

DAILY TRUST

Trust Is A Burden

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Nigeria has a leadership problem

-DG, NOA

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I am not on the run -Ex-minister

By Danlami Baban Takko

The former Minister of Commerce in the late General Abacha administration who was indicted by the judicial commission of inquiry into \$60 million (N6.78 billion) cocoa export levy and Buffer Stock Funds, Vice-Admiral Jibril Ayinla (rtd), has denied being on the run.

Ayinla, who spoke to *Daily Trust* in his Maitama residence in an exclusive interview in Abuja, yesterday, described media reports that he is on the run as "not only misleading but also far from the truth."

The ex-minister, who said he is yet to receive an official letter of indictment based on the white paper report, however, acknowledged that he is expected to refund the \$55,609 purportedly used for an advertisement of which he knew nothing about.

His words: "Short of saying that I probably withdrew this money and put it in my pocket or perhaps used it to advertise myself, I think I am yet to know the details because these were not the subject of the questions that were put to me at the commission."

Admiral Ayinla, who also served as Chief of General Staff (CGS) in the General Abubakar administration, he said that throughout his 35-year career in the Navy "there was never a time that I betrayed the trust reposed in me."

He continued, "I saw my appointment as minister as a continuation of my service to this nation and I believe I acquitted myself creditably, I did not misappropriate, embezzle or misuse government funds that were at my command at any time."

Vice Admiral Ayinla served as Minister of Commerce from June, 1996 to November, 1997. He was also at the Ministry of Health *contd. on pg 2*

Mobile phones to cost less

Mobile telephone hand sets may cost less when the Global System for Mobile telecommunications (GSM) takes off next week as the Federal Government

By Suleiman Mohammed

has waived by half the duty to be charged on the importation of the telecommunication transmission equipment

for the system.

Following a request by the three companies recently granted licence for GSM operation in the country, the Federal Government yesterday slashed the importation

duty from 10 to five per cent.

The government explained that the action was to make the cost of mobile

phones affordable by Nigerians and for the speedy take-off of GSM slated for August *contd. on pg 2*

House committee report indicts NNPC over N226b

By Reuben Yunana

The House of Representatives ad hoc committee which probed the importation of refined petroleum products since the coming to power of the Obasanjo administration, has indicted the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) for an unaccounted 80 million barrels of crude oil amounting to \$2 billion allegedly exported between May 1999 and September 2000.

This is the major conclusion of the committee's interim report which will be presented to the House for adoption when the House reconvenes on August 22, 2001.

According to the report of the ad hoc committee headed by Rep. Ibrahim Ganyama, investigations by the committee showed that there was a shortfall in the figures presented by the NNPC in respect of importation and distribution of petroleum products during the period.

The report said the committee uncovered a shortfall of 80 million barrels of crude oil exported by NNPC during the period under which amounted to \$2 billion. *contd. on pg 2*

Guinea arrests 51 Nigerian human traffickers

The Guinean Government yesterday announced the arrest of 51 Nigerians allegedly involved in human trafficking in the capital city, Conakry en route to Europe.

The Nigerian Ambassador to Guinea, Alhaji Abdulkadir Sani, broke the news in an audience with the wife of the Vice-President and founder of the Women Trafficking and Child Labour Eradication Foundation (WOTCLEF), Mrs. Titi

Atiku Abubakar, at the State House, Abuja.

Ambassador Abdullahi Sani disclosed that the 51 arrested human traffickers were apprehended by the Guinean Gendarmerie on July 5, 2001 with the assistance of some Nigerian informants.

Out of those arrested, 33 are young girls between the ages of 18-20, and 17 others are male adults including a man suspected to be the ring leader.

He disclosed further that the Nigerian Embassy has secured the release of 34 victims, while awaiting arrangement for their deportation to Nigeria, but stated that 17 suspected traffickers are currently being prosecuted by a special tribunal constituted by the Guinean police.

According to him, 95 per cent of those being held are from Benin, Edo State, while one of the suspected traffickers have been identified as a *contd. on pg 2*



The chairman of the Presidential Advisory Council on Science and Technology, Professor Mohammed H.A. Hassan (left) being received by President Olusegun Obasanjo during the inauguration of the Honorary Presidential Council on Science and Technology by the president at the State House, Abuja... yesterday. Pix: Kennedy Egbonodje

151,000 youths infected with HIV/AIDS in Kaduna

More than 151,000 sexually active youths, representing about 15% of the total population of Kaduna State, were tested and confirmed to be infected with HIV/AIDS. This makes Kaduna sixth state with highest number of HIV carriers in the country.

This was disclosed by the state Commissioner for Health, Dr. Hassan Hyet, at the opening ceremony of a three-day workshop organised in Zaria to sensitise the general public on the dangers of the killer disease.

The commissioner, who was represented by the coordinator, World AIDS Campaign, Dr. Ishaya

From Waziri Isa Gwantu, in Zaria

Matura Tanimu, said in 1991, the percentage of HIV carriers in the state was 0.9, in 1993, 3.8 while in 1999, the percentage was 11.6.

Dr. Hyet revealed that the state government, in its efforts to control the spread of the disease, has purchased supportive drugs worth millions of naira for distribution *contd. on pg 2*

Zaki Tambuwal is dead

The District Head of Gindi, in Tambuwal Local Government Area of Sokoto State and a one time Secretary to the Sokoto State Government, Alhaji Abubakar Zaki Tambuwal, is dead.

The confirmation of his death was contained in a letter sent to all media houses in the state, signed by the council chairman of

From Kabir Dogon Daji, in Sokoto

Tambuwal Local Government, Alhaji Zaki Amadi Tambuwal.

Aged 62, Alhaji Zaki Tambuwal died in a hospital in Kano after a protracted illness and his remains has since been buried according to Islamic rites in his home town, Tambuwal.

Until his death Alhaji *contd. on pg 2*

Abubakar Zaki held various positions in the state civil service which included, Commissioner for Works and Transport, Commissioner for Lands and Housing and Commissioner for Water Resources and Rural Development in the old Sokoto State.

He was a one time secretary to the defunct Sokoto State and was appointed *contd. on pg 2*

NEWS

PDP CRISIS: Olawepo, others barred again

By Henry Omu

The crisis in the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), is far from over as the assistant national publicity secretary, Mr. Gbenga Olawepo, expelled from the party alongside two others was yesterday barred from a function organised by the PDP, despite a court order declaring their expulsion illegal.

Olawepo accompanied by his lawyer, Femi Falana, had yesterday attempted to gain entrance into the conference hall of the PDP secretariat where the national chairman, Chief Barnabas Gemade was inaugurating a committee when security men barred him from doing so.

Explanations by the expelled official that a high court had ordered that he, along with Emmanuel Ibeshi, national publicity secretary and Harry Marshal, national vice-chairman, south-south be reinstated to

their positions fell on deaf ears.

The security men including some party officials around at the time of the incident informed Olawepo that the party was yet to be served with the court order.

At this stage of the confrontation, Olawepo informed newsmen present that the same court which granted the first order, had yesterday turned down the application of PDP asking it to vacate its order that he and the other two expelled national officers be reinstated to their former posts.

Said Olawepo: "You people have been served. This is my lawyer (Falana) and we are just from the court."

"We are national officers of the party and by court order the status quo still stands," he added.

Accusing the party lead-

ership of violating the court order, he continued "the PDP was in court to vacate court orders, but the judge struck out the application and ruled that its earlier order still subsists."

His position was supported by Falana, who stated that his client had given an undertaking in court not to resort to violence in getting his position back.

"I made an undertaking to make sure my client complies with the rule of law and PDP is duly bound to obey court orders," he said.

This is the second attempt by Olawepo to get himself reinstated into the PDP leadership, the first attempt being when Ibeshi and himself were denied access to their offices in the party's national secretariat and prevented from having an audience with Chief Gemade.

But the party through its national publicity secretary, Venatius Ikem denied ever

barring the expelled members from the party secretariat.

Nobody in the PDP, he said has disobeyed the court order, saying "the party has not said there is no court order, but having an audience with Chief Gemade, I don't believe is part of the court order."

Explaining that Olawepo has no office at the party's secretariat, Mr. Ikem accused him and the other expelled members of the hiding behind the cover of the court order to cause disaffec-

tion and disorganise the party.

Meanwhile, at a press conference afterwards, the PDP spokesman said the party has information indicating that Olawepo and company are planning to assault national officers of the party, including attacking the party's headquarters and ultimately paint the PDP in bad light.

"This group has recruited thugs, cultists, former students leaders and some university students across the country who have converged

in Abuja and have been planning the proposed attack and demonstration," he alleged.

The PDP image-maker said the party has already lodged a complaint with the SSS and police and therefore, advised the recruited unsuspecting youths not to allow themselves to be used to cause the breakdown of law and order.

He, however, revealed that the PDP is making attempts to vacate the court orders granted the expelled officer in a higher court.



WRAPA Secretary-General, Saudatu Mahdi (left), Mr. Anyakwe Njirimoru (middle) and the Executive Director, Women's Aid Collective, Mrs. Joy Ngozi Ezeilo, during the courtesy visit of IHRLG body to Daily Trust, Abuja... yesterday. Pix: Felix Onigbinde.

House contd. from pg 1

Speaking on the findings of the committee yesterday, the committee chairman, Rep. Ibrahim Abubakar Ganyama said: "We can't see where the money is, so it is imperative that the NNPC should speak up on this, when the house resumes, we will invite them."

He said officials of the NNPC during the investigations claimed that 71 million barrels of crude oil totalling \$1.7 billion was exported during the period.

"However, we noticed that there is discrepancy of about \$5 billion," he said.

He disclosed that after travelling to different countries, members of the committee discovered that it is only in Nigeria that foreign

oil trading companies operate flexible payment terms such as advanced payment option, differed payment option and prompt payment option.

He explained that this situation made buyers of Nigerian crude choose options that suit them rather than what suit the Nigerian government.

"There was a court ruling on some of these foreign companies which suggest a conspiracy between them and the NNPC."

"In spite of this court ruling, NNPC continued to deal with these companies," the committee chairman lamented.

He accused the Nigerian Ports Authority, the Depart-

ment of Petroleum Resources and the Nigerian Maritime Authority of conspiracy to withhold information from the committee.

"When the House reconvenes, we shall subpoena the heads of these government agencies and if they refuse to appear, we shall order their arrest," he threatened.

On the problems of refineries in the country, Rep Ganyama said the committee discovered that Kaduna refinery was given to Total despite the fact that Chiyoda, the Japanese company that built the complex also bid for the job.

The committee was set up last year following the adoption of a motion sponsored by Rep. Nduka Irabor.

FG contd. from pg 1

at the ports, as well as to cut cost for GSM subscribers when it finally takes-off.

He said the Ministry of Communication has been directed to facilitate the provision of reliable telecommunication equipment in the country.

Chief Ojo Maduekwe declared, "this we hope will also address the issue of cost on subscribers," he said, adding that the package was carefully prepared by the communications ministry to facilitate GSM operations.

The Three licensed operators of the GSM - NITEL, ECONET and MTN have recently announced various charges for subscribers for the new telecommunication system.

scheduled to begin operations announced last week that they would charge N15,000 and N20,000 respectively as connection fees in addition to N4,000 monthly as access fees among other sundry charges.

According to the companies, subscribers connecting from an MTN line to another and those connecting within the ECONET network would pay N28 and N30 respectively per minute at peak periods, while those connecting other operators would pay N30 and N35 respectively.

Off-peak rate are N20 per minute within and beyond MTN network, N25 per minute within and beyond ECONET network, and N35 per minute to connect to other operators respectively.

9, 2001.

The approval announced after the weekly Federal Executive Council (FEC) meeting, yesterday, however, expires by 2004.

Addressing State House correspondents on the outcome of the meeting, Transport Minister, Chief Ojo Maduekwe disclosed that the three companies involved; ECONET, MTN and NITEL have requested for a total waiver of the 10% charged for importation of GSM equipment, but government considered a five per cent waiver, with the exception of Value Added Tax (VAT).

Chief Maduekwe said the measure was to pave way for clearance at the Nigerian ports, as a way out of the current strict inspection regime

151,000 youths contd. from pg 1

free of charge to all infected persons in the state.

The commissioner said the state government has since opened HIV/AIDS units in all the Kaduna state-controlled hospitals to offer free tests to all and sundry in

the state.

Dr. Hyet, said "considering the alarming rate at which the disease is spreading the world over, the Kaduna state government is making frantic efforts to combat the spread of the dis-

ease."

He regretted that the greater percentage of victims in the state come from the southern part of the state and called on Kaduna state indigenes, especially youths, to refrain from casual sex and multiple sex partners.

Ayinla contd. from pg 1

as Minister from December 1997 to June 1998, all during the Abacha regime. And from June 1998-May 1999, he served as the Chief of General Staff (CGS).

Recently, the Federal Executive Council adopted the white paper report of Justice Micheal Edom commission directing Admiral

Sources at the presidency had earlier told *Daily Trust* that the State Security Service (SSS) and the police are on their trail.

Zaki contd. from pg 1

Chairman, Bank of the North Limited (BON).

Until recently, he was turbaned as the first district head of Gindi (1st Sarkin

Kudun-Gindi).

He is survived by 3 wives 14 children and 19 grand children among his children is Engineer Mohammed Sambo.

Guinea contd. from pg 1

former police officer from the Benin Police Command.

Items reportedly recovered from the house of one of the suspected traffickers include, 200 fake Guinean passport booklets, fake flight tickets, fake American dollars and other incriminating items.

Ambassador Sani who said the victims were in bad condition, commended Mrs. Titi Abubakar for her effort

so far in changing the lives of the young Nigerian girls who are victims of human trafficking, through her pet project, WOTCLEF.

Responding, Mrs. Atiku urged public-spirited Nigerians to rally round the Federal Government and its agencies in the war against human trafficking, stressing that the job of ending the scourge must be undertaken by all stakeholders if it is to be done well.

According to her, judicial officers must rally round the prosecutors of the war against the scourge in order to make Nigeria a human trafficking-free nation.

While stating that the foundation has already handled three cases in Benin, the Edo State capital, Mrs. Atiku stressed that the passing of her private Bill by the National Assembly would mean an end to the problem. "as the law will protect the victims and punish the traf-

The FEDERAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL Yesterday

500 communities to get electricity by December

A total of 500 rural communities are billed for connection to the national grid by December 2001 as part of the Federal Government national rural electrification programme.

Already government has announced that 232 rural communities have been provided with electricity between May 1999 and April 2001, while about 1,270 others are currently undergoing provision nationwide.

Stories by Suleiman Mohammed

Power and Steel Minister, Dr. Olusegun Agagu, who announced this to State House correspondents shortly after the Federal Executive Council meeting yesterday said about 340 rural electricity projects have been completed between 1988 and 1999.

According to him, the present administration inherited a total of 846

uncompleted projects abandoned for over ten years by previous administrations.

He said about 589 out of 1,270 projects were prioritised for completion out of which over 200 have been completed and ready for commissioning.

Dr. Olusegun Agagu explained that President Olusegun Obasanjo, has also directed all cabinet ministers to commission completed rural electrification projects

within their states of origin since the programme covers all parts of the country.

He explained that, government placed much attention on the electrification of local government headquarters, and that of the existing 774 local governments in the country, 575 have already been connected to the national grid. "We expect to connect the remaining 98 before 2003," he assured.

Children rights law underway

Poised to protect the right of the Nigerian child, the Federal Government has endorsed the proposed Children Rights Bill, for onward approval by the National Assembly.

The bill, packaged by the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Youth Development, yesterday received the approval of the Federal Executive Council (FEC) meeting held at the State House, Abuja.

Other aspects of the bill include: age of maturity, put at 18 years, street begging, hawking, child abuse and child labour as well as other related matters that affect the growth and development of youths in

the country. Chief Ojo Maduekwe, who expressed disgust at the level of child labour and street begging in Nigeria today, said the new law will spell out punishments for such offences.

He explained that with the introduction of the Universal Basic Education (UBE) programme, the new bill will make it compulsory for parents to send their children ward to school, failure of which would attract a stiffer penalty.



L-R: The Minister of Communications, Dr. Mohammed Bello Haliru, the Minister of State for Communications, Alhaji Haruna Elewi and the Minister of Defence, Lt-Gen. T.Y. Dajuma (rtd) discussing during the Federal Executive Council meeting held at the State House, Abuja ... yesterday. Pix: Kennedy Egbonodje

Obasanjo pays respect to late Emma

President Olusegun Obasanjo and all the cabinet ministers yesterday observed the traditional one minute silence in honour of the late FRCN network State House correspondent, Mr. Emmanuel Ewose.

Mr. Emmanuel Ewose died last Monday after a protracted illness at his residence in Area I, Garki - Abuja.

President Obasanjo led the ministers shortly before the commencement of the

Federal Executive Council (FEC) meeting, and prayed God to grant the family of the late FRCN correspondent the fortitude to bear the loss.

Similarly, members of the State House Press Corps (SHPC) paid their last respect to Mr. Emmanuel Ewose, who until his death covered official activities of President Olusegun Obasanjo both within and outside the country.



L-R: Minister of Power and Steel, Dr. Segun Agagu and Minister of Transport, Chief Ojo Maduekwe during the press briefing on the outcome of the Federal Executive Council (FEC) meeting held at the State House, Abuja ... yesterday. Pix: Kennedy Egbonodje

NEWS

Those against Obasanjo are Nigeria's enemies - minister

Minister of State for Defence (Air force), Engr. Dan Chuke, has said that those calling on President Olusegun Obasanjo not to seek a second term are enemies of the country.

The minister, who said this on Tuesday in Abuja while receiving a delegation of the *Ndigbo* Forum, a Pan-Igbo cultural association, said the Obasanjo administration has the interest of the common man

at heart, adding, "government is not a miracle worker, things have to be done systematically."

While assuring the delegation of government's efforts in alleviating their suffering through infrastructural rehabilitation, the minister averred that "God has answered the prayers of Nigerians by making Obasanjo the president, and his bold initiatives in rescuing the country from the ruins of the

past are paying off."

Earlier, the President-General of the forum, Chief Martin Okeke, stated that the forum changed its mind about an Igbo president and declared its support for the Obasanjo/Atiku ticket in 2003 owing to the Obasanjo's shift of attention to Igbo problems.

Government to prosecute erring baby food marketers

All infant food manufacturers and importers in Nigeria who fail to comply with the nation's code of marketing breast milk substitute are to face the full wrath of the law, the Minister of Health, Prof. Alphonsus Nwosu, has said.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the year 2001 world breast-feeding week in Abuja yesterday, the minister who was represented at the occasion

that the present administration was committed to improving the health and nutrition of Nigerian children through the promotion, protection and support of breast-feeding.

In his speech at the occasion, the UNICEF representative in Nigeria, Dr. Christian Vounard, advised mothers who are HIV-positive to either feed their babies with breast milk

FG's policy on corruption unprecedented - Ekaete

Current policies targeted at eliminating corruption in the country have been described as unprecedented, not only in



their scope, but also in terms of the political will supporting them.

This assertion was made at a lecture for participants of Senior Executive Course 23 at the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies, Kuru, Jos on Tuesday, by the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), Chief Ufot Ekaete. He said the policies are all embracing and targeted at key areas which provide structural support for corruption.

Chief Ekaete noted that as a source of corruption, the propensity by past

Group describes INEC's power as 'excessive'

when the group called on the Managing Director of Media Trust Limited, Alhaji Kabiru Yusuf, in Abuja yesterday.

The group noted that the guidelines regulating the conduct of elections are too restrictive, and the conditions for the registration of political parties as

contained in the proposed law too stringent. This, the ERN said, is inhibiting popular participation in the democratic process.

The network called for the formulation of guidelines that would enable detainees and prisoners to register and vote in future elections. It also made a case for the reversion of at least 30 percent of elected positions for women.

Earlier in his speech, the leader of the delegation, Mr. Olawale Fapohunda, who is also the Chairman, Advocacy Committee, described the media as important allies in popularizing the position of civil societies on electoral laws, and expressed the hope that Media Trust would continue to give the necessary cooperation in this regard.

over the nation's economic activities, is being tackled through the policies of economic liberalization, communication and privatization as well as the key legal and institutional reforms introduced in the economic sector.

The SGF also listed other sectors that bred corruption as the uncontrolled expansion in public sector employment and the weaknesses of regulatory and control mechanisms within both the public and private sectors.

According to Chief Ekaete, the new government policy in this direction has targeted the achievement of enhanced capacity of control mechanisms as well as



NEWS

NEPA causes unemployment of 30m youths – Aisha Ismail

By Habiba Adamu

Over 30 million youths are unemployed in the country, a major problem attributed to industrial collapse due to National Electric Power Authority's (NEPA) problems and employment embargo during the military regime.

The Minister of Women Affairs and Youth Development, Hajiya Aisha Ismail, stated this on Tuesday in Abuja when her Niger Republic counterpart, the Minister of Social Development, Population, Women Promotion and Youth Protection, Madame Fomakoye Nana Aichatou, paid her a courtesy call in her office.

She said that lack of constant power supply because of some problems facing NEPA in the country over the years, caused industrial collapse which at the same time resulted in the increased number of unemployed youths in our

society.

Hajiya Aisha stated that the Federal Government has commenced measures aimed at solving NEPA's problems so that industries could employ about five million youths.

She added that the number of unemployed youths continue to increase as the years rolled by during the military regime because of the embargo placed on employment by former



Hajiya Aisha Ismail

governments, adding that the present government was now creating vacancies to employ youths yearly.

The minister further stated that National Directorate of Employment (NDE) has recently provided employment for about 10,000 youths.

FG calls for media campaign against arms proliferation

From Bassey Ita, in Calabar

Worried by the inherent dangers in the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in the country, the Federal Government has called on the media to carry out a massive campaign to check the phenomenon.

Chairman, committee on the proliferation and illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, Maj.-Gen.

The National Committee on the Proliferation and Illicit Trafficking in Small Arms and Light Weapons, has expressed fear that the nation's young democracy could be truncated if the current flow of illegal arms into the country was not checked.

Speaking to Daily Trust yesterday in Port Harcourt during a courtesy visit to the Rivers State Governor, Dr. Peter Odili, the

Inameti Yellow-Duke, who made the call in Calabar during a three-day working visit to the state, noted that an aggressive and sustained media campaign would go a long way in checking the dangerous business.

While confessing that the problem has been

community, which thereafter sparked off the recent crisis in the community.

Chief Idamiebi-Brown said as a result, some hoodlums who got the said money now use it against innocent people in the community in concert with some law enforcement agents, adding that people were either tortured, maimed or their houses destroyed.

Illegal arms could truncate democracy – Gen Yellow-Duke

From Wisdom-Uduak Patrick, in Port Harcourt

leader of the southern zone of the committee, Maj.-Gen. I.B.A. Yellow-Duke, called on all hands to be on deck to fight what he called a dangerous monster before it consumes the country.

According to him, posterity would not forgive us if we fail to do something

against the upsurge of high weapons importation and smuggling into the country.

Yellow-Duke said the issue of arms proliferation was more severe than the dreaded HIV/AIDS scourge.

"Many people die daily from armed robbery attacks, trans-border banditry especially in the North-Eastern zone and ethnic, religious and communal clashes," he observed.

He advised Nigeria to learn her lesson from other sister African countries who went to sleep while large quantities of illicit arms found their way into wrong hands.

Yellow-Duke noted that as long as large quantities of illicit arms were in bad hands, there might be no future for our nascent democracy. "As long as different disgruntled groups acquire arms illegally and use these arms to cause disturbances in different parts of the country under ethnic or religious guises (including armed robbery) our effort in attracting foreign investment into the country would be in vain," he pointed out.

Royal father indicts Mobil over wrong information

As tension continue to mount in Finima in Rivers State between Mobil Producing Nigeria Unlimited and indigenes of the community, the paramount ruler of Finima, Chief Israel Idamiebi-Brown has accused the company of distrust.

Addressing journalists in Port Harcourt Tuesday, the

paramount ruler of the town and spokesperson for the community said that his subjects were restive following what he referred to as distorted information Mobil was busy feeding the public.

According to Chief Isreal Idamiebi-Brown, the issue between his people and Mobil Producing was

that of illegal acquisition of materials of their land, where money was allegedly paid indiscriminately to some individuals who had no status to represent owners of such lands.

He stated further that by this singular act, the oil company successfully sowed a seed of discord amongst members of his

tackled at the sub-regional level without much success, the committee boss said small arms and light weapons in the context of their usefulness and nature, are military-type rifles revolvers; motar bombs, land mines, grenades and dane guns.

According to him, modalities for stemming the scourge were discussed during a moratorium with all ECOWAS states three years ago. He stressed too that the initiative, which became the first of its kind the world over, was considered a model by the United Nations (UN).

Continuing, Maj.-Gen. Yellow-Duke, said the moratorium undertook to curtail the manufacture, sale and transfer of small arms, reiterating that the nation's commitment to keep the UN protocol led it to destroy all seized arms before the July 9th UN deadline for arms destruction.



Mr. Smith, IGP



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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

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

DAILY TRUST
EDITORIAL

Recover the loot, punish the looter

At long last, the federal government has issued a white paper on the Oluwole Rotimi commission of enquiry into government land holdings, and damning it is of holders of public office. The commission is one of several set up by the Obasanjo administration at its inception and the best that can be said of the white paper two years later is better late than never. It is only hoped that action on the other commissions' reports would be as decisive when they eventually come.

It is gratifying that action has not been concluded on the report. President Obasanjo has promised that some suspected offenders will be prosecuted and there are hints that the panel will conduct a more extensive probe.

The president's promise has however created some doubt. He said during his media chat last week that some of officials who converted public property to their private use would be prosecuted, but this may not be enough. For their sake and for the sake of Nigeria, ALL those in possession of public lands should be prosecuted and those who are innocent will have the chance to have their names cleared in public. Those who are guilty will be made to pay a price set by the law and not that determined by the whim of any public official.

Because the commission looked into property transfers on which there had been complaints or petitions, it would not help matters to stop at that. There could be many more government property now in private hands on which no complaints had been made, and it would be unfair to let them remain so. The public is aware for instance that many parastatals of the federal government have sold land to private individuals at sometimes ridiculous prices. The federal government should go ahead and look at all transfers of public property to ensure that they were exchanged at economic prices at the time they were sold or else claim them back.

The most important decision government has yet to make is however on what to do with officials who have been indicted in the white paper and others who might suffer a similar fate in future. These are officials who, trusted with our common national treasures, have decided to expropriate them for themselves - a gross betrayal of trust.

Not only must their punishment not consist of merely of being deprived of community property which they stole, they should also be deprived of opportunity to ever betray our trust again. They should also be punished in such a manner that others seeking office in future would know that they would not get away with this form of thievery.

The federal government should initiate a bill by which the National Assembly will make such action unrewarding perhaps to the extent of banning perpetrators from ever holding office in Nigeria.



THURSDAY COLUMN

The essential Bala

By Issa Aremu

Not a few comrades proclaim end of ideology, altogether. Some actually became propagandists and apologists of military dictatorship of all traits. Some are simply miserable chieftains of ethnicity and regionalism, generating more heat and less light for our peoples seeking for justice and development.

In contrast, Dr. Jibril Bala Mohammed, the University of Maiduguri lecturer who died last June in a motor accident was unapologetically a socialist, patriot and internationalist in a Leninist non-doctrinaire sense of the word to the end. Any attempt therefore by the likes of Abubakar Jika to recruit Bala into ever unhelpful boring regional and ethnic tom beat must be seen for what it is; unconscious posthumous disservice! Bala never needed to 'redefine the national question' for he knew that it is an integral part of class and social relations and he shares this not 'hitherto' but all the time. Which is understandable, given that commitment to socialism is more conviction than a passing fad for him. He significantly also saw Marxism as a method and analytical tool and not a doctrine or prophesy. Bala's capacity for analysis was self-evident in our undergraduate days such that it was clear that if he was unable to make a revolution, he would naturally end up a lecturer teaching revolution! He was adjudged a successful mass communication lecturer that turned out equally successful students in significant number. He will always be remembered for his erudite participation in the NTA weekly media review produced by the late James Audu. Nothing could be more revolutionary; blending theory and practice, refusing to be consigned to the margin and insisting to be in the mainstream!

Which points to another essential attribute of Bala's scholarship. Much has been said about the mass expulsion in ABU under the authoritarian vice-chancellorship of Ango Abdullahi in 1981, including the notorious 'rice theory', understandably so given that Dikko's task force on rice captured public imagination then. Apart from the repressive character of the unprecedented expulsion aimed at weeding out the progressive forces on the campus, that singular deployment of the big stick was meant to terminate budding inquiring minds, Bala's inclusive. Remarkably, Bala turned his expulsion at final year into an even greater search for knowledge and not despair as preferred by the inquisitor, thanks to his industry and exceptional hard work. He started and completed first, second and doctorate degrees in unprecedented quick successions. The mediocre and failed radical is not Bala. Failure was alien to him. On the contrary, excellence and distinction are hallmarks of genuine comrades, very well in the traditions of acknowledged radical thinkers and practitioners.

Undaunted Bala returned to ABU and made the point that denial of first degree on trumped up charges was only a calling to doctorate pursuits and not to slide into ignorance from which he chose to escape in the first instance! Even when some renegade lecturer-supervisors employed subterfuge to undermine his resolve during his doctorate studies, Bala endured. All is well that ultimately led to him leaving his foot imprint on scholarship. Bala saw the bigger pictures in life, while his oppressors are pre-occupied with a mundane obstacle building.

Paradoxically, Bala's fertile mind was nurtured in the functioning public primary and secondary schools in post-colonial Nigeria. This great mind was further watered in the vibrant public university system of the 70s and 80s. Today we shamelessly pay lip service to Universal Basic Education (UBE), pitch basic education against university education as if they are mutually exclusive, endlessly play politics with primary teachers' pay and ultimately destroy university education. Reproducing Balas (assuming it is possible) puts to test the sincerity of purpose of all our education administrators. When will there be public hearings on our collapsed public schools? Tony Blair, British Prime Minister got overwhelming second term votes almost on account of reviving British secondary schools. Our governors are desperately seeking re-elections, which in itself is a healthy measure of confidence in democratic dispensation. But to what extent have they particularly delivered on their promise on reviving the educational sector? May Bala's acknowledged talent and scholarship, being a product of robust public schools of the recent times spur us to demand for functional public education for all as distinct from the existing privileged lager instruction-centres and expensive frauds called private schools.

Reviving public schools calls for system men and women as distinct from the existing anarchism. Essential legacy of Bala is system and organisation. In a society in which unrepresentative and unaccountable individuals, persons without visible constituency, dominate the public scene by sheer money and macho, (check those for

and against so-called national conference!), Bala's silent but effective contribution within systems and organisations makes a remarkable difference.

Few at such a tender age devoted so much time and energy to organisation building! 'Civil society' is the new fad generously being promoted by international financial institutions and 'development' agencies, following frustration with state-building they ironically promoted and funded in post colonial Africa. At a time, it was far from being popular, Bala and his compatriots had realised the fact that Africa's future lies in vibrant civil society. This realisation flows from Claude Ake's observation that 'people must own' their own development which means that they have to be its agents as well as its means and ends. Bala has selflessly contributed to building of organizations that include students' unions, Movement for Progressive Nigeria (MPN), NUNS/NANS, Patriotic Youths Movement (PYM), ASSUU, and CAPP etc. "For a country that is democratising with political parties, a country in which individuals and not programmes and organizations are in contest for power. Even without, discernible differences in terms of ideas and vision. Bala's legacy in organisation building around ideas and issues are worth exploring even after death. This certainly tasks his comrades and comradeship is what he left behind.

Comradeship, an enduring bond of commitment to fairness and justice, is currently an endangered virtue. No thanks to the net dictatorship of selfishness, exclusiveness, regionalism, ethnicity, grand mediocrity and brute force on national, regional and global scale. Jibril Muhammed Bala's death was one comradeship-anomic too many. His life was a celebration of friendship and comradeship that cut across all known Nigerian divides; religion, region, tribe, gender and class. Bala's cosmopolitanism often confounded those permanently humiliated by their lowly origin! Today, there is abysmal deficit of trust, friendship and solidarity, essential values for community and nation building. Gang ups along exclusive issues are shamelessly being exploited. The spirit of comradeship and solidarity, Bala left behind is a remarkable exception.

He died believing in Nigeria even as those who profited from the country are eager to throw the country to the dogs. In extreme a former Attorney General of the Federation, Chief Richard Akonjide has just discovered that he has always been a senior

Advocate of a 'paper Republic', as he now insists Nigeria ostensibly made through amalgamation in 1914 was "a mistake"! It is an order to ever think that patriot Bala, would be post-humously honoured with national award for keeping faith with the Federal public until the end. But the challenge is for his compatriots to decouple his legacy of patriotism, believing that genuine honours actually long to the generations yet unborn.

Which then brings us to the unorthodox but enduring attribute of Bala. At a time we pitch the state against the civil society, Bala with dialectical case crosses the artificial and dysfunctional divide. Groomed in the barricades of campus and street protests, he once also served his local government and his last assignment was at the Federal level. Bala was clear that Africa shall not eradicate poverty, generate wealth nor ensure growth and development if we do not strengthen the institutions of both the state and the civil society. The notorious anarchic demand of free marketers that will roll back an even retrenchment of the state altogether through rushed and uncritical privatisation is not consistent with Bala's principle.

The last essential traits of Bala are family and religion. Recent wisdom has created an impression that religion and family are incompatible with radicalism and Progress. Bala creatively rejected this notion. The Bohemian life or a comrade and scholar is false an undecidable as far as Bala is concerned. Indeed, the urge and desperation to complete our education after ABU fiasco was largely motivated by the need to fulfil the legitimate aspiration of parents who sent us to schools in the first instance. Bala was a product worthy of family and he left a worthy family behind. At a time it was popular to reject faith, Bala has always been convinced that 'Allah is known through reason' and that reason cannot be substituted for faith. He was born a Muslim and died as one. We have shown how at one time he turned one accident of life to greater pursuit of greater knowledge. May Almighty Allah turn this eternal accident that claimed his life to even greater and rewarding eternal rest and peace. May the knowledge that Bala's death is also a loss to Nigeria an Africa confers some fortitude for immediate family to bear the great loss.

Long live Bala!
Aremu is general Secretary (NUTGWN), Textile Labour House, P.O. Box 905, Kaduna.

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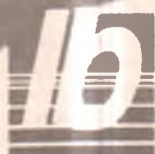
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Opinion

The hate phenomenon

By Mohammed Kabir Garba

I have often found myself wondering why anyone would hate someone or something. The more I tried to understand this innate intrigue, the more I become confused. One thing I know is that hate is something that is trouble to the mind if one allows it to occupy his reasoning mentality - the unique mind for reasons perhaps unknown.

However since I am neither a psychologist nor a soothsayer, I may not understand deeply the complexities of hate as it affects the psyche of an individual, nations and tribes. What I do know is that hate consumes anyone who is in the habit of falling into its destructive fold.

Why do individuals, tribes, and nations choose to hate rather than love one another? The answer I think depends on so many things. Hate in an individual confuses his conscience as his anger is directed at the object of hate. For example, a person is likely to hate another if they applied for promotion and did not succeed. In situations of rivalry such as courtship in marriage, hate always shows its ugly face to create a serious face-off if one suitor loses out.

Hate among nations is usually between the leaders rather than the led. A good example is the situation in Democratic Republic of Congo and its neighbours Uganda and Rwanda. It flares up between the led as was the case in several disputes especially the genocide in Yugoslavia.

Hate has created many problems around the world. In Nigeria for example, hate is responsible for the unnecessary ethnic clashes in many docile communities. Hate was the major reason in clashes between the Jukuns and the Tivs some years ago. Hate caused the brutal mass killings of the Ijaws, and Hausas by the Yorubas in Sagamu and Lagos. Hate was and still is the cause of the Ife-Modakeke crisis. Hate is the evil that triggered off ethnic fighting in Nasarawa State between the Hausa-speaking Azara people and the Tivs, hate is responsible for countless brutal killings that are too numerous to mention. In Rwanda and Burundi, hate was so fierce that when the Hutus and Tutsis started killing one another, the two tribes did not stop until well over 70,000 of them had died. It is on record as the greatest human tragedy in Africa beside the Nigerian civil war.

How can one suppress this evil? I would like to suggest that we should allow religious considerations to take hold on our lifestyles. In Islam for example, it is clear to a believer to love his fellow human being and take him or her as a brother or sister no matter his religious orientation. We noticed such behaviour when Lagos was boiling during the OPC crises. The violence spread to Kano where Yorubas living there for generations were taken into the homes of Hausas for safety. This is the type of brotherhood Islam enjoined on its followers. I witnessed a heart-warming scene during a recent trip from Abuja to Lagos. Two men, one was clearly a Yoruba man with tribal marks peculiar to Ibadan people. His friend was a Hausa man. They were conversing in Hausa language. What surprised me was that the Yoruba man's Hausa was impeccable. They joked, laughed and ate together as if they were from the same region or tribe. Is anything better than that act of brotherhood in a nation like Nigeria?

Garba is of # 25 Community Road,

OBJ: Operating Blurred Jeremiads

By Paul Mamza

The era when Nigeria reached the apogee of a habitual hysteria of habitus - which is a true reflection of its image has finally arrived. The luxuriant despairs and corruption index has confronted the high expectations echoed in Mr. President's Inaugural Speech of May, 29th 1999 *volte-face*. If the vociferous resent on the breach of the law and perpetration of corruption / evil are cardinal thrust of our torchbearer's own volition at the initial stage then the vitiate state of the nation's tempo cannot be devoid of a transparency *vol-au-vent*. But it is improper to commiserate with a cad that deliberately prefers to be a colossus of comatose. That is not to say we shall derive ecstasy in fleeing our motherland because of the state of hopelessness. Both the nation and its' edicts are our sheer investments that should not be allowed to shatter.

The image laundering of the nation-state has to score its latent values through the initiation of strong survivalist instincts from instrumentality of resurrective resilience. Building new platforms in an old order such as ours will only be accessible by a repudiation accompanied by the eradication of an ethical reproach. Though societal aberration is not necessarily a function of a good ethical conduct but the attempt to abolish a defective societal parsimony had offered high hopes of livelihood in modern participations.

The corruptionphiles has finally secured an environmentally friendly habitation with the non-redeeming effort pulling strings from the inadequacies of the past to further strangulate the ever paralysed society in Operating Blurred Jeremiads. What is new about the emergence of new miseries? The operators were quoted as being asking at different fora. They say, since fifteen years

of "military tyranny," was condoned by Nigerians it is morally justifiable to accommodate two or more years of "civil wreck."

Anything short of that they continued is unnecessarily pestering those that are just about to perfect the act of squandering our common weal. The gospel according to our leaders of corruption has since been relayed that National Rebirth can only be possible if after the nation has been laid at the nadir of its fortunes and this forms their cardinal objectives for the remaining period of their civil misrule. But even the supposedly fifteen consecutive years of 'military tyranny' is not as bad as the unbroken two years of 'civil wreck'. Take for instance, the much abused amongst the military 'tyrants' who paradoxically was responsible for the woes of the nation since the amalgamation of its protectorates in 1914 through the year of independence in 1960 up to the year of democracy, year 2001 had designed a plausible structure which when only maintained let alone improved in the last two years would have drastically reduced the supremacy hold of the misery index. The only achievement of the two years of democracy which apparently became the greatest since independence is that a comman had finally exposed the atrocities of the tribe of comen without allowing the activities of these comen been outlawed. While a Minister who doubles as a master-puppeteer of genocide had putrefied the common weal at a Ministry-in-charge of electricity generation plants and parachuted to another Ministry to perfect another gross form of misappropriation, the few unfortunate victims of supposedly inefficient performance and corruption were

summarily dismissed making the protectable to be protected. Evidently the shell of protection has to derive its genes from ancestral inclinations and hence, the biological orphans needed to be politically orphaned in compliance with the new era of reorientation. Actually it is believed at the state affairs that it is only those citizens that has not been favoured by the government of the day that can observe such defaults or designs. After all what is abnormal about a normality. By the time the new era starts prostrating into extinction the traditional duty that will delegate the cupidity of the ruling clan will not be sought from either the North or the East. The pedigree tacticians with high skills had mastered the arts of tactics and tactics has to be as succinctly as possible during capacity building in interest-making.

The majestic calculations have majestically offered the traditional accomplices a strong platform to go into a huddle. Whether the secret is to secrete is none of your business. To exhilarate the delegate's appetite at satisfying his descendants is a task that must be done. It is criminal for anyone to question the move to chase the spirits of their ancestors out of the new 'hall of ethnicization' when it is certain that two incompatibles cannot be compatible. The overzealous raider will be raided by the ever-competent and ever-ready ethnic militiamen who serve as repossessing savages. The savages had earlier warned that the current round of economic in inanties which resulted in the depreciation of the value of the nation's currency can be due to lack of their participation in the effort of national recourse.

Mamza wrote in from Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria.



YOUR LETTERS

Oputa, what about ongoing violations?

Much has been written about the proliferation of lawyers and the consequent drop in standards of practice in the legal profession in Nigeria of recent.

In as much as I find it difficult to understand the argument as to why the quality of lawyers would drop because as one eminent jurist put it recently, "we are producing too many lawyers", I find it shocking when I interact with gentlemen of the legal profession and discover how shallow some can be outside law.

The incurable optimist that I am, I tried to rationalise the

discovery but insisting that the field of law is so professional and vast that lawyers hardly have time for anything outside their time-consuming and demanding profession. But that has changed as the Oputa panel began to reveal things. I must admit that my interaction with lawyers can in no way claim to be extensive.

Similarly, apart from a few interesting revelations and dramatised reconciliations, I think the Oputa panel has become something of a diversion, a sideshow to keep the press and general public from realising how hungry we really are. A lot of the so-called violations of human rights being investigated are still daily occurrences to some of us, and are happening right now, even as you are reading this piece. A brush with the police, members of the armed forces or even bullion van drivers will demonstrate in practical terms what I mean.

Even with the complacency with which I view proceedings at the Oputa panel, the performance of some of the lawyers has simply dumbfounded me. From plain bad English to lack of preparation, and ignorance about the whole idea behind the Oputa panel, I cannot but conclude that some lawyers have become a shame and source of embarrassment to the legal profession.

Apart from bad English and lack of composure before the panel, some of these lawyers appear to be confused. It is a good thing that the Oputa panel is not a conventional court of law, otherwise the performance of some of these "Oputa lawyers" would have been a major catastrophe in the annals of the legal profession in Nigeria. Had that been the case, Hamza Al-Mustapha would have been freed with compensation and apologies.

Unfortunately, even well known lawyers like Gani Fawehinmi disappointed many. All I remember him doing is pounding the rostrum and was merely audible. Is that what he does in a conventional court? Or was he barely carried away by emotions? Even laymen realise the importance of composure for lawyers in front of a judge or jury. Or how else do you practice the subtler arts of the profession in defence of clients?

All these raise some questions that are begging for answers. Do prospective law students meet the required qualifications? Is the rampant exams malpractice taking its toll? Or is the problem with the law schools? Or indeed a general reflection of the wider society where mediocrity is the order of the day?

Salisu Suleiman,
P. O. Box 10427,
Garki, Abuja.

We are behind Daily Trust and truth

I want to congratulate you (Daily Trust) and your editorial board for providing vibrant publications for Nigerians at a period when some sections of the press see nothing bad in the governance of the country since 29-5-1999. You have been on the side of truth. We the masses are solidly behind you, irrespective of tribe and religion. I am saying more grease to your elbows.

Ndubuisi S. Okoroafor
5, Abudu Street.

Why beneficiaries get their money late

The public may not know that when detailed authorisation of expenditure is issued to the Accountant-General of the Federation (AGF) not all such moneys are released to the beneficiaries. The pity of it is that these supposed beneficiaries do not know the details let alone receive their votes in time or at all.

as fixed deposits in about three banks for several months. In some cases the votes are moved to the Federal Pay Officers in the states and are then brought back.

Check the allocations to federal government colleges for the past six quarters and see what fraction actually got to them and when as against the authorisation from the Federal Ministry of Finance. So when our bosses in

as private cars you will understand. The police are actually better placed to study the pattern as does the FBI but you know better.

Please promote our democracy by checking it out. It is just that simple.

Kennedy Chuke,
No. 1, Osun Crescent,
Maitama,

TRUST INTERNATIONAL

AFRICA & THE MIDDLE EAST

Morocco considers Berber rights

King Mohammed VI of Morocco has promised to set up a body to preserve the language and culture of the country's Berbers, who make up a majority of the population.

In a speech to mark the second anniversary of his accession to the throne, the king said the body would work towards integrating the Berber language into the education system.

Berber activists have been campaigning for their language, Tamazight, to be recognised as the country's official language.

Reiterating his pledge two years ago to build a modern democratic state, the king said the issue of identity was "crucial" and affected all Moroccans.

The Moroccan constitution recognises only Arabic as the official language.

This has effectively prevented many Berber children, who speak only Tamazight, from gaining an education.

In June, Moroccan authorities stopped Berber activists from holding a meeting aimed at creating a united group to press for Berbers' rights.

Berbers, also known as Amazigh, lived in what is now Morocco before the Arab invasion in the seventh century.

King Mohammed said he had decided to set up the Royal Institute for Amazigh Culture "to strengthen the pillars of our ancestral identity" bearing in mind "the need to give a new impulse to our Amazigh culture, which is a national treasure".

The king said: "The institute will be in charge of preparing and monitoring the integration of Tamazight into the educational system, in conjunction with the other ministerial services."

Berber activists welcomed the announcement.

They pointed out, however, that in 1978 the Moroccan parliament approved the creation of a national institute for Berber studies, but the institute was never set up.



King Mohammed VI of



Minister of State for Defence (Airforce), Engr. Dan Chuke (left), Minister of Defence, Theophilus Danjuma (middle) and the Chinese ambassador, Mr. Liang Yinzhu at the 74th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese Peoples' Liberation Army... recently. Pix: Felix Onigbinde.

Hamas vows to revenge killing of eight Palestinians

Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, Hamas' spiritual leader, has warned that the Israeli people would "pay the price" for the deaths of eight Palestinians after an Israeli helicopter fired into a Hamas office in the West Bank city of Nablus on Tuesday.

The funerals of the victims, including two senior Hamas officials and two children, were held in the West Bank yesterday.

Tensions flared following



Ariel Sharon, Israeli Prime Minister.

the attack on Tuesday, as thousands of Palestinians took to the streets in the West Bank and Gaza and clashes broke out in various areas.

Israel is on high alert for possible acts of revenge by Hamas.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon was scheduled to meet with his security cabinet yesterday morning to discuss the deterioration of the last few days.

World leaders have condemned the Israeli attack in Nablus, saying it was an unnecessary escalation of violence and a breach of the ceasefire agreement brokered by the United States.

Jamal Mansour and Jamal Salim, both senior Hamas activists, were among those killed when an Israeli helicopter struck a third-floor research office belonging to the organisation.

Two children, eight-year-old Bilal Abu Khader and his five-year-old brother, Ashraf, who were playing outside the seven-storey building at the time of the attack, were also among the dead.

Mr Sharon's spokesman,

Raanan Gissin said the loss of innocent civilian life was regretted, but he suggested the children may have been used as "human shields".

A Hamas spokesman told the BBC that both leaders belonged to the group's political wing and had no connection to military operations.

The Palestinian Authority has declared two days of mourning for the victims.

A few hours after the attack, Palestinian gunmen shot five Jewish settlers, injuring one woman seriously, near the West Bank city of Ramallah, Israeli military sources said.

In the Gaza Strip, Israeli forces killed a Palestinian policeman and a member of the Islamic Jihad group.

UN condemns massacre of S/ Leonean civilians

The Commander of the UN peace-keeping force in Sierra Leone has described as callous an attack on civilians which took place recently in the diamond mining region in the east of the country.

Lieutenant General Daniel Opande movingly told reporters on Tuesday that the massacre of

at least nine civilians and possibly many more was one of the worst things he had seen in his long military career.

They were slaughtered like chickens, the general said, by a man he described as a renegade rebel commander, one Demba Marah.

He is from an apparent splinter group from the main rebel Revolutionary United Front, which has signed a ceasefire, which the UN says the main force is largely respecting.

The Kenyan UN commander said the scenes in the village of Henekuma had chilled his blood when he saw the remains of a murdered six-month-old baby, other small children and old people.

The UN saw nine bodies in the village, although some reports say the number of dead was much higher.

The assault on Henekuma appears to have been in revenge for earlier attacks on rebel positions by armed militiamen opposed to the rebels.

Reliable reports said militiamen known as Kamajors or Donsos had attacked several villages, killing at least 45 civilians.

The outbreak of fighting between the rebels and the militiamen in the diamond mining areas is a serious challenge for the UN, which has its largest peacekeeping force in

Menezes wins Sao Tome's presidential election

Businessman Fradique de Menezes has been declared the winner of Sao Tome and Principe's presidential election.

The result, announced late on Tuesday, ended two days of speculation about a possible second round of voting.

Mr de Menezes polled 56.31%, well ahead of former President Manuel Pinto da Costa, who gained 38.73%.

Mr Pinto da Costa, whose Marxist administration ran the country from independence in 1975 until 1991, had been tipped to make a return to power.

Turnout among the 67,000 voters was high and polling took place without any reports of major incidents, just logistical problems.

Election observers from Angola, Taiwan, Gabon, Guinea-Bissau and Nigeria have declared the vote free and fair.

Mr de Menezes is a member of out-going President Miguel Trovoada's Independent Democratic Alliance.

Mr Trovoada is stepping down after the two five-year terms the constitution allows.

He leaves the mainly agricultural economy in a

poor state.

During the campaign, the candidates concentrated on how they would spend new wealth, which is forecast to be generated by recent oil discoveries.

Both Angola and Nigeria, big oil producing countries are keeping a close watch on the situation in their much smaller neighbour.

Angola has been a traditional supporter of Mr da Costa, whose party remains the largest in parliament, while Nigeria signed a maritime border agreement with Mr Trovoada.

The former Portuguese colony lies 300km off the west coast of Africa.

Iran test-fires anti-tank missile

The Iranian defence ministry says it has successfully test-fired an anti-tank missile capable of destroying the most sophisticated armoured equipment.

The ministry said the missile, known as Saeqeh-1 (Lightning-1), was notable for its accuracy, range and adaptability to different geographical conditions.

In a statement carried by the Iranian news agency, the ministry said Iranian experts wholly designed the new missile.

Iran's official news agency Irna described the new anti-tank missile as "a bold move that will surely alarm the United States and Israel".

The United States and Israel have repeatedly expressed concern about Iran's ambitious weapons programmes.

Iran already has similar weapons but the Iranian defence ministry said the new missile was very accurate and with a high destructive power.

The ministry insisted that it was designed entirely in Iran to meet the defence needs of the army.

But it is not quite clear if the missile is modelled on existing foreign designs.

Defence experts say that Iran's current anti-tank weapon, known as Raad, was based on some Russian missiles.

Iran has been under a western arms embargo since the Islamic revolution in 1979.

But the Iranian authorities say the country has been able to design and manufacture its own sophisticated weaponry including missiles and helicopters.

Last year, the US and Israel expressed grave concern when Iran test-fired its first medium-range missile, known as Shahab-3, which is capable of reaching the Jewish state.

There is no common border with Israel to make the anti-tank weapon a threat.

But there is concern in Israel that such advanced weapons could end up in the hands of the Hezbollah group

Moi sues ex-US ambassador

Kenya's President, Daniel arap Moi, is suing the former US ambassador to Nairobi, Smith Hempstone over a book which alleges that Mr Moi was involved in the 1990 murder of Foreign Minister, Robert Ouko.

Mr Ouko disappeared from his farm in western Kenya shortly after returning from a trip to the US and his body was discovered three days later, having been shot, doused with petrol and set ablaze.

Mr Moi and Industry Minister Nicholas Biwott are seeking unspecified damages for defamation on the basis that Mr Hempstone's book, *The Rogue Ambassador* brought their characters and reputations

contempt".

Both Mr Moi and Mr Biwott have denied any involvement in the killing, which the police have never solved.

The president's lawyers accuse Mr Hempstone of publishing the allegations out of malice against him or for the "sordid purpose" of making a profit.

They are also suing the Text Book Centre, the bookshop which has already started selling the book in Kenya and want its distribution ceased.

In 1991, British detectives from Scotland Yard told a Kenyan judicial commission that Mr Biwott was a prime suspect in the murder.

TRUST INTERNATIONAL

World Report

Party stops Indian PM from resigning

Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee has offered to resign, but has been persuaded to remain in office by his party.

Mr Vajpayee told his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) that he was willing to quit because of problems within his governing National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

"I cannot manage the NDA. I have grown old. I am also unwell. I should leave the chair," Mr Vajpayee was reported to have said.

The move came at a time when the prime minister is under increasing pressure after a number of political scandals and the apparent failure of recent talks with Pakistan.

"At the BJP parliamentary party meeting this morning, Prime Minister Vajpayee did express his desire to quit office

in view of his inability to have the NDA function in a coherent and disciplined manner," Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pramod Mahajan said.

"Party members reacted sharply to the PM's remarks and said Mr Vajpayee could not be allowed to leave," he added.

The BBC's correspondent said the prime minister's personal integrity is a key part of his public image, and some see his offer to resign as a way of trying to reclaim the high moral ground.

The prime minister has been under increasing pressure, both from within his government and from the opposition, over the talks with Pakistan and a series of financial scandals.

Earlier this month, a landmark summit between Mr Vajpayee and Pakistani President General Pervez

Musharraf failed to reach any agreement because of differences over Kashmir.

Mr Vajpayee saw the summit as part of a personal initiative and its collapse was said to have left him vulnerable politically.

His government is also under pressure over a scandal surrounding the country's largest mutual fund, Unit Trust of India (UTI).

Transactions in one of its main investment schemes were frozen earlier this month, causing panic among millions of small investors.

The chairman of UTI and two directors have since been arrested for suspected involvement in a \$3.8m fraud.

On Tuesday, Finance Minister Yashwant Sinha was heckled in parliament as he defended his ministry's

handling of the crisis.

One of Mr Vajpayee's alliance partners, the Shiv Sena party, has alleged that members of the prime minister's office were involved in the scandal.

Earlier in the year, his government was also embarrassed by an arms bribery scandal, which led to the resignation of the defence minister.



Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Indian Prime Minister.

Diplomatic Licence

Megawati's finest hour

By Abdulazeez Abdullahi

Mrs. Megawati Sukarnoputri's dream finally came true on July 23, when she was sworn-in as the fifth president of Indonesia by the country's parliament, which unanimously impeached embattled former president, Abdulrahman Wahid. For her, it was a clear case of patience and perseverance paying off after losing out on an opportunity to lead the country in 1999 to the charismatic Wahid who then enjoyed the backing of the alliance of Muslim parties.

As expected the former vice-president's ascension to power was greeted with applause and sighs of relief by hundreds of thousands of her supporters who were only too glad to see the departure of Abdulrahman Wahid and hence, an end to the almost two years of turbulence in the governance of the country. Indeed the people of Indonesia see her presidency as a breath of fresh air and a sign of good things to come. But the 54-year-old daughter of Indonesia's first president, Sukarno, who led the country to independence from Dutch colonialists after the second world war has

Megawati's first task may be how to bring an end to the seemingly endless political instability that has left Indonesia's economy in shambles with sectarian violence and separatist insurgency putting the nation of over 210 million people on the brink of disintegration.

enormous challenges ahead as she attempts to steer the ship of state.

Megawati's first task may be how to bring an end to the seemingly endless political instability that has left Indonesia's economy in shambles with sectarian violence and separatist insurgency putting the nation of over 210 million people on the brink of disintegration. Her political finesse will also be put to test when she eventually attempts to restore peace to the troubled northern state of Aceh with separatists fighting to secede from the rest of Indonesia.

The new president also faces the task of putting the country's fledgling economy back on track after the recession brought about by the 1997 Asian economic crisis.

Analysts are of the opinion that what stands as Megawati's greatest challenge is that of consolidating democracy in Indonesia which has over the years moved from what is termed authoritarian to semi-authoritarian type of democracy. How to go about this is by providing an enabling environment for the pillars of democracy: rule of law, separation of powers, protection of the rights of individuals, etc, to be put in practice.

Megawati has, for now, chosen to retain her predecessor's cabinet to help her tackle the myriad of problems facing the country and does not have to worry about time factor as she has the benefit of re-contesting elections in 2004 after serving out the remainder of Wahid's tenure. Whether her presidency will be a success remains to be seen but the fact that she has the backing of the country's influential army, the parliament and, of course, the masses is a pointer that perhaps change and prosperity are just by the corner.

Landslide kills 60 in Indonesia

At least 60 people have been killed and hundreds are still missing in a landslide on the Indonesian island of Nias, about 100km northwest of Sumatra.

Rescue workers were on their way to the villages hit hardest, said Abdurrahman Nasution, a local government official.

Three villages were swept away before dawn on Tuesday as most villagers were still sleeping.

Mr Nasution said at least

103 houses were destroyed in the landslide, which followed two days of incessant rain, which left most of the village of Sambulu on Nias under water.

Three earthquakes measuring a magnitude of 5.3 to 5.4, which were recorded near the island on Tuesday, might also have been the cause of the landslide.

Emergency medical and food supplies have been flown in from the city of

Medan, the provincial capital of North Sumatra.

But the BBC's correspondent in Jakarta said reaching the affected areas will not be easy, since the roads on the island are extremely bad and the worst affected villages are at least 80km from the main town.

Hundreds of people die in flooding and landslides in Indonesia every year.

Nias attracts hundreds of foreign tourists, mostly surfers, but officials said tourists did not frequent the areas hit by the floods.

Odd World Mouse trapped in sleeper's windpipe

A man in the southern India State of Tamil Nadu with the habit of sleeping with his mouth open found that it had turned into a mouse trap, a news report said yesterday.

Muthu, 35, was taking a nap in his wastepaper warehouse in Coimbatore city when the mouse entered his mouth, the *United News of India* reported

Seeking to explore the way down his windpipe, the rodent bit the man's mouth.

An irritated Muthu woke up and without a clue about what was in his mouth tried to swallow the intruder, which got stuck in his windpipe.

Muthu was rushed to a hospital with a bloody mouth, but within a few minutes a doctor managed to remove the rodent explorer from the human mouse trap's throat.

The mouse was dead, but doctors said Muthu was discharged from the hospital on Tuesday in good health.

US moves to ban human cloning

The United States House of Representatives has voted to ban all cloning of human embryos.

Congressmen passed the legislation, supported by President George W. Bush, by a 265-162 vote.

The House then went on to reject an amendment to the bill, which would have permitted human cloning for stem cell research, while outlawing it to produce children, by 249-178.

Medical groups and the biotechnology industry backed the amendment,

proposed by Representatives Jim Greenwood, a Republican from Pennsylvania, and Peter Deutsch, a Democrat from Florida.

The bill is not yet law, as it first has to be passed by the Democratic-led Senate.

"This House should not be giving the green light to mad scientists to tinker with the gift of life," said Republican Representative J C Watts of Oklahoma before the vote.

Some congressmen, however, argued that cloning to help medical research was both morally acceptable and scientifically good.

Mr Greenwood and Mr Deutsch said permitting cloning for research could lead to cures for terrible diseases.

"Why would we condemn the world and future generations not to have this miracle?" Mr Greenwood said.

Currently, most stem cells for research are obtained from spare embryos produced at fertility clinics, but President Bush is

weighing whether to allow federal funding for such research.

Embryos left-over from in-vitro fertilisation are not clones and are not affected by the new legislation.

The ban passed by congress, threatens violators with 10-year prison terms and million-dollar fines.

It is a setback for the scientific community, but a victory for President Bush, whose administration has supported a total ban on cloning.

"The president is pleased that it passed," White House spokesman Ari Fleischer told reporters.

"It has the proper measure of ethics, science and respect for a culture that places value on life."

A White House statement issued on Monday said the administration approved of the development of cell- and tissue-based therapies based on research involving the use of nuclear transfer or other cloning techniques to produce molecules, DNA and cells other than human embryos, tissues, organs, plants or animals.



George W. Bush US President.

BUSINESS DAY

Nigerian Stock Dealings (NSE) Price List as at 01/08/2001

COMPANY	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE	DEALS	VOLUME	VALUE
TUP	5.90	5.61	0.29	8	28,850	162,341.50
ACADEMY	0.90	0.89	0.01	2	18,100	16,109.00
ACCESSBANK	1.30	1.30	0.00	7	1,041,500	1,345,555.00
AFPRINT	0.97	0.97	0.00	7	115,200	111,661.50
AFRIBANK	9.04	8.80	0.24	45	535,131	4,714,644.90
APRPAINTS	0.60	0.60	0.00	1	1,500	900.00
AGIP	31.00	31.00	0.00	50	106,969	3,313,066.70
AGLEVENT	1.18	1.18	0.00	2	2,100	2,478.00
AIICO	2.97	2.97	0.00	16	95,630	282,271.10
ALEX	2.80	2.80	0.00	2	3,500	9,800.00
AP	19.34	19.34	0.00	19	57,127	1,104,836.18
ASHAKACEM	18.11	18.20	0.09	15	578,143	10,952,612.46
BCC	4.89	4.79	0.00	1	312	1,494.48
BERGER	2.60	2.50	0.10	6	87,550	219,505.00
BLACKWOOD	0.73	0.76	0.00	6	5,900	4,484.00
C&ILEASING	1.28	1.34	0.06	1	5,000	6,700.00
CADBURY	23.00	22.99	0.01	92	476,095	10,779,118.31
CAP	2.50	2.38	0.12	7	12,825	30,812.50
CAPALBETO	7.60	7.60	0.00	3	2,630	19,988.00
CFAO	3.00	3.00	0.00	8	29,630	88,758.00
CHARTERED	7.15	6.80	0.35	14	103,000	706,905.00
CHALLARAM	1.03	1.05	0.02	1	5,762	6,050.10
CMB	0.64	0.61	0.03	4	326,146	198,856.00
COOPBANK	2.14	2.14	0.00	2	100,400	214,856.00
CORNERST	1.47	1.47	0.00	5	123,500	181,545.00
COSTAIN	1.10	1.05	0.05	3	71,340	75,007.00
CRUSADER	1.95	2.04	0.09	3	217,863	425,282.85
CUTIX	3.29	3.29	0.00	4	20,417	67,171.93
DELTGLAS	6.00	6.00	0.00	1	9,766	58,596.00
DTIMES	0.54	0.56	0.02	1	222	124.32
DUNLOP	3.40	3.32	0.08	17	63,105	210,442.44
EKOBANK	1.55	1.62	0.07	8	16,112	25,794.56
ETERNAOIL	1.50	1.43	0.07	2	6,000	8,580.00
EVENSMD	1.30	1.30	0.00	4	33,250	43,225.00
FIRSTALUM	1.71	1.70	0.01	3	13,000	22,130.00
FIRSTBANK	25.10	24.55	0.55	175	607,589	15,142,999.55
FLOURMIL	14.30	14.69	0.39	42	186,653	2,710,624.37
FSB	7.87	8.26	0.39	66	2,778,739	22,952,384.14
GCAPPA	10.66	6.40	4.26	1	50,000	107,000.00
GOLDBREW	0.56	0.57	0.01	4	349,845	199,343.20
GROMMAC	0.65	0.63	0.02	1	5,000	3,150.00
GUARANTY	5.70	5.70	0.00	16	267,910	1,527,087.00
GUINNESS	38.00	38.50	0.50	41	66,764	2,546,380.88
HALLBANK	4.10	4.10	0.00	4	10,200	41,539.00
IGL	5.90	5.65	0.25	13	56,889	324,292.30
IMB	1.70	1.70	0.00	25	312,900	531,180.00
INLANDBANK	1.43	1.42	0.01	1	625	887.50
JBERGER	54.65	57.38	2.73	13	50,841	2,715,110.65
JOHNHOLT	1.97	1.88	0.09	8	22,000	42,260.00
JOSBREW	0.59	0.57	0.02	1	10,000	5,700.00
LASACO	0.88	0.88	0.00	3	250,000	220,000.00
LEVROS	24.00	23.82	0.18	58	139,191	3,304,868.60
LIBERTY	2.51	2.63	0.12	8	132,200	337,888.00
LIONBANK	1.92	1.92	0.00	1	2,000	3,840.00
MANNYBANK	1.80	1.88	0.08	12	766,250	1,440,550.00
MAY&BAKER	2.56	2.56	0.00	1	20,000	51,200.00
MOBIL	64.36	65.00	0.64	24	29,460	1,902,223.24
MORISON	3.28	3.28	0.00	1	500	1,640.00
NAL	5.40	5.33	0.07	110	3,361,830	18,090,512.25
NB	27.20	27.00	0.20	53	384,799	10,401,485.25
NBC	20.99	21.00	0.01	27	107,461	2,223,324.18
NCR	1.72	1.65	0.07	6	43,839	73,460.40
NEM	0.82	0.86	0.04	12	199,944	167,168.08
NESTLE	65.00	65.00	0.00	46	406,378	25,978,073.11
NIGERCEM	0.54	0.54	0.00	1	500	270.00
NIGERINS	5.25	5.51	0.26	8	43,354	238,755.54
NIWICABLE	2.17	2.17	0.00	7	11,200	24,304.00
NNFM	11.40	11.40	0.00	2	5,900	67,260.00
NOLCHEM	29.70	27.22	1.48	37	24,864	708,297.19
OKOMUOIL	9.45	9.45	0.00	2	1,720	16,254.00
ORIENTBANK	1.28	1.33	0.05	6	257,200	342,076.00
OWENABANK	2.90	2.90	0.00	9	22,600	65,540.00
PFIZER	5.44	5.44	0.00	1	5,000	27,200.00
POLYPROD	0.50	0.50	0.00	2	1,700	850.00
PRESTIGE	2.17	2.27	0.10	5	105,234	238,876.38
PZ	13.19	13.20	0.01	62	200,538	2,642,822.52
ROYALEX	7.14	7.03	0.11	15	59,774	444,480.74
RTBRISCOE	1.27	1.29	0.02	5	5,304	6,766.62
SAVANNA	1.30	1.24	0.06	19	401,300	507,852.00
SCOA	2.38	2.49	0.11	2	5,200	12,948.00
SKBEECHAM	2.10	2.05	0.05	15	156,356	322,232.00
TEXACO	62.50	61.52	0.98	22	31,944	1,969,532.62
TIB	2.68	2.68	0.00	6	226,887	605,023.87
TOTAL	67.10	67.10	0.00	1	500	33,550.00
TRADEBANK	1.04	1.04	0.00	5	8,431	8,768.24
TRIPPLEG	1.35	1.29	0.06	3	30,500	39,545.00
UAC-PROP	2.85	2.73	0.12	41	452,500	1,273,552.00
UACN	3.60	3.50	0.10	70	461,000	1,645,648.85
UBA	13.90	13.52	0.38	54	245,343	3,351,994.90
UBN	24.49	24.01	0.48	142	807,046	19,475,518.49
UNIDONDCON	16.63	17.40	0.77	5	16,800	290,944.00
UNIPETROL	42.00	43.00	1.00	34	42,495	1,806,394.37
UNTL	4.00	4.00	0.00	5	6,959	27,836.00
UPL	3.29	3.29	0.00	7	11,125	36,601.25
UTB	4.63	4.82	0.19	23	171,170	820,025.00
UTC	1.25	1.19	0.06	7	26,370	32,302.50
VITAFOAM	4.11	4.10	0.01	41	686,985	2,865,745.20
VONO	1.60	1.60	0.00	1	200	320.00
WAPCO	21.50	21.00	0.50	62	129,868	2,732,398.55
WEMABANK	2.80	2.80	0.00	43	1,530,906	4,237,634.00
WTN	2.07	2.07	0.00	2	5,000	10,350.00
TOTAL				1,915	21,133,111	195,388,482.42

Nigerian Stock Dealings (NSE) Gainers/Losers as at 01/08/2001

Gainers			
COMPANY	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE
JBERGER	54.65	57.38	2.73
UNIPETROL	42.00	43.00	1.00
UNIONDICON	16.63	17.40	0.77
MOBIL	64.36	65.00	0.64
GUINNESS	38.00	38.50	0.50
FLOURMILL	14.30	14.69	0.39
FSB	7.87	8.26	0.39
NIGERINS	5.25	5.51	0.26
UTB	4.63	4.82	0.19
LIBERTY	2.51	2.63	0.12
SCOA	2.38	2.49	0.11
PRESTIGE	2.17	2.27	0.10
ASHAMACEM	18.11	18.20	0.09
CRUSADER	1.95	2.04	0.09
MANNYBANK	1.80	1.88	0.08
EKOBANK	1.55	1.62	0.07
C&ILEASING	1.28	1.34	0.06
ORIENTBANK	1.28	1.33	0.05
NEM	0.82	0.88	0.04
RTBRISCOE	1.27	1.29	0.02
DTIMES	0.54	0.56	0.02
CHELLARAM	1.03	1.05	0.02
PZ	13.19	13.20	0.01
NBC	20.99	21.00	0.01
GOLDBREW	0.56	0.57	0.01

Losers			
COMPANY	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE
NOLCHEM	29.70	28.22	1.48
FIRSTBANK	25.10	24.55	0.55
WAPCO	21.50	21.00	0.50
UBN	24.49	24.01	0.48
UBA	13.90	13.52	0.38
CHARTERED	7.15	6.80	0.35
TUP	5.90	5.61	0.29
IGL	5.90	5.65	0.25
AFRIBANK	9.04	8.80	0.24
CAP	2.50	2.38	0.12
UAC-PROP	2.85	2.73	0.12
UACN	3.60	3.50	0.10
BERGER	2.60	2.50	0.10
JOHNHOLT	1.97	1.88	0.09
DUNLP	3.40	3.32	0.08
ETERNAOIL	1.50	1.43	0.07
NCR	1.72	1.65	0.07
TRIPPLEG	1.35	1.29	0.06
UTC	1.25	1.19	0.06
SAVANNA	1.30	1.24	0.06
COSTAIN	1.10	1.05	0.05
SKBEECHAM	2.10	2.05	0.05
CMB	0.64	0.61	0.03
JOSBREW	0.59	0.57	0.02
GROMMAC	0.65	0.63	0.02

Summary of Transactions

DEALS	VOLUME	VALUE	No. OF COMPANIES
1,915	21,133,111	195,388,482.42	100

Source: NSE, Abuja Area Office

21.13m shares valued at N195.39m traded at NSE yesterday

Trading reports collected from Abuja Area Office of the Nigerian Stock Exchange indicated that a total of 21.13 million shares valued at N195.39 million in 1,915 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 tied with the bears on the floor, with a total of 25 companies gaining and losing in their share prices.

Gains were recorded in the Construction, Petroleum Marketing, Food/Beverages & Tobacco, Breweries, Banking, Insurance, Conglomerates, Building Materials, Managed Fund, Automobile and Tyre, Printing and Publishing and the Commercial/Services sub sector.

JBerger Plc led the price gainers, as it appreciated by 273 kobo to close the day at N57.38 per share, followed by Unipetrol Plc, which appreciated by 100 kobo to close at N43.00 per share.

Other price gainers include Union Dicon (77 kobo); Mobil (64 kobo); Guinness (50 kobo); Flourmill and FSB (39 kobo apiece); Nigerins (26 kobo); UTB (19 kobo); Liberty (12 kobo); SCOA (11 kobo); Prestige (10 kobo) and Ashakacem and Crusader (9 kobo apiece).

Losses were recorded in the Petroleum Marketing, Banking, Building Material, Food/Beverages & Tobacco, Industrial and Domestic Product, Chemicals & Paints, Real estate, Conglomerates, Automobile and Tyre, Computer and Office Equipment, Construction, Healthcare, Packaging and the Breweries sub sectors.

Nolchem Plc led the price losers, dropping by 148 kobo to close at N28.22 per share, followed by Firstbank Plc, which lost 55 kobo, to close at N24.55 per share.

Other price losers include Wapco (50 kobo); UBN (48 kobo); UBA (38 kobo); Chartered (35 kobo); Seven-Up (29 kobo); Afribank (24 kobo); CAP and UAC-Prop (12 kobo apiece); UACN and Berger (10 kobo apiece) and Johnholt (9 kobo).

BUSINESS DAY

Mono-product economy causes speculative dollar chase —Mutallab

Speculative betting against the naira has been linked to lack of a significant non-oil export base for the country.

Chairman, Board of Directors, First Bank of Nigeria (FBN) Plc, Alhaji Umar Mutallab, who traced the link lamented that the naira lost 10.6 percent against the US dollar between end of May 2000 and end of May 2001.

Alhaji Mutallab was speaking at the 32nd Annual General Meeting (AGM) of members of the bank in Abuja. He expressed concern that the promised diversification of the economy base through active private participation in non-oil production and export remained elusive, "oil thus, continues to dominate economic output with the economy badly exposed to price shocks."

By Rakiya A. Muhammad

According to him, "the imperative of diversifying away from oil remained strong as evidenced by growing unemployment and factory closures, food shortages, and poor non-oil foreign exchange earnings."

He especially, saw the need for very strong and urgent stimulative policies on agriculture and manufacturings even as he observed that the Nigerian Agricultural and Rural Development Bank (NARDB) was yet to make significant impact on agricultural production.

While acknowledging significant breakthroughs in debt rescheduling and waivers with the country's major creditors, Alhaji Mutallab, however, observed that debt servicing remained high with nearly \$2 billion

spent in the first quarter of last year.

He maintained that more relief was required so that resources can be channelled into badly needed improvements in infrastructure, productive

investments and poverty alleviation.

It would be recalled that the country's major creditors grouped under the Paris Club rescheduled two thirds of the estimated \$28 billion with them and waived about \$3 billion in penalties.



Bernard Longe, FBN MD

Workshop on local content begins today

By Ahmed Shekara

A two-day national workshop that would fashion out appropriate strategies for enhancing the level of local content and indigenous companies' participation in the upstream sector of the Nigerian oil and gas industry, scheduled to hold at the NICON Hilton Hotel, Abuja, will begin today.

The workshop, organised by the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) through its strategic business unit, the National Petroleum Investment and Management Services (NAPIMS), will brainstorm on the way forward for the country on how to improve the local content and participation of indigenous oil firms in the upstream sector.

Briefing newsmen ahead of the workshop, Tuesday in Abuja, the Group Executive Director, Exploration and Production (GED, E&P) of the NNPC, Dr. Anthony C. Uzoigwe stated that the workshop is necessitated by the "low and continuously declining" contribution of oil and gas to Nigeria's gross domestic product (GDP).

According to him: "The yearly expenditure on oil and gas activities constitute about 30 percent of the national budget, but unfortunately the contribution of oil and gas to the GDP is so low and continuously declining as about 90 percent of the expenditure (\$4.95 billion out of \$5.5 billion) is committed to technical services executed and goods procured outside Nigeria sometimes through indigenous companies that are more or less commission agents.

Uzoigwe cited examples of countries like Algeria, Indonesia, Malaysia, Norway, Oman and Venezuela, where he said the levels of development of local services and manufacturing companies is such that they are "now net exporters of these goods and services."

To this end, he said the proposed workshop is being organised to advance suggestions on strategies for enhancing the level of local content and indigenous companies' participation in the upstream sector of Nigeria's oil and gas industry.



Gaius Obaseki, NNPC GMD

Legislator says WTO agreement not favourable to Nigeria

By Victor Akobundu

The House of Representatives Chairman on Industries, Hon. Hamisu M. Shira has decried the manner in which Nigeria embraced the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

Hon. Shira, who represents Shira-Giade Constituency in Bauchi State said in a chat with newsmen recently in Abuja that the

relationship between WTO and Nigeria is not conducive as it does not create level-playing ground for our local manufacturers to compete with their international counterparts, while the country lacks the basic infrastructure to meet up with the challenge.

He added that there is a clause in the agreement with WTO, which specifically deals with a review by member countries who are not conformable with any part of the agreement.

"It is my desire to sponsor a bill through the National Assembly to seek for a review of some of the aspects of the agreement," he said.

Hon. Shira cited an instance, that India has identified 750 items, which as at today cannot be imported into the country because such items are readily available and are produced by their local industries. This, he said, is

with a view to protect their local manufacturers.

The Chairman Committee on Industries berated the WTO for imposing restriction on some goods of the country which they term as not being able to meet international standards. This he said is a ploy to re-colonise African developing countries economically.

He however argued that our locally manufactured products can beat theirs in terms of quality.

He therefore revealed that the committee on industries is set to check the excesses of the international community.

Meanwhile, on the recent row over the merger of the Nigerian Industrial Development Bank NIBD, NBCI and NERFUND, Hon. Shira said it is unfair for a particular institution to absorb other institutions, adding that the three institutions failed in their individual capacity to do what was expected to them.

Speed-up steel industry revitalisation, Akume tells FG

The Benue State Governor, Mr. George Akume has advised the Federal Government to speed-up efforts at revitalising the nation's steel industry.

According to him, the steel industry, if revitalised, will provide "a sound base for proper industrial production and sustenance."

The governor who stated this while declaring open a meeting of the National Council on industry (NCI) in Makurdi, the Benue State capital recently, noted that the poor state of Nigeria's steel industry has stagnated the nation's industrial revolution.

A statement signed by the Chief Press Secretary of the Governor, Tahav Agerzua disclosed further that Governor Akume also invited the Federal Ministry of Industry, State Governments and private investors to exploit the advantages of the vast resources in the state and other incentives provided for investors by the state government.

Akume lamented the low production capacity of Nigeria's industries, which



George Akume, Benue State Governor

he affirmed, was the reason for the excessive dependence on importation of goods into the country.

According to him: "If we must explain the nation's failure on the long misrule of the military dictators, the time has now come for democracy to bring the ugly trend to an end."

Akume tasked the Federal Ministry of Industry to fashion out a speedy industrial development model that would usher Nigeria into a 21st century industrial change.

Responding, the Minister of Industry, Chief Kola Jamodu, who is also the chairman of the NCI assured of the present administration's commitment to reposition the nation's industrial sector.

He noted that the government was already reviewing tariffs on some products meant for export, and carrying out such other economic reform programmes like privatisation and upgrading the nation's infrastructure to attract foreign investments.

Shareholders condemn FG's bid to take-over unclaimed dividends

The Federal Government's bid to take over the unclaimed funds came under severe attack by shareholders at the 32nd Annual General Meeting of First Bank of Nigeria (FBN) Plc held recently in Abuja.

National Co-ordinator of Independent Shareholders Association, Chief Sonny Nwosu who was one of those who criticised the idea said "it is not government money, government has actually taken all they needed from it including state and, federal government tax."

Chief Nwosu insisted that the unclaimed dividends is for shareholders, urging all stakeholders to come together and do something about it.

He suggested that unclaimed dividends lists should be made available to shareholders who would go through it and inform their colleagues who may not know that they have unclaimed dividends

pending.

He also observed that the management of the organisations could invest such unclaimed dividends, give profit to the shareholders and return the dividends.

Dr. Farouk Umar of Shareholders Solidarity Association also condemned the idea of unclaimed

dividend funds by the securities commission.

He advised that cues should be taken from First Bank whose registrars went round the country giving unclaimed dividend certificates to their owners.

Dr. Umar who also noted that lack of letter of administration usually hinder shareholders from

taking their dividends, condemned the idea.

However, chairman Port Harcourt Zonal Shareholders Association, Brigadier Ikwe supported the proposal on the funds, observing that a situation where some companies deliberately refuse let the shareholders get the funds so that they will do business with it should be checked.

Suspension of Prudential Securities still in force —SEC boss

From Bright Ewulu, in Lagos

The suspension order imposed by the Securities and Exchange Commission, SEC, on Prudential Securities Limited is still in force going by the Federal

High Court ruling last week discharging its earlier interim order issued against the commission.

SEC's Acting Head of

Corporate Affairs, Uche Nkpolukwu, who made this clarification in a statement maintained that the administrative proceedings committee of SEC which sat in February and March 2001 considered complaints against Prudential and suspended it for failure to purchase and lodge shares paid for by its clients.

According to him, "the committee considered the conduct of the operator as unethical, unprofessional and capable of adversely affecting the confidence of investors and the integrity of the capital market."

TEN BANKS WITH HIGHEST FRAUD CASES

GROUP	1997		1998		1999	
	Amount Involved (N'M)	% Share	Amount Involved (N'M)	% Share	Amount Involved (N'M)	% Share
Total for 10 Banks	3,649.10	96.60	3,104.30	97.11	4,793.62	64.90
Total for All Banks	3,777.92	100.00	3,196.52	100.00	7,386.26	100.00

SOURCE: Bank Returns (NDIC)

Star In

Nigeria has a leadership

Dr. Ifeanyi Emmanuel Chukwuka recently assumed duties as Director-General, National Orientation Agency. Simon Imobo-Tswam, our Assistant News Editor, Dr. Chukwuka expanded on the role models in Nigeria and more. Excerpts:

Sir, when you say Orientation, what exactly do you mean?

Yes, orientation by definition is the ability of one to be conscious of his position. That is, where somebody orientates himself. In other words, if you say somebody is orientated in place, in time and in space, it means he will be able to tell you that he is in his house at 2.0'clock and sitting in a chair there. So, there is orientation in place, in time and in space. That is, being conscious of where you are. Now if you are not orientated, it means you are not even aware of where you are stationed. You don't know your bearing. It's like you are in a kind of comatose state.

In the context of your assignment as the Director-General of NOA, what exactly are you orientating?

Thank you very much. By the contextual definition I just gave now, it means Nigerians have lost their bearing. They are no more properly orientated. They cannot even tell their position. They can't even tell their location, they can't even tell the time. It's as if we are in a stupor or in a comatose condition. We are groping in the dark. There is confusion, people cannot tell you exactly what is happening in this nation. There are communal clashes, struggles for resource control, armed robberies, insecurity, tribalism, and nepotism. And no nation, the world over, no matter how endowed, with human and natural resources, has ever achieved greatness within an atmosphere that is laden with confusion and social vices.

Everybody must be orientated, before we can say: These are our programmes and this is our agenda. This is how we can move forward. So this, in essence is the national orientation we are talking about. What I am saying in effect is that Nigerians have lost their loci. We have to retrace our steps in order to discover our lost pathway. We have to rediscover ourselves. That is the orientation. So, we have to retrace our steps so as to find our loci instead of just making policies and talking. Everybody is involved here including our leaders. We must move backwards to discover where we lost the right track, where we lost our bearing.

It means going back to God, let us go back to Him. and God has declared that if we humble ourselves, pray to him and turn from our wicked ways, He will hear from Heaven, reverse our captivity and heal our land.

From your answer, you have said we are comatose, and have to retrace our steps etc and that is why we need orientation. Now you are orientating Nigerians from where to where specifically?

Specifically, this country has three problems. First is the problem of insincerity. Second is indiscipline and third is the problem of impatience. We are insincere. We go to Oputa Panel, one person talks and when he is through another person stands up to call him a liar. You go to the market and you cannot get the accurate price of any item. It is disheartening, wicked, mischievous, degrading and disgraceful. We must retrace our loci.

The next is indiscipline. It is because



Dr Ifeanyi Emmanuel Chukwuka, Director-General, National Orientation Agency.

of indiscipline that we have social vices everywhere. Someone wrote in your paper that I am wrong: Our leaders have failed to perform and that is why they should be destroyed. But I say: Two wrongs do not make a right. If leaders are failing, the objective thing is to advise and proffer solutions. It is not calling them names and destroying them. People call Obasanjo and say he is globetrotting; he is junketing, achieving nothing. No, Mr. President is not a local government chairman. Even chairmen go round, their wards to see the people they are leading. Governance is serious business and no serious businessman does profitable business by sitting in his house. You have to showcase your product, visit your business partners, and exchange ideas.

Mr. President must, therefore, move around, interact. In Igbo, we have a proverb that the man who goes about interacting is better than the man who sits in a chair at home until he grows a grey beard. Nigeria's image abroad was so bastardised by so many years of disastrous and calamitous military dictatorships that at a point, the late Abacha was invited to so many places but he refused to go. He was afraid he would be called names. We be-

came a pariah nation. Image laundering is, therefore, very important. And it is to the president's credit that the EU lifted the ban on us.

The former American President, Mr. Bill Clinton, also had to come here. So, let's encourage our president, let's not call him names. It's indiscipline to criticise someone who deserves commendation. And it brings me to the third part of impatience. It is a cankerworm and a locust that is destroying us. That is why we can write rubbish about people without being patient enough to investigate. The facts or balance is not there, but we publish anyway because we want to sell. Our roads are beset by traffic jams as a result of impatience. At the filling stations, there is no queue culture again. But if we must make the best of this millennium we must begin to cultivate these habits and virtues that have catapulted other nations to enviable heights. It is our impatience that has bred touts at the seaports, airports, the borders and motor parks.

So, in a nutshell, what is NOA's mandate?

The mandate is to revive or rekindle the dying spirit of Nigerians in such a way that they will wake up from the comatose

state of confusion, dislocation, cynicism, pessimism, and disorientation, to a condition of focus, optimism, hope and faith in the Nigerian dream. This way, the 280 ethnic groups in Nigeria will march forward with one purpose, one agenda and national unity.

Opinions are divided on what is Nigeria's problem. Now if you are orientating Nigerians, it presupposes that you know Nigeria's problem. What is this problem?

For over 40 years, this country has been trying to find its bearing politically, socially and economically. We have been searching for a system of government that will guarantee equity and fairness to the many nationalities within our nation. We have tried the parliamentary system, military rule and introduced the presidential system. Under all these, tribalism, nepotism, political wheeler-dealers were thrown to the fore. Instead of public service, personal aggrandisement took over; instead of national interest, private elite interest became the norm, and that is why we are where we are today. For no matter how well class or elite interests are managed, they can never appropriate national interest. So, the problem with Nigeria is squarely and unequivocally that of leadership.

From your answers, sir, some things are obvious. Nigerians are insincere, impatient and the political elite is not public-spirited. This means

Interview

Ship problem —DG NOA

National Orientation Agency. In this interview with the ambitions of his agency, the problems of Nigeria,



role models...

(Cuts in) Yes. What you are saying is that nobody has demonstrated, practically and otherwise that look: I have seen power, I have seen money, I have acquitted myself excellently and I now quit so another patriot can take over from me. People like these are not common.

Do you agree that what young people perceive is a selfish, scheming, and unapologetic elite?

That is why I am saying our problems are gullibility and poverty. This is why the National Orientation Agency is saying we should change the system. We should now give young men and women the opportunity to serve so that maybe from these young men, we can pick models that the coming generation can look up to. So, we need to give the young ones an opportunity to make their mark. We have always said the young are tomorrow's leaders. I believe that tomorrow has come for the youths of this country.

Corruption is so endemic that a former number two man in the country, Ex-General Oladipo Diya, once said that all of us are guilty. All of us including youths. So, if they take over, would there be any difference?

Diya was speaking for himself and his generation. His generation is different from ours. Some of our generation went into 419, armed robbery, cocaine-pushing. But it was started by their generation, their generation taught us some of these evils. And NOA is telling our generation that these evils are not our portion.

Recently, Professor Jerry Gana, the Information Minister, attributed the depreciation of the naira to the craze for imports. What is NOA doing to encourage the buying of made-in-Nigeria goods?

We are mounting an aggressive enlightenment campaign. We have advertised in the radio and television and we are liaising with the print media to put our message across. That is if we patronise our goods, we will be motivating and empowering the local manufacturing industry. We will be creating employment and wealth for our countrymen and women. They may be of lower standard than foreign goods, but it is practice that makes perfect. NOA is also organising fashion and trade fairs to show case our fabrics and goods.

What is NOA's message for Nigerians?

I have a message for four categories of Nigerians. My message goes first to the professional critics. To condemn government on every point is not a mark of courage or wisdom. To criticise without offering alternative solutions is no superior arguments but a function of mischief and opportunism.

Secondly, I am sending my message to the businessmen, especially those making noise over the 100 percent inspection of containers. 100 percent inspection of containers is not only about business; it is about national security too. If some unscrupulous businessmen import things that they would rather not declare, then government must do all it can to ensure

that such evil plans are thwarted. People have to be patient, and let us all remember that the National interest supercedes our business interests.

And thirdly, I speak to market women who have created artificial scarcity of food items in the market by eliminating competition and running monopolies.

Nigeria is a free-market economy and the market forces of demand and supply must be allowed to determine price. We are entering the markets with our outlets. We will buy food and sell at market-determined prices. We will use our offices at the national, state and local government levels to affect the market and invariably millions of ordinary Nigerians. And finally, I implore Nigerians to imbibe discipline, sincerity and patience.

Under all these, tribalism, nepotism, political wheeler-dealers were thrown to the fore. Instead of public service, personal aggrandisement took over; instead of national interest, private elite interest became the norm, and that is why we are where we are today. For no matter how well class or elite interests are managed, they can never appropriate national interest. So, the problem with Nigeria is squarely and unequivocally that of leadership.



that already we have an orientation, even if negative. Shouldn't your agency be re-named National Re-orientation Agency?

Not exactly. Whether it is MAMSER or National Re-orientation or Orientation, it is immaterial as these are mere terminologies or nomenclature tags. It is the substance of the work and its impact that matters. It was Shakespeare who said "A rose by any other name would smell as sweet." So we are concerned with affecting the mindset of Nigerians and galvanising them to become committed to the national project. 'The hood does not make a monk' so the name has little or nothing to do with our work.

Don't you think an orientation exercise that is all theory without physical models to relate with is only an academic exercise?

No, I have a focus. And the president summarised the problem of this country when he said our problem centres on poverty. There is poverty and gullibility. The rich are grabbing to become richer and the poor are getting poorer. And it takes us back to greed and indiscipline. Unbridled quest for material acquisition has spread down from the top to the rank and file. Even market women want to ride Lexus jeeps so they can arbitrarily fix prices. So, poverty is the main issue. And it gives rise to indiscipline.

What I am saying is that since we have no



Elisha, the dancing traffic warden

By Yakubu Ozohu-Suleiman

Elisha Bisala is, perhaps the only dancing traffic warden in the whole of Abuja. He is easily the most colour, of the lot. He is a corporal in the Police Force and hails from Numana village in Sanga Local Government Area of Kaduna State. Hence he speaks the Numana language. A Catholic Christian born of very poor parents, 31 year-old Elisha grew up in his village where he had his primary school education between 1984 and 1989.

He is dark in complexion with some pimples on his face that are suggestive of one who has been exposed to the intense ultra-violet rays of the sun.

He comments: "I am from a poor polygamous home. My mother's name is Sabia and my father, Bisala. My father married three wives and had 13 children of which I am the first."

Elisha is of average height, very smart in appearance and he is prone to mood swings. He could be happy at one moment and in the next he may be somewhat sad.

"It all depends on the

three, when I dropped out."

A monogamist who has vowed never to attempt polygamy, Elisha is married with two female children of four and two years respectively.

As a result of his inability to forge ahead with education, Elisha travelled to Abuja in 1992 where fortune fetched him a job with Nigerian Police Force. Again he said: "It was in 1992, after leaving the secondary school that I came to Abuja and luckily got enlisted in the Nigerian Police Force as a traffic warden. I and others who were enrolled at the same time were taken to the Ilorin Police College where we had our formal practical road training. We read the Nigerian force history. We were taught all the traffic laws, rules and regulations and a lot of other things in respect of theory. We also did the parade just like the policemen, and at intervals, we got into the street for practical experience. Our training ended in 1993 with an examination, which I passed very well.



Elisha using his hands and legs to direct traffic against a certain direction it means the on-coming vehicles from that direction should stop. When the palm is waved, it means the vehicles should proceed. There is no amber as in traffic lights to indicate "get ready" or standby. It is either you

Elisha taking a rest.

turning round. He usually bends to do so! While using his right hand to order a vehicle coming from the west to pass to the east, he could simultaneously use his left leg to order vehicles from the west to proceed on to the north. All in all, if you have ever watched a person keen on the martial arts then you can easily form a mental picture of Elisha at work.

Elisha says: "This my job is nice. I love it so much, that was why I took it. Whenever I am coming out for work, I feel happy. As for the way I dance here, I was not actually trained like that or to do so, and it doesn't add any advantage to my record. It's just my style and it has made me popular. But I am trying to stop it because I have been warned by the Commissioner of police to be very careful because when people see me dancing, they may be distracted and an accident would occur. Although there

have never been any case of accident as a result of the way I dance when regulating traffic here, but I am trying to stop it."

At the time of the encounter with Elisha, *Daily Trust* observed that drivers and passengers as well as passers-by were attracted to what they might have described as his extraordinary, and charming style of traffic control.

Children stop, gape and laugh at his antics. Drivers also watch and laugh, and seem very reluctant to drive along when Elisha beckons upon them.

On this, Elisha said "when people see me working, they feel happy and some of them throw money at me. But I am always shy of picking the money from the road because first, it is against our ethics and second, if my attention is diverted, a commotion may occur on the traffic. (laughs) and he added, "but you know, I still pick it in style."

Although Elisha was

promoted to the position of corporal last year, that was not because of his refreshing and colourful manner of controlling traffic.

However, the hard-working young man does not seem satisfied with his working conditions "you know the way they are treating us is not good, and I don't know why. You know I am a level four Corporal, and as a Corporal, I am supposed to be receiving an amount that can feed me and my family. I am receiving N6,000 plus. It's not easy, and you know I am from a very poor family."

Elisha who lives in Karmo with his family said that only when he is at work does the spirit of dancing visit him, "on ordinary days, I don't dance, and in fact, I am trying to stop it." Elisha's hope is that someday, he would improve on his educational qualifications so that he would easily secure a promotion in his office.



on a breakdance step circumstances of the moment and the state of my mind," he said.

Although Elisha emerged as a secondary school drop-out in 1992, the very year he joined the Nigerian Police Force as a traffic warden, his quality of spoken English indicates one who has a higher qualification. In his words: "I attended Arak II Primary School in Numana, in Kaduna State. In 1989, I wrote the common entrance examination and got admitted into Government Secondary School, Fada Naya, also in Kaduna State. I couldn't finish my secondary education for financial reasons; my father did not have money. So I was in the Junior secondary school

Unfortunately we were not given any certificate

As a matter of fact, there is no traffic light on the fly over bridge adjoining Wuse and Garki Central business district. The junction at this bridge is where Elisha Bisala is stationed to control traffic. There is no doubt that the bridge was constructed to alleviate the traffic congestion that would have been a constant source of commotion between the on-comers from the airport road heading for the central area and the market people and individual car owners and commercial drivers plying the road.

Manual traffic control involves the use of the hand to regulate the movement of vehicles. If a palm is raised

are ordered with the palm to go or you stop.

With over eight years of service as a traffic warden, Elisha no longer uses his hands alone to regulate traffic. Virtually every part of his anatomy is mobilised to send a signal to commuters. His palms, his elbow, his knees, his back, his legs and indeed, his feet all participate in his bid to regulate traffic.

Elisha does not walk from one point to another to order an on-coming vehicle to stop so that the one behind him can proceed. He swings to do so!, and at times, he does a backslide that reminds one of either a clip from the video of Michael Jackson's famous Thriller Album or the California break dancers of



Pixs by Yakubu Ozohu-Suleiman

NEWS

N3.6m equipment vanish from store in Jigawa

Equipment worth N3.6 million have vanished from Jigawa State Agricultural and Rural Development Authority (JARDA) store last week.

The equipment comprising water pumps, computers and electronic typewriters were alleged to have been removed from the store leaving no sign of vandalism.

Investigation carried out by *Daily Trust* revealed that the windows of the store are not big enough to allow passage of the equipment like computers, typewriters as being alleged.

However, confirming the incidence, the Police Public Relations Officer, (ASP), Gimba S. Yerima said that seven people have already been arrested and are being interrogated, adding that 40

From Bala Muhammad Nasir

pumping machines, 28 water engines and unspecified number of computers totalling N2 million were stolen from the store.

The police, he said, are investigating the matter and would soon uncover the



Gov. Saminu Turaki

Gov Odili pledges support for women empowerment

The womenfolk in Rivers State have been assured of government's continued support for their programmes while women seeking elective positions, would get enough backing morally and materially.

Governor Peter Odili of Rivers State stated this at the weekend in Port Harcourt at the just concluded NCWS convention.

From Wisdom Patrick, in Port Harcourt

According to him, some of the achievements of his administration came with the support of the womenfolk.

The out-going women leader prayed that fundamental issues such as discrimination against women, the global and national gender agenda for the 21st century should be addressed before the next convention in four years from now.

Adegbite receives more condolences over wife's death

Condolence messages are still pouring in for the bereaved Secretary-General of the Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA) Dr. Abdulateef Adegbite who lost his wife, Alhaja Toyibat Adegbite on July 13 this year.

Among the latest callers at his residence were Pa Emmanuel Alayande the leader of the Yoruba Council of Elders, the Chief Judge of the Federal High Court, Justice Babatunde Belgore, retired Justice Bola Babalakin and the Managing Director of First Bank Plc, Mr. Bernard Lange.

Justice Belgore extolled the virtues of the late Alhaja Adegbite and prayed the Almighty Allah to forgive her sins and grant her paradise.

Pa Alayande and others also prayed God to grant Dr.

From Abdulfatah Olajide, in Lagos

Adegbite and his family the fortitude to bear the loss.

In an earlier condolence message, President Obasanjo had described the late Alhaja Adegbite at "a symbol of priceless womanhood and a bulwark of support on the homefront to her husband."

Diplomatic missions including those of Egypt, Palestine, Tunisia and Iran have also expressed their condolences to Dr. Adegbite in separate letters signed by their respective ambassadors.

Meanwhile, the Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Maccido, the 18th Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Ibrahim Dasuki, the Emir of Ilorin, Alhaji Ibrahim Sulu Gambari have also sent their various delegations to commiserate with Dr. Adegbite.

mystery surrounding the disappearance.

The managing director of the authority could not be reached for comment on the matter as he was said to have left for Hadejia where he doubles as permanent secretary, Ministry of Agriculture in the State.

Quelea birds invade Kano

Farmers in seven local governments areas of Kano State have cried out for help following quelea birds invasion of their farmlands.

Crops worth millions of naira have so far been destroyed by the invading birds in Bagwai, Shanono, Tofa, Bichi, Dawakin Tofa, Makoda and Rimin Gado local government areas.

A *Daily Trust* reporter who visited some of the affected local governments was told that traditional methods of scarring away the birds have so far failed to yield any result as the birds in their thousands move from farm to farm devouring crops and leaving farmers helpless.

The vicious and wild birds wearing long red beaks are said to have migrated from north-eastern part of the state and the most affected local governments are Tofa, Bagwai and Shanono.

A farmer, Mallam Abubakar at 'Yan Sabo village in Tofa local government area told *Daily Trust* that he lost over ten thousand hectares of crops to the invading birds. "I am left with nothing, all my crops are gone, my effort is wasted," he lamented almost in tears. Also at Yelwa, a village about 20 kilometres from the local government headquarters, farmers were seen in groups discussing their losses.

One Alhaji Muhammad Dan Malam said the birds are so tiny and so numerous that they cannot be trapped nor

The Federal Government, yesterday warned traditional rulers against championing the cause of disunity amongst Nigerians, just as it advised detractors of government policies to stay clear.

President Obasanjo said in an address to a delegation of traditional rulers from Abia State who paid him a visit at the State House, Abuja that government's commitment to national unity and cohesion was ir-

Don't promote disunity, FG warns traditional rulers

By Suleiman Mohammed

revocable.

"I am assuring you that I am irrevocably committed to working for the progress, unity and development of every nook and cranny in this country. I believe that is the reason God has brought me here," he declared in response to agitations for equity and justice in govern-

ment affairs raised by the traditional rulers.

He noted that as custodians of tradition and culture, the traditional rulers should assist in the task ahead, adding, "the goals of national development would be more easily attained if they were accepted by all Nigerians. Our approach to their achievement may be different but we should have the same goals."

President Obasanjo stressed the need for national unity, saying that existence and sustenance of democracy depends solely on the ability of Nigerians to behave in line with democratic tenets.

Earlier, the leader of the delegation, Eze Ezo Ukandu, chairman of the Abia State Council of Traditional Rulers said they were in Abuja to further express loyalty to government,

"All of us have a stake in the unity of this country, let us make it work, based on equity and justice," the traditional ruler said.

Eze Ezo Ukandu also urged the federal government, and other tiers of government to initiate a legislation that would give constitutional role to traditional rulers in the country, adding "As we are aware, traditional rulers have in a variety of ways shown that they are capable of delegating excellently, so one wonders why there is no clear-cut constitutional role for traditional rulers in the country."

From Musa Umar Kazaure, in Kano

scared away "I watched helplessly as the birds ate my farm. We used all the traditional method but to no avail. I was among the first set of planters when the rainy season began but now I don't know what to do." Alhaji Dan Mallam narrated.

In Dawakin Tofa local government, area most affected by the ravaging quelea birds include Tudun Rimi, Watari and Saranya. The birds are said to be highly mobile, changing nesting location daily within the invaded six local government areas.

The affected local government councils are said to be helpless in dealing with such an army of quelea birds. Local Government officials who spoke to *Daily Trust* in Shanono said the task is beyond the resources and capabilities of the council.

Bichi Local Government Vice-Chairman, Alhaji Hashimu Saleh said though



Gov. Rabiu Kwankwaso

PAP participants storm Benue Assembly over allowances

The non payment of four and a half months arrears to participants of Poverty Alleviation Programme (PAP) has halted the business of legislation at the Benue State House of Assembly complex on Tuesday.

The participants who numbered over three thousand stormed the assembly complex as early as 10:45 a.m. forcing the lawmakers to adjourn impromptu as they demanded for payment of about N38 million naira owed them by the Federal Government.

The Tuesday demonstration which almost turned violent was the third within one month, was aimed at cajoling the state assembly to compel the Federal Government to

From Mike Elalgwu, in Makurdi

pay the allowances owed by the 20 local government areas of the state.

Alhaji Sule Audu, the Deputy Speaker of the state assembly who assured them that their earlier complaints was receiving attention, condemned the action of the Federal Ministry of Works for playing politics with human lives.

It could be recalled that, following an earlier demonstration by the participants to the assembly, the legislators had invited the federal controllers and federal pay officers to demand for documents covering the returned N38 million meant to be the allowances of the participants after unsatisfactory explanation by them.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Formerly known and addressed as **MISS JUSTINA RUTH EKE**, henceforth wish to be called **MRS. JUSTINA RUTH OTALU**. All former document remain valid. Nursing and Midwifery Council of Nigeria and School of Midwifery, Gwagwalada Abuja, please take note.

Formerly **ABDULLAHI GARBA** now **ABDULLAHI SAID SUFI** former documents remain valid. Office of the Registrar Kano University of Technology, Wudil and public to note.

PUBLIC NOTICE BROILER PRODUCERS ASSO. OF NIG. (BROIPAN)

Notice is hereby given to the general public that the above-named organisation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja for registration under Part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Decree No 1 of 1990.

The Trustees are:

1. Hon. Samuel C. Ewudo (Nat. Chairman)
2. Weri-longhan Patrick M. (Nat. Sec.)
3. Dr. (Chief) Peterson Uwafulamiro Emezi JP. (Asst. Sec.)
4. Chief Zebulon Ikechukwu Ofor (Member)
5. Isaac Majekodunmi (Member)
6. Hon. Elekwa Elekwa Ugbor (Member)
7. Mrs. Blessing Ijeoma Uche (Fin. Sec.)
8. Chief (Mrs.) J.A. Ajayi-Olufolaji (J.p) (Member)

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 28 days of this notice or publication.

Signed: SECRETARY

PUBLIC NOTICE FREEDOM CHRISTIAN CENTRE

Notice is hereby given to the general public that the above-named organisation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja for registration under Part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Decree No. 1 of 1990.

The Trustees are:

1. Pastor Osita Ike
2. Evgang Mrs. Nkeiruka Ike
3. Deacon Anene Innocent
4. Bro. Alex. Ewuzie
5. Bro. Dominic Onyeka

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 28 days of this notice or publication.

Signed: SECRETARY

Advertorial

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY ABUJA HOLDEN AT ABUJA

SUIT NO: FCT/HC/CV/44/2001
MOTION NO: M/1283/2001

BETWEEN:

BANK OF THE NORTH LTD. = PLAINTIFF/APPLICANT
AND
FABSON BUILDING & CIVIL ENGINEERING
CONSTRUCTION NIGERIA LTD = DEFENDANT

COURT ORDER

Upon reading the Motion Ex-Parte and accompanying affidavit of Yusuf Ohios and upon listening to T. George Tyendezwa esq of Counsel to the Plaintiff/ Applicant praying this Honourable Court for the following Orders :

1. An Order granting leave to the Plaintiff/Applicant to serve the Writ of Summons and all other Court processes in Suit No. FCT/HC/CV/44/2001 on the Defendant by substituted service to wit:
By publication of the Writ of Summons and other Court processes in two national dailies namely: New Nigerian Newspaper and Daily Trust Newspapers respectively.
2. Such further order(s) as this Honourable Court may deem fit to make in the circumstances .

The application is granted .

Leave is hereby granted for service of the Writ of Summons and other processes in this Suit on the Defendant by substituted means by publication of some in the New Nigerian and Daily Trust Newspapers .
Case adjourned to 4th.day of October, 2001 for Hearing .

HON. JUSTICE HUSSEIN MUKHTAR
(Honourable Judge)
25/07/2001

GIVEN UNDER THE HAND OF THE PRESIDING JUDGE AND SEAL OF THIS HONOURABLE COURT. DATED THIS 25TH DAY OF JULY, 2001.



KABIRU USMAN ALI
(Registrar)

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY IN THE ABUJA JUDICIAL DIVISION HOLDEN AT ABUJA

BETWEEN: "UNDEFENDED LIST" SUIT NO: FCT/HC/CV/44/2001
"UNDEFENDED LIST"

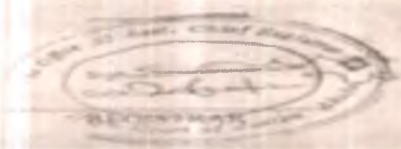
BANK OF THE NORTH LTD. PLAINTIFF
AND
FABSON BUILDING & CIVIL ENGINEERING,
CONSTRUCTION NIGERIA LTD..... DEFENDANT

To:
Fabson Building and Civil Engineering
Construction Nigeria Ltd ———(No. 8&9 Fabson Close, Express Road, Tudunwada New-Extension, Kaduna, Kaduna State.)

You are hereby commanded that within thirty (30) days after the service of this writ on you, inclusive of the day of such service, you do cause an appearance to be entered for you in 'the Abuja Judicial Division of the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory in an action at the suit of the plaintiff; and take notice that in default of your so doing the plaintiff may proceed therein and judgment may be given in your absence.

Dated this 26th day of Jan. 2001

BY ORDER OF THE COURT



REGISTRAR

THIS WRIT IS FOR SERVICE OUT OF THE FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY, ABUJA AND IN KADUNA, KADUNA STATE.

N.B. This writ is to be served within twelve calendar months from the date thereof, or, if renewed, within six calendar months from the date of the last renewal, including the day of such date and not afterwards.

The defendant may enter appearance personally or by legal practitioner either by handing in the appropriate forms, duly completed, at the Registry of the Federal High Court in which the action is brought or by sending them to the Registrar by registered post.

ENDORSEMENT TO BE MADE ON THE WRIT BEFORE ISSUE THEREOF:

The Plaintiff is licensed to carry on business as bankers with branches all over Nigeria including its Garki branch in Abuja.

The Defendant is a limited liability company and maintains a current account No. 500214 with the Plaintiff 's Garki branch from which the Defendant took various loans and overdraft facilities when at the Defendant's request, it did apply for and was granted various credit facilities between 1996 and 1998.

The Defendant utilized the said credit facilities and thereafter abandoned its responsibility to make repayments in order to offset the debt, while interest keeps accruing thereon consequent upon which the Defendant's indebtedness to the Plaintiff as at 30th August, 2000 stood at N4,221,986.21 (Four million, two hundred and twenty one thousand, nine hundred and eighty six Naira, twenty one kobo only).

The Plaintiffs claim against the Defendant is the sum of N4,221,986.21 being the amount outstanding from the loans and/or overdraft facilities granted to the Defendant by the Plaintiff in the course of its business as bankers, at the Defendant's requests which amount is overdue from the Defendant to the Plaintiff.

The Defendant despite repeated demands made on it to liquidate this debt has failed, refused and/or neglected to repay the said sums of money.

WHEREFORE the Plaintiff is aggrieved and claims from the Defendant:

- (a) The sum of N4,221,986.21.
- (b) Interest at the rate of 21% per annum from 1st September 2000 till the date of judgement and thereafter 10% court interest till full recovery of the debt.
- (c) The costs of this action.

Signed:

This writ was issued by YAKUBU C. MAIKYAU, Esq. of Danladi Bamaiyi & Co. whose address for service is Bamcar Shopping Complex, Plot 1935, Ndola Square, Opp. Ibro Hotel, Wuse Zone 5, Abuja, Legal Practitioner for the said Plaintiff whose office is at No.2 Zaria Road, Kano.

This writ was served by me at _____
On the Defendants (insert mode of service) _____
On the..... Day of2000.
Endorsed the..... Day of2000

Signed:.....
Address:

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY IN THE ABUJA JUDICIAL DIVISION HOLDEN AT ABUJA

SUIT NO.....

BETWEEN:

BANK OF THE NORTH LTD. PLAINTIFF
AND
FABSON BUILDING & CIVIL ENGINEERING,
CONSTRUCTION NIGERIA LTD..... DEFENDANT

AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF UNDEFENDED LIST SUMMONS

I, Yusuf Ohios, male adult, Christian, Nigerian of Bamcar Shopping Complex, Ndola Square, Wuse Zone 5, Abuja do make oath and state as follows:-

1. That I am the Litigation Secretary in the law firm of Messrs. Danladi Bamaiyi & Co., Solicitors to the Plaintiff, by virtue of which position I am conversant with the facts of this case.
2. That I have the authority of both my employers and that of the Plaintiff to swear to this affidavit based on the facts disclosed to me in the cause of my duties aforesaid.
3. That on the 8th January, 2001 at about 2 pm at Bamcar Shopping Complex, Wuse Zone 5, (my employers' chambers) I was informed by Alh. Umar Mohammed, the Plaintiffs Regional Legal Officer while briefing our Yakubu C. Maikyau, of counsel, of these facts which I verily believe him to be true and correct as follows: -
(a) That the Plaintiff is licensed to carry on the business of banking and has branches all over Nigeria including its Garki branch, Abuja.
(b) That the Defendant is a limited liability company and maintains a current account No.500214 at the Plaintiffs Garki branch in Abuja in respect of which it also applied for various overdrafts/credit facilities at various times.
(c) That the Defendant at various times between November 1996 and July 1998 applied for and was granted credit facilities of various sums of money by the Plaintiff. Copies of the Defendant's several loan application letters dated 18-11-1996, 10th March 1997, 26th May 1997, 8th September 1997 and 27th April 1998 among others, are attached hereto and marked Exhibits A1, A2, A3, A4 & A5 respectively.
(d) That the Defendant utilized the said credit facilities in the execution of its construction contracts, and thereafter abandoned its responsibility to make repayments in order to offset the debt accrued whereas interest was and is still being charged on the Defendant's account.
(e) That following the Defendant's refusal to make repayments of the debt despite several verbal requests, the Plaintiff wrote twice to the Defendant demanding payment of the sums owed it, which stood at N4,029,065.47 as at July, 2000. Copies of the Plaintiffs demand letters dated 17th July, 2000 and 15th August, 2000 are attached hereto and marked Exhibits B1 & B2 respectively.
(f) That in spite of the demands made on the Defendant it refused to make repayments, consequent upon which the Plaintiff desirous of recovering its money instructed its Solicitors Messrs. Danladi Bamaiyi & Co., to take steps to recover the debt from the Defendant.
(g) That Messrs. Danladi Bamaiyi & Co. vide a letter dated 28th September, 2000 demanded payment of the sum of N4,221,986.21 owed the Plaintiff from the Defendant but the Defendant has failed refused and/or neglected to pay back the said sums owed the Plaintiff. A copy of the demand letter is attached hereto and marked Exhibit C.
(h) That the continuing refusal of the Defendant to repay the loan has tremendously constrained the Plaintiff in the conduct of its business as bankers especially considering the down turn in the economy and has occasioned. hardship, loss of capital and great loss of goodwill to the Plaintiff and continues to do so.
(i) That this action is for the recovery of the said sum of N4,221,986.21 owed the Plaintiff by the Defendant together with interest at the rate of 21% per annum from 1st September, 2000 till date of judgement and thereafter 10% court interest till full recovery of the debt.
(j) That the Defendant has no defence at all to this action.
(k) That it is in the interest of justice to enter judgement for the Plaintiff in this suit.

4. That I swear to this affidavit in good faith believing its contents to be true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, and in accordance with the Oaths Act.

SWORN to at the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja
Dated this 25th day of January 2001

DEPONENT

BEFORE ME

COMMISSIONER FOR OATHS

INSIDE POLITICS

Beware of OPC, *Afenifere*, Nas warns new parties

The Oodua Peoples Congress (OPC) and *Afenifere*, the two Yoruba ethnic interest groups, have been described as cankerworms whose entry into any political association makes such a party a hard sell to other parts of the country.

A one time Minister of Special Duties during Late Gen. Sani Abacha's regime, Alhaji Wada Nas, made the assertion in Sokoto while addressing newsmen.

He stressed that the coming together of *Ohaneze*, *Afenifere* and NEPU as alleged could tear apart the so-called National Democratic Party (NDP) led by Habu Fari, in the same manner the SDP was destroyed and the PDP is now being destroyed.

According to him, the struggle as to which association would produce the flagbearer of the party would "tear them into pieces like it happened to the SDP and PDP."

"Besides, *Ohaneze* and

From Kabir Dogon-Daji, in Sokoto



Wada Nas *Afenifere* are ethnic interest groups that cannot fit into any national party," he said.

Alh. Nas, further explained that *Afenifere* is just another name for OPC, which he added, would make it difficult for any political party to gain any acceptability in other parts of Nigeria.

He cited the recent agitation by the OPC and *Afenifere* that Kwara State be merged with the south-west geo-political zone and asked

why the agitation.

"Is it for the envisaged Oduduwa Republic? Is it to bring the Yorubas together? If yes, then they should also insist on the merger of the Yorubas of Benin Republic with their Nigerian brothers.

"If *Afenifere* wants Kwara State to be merged with the south-west on account of ethnic cohesiveness, it also stands to logic that it should clamour for the return to the Niger-Delta, that portion of Ondo State situated in Ilaje/Ijale local government dominated by Ijaws," he said.

Northern govs urged to promote education

Governors in the northern parts of the country have been called upon to as a matter of urgency to elevate educational programmes to adequately incorporate mass education drive and child education using the UBE scheme and women and adult education.

The newly elected Secretary-General of National Association of Nigerian

Similarly, Alhaji Wada Nas indicted the Nigeria police for failing to arrest Ganiyu Adams, who is alleged to be on the wanted list of the force.

"But the man has been in and out of Ilorin to create problems. He has also been granting interviews to *Afenifere* newspapers freely and yet, the police are telling us that he is on their wanted list. Many believe that they are not serious in looking for Adams," Nas said.

He, however, congratulated Chief Gani Fawehinmi, for being made a Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN), as according to him "Gani is a true Nigerian and a true advocate of the masses. He deserved the honours."

Edo Assembly clears only female commissioner

The Edo State House of Assembly has approved the appointment of Hajjiya Usena Maliki as a commissioner in the new state executive council recently reconstituted by governor Lucky Igbinedion.

Haj. Usena, who is the only muslim commissioner in the new cabinet, was cleared alongside Mr. Frank Jegbefume Ewele following a letter forwarded to the House by the governor requesting the clearance of the two nominees.

In a related development, the House has also directed the state government to recall two senior officers of the state

From Shehu Abubakar, in Benin City

civil service Mr. C. O. Erebor and Mr. J. U. Obakpolora, wrongfully dismissed from service and that the state should pay the two men their salary and allowances in arrears.

The House directed that Mr. Erebor be paid his salaries and allowances up to October 1, 2000, and be allowed to go on normal retirement with full benefits.

Similarly, Mr. Obakpolora who was not due for retirement before he was dismissed is to be reinstated into the service and be promoted to level 16.

Speaking to *Daily Trust* after the sitting of the House, the chairman of the Human Rights and Legal Matters Committee, Mr. Luqman Muhammed, said it is the responsibility of the legislative arm to right the wrongs of the executive.

From Jamilah Nuhu Musa, in Kano

Students (NANS), Mallam Nasiru. Said Adhama made the call at a dinner party he organised for working

journalists in Kano State.

Mallam Adhama noted that except in few cases most northern state governors are not interested in developing their tertiary institutions.



Former governor of Kano State, Alhaji Abubakar Rimi and the late Malam Aminu Kano's widow, Hajjiya Aishatu, listening attentively to one of the speakers at the NEPU Golden Jubilee celebration...recently

Anenih explains prescription of PDP's women wing

A controversy leading to the proscription of the women's wing of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) was yesterday exposed by women leader of the party, Chief (Mrs) Josephine Tony

By Emmanuel Ande

Anenih, saying that the leadership of the party were afraid of the wing, whose main aim was to checkmate the activities of the party hierarchy.

Mrs. Anenih in an interview with newsmen in Abuja said that since women and youths are the formidable forces in the society, the party (PDP) leaders were scared of the wing.

She said what women in PDP are doing now is to bring women together and that she is negotiating with top officials of the party for nomination of women in all the states of the federation to contest the forth-coming local government elections.

Mrs Anenih maintained that despite efforts of the proscribed association (women's wing of PDP) some women in other states, especially the northern states usually meet some difficulties due to religious and other traditional laws.

further that with more women in politics, the political and economic whether of the country will change for good and that the tradition of looting the nation's treasury will be a thing of the past.

"Women by nature are safeless human beings, we cannot allow our personal interest to dominate the good programmes of the party because Nigerian women want PDP to still win the 2003 elections," she maintained.

She also called for equal treatment of women in the country, pointing out that women are highly marginalized in political appointments and nomination for contesting elections, a situation she described as disheartening and outdated in a democratic society.

The women leader also urged women in the country to go out massively and register as party members since it is only their number that can enable them to occupy the 'reserved

2003: Elewi woos Oyo voters

The Minister of State for Communication, Alhaji Adegunle Haruna-Elewi, has promised more amenities for the people of Oyo State if they ensure the return of President Olusegun Obasanjo for a second term.

He told the people of Fasola and Olorunda in Oyo West Council, of the state, while inspecting federal government projects in the area, that only a second term for President Obasanjo will guarantee sustainable infrastructural development in the country.

Alhaji Haruna-Elewi, accompanied by PDP leaders in the five Oyo local councils, expressed satisfaction in the quality and extent of work in the Fasola Primary Health Centre, the rural electrification scheme at Olorunda and UBE classrooms at Awumoro-Isoku, all in Oyo West Local Government Area.

From Tajudeen Kareem, in Ibadan

At Isale Oyo, Atiba council area, the minister advised the contractor handling the UBE classrooms project at the Local Authority Primary School to ensure its timely completion, warning that the Federal Government is determined to deliver all projects as promised.

At Fasola, Alhaji Haruna-Elewi said social amenities had eluded the rural communities in Oyo area because the people had supported political parties opposed to the Federal Government.

He said the health centre

at Fasola being handled by the National Primary Health Care Development Agency would assist in reducing infant mortality and bring healthcare delivery nearer to the people.

"This is the beginning of sustained better life for rural dwellers, because the Obasanjo government is one that delivers on promises in a transparent manner," the minister told the ecstatic local populace.

Mallam Isiaka Adebayo of Ward 10, Fasola, Oyo West council, promised massive support for the Obasanjo administration to enable it attain its laudable programme.

African lawmakers meet in Abuja

Lawmakers from 19 African member nations of the Commonwealth are scheduled to meet in Abuja, between August 4 and 11, 2001 to discuss issues ranging from how to strengthen the economies of African nations to fighting poverty, AIDS and environmental issues.

Senator Patrick Osakwe, who briefed National Assembly correspondents on the seven-day conference, said President Obasanjo is expected to declare the conference open next Wednesday, at the ECOWAS Secretariat, Abuja.

Similarly, the senator said over 150 delegates are

expected from the 19 participating parliaments, while observers are expected from the parliaments of other Commonwealth countries in other parts of the world.

The conference with the theme; "The Role of Parliaments in the Implementation of the Millennium African Renewal Programme," is to be attended by the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), Alhaji Ibrahim Fall and the South African speaker and chairperson, CPA African region, Dr. Fred Ginwala.

Furthermore, the conference will afford the





HABITAT (Housing and Environment)



By Warsaw Imoh Udosen

Squatting on your land!

Last Monday, I was at Bwari Area Council with a visiting friend, from Lagos who came in to acquaint himself with a landed property at Kubwa for sale. After taking a look at the papers, the officer in the cartography plan office referred us to the Development Control in Wuse. It was surprising that those purportedly in charge of Kubwa could not offer any information on a plot under their control. My friend, an estate surveyor, in frustration asked me why we were being tossed about.

We had gone to the Abuja Municipal Area Office earlier in the day, after being directed from one office to the other, we were told that Kubwa land is now under Bwari Area Council.

On enquiring further, we discovered that there are other similar cases of plots not directly in control of FCDA. A few months back a colleague was in a dilemma in a related incident where his client's landed property along Airport road granted by AMAC is being disputed by the FCDA. A major question now arises, are Area Councils vested with the power to allocate land in any part of the FCT? If so what is the legal status of the customary right of occupancy granted by these Area Councils?

Experienced developers and prospectors are sceptical about landed properties close to the Federal Capital City. The reason is not far fetched. By virtue of the land use decree of 1978 and the Federal Capital Territory Act of 1976, there is nothing as a customary right of occupancy in the FCT.

It is interesting to note that the Abuja High Court had held that Area Councils of the Federal Capital Territory cannot allocate land in any part of the FCT. This was stated in ONA Vs ATENDE (2000 NWLR Part 656). According to the court, section 7 of the Federal Capital Territory Act 1976 prohibits any person or body from carrying out any development within the meaning of the act unless the written approval of the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA) has been obtained by such person or body.

According to the provisions of section 3 of the land use act, the governor of a state has power to designate parts of the land in his state as urban or rural area but the court held that this is not applicable to land in the Federal Capital Territory. The court proved this by pointing to the specific provisions of the same act (Section 49, 1) which stated that the provisions of the act are not applicable to land held by the Federal Government or its agencies. One regularly hears of a power play between the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA) and the Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC). This does not augur well for the image of a 'model' capital city where planned and sustained development should be our major objective. Sometime ago, new shops were being added to the existing ones in the Area I shopping centre by the Abuja Municipal Area Council only for it to be pulled down by the FCDA who claimed authority over the area. By law, the FCDA is right, but why did AMAC bite more than it could chew only to leave the prospective owner stranded with lots of money down the drain. There should be a specific understanding between these two bodies. Or does it mean that AMAC knew what would happen all along but went ahead to allocate shops to the unsuspecting public?

In developed countries, this act could lead to serious litigation and quite obviously the people affected would be compensated. But this is not usually the case in our country.

Presently, along Airport road, AMAC has allocated plots to some people. It is claimed that the plots so allocated rightly belong to AMAC but "when tomorrow comes" the Federal Government will need these strategic lands and it will go the way of Maroko in Lagos and Rainbow village in Port Harcourt.

In some parts of the FCT such as Jikoyi, one learnt that village heads allocate and sell plots to the public who obtain receipts and go to AMAC for proper documentations. Is this right? Will it not result in conflicts later on? Shouldn't the FCDA start looking at it now rather than later?

Do the holders of customary right of occupancy issued by AMAC and other area councils have a right that can be protected or remedied under the law? bearing in mind that the decision of the Abuja High Court was affirmed by the Court of Appeal that area councils cannot allocate land in any part of F.C.T. Part of the judgement delivered by Hon. Justice Sunday Akinola Akintan JCA read "...all those occupying any portion of the land in Federal Capital Territory without the consent of the authority (FCDA) are squatters on such land... whatever customary rights of occupancy the original occupiers of the lands hold prior to the acquisition of the entire area ceased to exist as from 4th February, 1976 when the Federal Capital Territory Act 1976 came into force."

Irrespective of this radical decision by the Appeal Court, land transactions still go on in the FCT without the consent of the Minister. Other questions now follow. Is such title good for the purpose of securing credit facilities from the bank? Does it matter if development on such land does not conform to the standard of the Abuja master plan? Is it proper for the FCDA to overlook these ultra vires acts of the Area Council on grounds of expediency and convenience? Will this act not undermine the concept of the "model" city?

These questions when addressed by those saddled with such responsibility or authority will go a long way in preventing future conflicts but meanwhile, prospectors ought to be careful.

Warsaw Imoh Udosen is with Country Home, Abuja.

Plateau, Inland Port end land dispute

The Plateau State government and the Jos Inland Container Port (JICP) have ended a dispute over a 1.42 hectares of land a proposed site for the Container Port in Jos, with the state government allocating an alternative parcel of land.

The legal tango has crippled the development of the site located at Bukuru Railway station Jos South, rendering the JICP impotent in performing its activities.

Revealing the out of court settlement last Tuesday, the Vice Chairman of the JICP, Engineer Joshua A. Ladapo told the Minister of State for Transport, Alhaji Isa Yuguda and journalist during their courtesy visit to the minister that the government of Plateau State has developed interest in the activities of JICP and "infact withdrawn the litigation instituted against JICP and provided an alternative land."

The construction of the Jos Inland Container Port complex, he said was initially expected "to cost a total of N550m started in January, 2000 on a 1.42 hectare

Stories by Tashikalmah Hallah

site at Bukuru Railway Station, Jos South, already granted by the Railway Property Company Limited as a lease for 25 years."

In view of the capital intensive nature of the project said



Alh. Isa Yuguda

Engineer Ladapo, the Board of the JICP had approved the construction of phase I as a pilot scheme at the Bukuru site, at an estimated cost of N150m, with infrastructures and equipments

inclusive.

The vice chairman who represented the chairman Board of Directors, Alhaji Ibrahim A. San also explained that in March 1999, the Board had commissioned a firm of Consultants, Messrs Apogee Projects Limited, to undertake extensive feasibility studies on the project and design of the port complex.

Engineer Ladapo explained that the feasibility and viability report had already been submitted and it was clearly proved that the project is highly viable with a guarantee of adequate return in investments to all stakeholders.

Said he; "the construction of the infrastructural facilities for the JICP pilot scheme at Bukuru Railway Station, Jos South, Plateau State had reached an advanced stage, before construction work stopped in August 2000 due to a legal dispute over the ownership of the project site between plateau State government versus Nigeria Railway Corporation and JICP."

However, the recent moves for out of court settlement has now paved way for moving the

project forward.

Moreover he said, the recent interest and pronouncement by the Plateau State government to invest N50 million in JICP and had provided an alternative expansive 50 hectare site near Heipang Railway Station, opposite Mohammed Wase Airport Jos, requires a drastic review of the scope and cost.

He explained that the financial estimate of building the structure now stands at N1.3 billion, which he solicited the federal governments assistance.

Also he requested the federal government's assistance in the official recognition of the JICP by gazetting it as a Dry Port.

Responding, the minister of state, Alhaji Yuguda commended the board and the Plateau State government for the amicable resolution of the land dispute, adding that the federal government would establish Dry Ports in all the six geopolitical zones of the country.

He said that the ports if developed would enhance the economy through a boost in agricultural activities in the respective zone.

Presidential C'ttee advises Odili to construct new towns

From Wisdom-Uduak Patrick, in Port Harcourt

Worried by the population of Rivers State Governor Peter Odili has been advised to embark upon the construction of new towns to decongest Port Harcourt city.

Speaking at a dinner organised in their honour, the spokesman for the presidential committee on housing and urban development, Sir Fortune Ebue also suggested a housing scheme for the aged in the state.

He noted that, a people housed in a decent, safe, sanitary and healthy environment, would naturally breed a healthy people and crime free society, while the provision of basic amenities would become easier.

Ebue who said his team was impressed by the significant housing project of the state government for the low-income group, pointed out that the standard of work at the site was second to none in Africa.

He said, as the former Managing Director of "Shelta Afrique," his observation was a matter of a long time experience in the housing project sector not only in Nigeria but Africa as a whole.

Members of the presidential committee on housing and urban development were in Port Harcourt in continuation of their study of cities in the country so as to advise the government on how to tackle the consistent growth in urban population of our country.

While in the state, the committee, which is headed by the state Governor, Dr. Peter Odili met to discuss various strategies to address issues affecting housing and urban development in Nigeria.



Gombe State Legislator's Quarters initiated and completed by Gov. Abubakar Hashidu

Tower Aluminium launches 'aluzinc'

State developers in the Nigerian construction industry and Property owners can heave a sigh of relief, as Tower Aluminium has blazed the trail with the launching of the new Product "Aluzinc."

"Aluzinc", the newest building material in the nation's construction industry is manufactured with aesthetic design and has a longer life span, than any ordinary zinc; also it is non corrosive and is rust proof.

The product, according to its manufacturer, is one of the priceless quality products of the Tower Aluminium, adding "aluzinc is an alloy manufactured from their numerous aesthetic designs and various applications in roofing and constructions."

Led by the cream of Tower Aluminium group of marketing professionals explained the major advantage of the new product to include,

"that it is built to last, particularly with the blending of different components."

This, they said the product is rust proof, non corrosive, its scrap value, with width and length designed to suit customers' specifications.

Also, at the launching, Tower Aluminium displayed variety of products which included the Tower pattern sheets' appropriate for door kick plates, aircraft ladders, Marine boats, flooring sheets, flower potholder and flooring sheets in vehicles.

Other products on display also include Tower tiles, a new approach to metal roofing.

To one promoter of the products, the product is an elegant system of ingeniously crafted metal sheet in different colours and blends with present architectural trends. "It is virtually maintenance free and leak proof if prop-

erly installed," he added.

He noted that to ensure that the roof stayed attractive over several years, both aluminium and aluzinc tower tiles were coated with oven baked polyester/acryl paint making them impervious to corrosive effects of the environment and climate.

In design, he observed that it is a master piece which permits one to be fixed with ease, yet to fastened securely so that it remains even in gusty winds, because of its sturdy interlocks.

Said he; "Tower tiles can be used on call slopping surfaces, from little as 15 degree horizontal slop to the perfectly vertical mansard roofs."

He said its light weight is a distinct advantage over cement, fibre or clay tiles, because its weight on a building is significantly lower than cement or clay tiles for the same surface area and installation can be done faster.



HABITAT

(Housing and Environment)



FG tackles erosion with N235m

Owing to the persistent gully erosion in the South-East, the Federal Government has approved for expenditure the sum of N235 million to curb the menace.

This was disclosed by the Minister of Environment, Alhaji Mohammed Kabir Sa'id, when the Governor of Imo State, Chief Achike Udenwa, paid him a courtesy visit.

Although the minister had explained that the issue of gully erosion is not peculiar to the South-East states alone he said that the government of President Olusegun Obasanjo is poised to checkmate the menace of flooding and other environmental problems inherent in the country.

Alhaji Kabir, also expressed the need for states and local governments to alert the Federal Government on the occurrence of flood; pollution or any environmental problem.

The minister expressed displeasure over the lack of proper construction of drainages in cities and towns by the governments at both local and state levels, and then advised them to do so.

Fighting environmental problems, he said, is not a one man job, and since they (local and state governments) are closer to the people, they would help in no small measure in tackling any environmental

By Tashikalmah Hallah

problems that may arise. On his part the Governor of Imo State, Chief Achike Udenwa lamented that the problems of erosion and flood had caused a lot of havoc in some local government areas of the state especially at Egbolukwu which was affected by the problems of erosion and flood.

Governor Udenwa while praising the effort of the minister in curbing the menace of environmental degradation also reminded him that when

president Olusegun Obasanjo visited the state he was shown the degree of damages the problem had caused.

He then urged the Federal government through the ministry to assist the state towards solving the flood and erosion problems affecting the state.

Imo state is one among the 11 states earlier warned by a non-governmental organisation. The Nigeria Environmental Society (NES) as pruned to erosion and advised for immediate intervention lest the situation will become worse.



Alh. Muhammad Kabir Sa'id, Minister of Environment

Oil pollution forces communities to flee

Seven out of every 10 persons living in the oil rich coastal area of Ondo State have fled due to the pollution of the environment which is compounded by oil exploration in the area, the commissioner for environment and natural resources, Chief Sola Ebiseni, has said.

Speaking with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Akure, Ebiseni said that for now, the source of livelihood of the remaining people was under severe threat. Ebiseni stated that the oil companies should be held responsible because they had been "very irresponsible to the plight of the affected communities for years." He alleged that Chevron, Express oil, Consolidated oil, Exxon Mobil, Exso, Conoco and allied energy were some of the greatest polluters of the environment in the area.

The commissioner said that, "the greatest threat to lives and property in coastal area of Ondo State today is oil pollution through oil spillage."

By record, this occurs twice a week as documented by the oil companies themselves, but the ones reported by the communities

is on a daily basis.

"Apart from the Mobil oil spill of 1998 which happened in Akwa-Ibom State and spread to Ondo State, and which the company paid

some compensation to the people, virtually all the other oil companies responsible for oil spillage in the coastal area of Ondo State have been irresponsible," Ebiseni said.

South Africa stresses importance of Kyoto Protocol on climate

South African Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister, Valli Moosa, said in Johannesburg on Monday that the Kyoto Protocol had produced the only reasonable plan to reduce the emission of greenhouse gas into the atmosphere.

He made the remarks before departing to Germany on Monday night to represent South Africa at a UN Convention on Climate Change, which opened on Monday.

Moosa will lead a multi-sectoral delegation at the sixth Conference of Parties to the UN Convention on Climate Change, which is based on the Kyoto Protocol aimed at curbing greenhouse gas emissions, which deplete the ozone layer.

Moosa said this meeting was crucial since the U.S., which had four per cent of the world's population and produced 25 per cent of global greenhouse gas, has refused to implement the protocol.

It was now important to note which direction Europe and Japan would take, the biggest polluters after the U.S., Moosa said, pointing out that delegates would discuss whether the Kyoto Protocol was doomed

without America's participation. "We will discuss whether there is meaning in the rest of the developed world going ahead without the U.S. or will it be pointless," he said. He said the government believed that the adverse effects of climate change have already been felt in Africa.

"We should remember the floods that recently ravaged parts of southern Africa and particularly Mozambique. Our future focus must be on better preparation to overcome and adapt to the effects of climate change," he added.

The Bonn meeting, known as the sixth Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, is crucial to the world's effort to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions.

The meeting is designed to finalise the Kyoto Protocol, which targets carbon dioxide cuts for industrialised countries, by an average of 5.2 per cent below 1990 levels by 2010.

However, the U.S., which accounts for 25 per cent of global carbon dioxide emissions, abandoned the treaty in March this year. Its action triggered a world outcry.

You and the environment

By Dr. Sani Mashi



For a federal parastatal on drought and desertification

Drought and desertification are two environmental hazards that appear to have been constituting unparalleled hardships and developmental constraints to the people of northern Nigeria. These hazards have for long been disastrously affecting the fragile land, food and water situation of the area. Drought and desertification can in many respects be compared, in terms of their impact on the ecology and people, to the devastation of the environment occurring in the oil producing areas of Nigeria. While the latter are fortunate to have in their midst so many rich oil companies that are helping to a great extent in rehabilitating the devastated lands, in northern Nigeria such companies are lacking responsibility for rehabilitating lands in areas affected by drought and desertification in northern Nigeria is therefore the sole responsibility of governments (local, state and federal).

Drought and desertification are intertwined. Because of this, they are in most cases confused with each other. They are similar but not identical. They are as different as they are related. Drought is purely a natural climatic event. It has a subtle and insidious beginning, but its consequences can be significantly altered by human activities. For example, it can start in one year, continues in the next and appear very serious in the third. It's thus noticed mainly when it reaches a serious level. In fact, it could only be detected from among the landmarks (called drought noises) that are associated with it, or often accompany it. Such include reduced surface and ground water, soil moisture declines, and induced emigration of people from the affected areas. In a simple way, drought can be described as a climatic event involving a shortage of rainfall sufficient enough to affect water supplies, crop performance, livestock production and economic activities of an area. In this case, virtually all communities in northern states of Kebbi, Sokoto, Zamfara, Katsina, Kano, Jigawa, Bauchi, Yobe and Borno have at one time or the other, especially some recent past been adversely affected by drought. Desertification, unlike drought is more difficult to define and is largely misunderstood. Some refer to it as advancement of desert condition into less-desertified from the desertified areas. Some others equate it with aridity. Yet others choose to describe it as loss of primary productivity to an extent as to make a community less capable of satisfying its socio-economic requirements, under prevailing climatic conditions. However, the latest internationally negotiated definition of desertification is land degradation in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid ecosystems resulting from varying causes including human influences and climatic fluctuations.

In Nigeria, public (governmental) approach to confronting drought and desertification problems has generally been inconsistent, uncoordinated, piecemeal, sectoral and consists largely of a single set of remedial and ad-hoc measures. The end result of this is the increasing vulnerability of the affected people to these hazards. Thus, while billions in both local and foreign currency is being spent in fighting them, the people of northern Nigeria have remained worse than they were before. A key to mitigating the effects of these hazards certainly lies in the formulation of a comprehensive, coherent, systematic, co-ordinated and sustainable development strategy which takes cognisance of the vagaries of the climate, the fragile nature of the ecosystems and needs, aspirations, perception, indigenous knowledge, and traditional resource management practices of the people of the region.

This approach was first suggested in 1993 by Professor Kayode Oladipo, formerly of the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, and now of the UNDP sustainable development office, Lagos. This Kwara State-born Professor of Climatology, is an extravagantly gifted, resourcefully talented and vastly experienced scholar, with over a hundred scientific works on drought and desertification in Nigeria and Africa. Adoption of this approach becomes necessary in Nigeria because:

- i. State administrative boundaries notwithstanding, the two hazards have a regional pattern of occurrence. As such, confronting them could best be accomplished from a regional perspective. Federal government is the best institution for rallying the states of the region into a common front for fighting regional problems such as this.
- ii. In the past, governments (federal and state) have tried to fight the problems and spent billions of tax payers' money in this regard but have largely failed. The failure is linked firmly to the inconsistent, incomprehensive, ad-hoc, and uncoordinated nature of the past efforts. A nationally organised, seriously planned and faithfully formulated and executed approach is thus necessary.
- iii. Past efforts are largely sectoral in nature focussing on aspects of the problem. For instance, recently, a N15 billion shelterbelt is being established without taking steps to link the project to the socio-economic realities of the region. As common sense indicates, the more fragmented and inter-related components are considered, the less the likelihood of overcoming the problems affecting the components.

It is thus become obvious that an agency established at the federal level, and founded on a seriously planned, rather than ad-hoc basis is what we require in fighting drought and desertification in Nigeria. In short, we need a participatory approach, which will address all aspects of the problems, and reflect environmental, social and economic costs and benefits of tackling the problem. The approach is needed to particularly deal with the many scientific, environmental and economic aspects of drought and desertification. We need a parastatal in the same manner in which a development commission has been established for the Niger Delta.

Dr. Sani A. Mashi is with Department of Geography, University of Abuja.



FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

NATIONAL COUNCIL ON PRIVATISATION

SELECTION OF PRIVATISATION ADVISERS FOR NIGERIAN POSTAL SERVICES (NIPOST)

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

As part of the Federal Government's privatisation programme, the National Council on Privatization (NCP) hereby invites eligible consulting firms or consortium to indicate their interest in providing advisory services, for the above mentioned enterprise in the following areas.

- < Financial
- < Legal
- < Accounting
- < Asset Valuation
- < Technical

As a result of its work, the consultant will prepare the enterprise for privatisation, recommending appropriate corporate, technical and regulatory structures, determine its assets and liabilities, carry out assets valuation, develop Memorandum and Articles of Association for new corporate entities for eventual registration with the CAC, prepare Information Memorandum and Requests for proposals (REPs) and join in managing the tender process for engaging core investors.

Applicants should have consulting experience in the industry for a period not less than 10 years. Consultants selected to perform this phase will not be eligible to participate in the subsequent phases of NIPOST Privatisation processes.

Solicitation of Interests

Interested consulting firms or consortium must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services. These should include the following minimum information.

- < Brochures indicating profile of firm/consortium and evidence of consortium where applicable;
- < Description of similar assignments carried out in Nigeria and/or abroad;

- < Details of Experience (track record) in similar business in Nigeria and abroad;
- < Availability of appropriate skills among staff;
- < Audited Accounts for the last five (5) years;
- < Non-refundable fee of N50, 000.00 (Fifty Thousand Naira) in bank draft made payable to Bureau of Public Enterprises.

A consulting firm will be selected in accordance with procedures set out in the World Bank Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by the World Bank Borrowers: January 1997 (revised September 1997 and January 1999).

Expressions of Interest must be submitted in six (6) copies in sealed envelopes clearly marked "Expression of Interest in NIPOST" and delivered not later than 1700 hrs, September 14, 2001 to the address below:

Attention: Mr. Nasir Ahmad el-Rufai

(Member/Secretary)

National Council on Privatisation

Secretary:

Bureau of Public Enterprises

No. 1, Osun Crescent

Off Ibrahim Babangida Way,

Maitama District, Abuja

P.M.B. 442, Garki, Abuja, Nigeria

Tel: (234) (9) 4134636-46

Fax: (234) (9) 4134671-2, 4134655-7

E-mail: bpegen@micro.com.ng

Web Site: www.bpeng.org

Only short-listed applicants shall be contacted.



Crime & Punishment



Fraudster dragged to court over N120m

A 27-year-old man, Fatai Alanoju, who allegedly attempted to obtain the sum of \$1.9m (N120 million) from an officer at the Nigerian Airforce Base, Ikeja, has been dragged before a Lagos Magistrate Court.

The suspect is charged with criminal conspiracy and attempting to obtain money under false pretence contrary to section 1 (3) and 8 of the Advance Fee Fraud and other Fraud related offences Decree No. 13 of 1995.

According to the prosecuting police officer, Inspector F. Ojo, the suspect sometime in July 2001 at Airforce Base, Ikeja, in the Lagos Magisterial district, with intent to defraud, conspired with others now on the run to commit felony to wit obtaining money

under false pretences.

Before the suspect was arrested, it was alleged that he attempted to obtain N120 million (\$1.9m) from Wing Commander Oboho Otung attached to the Nigerian Airforce Base, Ikeja

When the charge was read out to the accused, no

plea was taken from him.

In her ruling, Chief Magistrate Ayo Odugbesan admitted the accused to a bail of N1 million with two sureties in like sum. According to the trial magistrate, one of the sureties must own property on the Lagos Island.

Youths storm court as suit against Pfizer continues

Hundreds of angry youths on Monday stormed the Federal High Court, Kano, venue of the hearing of the suit against the U.S. company, Pfizer.

According to a BBC report monitored in Abuja, the youths, who carried placards with different angry slogans some of which included "we don't like

Pfizer," "Pfizer must pay us compensation," are expressing their support and demand for compensation from the company who donated untested drugs to Kano State for controlling the cerebral spinal meningitis epidemic in 1996 in which 13 children

A 54-year-old Clergyman, Pastor Douglas Emmanuel Arigo, alleged to have been caught in an unholy act is now facing trial before a Lagos Chief Magistrate Court.

Pastor Arigo is alleged to have obtained N40,000 each from some of his church members and 598 others under the pretext that he was going to procure Canadian visas and Canadian Resident permits for them which he failed to do.

According to prosecuting police officer A. Etuk, Pastor

Cleric faces trial for unholy act

From Adelanwa Bamgboye, in Lagos

Arigo, sometime in 1999 at Gowon Estate, Egbeda, Lagos, in the Lagos Magisterial district, conspired with one Ige Aruya now on the run to commit felony to wit obtaining money by false pretences.

The offence for which he

is charged is punishable under section 1 (a) of the Advance Fee Fraud and other fraud related offences decree No. 13 of 1995.

The offence was said to have been committed between the months of March and December 1999 at Gowon Estate in Lagos.

In a chat with the accused cleric, *Daily Trust* gathered that the money was actually collected from members of his Church and others as alleged but that Pastor Ige Aruya ran away with the money.

At the resumed hearing in the case, some of the victims of the alleged crime confronted the embattled cleric insisting that they wanted their money back.

Meanwhile, further hearing has been fixed for October 5, 2001.



Gov. Bola Tinubu

Robbers snatch ex-major's Mercedes Benz, ransack house

Six dare-devil armed robbers over the last weekend trailed a man in a Mercedes Benz car into his house and ransacked the place at gun point.

According to an eye-witness, on Saturday at about 7:40 p.m., one Major Isaac Kehinde Ayodeji (rtd) and his children, all in a Mercedes benz were entering their compound in the Akoka area of Lagos, unaware that they were being trailed into their house by six armed men.

When they ordered Major Ayodeji to lie down at gun-point, they ransacked the whole house carting away the sum of N10,500 cash, one single barrel short gun, his identity card, his son's identity card and escaped in the man's

Mercedes Benz car.

In their efforts to bring the culprits to book, the Alade Police have spread their dragnets all over Lagos and neighbouring states.

In a similar development, the anti-robbery squad of Ajegunle Police Station has raided criminal hide-outs in Ajegunle and arrested some dangerous armed robbers.

On Monday, according to a reliable source, at about 2.24 p.m. on a tip-off,

Coporal Ignatius led other policemen to a criminal hide out at Ackakpo to search for wanted criminals and on sighting them, the hoodlums opened fire on the police team.

During the exchange of fire, three of the robbers were and one of them with fatal bullet wound was equally arrested and taken to General Hospital, Lagos, where he gave up the ghost.

Policeman arrested for extortion

The Lagos State Police Command on Monday nabbed a Police Sergeant for extorting money from motorists.

Before his arrest, the police, acting on information received at the Ikorodu

Police Station, dispatched Inspector Samuel Owolabi and a team of policemen to the area where they sighted the Police Sergeant in uniform extorting money from motorists.

On interrogation, the

who took the drug died while no fewer than 337 became disabled.

It would be recalled that in April this year, the Federal High Court, Kano ruled that a Lagos based lawyer, Mr. Lukman Okunle Ishola, filed a suit against Pfizer and represented the family of the victims, who wanted the court to force the company to pay the sum of \$120 million as compensation. Also in the suit is the Federal Ministry of Health who the affected family are demanded \$150 compensation.

The presiding judge, Justice I.C. Nwagugu was absent due to sickness, as such, the case was adjourned to September 24, this year.

Commenting on the incident, a resident, Alhaji Daudu Zangon Kwajalawa, who also stated that his children were among the victims of the incident declared: "My son now cannot hear properly."

Sergeant gave his name as Etim and claimed to be a serving spy Police Sergeant.

When a search was conducted on him, the sum of N1,285 was recovered from him.

Confirming the incident, the Lagos State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Mr. Victor Chilaka, said that the culprit has been taken to the station with the exhibit. According to him, "the police are still investigating."

In another development, the police on Sunday at about 2015 hours recovered one Kalashinkor rifle No. 1953/2523 with 41 rounds of live ammunition and a pump action rifle (cut to size) No. 72836 with 81 rounds of live cartridges following a raid on armed robbers' hide-out at Disu Street, off Ladipo Street, Mushin, Lagos. However, no arrest has been made yet.

Continental Bank burgled

The spate of robbery attacks on banks, especially in the Lagos metropolis continued on Sunday night as armed bandits raided Continental Bank in Matori Estate, Mushin, Lagos.

Daily Trust gathered that the armed bandits succeeded

in burgling the bank as they carted away some computer units and other valuables but no cash was stolen from the bank.

Confirming the story, the Lagos State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Mr. Victor Chilaka, said in his office on Tuesday that the police have commenced investigations into the matter.

Chilaka further disclosed that two security guards attached to the bank have been arrested.

The latest bank attack is coming on the heels of a similar bank robbery which took place recently at the Marina branch of Diamond Bank where the robbers struck and carted away about N36 million cash at about 8:00 p.m.



Joseph Sanusi

Five held over vandalised generators

Five employees of Nasarawa Broadcasting Service (NBS) are helping the police to investigate the circumstances surrounding the vandalism of the generators of the establishment.

The employees are a senior engineer and four security guards.

NAN learnt that some people broke into a building housing two stand-by generators in the premises of the organisation and carted away many of their vital components.

The development forced the radio off the air for about 12 hours.

The senior engineer was said to have activated the generators to watch the Ghana/Nigeria word cup qualifier match in Port

Harcourt on Sunday. He was also the last officer to leave the studio at about 12:25 a.m. on that day.

The securityman assigned to keep an eye on the generators was said to have admitted negligence of duty, explaining that he left the door of the generating house open and slept off.

The other three were called in by the police as accomplices.

Both the General Manager of NBS, Alhaji Dalhatu Bawa and the Divisional Police Officer, Mr. Benjamin Onanwa, confirmed the story in separate interviews with NAN in Lafia.

Bawa disclosed that the management had gone into action to inject an alternative power supply to ensure that the services of the radio did not suffer.



The people in charge of police matters: From left; Mrs. Grace Archibong, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Police Affairs, Mr. Steven Akiga, Minister of Police Affairs and Mr. Musiliu Smith, Inspector-General of Police at a recent function in Abuja. Pix by: Kennedy Egbonodje

Abuja News

Gwarimpa residents erect illegal electric poles

Residents of Gwarimpa Housing Estate in Abuja now erect illegal poles to draw power lines to their houses, the National Electric Power Authority, (NEPA) has confirmed.

In what appears to be a corroboration of a recent *Daily Trust* investigation, top management staff of NEPA on routine customer verification exercise of the estate recently, found out that occupants have erected illegal electric poles. Most of the occupants, who were discovered to be squatters and security men, were found to be enjoying free electricity.

According to the NEPA customer's census team led by the Chairman, Technical Board, Senator Liyel Imoke, none of the houses had either been registered with NEPA

Stories by Austine Odo

or metered.

The team found out that the entire buildings, all at advanced stages of completion, and some already completed, were occupied by illegal occupants. They described the finding as shocking and an eye opener.

A welder at the estate was found to have illegally and dangerously connected his electricity supply directly from the pole just across the road.

Reacting to the development, the Managing Director, and Deputy Chairman, Technical Board, Engr. Joseph Makoju, said the Gwarimpa revelation was a clear testimony of what applies nationwide.

"These are some of the avenues through which

NEPA loses revenue. All hands have to be on deck to make this exercise a success," he said, referring to the nationwide customers census.



Engr. Mohammed Abba-Gana, FCT Minister.

FCT police set to recruit

Residents of the Federal Capital Territory, who are interested in making a career in the Nigeria Police Force, have been advised to go to the FCT Police Command for recruitment.

According to the Police Public Relations Officer, FCT Command, Mr. Ofem Arikpo (ASP), recruitment into the force takes place at the FCT Command every Tuesday and Thursday. Meanwhile, Mr. Arikpo has announced, on behalf of the Police Commissioner, the release of the result of recruitment examination into the force taken in September last year.

He advised candidates who sat for the examination to report at the Command headquarters to check their results, adding that successful ones will on August 6, proceed to Kaduna for training.

Illegal settlers vow to resist demolition

Despite recent government pronouncements on the demolition of illegal structures and settlements in the Federal Capital Territory, residents of some of the areas suspected to be on the verge of demolition have promised the demolition team a tough time whenever they start the exercise.

In Gwagwa, a town about 20 kilometers from the city centre, residents who spoke to *Daily Trust* on the condition of anonymity said they were ready to die with their homes rather than watch them being demolished without a fight.

"Our house here is so beautiful, this is what we have got for ourselves as a family - a fortune, and somebody says it is an illegal structure or a house in an illegal settlement," a man told *Daily Trust* in Gwagwa yesterday.

Besides, youths in several parts of the area are said to be

warming up for a straight battle with the demolition team.

In Jabi, another satellite town, *Daily Trust* gathered that many house owners and youngmen have indicated their preparedness to resist the exercise, unless government provides a befitting alternative for them.

"You can't just wake up and declare my house illegal, who says we are not legal? In fact, I wait to see the day of the demolition," a man who claims to be a landlord told *Daily Trust* in Jabi.

In Durumi, residents have adopted a wait and see strategy. Some are even indifferent to the news, erecting many more new structures.

"Let them come, if they come, we see, we have no other place," a woman said. In Pykasa, many residents who spoke to *Daily Trust* expressed great fear over the exercise, calling on government to do it with a human face as promised.

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CLOSING DATE : Friday, August 3rd, 2001



The Permanent Secretary, MFCT, Dr. Babandiga Aliyu (left) presenting the runner-up prize to the Deputy Chairman of Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC), Engr. Chris Ekpnnobi (right) during the award ceremony for distinguished area councils in the FCT.



SPORTS



Ndanusa plans for N20m Tennis Foundation

The newly elected Nigeria Tennis Federation President, Engineer Sani Ndanusa, has promised to restore the lost glory of tennis in the country. Speaking with *TrustSports* on Tuesday at Eagle Square after he was declared the winner in the association's presidential election, Engineer Ndanusa said he was going to put in

From Babs Oyetoro, in Lagos
place a N20m Tennis Foundation.

"The essence of the foundation is to ensure that the federation has enough funds in its kitty to run its programmes," he said.

The former vice-president of the federation assured that he would work towards ensuring that Nigeria regains

her pride of place in Africa and the world as a whole.

"My main concern is to stabilise the dwindling fortunes of tennis in Nigeria. And I strongly believe that this is possible with the co-operation of everybody in the board," he noted.

He stressed that the federation under his leadership would work towards bringing back all the former sponsors of tennis, who have withdrawn their sponsorship over time.

"As soon as we settle down, we shall open discussion with all our friends in the corporate world, as we can't do without them," he submitted.



Abia and Lagos State hockey teams in action at last year's National Sports Festival in Bauchi.

Gen Useni Cup gets new date

The commencement of this year's edition of the Lt. General Jeremiah Useni Cup for the local government councils in Plateau and Nasarawa States has been extended to August 6, 2001.

From Buhari Bello, in Jos
are expected to register their players within the stipulated period.

Already, the sponsor of the annual championship, General J. T. Useni (rtd), has given the approval for the sixth edition of the competition.

Each club is expected to register a maximum of 30 players at the cost of N100 each and also take the responsibility of the players licences which would amount to N50,000.00 per club.

All clubs in the two states

Journalists barred from sports association's elections

Scores of journalists, including sportswriters, were not allowed to cover elections into the boards of the 29 national sports associations, which held Tuesday in Abuja.

Journalists, including those from Lagos, who arrived at the venue at about 7.30a.m., after several hours of night travel, were told that they would not be allowed into the main arena.

Policemen, who manned the only gate leading into the

Eagle Square venue of the elections, told the news hungry journalists that only accredited delegates would be allowed in.

They said they were carrying out instructions handed down by the Ministry of Sports and Social Development, organisers of the elections.

One of the men explained that the ministry felt that journalists appointed to the board of the various associations were enough to give adequate

coverage to the activity.

It took about three hours of strong persuasion and protests before an information officer in the ministry came to read out the list of journalists who would be allowed to enter the square.

This was after the journalists had been thoroughly soaked by the early morning rain, which fell for a better part of the day.

The officer who announced the names claimed that an undisclosed director

who was persuaded and convinced that certain category of journalists should be permitted to cover the exercise issued the list.

The released list entered those whose names were excluded and they exchanged words with the policemen who threatened to arrest and detain them.

Meanwhile, security at the Eagle Square, venue of the election was tight as all elements of rowdiness, noise and thuggery, which characterised past elections,

were non-existent.

Security was so tight that the overseer of Sports Development Department and Director of Venue and Facilities in the Ministry of Sports, Mr. Patrick Ekeji, had to lobby policemen to permit him into the venue in their patrol jeep.

Ekeji who arrived the venue at about 1.00pm, after elections had been conducted into the boards of seven associations, went round various pavilions in company of mobile policemen.

NFA thumbs up sports writers over Eagles qualification

The Nigeria Football Association (NFA) has thumbed up the reporting press over the objective manner they criticized the Super Eagles preparation and prosecution of the 2002 Japan/Korea World Cup qualification matches.

NFA Secretary-General, Dr. Tijani Yusuf, said Tuesday that sports writers through objective criticism

By Patrick Andrew
have propelled the management of the Glass House to be on their toes throughout the qualification campaigns.

"We dedicate the Super Eagles qualification for the 2002 World Cup to the sporting press and to be honest your objective criticisms propelled us into action to ensure Nigeria's qualification. We were conscious of your criti-

cal views and suggestions, especially where you were very objective," Yusuf said, noting that without the press certain errors might not have been noted and corrected.

He observed that by the objective and dynamic manner the sports writers offered suggestions for proper administration of football it would be correct to say that the Nigerian sporting press has come of age.

However, he cautioned the press not to rest on their oars as the qualification was only the beginning of the real race for soccer glory.

Apparently, calling for

more objective criticisms, Yusuf said the press should endeavour to sustain the zeal and enthusiasm that were prevalent throughout the qualification campaign.

The NFA scribe, who revealed that the Glass House was aware of the enormity of the task before the team, stressed that everything necessary will be done to facilitate adequate preparation for the mundial.

"The race has just began. The World Cup is not a child play. We shall, therefore, support the technical crew within available means to update their knowledge in the game," he said.

Igbinedion, Dyeri lose out in associations' elections

Twenty-eight persons were on Tuesday elected chairmen of various national sports associations even as electoral malpractices almost mar the elections.

The alleged electoral fraud led to the arrest of two Ministry of Sports and Social Development staff, Mr. Alex Onyenwenwa and Mrs. N Ejele, who were picked for questioning by the police.

The police had insisted on arresting the duo because their act was at variance with the anti-corruption drive of the present administration.

The elections, however, recorded big casualties, which include Governor

Lucky Igbinedion of Edo State who lost the bid to lead the boxing association, Mrs Nkoyo Ibori, wife of Delta State governor, Major General Adamu Dyeri (rtd) the current NOC president who succumbed to Prince Sam Ejiofor for Gymnastic Federation chairmanship post.

Similarly, Chiefs Adolphus Okafor, Olatokunbo Thomas, Hope Uzodima, David Johnson, Kayode Roberts, Chuka Momah all lost their posts.

However, Mrs Kofi Nwokedi, Lanre Glover, Alhaji Gumel, regained their positions in the elections which many board members had to resort to fisticuffs before reason and fair play could prevail.

List of elected officials

Judo Gov. Uzo Orji - Chairman Theophilos Audu - 1 st Vice Chairman Prof. Alfred Desuza - 2 nd Vice Chairman	Tayo Popoola T/Tennis Cusmos Maduka - Chairman Olabanji Oladapo Victor Peters
Hockey Gov. Bukar Ibrahim - Chairman Alhaji Lawal Bawa - 1 st Vice Chairman Jaiyeola Folarin - 2 nd Vice Chairman	Shooting Fred Chijiuka - Chairman John Hamaki Moses Ajayi
Boxing Eng. Rotimi George Taylor - Chairman Abu Onaji - Vice Chairman Victor Azumara - 2 nd Vice Chairman	Wrestling Eddy Aderinoku - Chairman Austin Edeze
Basketball Gyang Buba - Chairman Segun Erinle Uche Nebedun	Cycling Teresa Ezeobi - Chairman Felix Onwuzuruike Sunday Bulus Irogo
Chess Cephas Theophilos - Chairman Sani Mohammed Dr. O. S. A. Ikhiyoa	Fives Dr. Bello Haliru - Chairman Yusuf Ladan
Squash Sam Galadima - Chairman Dele Oludare Bola Mogaji	Cricket Alh. Kabiru Usman
Scrabble Toki Aka - Chairman Nelson Ushie Prince N. Kolawole	Special Sports Dr. Abebe - Chairman Kwesi Sagoe Chime Anosike
L/Tennis Sani Ndanusa - Chairman Wing Com... Yemi Owoseni	Traditional Sports Prof. Andrew Ajidua - Chairman Mrs. A. Yust...
Karate Uchenna Nwokedi -	Archery Mallam E. F. Yusuf Chairman
Taekwando Aliyu Rambo	Table Tennis Brig. Gen. Victor I...
Rugby Arch. Williams - Chair	Volleyball Alh. Gumen - Chair...
Swimming Gov. Dan...	Badminton Dr. Laure Glover -
Archery Arch. Williams - Chair	Table Tennis Brig. Gen. Victor I...
Table Tennis Isaiah Gowon - Chairman Johnathan Isinaj	Table Tennis Brig. Gen. Victor I...



Chairman Mohammed goes for a back-hand volley during a tennis tournament in Kaduna.

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**Eagles, Lone Stars
rekindle rivalry**

The Super Eagles and the Lone Stars of Liberia will rekindle their 2002 World Cup qualifier hostilities on a neutral ground next week.

The two teams will be involved in a N5 million Four-Nation Invitation Tournament billed for Iran between August 5 through 12.

The Iranian Football Federation extended the invitation to the two teams to participate in a fiesta intended to tune-up the Iranian national soccer side ahead of their Asian zone World Cup qualifiers.

Similar invitation was extended to Iraq while Togo will replace Liberia if the

By Patrick Andrew
 George Weah-financed side fails to honour the invitation.

Already, the NFA has accepted the invitation with the intention to use the matches to expose some of the home-based who featured in the last stages of both Nations and World Cup qualifications.

NFA Secretary-General, Tijani Yusuf, gave the names of some of the likely players to feature in the tournament as John Utaka, Duke Udi, Kelechi Okoye, Justice Christopher, Sani Abacha, Eric Ejiofor, Rotimi

Sunday, Austin Ejide, Pius Ikedia, Ishola Shuaibu, Andrew Nworgu, Friday Nwodu, Efe Ehiroro, Patrick Ovie, Rabi Afolabi, among others.

Yusuf explained that Iran will be bankrolling the airfare, accommodation and logistics for the participating teams in addition to offering \$30,000 and \$20,000 respectively for the second and third winners.

The scribe said the tournament will serve to tune-up the players for the Nations Cup and World Cup, noting that the NFA wants to prepare the Eagles properly for these championships.



Ecstatic: Tennis rising star, Andy Roddick of United State in a hysieric mood after defeating Pete Sampras...recently.

Super Eagles midfielder Austin Okocha shields the ball against Sudan's Mohammed Khalil during their World Cup qualifier in Port Harcourt.

Keshi heads to Holland for coaching course

The Super Eagles Assistant Coach, Stephen Keshi, is to proceed to Holland for a two-week refresher course, the Nigeria Football Association (NFA), has announced.

NFA Chairman, Dominic Oneya, said the coaching course is one of the series of courses arranged for the Eagles technical crew. The refresher courses are intended to shape up the crew and keep them abreast with the modern technique of the game.

The trio of Amodu Shuaibu, Stephen Keshi and Joe Erico made history last Sunday when they led the Super Eagles to qualified for the 2002 World Cup.

Ironically, foreign technical adviser, Johannes Bonfrere, had almost facilitated Nigeria's ouster in the World Cup race but for the clarion call of Nigerians for his dismissal, a development that threw up the trio for a rescue mission.

Oneya said that with Keshi proceeding on refresher course, a start would have been made of giving indigenous coaches the needed technical support and encouragement to assume the highest technical responsibility in the country.

The NFA, he said, was fully aware of the magnitude of the World Cup, hence the need to equip the technical crew with the necessary technical knowledge.

Strands of Fate: written & illustrated by Bulama Mustapha

