-season, but I know the club is making big efforts to sort the matter out."

Vasilievich had said last month: "If Lopera calls me, I will hang up. I can't deal with a person who acts like he is in the mafia."

The pair fell out when they were discussing a move for Oliseh's Nigerian team-mate Taribo West."

Vasilievich added: "I don't know why Betis works like a dictatorship, but I don't want to talk to their directors and I wouldn't talk to Lopez if I was crazy."

Oliseh held down a fairly regular spot at Dortmund, but did not have the same midfield presence, struggling to recover his game after a bad year at Juventus where he only played eight league games.

However, at 26, he still has experience of nearly 250 top-flight league games in Europe in Belgium, Italy, Germany and Holland.

monwealth titles against Julius Francis last Saturday, sees the fight as another stepping stone in his upward career trajectory.

Williams, who will have a warm-up bout at Wembley on 28 September, said: "I'm on my way to the top."

He said: "I've known Danny since he was an amateur. He has the right credentials and attitude."

Williams added that the William-Hide fight would be a big attraction.

"It makes sense and I'm sure we could play our part in overcoming any promotional problems."

Robinson also confirmed that he had spoken to WBC and IBF world title holder Hasim Rahman and he is definitely vacating his WBU crown while awaiting a rematch with Britain's Lennox Lewis.

After his win over Francis, Williams threw down the gauntlet to Hide, labelling the Norwich-born striker a "loud-mouth".

"I will fight Danny Williams any time he likes," the former WBO champion, Hide, said on Thursday.

"I'll fight him in my back garden if he wants."

Williams has made much of the time he put Hide on the canvas during a sparring session.

But Hide's camp believe it would be the other way round if they met in a competitive fight.

Williams, Hide set for showdown

Boxing

British heavyweight champion Danny Williams is set to face Nigeria's Herbie Hide in a World Boxing Union title fight

early next year.

Williams, who successfully defended his British and Com-

monwealth titles against Julius Francis last Saturday, sees the fight as another stepping stone in his upward career trajectory.

Sprinters set Edmonton alight

Maurice Greene and Britain's 100m runners shone on a thrilling second day at the World Championships in Edmonton.

Adding to the excitement, Jonathan Edwards left it to his final leap to qualify for the triple jump final, while defending heptathlon champion Eunice Barber withdrew from the tournament.

Greene (9.88secs) and Tim Montgomery (9.92secs) both ran extraordinary races to qualify for the semi-finals.

British sprinters also showed they are capable of grabbing a medal as Mark Lewis-Francis, Dwain Chambers and Christian Malcolm all qualified comfortably.

Lewis-Francis won his heat with a world junior record time of 9.97secs, while compatriot Chambers clocked the same time to win his heat.

In the triple jump, Olympic champion Edwards began in nervous fashion with a no-jump and then managed a mere 16.51m.

With his rivals jumping well, he was left in 14th position and needed a jump of 17.10m to guarantee progression to Monday's final with his final jump.

He bounced off the board in

dramatic style and claimed a distance of 17.46m.

Phillips Idowu was also struggling but his second attempt of 16.74m ensured he qualified - Larry Achike and Sweden's Christian Olsen also progressed with jumps of 17.15 and 17.11m.

The big shock of the day was the withdrawal of French athlete Barber.

She was leading after the first two events, the 100m hurdles and the high jump, but she fouled all three of her shot-put attempts, leaving her 692 points off the lead.

In the day's final heptathlon event, the 200m, Margaret Simpson and Shelia Burrell both won their respective heats.

Natalya Sazanovich will enter the second day as leader (3923 points), Yelena Prokhorova is second (3835) and in third is Natalya Roshchupkina (3808).

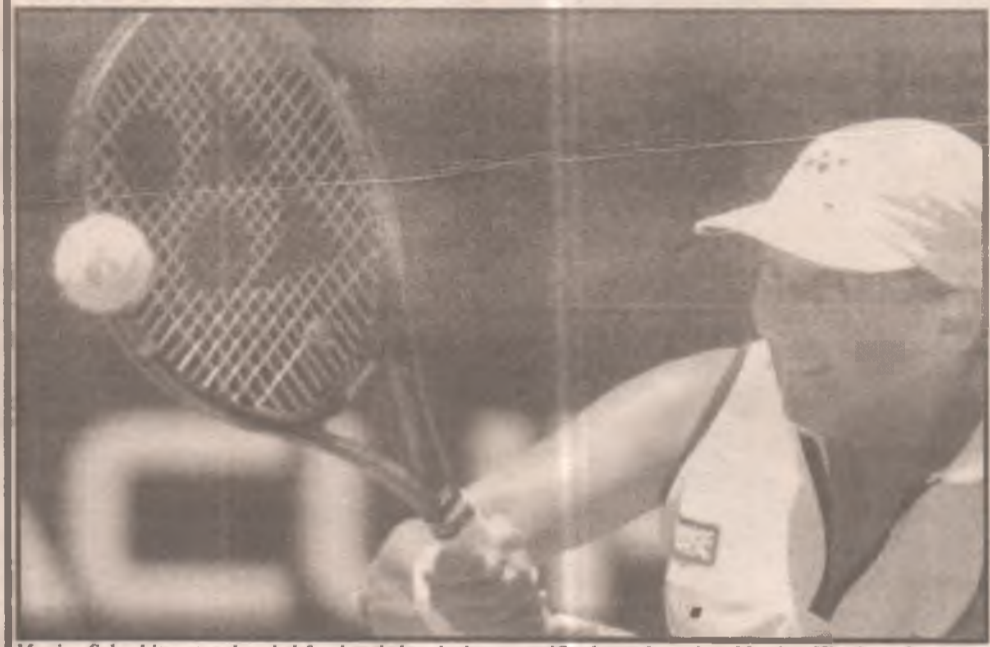
America's John Godina won his third world shot put title with a throw of 21.87m - compatriot Adam Nelson finished second, with Olympic champion Arsi Harju of Finland taking bronze.

Britain's Mark Richardson (45.66secs) and wild-card entrant Iwan Thomas both claimed semi-final places in the men's 400m, but Jamie Baulch was unable to progress.

Avard Moncur from the Bahamas claimed the fastest qualifying time of 44.88secs, while Grenada's Alleyne Francique (45.66secs) finished ahead of Richardson in the second heat.

Saudi Arabia's Hamdan Al-Bishi, America's Antonio Pettigrew, Jamaica's Gregory Haughton, Germany's Ingo Schultz and Algeria's Malik Louahla won their respective heats.

Russian Roman Rasskazov won gold in the men's 20km walk, with his compatriots Ilya Markov and Viktor Buzakov fifth.



Monica Seles hits a two-handed forehand shot during a semifinal match against Martina Hingis at the Acura Classic in Carlsbad, California on Saturday.

IAAF rules sprint times illegal

A faulty wind gauge means the breathtaking times recorded at the mens world 100m quarter-final heats will not stand as legal times.

The news is a blow for the trio of British runners who believed they had run personal bests in reaching the semi-finals.

Dwain Chambers, Christian Malcolm and Mark Lewis-Francis all reached the final set of heats, with the latter believing he had set a new world junior record.

But as darkness fell on Edmonton, the International Amateur Athletics Federation admitted its wind measuring device was faulty.

In his regular column for BBC Sport Online, Malcolm says "I don't know what was going with the sprinting on Saturday. Those times were unbelievable."

"I know that they found out after the wind measurements were wrong, but at the time we thought they were accurate."

During the heats, world holder Maurice Greene ran

conditions is a wind-aided 9.69secs by Obadele Thompson of Barbados at El Paso, Texas, in 1996.

Despite the time ruling, the fast heats prompted observers to wonder whether Sunday's final could see the world record fall.

with the semi-finals still to come, it may sound premature to be talking about a world record in the final of the men's 100m on Sunday.

But after five scintillating second-round heats on Saturday, the talk at the Commonwealth Stadium was of nothing else.

First, it was US champion Tim Montgomery, powering through in 9.92secs against a headwind initially given as 2.3 metres per second (ms).

People were still in the middle of "Yup, I always said Monty would be the new champ," conversations when Maurice Greene decided to

World Athletics Championship Sprint kings eye world record

show there was life in the old dog yet.

His 9.88secs into a wind of over 5ms barely seemed possible. Sadly it was not, at least not yet anyway.

As night fell over Edmonton, the International Amateur Athletics Federation decided that their measuring device had been faulty.

The official records were amended to show 'no wind information' and personal bests were scrubbed from the books.

But you still have to take into account that Greene strolled the last 15 metres and crossed the line with his tongue sticking out to show how relaxed he was.

And you are looking at a performance that came close to his world record of 9.79secs in Athens.

Conditions on Sunday should be perfect.

The forecast is good - warm, sunny, a very low chance of rain - and the final goes off at 1735 local time (0035 BST), when the afternoon heat is dying down but before the thunderstorms rumble in.

The Mondo track, freshly-laid for these championships, is a hard, fast surface that the sprinters have been praising.

And the locker-room and press box are buzzing.

It is reminiscent of the 1991

the 100m record was broken at the Worlds.

That night, six men went sub-10secs, something that had never happened before and has not been seen since.

On Saturday, we had five men go under that barrier in five races that were still only the heats.

In Tokyo, the world record was smashed by a sprinter at his peak, a man who went into the race as reigning World and Olympic champion.

There are those who will tell you that world records are not broken the year after an Olympics.

Athletes are tired, their mental focus is not quite there and performances drop away accord-

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This space is for sale

This space is for sale



Venus Williams reaches out for a backhand shot during her semifinal match against Lindsay Davenport at the Acura Classic on Saturday in Carlsbad, California, USA. Williams won 6-2, 7-5.



Maurice Greene (C) of the USA takes off at the start of the men's 100 metres qualifier, at the World Championships in Athletics, in Edmonton on Saturday. Greene finished first in the heat with a time of 10.33 seconds.

Nigerian nails Real Madrid

as Al-Ahly wins 'match of the century'

Al-Ahly stunned Spanish giants Real Madrid with a 1-0 win in a friendly match played at the Cairo Stadium on Saturday evening.

It was a result that not even the most ardent Al-Ahly fans could have predicted.

But the Egyptians should have won by a bigger margin than the single goal scored by newly-signed Nigerian Ibrahim Sunday.

The goal came after Khaled Bebo embarked on a superb counter attacking solo run before passing to Hossam Ghazy who beat the Real goalkeeper Cezar to the ball. Sunday was on hand to steer the ball into an empty net.

The Egyptians, playing for the first time under their new Portuguese coach Emmanuel de Silva, employed the counter-attack to great effect.

In the second half especially, Al-Ahly created several chances with Ala'a Ibrahim and Bebo hitting the bar.

Real's two superstars Luis Figo and Zinedine Zidane failed to make an impression and were both substituted in the second half.

The stark reality was

that Real simply did not resemble the top class side everyone knows they are. The hot weather and their refusal to train in Cairo may well have contributed to their lacklustre performance.

But the 66,000 fans who crammed into the Cairo Stadium won't be interested in any excuses as the fireworks set off the celebrations immediately after the final whistle.

The Egyptian press

have dubbed the friendly between FIFA's club of the century and CAF's club of the century as "the match of the century".

But for Real Madrid, who fielded the world's two most expensive players in Figo and Zidane, the game was not more than a warm-up before their domestic season starts in three weeks' time.

The match attracted a capacity crowd of 66,000 to Cairo's national stadium.

Strands of Fate: written & illustrated by Bulama Mustapha

WHEN MALAM ZAKARI WALKED INTO HIS SHOP HE SAW HIS SON SWEEPING

ABDULLAH, YOU DIDN'T TELL ME YOU WERE COMING TO THE SHOP

I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR MY KEYS.

OH I'M SORRY FATHER.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE ANYWAY, SHOULDN'T YOU BE IN SCHOOL?

I- I AM NOT GOING TO SCHOOL FATHER

To be continued 13