

## ADAMAWA 2007



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## STAR FEATURE

Hajj 2006:  
Catalogue  
of trials  
and tears



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EFCC probes  
aviation ministry,  
parastatals

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## TRUST DIALOGUE

# Bad leadership cause of corruption - Speakers

The Vice Chancellor of Bayero University, Professor Attahiru Jega, Executive Secretary, PANAFSTRAG, retired General Ishola Williams and the Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Mallam

By Sufuyan Ojeifo,  
(Special Correspondent)

Nuhu Ribadu, yesterday struck a note of consensus that bad leadership remains the fundamental problem of the Nigerian nation.

They were guest speakers

at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Trust Annual Dialogue with the theme, "Corruption: The Trouble with Nigeria," held at the Ladi Kwali conference hall of the Sheraton Hotel and Towers, Abuja and witnessed by the cream of personalities from across the country.

Professor Jega said he shared the position of world acclaimed novelist, Chinua Achebe, in his celebrated book, "The Trouble with Nigeria", which he (Achebe) said, "simply and squarely the failure of leadership...the unwillingness or inability of its

leaders to rise to the responsibility, to the challenge of personal example, which are the hallmarks of true leadership".

According to him, "I still cast my votes for Chinua Achebe: The trouble with Nigeria is decisively that of leadership! Corruption has become such a profound problem and is giving our country

and us trouble, only in the context of the failure of leadership", adding that, "in other words, because of the poverty of leadership which has bedeviled our country, corruption has become a serious troubling issue".

He argued that there is "phenomenal corruption in our country because there is a profound failure of leadership generally and in the fight against corruption in particular.

"If the truth is to be told with very few exceptions, our

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SEE MORE STORIES AND PICS  
ON PAGES 5, 6, & 7



L-R: Representative of the Emir of Ilorin, Magaji Nda of Ilorin, Alhaji Salihu Woru Mohammed, Governor Ahmed Sani of Zamfara State, Chairman of the occasion, Major General Garba Ali Mohammed (rtd) and ACF Chairman, Chief Sunday Awoniyi at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Trust Dialogue held in Abuja... yesterday.  
Pic: Kennedy Egbonodje.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Term: Senators quiz Mantu

Senators at a session behind closed doors yesterday were said to have grilled Deputy Senate President, Alhaji Ibrahim Mantu, on how the tenure option of three terms of four years found its way into the proceedings of the National Assembly Joint Constitution Review Committee.

A subcommittee of the Mantu panel had proposed three options on tenure including the one that would give President Olusegun Obasanjo and state gover-

By Habeeb I. Pindiga,  
Assistant Political Editor

nors a chance to go for a third term. During the executive session that lasted almost two

hours, senators fired salvos at Mantu and chairman of the subcommittee that made the contentious proposal, Senator Omar Hambagda.

Mantu, according to a dependable *Daily Trust* source, replied that members of the subcommittee had

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## Dariye Probe: EFCC presents exhibits

Officials of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), yesterday appeared before the Plateau State House of Assembly's special committee investigating allegations of financial impropri-

From Andrew Agbese,  
Correspondent (Jos)

ety against the governor, Chief Joshua Dariye and presented 20 documents as exhibits to substantiate their allegations.

The EFCC team led by Mallam Ibrahim Lamorde, a director in the anti-graft body, said the documents which includes various photocopies of bank cheques, bank drafts, letters of authorisation, as well

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## FIFA stops Feb 17 NFA splinter election

The world football governing body, FIFA, has asked the Nigeria football stakeholders to stop immediately, the process for the conduct of the February 17, elections into the Board of the Nigeria Football Association, NFA.

The world body yesterday in Cairo, Egypt - venue of the African Cup of Nations billed to commence today, - met with representatives of the football stakeholders' forum and Mr. Nduka Irabor, the chairman of NFA Electoral Committee for the Kano elections, which returned Alhaji Ibrahim Galadima as NFA chairman.

FIFA Deputy Secretary-General, Jerome Champagne, presided over the meeting that also involved Dr. Amos Adamu, the newly elected FIFA Executive Committee, NFA Acting Secretary General, Fanny Amun, Mr. Irabor and three representatives of the stakeholders' forum,

By Ismaila Umaru Lere,  
Assistant Editor

namely, Amanze Uchegbulam, Chairman of Stakeholders Forum, Alhaji Ahmed Shuaib Gara and Mr. Pinnick Amaju, chairmen of Gombe FA and Delta FA respectively.

*Daily Trust* gathered that the FIFA chief expressed dismay over the unsavoury development which followed the NFA elections in Kano and the role played by the

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# News

## Trust dialogue *Cont. from pg. 1*

crop of leaders have essentially been self-serving rulers, some even despots and not leaders in the true sense of the word. They lack(ed) vision, focus, selflessness and even enlightened self-interest.

"Our leaders are unimaginably corrupt; they are greedy; they are vindictive; they are reckless and in many fundamental respects, senseless. Virtually whoever has access to power abuses it. The exceptions are very few indeed. "There is perhaps no other country in the world where power corrupts and absolute power corrupts as absolutely as in Nigeria. Our consistent or persistent ranking on the global corruption index testifies to this".

Jega noted that corruption was not peculiar or original to Nigeria but observed that the way in which it has been allowed to be the underlying framework of public and official conduct has ensured that the basis of genuine progress and development of the nation and her people has been "greatly circumscribed and profoundly constrained by it".

He said that Nigerians aspire that good governance would be nurtured and institutionalised so that their fundamental needs could be satisfied, stressing that "one of the most significant aspects of good governance is transparency and accountability, or simply put, uncorrupt conduct in the discharge of one's assigned responsibilities".

"Unfortunately," he said, "absence of transparency and accountability, as well as general decent conduct is now the norm rather than the exception in this country. Nigerian public officials, whether elected or unelected, exude not only power, but also corruption and this is manifest in the way they walk, talk, dress and generally conduct themselves".

The university don was of the opinion that if the public sphere could be reformed and corruption decisively dealt with, the nation would go a long way to address the malaise and ineffectiveness in governance.

"Reform is needed but the problem is not with reform per se but with the way it is conceived and executed. For let there be no mistake about it, the process of dealing with, or fighting corruption can itself be corrupt, either advertently or inadvertently.

"For Nigeria to progress, we have to cure ourselves of those terrible ills which have afflicted us and bogged us down as a people and as a nation. We have to root out the culture of arbitrariness which has become embedded in our way of doing things.

"We have to decisively tackle corruption and abuse of office. We have to revive and entrench the culture of open, impersonal public conduct and doing things by the book; in accordance with established rules and regulations. It is significant to introduce or reintroduce mechanisms for checking excesses and lawlessness in the discharge of public responsibilities.

"Entrenching a culture of transparency, accountability and due process is a signifi-

cant move that must be made to put Nigeria on the path of progress and self-sustaining development; otherwise, we would continue to muddle through chaotic and disoriented processes of governance which would only continue to shatter the aspirations and expectations of Nigerians rather than help meet their fundamental basic needs".

General Williams in his presentation pointed out that he concurs with Nikolayevith Tolstoy in his classical book, "The Kingdom of God is Within You," that governments in time, without exception, the most despotic and the liberal alike, have become organisations of violence employing four methods, to wit: the first and the oldest is intimidation, the second is corruption, the third is hypnotizing people and the fourth is military enforcement.

He noted that all these are features of the Obasanjo administration. Williams said that there are so many laws in place for building a solid legal framework to minimize corruption if they can be enforced in a way that justice is "transparently done within a period of not more than six months by special courts or tribunals.

"Notwithstanding the present situation in which cases brought by the EFCC are given speedy hearing by the judiciary, the same cannot be said of ICPC and the Code of Conduct Bureau (CCB) Tribunal. The CCB remains a secret governmental institution that protects the illegal acquisition of wealth by politicians and other public officers.

"There is a possibility that if we carry out a study on the veracity of the assets of information filed at the CCB, 90% of the information will not be true presently and in the future. This is one area where the government has refused to make the necessary law establishing the CCB and its tribunal.

"We do have three Bills with the National Assembly that is, the Procurement Commission Bill, the very important Fiscal Accountability and Transparency Bill, the Civil Society sponsored Freedom of Information Bill (FOI), which may make it unnecessary for open declaration of assets by public officers including elected officers and the Whistleblowers Bill, which is yet to go through its first reading.

"There are deliberate efforts by the National Assembly to ensure that civil society sponsored bills like the FOI and the Whistleblowers bills which can oblige them to be transparent, ethical and honest in their private and public lives do not see the light of day".

Williams slammed the activities of Corporate Nigeria, which he said on two occasions "have given money to a particular candidate in 1999 and 2003", stressing that "those who lead that group have now been rewarded through influence peddling, economic benefits and lucrative positions in the public and private sectors.

"This is not a good way to minimize political corruption. May I suggest that all business contributions to

political parties and candidates be made through Corporate Nigeria which becomes a Foundation. This Foundation will scrutinize parties internal governance, transparency, accountability and manifesto before donations.

"Independent popular political candidates at all levels with incorruptible antecedents and future commitments to people centred government will be fully supported. Corporate Nigeria Foundation can be the change agent in our political party system, culture, governance and funding.

"It will banish crooks and thugs who, with unknown sources of funds with some obtained through inflated government contracts, shady deals and trading".

On his part, EFCC chairman, Mallam Nuhu Ribadu, told the gathering that no society can rise above its leadership, stressing that "a society advances or fails primarily because of its leadership and it is the leadership that steers the people in whatever direction they must go, for good or ill.

"Regrettably, the leadership we have been unlucky to be saddled with for most of our lives as a nation has been that which has exhibited incompetence at the highest level. This has manifested in poor management of resources, both human and material. It can also be seen in the army of sycophants and blind loyalists who owe their sustenance and allegiance only to their benefactors.

"Rather than encourage and promote the virtues of accountability, respect for the rule of law and patriotism, the leadership we have had destroyed institutions that sustain the growth of society, unleashing on the rest of the people an army of blind loyalists with the explicit instructions to do whatever it will take, including brazen theft and violence to strengthen their stranglehold on power.

"The past leadership that Nigeria has had, unfortunately encouraged tribalism and nepotism. Many of those who disguise as national leaders are just petty tribal masquerades whose vision does not go beyond the hazy horizon of self-aggrandizement and self-perpetuation".

According to him, "we need leaders that are honest and courageous; leaders that have guts to take the best decisions for the country no matter how unpopular doing so may make them today".

He stated that some of the leaders we have had in the past employed "populist stunts to deceive the populace into believing that they had a 'listening ear', whereas, populism was just a ploy to divert attention from the pillaging of the nation and total destruction of the future of the people".

He said, "our nation needs a visionary leader; one that sees the promised land and is determined to take us through thick or thin, not one that sees Nigeria as his promised land, already flowing with milk and honey, to steal and fritter away to build a 'populist' base and maintain a cult of loyalists to sustain himself in power".

## Oyo crisis: MUP calls for nationwide strike

By Emmanuel Bello,  
Political Editor

Nigerians have been enjoined to come out en masse and join in the strike action embarked on by the Oyo state labour organisations and government workers as governor of the state.

The call, made by the Movement for Unity and Progress (MUP), is coming at a time when the Oyo State crisis has drawn flack from Nigerians of all walks of life. The movement also described as "unbelievably scandalous" the query of Chief Lamidi Adedibu to the former governor who reportedly said that "Governor Ladoja receives N65 mil-

lion as security vote monthly, don't you think I'm entitled to quater of it?"

The statement made available to *Daily Trust* also read in parts "like all patriotic Nigerians, the Movement for Unity and Progress feels greatly disturbed and distressed by the event that unfolded in Oyo State last week. We are all the more disturbed and frightened due to this scandalous pattern of evils in Nigeria, wherever an elected official; state governor, a party chairman, a

presiding officer in the legislature etc, takes a dissenting view or gets into some argument with a so-called godfather always degenerate into mayhem.

"The movement for Unity and Progress expresses solidarity with labour organisations and the Oyo state government workers who have gone on strike in protest against this rape of our constitution. We urge all Nigerians to emulate them. We must not allow members of the Oyo state House of Assembly, their collaborators and sponsors to benefit from the proceeds of the crime they committed against our laws."

## Dariye *Cont. from pg. 1*

as written statements obtained from banks were submitted to the committee to substantiate the commission's case for the governor's impeachment.

The exhibits which were received by the chairman of the special committee were marked "A" to "T".

However, the amounts involved were not mentioned neither were contents of the letters and statements.

Some of the exhibits showed several withdrawals from mainly four banks namely, Lion Bank, Intercontinental Bank, Allstates Trust Bank and Diamond Bank.

But further proceedings on the exhibits tendered were stalled by the submission of the Commissioner of Justice and Attorney General, Barrister Clement Dakas, who complained that the freezing of the accounts of the government on the orders of the courts based on an exparte motion by the EFCC, was inappropriate and may grind to a halt, the activities of the government and the committee.

He argued that since it was the state governor and some officials that were being investigated, it would amount to over reaction on the part of the EFCC to punish the government and the state.

The commissioner appealed to the EFCC that it was in its powers to ask the courts to defreeze the accounts of the state in order not to jeopardise governance as well as the ability of the committee to carry out its task.

He said that since the EFCC would be requiring the officials of the state government for interrogation, it would be apt if the committee adjourns sitting while allowing the EFCC a chance to meet with the officials while at the same time, trying to ensure the deterioration of the state government's accounts.

But the EFCC's representative complained that the freezing of the Plateau state government's accounts is to check cases of arbitrary withdrawals by few individuals in the state, adding that it would not be necessary to adjourn sitting for the indicted officials to make appearances at the EFCC's office in Lagos.

But the committee ruled in favour of the Attorney-General, stating that more time was needed for each member of the committee to study the exhibits.

The committee then adjourned proceedings to January 27, to enable members as well as Dariye and the others, study the documents and prepare for cross examination.

## FIFA

*Cont. from pg. 1*

Sports Ministry in the crisis and warned that Nigeria risks international ban should it go ahead to conduct elections into the NFA board by February 17, 2006.

Mr. Champagne, who is in charge of national associations department at the supranational body's headquarters in Zurich, directed that the stakeholders should suspend whatever action regarding fresh elections until its ruling on the issue on February 18.

The world body gave Amun and the stakeholders seven days to prove allegation that there were 20 illegal delegates in the Kano elections.

Earlier on, FIFA had barred Amun from attending the Confederation of African Football (CAF) Congress on Tuesday as representative of the NFA, saying that the former national under-17 team coach is a staff of the Sports Ministry.

Recently, the seven-man Electoral Committee, appointed after the purported January 6 NFA Congress in Abuja to conduct fresh elections in the football house, released guidelines for the February 17 poll. But FIFA's decision yesterday will come as cheerful news for the embattled Ibrahim Galadima-led NFA board, which have been in a tug-of-war with the Sports Ministry over football autonomy.

It will be recalled that the spiraling crisis in Nigeria football took a fresh dimension when Sports Minister Samaila Sambawa annulled the Kano polls and a stake holders meeting in Abuja on 6 January set in motion plan fresh elections to be conducted before Febru

## Third term *Cont. from pg. 1*

powers to include their opinions in their report and that in any case, the report merely leaked but was not officially released. But some senators insisted that there was more to it than meets the eye in the proposal because it never surfaced at the previous hearings the subcommittee held.

Disclosing the outcome of the session to National Assembly correspondents shortly after the stormy session, chairman of the Senate committee on media and public affairs, Senator Victor Ndoma-Egba, said the session was convened to douse heightening agitation among senators over the controversial proposal.

Ndoma-Egba confirmed that Mantu was put to task to answer series of questions from the agitated legislators and after discussions, it was resolved that a comprehensive time-table for the constitution review should be provided in the next few days.

"During the executive session, we had the opportunity of dousing whatever the anxiety and whatever doubt senators have on the progress of work by the constitution review committee. The deputy senate president who is the chairman of that committee had the opportunity of briefing us and at the end, it was agreed that a time-table for the work should be produced so that we can appraise what they are doing, whether or not they are making progress. Because, right now as it is, their programme is open ended. We don't

know when they are going to finish and we have absolutely nothing to hold them onto. Issues like hidden agenda, third term agenda were raised, and those who should know reassured the senate that nobody approached them on any extension and then the senate as a body still has no request, no material, nothing whatsoever to indicate that there is a third term agenda. But we got that reassurance. The subcommittees and the main committee are merely doing their work and that at the end, it will come to the whole Senate."

Asked whether Mantu had explained how the third term idea cropped up, Ndoma-Egba said, "members of the committee are entitled to their own opinion, they on their own may have generated that (third term)."

*Daily Trust* learnt that a heated argument broke among senators on the propriety or otherwise of continuing with the review process in view of the mounting antagonism. The upper chamber was almost sharply divided between the opposition lawmakers and those of the ruling People's Democratic Party (PDP), with the former insisting that the process must be suspended.

Attempts to reduce the matter to technicalities by Mantu on the grounds that the report was not even out but that it leaked was rebuffed by senators who said since newspapers had serialised the report and Hambagda had been speaking to the press, the matter had gone beyond leakage.

## NEWS

## EFCC probes aviation ministry, parastatals

Following reports of financial impropriety in the aviation industry, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), is set to investigate officials of the ministry of aviation and some parastatals under the ministry for alleged misappropriation and other forms of corrupt practices.

Information made available to *Daily Trust* said the probe has been okayed by the Minister of Aviation, Professor Babalola Borishade while the parastatals to be investigated are the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN), Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) and Nigerian Airspace Management Agency (NAMA).

Others are the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NIMET), the Nigerian Aviation Handling Company (NAHCO), Accidents Investigation and Prevention Bureau (AIPB) and the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja.

According to a statement signed by Mike Nwokoro, the ministry's spokesperson, the minister has directed the acting Permanent Secretary, Dr Imoro Kubor, to inform all affected parastatals to cooperate with the commission.

The statement said the investigation is sequel to a letter by Dr Abdullahi Shehu on behalf of the EFCC chairman, seeking permission to conduct the investigation

By Mohammed S. Shehu,  
Reporter Travel & Leisure

in the ministry and the listed parastatals.

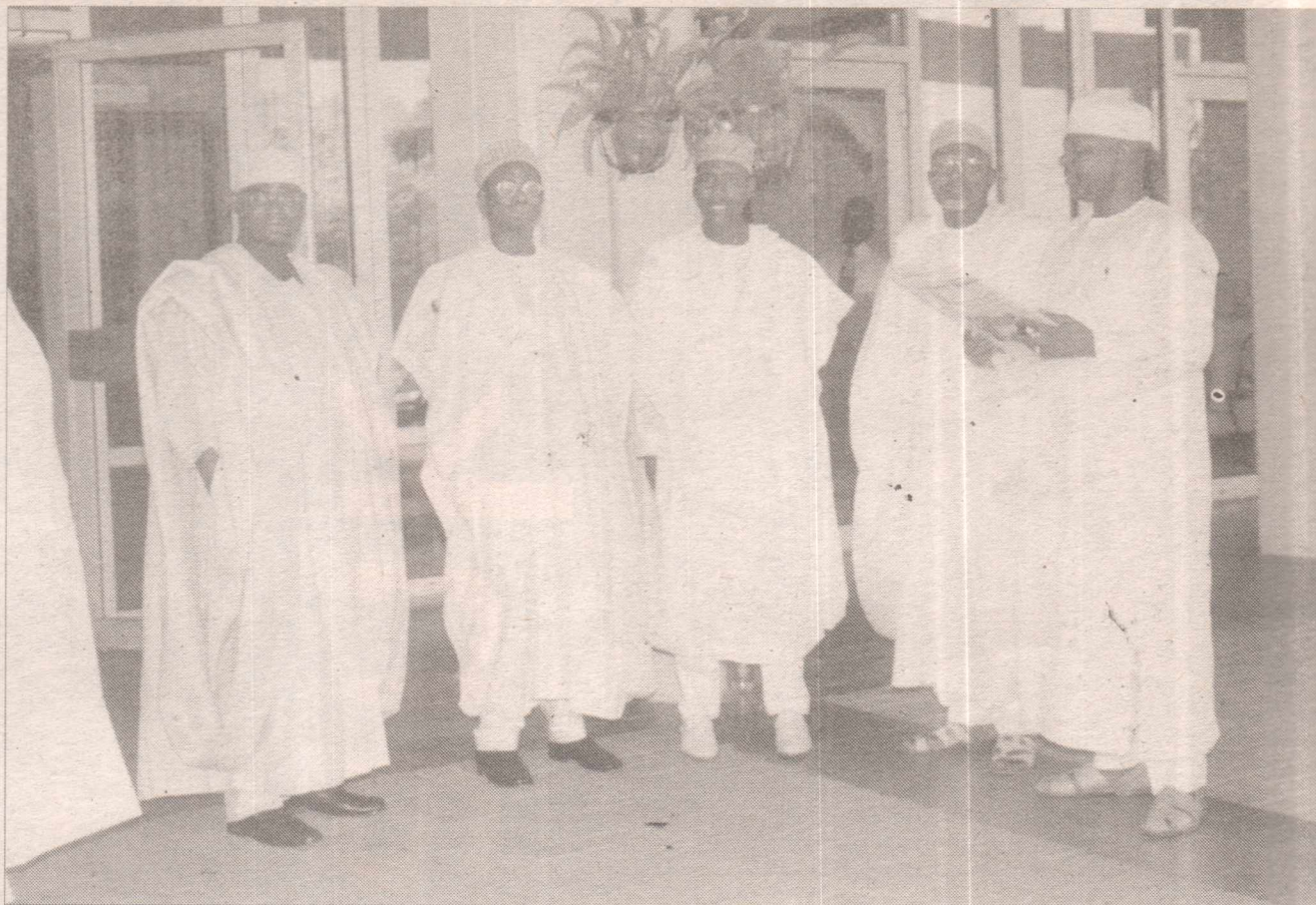
"Professor Borishade who received the letter, directed the acting permanent secretary, Dr Imoro Kubor, to inform all concerned to cooperate with the EFCC," the statement said.

The statement added that the areas to be investigated by the commission includes collection, collation and analysis of information on the operations of airlines in Nigeria.

Other areas include to "understand and explain the factors responsible for air crashes in Nigerian airspace and to suggest policy and practical (including punitive) ways to reduce air crashes and move the aviation sector towards the desired level of safety and transparency," the statement said.

During the investigations, EFCC will also look into business practices and approved procedures for the aviation industry including budgetary allocations and releases to the ministry and its parastatals.

The commission has appealed to stakeholders who have additional information or position papers that could assist the team to determine the extent of corruption and malpractice in the industry.



A cross section of Media Trust Directors: L-R: Executive Director, Operations, Alhaji Isiaq Ajibola, MD/CEO, Malam Kabir Yusuf, Chairman, Board of Directors, Malam Abdulmumini Bello, Directors; Malam Rabiu Garba and Umar Abdullahi at the 3rd Annual Trust Dialogue held in Abuja ...yesterday.  
Pix: Kennedy Egbonodje.

## Saudi evacuates Jigawa pilgrims from collapsing building

Saudi Arabia authorities from the department of Hajj Mission have on Thursday evacuated Jigawa state pilgrims from a collapsing building as a way of preventing a recurrence of the ugly incident that resulted in the death of over 80 pilgrims from Asian countries two weeks ago when a building housing them collapsed.

*Daily Trust* reports that the Saudi officials have during a supervision exercise, realised that half of six storey building that houses over 300 pilgrims from the state including officials of the state's pilgrims board have developed a serious crack at the first and second floors.

By about 12 o'clock Nigerian time, tens of officials of the Saudi government have taken over the building, forcing all occupants to vac-

ate after an initial disagreement from the Nigerian pilgrims.

Reports indicate that already, over 200 of the occupants were on their way to Medina as the remaining 80

were provided with alternative accommodation adjacent to the collapsing one.

Some of the evacuated pilgrims described the development as fortunate and commended the Saudi authorities for promptly coming in

to save hundreds of lives from possible preventable death.

Confirming the development to our reporter, public relations officer to the Jigawa State Pilgrims Board, Sabo Abdullahi Guri, said already all occupants of the cracked building have been evacuated.

"Already, over 200 of the pilgrims resident in that building are on their way to Medina while the remaining 80 have been provided with alternative accommodation," he assured.

Efforts to talk to the Saudi officials who invaded the building failed as the Hajj Ministry officials and their accompanying Metropolitan Police refused to respond to questions.

This development has created fear among other residents of similar storey buildings who say they will now be forced to sleep with their eyes open. According to one of the residents of an adjacent building, Ala Gumel, although the evacuation is a welcome development, he said people will however be in fear as reoccurring cases of either possible falling of building or evacuation in fear of falling building will send fears among pilgrims.

Meanwhile, the Jigawa State Pilgrims Board has assured all pilgrims that efforts are being made by both the state and Saudi authorities to ensure their protection during their stay in the holy land.

It could be recalled that over 80 people perished when a building housing some Asian pilgrims collapsed in Mecca about two weeks ago, forcing the Saudi authorities to initiate a routine inspection of all houses accommodating pilgrims to detect and ensure such accident did not occur again.

## Fire guts Falluja market in Adamawa

The Jimeta main market popularly known as Falluja in Yola, Adamawa state, was on Wednesday gutted by fire in which over 300 shops with goods worth hundreds of millions of naira were burnt to ashes.

Competent sources at the market stated that the incident started at about 6 pm when most of the traders had closed for the day; a situation which escalated the inferno and made it difficult to be contained until the early hours of yesterday.

The chairman of the Foreign Currency Traders Association in the market, Alhaji Usman Imam, who was also a victim, attributed the source of the fire to a generator that sparked off shortly after a trader put it on when the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN), took off the electricity.

"Unfortunately," he said, "the generator went up in flames and when the people around sprayed water in order to put it off, the whole shop went ablaze and before you know it, many shops exploded."

Alhaji Usman stated that the men of the fire service in the state did not help the situation. "The fire actually raged for more than three hours before they came. And the worse part was that when they arrived, the fire fighting trucks had little water in stock".

*Daily Trust* investigations revealed that though no casualty was recorded, the police have arrested many hoodlums, who took advan-

From Hamza Idris  
(Correspondent Yola)

tage of the pandemonium to loot. Further findings indicated that the textile materials section, second hand cloth dealers (*yan Gwanjo*) and the Bureau De Change offices which constituted the busiest center in the market were the worse hit by the fire.

The chairman of the Yola Traders Association, Alhaji Sani Saidu, lamented that the traders are yet to overcome the trauma the state government subjected them to when they were forcefully ejected from the former main market recently without compensation. According to him, "it is now ten months when most of us sold our houses to secure shops here. Look at our condition now! I can tell you without exaggeration that we had to lock many traders in rooms because they had wanted to venture into the raging flames".

Most of the affected traders interviewed frowned at the attitude of the government. Alhaji Ibrahim Baba who lost three shops in the fire, mercilessly lashed the government. "The truth is that our government is insensitive to the plight of the people. It is now more than 18 hours when this incident occurred, but look at the governor and his deputy including all key officers in his cabinet, all of them are at the Government House swearing in new commissioners instead of coming here to commiserate with their subjects".

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## Fuel scarcity hits Port Harcourt

For the third day running, the city of Port Harcourt has been experiencing long queues at petrol stations due to a biting fuel shortage in the city.

*Daily Trust* investigations revealed that the problem started on Sunday and has been getting worse. As at yesterday, only a few petrol stations had fuel with

an attendant long queues of vehicles waiting to refill.

Our reporter gathered that the shortage occurred due to a strike by tanker drivers over an undisclosed reason while others told our reporter that the development was connected with the rising youth restiveness in the region which has led to the destruction of various flow stations owned by the Shell Petroleum Development Company in the Niger Delta.

Some drivers who spoke with our reporter said they were worried that this was happening at the beginning of the year and requested the authorities to do everything possible to arrest the situation. Some of them said they have spent hours waiting to refill their tanks at the petrol stations.

"In some of the petrol stations, only one or two pumps would be working and because of the number of vehicles seeking to refill, one ends up waiting long hours on the queue", one of them told our reporter.

The scarcity is affecting transport fares as motorists have started jacking up fares to some parts of the state. Some commuters were complaining that it was insensitive for government to allow that happen at the beginning of the year when people were just recovering from heavy expenses.

## SIECs oppose tenure extension for LG officials

The Forum of State Independent Electoral Commissions of Nigeria (FOSIECON), rose from a one day meeting in Abuja yesterday expressing opposition to attempts in some states to elongate the tenure of elected local government officials.

The commission in a two page communiqué released in Abuja yesterday, said elections must hold where they were due in conformity with various state electoral laws.

Presenting the group's position to newsmen, FOSIECON chairman, Barrister Malami Aliyu Yandoto, said elections into local government councils would be due in many states by April 29 and advised that the process of conducting the polls should begin.

"That those states whose electoral laws stipulate two-

year tenure for chairmen and members of local government councils should conduct their elections on the 29<sup>th</sup> of April, 2006. This decision is without prejudice to the decision of any SIEC fixing a different date for the elections but not later than 29<sup>th</sup> April 2006. In addition, those states whose electoral laws prescribe three year tenure for their local government councils shall conduct their elections at the expiration of such term on a date to be fixed later." Yandoto also called on states whose electoral commissions were due for reconstitution to do that without further delay.

He announced that the forum would hold its fifth national delegates conference in Abeokuta, Ogun state, from May 16 - 19, 2006.

By Habeeb I. Pindiga,  
Assistant Political Editor

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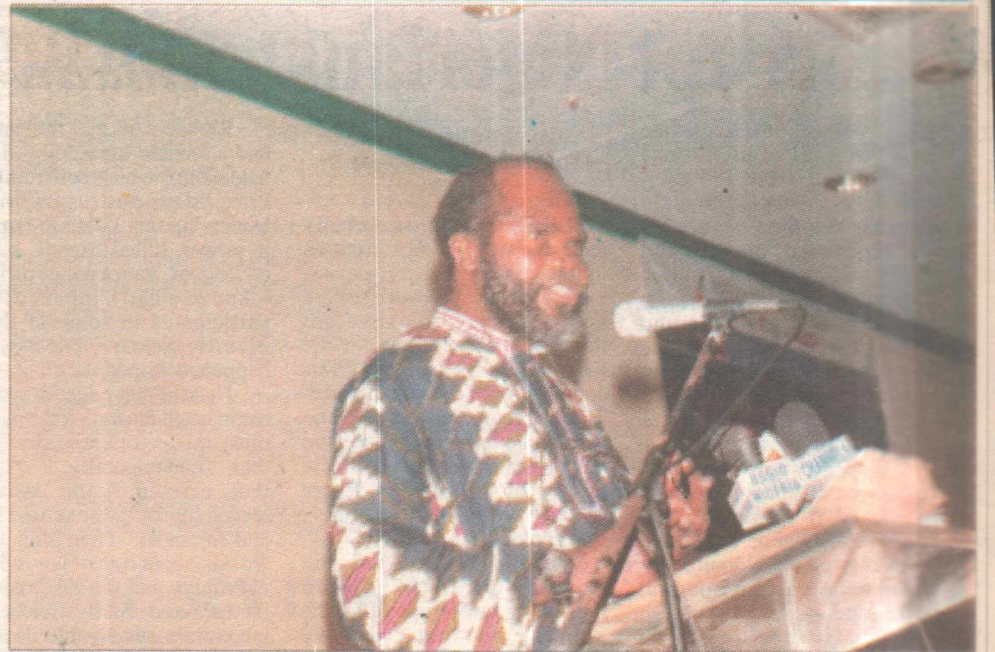
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# News

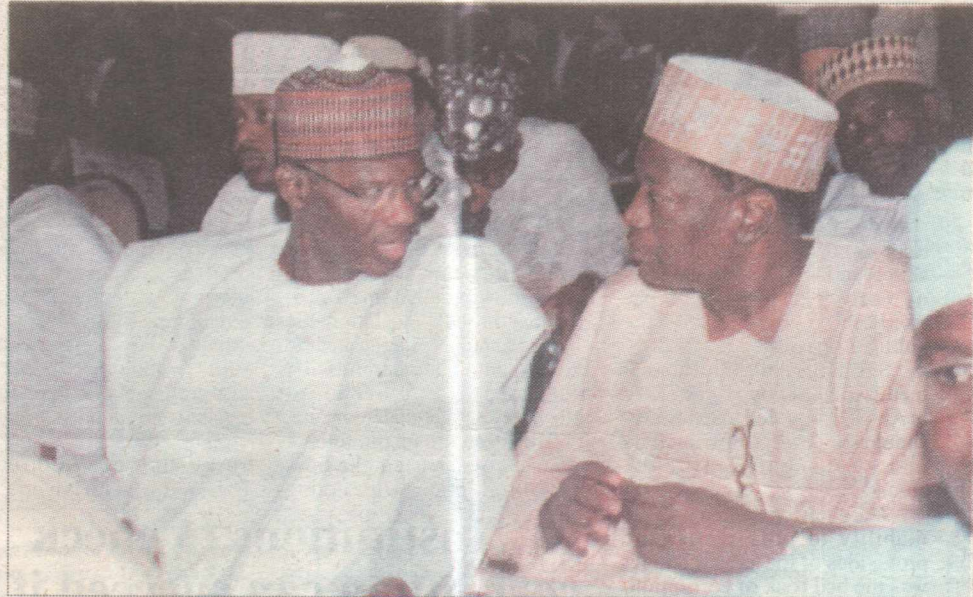
## 3RD TRUST ANNUAL DIALOGUE



Chairman of the occasion, Major General Garba Ali Mohammed (rtd), Chairman, EFCC, Mallam Nuhu Ribadu and ACF chairman, Chief Sunday Awoniyi.



Guest speaker at the occasion, General Ishola Williams (rtd), presenting his paper.



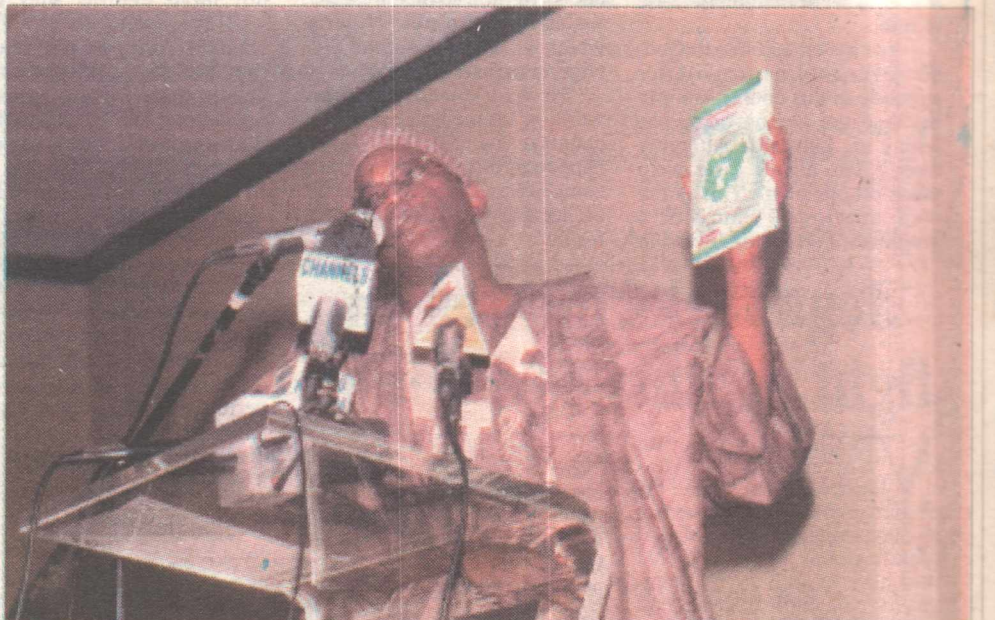
Mallam Wada Maida, former MD, NAN (R), discussing with the Managing Director of Heritage Press Ltd, Alhaji Ibrahim Ismail (L).



A cross section of dignitaries.



Cross section of guests at the ceremony.



Reviewer of the "Book" Dr. Sanusi Abubakar.



Hajiya Halita Aliyu, (L) and Bilya Bala, a Director of Media Trust.



R-L: Ag Editor, Daily Trust, AbdulAzeez Abdullahi, Editor, Weekly Trust, Hajiya Zainab O. Suleiman, Manager, Media Trust Special Projects, Mr. Leke Adelere and others at the ceremony.  
Pix Kennedy Egbonodje

# 3RD TRUST ANNUAL DIALOGUE

## N500 billion recovered from corrupt Nigerians — Ribadu

Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Mallam Nuhu Ribadu said yesterday that the Commission has recovered money and property worth over 500 billion in naira and dollar terms from corrupt public officials and individuals, vowing that the Commission would smoke out more corrupt public office holders from their hiding places in the months ahead.

Ribadu, who was guest speaker at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Trust Annual Lecture, titled "Corruption: The Trouble with Nigeria", reviewed the efforts of the Commission at combating corruption and concluded that thirty-five convictions have been got by the Commission through prosecution of corrupt public and private persons.

He said that President Olusegun Obasanjo should be commended for giving him the chance to do the work he is doing at the Commission, pointing out that he does not place "no-go areas" on the commission in the discharge of its assignment.

According to him, "For the first time, he allowed us to do our work even when it affected those who were the closest people to him. By the time we went after the Inspector General of Police, by whatever definition, he was one of the closest persons to him, the nation's Chief Law Officer.

"When we approached him and said this is the case we have, he said go ahead and he allowed us. The same thing, for God's sake, when we said we have a problem with the National Assembly, some of the people involved were extremely close to him.

"He never, I swear to God, he never told us to go after anybody in this country simply because the person disagrees with him. I swear to Almighty God, Allah, all the cases were taken on our own. This is my own opinion. I am not a politician; I am not involved in

By Sufuyan Ojeifo  
(Special Correspondent)

politics. "But this is somebody today we are fighting corruption in this country and you can see visibly clearly the work we are doing. Today, we have got thirty-five convictions for the first time in the history of this country; it has never happened. There are so many people who were in government before and it has never happened in the history of this country where we have got convictions, thirty-five convictions".

Ribadu stated that the Commission has recovered money from corrupt officials, pointing out that "we have recovered money and property well over 500 billion from naira to dollar because for the first time we brought powerful people, individuals to justice including Governors, Ministers, National Assembly Members, Chief Executives of Corporations in Nigeria, Bank Officials and we are going to go after more whether they like it or not.

"This is happening under the leadership of President Olusegun Obasanjo. He allowed us to do it. Whether you agree with us or not, it is something that is making a difference in this country. It is something that is going to help us move forward. It is something that I believe is a solution to the problem that we are talking about".

The EFCC boss called on Nigerians to brace up as "the war is just beginning and Nigerians must partner with the present administration to root out corruption so that, together, we can build a new Nigeria, which we can all be proud of, a Nigeria we can stand for".

He had a word for those working for the break up of the country, saying nothing would happen to this country as it has come to stay and added that "the earlier we realize that, the better for us".

Ribadu said that the nation had a terrible leadership in the leadership, which according to him, "distorted everything, leadership that killed to remain in power, killed friends, killed colleagues. I am a police officer; I know what happened; we participated in some of these investigations; I know what happened to people".

He said that Nigerians must begin to tell the truth if the nation must move forward, stressing that "fundamentally, I believe that, of course, the issue of leadership has to be settled first and foremost. Then after that, we talk about rule of law, which is primary and the substructure for a secured orderly society and guarantees sustainable development because its absence portends danger, anarchy and tyranny".

According to him, "Without the rule of law, there will be no chance and that is one of the biggest problems facing our country. At any given period in the history of people and society, there will always be a challenge facing the people.

"Today, I think our fundamental problem is that we are a lawless people and we do not understand the culture of following rules and regulations; we do not understand what accountability is; we do not understand what transparency is.

"Indeed, the society gets very good service done in jurisprudence where it is said that if you do not have up to eighty or ninety per cent of willing followership, chances are that nothing will work in any country. It is true. If you do not have people who will willingly want to abide by whatever rules or regulations that are set, go by what is acceptable, follow rules or regulations, follow the law, there is no way such a society can ever move forward".

He alluded to the recent Hajj operations and expressed his dismay at the shoddiness of the operation, which he said underscored the fact things were yet to be okay with the country.

"We do not do anything properly and correctly. Just to organize ourselves to go and perform Hajj and come back, we cannot do it", he stated, and challenged the rationale behind a Governor's decision to sponsor one thousand pilgrims for the Hajj, at the expense of public fund.

"How can anything work under this kind of situation? It is not possible. What sort of people are we? Are we living in the 18<sup>th</sup> century? But because we are breeding leaders who want popularity among their people, who would sacrifice whatever is for the common good, just to make them popular, just to make them remain where they are and they do not mind even if what they are doing is going to cause the death of people, they do not care as long as it is going to make them popular.

"But, meanwhile, they will leave million of our boys as *almajiri* (street urchins) roaming the street shamelessly", he declared.

He made a case for the strengthening of law enforcement agencies and the judiciary as the primary bodies that must act correctly and rightly in the crusade for propriety, "because it is their responsibility to direct others, bring people to justice and ensure that things are done properly".



Representative of Aliko Dangote, chief launcher, at the occasion, Shuaib Idris, General Manager, Dangote Group of Companies, launching the book at the occasion. Pix: Kennedy Egbonodje.

## Media Trust chairman wants EFCC laws reviewed

Media Trust Ltd Chairman Abdulmumuni Bello has called for the review of the laws on corruption to effectively tackle the menace in both the public and private sectors.

Speaking at the third annual media trust dialogue yesterday in Abuja, Bello said that the laws should be reviewed to include non implementation of the annual budget.

The chairman noted that the inability to fully realise the provisions of the annual budget was the bed rock of corruption.

He said that EFCC's mandate to check corrupt practices had been effective in the private sector, but noted that the reverse was the case in the public sector where corruption was mostly perpetuated.

Bello, who commended the EFCC for curbing corruption in the society, also appealed for media collaboration to ensure total success of the campaign.

Also speaking, Senate President Ken Nnamani said that the National Assembly had as part of its commitment in the fight against corruption legislated for an enabling environment for transparency and

accountability.

Nnamani, who was represented by the Chairman Committee on Media and Publicity Victor Ndoma Egba, said that through legislation, the Code of Conduct Bureau and the Public Complaints Commission had been strengthened to effectively deliver their mandate.

He urged the media to be a vanguard of change in the fight against corruption, while noting

that the war should be fought collectively by all.

"The media should be a scourge to corruption, the enormous resources of intellect and information available should empower it to investigate official public conduct, and energize anti-graft agencies to realise the legislative mandate," he said.

The theme of this year's trust dialogue is "Corruption: The Trouble with Nigeria".

## 'Institutions to check corruption can succeed if...'

Major General Ishola Williams, (rtd), a leading anti corruption crusader, said that laws and institutions put in place to check corruption can only succeed if they are enforced and empowered in a way that justice is transparently done within a period of not more than six months by special courts or tribunals.

In a paper he presented yesterday at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Trust Annual Dialogue, Williams noted that fighting corruption has to begin with ensuring transparency in the running of political parties especially in the

area of financing to curb what he called "political corruption".

"All political parties in Nigeria have had bad internal accounting practices, no systematic procedures for succession to leadership, no respect for democratic elections for party executives and candidates cumulative powers in the hands of a one-man leader of the government and party".

On the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), he suggested that, "the President must have nothing to do with INEC and its funds must not come through the Presidency. Like the anti corruption agencies, INEC must be a good and incorruptible professional body that must be firm, fair and non partisan in regulating the affairs of political parties in terms of good, transparent and accountable parties in our country."

He cited the emergence of new consumerism attitudes across the nation as signs as well as prompters of corruption, saying, "see how fast shopping malls, eateries and petrol station are being built. These shopping malls and eateries will soon wipe out traditional markets and bukaterias as we know them and that in turn will affect our cost of living and then increase our greed not our needs".

## Investigate the president, Galadima tells EFCC

Alhaji Baba Galadima, former Managing Director, Nigeria Ports Authority, has called on the EFCC chairman to investigate the president in a bid to convince Nigerians that government is honestly committed to its anti-corruption stance.

Alhaji Baba who made the observation at the just concluded Media Trust dialogue held yesterday in Abuja, also enumerated instances of

corruption by the president. "Sometimes in 2002, the president tried to tamper with the electoral bill and blamed it on the printer's devil. I want my younger brother, Nuhu Ribadu, to probe that."

He said that the president also collected the sum of two billion dollars as jumbo foreign loan and has not explained how it was spent. He said that rigging of election is another instance of corruption.

## Jega tasks masses on fight against corruption

Vice Chancellor of Bayero University, Prof. Attahiru Jega, has placed the challenge of fighting corruption credibly at the doorstep of civil society groups pointing out that they have to do more by intensifying the mobilization and mass enlightenment of the citizenry on the dangers posed by corruption to the progress of a nation.

Prof. Jega who presented a paper at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Trust Annual Dialogue titled "Corruption: The Trouble With Nigeria," yesterday in Abuja, noted that "civil society groups have a great role to play to bring about a desirable and credible fight against corruption as well as in the restoration of due process, transparency and accountability in governance."

The university don further said that civil society groups have "to intensify efforts at anti corruption advocacy and mass mobilization of citizens about the dangers and damaging impact of corruption and lack of respect for due process as well as for popular struggle against corrupt public officials, adding that they have to do this while focusing on all levels of governance, federal and local."

He said the fight against corruption in the nation "indeed needs more credible, whistle-

By Isa Sanusi

blowers' at all levels of governance. This, he added, can only be achieved through popular participation by an appropriately enlightened and mobilized citizenry."

Fighting corruption, he further said, has to be systematic, using multi proved strategies which are doggedly pursued: "otherwise, anti corruption campaigns would be essentially weak and easily lose legitimacy by relying on tokenism and merely targeting a select few scapegoats."

Professor Jega expressed hope that the commendable work of the EFCC would not be subverted by the inadequacy or lack of political will by those at the high echelon of political power who merely parrot the rhetoric of the fight against corruption, transparency, accountability and due process, while in reality, their words are not matched by their action.

"The problem of corruption is acute and unimaginable and, yes, we should stop pretensions and wishful thinking and do something decisive to tackle it. But Nigeria will not be killed by corruption; we would rather kill it before it kills us. That is the challenge before all patriots."

# 3RD TRUST ANNUAL DIALOGUE

## How the day went

By Emmanuel Bello

The Master of Ceremonies (MC), Malam Ishaq Modibbo Kawu started the day by welcoming the guests gathered and promptly invited, to the high table, some of the dignitaries. The time was 10.12 in the morning and the hall was already getting suffused with invitees from all work of life.

After the opening prayers, the chairman of Media Trust Nigeria Limited, organiser of the event, Alhaji Abdulmuminin Bello gave his welcome address in which he set the tone of the event. Observing that only a few people in the country are active in fighting corruption, he said that even the EFCC often concentrates in the private sector. He said that the public sector, however still remain the bastion of corrupt practices.

Dressed in *Babbanriga* and a matching cap, the chairman noted that one of the factors responsible for corruption is lack of budget discipline. He said that the National Assembly must have a law in place to enable the EFCC prosecute the failure to implement budgets by government.

On the chairman of the EFCC, Malam Ribadu, Alhaji Bello said he has never met him before "until today." He recounted how the EFCC boss solved a crucial problem for him without asking for a reward, observing that "it was the first time a policeman will help you, return your change and will not ask for anything. I have never heard of a policeman who brought back change."

After the chairman's remarks, the Senate President, Senator Ken Nnamani represented by Senator Victor Ndoma Egba, Senate committee chairman on Media and Publicity gave his address. He said that the choice of "corruption" as the theme of the dialogue was apt especially as the government is waging a renewed war on corruption.

Senator Ndoma Egba, dressed in a sharp suit, said he was grateful to represent the Senate President because "if he had come, I'll not have the opportunity to put in a word or two of my own."

His speech was followed by the book review by a member of the Media Trust editorial board, Dr. Abubakar Sanusi did the review and it was an exercise in the academics as the economist did a summary of the relevant points raised in the previous edition of the dialogue.

The launching proper followed with the representative of the chief launcher, Alhaji Aliko Dangote making a donation of an undisclosed amount. Others bought copies of the book for various sum.

The first speaker took the rostrum after the book launch. General Ishola Williams (rtd) spoke, followed by Professor Attahiru Jega, Vice Chancellor of BUK. They all examined the subject of corruption from the academic point of view. While the former gave it an international focus, the latter examined the theoretical framework of the concept.

But the EFCC boss's dissertation on the topic almost had the day as he expounded on the issue, even as he drew from both historical and practical examples. His delivery generated much heat.

After Ribadu's lecture, comments from the floor were taken and some guests, Alhaji Buba Galadima, being the most prominent, spoke on the subject. Later, Chief Sunday Awoniyi, Governor Ahmed Yerima of Zamfara state and others also spoke on the subject of corruption.

The event eventually came to a close after the executive director of operation, Malam Ishaq Ajibola gave the vote of thanks.

### Side attractions

The third *Trust* dialogue held yesterday at the expansive Ladi Kwali hall of the Sheraton Hotel and Towers, Abuja. The hall, filled to capacity waited in anticipation for the keynote address to be delivered by the chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Malam Nuhu Ribadu. Immediately he took the rostrum, the swash buckling, no-nonsense cop said he had no time for protocols because of time constraints. He, however acknowledged the presence of the Zamfara state governor, Alhaji Ahmed Sani Yarima and "my own excellency: Chief Sunday Awoniyi."

Delivering a speech laced with zealotry, Malam Ribadu went for the jugular and accused the military and second republic politicians of the NPN days of perpetrating and ensuring that corruption persist. He said that the phenomenon probably dates to the earliest times in the nation's history and contended that military officers made it popular. Although he did not mention names, he pointedly accused the leaders between 1979 to May 1999 of corruption, even as he pointed out how corruption was institutionalised. "I was in London and I saw houses of Majors and Colonels in the army who were lucky to be in the good books of government. These people are the caterpillars who ruined the economy and ensured that our nation was brought to its knees."

### Style of delivery

Malam Ribadu, dressed in a black suit did not mince words as to the enormity of what he was about to say. Quaking with fury and with his hands on his lips, the EFCC boss declared: "Let me start by saying that maybe what I'll say will be a bit unpalatable to those gathered around here. Maybe it will not go very well. Maybe I'm not even the right person to make these statements because of my inability to hide things. I just speak straight from my heart. I always bring out what my experiences are all about. What I'm telling you now is not an academic paper because I wrote about 28 pages and it is my experience."

He then went into an attack on corrupt tendencies in Nigeria blaming it on the culture of greed, the desire for inordinate wealth and the extended family. He also lambasted Nigerians for extolling rich men whose source of wealth remained dubious.

### Kontagora refused to speak

Consummate soldier and presidential hopeful, General Mamman Tsoho Kontagora (rtd), pulled a stunt when he refused to accept an invitation to speak. The army general was called upon to speak but he declined. Thereafter, some guests tried prevailing on him to talk, but he remained adamant and unmoved. At a point, *Media Trust* MD had to 'rescue' the general from hecklers who were goading him to speak. "Leave teh General alone. He is my gust. If he doesn't want to talk, leave him alone," the MD said.

### Ibrahim Isyaku's anger

While Malam Ribadu spoke, frontline politician of the NPN fame, Alhaji Ibrahim Isyaku, began protesting vigorously. Later he told *Daily Trust* that Ribadu needs to get his facts right. "Where is the eight billion naira Gowon left for him and what about the two billion naira jumbo loan?"

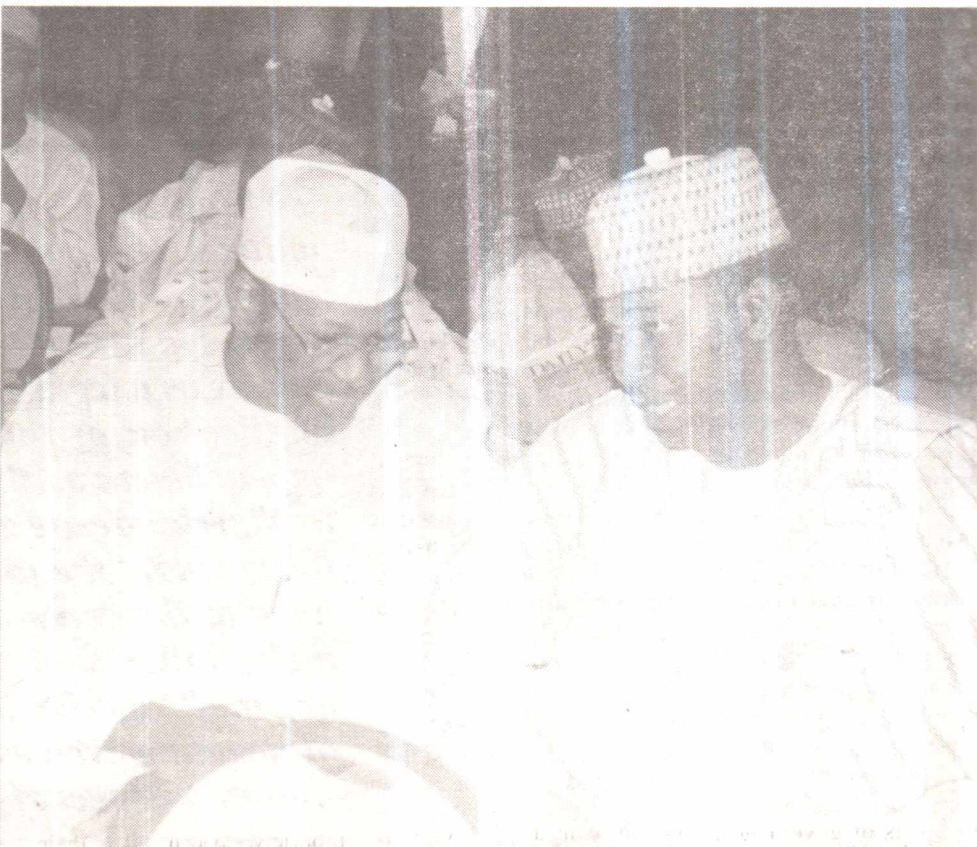
He said that contrary to Ribadu's position, corruption began during the Obasanjo regime. He counselled the EFCC boss to go and "learn more."



A cross section of participants at the 3rd Annual Trust dialogue held in Abuja yesterday.



R-L: Secretary, Board of Trustees, ANPP, Alhaji Gambo Magaji, Professor Idris I. Abdulkadir, ABU Zaria and others at the 3rd annual Trust dialogue held in Abuja yesterday.



Professor Attahiru Jega, VC, BUK (left) discussing with another guest at the occasion. Pic: Kennedy Egbonodje.

## Opinion

# Incompetence: Mr Obasanjo, please clean up this house!

I have just returned from paying my respects to the family of Abdullahi Musa Argungu, a fellow journalist working with the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA), Kaduna. His sudden death appears to be directly related to the stress caused by his inability to perform this year's hajj. He was one of those pilgrims on a flight that actually left Nigerian soil and was turned around over Chad because of over loading — this happened despite the fact that many of the flights first leaving Nigeria for hajj had empty seats.

Abdullah was one of the at least 14,000 (and probably more) Nigerian intending pilgrims who were unable to fulfil this obligation. They were frustrated and helpless in the face of massive bureaucratic blunders, outright incompetence and deception on the part of those whose job it is to plan for this yearly pilgrimage.

Pilgrims from Nigeria are some of the worst treated in the world. They are commanded to come to the airports days and weeks ahead of flights. There they wait in and around the airport praying and hoping for some word as to when they would be airlifted. They sleep on the floor, and on their luggage. They are like beggars

exposed to the elements, foraging for food, using the little money they have left to feed themselves, and sometimes their families. The hajj committee knows about these problems, but no plan is made to cater for these pilgrims. There are hajj camps around the country, but the conditions within these camps are terrible. But, the hardest conditions are for those left in airports and airport parking lots. Some have even died while waiting there.

There is a National Technical Committee on Hajj specifically appointed and paid to arrange the trips for all of those wishing to attend. It's not as though these people don't know what the task is, or have time to plan for it. It happens every year and the time frame is evident.

This committee apparently chose to bring what we commonly call the Nigerian factor so that they can do their (*chuwa chuwa*) scheming by lining their pockets with ill-gotten money. The president trusted these so-called Muslims to do the right thing for their brethren, some of whom have been saving for years and will never make it to the holy land because of this incompetence and outright

By Lawal Muhammad Dangkaladima

fraud — this was their first hajj and maybe their last chance to make the trip.

The way this happened should open the eyes of all Muslims in Nigeria to the fact that we cannot always blame others for our misfortunes. And, although there are those who will say "it is the will of Allah," can it be the will of Allah to deter his servants from carrying out His command? Or, would you say it is the will of Allah for

his servants to lie, cheat, and steal from their fellow Muslims? No! We must put the blame squarely where it belongs — on those charged with the responsibility.

The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Alhaji Abubakar Tanko and the Chairman of the Hajj Committee, Prof Abubakar Gwandu were called before the National Assembly and questioned as to the preparations for this year's hajj. They assured the House of Representatives members that all was ready and that the

problems that had plagued pilgrims in prior years would not happen again.

Unfortunately, these people were less than honest, or at least not properly prepared, as we see that thousands of pilgrims were denied their right to attend this year's hajj pilgrimage.

So, who do we blame for this tragedy? Some want to blame President Obasanjo; others this year's *Amirul* hajj, Senator Ibrahim Mantu. However, neither of these men was in charge of making the preparations, only for appointing those responsible. In fact, President Obasanjo, although not a Muslim, has shown his concern for the plight of the pilgrims. Senator Mantu, entering the picture during the final days of preparation, assured all pilgrims that they would be airlifted. He was not able to carry out his promise due to the negligence on the part of the hajj planners.

We feel that those whose job it was to plan this event are those who should take the entire blame. They have perverted the holy pillar of Islam. They, as Muslims, have betrayed their own Muslim brothers and sisters, as well as the leader who appointed them. The

president should waste no time in giving these incompetents who shirked their responsibilities the boot. He should immediately canvass the Muslims in those states where the airlifts were carried out without a hitch to ascertain how this was accomplished and he should immediately solicit from all the Muslim communities for the names of honest and trustworthy Muslims who have the skills to put together a strategic plan that will result in a flawless pilgrimage during the next hajj. Contracts must be executed with professional and trustworthy airlines; plans must be made for the well-being of the pilgrims before they leave, and guides should be appointed to see to their needs throughout the pilgrimage. This is no more or no less than is done by other countries. As a predominantly Muslim country, and one whose government has involved itself in this operation, it is incumbent on Nigeria to show the rest of the Muslim world that it is not the bumbling, incompetent idiot that it has seemed to be in the past.

Lawal Muhammad Dangkaladima of Zuba, Reporter, FRCN Kaduna.

***"So, who do we blame for this tragedy? Some want to blame President Obasanjo; others this year's Amirul hajj, Senator Ibrahim Mantu. However, neither of these men was in charge of making the preparations, only for appointing those responsible. In fact, President Obasanjo, although not a Muslim, has shown his concern for the plight of the pilgrims. Senator Mantu, entering the picture during the final days of preparation, assured all pilgrims that they would be airlifted. He was not able to carry out his promise due to the negligence on the part of the hajj planners."***

So many Nigerians are yet to recover from the shock that was the necessary reaction following the not-so-right manner in which the "erstwhile" governor of Oyo State, Senator Rashidi Ladoja was removed from office recently. I watched in amazement as Yusuf Ali (SAN) battled to save his client without success and I could not help but agree in the end that the learned Senior Advocate of Nigeria was right to suggest that the panel set up to investigate Governor Ladoja was merely acting out a script that was handed down to it by someone, somewhere who was clearly the puppet master that orchestrated the events leading ultimately to the impeachment of the governor.

Much as I am troubled by the political implications of the events leading to the governor's impeachment, I am more disturbed, particularly as a legal practitioner, by the implication of this mockery of an impeachment on the judicial process in Nigeria.

We are all conversant with the saying, "the judiciary is the last hope of the common man," but like many other such sayings, Nigeria and the "Nigerian factor" have a way of negating even established laws of whatever aspect of life, be it physics, medicine

## Ladoja's impeachment: Implications for the judicial process

By Maxwell Kyon

or in some cases even nature.

I am not one to take a pessimistic view of things generally, but over times I have come to realise that very soon, we will get to the point in our country, if we are not careful, when the judicial process will be buried and cast into the rubbish bin of history because of the manner in which all of us members of the bench and bar have allowed this once sacred estate of the realm to fall into so much disrepute.

There have been a lot of calls for the acting CJ of Oyo State to resign in the face of the clearly questionable manner of his handling of the matter of the now infamous *Ladojagate* saga. Allow me to join my small but firm voice to those calls.

It is indeed surprising nay disgusting to find a CJ so bent on following a wrong path that he would demonstrate his lack of respect and utter disdain for a system which he is by his position called to preside over.

In the face of a court order made by a judge of the High Court urging the parties in an action filed by the governor seeking the interpretation of Section 188 of the 1999 Constitution to maintain the *status quo* pending the

determination of the matter before him, the acting CJ went ahead to set up a panel comprising seven men to investigate the governor.

We were told that the counsel to the CJ, Mr Lekan Ladapo, even signed an undertaking on behalf of his client pledging to maintain the status quo pending the determination of the

substantive motion for an injunction before Honourable Justice Balogun Yusuf. This undertaking however was not honoured as the CJ went ahead to set up the controversial investigative panel. On concluding its investigations which were fraught with unconstitutionality, the panel came to the conclusion that many, including my humble self, view as a foregone

conclusion particularly in the light of the entire circumstances which surrounded the activities of the panel.

Interestingly enough also, in composing the panel, his Lordship who ought to know better went on to appoint three card-carrying members of the registered political parties in Nigeria into the panel, an act clearly against the provisions of section 188 (5) of the 1999 Constitution which Section empowered him to set up the panel in the first place. In so doing, My Lord, the CJ of Oyo State decided to pick and choose from which portion of the said section of the constitution he was willing to follow in doing his duty in the Ladoja impeachment saga.

In all, the manner in which the entire proceedings that led to the impeachment of Senator Ladoja were carried out leaves much to be desired.

I agree with those who have suggested that the panel that was set up was illegal and unconstitutional *ab initio* particularly in the light of the foregoing. Since it is a trite principle of law that "you cannot put something on nothing and expect it to stand," it is obvious that the

conclusion of the matter is thus "Senator Ladoja is still the Executive Governor of Oyo State *de jure*."

We will all keep our fingers crossed and watch events as they unfold in Oyo State, I am of course one of those who believe that the last is yet to be heard of the *Ladojagate* saga.

It is however pathetic to note that slowly but surely, some members of the judiciary, which is supposed to be our last hope as common men, are bent on ultimately leading us down the road to the total and final destruction of democracy in Nigeria.

I join members of the Nigeria Bar Association (NBA), Oyo branch in calling on all lawyers to boycott the court of my Lord, Justice Adeniran to press home the point to his Lordship that the bar will not be party to any attempt to bring the Third Estate of the Realm to disrepute.

I will not end this piece without calling on the National Judicial Council to review in its totality the drama involving the acting CJ and his role in the Senator Ladoja impeachment saga and come up with its position on the matter. Nigeria awaits you.

Maxwell Kyon is a legal practitioner based in Kaduna, Kaduna State.

***"Much as I am troubled by the political implications of the events leading to the governor's impeachment, I am more disturbed, particularly as a legal practitioner, by the implication of this mockery of an impeachment on the judicial process in Nigeria. We are all conversant with the saying, "the judiciary is the last hope of the common man," but like many other such sayings, Nigeria and the "Nigerian factor" have a way of negating even established laws of whatever aspect of life, be it physics, medicine or in some cases even nature."***

# REFORMING NIGERIA



## YOUR LETTERS

# The agony of stigma

Only a few people living with HIV/AIDS escape the stigma and discrimination that are often associated with the disease. Many people perceive their misfortune as punishment for errant and wayward lifestyle. Those who deny our shared humanity argue that drug addicts, sex workers, homosexuals bring the deadly virus on themselves. They tend to forget that it could have been them.

Stigma has been defined as a "powerful and discreditory social label that radically changes the way individuals view themselves and are viewed as persons" (De Bryn 1998). In other words, stigma is a powerful means of social control applied by marginalising, excluding and exercising power over individuals who display certain traits.

It is important to mention here that there are two categories of stigma viz: Felt stigma and Enacted stigma. (Jacoby 1994). Felt stigma is the feeling that individuals harbour about their condition and fear of being discriminated against on account of illness. Enacted stigma on the other hand is the actual experience of discrimination. Felt stigma often precedes enacted stigma and may limit the extent to which the latter is experienced.

HIV/AIDS is no doubt a disease that has decimated communities leaving behind orphans; torn families and communities apart and robbed people of a life with dignity and hope for a better tomorrow. HIV/AIDS pandemic is perhaps more catastrophic than terrorism. It might not be inappropriate to say that it is the greatest threat to human security and development. In the words of Jeffery Sachs (former Harvard

economist and now advisor to Kofi Annan), 'this single epidemic can undermine Africa's development over the next generation'. All these are no news. What needs to be emphasised is that stigma and discrimination suffered by people living with HIV/AIDS have worsened their conditions and at the same time threatens the success of prevention efforts.

People living with HIV/AIDS are driven underground because they fear the prejudice and intolerance of a society that is not prepared to accept them. As a result, the epidemic continues unabated and has become a social problem. This makes discrimination more hazardous because people will not disclose their HIV status when they test positive for fear of how they would be treated thereby continuing the spread of the

virus. While stigma and discrimination may be invisible, their effects could be devastating. In some instances, they can cause severe depression and despair in the lives of people living with HIV/AIDS while preventing others from getting tested and consequently placed on treatment. The danger of this is that it causes those at the risk of infection and those already infected to continue practising unsafe sex in the belief that behaving otherwise would raise suspicion about their HIV status.

It is unfortunate that responses to the HIV/AIDS pandemic and its accompanying stigma have been mainly reactionary and driven by ignorance, which results in the violation of the rights of people living with the disease. This has made it very difficult to implement policies made to

combat the spread of the disease.

Although HIV/AIDS is not transmitted in the majority of workplaces, since most of the activities that go on in workplaces such as discussions, shaking of hands and eating together do not promote infection, many employers have acted under pressure from other employees to sack those found to be HIV-positive and refuse to employ those that are known to be positive. In fact, it is now common practice for employers to force prospective employees to undergo an HIV test before employment. This discourages many People Living With HIV and AIDS to be open about their status at their workplace, as they live under constant fear that someone at work could learn of their secret. The danger of this is that it creates an atmo-

sphere that interferes with effective prevention by discouraging individuals from coming forward for testing and from seeking information on how to protect themselves. It is amazing that one could be sitting next to a person living with HIV/AIDS at the marketplace, bus or even in a church without being perturbed but the moment one gets to know that someone is HIV-positive, he becomes an object of ridicule and mockery.

That the United Nations declaration of commitment on HIV/AIDS puts stigma and discrimination on top of the agenda by calling for strategies that address the epidemic in frank terms is a clear indication that international organisations, civil and political leaders agree that more needs to be done to fight stigma; but the dilemma is many people are reluctant to address it di-

rectly, frankly and be positive role models. Government's political will to confront this problem is not yet backed up with expected results.

MSF in Nigeria has a project in Lagos State for HIV/AIDS patients and presently has about 1,000 patients under its care in collaboration with the Lagos State Hospital; this is a step in the right direction, and MSF employs people living with HIV/AIDS. I believe, however, that more can be done especially in the area of advocacy against stigmatisation and discrimination of PLWHA just as we are doing campaign on the Access to Essential Drugs; MSF can carry the crusade against stigma beyond the confines of the relatives of their enrolled patients or even beyond their project locations.

*Emeka Nwadike, Maitama, Abuja.*

## Enough of deceitful act by our so-called amala democrats

Permit me a space in your newspaper to comment on the above as it affects our march towards 2007 elections in Nigeria. Politicians are said to be the most tolerant species as they can be able to withstand any challenge. To abuse or accuse a good politician even if unsubstantiated, he can maintain his temper and forge ahead with what he believes is good for his people as accusation makes a good politician to correct his mistakes if any.

Today's amala democrats as I call them proved me wrong. They are intolerant and cannot stand opposition, as they view every move as a challenge to their authority. If not, how can someone understand the placing of a poster or erection of billboard as a crime? The use of thugs in different names similar to terror-

ists is common in our march towards 2007. The very constitution that brought the present leaders into limelight has given everyone the right to vote and be voted for unless if there is anything contrary, but our amala democrats are bent on making themselves rulers where might is right.

As we move towards the 2007 elections, we begin to see clearly their exact colour: from those who are campaigning for the third term to those who are trying to become the Hitlers of our time. Contrary to beliefs that democracy will bring peace, harmony, cordial relationship and fundamental human rights, the reverse is now the case. In today's amala politics, we begin to see assassinations, maiming and intimidations in almost all the states of the federation. The worst of all is the issue of third

term perpetrators and executed by some faceless governors, senators, ministers, members of the House of Representatives and some elite who form the famous 'any government in power'.

The democratic government that was formed in 1999 to date was gallantly fought and enshrined so as to take the country forward. As we salute the courage of those who risked their lives for our sake, we equally pass a vote-of-no-confidence on those who tried to smuggle the infamous constitution amendment during the National Political Reform Conference. As we salute those on the fight for true democracy, we equally condemn those who believe in back-door democracy.

We also salute those who believe in free and fair electioneering, we then castigate

those who believe in imposition and manipulation. It is on record that those who test the will of God will always fall like a pack of cards.

Finally, I will not end this call without mentioning most particularly the triple episode of Borno, Bauchi and Gombe where undemocratic act is on display. The three governors should exercise caution and allow the voice of opposition to be heard. They should also allow their would-be opponents free movement.

Let me also remind them that in Borno State, we all know the famous SAS and now GAS drama in respect of chasing Mala Kachalla from the Government House. Also in Gombe, we are witnesses to Yah Kalabo drama when Abubakar Hishmohammed was about to be pardoned from the Government House in

Gombe State. While in Bauchi, we cannot easily forget the 'Tsoho sai Gadi' episode in trying to defeat Baba Ajiya.

If this very governor will find it morally right in staging that tactical campaign at that time, then they have no right now to stop their opponents from exercising their right of aspiration through legitimate means. We urge the Inspector-General of Police, Mr. Sunday Ehindero, to check the excesses of his Commissioners of Police in various states of the federation, with Area Commanders, Divisional Police Officers. As we have hope in the present IGP, he showed professionalism in the handling of the Apokin episode. *Alhaji Sa'adatu Sulaiman, Mohammed Belwa, Kungwaru, Bara, Bauchi, Misala, Bauchi State.*



# PETROLEUM TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT FUND

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The closing date of submission of completed forms is February 14<sup>th</sup> 2006.

**SIGNED:**  
**M.O.Asuku**  
**For: Executive Secretary**

# Trust International

## World Report

### Memo stokes 'terror flights' row

The US may have used UK airports to transport terror suspects more than the government has admitted, a leaked Foreign Office memo suggests.

Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said there had been two cases in 1998 but last December's memo, leaked to the New Statesman, said "there could be more".

It advises the government to avoid detailed questions on "rendition", and stress their anti-terrorist purpose.

Opposition parties have demanded more government transparency on the issue.

Foreign Secretary Jack Straw told MPs on 12 December that only two cases, in 1998, had been found where such transfers were approved, and none had been found since 11 September 2001.

On 10 January this year, Mr Straw told MPs a further case, also from 1998, in which the government "declined a US request to refuel a flight carrying two detainees in route to the US", had been discovered by officials.

The memo at the centre of the row, written in early December and apparently designed to prepare Tony Blair for questions about the flights, said officials were urgently

examining the files.

"We cannot say that we have received no such request for the use of UK territory.

We think we should now try to move the debate on from the specifics of rendition

"The papers we have unearthed so far suggest there could be more such cases," it says.

It adds: "It does remain true that we are not aware of the use of UK territory or airspace for the purposes of extraordinary rendition.

"But we think we should now try to move the debate on and focus people instead on (US Secretary of State Condoleezza) Rice's clear assurance that US activities are consistent with their domestic and international obliga-

tions and never include the use of torture."

The memo suggests that Whitehall officials were worried that US activities may be illegal under international law.

"In the most common use of the term - ie, involving real risk of torture - it could never be legal because this is clearly prohibited by the UN Convention Against Torture," it says.

New Statesman political editor Martin Bright told BBC Radio 4's Today programme:

"What the advice is saying is, 'Look, this is almost certainly illegal. We do not really know whether it has been going on our territory, but let's try and spin ourselves out of this situation and try and move the debate on'."

The EU is neglecting human rights in favour of securing trade deals or co-operation on anti-terror measures, a human rights group has said.

In its annual report, Human Rights Watch said the UK in particular was ignoring abuses in Russia and Saudi Arabia to secure business contracts.

And it accused the US of having a deliberate strategy of abusing terror suspects during interrogation.

The US dismissed the report as "based more on a political agenda than facts".

White House spokesman Scott McClellan said the United States did "more than any country in the world to advance freedom and promote human rights".

The EU... continued to

### EU under fire over human rights

punch well below its weight

"We have liberated 50 million people in Afghanistan and Iraq, people that lived under oppressive, brutal regimes, and now they are living in freedom and they have human rights that previously they were denied," he said.

He said Human Rights Watch (HRW) should focus on countries that violate and deny people their liberties, not on the US.

There has been little public reaction to the report from European governments.

The rights group said before Mr McClellan spoke that White House reassurances that it does not torture should not be believed.

Most computers will open

PDF documents automatically, but you may need to download Adobe Acrobat Reader.

Download the reader here President George W Bush "continues to offer deceptive reassurances that the United States does not 'torture' suspects, but that reassurance rang hollow", the report said.

The country's resulting lack of credibility on human rights issues left "a global leadership void when it came to defending human rights".

The 544-page annual report said 2005 was marked by a "continuing tendency to subordinate human rights to various economic and political interests".

### US moves diplomats out of Europe

The US is to reduce the number of its diplomats posted to Europe, and will send more to other countries, including China, India, Nigeria and Lebanon.

"America must begin to reposition our diplomatic forces around the world," Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said on Wednesday.

She said it was an anomaly that the US had the same staff levels in Germany as in India, more than 10 times the size.

She said the redeployment would help foster democratic and economic change.

Ms Rice told students at Georgetown University that President George Bush's administration was committed to "transformational diplomacy".

The philosophy was an attempt "to seek and support the growth of democratic movements and institutions in every nation and culture, with the ultimate goal of ending tyranny in our world," she said.

"Transformational diplomacy is rooted in partnership, not in paternalism," she said, adding that it was based on "doing things with people, not for them."

Although the state department has 7,440 diplomats in foreign countries, there are nearly 200 world cities of more than a million people in which the United States has no formal diplomatic presence, she said.

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# Trust International

## Africa

### Ivorians keep up anti-UN protests

Anti-UN protests are continuing in Ivory Coast despite a plea for calm by President Laurent Gbagbo, the UN says.

At least 200 youths are burning tyres and throwing stones outside a UN base in the main city, Abidjan, a UN spokesman told the BBC.

Roadblocks have been set up in the city and many people cannot get to work.

On Wednesday, Mr Gbagbo called for his supporters to end attacks on UN peacekeepers and urged the people of Abidjan to return to work on Thursday.

He issued a statement aft-



President Laurent Gbagbo

er meeting Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo in an effort to restore calm.

Protests by Gbagbo supporters erupted on Monday after international mediators recommended dissolving parliament, whose mandate has expired.

A UN spokesman says the protesters are trying to provoke the UN troops.

Earlier on Wednesday, some 2,000 Ivorians loyal to Mr Gbagbo surrounded the UN headquarters in Abidjan, and were held back by tear gas and rifle fire.

More than 300 troops were forced to withdraw from two UN bases in the west of the country after clashes killed at least four protesters.

The UN Security Council has expressed "great concern" at the unrest.

Ivory Coast has been split in two since a failed coup attempt in 2002, with rebels controlling the northern half of the country.

In his statement issued late on Wednesday, Mr Gbagbo assured supporters that only the president and prime minister can decide whether to dissolve parliament, a fact he said had got lost in the fury

of the past few days.

Nevertheless, the BBC's James Copnall in Abidjan says it remains to be seen whether Mr Obasanjo's mediation will bring the situation back to normal.

Following the mediators' move, the ruling FPI party pulled out of the transitional government and UN-backed peace talks, and called on the 10,000 French and UN troops keeping the peace to leave.

Our correspondent says the pro-Gbagbo group, the "Young Patriots" are in control of virtually all the main streets in Abidjan.

Former colonial power France has expressed concern and called for calm. The head of French defence staff has called for sanctions against Ivory Coast.

The UN Security Council will consider possible responses, including sanctions, at a meeting on Thursday, said council president Augustine Mahiga of Tanzania.

International mediators were appointed by the UN to help steer the country towards elections, which were due to be held last year but were postponed because of the continued instability.

A battle for livestock between Ethiopian and Kenyan nomads has left 38 people dead in drought-stricken northern Kenya, officials and aid workers said Thursday.

Dongiro warriors crossed into Kenya from Ethiopia Friday and attacked Turkana herders to steal their animals, said Njenga Miiri, district commissioner for Turkana. The fighting killed 30 of the raiders and eight Kenyan women and children.

The clashes took place in the remote village of Lokamaring along the Kenya-Ethiopia border, about 260 miles north of the regional capital of Lodwar, said Lucas Ariog, an aid worker in the area.

News of the battle only reached Lodwar Thursday morning.

Millions are at risk of famine in eastern Africa because of drought. Preliminary assessments show those affected include an estimated 3.5 million in Kenya, 1.75 million in Ethiopia, 1.4 million in Somalia and 60,000 in Djibouti.

Cattle rustling by nomadic tribes in the semi-arid region is common and tribes in the area frequently do not respect national borders. Aid workers have expressed concern that as water sources dry up and livestock continue to die, such attacks will become more common.

### Battle in Northern Kenya Leaves 38 dead

Miiri said the attackers were from the Naita area of southern Ethiopia and were carrying Kalashnikov assault rifles. He said they were apparently trying to raid the Turkana settlement to steal 300 cows and goats.

Kenyan police and soldiers have been dispatched to the area, he added.

Efforts to help the region's

hungry have also been troubled in Ethiopia by a low-level conflict between the army and separatist rebels in the eastern part of the country. In recent months, trucks carrying food aid have been attacked and burned.

Violent clan disputes, a spillover from the feuding warlords in neighboring Somalia, have deterred aid workers and the UN from entering the region.

### UK cuts Ethiopian government aid

The UK has suspended all aid to the Ethiopian government over concerns about its commitment to human rights.

The money will instead be given to aid agencies or local authorities, UK Development Minister Hilary Benn announced on a visit to Ethiopia.

Ethiopia Prime Minister Meles Zenawi was seen as a key British UK ally.

The United Nations estimates 1.75m Ethiopians in the south are in desperate need of food aid and has issued an urgent appeal for help.

Mr Benn did not disclose how much money would be withheld but it is thought to

be around £50m (\$88m).

He said there had been a "breach of trust" since more than 80 people were killed in opposition protests following disputed elections.

Mr Benn maintained that Britain was still "fully committed to supporting the people of Ethiopia in their fight against poverty".

But he said he was seriously concerned about "the detention of and very serious charges faced by the opposition, the media and members of civil society."

Many of the country's opposition leaders are now in jail.

## OBITUARY

The Management and Staff of **TERRAINA CONSTRUCTION NIGERIA LTD.** Express deep regret and heart felt sympathy over the death of **MR. DANILO DJUROVIC**, the Executive Chairman of **DORNIER AVIATION NIGERIA AIEP LTD.**

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May his kind and gentle soul rest in perfect peace. Amen



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**Mr. Danilo Djurovic**

1954 - 2006

# Trust International

## Odd World



John (C) and Helen Taylor (L) prepare to set off from London in a bid to drive round the world by filling up on petrol less than 50 times in a bid to promote fuel efficiency. They are hoping to cover approximately 28,970 kilometres, (approx. 17,994 miles) across 25 countries, in 70 days (AFP/John D McHugh)

# Stolen car recovered 37 yrs after

A Corvette sports car stolen when it was brand new in New York 37 years ago has been recovered in California and will be returned to its rightful owner, authorities said on Monday.

The 1968 car, which vanished from Alan Poster's garage in the borough of Queens on January 22, 1969, was identified as stolen as it was being loaded on a con-

ainer ship for Sweden last November, US Department of Homeland Security spokesman Mike Fleming said.

The car had recently been purchased for \$10,000 by a man in Sweden who was unaware it had been stolen nearly four decades earlier, Fleming said. Since Poster's insurance at the time did not cover the Corvette's theft and he was never compensated, he is entitled to get it back.

"When the California Highway Patrol contacted him, he said its a miracle. He's very excited about it. He's flying in tomorrow," Fleming said. He said Poster had since moved to California and long ago gave up hope of seeing the car again.

The Corvette, which was

originally painted blue with a matching interior, is now silver with a red interior. It is missing the gas tank, has a new engine and transmission and no longer runs, Fleming said.

California Highway Patrol officer Joe Zizi said investigators had determined the Swedish man purchased the car from a man in Texas, who in turn bought it from someone in New Mexico.

None of them was involved in the theft or aware it had been stolen, Zizi said.

He said that after the Corvette was found to be a stolen car, detectives in New York were contacted and spent a month sifting through about 10,000 archived stolen car reports to find the original owner.

# Couple to drive round the world

A British couple set off on Tuesday for a round-the-world road trip with the aim of setting the

world record for fuel efficiency in a car.

John and Helen Taylor set off in a standard Volkswagen Golf for a journey of 28,970 km through 25 countries, using what they hope will be less than 50 tankfuls of petrol.

The Guinness Book of

World Records will monitor the journey, they told BBC radio.

"We have an independent witness coming with us to observe us. What a gig that is. I'd love to have his job," John Taylor said.

They will be met along the way by a tanker bringing them specially formulated fuel, and will use driving techniques designed to maximise effi-

ency.

But their first challenge will be Tuesday morning traffic from the centre of the British capital.

"The hardest part of the trip is actually getting out of London," Taylor said.

## 100 years old cleric marries one woman thrice

Rev. James Rual Chalk quoted from his favorite book of the Bible, Genesis 2:18 which states: 'It is not good for man to be alone.' Then, for the third time in his 100 years, he tied the knot Sunday with longtime friend Evelyn Johnson, 68 at the House of Mercy.

Chalk preached in the same pulpit the week before on his birthday. A fixture in the community, the preacher (who also works as a contractor) has known Evelyn since 1982. Her husband died in 1999, and his second wife, Lois, passed a year ago after a long illness.

The pastor and his new wife, with their families combined, have four children, 10 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

Pat Griffis, a close friend of the newlyweds, said they now try to discourage Chalk from driving after he got a speeding ticket a few months ago.

## Villagers shun man they believe is dead

Is Raju Raghuvanshi alive or dead? Ask Raghuvanshi, he'll tell you he is alive. But ask his friends and family, and they'll tell you the man you just spoke with is a ghost sent to haunt them.

Believed by his friends and family to have died in prison, Raghuvanshi returned home earlier this month from his short jail stint to shouts of "Help! Ghost!" and the sounds of neighbors locking their doors in his home village of Katra.

"My family thinks I am dead," he said in a phone interview Monday. "They will not permit me to enter my home because they think I am a ghost."

Ostracized by the people of Katra, about 280 miles from Bhopal, he's now living in a nearby village and struggling to prove he's alive.

The best proof he had — that his feet were still properly attached, not turned backward as ghosts' feet are thought to be — was dismissed by villagers.

"argued that they had completed all religious death ceremonies" and he should not have come back to haunt them.

Rural India remains deeply traditional and many in Katra share the traditional Hindu belief that they will be haunted by a ghost if ceremonies are not performed to ensure the soul of the deceased makes a peaceful transition into its next life.

Rumors over Raghuvanshi's death began when he was sent to prison in October for a minor tax infraction.

He fell ill there and was transferred to a prison hospital in another district, from where word spread that he had died and that his body had been cremated because no one had retrieved it.

After being turned away by his neighbors after his release, Raghuvanshi finally went to the police, who are trying to help convince the people of Katra that he is alive, said the area's police superintendent, N.V. Vagankar.

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- i) Applicants have to be registered Nurses with the Nursing and Midwifery Council of Nigeria.
- ii) Must have update license of practice
- iii) Must have five credits at not more than two sittings in 'O' Levels. These must include English Language and one Science Subject (i.e. Chemistry, Physics or Biology).
- iv) Must have at least 2 years Post qualification experience.
- v) Must be sponsored for the course.

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Application Forms can be obtained from the Medical Director, Federal Neuro-Psychiatric Hospital, Barnawa-Kaduna.

OR  
The Principal  
School of Psychiatric Nursing,  
Federal Neuro-Psychiatric Hospital,  
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On payment of a non-refundable fee of N1,500.00 for the application forms.

#### 3. CLOSING DATE

Completed forms should be fully endorsed by sponsors together with photocopies of relevant credentials and two passport photographs to be returned to the Principal (SPN) on or before 23<sup>RD</sup> of March, 2006.

Pretest and interview will be on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2006.

Please NOTE that candidates will be expected to report immediately for the course.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
For MEDICAL DIRECTOR

# Trust International

## Middle East & Asia

### Three top al-Qaida operatives killed

Pakistani security officials on Thursday said at least four top al-Qaida operatives were believed killed in a US missile strike last week, including an explosives expert on the US most-wanted list and a close relative of the terror network's No. 2 leader Ayman al-Zawahri.

The security officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to media, said Midhat Mursi al-Sayid Umar, 52, an Egyptian, was among the four top al-Qaida figures who were in Damadola village at the time of the attack and whose bodies were believed to have been taken away by sympathizers.

The US Justice Department says on its Web site that Umar, also known as Abu Khabab al-Masri, is an expert in explosives and poisons who operated a terrorist training camp at Derunta, near the eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad.

The Web site also says Umar has written training manuals containing recipes for crude chemical and biological weapons, some of which were recovered by US forces in Afghanistan. The site says Umar's exact whereabouts are unknown but adds that he may be residing in Pakistan, and offers \$5 million for information leading to his arrest.

The Pakistani official named two other foreign militants as suspected killed in the missile strike: Abu Obaidah al-Masri, whom he said was the main operations chief for al-Qaida in Afghanistan's eastern Kunar province, which lies opposite Pakistan's Bajur tribal region where Damadola is located; and Abdul Rehman al-Maghribi, a Moroccan and close relative of al-Zawahri, possibly his son-in-law.

Some of the officials also named a fourth man, Khalid Habib, the al-Qaida operations chief along the Afghan-Pakistan border. The officials say he had planned assassination attacks on Pakistan's President Gen. Pervez Musharraf, and is associated with Abu Farraj al-Libbi, a top al-Qaida figure arrested in northwestern Pakistan in May.

All the officials stressed that none of the militants' bodies have been found.

"We do not have any evidence to prove that they have been killed, but we have indications that they were there and were among those bodies that were taken away," one official said, declining to elaborate.

Pentagon officials said they had no information on the reported identities of the dead and CIA spokesman Tom Crispell said the agency could not comment.

Pakistani officials have said the airstrike targeted — but missed — al-Zawahri, Osama bin Laden's top aide. It also killed 18 local people,

country.

Pakistani Information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said the government believed some foreigners were killed in the attack, but authorities had not retrieved their bodies so their identities have not been confirmed by DNA tests.

"As far as our information is concerned, we confirm that there were some foreigners who were killed," Ahmed said. "But regarding their names, we are investigating."

Pakistani Interior Minister Aftab Sherpao told The Associated Press on Wednesday that the bodies may have been taken by a local pro-Taliban cleric, Maulana Faqir Mohammed, who also is being hunted by authorities.

Provincial authorities said sympathizers took the bodies of four or five foreign militants to bury them in the mountains near the Afghan border, thereby preventing their identification.

"Efforts are under way to investigate further," said Shah Zaman Khan, director-general of media relations for Pakistan's tribal areas bordering Afghanistan.

He said authorities were also looking for Faqir Mohammed and another prominent pro-Taliban cleric accused of harboring militants. Both men were allegedly in Damadola and survived the assault.

Intelligence officials say al-Zawahri is thought to have sent some of his aides in his place to an Islamic holiday dinner to which he'd been invited in Damadola on the night of the attack.

Hours after the attack, an Associated Press reporter visited the village, which consists of a half-dozen widely scattered houses on a hillside about four miles from the Afghan border.

### Iran 'wants nuclear compromise'

Iran's top nuclear negotiator, Ali Larijani, says his country is ready to compromise over its nuclear programme.

He told the BBC that Iran was willing to discuss concerns about an alleged weapons programme and offer guarantees.

However, the US and EU said there was no point in further negotiations unless Iran offered fresh proposals.

The UN's atomic watchdog, the IAEA, will hold an emergency meeting on 2 February to discuss whether to refer Iran to the UN Security Council.

Iran denies US and European allegations that it is seeking to build nuclear weapons, claiming it wants the technology for energy purposes alone.

The nuclear activity which Iran has resumed is part of a process which could ultimately be used both to gener-



Pakistani tribal villagers offer prayers at graves of people who were killed by US strikes in Damadola on Saturday Jan 14, 2006 in the Pakistani tribal area of Bajour. Pakistani intelligence agents were hunting Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2006 for the graves of four al-Qaida militants believed killed in a US missile strike whose bodies were reportedly whisked away by their comrades who survived, officials said.

### Fatah, Hamas to avoid violence on vote day

The two main contenders in next week's Palestinian parliamentary elections — the ruling Fatah party and Hamas — pledged to avoid violence on voting day and work together afterward, but a Hamas leader ruled out peace talks with Israel.

The no-violence pledge was a tacit admission by Fatah that Hamas will be a significant factor in the new parliament. Hamas, running for the first time, has been steadily gaining ground on Fatah in the polls — an indication of voter dissatisfaction with the ruling party over widespread corruption and inefficiency.

Fatah has also been bla-

med for its inability to control violence in the Gaza Strip, some of it directly connected to the election.

In Nablus on Wednesday, a dozen Fatah gunmen took over the local court building, demanding that their representative, Jamil Tirawi, be restored to the 21st place on the Fatah voting list after he was dropped to 29th, witnesses said.

In the southern Gaza town of Rafah, a Palestinian was killed when he was shot in the head by Fatah gunmen firing in the air during an election rally, witnesses said.

In Ramallah, meanwhile, Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas told reporters he wou-

ld resign if the new parliament blocks his efforts to make peace with Israel. That was a direct reference to a likely strong electoral showing by Hamas, which does not recognize the presence of a Jewish state in the Middle East and has sent dozens of suicide bombers to launch attacks in Israel that have killed hundreds.

"I struggled and fought for Hamas to come to the legislature," Abbas said, adding that he doesn't mind if Hamas joins parliament as long as he can keep working for peace.

"I won't say if Hamas joins I will withdraw," he said. "There is a political program ... and if I feel I can't implement it, then staying in my chair is not the ultimate goal."

"Maybe Hamas will change its policy, no one knows," he said. "Maybe it will say it will accept negotiations."

However, a Hamas leader on Wednesday ruled out talks with Israel and threatened to kidnap Israeli soldiers. At a campaign rally in Gaza, Mahmoud Zahar said the Islamic group "is not going to acknowledge the ownership of any inch of Israel on this holy land. We are not looking to Israel as a partner now or in the future."

He demanded that Israel release all Palestinian prisoners unconditionally. Otherwise, he said, "There is no option left except kidnapping soldiers and exchanging them for the detainees and prisoners."

Israel and the United States consider Hamas a terror group. Israel has protested Hamas' participation in the Jan. 25 elections and barred all militant groups from campaigning in Jerusalem.

Polls show that Abbas'

ground to Hamas. A poll last week gave Fatah only 35 percent of the vote, compared to 31 percent for Hamas, a 10-point gain for the militant group within a month.

In Gaza, the scene of repeated incidents in which Fatah-linked gunmen have taken over government buildings and attacked election offices, both groups promised to leave their weapons at home on election day.

"We reassure our people that we will work jointly and together after the elections, God willing, to enhance political partnership and strengthen the Palestinian institutions, and to cooperate in the benefit of our people and case," a joint statement said. The statement was prepared during a meeting between two of the main leaders of the Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, a violent offshoot of Fatah, and senior Hamas members.

In Israeli politics, meanwhile, a poll showed support for Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's Kadima Party and the dovish Labor Party growing ahead of March 28 elections, while backing for the hawkish Likud Party was falling.

Kadima would get 43 of the 120 seats in the parliament, up one seat from a poll last week, according to the Dahaf survey published Thursday in the Yediot Ahronot daily. Labor would get 21 seats, an increase of four, and Likud 12 seats, down one, according to the poll of 500 Israelis.

The poll had a margin of error of 4.4 percentage points.

Kadima officials have said they would prefer to form a coalition with Labor if they win. Sharon, who has been in a coma since suffering a stroke,

# Business Trust

## Adamu urges less dependence on oil

Nassarawa state governor, Abdullahi Adamu has reiterated government's determination to neutralize the impact of the nation's over-dependence on oil revenue by shifting attention to the exploration and exploitation of non-oil mineral resources.

The governor spoke during his recent visit to London where he met with some English investors and parliamentarians.

A statement made available to *Business Trust* from government house, Lafia, yesterday said the governor observed that one of the ways of address the situation would be to empower state governments to be partners in the diversification process.

"At the moment, the constitution vests the power to tap mineral resources in the federal government," the governor said.

He told the audience during a lunch at the Hosue of commons, with Miss

By Austine Odo,  
Business Editor

Diane Abbot and Baroness Valerie Amos, both members of the British Parliament, that government was concerned about the welfare of inhabitants of oil producing communities in Nigeria.

This, he said, led to the setting up of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) and the 13 percent derivation for the oil producing states, including other steps taken to make life better for people in those areas.

Also, the governor told his audience Nigerian is still a viable place for investment, despite what might be interpreted by foreigners as the heating up of the polity over the 2007 elections which he said should be viewed as necessary teething problems for a young democracy.

His words "with Nigeria just coming out of dictatorship in the last few years, it is not unlikely that when general elections approach, different groups would jockey for positions and press their claims for power. The third term debate going on in the country is being blown out of proportion by many of the same people who have done much damage for Nigeria".

### Briefs

#### Customs to engage computer literate officers

The management of the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) is set to employ more personnel, who must be computer literate, so that the newly introduced Destination Inspection (DI) scheme can conform to international standard.

Comptroller General of Nigeria Customs Service Jacob Gyang Buba gave the hint Monday at the Apapa Club, Lagos where he addressed senior officers of the service on the DI scheme which became effective January 1, 2006.

He said that with the enormity of responsibilities entrusted on the NCS, there was the need to close the generational gap that had existed in the service since 1991. When the last recruitment exercise into the service took place.

According to him, those to be employed must be Information Technology based, adding that some officers who would be working closely with the ministry of finance and the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) are already undergoing training to ensure that the DI conforms with international standard.

## Global infrastructure urges efficiency in ports operations

The Managing Director of Global Infrastructure, Nigerian Limited, Mr. Lalit Kumar Sehgal has stressed the need for the nation's ports to be efficiently run, as a way enhancing the production and distribution of steel products in the country.

Mr Sehgal spoke to newsmen in Abuja on Wednesday where he observed that for steel products to be produced and distributed effectively, there is need for timely discharge of cargo in the nation's ports so as to ensure that imported raw materials do not stay long in the ports awaiting clearance.

He said Global Infrastructure, the current managers of Ajaokuta Steel Company, Delta Steel Company and Nigerian Iron Mining Company (NIOMCO), is very concerned about steady supply of raw materials to the various plants because delays could cause a lot of damage and loss of resources.

"Steel plants need, steady supply of raw materials. So we have not fully commissioned some of the plants. This is because we do not want to start



Ms. Grace Egbagbe (left), NTA Deputy Director Marketing and Mr. Kehinde Johnson, Corporate and Regulatory Affairs Director of BAT Nigeria at the company's corporate brand launch in Lagos...recently.

## Guidelines delay insurance sector consolidation

From Abdulwahab Isa,  
Business Correspondent  
(Lagos)

Non-release of guidelines for the recapitalisation and consolidation of the insurance sub-sector by the National Insurance Commission (NAICOM) is taking toll on the pace of the consolidation exercise in the sector, *Business Trust* investigation has shown.

Chieftains and operators of insurance firms in an interview with *Business Trust* in Lagos, expressed concern

over the delay by NAICOM in releasing the guidelines that would serve as a guide in the implementation of the consolidation exercise. Nonetheless, with the guidelines not yet in place, various activities towards meeting the stipulated February 2007 deadline have commenced as insurance firms have begun preliminary merger and acquisition discussions.

In an interview with *Business Trust* yesterday in Lagos, Managing Director, Foreign Trust Insurance, Plc Mr. Seun Ajayi did confirmed that his firm was discussing with six undisclosed insurance firms on acquisition, but that it will be eventually narrowed to two when the discussions are eventually consummated. He however, expressed concern on the guidelines which are not yet in place.

He also said his company will embark on private placement as well as going to the market to raise capital to meet the capitalization.

In a separate interview with *Business Trust*, Niger Insurance Plc Assistant General Manager Corporate Planning and Services/Admin and Human Resources, Tony Ojeme said Niger Insurance will undertake both Initial Public Offers (IPOs) and private placements towards meeting the new compulsory recapitalization.

He said the company will hold its completion board meeting very soon where crucial decisions regarding the re-capitalisation would be

taken.

Similar to the on-going reform trend in the banking sector, the minister of finance, Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala in September 2005 announced new recapitalization for the insurance sector. Life insurance business to capitalize to N2 billion, General Insurance business N3 billion and firms undertaking reinsurance business to recapitalize to the tune of N10 billion. While announcing the new capital base, the minister justified government's gesture, saying it was part of the continuing reform in the financial services sector so

that the insurance sub-sector could add more value to the economy by being a mobiliser of funds.

Experts are of the view that the insurance sub-sector, with their present capital base, are not well capitalized to underwrite risks in the oil and gas sector, thus putting off-shore underwriters at advantage of handling huge risks emanating from oil and gas underwriting.

When that policy was unveiled last year by the ministry of finance, insurance operators faulted it on the premise that they were not carried along in arriving at the minimum capitalization.

## Premium pension targets civil servants

Premium pensions Limited has revealed plans to civil servants as some Nigerian Public Sector workers have adopted Premium Pension Ltd as their Pension Fund Administration (PFA), under the on-going contributory pension scheme.

They expressed confidence that Premium Pension Ltd, one of the 7 recently licensed fund operators was selected due to its financial reputation and solid infrastructural standing with a share capital base of N500 million.

A statement from the company said speaking for some of the workers, the National President of the association of senior civil servants of Nigeria, Comrade O. O. Olaitan, at a day stakeholders workshop on the role of PFA's under the new contributory pension scheme, said they have no doubt over the safety of the fund under their chosen PFA. The coming on board of the new contributory

pension scheme became inevitable following the failure of the previous pay-as-you-go system to guarantee pension savings, and which was excessively financed one sided by the federal government.

The new system divides pension responsibility in which the federal government pays 7% as deductions from workers basic salary.

According to Olaitan, workers have embraced the policy and have chosen the Premium Pension Ltd after adequate investigations on the history, profile and competence of the company.

"Premium Pension Ltd is one of the registered Pension Fund Administrators that we investigated. As part of our investigation we have also inspected their facilities. I must say that our funding so far is significantly favourable. This informed why we have invited them along side the Pension Commission to come and participate," Olaitan said.

# Business Trust

## FTAN unveils new tourism development programme

President of the Federation of Tourism Associations of Nigeria (FTAN), Alhaji Munzali Dantata yesterday launched Tourism Local Economic Advancement Development Strategy (LEADS); a new tourism initiative aimed at stimulating grass root participation in tourism activities.

By Mohammed S. Shehu,  
Travel & Leisure Reporter

Unveiling the strategy in Abuja, Dantata said the new initiative was intended to reposition the tourism sector towards creating better understanding of tourism as an economic activity.

He said the concept which is inline with the national economic policy of

the government is intended to create a system where the life of the common man would be better through wealth creation by way of re-orientation and participation of grass root communities in various economic activities.

"Tourism LEADS is a grass roots initiative for poverty alleviation through tourism, focusing on

economic empowerment of stakeholders, especially local communities who are invariably left out in the promotion of tourism and other economic activities". Dantata said.

Dantata added that the programme has three strategies which include the promotion of local tourism potentials titled; One Village One Product, promotion of Tourism Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (TSME) and the expansion of tourism stakeholders especially those who are not in the main stream of the industry.

The programme, according to him, would be implemented in collaboration with the Nigerian Tourism Development Corporation (NTDC) and other key institutions.

The programme will among other things, highlight tourism potentials that are unique to the all the communities in the country, he concluded.

## NMA, NAMA position for search and rescue management

The federal government has directed the National Maritime Authority (NMA) and the Nigeria Airspace Management Agency (NAMA) to establish a joint aeronautical and Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC).

This was disclosed by the Director-General, National Maritime Authority, (NMA), Engr. Festus Ugwu during a courtesy call to the Delta state Governor, Chief James Ibori.

A statement from the NMA said the visit by the NMA director-general was part of efforts to mobilize nationwide support for the establishment of emergency search and rescue centres across the country. Ugwu

explained that the centres, after completion, are to be equipped with hi-tech electronic search and rescue facilities.

The NMA boss enthused that the authority would soon take delivery of Global Maritime Distress and Safety (GMDSS) equipment adding that the equipment expected in February, 2006 would be installed at various zonal centres within three weeks of delivery.

He informed the Delta-state governor that the Niger Delta zone of the rescue centre would be located at Escravos while non-active centres would be situated at Koko, Burutu and Forcados.

Engr. Ugwu observed that Delta state, with her

predominant marine environment, will have a special place in the authority's marine safety campaign in the year 2006.

The NMA DG called on the Delta state government to avail Nigerian Shipyards with the Sapele water fronts, maintaining that the water fronts would serve as an essential infrastructure for ship building. In his response, Governor James Ibori thanked the NMA for steps currently being taken to ensure air and maritime safety.

Ibori pledged to provide within a week, a piece of land at Ogiwedegbe in Escravos near shell beach estate to ensure the construction of Niger Delta rescue sub-centre.

## ...seeks partnership for ship building

The Director-General National Maritime Authority NMA Engr. Festus Ugwu has called on Nigerian ship owners and stakeholders in the maritime, oil and gas sectors to patronize Nigerian shipyards for purposes of shipbuilding and maintenance.

Engr. Ugwu made the appeal while inspecting four vessels under construction at the West Atlantic shipyard, Onne, Rivers state recently.

He explained that Nigerians possess the know-how to design, plan and build vessels, which will in the medium and long-term boost Nigerian cabotage fleet.

Ugwu said that the NMA and the Malaysian AFFCOM group of investors are considering a financial loan scheme directed at medium term transfer of ship building technology from Malaysian shipyards, adding that "talks over this are in progress."

"We are Nigerians and as

From Adelanwa Bamgboye  
Correspondent (Lagos)

such, only loans that are globally competitive and at competitive lending rates can be negotiated for our citizens by NMA," Ugwu said.

In his contribution, the director of maritime safety and seafarers standards, NMA, Captain S. Olopaenia disclosed that the maritime safety, ship acquisition and ship Building Fund (SASBF) Units of the authority would reassess and categorise existing Nigerian ship building yards with the aim of identifying capacity inadequacies of the ship building subsector.

Olopaenia noted that the capacity building requirements and concerns of Nigerian ship building yards would receive adequate attention from the authority this year. "The NMA would continue to monitor progress and challenges of Nigerian ship-builders in the year ahead as this is a

fundamental aspect of all plans aimed at delivering dividends of cabotage," he stressed. In another development, the NMA has urged Nigerian entrepreneurs to take advantages opened by the cabotage regime to foster growth in the maritime industry.

The call was made by the NMA helmsman at the official public presentation ceremony of three tug boats built by Japaul Maritime Services Plc in Port-Harcourt recently.



Abiye Sekibo, Transport minister

## Oceanic Bank grosses N8.6 bn

Oceanic Bank has reported a 75 percent rise in gross profit for the last financial year. The bank made a total gross earning of N8.62 billion, while its pre-tax profit and after tax profit went up by 57 percent and 58 percent respectively to N2.82 billion and N2.34 billion.

A statement from the bank said it is determined to continue to create more value for its numerous stakeholders, while also keeping its eyes on gaining more market share in an evolving competitive financial sector.

"Oceanic bank is evidently well positioned to once again post amazing results by the end of the current financial year" the statement said. It would be recalled that the bank's shareholders' at its last Annual General Meeting (AGM) held recently, passed a vote of confidence on both the Management and the Board of the bank for their efforts at successfully consolidating the bank.

The bank for the last financial year, it would be recalled, also recorded a profit before tax N7.3 billion, representing a 111 per cent

growth over 2004 figure of N3.4 billion. Its Profit After Tax (PAT) for the year also closed at N5.9 billion as against N3.3 billion realised in 2004.

"Aside the growth of its total assets plus contingencies to N281.14 billion, up by 167 per cent over the preceding year's level, its turnover for the year also grew by 93 per cent to N24.3 billion, as against N12.6 billion of 2004 financial year" it stated.

"Its deposit base increased by over 143 per cent to N167.4 billion, up from N68.9 billion recorded in the preceding year" the statement further said that "between September 30, 2001 and the corresponding period in 2005, the bank's asset base grew by 990 per cent from N26 billion to N281 billion, while its shareholders funds grew by 1973 per cent from N1.5 billion to N31.1 billion. Its gross earnings and profit after tax also increased by 575 per cent and 507 per cent respectively from N3.6 billion to N24.3 billion and N972 million to N5.9 billion".

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# Business Trust

## 1ST-TIER SECURITIES

## THE NIGERIAN STOCK EXCHANGE

REPORT AS AT THURSDAY, JANUARY 19 2006

Company Name	No of Deals	Quotation(N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares
ADSWITCH PLC. 2	1.50	35,000		51,000.00
CUTIX PLC 3	3.25	25,000		79,000.00
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>5</b>		<b>60,000</b>	<b>130,000.00</b>
<b>AGRICULTURE/AGRO-ALLIED</b>				
LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC. 1	2.32	15,000		34,800.00
OKITIPUPA OIL PALM PLC. 2	0.89	1,500		1,335.00
THE OKOMU OIL PALM COMPANY PLC 4	18.60	9,250		172,050.00
PRESKO PLC. 5	11.00	17,950		204,950.00
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>12</b>		<b>43,700</b>	<b>413,135.00</b>
<b>AUTOMOBILE &amp; TYRE</b>				
DUNLOP NIGERIA PLC. 24	2.83	262,674		681,885.39
INCAR NIGERIA APLC. 1	1.02	500		510.00
R. T. BRISCOAE PLC. 8	6.00	23,986		143,416.80
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>33</b>		<b>287,160</b>	<b>825,812.19</b>
<b>BANKING</b>				
ACCESS BANK PLC 113	2.69	4,603,725		12,775,436.23
AFRIBANK NIGERIA PLC. 32	9.10	9,584,800		87,221,680.00
DIAMOND BANK PLC 2	7.75	7,000		54,250.00
EIB INTERNATIONAL BANK PLC. 3	2.26	505,000		1,141,300.00
FIRST CITY MONUMENT BANK PLC 4	5.11	108,000		551,880.00
FIDELITY BANK PLC 6	2.93	206,064		603,767.52
FIRST BANK OF NIGERIA PLC. 404	33.25	5,042,559		174,115,578.13
GTBANK PLC. 388	13.99	17,303,698		239,514,571.84
HALLMARK BANK PLC 1	1.81	600		1,086.00
INVESTMENT BANKING 13	4.57	45,870		209,625.90
INTERNATIONAL MERCHANT BANK PLC. 4	0.84	21,824		18,332.16
INTERCONTINENTAL BANK PLC. 116	8.50	2,071,841		17,605,913.55
MANUFACTURERS BANK NIGERIA PLC. 1	1.15	1,000		1,150.00
NAL BANK PLC. 41	2.80	33,999,180		95,197,704.00
OCEANIC BANK PLC 98	5.86	4,009,555		23,838,187.39
OMEGA BANK (NIGERIA) PLC 1	1.91	36,465		69,648.15
PLATINUM BANK PLC 1	2.60	50,000		130,000.00
UNITED BANK FOR AFRICA PLC. 130	12.80	1,065,187		13,517,238.14
UNION BANK NIGERIA PLC. 78	25.48	2,896,163		73,794,233.24
WEMA BANK PLC. 13	3.74	257,148		961,733.52
ZENITH BANK PLC 74	19.64	215,126		4,225,074.64
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>1,523</b>		<b>82,030,805</b>	<b>745,548,390.41</b>
<b>BREWERIES</b>				
CHAMPION BREWERIES PLC. 1	1.78	15,000		26,700.00
GUINNESS NIGERIA PLC. 115	100.00	709,426		69,962,145.28
NIGERIAN BREWERIES PLC. 288	37.50	1,156,647		43,834,577.95
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>404</b>		<b>1,881,073</b>	<b>113,823,423.23</b>
<b>BUILDING MATERIALS</b>				
ASHAKA CEMENT PLC. 85	33.00	921,728		30,624,912.06
BENUE CEMENT COMPANY PLC. 1	6.50	2,000		13,000.00
CEMENT COMPANY OF NORTHERN NIG. PLC 17	7.10	1,232,984		8,841,765.14
NIGERIAN ROPES PLC. 1	1.57	11,600		18,212.00
WEST AFRICAN PORTLAND CEMENT CO. PLC. 97	16.50	650,210		10,694,160.18
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>201</b>		<b>2,818,522</b>	<b>50,192,049.38</b>
<b>CHEMICAL &amp; PAINTS</b>				
BERGER PAINTS PLC. 8	4.03	31,048		125,750.46
CAP PLC. 15	8.86	26,110		230,611.00
NIGERIA-GERMAN CHEMICALS PLC. 5	4.30	15,044		65,626.64
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>28</b>		<b>72,202</b>	<b>421,988.10</b>
<b>COMPUTER &amp; OFFICE EQUIPMENT</b>				
NCR (NIGERIA) PLC. 1	1.33	1,800		2,394.00
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>1,800</b>	<b>2,394.00</b>
<b>CONGLOMERATES</b>				
A. G. LEVENTIS NIGERIA PLC. 5	1.21	29,004		34,824.84
C F A O NIGERIA PLC. 7	3.42	45,082		154,180.44
JOHN HOLT PLC. 4	1.54	20,005		30,380.58
P. Z. INDUSTRIES PLC. 43	16.20	169,147		2,740,181.40
S C O A NIGERIA PLC. 1	1.02	308		314.16
U.A.C.NIGERIA PLC. 91	16.49	830,564		13,662,280.56
UNILEVER NIGERIA PLC 114	20.70	304,943		6,252,263.99
U.T.C. NIGERIA PLC. 4	0.84	29,236		24,618.24
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>269</b>		<b>1,428,289</b>	<b>22,899,044.21</b>
<b>CONSTRUCTION</b>				
JULIUS BERGER NIGERIA PLC. 8	21.50	10,735		229,738.10
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>8</b>		<b>10,735</b>	<b>229,738.10</b>
<b>FOOD/BEVERAGES &amp; TOBACCO</b>				
7-UP BOTTLING COMPANY PLC 32	25.50	174,602		4,514,690.20
CADBURY NIGERIA PLC. 128	65.65	229,181		14,888,292.95
FLOUR MILLS NIGERIA PLC. 41	26.79	203,292		5,391,218.74
NIGERIA BOTTLING COMPANY PLC. 69	60.15	83,970		5,170,356.88
NESTLE FOODS NIGERIA PLC. 39	189.00	37,953		7,132,751.00
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>309</b>		<b>728,998</b>	<b>37,097,309.77</b>
<b>HEALTHCARE</b>				
EVANS MEDICAL PLC. 6	2.49	77,159		193,139.91
GLAXOSMITHKLINE CONSUMER NIGERIA PLC.38	10.85	1,021,120		11,100,336.20
MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC 5	5.36	15,000		80,400.00
MORISON INDUSTRIES PLC. 7	0.88	300,323		256,284.24
NEIMETH INTERNATIONAL PHARM. PLC. 3	3.23	5,800		18,734.00
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>59</b>		<b>1,419,402</b>	<b>11,648,894.35</b>
<b>HOTEL &amp; TOURISM</b>				
TOURIST COMPANY OF NIGERIA PLC 1	3.80	250		950.00
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>250</b>	<b>950.00</b>
<b>INDUSTRIAL/DOMESTIC PRODUCTS</b>				
ALUMACO PLC. 4	1.24	8,347		10,350.28
B. O. C. GASES PLC 5	3.00	6,210		18,630.00
VITAFOAM NIGERIA PLC. 85	5.00	1,574,452		8,225,536.20
VONO PRODUCTS PLC. 7	1.40	58,188		85,777.64
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>101</b>		<b>1,647,197</b>	<b>8,340,294.12</b>
<b>INSURANCE</b>				
AICO INSURANCE PLC. 26	1.99	2,157,726		4,247,703.78
CORNERSTONE INSURANCE CO. PLC. 15	1.41	234,853		333,368.85
CRUSADER INSURANCE PLC. 1	1.64	2,000		3,280.00
GUINEA INSURANCE PLC. 4	0.66	50,000		33,000.00
LAW-UNION AND ROCK INSURANCE PLC. 4	1.16	81,865		90,866.45
NIGER INSURANCE CO. PLC. 11	2.85	189,824		552,065.81
PRESTIGE ASSURANCE PLC. 3	1.92	40,000		76,800.00
ROYAL EXCHANGE ASSURANCE PLC. 16	2.91	137,308		399,163.78
STANDARD ALLIANCE INSURANCE 2	1.41	70,000		100,700.00
UNIC INSURANCE PLC. 17	1.30	354,610		457,557.66
WEST AFRICAN PROV. INS. COV. PLC. 12	3.20	462,815		1,444,325.50
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>111</b>		<b>3,781,001</b>	<b>7,738,831.83</b>
<b>MANAGED FUNDS</b>				
C & I LEASING PLC 7	1.26	43,620		56,619.40
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>7</b>		<b>43,620</b>	<b>56,619.40</b>
<b>MARITIME</b>				
JAPPAUL OIL & MARITIME SERVICES PLC 9	1.99	101,750		194,551.00
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>9</b>		<b>101,750</b>	<b>194,551.00</b>
<b>PACKAGING</b>				
NAMPAK NIGERIA PLC 2	1.52	10,000		15,200.00
POLY PRODUCTS (NIGERIA) PLC. 1	0.56	1,000		560.00
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>11,000</b>	<b>15,760.00</b>
<b>PETROLEUM(MARKETING)</b>				
AFROIL PLC. 5	0.49	120,500		59,245.00
AFRICAN PETROLEUM PLC. 98	44.86	337,835		15,253,638.66
CONOIL PLC 42	89.50	20,005		1,807,806.48
ETERNA OIL & GAS PLC. 24	3.04	773,860		2,479,595.55
MOBIL OIL NIGERIA PLC. 28	159.00	33,099		5,264,012.15
OANDO PLC 117	96.05	163,906		15,743,506.03
TEXACO (NIGERIA) PLC. 34	117.00	26,946		3,093,295.25
TOTAL NIGERIA PLC 21	187.03	17,934		3,352,689.42
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>369</b>		<b>1,494,085</b>	<b>47,053,788.54</b>
<b>PRINTING &amp; PUBLISHING</b>				
LONGMAN NIGERIA PLC. 3	3.04	78,708		239,272.32
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>78,708</b>	<b>239,272.32</b>
<b>REAL ESTATE</b>				
UACN PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT PLC. 25	9.00	124,773		1,118,679.00
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>25</b>		<b>124,773</b>	<b>1,118,679.00</b>
<b>TEXTILES</b>				
UNITED NIGERIA TEXTILES PLC. 4	2.17	38,087		79,140.09
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>4</b>		<b>38,087</b>	<b>79,140.09</b>
<b>Overall Totals</b>		<b>3,485</b>	<b>98,103,157</b>	<b>1,048,070,005.04</b>

TOP 10 TRADES YESTERDAY			
SYMBOL	VOLUME	VALUE	TRADES
VITAFOAM	1,574,452.00	8,225,536.20	85
INTERCONT	2,071,841.00	17,605,913.55	116
AIICO	2,157,726.00	4,247,703.78	26
UBN	2,896,163.00	73,794,233.24	78
OCEANIC	4,009,555.00	23,838,187.39	98
ACCESS	4,603,725.00	12,775,436.23	113
FIRSTBANK	5,042,559.00	174,115,578.13	404
AFRIBANK	9,584,800.00	87,221,680.00	32
GUARANTY	17,303,698.00	239,514,571.84	388
NAL	33,999,180.00	95,197,704.00	41

TOP 10 GAINERS			
SYMBOL	LASTCLOSE	YESTERDAY'SCLOSE	CHANGE
TEXACO	112.00	117.00	+5.00
FIRSTBANK	32.00	33.25	+1.25
FLOURMILL	25.80	26.79	+0.99
CADBURY	65.00	65.65	+0.65
GUARANTY	13.45	13.99	+0.54
WAPCO	16.02	16.50	+0.48
7UP	25.05	25.50	+0.45
RTBRISCOE	5.72	6.00	+0.28
UNILEVER	20.42	20.70	+0.28
UBA	12.63	12.80	+0.17

TOP 10 LOSERS			
SYMBOL	LASTCLOSE	YESTERDAY'SCLOSE	CHANGE
CONOIL	92.85	89.50	-3.35
AP	47.22	44.86	-2.36
NBC	61.50	60.15	-1.35
NESTLE	190.01	189.00	-1.01
MOBIL	160.00	159.00	-1.00
NB	38.11	37.50	-0.61
PRESKO	11.50	11.00	-0.50
ASHAKACEM	33.30	33.00	-0.30
NIG-GERMAN	4.51	4.30	-0.21
INTERCONT	8.69	8.50	-0.19

## WTO to hold public hearings on Boeing-Airbus dispute

The World Trade Organization is set to open to the public its hearings in the EU-US battle over billions of dollars in aid for aircraft giants Boeing and Airbus, officials said. The first round of dispute settlement hearings is scheduled for June, and both sides in the tussle have agreed to let the public attend, trade officials added.

The WTO monitors respect for the rules of global commerce, which are set by the 149 trading nations that make up its membership. It also tries to settle disputes among them and can hand out stiff penalties. Its dispute settlement hearings were previously held behind closed doors, but last year the US, EU and Canada agreed to let the public attend sessions on a case concerning Europe's ban on imports of hormone-treated beef.

The rivals billed it as a way to improve transparency and raise confidence in the WTO, which is often criticized for behind-the-scenes horse trading. That WTO first last year didn't provide for a typical public gallery: the audience was able to watch the hearings on closed-circuit television from a separate room.

However, there may be "case by case" exceptions which could lead to the cameras being switched off temporarily when confidential business information is under review, officials said. The US has challenged aid for Airbus from the governments of four European countries — Britain, France, Germany and Spain. The EU's complaint hinges on US state and local subsidies or indirect assistance for Boeing.

Washington and Brussels took their cases to the WTO after failing to find common ground in direct negotiations.

But they have also tried to keep open the option of settling the dispute directly, amid warnings that a bitter, drawn-out legal clash at the WTO could be disastrous.

The aircraft spat is seen as one of the most complicated that the Geneva-based trade body has ever been asked to handle and could last for years.

## Port manager gets FTTA award

The port manager, Container Terminal Port Lagos, Mallam Mohammed Bulangu has been conferred with an award as fellow Transport Technology and Administration (FTTA) by the Nautical Institute for Technology, Port Harcourt, Onne.

Speaking with our correspondent on Tuesday in Lagos, the port manager said that "it is a recognition of my small contribution to the maritime industry."

Born in the mid 1950s in Bulangu Town in Jigawa state, Mallam Mohammed Bulangu attended the famous ABU Zaria where he had his B.Sc in economics.

He has also attended various other courses at home and abroad on port operations and management.



**Offer-Circular Pursuant to the Debt Management Office (Establishment) Act 2003 and the Local Loans (Registered Stock and Securities) Act (Cap 214) LFN 1990**

**THE CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA**  
 on the authority of the  
**DEBT MANAGEMENT OFFICE**  
 on behalf of the  
**FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA**  
 Offers for Subscription by Auction and is authorized to receive applications for  
**N25, 000,000,000**

**3rd FGN BOND 2009 (3-YEAR TENOR)\***

**Application List opens 23rd January 2006**  
**Application List closes 25th January 2006**

- Interested investors and authorized dealers (Banks, Discount Houses and Stockbrokers) are invited to collect application forms from any office of the Central Bank of Nigeria ("CBN") nationwide.
- Interested members of the public are to submit their bids through any authorized dealer nationwide to reach the CBN, Lagos not later than the closing date as specified. Application forms are also available on [www.cenbank.org](http://www.cenbank.org) and [www.dmo.gov.ng](http://www.dmo.gov.ng) for download and completion.
- Authorized dealers are allowed to submit multiple bids and quote multiple rates. A bid may be for own account or made on behalf of interested members of the public.
- Completed application forms should be submitted by the Authorized Dealers to Issues Office, 5th Floor, Old Building, Central Bank of Nigeria, Tinubu Square, Lagos.
- This is the 1st in the series of the programmed issues for the 1st Half of 2006 as set out below\*\*:

Month	Tranches	Opening	Closing
January 2006	N25,000,000,000 3rd FGN Bond 2009 Series 1 (3-Year Tenor)	23rd January 2006	25th January 2006
February 2006	N10,000,000,000 3rd FGN Bond Series 2 (3-Year Tenor) N20,000,000,000 3rd FGN Bond 2011 Series 3 (5-Year Tenor)	20th February 2006	22nd February 2006
March 2006	N10,000,000,000 3rd FGN Bond 2009 Series 4 (3-Year Tenor) N20,000,000,000 3rd FGN Bond 2011 Series 5 (5-Year Tenor)	27th March 2006	29th March 2006
April 2006	N10,000,000,000 3rd FGN Bond 2009 Series 6 (3-Year Tenor) N20,000,000,000 3rd FGN Bond 2011 Series 7 (5-Year Tenor)	24th April 2006	26th April 2006
May 2006	N20,000,000,000 3rd FGN Bond 2011 Series 8 (5-year tenor)	22nd May 2006	24th May 2006
June 2006	N20,000,000,000 3rd FGN Bond 2013 Series 9 (7-year tenor)	20th June 2006	28th June 2006

- Payment in full for the amount of the accepted bids must be made to the Central Bank of Nigeria not later than 1.30 p.m. on the allotment day (i.e. 2 days after closure of Application List). This will normally be effected by direct debit to the account of the Authorized Dealers who should ensure that their accounts with the CBN are adequately funded for this purpose.

\*The DMO reserves the right to vary the amount allotted in response to market dictates.  
 \*\*The Issuance Calendar may be revised in response to market realities.

Note: The issuance will continue during the second half of the year; the issuance programme for the second half of the year will be published in due course.

**SUMMARY OF THE OFFER**

**ISSUER:** Federal Government of Nigeria ("FGN")  
**THE ISSUE:** N25 billion 3rd FGN BOND 2009 Series 1  
**UNITS OF SALE:** N1, 000 per unit subject to a minimum subscription of N10, 000 and in multiples of N1, 000 thereafter.  
**PURPOSE:** To restructure part of the outstanding 91-day NTBs into longer-tenored bonds, provide benchmark instrument for the pricing of other securities in the capital market, facilitate the development of the bond market in general as well as fund the budget deficit.

**TENOR:** 3 years  
**INTEREST RATE:** To be determined by auction. The Marginal Rate that clears the volume on auction or the highest accepted rate becomes the coupon for the issue.

**INTEREST PAYMENT:** Payable semi-annually.  
**MATURITIES:** The series will mature as shown below:

N25 billion 3rd FGN Bond 2009 Series 1	27th January, 2009
N10 billion 3rd FGN Bond 2009 Series 2	24th February, 2009
N20 billion 3rd FGN Bond 2011 Series 3	24th February, 2011
N10 billion 3rd FGN Bond 2009 Series 4	31st March, 2009
N20 billion 3rd FGN Bond 2011 Series 5	31st March, 2011
N10 billion 3rd FGN Bond 2009 Series 6	28th April, 2009
N20 billion 3rd FGN Bond 2011 Series 7	28th April, 2011
N20 billion 3rd FGN Bond 2011 Series 8	26th May, 2011
N20 billion 3rd FGN Bond 2013 Series 9	30th June, 2013

**REDEMPTION:** Bullet repayment on the maturity date.

- STATUS:**
- Qualifies as securities in which trustees can invest under the Trustee Investment Act
  - Qualifies as Government securities within the meaning of Company Income Tax Act ("CITA") and Personal Income Tax Act ("PITA") for Tax Exemption for Pension Funds amongst other investors
  - To be quoted on The Nigerian Stock Exchange
  - Not subject to a single obligor limits for banks
  - Zero weighting for capital adequacy purposes for banks
  - Qualifies as liquid asset for liquidity ratio calculation for banks

**SECURITY:** Issue of Bonds is based on the full faith and credit of the Federal Government of Nigeria and is charged upon the general assets of Nigeria.

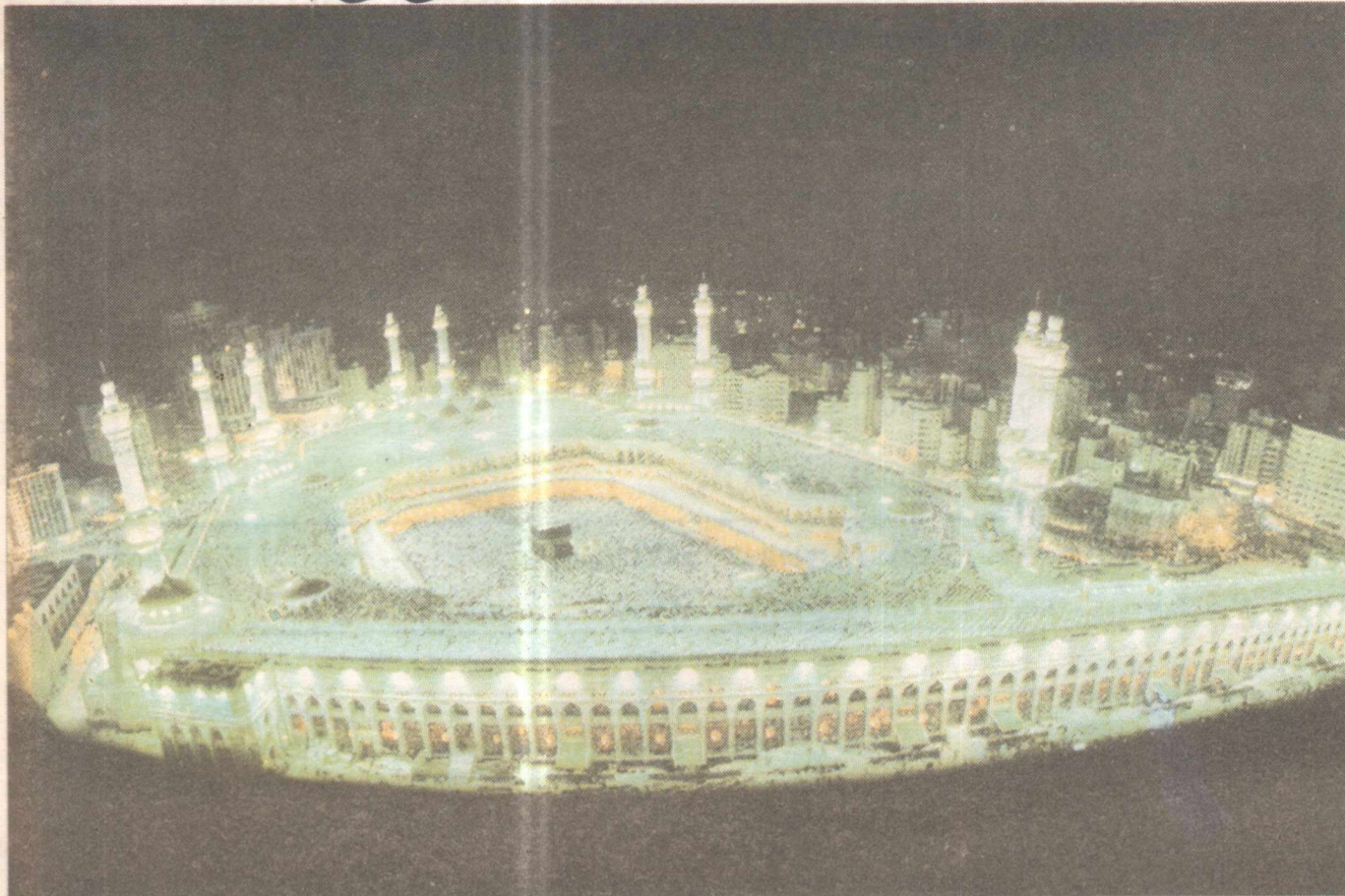
**PAYMENT TERMS:** Payable in full on application

**UNDERWRITING:** This offer will not be underwritten at the instance of the FGN

**PARTIES TO THE OFFER**

**ISSUER:** Federal Government of Nigeria  
**ISSUER'S AGENT:** Debt Management Office  
**AGENT BANK:** Central Bank of Nigeria  
**STOCKBROKER:** Trade Link Finance and Securities Ltd.  
**REGISTRAR:** Central Bank of Nigeria

# Hajj 2006: Catalogue



An aerial view of the Holy Ka'aba at night



Sunset at the Corniche waterfront in Jeddah

Since the establishment of the Nigerian Hajj missions going back some 52 years ago, when the then government of Sir Ahmadu Bello, the Sardauna of Sokoto, decided to establish one, operations have continued to slide backwards, especially after the entire Hajj mission was returned to the Nigerian federal government.

This years Hajj was even more upsetting, as thousands of Nigerians were stranded at their various hajj camps or airports, after their various airlines failed to airlift them to the holy land at the stipulated time, until the Jeddah international airport was closed to pilgrims.

From airlift to the camping ground, Nigerians narrate stories of agony, frustration and anger, some even died, while others were forced back home unfulfilled, despite paying huge sums of their hard earned money, to perform one of the ritual foundations of their religion.

All these were due to inefficient organization from both the airlines and the immature handling of Hajj affairs by the federal government, which deliberately announced the closure of the Nigeria Hajj mission in Jeddah some few weeks to the beginning of 2006 hajj.

At the various centres in Nigeria reports of stranded pilgrims from Kano to Abuja, Kwara, Port Harcourt and Lagos, were commonplace.

Prior to the beginning of the 2006 Hajj, many stakeholders in seminars, meetings and also through the media, have either called for a return of Hajj affairs to states, or total autonomy to

From Hassan A. Karofi in Saudi Arabia

the technical committee on Hajj.

An estimated 18,000 Nigerians who laboured to pay fully their air tickets, accommodation including royalties and fees to the Nigerian government, looked on in frustration as the days went by without any tangible arrangement, either from the Nigerian government, or even from their various states governments.

In Katsina state for example, of the over 4000 pilgrims that paid for the 2006 Hajj, only a negligible fraction of less than one percent, were fortunate to have performed the Hajj, as neither their state governor, nor any federal concern, were shown as part of public trust to ensure these Nigerians performed one of their religious duties, Hajj.

At the Kano camp, a pilgrim from Bauchi state ran amok as a result of the severe fatigue and frustration he experienced.

He was brought into the Kano camp from Bauchi around 3am on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> of January 2006, with the belief he was directly going to Saudi Arabia, but after he realized after about 2 days that he might not be able to perform the hajj, he took leave of his senses and went mad.

A woman was also reported dead at the Kano international airport. After she spent about six days queuing without any sign of concern from either her state government or even the federal government, she gave up the ghost. The story goes on and on and on from all the

Those pilgrims from Bauchi, Jigawa, Borno and other states, were fortunate to have been supported by their various states governments, through the contracting of alternative airlines, before some of their pilgrims made it to the Holy Land.

#### ACCOMMODATION IN MECCA

Daily Trust investigations in Mecca show that many of the pilgrims were forced to trek for at least 3-4 kilometres before they could locate the Masjid Haram. Pilgrims from Kano, parts of Yobe, Sokoto and many others, were exposed to gruesome physical turmoil, as they strove to perform some of the fundamental rites such as dawaf and sai.

Many of these sites for accommodation lack facilities, despite the huge sums paid by the pilgrims, while others were forced to sleep in tents at a room of more than 20 square metres, thanks to the uninterrupted power supply at the Holy Land.

In an interview with our reporter some of the pilgrims called for a return of hajj affairs to states and local governments.

According to Alhaji Ibrahim Kurna, a pilgrim from Kano state, the continuing hardship being experienced by Nigerians annually, should be a serious concern to all Muslims. He therefore called for an Islamic conference in Nigeria by Muslims to determine ways to better Hajj operations.

According to him, for the 30 years or so, Hajj affairs in Nigeria are going from worse to the unimaginable. "I think Nigerian Muslims must sit down to find a way out of the con-

tinuing erosion in hajj affairs in Nigeria.

Unless we do that, he said, Nigerian Muslims would face even worse and more damaging consequences, as a result of the negligible behaviour of the Nigerian government on matters affecting Muslims.

Another pilgrim, Hajiya Lami Hassana from Yobe state, informed our reporter that the issue of accommodation is quite disturbing, because the locations are at times difficult to suit hajj purposes.

"Look, as women, we trekked for a long distance, some of us are old and aged, others have developed illnesses due to the long stay in camps, and the frustrations that accompanied delays in airlift, and when we come here coupled with distances you have to cover, we find it even difficult to perform our prayers and responsibilities as pilgrims' she said.

Although there are exceptions to the location of accommodations for Nigerian pil-

grims, the general situation can only be described as unfortunate, disturbing and disgraceful to a nation that once prided itself, especially at the Holy Land.

#### MINA CAMP

Investigations carried out by Daily Trust in Mina shows that the congestions many pilgrims to sleep outside the tents in many states camps visited.

Pilgrims either squat with one another, or squeeze themselves to sleep on the bare floor, due to inadequate space provided by the various states pilgrims at the camp.

According to some pilgrims interviewed, they prefer to sleep outside, because of the congestion that characterizes the Mina camp this year.

All this happened despite the fact that over 18,000 Nigerians could not make it to the pilgrimage, had they been present at the camps.

Another pilgrim from Kwara state, Barrister Sanni Ademola, castigated the annual arrangement of Hajj by the federal gov-

ernment, saying it is just a slap on the face of Nigerian Muslims.

According to him for decades issues relating to pilgrimage are being looked upon with disdain and a nonchallant attitude.

"I think it is time Nigerian Muslims should say no to all this sabotage. Let us have either an independent Hajj mission, or let states take full responsibility for transporting their pilgrims to and from Saudi Arabia.

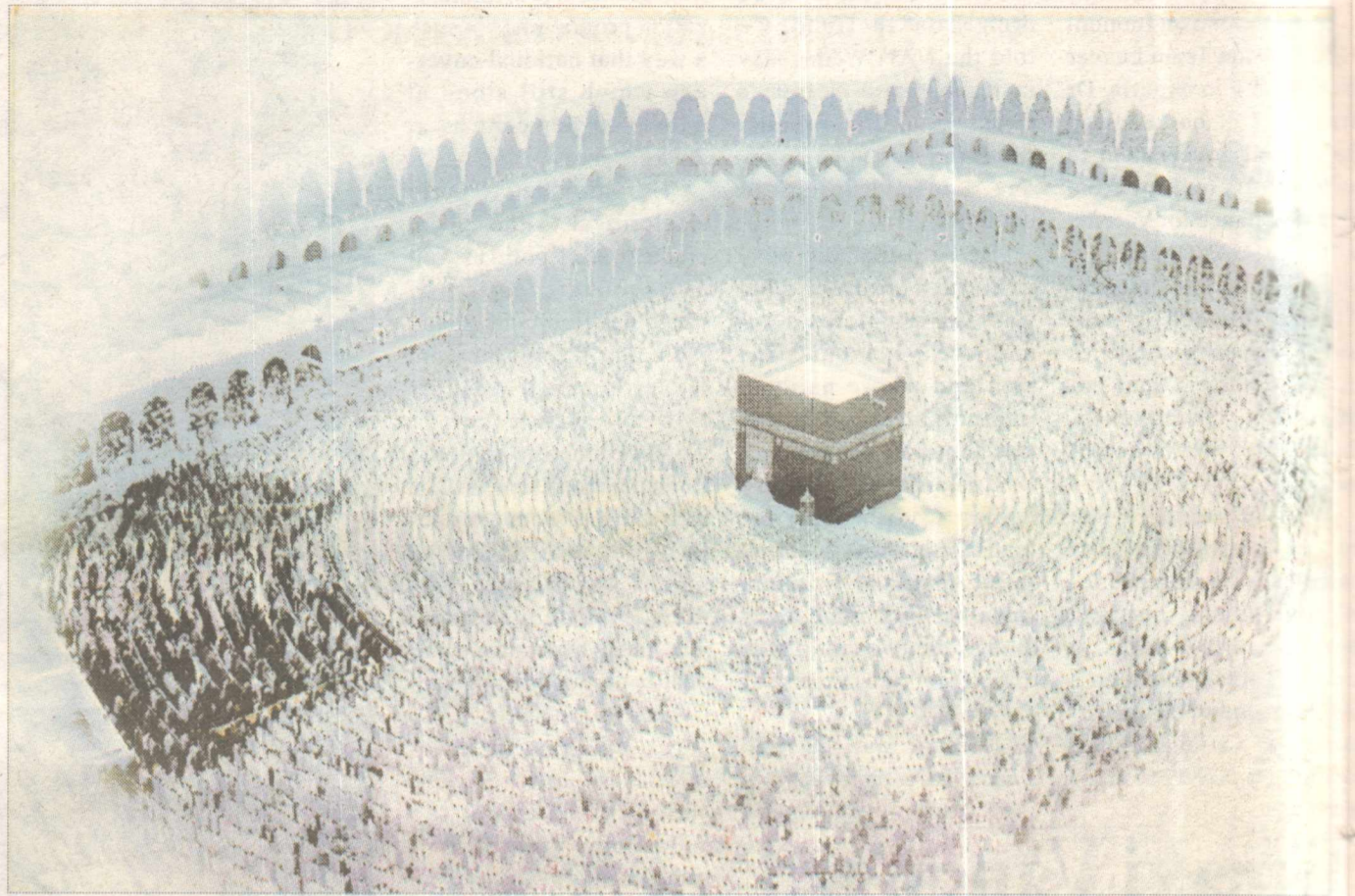
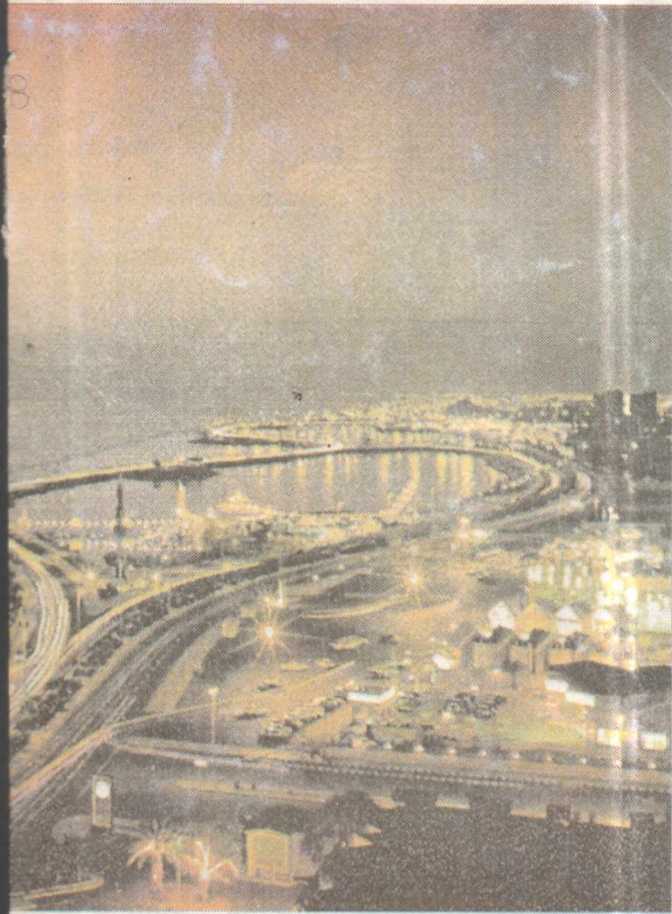
Look at other countries, he said, I always wonder how they beautifully arrange and conduct themselves successfully.

Many officials interviewed dismissed the allegation of inefficiency, saying it was the fault of the Saudi authorities that adequate camps were not provided.

One of the officials of the Nigerian Hajj medical team who claimed anonymity, said the congestion experienced this year has tremendously worsened health conditions, as

*It is believed, therefore, that the the Hajj mission has significant the smooth running of hajj oper year. Many officials of the Nig banded mission are of the belt years to come, Hajj affairs in N only be going down and down.*

# Time of trials and tears



The Holy Ka'aba

many pilgrims developed illnesses this year.

At Jigawa state clinic for example, *Daily Trust* reports that over 200 -300 pilgrims from many states call to receive medical attention, as a result of congestion related illnesses or cold, due to exposed weather conditions which affects those who slept outside.

Another major problem that characterized this years Hajj was ineffective transportation arrangement on the part of Nigerian missions.

Investigations from Mina to Arafat for example, shows that transport companies were said to have been engaged to take pilgrims from Mina to Arafat, and to Muzdalifa as inadequate vehicles forced pilgrims to trek to the Arafat and Muzdalifa.

Nigerian pilgrims were seen scrambling for vehicles, notwithstanding the country of ownership.

For example, some Nigerian pilgrims engaged some Senegalese pilgrims to quarrel, when they invaded their vehi-

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cles, and were forced to step out as the buses belonged to Senegal. Stories of inefficiency dotted many stages of the hajj, as problems after problems continue to bedevil Nigerian pilgrims.

One of the Nigerian pilgrims, Hassan Albasu, described the situation of Nigerian pilgrims as pathetic, and a disgrace to a country that prides itself as the giant of Africa.

He told our reporter that only in Nigeria could you see such un-coordination and chaos.

"Go to our sister African countries, you will see coordination and their things are going smoothly, but in Nigeria there is no adequate accommodation, no proper transport arrangement, nothing works here," he said.

The issue of the traveller's cheque exchange also brought to the fore another major concern to Nigerian pilgrims this year.

*Daily Trust* investigations show that Nigerian pilgrims who were unfortunate to have come into Mecca with their travellers cheques, saw hell as many of them spent days on the queue trying to exchange their travel cheques.

Investigations at the National Commercial Bank in Mecca, Saudi British Bank and Arab Banks, shows that many Nigerians went through hell before they could get their exchange.

Information made available to *Daily Trust* shows that many banks refused to honour the travellers cheques, because it was alleged that some were fake.

Many interviewed expressed dismay over the situation, as most of them end up begging to feed themselves.

Reports indicate that some spent as much as 4 to 5 days before they could finally get the exchange.

Some officials of some states pilgrims boards, blamed the pilgrims for not changing their cheques in Jeddah.

According to one Mallam Auwal Kabir from the Adamawa state pilgrims board, the intense concentration of millions of pilgrims have put so much pressure on banks in Mecca, and that had resulted in such delays in exchange.

However, *Daily Trust* observed that only Nigerian pilgrims faced such difficulties, as none of the pilgrims found on the queue belong to any other country.

Some pilgrims called for change in issuance of travellers cheques, or in the alternative, states pilgrim board should coordinate to change traveller's cheques for their pilgrims, in order to make life easier for them at the holy land.

Another serious concern was the return of pilgrims back to Nigeria, as the closure of the Nigerian Hajj mission has greatly affected the efficiency of Hajj operations this year.

Investigations at the Hajj technical committee office in Mecca, shows that closure of the office was responsible for the refusal of the Saudi government to extend the airlift of Nigeria pilgrims, when countries like Gambia, Cameroon, Italy etc were allowed entrance a day before the start of the hajj rites.

Further investigations also revealed that even the Nigerian

delegation to this year's pilgrimage, headed by the deputy senate president Ibrahim Mantu, were not accorded the rightful recognition.

For example, while the Gambian head of delegation, who is in the rank of a Minister, was accommodated close the masjid el ihram, including many others, the Nigerian delegation could not acquire such respect, as he was forced to stay with officials of the Hajj medical mission.

An official of the disbanded mission told our reporter that the Saudi government is losing respect for the country, because of the way things are going especially the hajj missions.

"Look, for over 50 years we have been coming to hajj but for most of those years we fumble, we never improve, and see what happens how could a responsible government close a mission just a few weeks to hajj" he asked.

*Daily Trust* investigations also shows that Nigeria has no serious bilateral agreement with the government of Saudi Arabia, apart from being in OPEC.

It is believed, therefore, that the closure of the Hajj mission has significantly affected the smooth running of hajj operations this year. Many officials of the Nigerian disbanded mission are of the belief that in years to come, Hajj affairs in Nigeria will only be going down and down.

*Daily Trust's* investigation also shows that 18 Nigerians died during this years pilgrimage, with 10 crushed to death during the unfortunate jamrat stampede, while others died from various illnesses.

The Nigerian deputy chair-

man on hajj technical committee, Alhaji Sadiq Sulieman Walin Ganye stated in an interview that, all the dead have been buried, while others suffering from various illnesses, are being treated by either state officials or the federal medical missions. All the dead are from Kano, Zamfara, Sokoto, Niger, Benue, Borno and Jigawa states.

Another major concern is the return of pilgrims back home as the experience of the airlift to Hajj is still fresh in the memory of some Nigerians, who spent days before they could make it to the Holy Land.

On this, the deputy chairman of the TCH, said there is no cause for alarm. He said already Kabo air has airlifted over 4500 pilgrims back to Nigeria in just 3 days.

He disclosed that even some pilgrims that were earlier delayed by Kabo at the Jeddah airport, have been evacuated.

"We have warned airlines against delays, and especially against taking pilgrims to Jeddah when they are not ready, and I believe that within the next few days all our pilgrims will be airlifted back to Nigeria.



Pilgrims arriving the Holy Ka'aba after completing the Hajj rites at Arafat

# KANO TRUST

## UNICEF official advises Nigeria on vaccine funds

The Expanded Programme on Immunisation Team Leader for UNICEF in Nigeria, Dr Brandao Co, has advised the federal government to make efforts to draw from Global Alliance for Vaccine Initiative (GAVI) fund.

GAVI fund is a mechanism established to support developing countries to attain 100 per cent immunization coverage, including the distribution of vaccines.

It will be recalled that the distribution of vaccines from states to local government areas and then to health centres in the rural areas has been a problem since the introduction of National Immunization Days (NIDs) in the country.

On what it takes to draw from the fund, Co told the NAN Wednesday in Kano that a country's Gross Domestic Product per capita has to be below one thousand dollars to qualify

He said that the window which opened in 2000 was for countries with multi-year immunization plan and whose national immunization coverage was above 50 per cent.

Co said that a country willing to draw from the fund would show injection safety plan and financial sustainability plan, even though the two could take off after two years of draws.

He said that the fund which has a five-year life span could assist Nigeria

in accelerating its immunization programmes in such a way that national coverage which still stood at below 40 per cent as at 2005.

He said that Nigeria was critical to the global eradication of polio as well as the achievement of other development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Africa.

Assessing the National Immunization Days (NIDs), he said that some reductions occurred in the number of missed children, even though there was need to improve the quality of immunization activities in the states.

Co said that their activities so far were not enough to interrupt the Wild Polio Virus (WPV) transmission.

"Gaps still remain in social mobilization, micro planning and sweep group performance, programme ownership at community, local government and state levels as well as supervision and monitoring," he said.

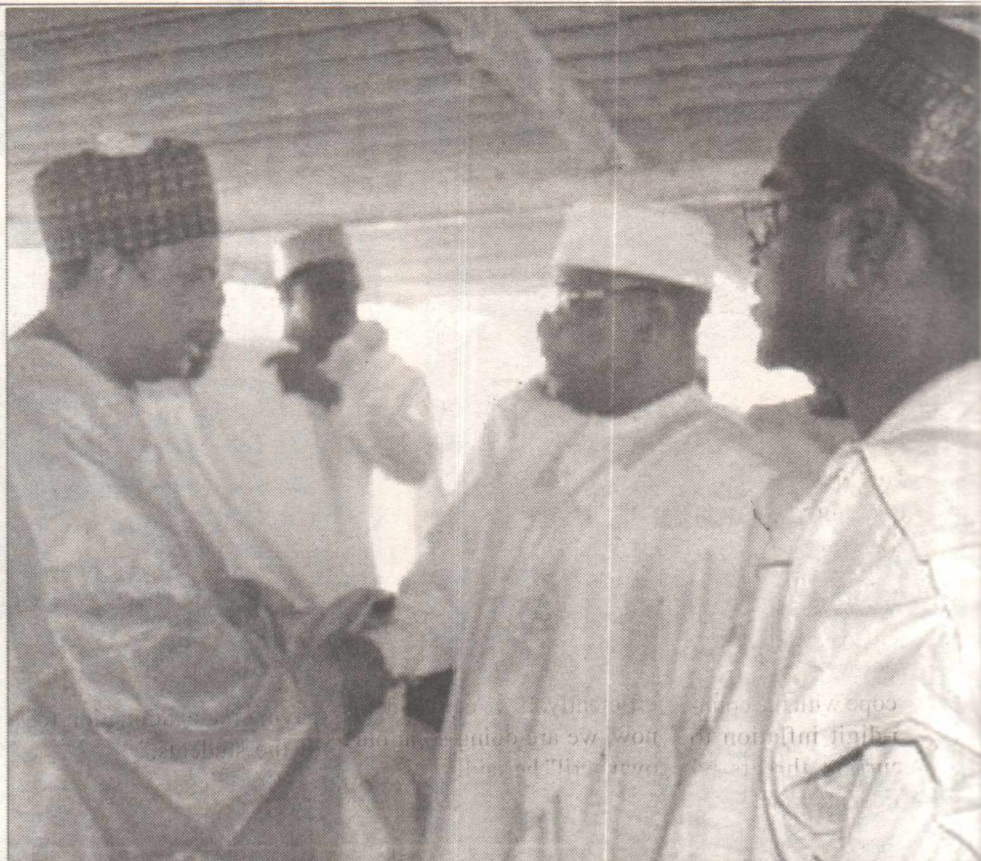
Co also observed that there were still pockets of Non-compliance in the northern part of the country, many involving religious leaders, who were still not fully supportive.

He said that there was need to maintain a high level of commitment and strong partnership, just as sustenance of the involvement of traditional and religious leaders at all levels was necessary.

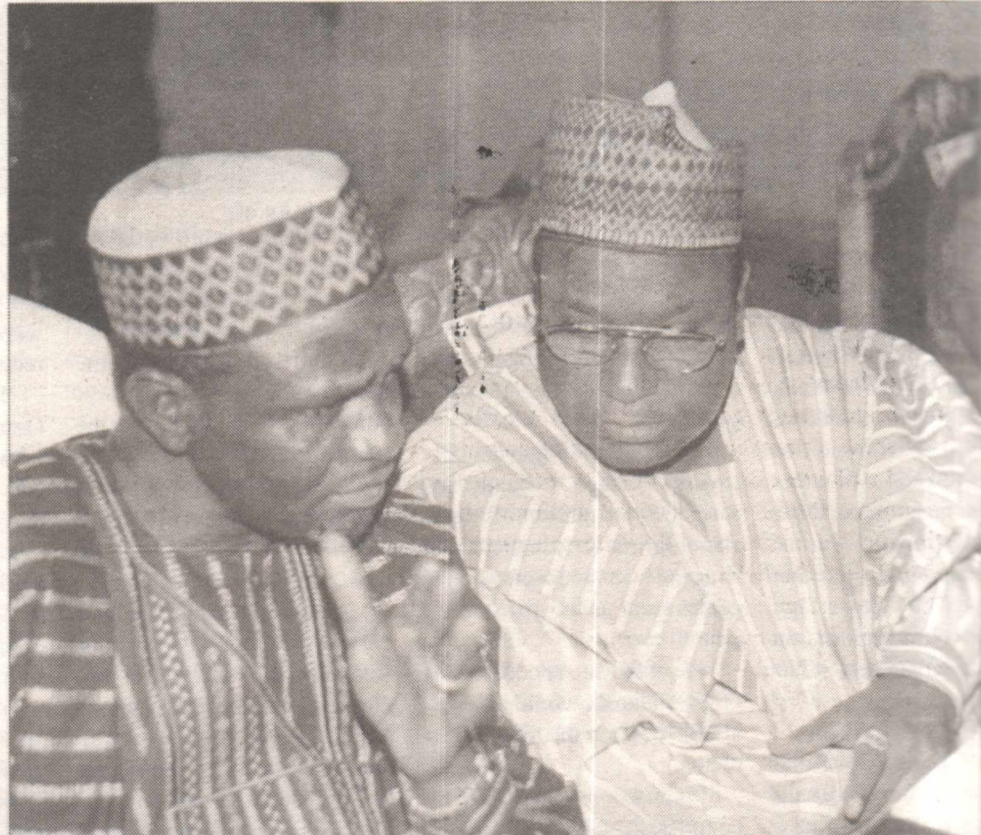
Co further said that there was need to close gaps in social mobilization and operational issues, especially targeting the missed children in semi-urban and rural areas.

He said that there was need to reverse the incidence of low immunization coverage which development partners had always supported, especially now that there was a blue print, draft activity, annual review/planning to tap from.

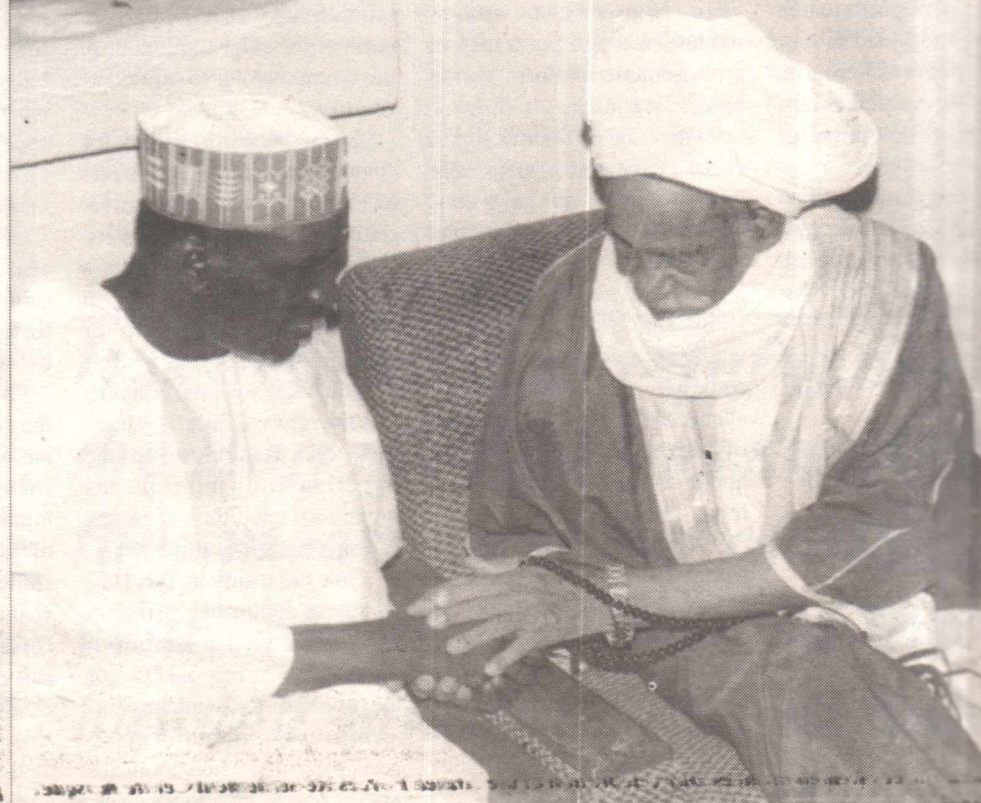
Co said that the "battle fields" for immunization in Nigeria still remained states and local government areas, adding that efforts to reverse the trends at the two levels would require 100 per cent commitment from all stakeholders.



General Ibrahim Babangida (middle) condoling Alhaji Abubakar Rimi, as Niger State governor, Abdulkadir Kure looks on...recently



Unity in service: Gov. Ibrahim Shekarau in tete-a-tete with his deputy Engr. Magaji Abdullahi at a function...recently



Governor Shekarau condoling Sheikh Dahiru Usman Bauchi at his residence over the death of his son Dr. Hudi Dahiru in Bauchi.

## Turaki Vanguard condoles Rimi

Turaki Vanguard, a political association backing Vice President Atiku Abubakar, has condoled with former Kano governor, Alhaji Abubakar Rimi, over the killing of his wife, Sa'adatu.

The group described the death as shocking, particularly the wicked and ungodly manner she was killed.

"It is also very sad to learn of the death of your in-law (an aunt to Sa'adatu) who died of shock after hearing the death of your wife.

"The two tragic events in your family at a period you are struggling with other progressives for the political emancipation of our country are very unfortunate," it added.

"As much as we accept that death is inevitable for

all human beings, we will reject the circumstance through which innocent, unassuming persons like your wife are killed by malicious and debased human beings.

They also prayed that those behind the "inhuman act should be exposed and punished accordingly".

The group implored Rimi "not to be so devastated into thinking of quitting your struggle for a better and greater Nigeria where equity, justice and fairness will hold sway".

In another development, a PDP youth leader, Malam Jibreel Tafida has said that the announcement of N5 million reward for information on the death of Rimi's wife is not enough. He noted that this is not the first time that the federal government placed a prize on assassins, adding that the same approach was adopted when chief Bola Ige was murdered. He stressed that the only way out for the country is an overhaul of the Nigeria police force, "which till date has not made any head way on the murder of Dr. Harry Marshall, Dikibo and several other Nigerians that were assassinated."



Late Sa'adatu Rimi

# EKO TRUST

## Assembly queries Auditor-General over pension funds

Lagos State House of Assembly has directed the state Auditor-General to furnish it with details on unclaimed pension cheques from the local government councils and the

state pensions office. The House committee on Appropriation gave the directive when some commissioners and officials appeared before it to defend their ministries' estimates in this year's

appropriation bill. Gov. Bola Tinubu had on Dec. 8 presented an appropriation of N117 billion to the House for its consideration. Mr Adeniyi Oyemade, the committee chairman, said the

measure became necessary to check some fraudulent practices in the payment of pensions. "It is to check fraud at the pay point and also to ensure that such unclaimed cheques

are returned" he said. Oyemade explained that government would no longer tolerate a situation where agencies and ministries operate what he called below-the-line accounting system.

"It is illegal for any agency to run a below-the-line account which cannot be accounted for in the central purse," he stressed. He called for transparency on the part of government officials to shore up the revenue of the state, insisting that all revenues generated by the various agencies must be paid into the state treasury.

Oyemade said the state government was determined to finance 60 per cent of the this year's budget with the internally generated revenue. "We are hoping that the budget of the state will soon be financed 100 per cent from internally-generated revenue," the lawmaker said.

## Pay police to avoid strike, Tinubu tells FG

Lagos State Governor Bola Ahmed Tinubu on Wednesday urged the police authorities to put in place a lasting welfare package that will give the average policeman the purchasing power to cope with the country's two-digit inflation to avert recurrent threats by junior officers to embark on strike.

By Olumide Bajulaiye, Correspondent (Lagos)

to secure investments and maintain order. "We must pay our police, adequately, effectively and efficiently. If we cannot do it now, we are doing so at our own peril" he said.

While noting that Lagos is the window through which investments enter the country, Tinubu said a situation where police stations lack generators to provide alternative to epileptic power supply undermines the security of the community and frustrates even the most patriotic policeman from performing his job.

He called on the police authorities to decentralize operations so that the heads of the commands could assume financial control of their budgets, adding that this will enable the commands address the problems of inadequate ammunition and poor logistics plaguing their operations.

He said the war against corruption could not be won if the cause of the corruption is not addressed. "If you don't plan for the future of the policeman, if you leave the man to provide for him-

self and his family, you are breeding corruption because the man has to survive. It is in recognition of this that we have provided free education in Lagos State public schools. This is why we are paying the examination fees of the students."

Recalling recent efforts of the administration to assist the police in the State, the governor lamented that the government's efforts are being undermined by the central command system of the police as officers trained and kitted are regularly transferred out of the state.

He promised to assist the police in its plan to set up a housing scheme for police officers by working out ways to use its buildings to facilitate the transactions.

The governor however, expressed dismay over the negative activities of some policemen. These include the indiscriminate waste disposal by the residents of Police Barracks in Falomo and the violations of the state's traffic laws.

Earlier Deputy Inspector General Labaran had explained that he was in Lagos to speak to top officers and other ranks of the police over

the threat by some junior workers to embark on strike to protest poor conditions of service.

DIG Labaran reported that his mission was successful and would proceed to Oyo, Osun and Ondo states and the relevant commands on the enlightenment mission.

He said the current admin-

istration in the police is determined to put in place improved welfare package and speed up promotions, which were delayed because the Police Service Commission was not inaugurated on time.

Thanking Tinubu for his support for police operations in the state, DIG Labaran urged him to continue to assist the police.



Deputy Inspector-General of police, Bello Labaran (left) visited Governor Tinubu recently as part of his tour of police formations against an impending nationwide strike. Pix: Olumide Bajulaiye



The commandant, Air Vice Marshall Yusuf Aisimi (middle) observing the Jumat service during the Armed Forces Remembrances Day celebration at the Armed Forces Re-settlement Centre mosque, Oshodi. Pix: Oladipupo Odunewu



Prof. (Mrs) Bisi Sarunmi (r) and Prof. Mark Nwagwu at a press briefing on the non payment of 23 months pension arrears to University of Ibanda retired professors by the federal government. Pix: Olumide Bajulaiye



# UNIVERSITY OF MAIDUGURI

(Office of the Registrar)

## SHORTLISTED CANDIDATES FOR POST UME SCREENING

The following candidates have been short listed for Post UME Screening into the various courses that appear against their names for the 2005/2006 session. Admission is subject to candidates passing the screening exercise that will be conducted on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of January, 2006 by the University.

All candidates are to bring along the sum of Five Hundred Naira (N500.00) screening fees and one passport photograph.

### COLLEGE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

#### MB; BS

S/NO	REG. NO.	NAME
1.	52578543 EI	NDUKWURU K. E.
2.	52812810 BC	BARINUA K. G.
3.	52602320 BC	IJIGA C. IJIGA
4.	52863551 HJ	ISA'AC C. OKEREKE
5.	52407865 BJ	MUSA ALI
6.	52593398 AG	NTOGO PERFECT D.
7.	52867772 CG	TOCHUKWU S. O.
8.	52267340 EI	DEBBIE-FAITH E. E.
9.	52401970 FA	JOHN SUNDAY O.
10.	52733241 AC	OSITA C. ORAFU
11.	52453784 AC	MARY YAH
12.	52810814 ID	MICHAEL LEDUM N.
13.	53181005 GD	MATHEW KHYE S.
14.	52646317 DI	CHIMEZIE D.A.
15.	52953488 CF	ISHAQ MOHAMMED
16.	52291705 HF	HADIZA B. GONI
17.	52510177 II	ROSELINE R. F.
18.	52241893 DE	NAMSO U. OBOT
19.	53143479 CE	HAUWA M. LAWAN
20.	52867274 GF	PAUL R. MUREY
21.	53005279 EG	JAMILA J. ALIYU
22.	52087338 DJ	KAWAHYA T. NUHU
23.	52992163 BC	ABUBAKAR I. ABUBAKAR
24.	52227529 FL	KWA'ALA CHIROMA
25.	52513759 BC	WAKAWA H. MUSA
26.	52529726 CJ	YUSUF HAMIDAH M.
27.	52196685 FC	UMEKWUJO A. NEGEDU
28.	52510177 II	ROSELINE RAYMOND F.
29.	52185333 GB	ABDULLAHI M. BELLO

#### DENTAL SURGERY

1.	53267291 AB	ABUBAKAR SADIQ I.
2.	52497340 JA	RITA ATSA
3.	52380388 JH	ALIYU A. ALIYU
4.	52380393 IC	ABDULAZIZ A. F.
5.	52947372 EA	ADEOLA A. A.
6.	53009311 HF	CHIMDA S. PELLA
7.	52370985 HJ	JOHN HEMEN I.
8.	52869372 HG	DIMAN MAINA
9.	52982932 GA	MUJAHID H. U. M.
10.	53023554 CG	SILAS V. TATAH
11.	52870219 FH	KAMALLUDEEN A. J.
12.	53389965 JE	ANGARJU H. WABA
13.	53143557 IB	WANKARI A. MUSA
14.	52838756 GF	NUHU H. SULE
15.	53344629 BB	JOY SIMON G.
16.	52971607 IF	VIREM K. NEV
17.	53389836 JD	MAIRO H. GARBA
18.	53000920 CI	SALEH CHERI

#### B. SC. HUMAN ANATOMY

1.	52580823 JF	JOHN N. BONIS
2.	52713904 AH	ELIJAH O. IGWE
3.	53371324 EI	DAVON WURIM K.

4.	53251199 GI	INAMETI EDEM E.
5.	52195189 HI	ABEL OJOMA E.
6.	52770682 AF	SAMUEL GODSON O.
7.	53344843 EI	SAMUEL PAUL B.
8.	53000790 DA	ABUBAKAR IMAM I.
9.	53390061 JH	NANCY JUMMAI S.
10.	52869054 GA	MOH'D E-GONI A.
11.	53390016 DI	HASSAN CHINDO
12.	52187413 CJ	MOH'D M. SALEH
13.	52380450 AI	RASHIDA H. HALILU
14.	52993714 BF	ZAINAB UMAR
15.	53344688 CI	AMOS JOHN
16.	52867855 GI	ESTHER PINDAR S.
17.	52868367 IE	MOH'D ABDULLAHI

#### B. SC. BIOCHEMISTRY

1.	52518039 HD	DAVID J. S. ALI
2.	52597418 HB	MICHAEL I. UZOZIE
3.	52605357 BJ	JAMES NWABUFO U.
4.	52269195 JD	DIANABASI B. U.
5.	52958664 BH	PIUS' OUT BISONG
6.	52843749 CE	LINDA C. EZE
7.	53066771 GE	ISMAIL YERIMA ALI
8.	52300163 BI	AYOMI POSI GRACE O.
9.	53146334 JC	OLOCHE PETER A.
10.	52488158 II	JAMES TARILA A.
11.	53249368 DC	BEATRICE C. C.
12.	52034755 GG	HASSAN BLESSING
13.	53262273 CA	MARVIN AMINA
14.	52023503 GG	OZOH MODESTER A.
15.	52366343 DH	CHARITY H. DANKAT
1.	52359402 AF	TITODO EVERATUS
2.	53048509 EF	DANIELO. ODEY
3.	52253194 IB	ABDUL ATTAH O. M.
4.	52195510 IF	OKANG ETIM N.
5.	52862228 HB	REUBEN IDOWU
6.	52868308 GH	FEMTO HINAKO H. I.
7.	53249362 FA	ELE NICOLE E.
8.	53256811 BD	NGALGOMO J. J.
9.	53256082 GG	KEREN L. SAJEL
10.	52869760 HG	MUSA MUSTAPHA
11.	53023705 FI	NANCY LOT
12.	53254687 IA	HAUWA A. AHMADU
13.	53263070 FE	PETRUS PAULUS
14.	52990980 GJ	ABDULRAHMAN M.
15.	52869642 EC	AYUBA UMAR S.
16.	53073192 AH	DANIEL MALIK
17.	53000666 BE	MOHAMMED YAU

#### B. SC. NURSING

1.	52289288 FB	PATIENCE O. EJEMBI
2.	52516745 HF	FLORENCE C. O.
3.	52404408 BB	SUNDAY AUDU A.
4.	52302118 HA	NWAGWU N. L.
5.	52083217 ID	UFUOMA JULIA O.
6.	52479216 EF	BUKOLA GLADYS O.

7.	52623572 IC	SIMI BECKY WASH
8.	53376037 HB	HANKURI JOSHUA
9.	52568020 JC	CHIKA DICK
10.	53180910 FH	HAUWA BUKAR
11.	52483370 JG	FATIMA BINTA M.
12.	53338360 JH	JUMMAI MBAHI J.
13.	52979802 EB	MICHAEL VONYIRI
14.	52972698 BD	MURTALA MICHAEL
15.	53009420 DJ	MOHAMMED AJA
16.	53066703 HE	AJI MARYAM LAWAN

#### PHYSIOTHERAPY

1.	53339606 EF	MADANI WILSON O.
2.	52949887 JF	TARITEI K.
3.	52511163 EA	OLALEKAN P. A.
4.	52963382 CF	AMAIKO JOSHUA
5.	52834182 BD	TERUNGWA NATU
6.	52885775 EG	MARKUS K. K.
7.	53110246 AH	RAXANA BATARI Y.
8.	52868157 DF	SUNDAY BABA MAMZA
9.	52126870 HE	AWONIYI M. M.
10.	53255885 HF	MOH'D D. YUSUF
11.	53256375 GA	ABDULWAHAB Y.
12.	53344510 HH	YOHANNA FLORENCE
13.	53340948 JD	YAU HUSSAINI
14.	53338209 GF	WASINDA M. SAMSON
15.	52868337 HH	MAXWELL T. CHILE

#### FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE

##### GENERAL AGRIC.

S/NO	REG. NO.	NAME
1.	52838724 GE	VICTOR ABARE
2.	52342548 EG	OLALEYE B. A.
3.	52982837 FE	FATIMA S. MOHAMMED
4.	52868689 II	CECILIA MAMZA
5.	53262553 FD	JOSHUA ALFRED A.
6.	52979335 IE	MICHAEL AMOS
7.	53009458 CC	OMEIZA S. A.
8.	52867696 GA	AHMAD A. AHMAD
9.	53390257 JB	AYUBA B. DAVID
10.	53257556 AJ	MUH'D ABUBAKAR
11.	53256988 GE	ANDREW AUDU
12.	53343980 BI	SARAH YAKUBU
13.	52364456 HC	OKON EDET OKON
14.	53255249 ED	BIMBO PRINCESS O.
15.	53390294 HH	USMAN A. BAZAM
16.	53390265 GH	HASSANA M. ADAMS
17.	52366029 AJ	BABATUNDE S. A.
18.	53038594 BB	KEFAS T. HIBIYA
19.	53066982 BD	IBRAHIM HUSSAINA Y.
20.	53009576 FG	ABUBAKAR USMAN A.
21.	53009799 GG	HADI A. O. HAMBAGDA
22.	52373443 HH	JAMILA A. BIU
23.	53344098 FC	BLESSING GODWIN

24.	53009725 JE	BUKAR LAWAN
25.	53344595 BG	INDAHGIJU DAUDA W.
26.	53249466 CJ	SANDRA FATIMA ABU

**ANIMAL SCIENCE**

1.	52800465 JA	BINTA PAUL ZAYUM
2.	52802288 FD	MUSA SHAHORO M.
3.	53344415 HB	HIRADI F. MBAYA

**FISHERIES & WILDLIFE**

1.	52372218 GG	MICHAEL NIYI G.
2.	53066790 AH	ALI IBRAHIM GAMAWA

**FOOD SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

1.	52196872 HD	MERCY EKWERE
2.	52874083 AI	DONALD T. A.
3.	52868764 FH	JOY CHIOMA NZELU
4.	52773379 GC	EVELYN I. NWEKE
5.	52867991 EI	AUGUSTA O. ODIGWE
6.	52866731 EF	ADAABI CHIOMA C.
7.	52870435 II	OMOTOLA O. OLOKOBA
8.	52866732 EC	RHODA BELLO WAKIRWA
9.	52352184 CI	PAULYN CHINENYE O.

**FACULTY OF ARTS**

**B. A. ARABIC**

S/NO	REG. NO.	NAME
1.	53344576 HD	ABUBAKAR M. KAWA
2.	53254667 ED	MUH'D L. BUKAR
3.	53390252 AJ	AHMAD RUFAI D. O.
4.	52382704 DG	MUH'D Y. ADAM
5.	53256047 HE	IDRIS A. IDRIS
6.	53254576 CF	ADIE KUDUS S.
7.	53000866 JD	ALI MOH'D HAFIZ
8.	53344432 CA	ABUBAKAR AHMAD T.

**B. A. CREATIVE ARTS**

1.	52607597 IJ	OKAFOR ANITA C.
2.	53144721 IB	ALI UFAN S.
3.	53338237 HI	CHRISTIAN K. T.
4.	52871473 HI	PETER ALBERT
5.	52869014 ID	MUSA USMAN
6.	52867064 BG	ALH. BABA GANA KOLO
7.	52972231 FG	NURA IBRAHIM LAU
8.	52868226 CC	SAMUEL Y. SAMBO

**B. A. ENGLISH**

1.	52975707 AH	EBENEZER E. C. Y.
2.	52364645 IH	IBRAHIM I. AYAABE
3.	52866841 AG	ZAINAB MOHAMMED
4.	53061216 EF	EJKWU O. E.
5.	52380665 EC	KAYODE A.
6.	53067003 EH	ABDULLAHI GAMBO
7.	52868128 CF	ISA USMAN M.
8.	52728754 HH	RUTH YANGU K.
9.	53038301 BH	HAITU PAUL
10.	53254255 BI	ABDULLAHI NUHU
11.	53363594 FF	WINIFRED AJIRI O.
12.	52869769 EJ	APPOLONIA EKEKE
13.	52840285 DH	ZAINA YAHYA I.
14.	53304937 GI	AKOZI MARK
15.	52991452 BB	QUEEN TIMOTHY
16.	53389932 JG	FRANCIS M. WAZIRI
17.	52981090 FH	WAFINJI DANIEL
18.	52866769 CI	UKEWASE J. K.
19.	53009316 GA	SAMUEL DANIEL O.
20.	52867653 JC	JOY DAUDA K.
21.	53037968 EG	AYUKA B. NDALARI
22.	53143932 CD	AHMED A. BAABA
23.	52869134 BE	PATRICIA E. SAURA
24.	53256015 HD	NURA JALIGE
25.	52868432 ID	YUSUF A. YUSUF
26.	53143861 EC	SAFIYA A. GREMA
27.	53009516 EC	BABA ALI GALTIMARI
28.	53344062 GD	HARUNA ASABE

**B. A. FRENCH**

1.	796949 GF	PETER MARTINS I.
2.	52388350 HD	ABDULLAHI GAMBO
3.	53344432 CA	ABUBAKAR AHMAD T.
4.	53344432 CA	ABUBAKAR AHMAD T.
5.	53344432 CA	ABUBAKAR AHMAD T.

**B. A. HAUSA**

1.	53000871 HI	IBRAHIM LAMA
2.	53001985 DE	MUSTAPHA MOH'D
3.	53257277 HA	SANI SAIDU

**B. A. HISTORY**

1.	53030187 BC	TERZULUM EARNEST Y.
2.	53143677 BC	ABBA IBRAHIM BUKAR
3.	53066903 FG	SULEIMAN SALEH
4.	52869231 BE	SHETTIMA M. BALLAMA
5.	53390075 FF	ABUBAKAR U. I
6.	52867080 GF	SULEIMAN H. UMAR
7.	52976400 GC	BILHAM BILLAH B.
8.	53066842 EF	ABDULKADIR AHMADU
9.	53256473 FH	DAHIRU DAIYABU
10.	52870087 GF	KITAKWA TADA SUVA
11.	53143986 FF	MOHAMMED A.
12.	52973501 CJ	LEYEMSO JOHN DEDAN

**B. A. ISLAMIC STUDIES**

1.	52837610 BB	SANIRA MUH'D Y.
2.	52869526 AC	BABA ALH. ABATCHA
3.	53254171 HG	MOHAMMED BILAL
4.	53143551 AC	AHMAD NASIR
5.	53023519 DE	MUSTAPHA ISA A.
6.	53257476 FF	YAHAYA M. MUSA
7.	52867650 AE	ABBA MAMMAN UMAR
8.	53344467 BC	JA'AFAR A. MUHAMMAD

**B. A. KANURI**

1.	53009452 EA	MARIYA I. USA
2.	53344816 DC	ALHAJI BUKAR ALIBE

**B. A. LINGUISTICS**

1.	52378282 BD	IGANTIUS M. O.
2.	53338240 GJ	LATIFATU A. ALABI
3.	52867319 CH	DABAWA AZHUGA
4.	52869222 EB	ISMAIL BILAL G.
5.	53343947 CA	ABDULLAHI M. ARABI
6.	53254834 CH	ALHAJI MUSA ISA
7.	52868677 CH	TAHIR USMAN

**B. A. MASS COMMUNICATION**

1.	53340721 JF	SAKANA DIKKO
2.	52250583 FH	ABDULQUADRI I. M
3.	52483740 FD	MARIAM A. O.
4.	53344376 JB	VINCENT FIDELIS S.
5.	52636416 FJ	BLESSING PETER E.
6.	52480331 JF	HALIMAT MUH'D
7.	53248206 CG	ABDULRAHAMAN I.
8.	53355976 BH	AISHA AHMED

**FACULTY OF EDUCATION**

**B. A. EDUCATION**

S/NO	REG. NO.	NAME
1.	53009793 IE	AHAMAD M. ALI
2.	52868234 JF	YUSUF ABDULLAHI
3.	53237150 CA	ENIABIRE ABISAYO
4.	52869671 FC	ALI MOHAMMED
5.	53009273 JC	AMOB I. ONUMONU
6.	52974761 DC	CLIFFORD A. HYAMBER
7.	52830948 BF	UDU MANASSEH
8.	52866802 CG	RABI BUKAR TAHIR
9.	53390189 AE	UVIE RANI EBIRERI
10.	52871458 CG	BUKAR ANAS
11.	53254677 BD	MOHAMMED WAZIRI B.
12.	53344209 BA	MADINATU MUSTAPHA
13.	52846991 JF	FATIMA UMAR BOLORI
14.	53023452 EB	MANU ABOKI
15.	52869706 EE	AHMED MOH'D
16.	52971456 FD	UYEBSIRIKA MUSA D.
17.	53344515 GC	KALTUM ALI ABBA
18.	52869523 BB	ZAINAB SALEH MOH'D
19.	53254528 HC	KANIRA YUSUF

**B. ED. ADULT EDUCATION**

1.	53344869 GH	YAGANA L. LANTEWA
2.	53344150 JA	MODU GAMBO KYARI
3.	53254623 HI	MUSTAPHA LAWAN
4.	53009632 IC	MAIRAMA KADO M.
5.	53390160 JB	MARYAM A. LIMAN

**AGRIC EDUCATION**

1.	53254715 JD	ZANNA A. K. MUSLIM
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**BUSINESS EDUCATION**

1.	52039307 IH	ABOSEDE A. ILO
2.	52369066 BG	YUSUF M. SAID
3.	52869801 FA	ABDULRASAQ IBRAHIM
4.	52830927 HI	AKER BENJAMIN B.
5.	52868512 DH	HALIMA ALIYU ISA
6.	53009770 FG	CORNELIA EDET ROLAND
7.	52869087 FI	YAGANA A. ABADAM
8.	53389973 HA	PATIENCE ANALO

**B. SC. EDUCATION (SCIENCE)**

1.	52991484 BC	SABO BALA D.
2.	52867113 GD	CHUKWUDI C. IKEH
3.	53009325 DD	CATHERINE C. O.
4.	53389938 HI	AUGUSTINA IRIKEFE U.
5.	52868857 GJ	UMARU ALH. AUDU
6.	52868442 FD	WAJAH BULUS N.
7.	53038438 JB	GEORGE ELIJAH U.
8.	5286972 HF	SULEIMAN L. WAKAWA

**B. SC. PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

1.	53257319 BE	EDWARD NYAM
2.	53066697 JC	AHMED A. BADEJO
3.	53256706 DH	ABDULLAHI A. A.

**LIBRARY SCIENCE**

1.	53265779 HF	CHRISTIANA O. O.
2.	52843104 BJ	IFEANYI O. WALTER
3.	53338334 HI	JADDA DUNGUS H.
4.	52847444 JE	OHIOMA DAVID
5.	52361126 HB	PAUL LUKE OGAIH
6.	52871384 FE	SALIHU USMAN
7.	52868199 AG	BABA GANA M. NGALA
8.	52196220 IJ	ABUGH IVEREN

**B. SC. HEALTH EDUCATION**

1.	52972075 DJ	SAKKO MARWA M.
2.	53344500 BA	MUSTAFA ALI
3.	52378607 AI	MUKHTARI HABU
4.	53257419 DC	USMAN SINA D.
5.	53390057 BC	NZEH C. GLORIA
6.	52801489 CF	YUSHAU MOH'D
7.	53022648 CI	AMOS MUSA
8.	53344024 IA	KALTUME MOH'D
9.	52976803 BH	SUNDAY STEPHEN
10.	53248417 HC	LAWAL M. SHEHU
11.	52870300 AI	USOMINE ASIMIAKHUINI
12.	52330598 IH	TOMI TIMOTHY M.
13.	53248818 DD	SANI HASSAN
14.	52869774 DE	MOH'D M. CHABBAL
15.	53110149 AH	MUMUNI GARBA
16.	52871534 IJ	MOH'D BELLO
17.	53023609 FF	ISAH SANI
18.	53256449 DC	MOH'D YAU
19.	53257090 EJ	BABAWURO JABBULE
20.	53257172 JE	DAMBA S. SAMBO
21.	52976418 AI	SAIDU A. UMAR
22.	53254610 CA	MOHAMMED SHUAIBU

**FACULTY OF ENGINEERING**

**AGRIC ENGINEERING**

S/NO	REG. NO.	NAME
1.	52512830 ID	EBU RAYMOND J.
2.	52502727 DB	MUSA ABDULLAHI
3.	52769069 JB	MOSES JOSEPH I.
4.	53325931 DJ	STEPHEN ANAMEFULA
5.	52869037 BE	STANLEY KELECHI IPEH

**CHEM. ENGINEERING**

1.	52866945 IC	ABBAS BABA JIDDAH
2.	52870171 AH	ADA MUALIYU
3.	52356898 EI	EMMANUEL SHALL

**CIVIL ENGINEERING**

1.	52408500 FE	JOSEPH ELAIGWU
2.	52054618 DR	BALARABE I. USMAN

3.	52519865 HC	GLORIA O. OKOSODO
4.	52433129 IB	OLAWALE ALLEN O.
5.	52409463 HF	DAVID SHEDRACH E.
6.	52459312 AF	CHRISTIAN CHIDI U.
7.	53372019 JH	LEWIS OCHE E.
8.	52280446 JG	UTIBE WILSON G.
9.	52277818 CG	CHRISTIAN N. N.
10.	52868941 BB	OLUWAFEMI O. A.
11.	52482323 DG	HAMISU M. ADAMU
12.	52514471 BA	HAUWA C. HAMMAN
13.	52981299 BC	EMMANUEL NAGU
14.	52354057 DF	DAUDA ENEJO U.
15.	52867936 BJ	GOODLUCK FRANCIS
16.	52869694 IA	RAJI MUH'D O.
17.	52869481 EA	MOH'D A. KULOGUMNA
18.	53009601 HI	MOH'D MALA
19.	53338698 FD	INQUKIYE LYON
20.	52975964 BC	IBRAHIM U. BELLO
21.	53009357 DE	JOSHUA I. GADZAMA
22.	52869598 HH	YAKUBU B. SHUWA
23.	52868080 HC	LYDIA J. JILANTIKIRI

**ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING**

1.	52811805 CA	BARINADA C. ADIBA
2.	52403543 IE	HALFA TETE GAYUS
3.	53373886 CF	OCHAI S. ADADU
4.	52408637 DB	AMINU OMALE A.
5.	52627410 BE	IGWE PRECIOUS N.
6.	52590883 IC	EMENIKE L. IGWE
7.	52597959 JH	VICTOR C. OKAFOR
8.	53354357 CE	PETER GADU
9.	52576375 FD	CHRISTIAN C. O. E
10.	52603905 BA	OKPONIBOUT I. C.
11.	52664111 AG	KENNEDY GADZAMA B.
12.	52863650 HD	PATRICK O. O.
13.	53334082 DA	AHMED O. SULEIMAN
14.	53380893 FD	MAJEED O. SANNI
15.	52441610 FC	ABDULKARIM Z. M.
16.	52518716 HJ	INUWA I. JALO
17.	52867679 BE	SALEH AHMAD A.
18.	53338350 DH	MANASSEH WAMDEO K. Y.
19.	52359507 HI	AUTA AKLAHYEL S.
20.	52377928 AI	ABDULRAHMAN G.
21.	53263209 CF	BASHIRA T. SANI
22.	52871449 FD	MUSTAPHA AHMED
23.	53344250 IB	FRANCIS I. AMEH
24.	52705582 EE	LEONARD JOEL DAVID

**MECHANICAL ENGINEERING**

1.	52913303 GC	OKODIKE A. C.
2.	52576480 CF	PRECIOUS I. I.
3.	52598240 JC	NWADIGHI I.
4.	52992256 CE	AYODELE F. O.
5.	52520261 AD	CHARLES E. YAMAH
6.	53371322 FE	JOSEPH DAVID N.
7.	52451253 CJ	IBUKUNOLUWA M. A.
8.	52270718 ID	MARYAM UMAR K.
9.	52519821 GC	BLESSING U. A.
10.	52636860 IF	GAMBO A. YUSUF
11.	52035449 CB	HABIB A. Y.
12.	53053313 IG	ADUGBA B. I.
13.	52507316 DI	USMAN A. RABRU
14.	53372409 JB	ABUBAKAR JUNIOR Y.
15.	53257111 ID	YUNUSA I. ADAMU
16.	52979928 FB	IDRISS YUSUF A.
17.	52374970 FF	SHAMSU L. A.
18.	52868555 AF	SAMSON ABDULLAHI
19.	52869818 JG	MOHAMMED K. J.
20.	52388519 FB	USMAN M. KOLLERE

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2.	52409044 HB	OLUREMI OGUNBAMERU
3.	52048022 DF	JEREMIAH U. JOHNSON
4.	52368596 GI	ANTHONY GODWIN I.

**LLB & SHARIAH**

1.	52870144 IJ	TUKUR BALA
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3.	53009604 GJ	IBRAHIM ISA
4.	52869279 GE	UMAR ALI KYARI
5.	52662965 EJ	MARUF OWOYEMI RAJI
6.	53343933 GC	MOHAMMED MAKINTA
7.	53257239 IH	HARUNA NARIYE ISA
8.	53389739 JD	MOHAMMED A. SALEH

**PUBLIC LAW**

1.	53292563 DJ	EKPEMYONG EKPENYONG E.
2.	52412844 CA	AMINA MAIYAKI
3.	53263115 BG	AHMADI E. M. IBRAHIM
4.	53249173 DF	MOHAMMED DAUDA
5.	52976635 DG	DANGANA ANTHONY
6.	52412843 CD	AMIRA MAIYAKI
7.	52871424 DB	JEREMIAH S. ORAWUAM
8.	52397225 CG	ISHAQ ALIYU

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3.	52622483 FB	GABRIEL AMBROSE KARIBO
4.	52713592 HA	OKABA POWELDE AUSTINE
5.	52869699 GF	YAHAYA SALEH BIBINU
6.	52250572 JA	EZE IJEOMA PATRICIA
7.	52516352 JA	TANKO ABRAHAM PAPKA
8.	52514977 EE	FRANKLIN ONOME UMOUR
9.	52147663 GG	OLALEKAN YUSUF OLADIPO
10.	52514068 FF	TIMOTHY C. POSSO
11.	52396119 EG	MBA IBE UKAI
12.	52397025 EE	CHRISTIAN OSE O. AKHINME
13.	52476261 ID	CYNTHIA ABBA
14.	52147726 HB	MOHAMMED HASSAN
15.	53252174 FD	ANNA SULE HASSAN
16.	52419408 BJ	RASHIDAT A. O.
17.	52260410 GE	ADEDEJI O. PILOT
18.	52824405 FA	MARIAM ISA ABDULLAHI
19.	52667210 AG	UDUAK DAVID OKODI
20.	52711858 DE	ENDURANCE ANIRI
21.	52040272 AF	SOPHAN O. OLUBIYI
22.	52503199 HA	AISHATU MUSA ABBA
23.	53006387 CA	JACKSON AFUOH OTOGOR
24.	52981455 CJ	AZWIS NYIFI UTEN
25.	53340390 CB	LEVI LAWRENCE
26.	53374623 EF	FELIX NGURGURO GHEON
27.	52715192 CD	GODFREY EBIFEGHA
28.	52957048 BF	RONARD ITA INAH
29.	52979202 JF	OPEYEMI DANIEL J.
30.	52295036 HD	ESTHER PWAAKORENO M.
31.	52508834 ED	ADAMS ZARA LAWAN
32.	53033221 CI	MONDAY AYUBA GADZAMA
33.	52292007 EC	NJIRA KOREDE ALIU
34.	52504142 FE	THOMAS KWAKAAKIPO N.
35.	53338259 BC	TUNGA UMARU FONGA
36.	53389880 FI	ABUBAKAR SADIQ A.
37.	52419364 FE	FRED ZEPH LENBANK
38.	52514085 AE	ABBAS MUH'D ABBA K.
39.	53255919 HA	MUH'D NASIRU MUH'D
40.	52508849 JF	FATIHA B. KACHALLA
41.	52946733 DB	NASIRU ISA AHMADU
42.	53110337 CF	MUSA SABO
43.	53009745 DE	AMINU GIDADO GQNI
44.	53009712 DG	SAIDU USMAN
45.	53374133 BD	ZAINABU MUSA M.
46.	52869536 GJ	ABBA ADAM SHETTIMA

**B. SC. BUSINESS MANAGEMENT**

1.	52416244 AF	AYUBA YOHANNA
2.	53222392 GC	TABITHA AYUBA
3.	52417809 GD	FASASI RASAKI KOLAWOLE
4.	52489652 GI	OLORUNSHOLA M. O. F.
5.	52409709 BG	MAIGARI USMAN
6.	52612288 IB	JULIET BAKOSI
7.	52478089 DB	CHRISTIANA EDEHA IBOMA
8.	52099763 BC	GBUBEMI AKPEGHO PRISCA
9.	52580928 HB	ABUBAKAR NJIDDA MOHD
10.	52505716 IF	DANIEL AYUBA K.
11.	52607846 CB	CHINONSO NELSON EZINWA
12.	52492752 IA	MOHAMMED OSHUKS B. K.

14.	52510557 BF	MICHAEL TOSIN OHOH
15.	52475377 BJ	ISMAILA ISAAC
16.	5250998 HG	FATIMOH MOMOH
17.	52394462 HA	PHILEMON DAUDA D.
18.	52828577 EH	BABA TUNDE OLUSHOLA A.
19.	53265677 JA	FELIX FRANCIS EGEJURU
20.	52371826 HI	OMAH EMMANUEL A.
21.	52390519 GF	RAHIMATU AUTINE MUSA
22.	52272249 EI	DAVID EMMANUEL AMEH
23.	52293660 DA	IBRAHIM BUBA HAMMAN
24.	52049821 HA	JAMILA MOH'D MAILAFIA
25.	53344034 FA	USMAN ALI BAPPA
26.	53344169 DD	MOH'D AUWAL ABUBAKAR
27.	52034810 JF	HALIMA ABDULLAHI
28.	52501121 JG	SAMUEL HAPPY
29.	52147746 BB	OLUFEMI MURTALA AJAYI
30.	52403594 CI	HABILA KUCHOHFF LUKA
31.	52512026 HA	YERIMA MARIA
32.	53344539 JG	ZARMA MODU
33.	52991431 IB	ANGELA THOMAS
34.	52835942 GI	KWENTAI ADAMU T.
35.	52500415 IA	ABDULLAHI JIKA ADAMU
36.	53390111 EE	MOHAMMED ZANNA ALI
37.	52983011 BH	ABDULRAHSHEED H. A.
38.	53249406 BF	BAPPAH KABIRU
39.	53389773 II	MOHAMMED IDRIS
40.	53389952 DG	ESTHER BERNARD
41.	52171477 BG	MAIKANTI LUKA
42.	52869725 IE	HELEN ESUAU
43.	53249246 BA	ABUBAKAR M. AMINU
44.	52869397 AB	WATIRAHYEL N. MSHELIA
45.	53290324 GD	ABDULLAHI ADAMU AUDU
46.	52982960 HD	ALIRAMBE KABIR M.

**B. SC. PUBLIC ADMIN**

1.	52397366 II	KAFILAT ASHABI YUSUF
2.	52867938 BD	DANLADI AMATGU
3.	52580857 JA	OGEH SOLOMON CHIOMA
4.	52991016 FI	DANBURAM BABAYO
5.	52413917 AC	CLEMENT ELISHA
6.	53030595 EJ	DONALD YANGEZUA S.
7.	52515094 IB	ALAWA CLEMENT BEHORA
8.	52868147 GF	SULEIMAN AHMED SALEH
9.	52413826 IB	HALIMA ABUBAKAR
10.	52811662 GB	GODWIN DUMANENE B.
11.	53022059 EJ	EZRA N. YOHANNA
12.	53256736 EE	SHALOM ANDREW KUNGA
13.	52494842 BI	MOHAMMED BABA ADAMU
14.	52871362 CD	TANKO ABDULMUMINI
15.	53009661 JC	HASHIM YUSUF ABUBAKAR
16.	53337887 GB	BABA AJI GARBA
17.	53374474 GA	ZUBAIRU ALIN BAPPA

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1.	53141659 FC	NDUBISI AKUDE
2.	52809188 BE	J. BARINUA ABALUBU
3.	52399419 EA	MUH'D SHERIFF Y.
4.	53254195 AE	MUSA MUH'D MADURI
5.	52054613 FA	UFOT PATRICK STANLEY
6.	52254007 GH	AWAWU MOJISOLA ASHIMU
7.	52127422 GH	MOH'D MUSA A.
8.	52415546 GC	HAMMAN VANDI SAMUEL
9.	52398727 HI	TIMOTHY AMOS
10.	52359643 FI	EMMANUEL P. ACHINBEE
11.	52802239 AG	LUKMAN HARUNA WAZIRI
12.	52390119 AE	MICHAEL AKOR
13.	52607925 HF	NGOZI PERPETUA M.
14.	52144036 ID	RITA CHIZOBA OKOLOEGBO
15.	52293691 DE	PHILIP SIMON
16.	52583272 CD	AMOS EMMANUEL O.
17.	52341717 AB	PETER TOCHUKWU C.
18.	52355224 CG	MOSES ANTHONY A.
19.	52556390 GC	ADAABI N. EZEKOLI
20.	53361079 DE	ABDULLAHI OKHAIMOH
21.	52433183 BG	ALIYU ADEMOLU A.
22.	52905843 HJ	KINGSLEY E. IKE
23.	52607522 CD	EMMANUEL DOMINIC
24.	52503526 FJ	ISIAKA E. KABIR
25.	52654582 HF	BUKAR NDRANGARI
26.	53263709 HH	SAMUEL IFEANYI A.
27.	52043290 GJ	RACHAEL O. IDOWU

29.	53009704 GA	OLANREWAJU O. AFENI
30.	53265775 IH	VICTOR N. DAMAK
31.	53304619 FC	V. AMODU BOJE
32.	53356471 IE	JOSEPH I. ADEOYE
33.	52504830 CH	ADAM JIBRIL MUH'D
34.	53263884 DH	SABEWA YAKUBU YADU
35.	53323002 JG	DAMIETE DATUBO KUNA
36.	52293240 CI	ALEX AMSTRONG EKWO
37.	53025705 HC	TIMOTHY SAMUEL S.
38.	53303803 HF	OKPOKWU G. OCHEPA
39.	52335323 HE	ONUH OKOPI M. ROY
40.	52479842 BA	KAZEEM AJIBOLA ALAO
41.	52371052 HC	AHMED U. ABUBAKAR
42.	53258656 AH	TOYIN T. CLEMENT
43.	52519659 GD	INNOCENT IKANI
44.	52351951 EI	EMMANUEL L. ADANKAI
45.	53023717 CC	DANLAMI UMAR
46.	5363000 HA	SALOME SARA JEREMIAH
47.	52228956 EF	IDRIS ABBA ISA
48.	52235823 AI	PHEBE S. NGABOLO
49.	53302883 CC	OKO EMMANUEL A.
50.	53385617 ED	OLORUNTOBA ABAYOMI J.
51.	52885947 BF	HALILU BABA SALIHU
52.	53266394 HD	EMMANUEL E. INNOCENT
53.	52038836 EF	ISHAYA PETER MBAYA
54.	52369531 HG	PETER CHEMAN KOTI
55.	53143771 CB	ABUBAKAR SANI
56.	52803729 JF	ISTIFANUS G. ILIYASU
57.	52870319 EI	ISA USMAN
58.	52972202 EG	MUSTAPHA NJANE
59.	53023739 FD	ISHAKA HARISU
60.	53248221 HI	LIMAN YUSUF
61.	52524440 HG	CHEKARNAM C. MELANDI
62.	53023400 AD	ANDESATI PHILIP
63.	53344709 GC	SALAMATU ABEARY
64.	52194299 GC	HAUWA BABAYOLA A.
65.	52546697 EB	EZEKIEL AYABA ABU
66.	53066757 AJ	RABIU ALHAJI AUDU
67.	53344801 HH	DANIEL JOSHUA
68.	53000999 IC	MOHAMMED LAWAL ALI
69.	52971027 HJ	BASHIRU ABUBAKAR
70.	53143790 GB	ELKANAH DANIEL
71.	52869866 EJ	ABDULRASHEED A.
72.	53000840 HE	MUSA ARDO
73.	53344031 FJ	YUSUF HARUNA
74.	52972132 GC	ZARA YAKUBU GOLO
75.	53021756 IF	RITA LUKA
76.	53249429 ED	SOLOMON WAZIRI
77.	52837582 JF	DAFE SILAS BELLO
78.	52867154 DH	HARUNA IBRAHIM C.
79.	52868562 IB	KARU M. GAJERIMA
80.	52870269 AE	HARUNA ARAB

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6.	52641458 GF	AYIBADENYEFA D. E.
7.	52241911 HH	ABIODUN YNISA S.
8.	52517434 EF	IFEOMA FRAMA E.
9.	52450152 DE	PRISCA C. AGBARA
10.	52507329 JG	ELIZABETH NEWTON
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12.	52976634 DJ	MANUNYI MAXWELL S.
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17.	52970943 EA	BABYLON PHILEMON
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4.	52704182 HD	CHIDOZIE UMEH
5.	52991449 CA	RAHAB JOHN AHMADU
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6.	52369102 AF	ENIKELE SHEDRACH ALIU
7.	53389942 GG	ABDULLAHI ALLE
8.	52869991 GC	MUKHTARI U. HARUNA
9.	52387054 IB	BASHIR HARUNA
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3.	52097634 JE	AL AMIN O. SULEIMAN
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5.	53143768 DA	ALI BABAGANA MODU
6.	52591725 HI	VICTOR C. NWANWO
7.	53371958 IG	ECHÉ BEST ENEGELA
8.	53143599 FC	USMAN MOH'D IBRAHIM
9.	52390691 DE	ADESOLA DAVID EBE
10.	52183004 GE	ARUWA ISMAIL A.
11.	53009320 EI	SALIHU AJUJI YOLA
12.	52380390 JB	GREMA USMAN
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2.	53353958 FH	MUSA IDRIS
3.	52372471 ID	GABRIEL OBARO IRORAJE
4.	53344687 DB	BITRUS TAMI MSHELIA
5.	52869190 EA	UCHENNA IMO OFFOR

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9.	52868961 EI	MUHAMMAD LAWAN
10.	52870101 CD	SOLOMON MUSA
11.	52838737 CF	SHUAIBU AHMED
12.	53038605 HF	SIKARI BATHON ATI
13.	53254412 DC	AHMED MOH'D ADAMKOLO
14.	52869167 BE	EMMANUEL ENOCH
15.	53143973 IE	AL MANSUR ALIYU
16.	53286775 NI	ABRAHIM SAIDU DATA
17.	52802043 BG	SADISU ABEBAKAR

18.	52869080 HJ	MOHAMMED BUKAR SAJE
19.	53344281 IF	MICHAEL BALAMI DANIEL
20.	53038195 EE	YUSUFU DZARMA

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2.	53343940 EB	ABDULFATHI K. AHMED
3.	53344264 DJ	JIBRIN BABA HUSSAINI
4.	52519668 DG	TAHIR MOH'D ZAKARIYA
5.	52578558 AD	HENRY CHINEDU ASURU
6.	52692157 GE	AKPORUE SUNDAY
7.	53265944 GF	MADUABUCHI COSMOS O.
8.	52568997 HB	ORDEDO LINUS CHIA
9.	52506337 GF	BILKIS OVAIEU IDRIS
10.	52604406 FJ	CHAMERLYNE NKPURUKWE
11.	52973550 HG	PAUL AMBROSE
12.	53254841 AG	SHEHU USMAN ILU
13.	52504955 EA	GRACE TAWI PESLEY
14.	52252407 BH	BENJAMIN SHALLAR
15.	53261354 GB	CLIFF STANLEY
16.	53305137 FA	NGUSHA KATSINA

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1.	52420678 IJ	JIMOH B. EDUN
2.	52733199 DB	OKONKWO MICHAEL E.
3.	52247310 HJ	BILKISU ALIYU
4.	52335099 GH	TEMITOPE ADUOLA
5.	53009424 CH	WATILA L. ABDULRAHMAN
6.	52045765 BG	SUNDAY EWULE ODE
7.	53009272 JF	EDWARD STEPHEN O.
8.	53257123 EH	BUHARI YERIMA
9.	52513807 GC	BABANGIDA U. GALADIMA
10.	52867557 IJ	YERIMA MOH'D SHERIFF
11.	53073225 AF	ISA AHMED
12.	3110711 GH	ADE WILLIAMS OSHA
13.	52869614 CJ	HAMZA ILIYASU
14.	52242734 DD	AWALU SANI MOH'D
15.	52870253 FC	AHMED USMAN
16.	53389741 IH	HASSAN HALA
17.	52404449 IC	ISAAC OROKPO
18.	52869810 CD	MUKTARI BAPPA UMAR
19.	53344626 CA	SAMARI MADI KPOSO
20.	53344827 JG	KABIRU LAWAL GABASAWA
21.	53389917 EE	SUNDAY YAKUBU
22.	53324422 AH	TIMOTHY LUPER SAAKU
23.	53389985 DE	YUSUF KANNIKE ADAM
24.	52801470 IC	IRMIYA BALEWA JOHN
25.	53319932 JB	UMAR MOH'D ABBA
26.	52869456 BI	ZAKARIYA SAMUEL
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28.	52869313 FJ	FATI M. FANNARAMBE
29.	52970733 II	JEFFREY TINO
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# THE HOMIE FRONT

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With Dr Aminu Magashi

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**End of the year party: What children say**

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## How to stay healthy during harmattan - Expert

**H**armattan is a season that comes with cold, harsh and dry wind. As a result it presents with many diseases, common among them are below:

### Common cold (coughs and catarrh)

This will commonly present as coughs, catarrh fever, throat irritation, and soreness with poor appetite.

It's common in young children, especially those under 5 years. Commonest cause is virus in about 30-50% of cases, the symptoms are of sudden onset, with mucus nasal discharge, nasal congestion, and fever. Examination of the ear, nose and throat shows inflammation.

Treatment is usually by use of drugs to relieve pain, use of humidified

(warmed) air, multivitamins, saline nasal drops and cough suppressants. There is the need to keep warm.

Where complications with bacterial agents are suspected antibiotics are used; especially if the fever is prolonged.

### Pneumonias

This is inflammation/infection of the lungs, by viral or bacterial agents that are inhaled with the dust of the cold air during the harmattan.

The common symptoms are fever, cough, and difficulty in breathing (dyspnea). Chest examination reveals abnormal breath sounds (rales/creps), and the chest x-ray may show infiltrates.

Treatment includes use of antibiotics for bacterial pneumonias. There is also

the need to keep warmth, increase oral fluid intakes and use of analgesics.

Prevention includes protection from colds, and use of warm clothing and use of multivitamins.

### Gastroenteritis

This is inflammation/infection of the gastrointestinal tract, which results in diarrhoea, and vomiting. The most common cause of acute gastroenteritis in children is viruses, next followed by bacterial and parasitic agents.

### Malaria

Malaria kills million of children world-wide each year, especially under 5 years old. During the harmattan seasons, like other times the mosquito breeds in clean water in open containers.

Malaria is a parasitic

infection caused by bites from the female anopheline mosquito especially the *P. falciparum*, which cause severe malarias.

Common malaria symptoms are fever, abdominal pain, nausea, convulsions, diarrhoea and vomiting, and headaches in older children.

Examination will reveal a sick child, with pyrexia, who also may have anaemia, enlarged spleen and liver. Severe malaria in children is deadly as the child could present with coma, very high temperature of over 39°C, severe anaemia, haematuria (blood in urine), chest congestion (pulmonary oedema), cardiac failure, liver involvement and repeated uncontrolled seizures/convulsions. The blood malaria parasite is also very high.

Treatment involves the use of a combination of anti-malarial drugs. Other supportive treatment involves use of intravenous fluids in dehydrated patients, and blood transfusion for anaemia.

Every child with fever should be treated early for malaria to prevent these complications.

Prevention of malaria involves the use of insecticide treated nets (ITN) for children especially those under 5 years, and early and adequate treatment of all cases of fever. Routine use of protective anti-malaria is only recommended for children with haemoglobin SS genotype.

*Dr. Patience A. Ahmed, consultant paediatrician.*



Members of the Federation of Muslim Women Association of Nigeria at the 2005 International Women's Day in Lagos.

# THE HOME FRONT

## Fragments

By Safiya I. Dantiye, Editor, *The Home Front*  
safiyadantiye@yahoo.com

### On husband beating

Obviously this is a strange topic, because one only hears of wife beaters or wife batterers, but not husband batterers. The topic is so incongruous that many people don't believe it, because of the fact that men are physically stronger than women and that usually wives are afraid of their husbands as the heads of the family.

Few days ago I read a sorry story with heading 'she beats me'. A man was seeking for advice because his wife beats him, and that his parents would not tolerate divorce, therefore it was ruled out.

What is usually known is where some women harass their husbands so much that they become afraid of them, but certainly not to slap or beat them. For instance there was a man who had to take his salary to his wife without taking anything out of it, because she knew how much it was. Therefore one day he was short paid and didn't realise it until he took the money to his wife, and when she counted it, she accused him of taking the money and spending it, he swore that he didn't take it.

"You are lying you spent it," she insisted.

The man decided to go back to the cashier, and when he got there he had left the local government headquarters and went into another village, he followed him there and collected the rest of the money. He spent more money on transport than the money he went to collect.

Another instance is where a man was so afraid of his wife that he didn't want to go home after he close from the office. He would go to a friend's house, then moved to another friend's house until it was very late in the night when he will have no choice than to go home.

Indeed these attitudes are exceptional among women where the majority is meek to their husbands either because they are afraid of them or just to play down their assertiveness to let peace reign in the home.

In any case what manner of man would allow his wife to beat him? The above man said it was because since he was a child his parents taught him and his siblings to shun physical fight. But I think that even if it were so, if somebody beats you, you can retaliate or else you will be a lame duck. Children will take advantage of you by seeing you as somebody who is afraid of them. And you will become an easy target for bullies.

Besides some parents believe that they would rather have their children beat other children than for their children to always come home crying because other children beat them.

***"All the same, women that beat their husbands are aggressive and domineering and probably have a masculine tendency, because as far as I am concerned attempting to beat a man is energy sapping exercise. And men with gentle nature should have noticed this tendency before they marry them, but probably because they were heady with love the tendency fascinated them."***

One woman said her son always came home crying because one boy or another beats him, so one day she took him to the boy and insisted her child to beat the boy back. Her action she maintained was to instil courage in her son, who would become a man one day.

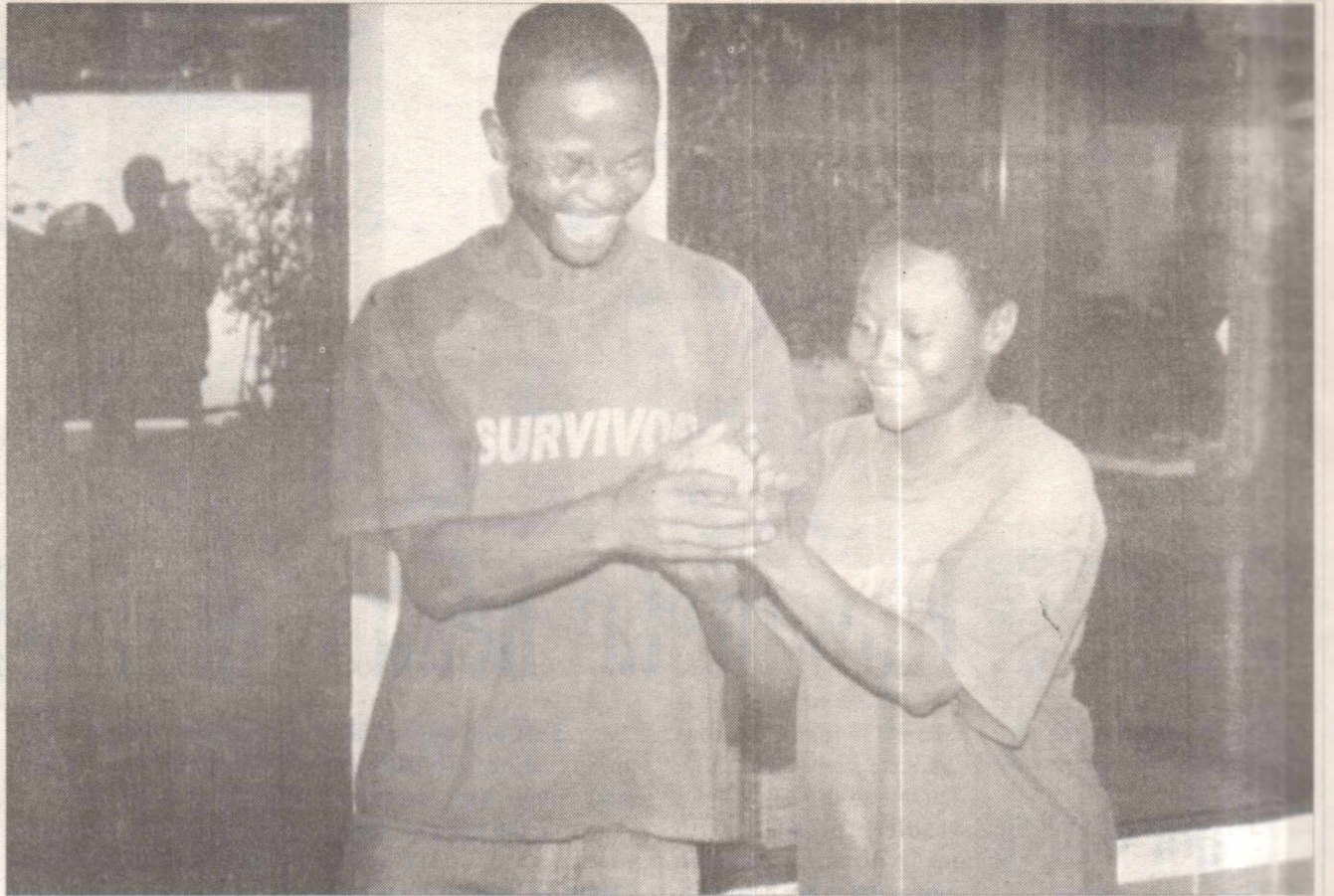
"A man cannot afford to be weak", she emphasised.

All the same, women that beat their husbands are aggressive and domineering and probably have a masculine tendency, because as far as I am concerned attempting to beat a man is energy sapping exercise. And men with gentle nature should have noticed this tendency before they marry them, but probably because they were heady with love the tendency fascinated them.

This is a bad habit that should be condemned, by beating their husbands they are stripping away their 'man-ness', which can make them to feel unworthy. If there are children in such a house they will not respect their father, because he is not worthy of respect.

These men may be suffering in silence, because they may be ashamed to tell their friends or their parents, unlike women where if their husbands beat them once or twice they run away to their parents and report and even refuse to go back to them. But everybody will curse a man for being unmanly if he dares report that his wife beats him.

If I were such a man I would divorce the wife, if my parents are against divorce I would have no choice than to tell them the real problem, and I believe responsible parents will back such a decision. After all they wouldn't want their son to be turned into a whimpering woman (man?).



Members of the Nigerian Survival Walk Group performing during a drama staged to mark the World HIV/AIDS day held at the World Bank premises in Abuja. Pix: Joe Oreye

### Marriage: A major source of HIV Infection?

By Stella Talisuna

According to a survey taken, 7.9 percent of women are infected with HIV compared to 6 percent of men and this peaks at 12 percent for women between 30-34 years of age.

The soft-spoken loving 56-year-old mother of six had never lived a dissolute life. Married at a tender age of 17, she never felt the need to worry about HIV infection. Her husband, then aged 30, pledged to "love and cherish her, in sickness and in health, for richer for poorer, for better for worse and forsaking all others, to keep himself only unto her, so long as they both should live."

Like many young couples, she was wrapped up in a Christian marriage whose foundation was built on trust. Sadly though, she is now HIV-positive.

Likewise, the testimony of Rose Namukasa published in the *Daily Monitor* of November 26, is another example.

A virgin who got married at the age of 19 and subsequently became a mother of four, Namukasa felt she was living in a mutually monogamous sexual relationship rooted in concrete trust.

She was shattered when she discovered she was HIV positive, shortly after her husband's death.

These stories highlight the global trends in HIV infections. The long-revered institution of marriage is unfortunately the most likely source of HIV infection for many couples today. Married women are particularly vulnerable.

#### Women vulnerable

Preliminary findings from the National HIV sero-survey revealed that overall, 7.9 percent of women in Uganda are infected with HIV compared to 6 percent of men. For both sexes, HIV infection rates are highest in the 30 to 40 age group and peak at 12 percent for women aged 30-34 years.

The interplay of certain biological, social and economic

factors including policies that undermine the rights of women heightens women's vulnerability to a disease whose most common mode of transmission worldwide is sexual contact.

The different attributes and roles societies assign to females profoundly affect their ability to protect themselves against HIV infections and to cope with the impact of Aids.

Women's vulnerability to HIV infection is increased by economic and social dependence on men.

In situations of economic dependency, women's ability to insist on condom use becomes even more difficult. If women refuse sex or demand condom use, they may risk abuse and suspicion of infidelity.

They may even be abandoned or thrown out of their matrimonial homes and yet the men will continue to have mistresses and engage in casual sexual relationships, which they associate with manhood and wealth.

#### Social status

Another dimension to add is that a woman's social status is tied to having a husband.

Moreover, the societal notion for a successful marriage, and for marriage-security is that a 'decent' woman should submit to her partner's demands or else he will leave the marriage- (submission in this case implies the readiness or willingness to assent or comply with the wishes and instructions of men).

This subordination of women makes them powerless to negotiate condom use to protect themselves against HIV. Moreover, many women experience violence in their relationships, making it even more difficult to introduce discussions on safe sex.

The practice of paying bride price compounds this already bad scenario. Some cultures dictate that a man must pay bride price.

Even in cultures where bride price is no longer critical, an intending groom is required to take gifts to the prospective in laws. This reinforces the concept of subordination and makes divorce unacceptable because of the fear to pay back the bride price given to her family.

Furthermore, among prominent religious groups, divorce is not allowed. So, even if a spouse is adulterous, one has to persevere, which increases women's chances of being infected with Aids by their husbands. The Catholic Church does not endorse the use of condoms, which discourages protection.

In addition, most prevention strategies are based exclusively on the "ABC" model.

The ABC model has yielded substantial positive change, however, the model is entirely under the control of men.

#### Need for change

Talk about abstinence, faithfulness and use of condoms in circumstances where sexual violence is widespread, and females are compelled to follow decisions made by men, even when such decisions are detrimental to their lives seems futile.

It is true that a few couples enter marriages when one of them is already infected.

Moreover, many churches are now carrying out mandatory pre-marital HIV tests, with little concern about the window of time between infection and testing positive which defeats the purpose of the pre-marital tests.

Some studies in Uganda have shown that more than 39 percent of married men have sex outside marriage.

Moreover behaviour studies have shown that when people get into relationships they may use condoms with the first few encounters, however with time a sense of "trust" sets in and with or without an HIV test the condoms will be abandoned only to be awakened by a positive HIV test.

found more housewives to be HIV positive when compared to prostitutes.

This increasingly worrying trend is now seen in several countries where the rate of infection among sexually active unmarried women is lower than among married monogamous women.

In conclusion, the institution of marriage is erroneously viewed as Aids proof. Marriage is unfortunately one of the strongest risk factors for HIV infection.

If women are to save themselves, they should break the culture of submissiveness when it comes to sex relations.

Women should be empowered economically and with information in order to protect themselves and say no to most of the abuse, which is taken for granted by society.

The issue of trust may underpin the ability of couples to negotiate for condom use, if they suspect their spouses might not have been true to their vows.

Couples should never put their own lives in danger for the sake of what is supposed to be theoretically mutual trust, and if one feels their partner is not faithful, they should demand for condoms.

Promoting female controlled prevention measures like female condoms may go a long way to empower women to demand for safer sex practices.

They are however expensive and way beyond the reach of many women.

Married couples should double their efforts in avoiding higher risk behaviour so as to stop transmission of HIV to their spouses. dars report that his wife beats him.

If I were such a man I would divorce the wife, if my parents are against divorce I would have no choice than to tell them the real problem, and I believe responsible parents will back such a decision. They wouldn't want their son to be turned into a whimpering woman (man?).

In Jamaica in 2004, a study Courtesy: allafrika.com

# THE HOME FRONT

## Health interactive

With Dr Aminu Magashi

### Q and A

#### Excessive discharge of breast milk

**P**lease I am suffering from milk discharge from my two breasts and absence of menses and I am not breast-feeding and I am not pregnant. My husband and I are so worried and it is affecting our relationship, please can you explain to us in details what it is, causes and how to address the situation?

Rebecca Jos

**Y**our condition medically is called 'Hyperprolactinemia' and is a condition in which the pituitary gland which is found at the base of the brain secretes excess levels of the chemical agent (hormone) known as Prolactin into the bloodstream. Prolactin plays a major role in stimulating the breasts to secrete milk and, indirectly, in inhibiting ovulation.

Prolactin levels rise temporarily under many normal conditions such as

1. Pregnancy
2. Breastfeeding
3. Sexual Intercourse
4. Nipple Stimulation
5. Stress
6. Exercise.

It is also normal for prolactin to increase when estrogen (another hormone being secreted from the ovary) levels rise at various times in the menstrual cycle and after a meal. Persistent high levels of prolactin, however, may be due to a noncancerous tumor (abnormal swelling) of the pituitary gland.

Another condition that can lead to hyperprolactinemia is a deficiency of thyroid hormone which is being secreted from thyroid gland that is situated in the neck (a condition called hypothyroidism). Hyperprolactinemia may also result from excess growth of the pituitary gland and from a disorder of the adrenal glands (a structure that is situated on top of the Kidney) called cushing disease (a variant of cushing syndrome). Various tumours and disorders of the hypothalamus (the part of the brain that regulates hormone release), kidney failure, and liver disease can also be responsible.

Also drugs like:- Tricyclic Antidepressants, Tranquilizers, Narcotics, Antihypertensive medications such as methyl dopa. Elevated prolactin levels can cause abnormalities in the menstrual cycle, ranging from irregular periods to absence of periods. Sometimes women with hyperprolactinemia have what is known as the **Amenorrhea-Galactorrhea Syndrome**, a condition in which menstrual periods stop and milk can be expressed from the breasts of a woman who has not recently breastfed a baby. Sometimes excess levels of prolactin can lead to infertility. Many women with hyperprolactinemia have decreased levels of ovarian hormones, which in turn can cause abnormal menstrual cycles, vaginal dryness, and pain on intercourse, as well as fatigue and diminished sex drive. Women with both excess levels of prolactin and abnormal menstrual periods are also more prone to losing bone mass, a condition that can lead to osteoporosis.

Women with hyperprolactinemia may have signs of hyperandrogenism (excess levels of hormones called androgens) such as hirsutism (excess body hair). Large tumours on the pituitary may cause visual difficulties, headaches, and numerous other symptoms that result from the pressure of the tumour on the gland and surrounding brain structures.

An evaluation involves taking a history (which should include information about any menstrual irregularities) and a blood test to measure prolactin levels. This test is most accurate if done after an overnight fast and in a no stressed condition. Because prolactin levels fluctuate, a repeat test is usually done to confirm any abnormality that may appear the first time around. Even relatively modest elevations of prolactin may indicate a number of diagnoses, including hypothyroidism and pregnancy, both of which can be checked with a blood test.

If these possibilities, as well as chronic kidney disease, are eliminated, and if medications are not the cause, an MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) scan may be done to see if there is a visible tumour. An MRI will also be done if prolactin levels are extremely high, an alternative scanning procedure, a CT-scan (computerized axial tomography), may be used



L-R: Dr M. Suleiman, and Dr S. Alhassan A. Sheshe and S. Edino conducting laparoscopic surgery at AKTH.

instead.

Women with small tumours or who have no evidence of a tumour may just be watched carefully by the physician. Prolactin levels will be measured regularly, and MRI scans will be taken to make sure tumours have not developed or enlarged. Prolactin levels sometimes remain stable and may even return to normal, particularly in women who had no initial menstrual irregularities.

Women with higher levels of prolactin or whose periods are irregular or absent usually require drugs or surgery. And treatment is always necessary in the case of large tumours. Most commonly drug therapy is tried first, usually with **Bromocriptine**, which lowers prolactin levels. Bromocriptine shrinks tumours, sometimes making surgical removal unnecessary, or at least making very large tumours easier to remove. It can also normalize menstrual cycles and stop the production of breast milk.

Women whose tumours are unresponsive to bromocriptine or who cannot tolerate the side effects of the drug may require surgery to remove the tumour. When performed by an experienced surgeon, this can often be accomplished without damaging the function of the pituitary gland, and there are rarely complications. Some evidence indicates, however, that hyperprolactinemia may recur after 4 to 5 years in up to half the people who have surgery, even though the tumour itself seems to be gone. Radiation therapy may be necessary following surgery, especially in women who are not considering bearing a child.

Surgery is usually not an option for large tumours, but bromocriptine can reduce prolactin levels, relieve symptoms, or shrink tumours to a size at which surgery may be more successful.

When hyperprolactinemia is caused by a lack of thyroid hormone, it can be treated with thyroid hormone supplements. Eliminating the responsible drug that causes high level of prolactin will alleviate hyperprolactinemia.

#### What is Safe Period?

**I**am writing to know more about safe period, and when is it safe to have intercourse without protection and without fear of getting pregnant?

Habiba

**O**vulation period is the time when matured egg is release from the ovary and enters into the fallopian tube to wait for a matured sperm for fertilization

and implantation. That period is in the middle of the menstrual cycle, assuming the person has a regular menstrual cycle. If a woman has a 28 days menstrual cycle, it means that the 14<sup>th</sup> day, is her expected ovulation period and a range is provided, two days before and two days after the ovulation time is all within the normal range of ovulation.

Safe period is a time when intercourse is not likely to lead to pregnancy, which means few days after menses and few days before menses can be regarded as safe time in a woman that has a regular menstrual period every month. Never the less, that approach of preventing pregnancy is not always successful.

#### Breach presentation and remedy

**B**y this month, January 2006, I am 7 month pregnant and I have been having one problem or the other. My doctor advised me to do a scanning and it was done which revealed that the baby's head is up not down. Ever since then, I am worried and my sister told me I have to be operated to remove the baby. Doctor, I am so worried, please can this problem be address?

Mrs. Bala

**T**he condition you are having is called breach presentation and it is not always when someone has breach that it must be operated. That depends on so many factors. Like the doctor will like to know if you have suffered from that experience before and how it is managed. Also how many times you were pregnant in the past, your age and of course he will access your pelvic outlet to see if it is adequate for delivery and also check for any bone deformity.

Also a manoeuvre can be done to rotate the baby so that the head can come down and in some situation it can turn on its own. What ever decision that will be taken by you and your husband, make sure you deliver at hospital under supervision, and your doctor can guide you based on examination whether to opt for caesarean section operation or attempt to deliver on your own.

Write in confidence to [healthinteractive@hotmail.com](mailto:healthinteractive@hotmail.com) or send text message to 08023810589 or P.O. Box 14807, Kano, Nigeria.

# THE HOME FRONT

## LIVING

# End of the year party: What children say

Tuesday the January 17, 2006 was a memorable day for Nigerian children. It was a day that privileged and less privileged, orphans and vulnerable children from all the 36 States of the federation gathered at International Conference Centre, Abuja to celebrate children's New Year party. It was a moment of interaction, refreshing and forecasting the future of children as good leaders of tomorrow.

The party which was organised by the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs was aimed at providing opportunity for children to interact, socialize and engage in other recreational activities as well as make new friends from other places.

This reporter observed that the children were in a festive mood and enjoying themselves.

Addressing the gathering, the Senate President of the children's Parliament, Senator Ibrahim Adamu called on state governments to pass the child right act for the betterment of children in their states and the country at large.

Senator Ibrahim Adamu appealed to government to tackle the issue of children's education and ensure that both girls and boys are equally educated without discrimination.

He however applauded the effort of the government on the health sector, but

By Abubakar Haruna,  
Reporter

hoped that the government would use the occasion to renew its commitment towards Nigerian children.

The Chairman, senate committee on ethics and business of the children's parliament, Senator Salisu Umar believed that the party would make children to relate to each other and inculcate the habit of socialization in order to have fun among them.

He said "to my own opinion this party serves as a kind of gathering to show how important children are in African society"

According to him, the basic problems of children are lack of gender equality, poverty, and lack of qualitative education. He called on government to expand the Universal Basic Education (UBE) so that it will accommodate all children in the country.

Also speaking, Zainab Ahmad from Zamfara state believes that the occasion is important to the children by making them to know their environment and the country at large.

Zainab called on government to provide basic learning materials and distribute them to children free of charge in order to alleviate suffering in the learning sector.

Yahaya Shehu and Fiddausi Abbas both from

Kabir, who is a physically challenged child from Kano State, Government should accord top priority in ensuring qualitative education to the physically challenged children so that they can be educated as other privileged children in the country.

Earlier in her welcome address, the permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Dr. Safiya I. Muhammed said that the relevance of the party derives from Article 31 of the UN Convention on the rights of the child, which calls on state parties to respect and promote the rights of the child to recreation and leisure activities.

According to her, the party was also organised to create an avenue for children to interact with the Minister and receive information on what government is doing to promote their welfare and development.

She noted that new talents would also be discovered and encouraged as the children perform various cultural and other forms of entertainment.

Dr. Safiya maintained that the party was intended to bring into remembrance the late First Lady, Mrs. Stella Obasanjo's usual celebrations with children at this time of the year.

She further enjoined parents, communities, the civil society and corporate organisations to redouble their efforts in ensuring that

order to realise their potentials.

Hajiya Ciroma stated "We are duty bound to provide a conducive environment and opportunities for all round development so that our children can realise their full potentials"

She added "It is by so doing that we can prepare them for living in today's

and vulnerable children, Hajiya Maryam Ciroma assured that children orphaned as a result of HIV/AIDS would be integrated into families in order to ensure that they are not stigmatized or suffered social exclusion in the society.

She however encouraged parents to reintegrate orphans into their families through

development in the country.

He said "as far as am concerned whatever you give to your children whether spiritually or morally, is not a waste. We should not say that if the child is disabled or living at the village that child should be neglected"

He added "This party is actually meant to give



Some of the key members of the children's parliament, at the children's end of the year party, held recently at International Conference Centre, Abuja.

global village and to effectively contribute their quota to the national development"

To that effect, the Minister said that the government's action would be guided always by the best interests of child as advocated in the various International conventions on the child and the child rights act.

She maintained that her ministry was working with relevant ministries, international and national agencies to reduce the incidence and effects of diseases bedeviling children such as Malaria, HIV/AIDS, polio, diphtheria, whooping cough and other preventable diseases.

She also said that government was concerned about various social vices such as child labour and trafficking, child abuse, sexual exploitation, street begging, hunger and starvation, which according to her, are menace that are becoming common features across the country.

On the girl child education, the Minister disclosed that government would resuscitate the National and Zonal Task Forces on the girl child to facilitate monitoring of the various programmes, policies and instruments for ensuring the education of girl child in the country.

On the issue of orphans

adoption and fostering to afford them the opportunity of being brought up in an atmosphere of love and care.

Some of the parents who also spoke to The Home Front believe that the party is an opportunity for less privileged children in the country.

Mrs. Joy Itaha said, "actually it is an opportunity for the less privileged. It is a forum that will give them opportunity to enjoy what the so called rich children usually enjoy in their homes"

She commended the Minister of women Affairs for what she described as organising a forum where children would have a sense of belonging in the country.

Mallam Ahmad Isa, believe that the party have significant role in relation to children's well being and

children from the grass root level an opportunity to actually enjoy what the reach children enjoy"

But Mrs. Nwanosike E.I. believes that the party was aimed to build solidarity and harmony among Nigerian children.

Nwanosike advised Government to make good policies in checking the menace of child abuse and trafficking for the betterment of children in the country.

The distribution of wheel chairs and crouches by the Minister of Women Affairs, Hajiya Maryam Ciroma to the physically challenged children selected from various States and the side attraction performance by the cultural group of Saint Aloysius Primary School, Abuja, made this year's party a successful one.



Cultural group of Saint Aloysius Primary School, Area 3 Abuja, performing at the party.

saying that a lot need to be done in providing health care service delivery for the children in the rural areas.

He called on parents to give chance to their children so that they can become good leaders of tomorrow.

Some of the children who spoke to the Home Front expressed happiness and

Kaduna State believe that the party is the only opportunity for children to know their rights as future leaders.

Emmanuel Ndifon aged 13 years from Cross Rivers State appealed to Government to inaugurate children's parliament in all the 36 States of the Federation.

But according to Bello

the Nigerian child is guaranteed the right to live and have sound development.

In her key note address, the Minister of Women Affairs, Hajiya Inna Maryam Ciroma said that Federal Government had been committed to provide opportunities for children in

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### RAPTURING FAITH ASSEMBLY

The above named Assembly has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration in accordance with the provisions of the Companies and Allied Matters Act No. 1 of 1990.

#### The Trustees are:

- |                            |           |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Pastor Luka Bawa Abakun | President |
| 2. Moses Obaji             | Secretary |
| 3. Peter Ode               | Treasurer |
| 4. Bala M. Luka            |           |
| 5. Bika Nakai              |           |

#### THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES ARE:

1. Minister the word of God
2. Conduct a regular religious worship service through various arms of Ministries
3. Spread the word of the gospel by ministering to all through seminar, radio, television and other forms of Mass Media
4. To maintain Local Missionary Church facilities

Any objection to the proposed registration should be addressed to the Registrar - General Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 565 Ndoia Square Wuse, Zone 5, within 28 days of this publication.

Signed: SECRETARY



# NIGERIAN SUGAR COMPANY LIMITED (NISUCO) "IN LIQUIDATION"

## STAFF VERIFICATION EXERCISE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to all Staff of NISUCO "In Liquidation" that Staff Verification Exercise will be conducted at the Administrative Block of the above company at Bacita from Monday 23 January, 2006 to Friday, 27 January, 2006 from 10:00am daily in order to certify the staff entitlements. The Time-Table is indicated below:

Day of the Week	Date	Department
Monday	23/01/2006	Agriculture
Tuesday	24/01/2006	Agriculture
Wednesday	25/01/2006	Factory operations and Corporate Planning
Thursday	26/01/2006	Mechanization, Accts, and Marketing
Friday	27/01/2006	Personnel/Admin, and General Admin.

Each staff is required to bring along the following documents:

- Letter of Employment
- Letter of Disengagement
- 2 Passport photographs (Coloured preferred)
- Copy of drivers licence or National ID or international passport.

In the case of deceased staff, the next of kin or beneficiary should bring along the following documents:

- Death Certificate of Staff
- Letter of administration or Probate
- Passport size photograph of the deceased wife or children (Administrator/Executor, may also appear in person)

Please comply strictly.

Joseph L. Eke, JF, FCA  
Liquidator  
Nigerian Sugar Company Limited  
C/o Akintola Williams Deloitte  
Akintola Williams Deloitte House, 236 Victoria Road, Lagos  
PO, Box 965, Lagos.



## ABUJA INVESTMENT AND PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT COMPANY (AIPDC)

### FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY ADMINISTRATION ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE SALE OF CVU PROPERTIES LOCATED AT ENUGU, KANO & KADUNA

#### PREAMBLE:

Sequel to the closure of state Protocol zonal (CVU) offices located in Enugu, Kano & Kaduna and as part of the ongoing reforms, the Federal Government has mandated the Federal Capital Territory Administration to dispose of the above mentioned properties to the general public through a competitive bid process.

The Federal Capital Territory Administration has therefore mandated the Abuja Investment & Property Development Company Limited (AIPDC) to conduct the sale of the properties.

#### OFFER OF SALE:

AIPDC on behalf of the Federal Capital Territory Administration offers for sale to the General Public the following CVU Properties in zonal offices located at Enugu, Kano and Kaduna.

#### TERMS OF SALE:

The properties will be sold on "as is" basis and are open for inspection to the general public at the respective zones.

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTIES:

##### A. Enugu Property

The Enugu property is situated on plot 106, along the Federal Government College Road and bounded by a fence. The land size measures approximately 10,098 M<sup>2</sup>. The property has the following inventory of assets:

- Security Post
- Administration Block
- Fuel Dump
- Workshop Building (Mechanical and Electrical Workshop)
- Staff Recreational Centre
- Covered car park

##### B. Kano Property

The Kano premises is bounded by a perimeter fence and situated on land measured approximately 13,200 M<sup>2</sup>. It is located along the Hajj Camp Road, and has the following inventory of assets:

- Security post
- Administration Bank
- Fuel Dump with 11000 liters capacity underground tank.
- Transport/Workshop Block
- Covered car park

##### C. Kaduna Property

The Kaduna property is situated on an off-set along Yakubu Gowon Way, opposite FRCN and bounded by a perimeter fence. The land measures approximately 2,397 M<sup>2</sup>, and the property has the following inventory of assets:

- Security Post/Gate House
- Administration Block
- Work Shops Building
- Two Covered Car Parks
- Car Wash
- Building Having 4 Offices

#### METHOD OF APPLICATION

Application forms will be on sale from Monday, January 23, 2006 to Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2006 on the payment of the sum of N10,000.00 (Ten Thousand Naira only) in Bank Draft payable to Abuja Investment and Property Development Company Limited.

Completed Application forms should be accompanied with 10% of the bid price as deposit in bank draft also payable to AIPDC.

#### CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSION

The closing date for the submission of completed application forms is on or before 6.00 pm Monday, February, 20<sup>th</sup> 2006. all application submissions shall be enclosed in an envelope clearly indicating on the left hand corner the property/properties of interest and shall be addressed as follows:

The Managing Director/Chief Executive  
Abuja Investment and property Development Company Ltd  
No 4, Nkwere Crescent, Garki II, Abuja.

#### BID OPENING:

The bid opening shall take place at the offices of Abuja Investment and Property Development Company Limited, No 4, Nkwere Crescent, Garki II, Abuja on Tuesday, February, 21<sup>st</sup> 2006 at 2.30 pm prompt.

#### ENQUIRIES

All enquiries should be addressed to:

Abuja Investment and Property Development Company Limited,  
No. 4 Nkwere Street,  
Garki II - Abuja  
Te: + 234 (09) 314 4870-1, Fax: +234 (09) 314 4921

## NEWS

# Gov Sheriff has right to tamper with LG funds — Legislator

A member of the Borno State House of Assembly representing Askira/Uba constituency, Mr. Jibrin Satumari, has said that the state governor, Alhaji Ali Modu Sherrif has a 'right to tamper with funds' accruing to local government areas from the federation account under the Joint State/Local Government because, left on their own, local government chairmen in the state have 'failed to use the funds to undertake development projects and programmes in the grassroots'.

Satumari, who chairs the House Committee on Water Resources, told *Daily Trust* in a chat yesterday that since their inauguration nearly two years ago, local government chairmen in Borno state have

From Abdullahi Bego,  
Assistant Editor (Maiduguri)

demonstrated inability to impact positively on the lives of people of their respective local government areas, alleging that they are simply more interested in attending to their personal interests.

The legislator's comment came on the heels of the outcry by some opposition politicians and political parties of the state that the Borno state governor had been intervening too much in how local government areas in the state use their funds. Some of these people cite example with the recent deduction of millions of naira from the funds of each local government to fund a poverty alleviation drive, which

they claimed was meant to shore up the governor's own political standing.

But Jibrin Satumari, said this allegation was baseless, adding that the governor was showing personal and 'exemplary leadership' by initiating projects for execution in the local government areas under the joint account "since the chairmen themselves would not do anything on their own for the people."

"As a legislator one of whose functions in the house is to supervise the activities of local government, I know they have nothing to show on ground. Whatever the governor ordered to be done through the joint account is meant to directly benefit the people in the grassroots," Satumari said.

Asked why the House of Assembly had failed to check the local government councils considering the 'failure' of the chairmen to perform, Jibrin Satumari, said the House, which is led by the All Nigeria People's Party (ANPP), was trying to tread softly because democracy is "about understanding."

"It is our responsibility to check the activities of local government chairmen but we are respecting our party, the ANPP. We don't want our party to be divided. Otherwise none of the chairmen can survive (any such checks which the House could deploy)," he said.

Speaking about the tenure of the councils which comes to an end at the end

of next month, the legislator said, that the councils "would be dissolved naturally," and in their place, secretaries to the councils shall take over the affairs until the appointment of caretaker councils, before the holding of new elections.

Efforts by *Daily Trust* to get the chairman of Maiduguri Metropolitan Council (MMC), Alhaji Mohammed Imam, who is Chairman of the Local Government Chairmen forum to respond to the charges made by the legislators failed.

## Police Affairs Ministry awards CCTV contract

By Benjamin Auta  
& Shehu Abubakar, Reporter

The Minister of Police Affairs, Alaowe Bozimo, has said that the federal government has awarded contracts for the installation of Close Circuit Television (CCTV) in Abuja and Lagos to enhance crime detection.

The minister made the revelation recently while inaugurating the committee on police reform in Abuja, he also said, that government has procured more arms and ammunition, Armoured Personnel Carriers (APCs), helicopters and speed boats to help the police in performing their duties effectively.

Alaowe Bozimo, added that the force is being positioned to combat the various forms of crimes in the nation.

He also added that since the approval of the five years development plan, the federal government had embarked on massive overhaul of the force from its position of weakness to enable it met the

challenges of the nascent democracy.

The committee headed by DIG Dan Madami (rtd), comprised of eleven members with Mr. Solomon Arase (DCP), as secretary.

The terms of reference for the committee, includes the review and recommendation of measures on the reorganisation, administration, operation and control of the Nigeria police force with a view to enhancing efficiency in its operations and service delivery.

It is also to reappraise existing strategies and measures of crime prevention and control, including intelligence and investigative capabilities of the force and make recommendations towards improvement and to make any other recommendation for the improvement of the services of the Nigeria police force among others.

## Akwa Ibom pays N500m revenue to FG

From Edet Ekanem (Uyo)

The government of Akwa Ibom, has announced payment of over N500 million as revenue for fertiliser contract in the state to federal government between the years 2003 and 2005.

Within the same period, the state government has also spent N147 million as direct purchase of fertilisers to augment federal government supplies.

The state governor, Arc. Obong Victor Attah, made the announcement on wednesday when he disclosed open the 2006 public sales and distribution of fertilisers in the 31 local government areas of the state held at CKS Primary School playground in Uyo.

Obong Attah, said with government's involvement in subsidizing the price of the products, the gesture has increased participation of the farmers and communities in agricultural programmes in the state and hoped that with the 100,000 bags of fertilizers projected to be sold in each of the 31 local government areas beginning from January to May this year at a reduced rate of N1,600 per bag would increase fertiliser consumption in the state.

He said, government will continue to encourage increase agricultural products by making fertilisers available and affordable all year round through the building of a standard fertilisers warehouse in the state.

Obong Attah also distributed sets of fishing inputs to fishing groups in the state and urged first beneficiaries to pay fully for their inputs so as to benefit others in the next phase.

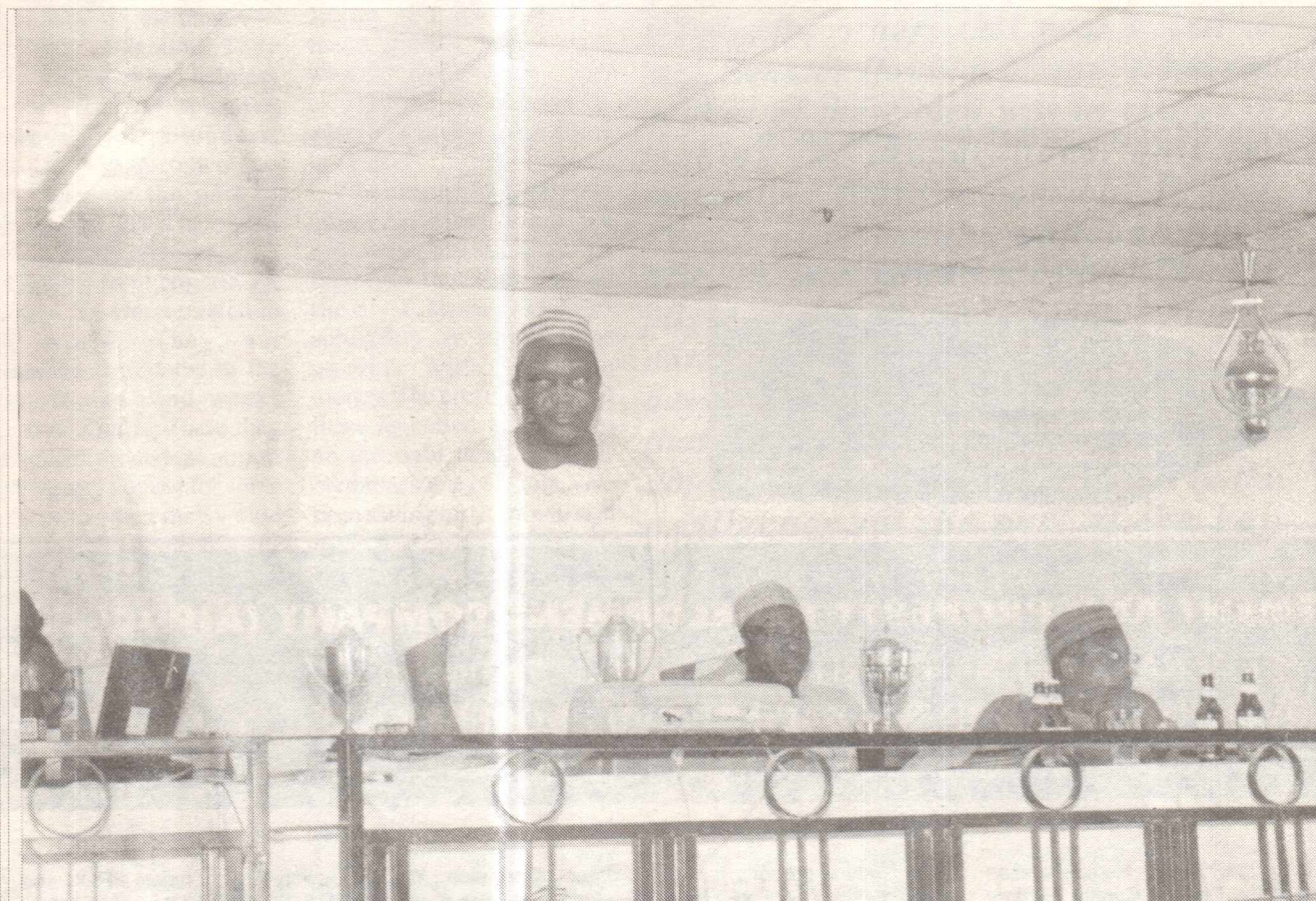
Each set distributed include 40hp Yamaha outboard engine, seven bundles of fishing nets, net accessories, five life jackets, one life buoy, etc all costing N104 but given out at N728,000 per set under the terms and conditions set out by the ministry of agriculture.

While government is promoting the activities of artisan fisheries, Obong Attah, explained that, arrangements have been concluded for the effective utilisation of the Ebughu fishing terminal by a foreign investor for commercial fishing business for local and international export markets and warned against mortgaging government's effort in providing food to teeming population in the state.

The State Commissioner for Agriculture and Natural Resources, Dr. Trenchard O. Ibia, said with the increased supply of fertilizer in the state between 2004 to date, improved yields has been recorded by farmers and has relatively stabilised prices of food stuffs in the state.

Dr. Ibia, urged the 31 Local Government Councils in the state to give real support to agriculture by way of credits, inputs (provision and subsidy), training, processing infrastructure and market of products produced.

Also speaking, the Head of the Council, Uyo Local Government Area, Mr. Chris Udofia, thanked the governor for choosing Uyo as the centre to flag-off the sales of fertilizer and hoped that the move will bring success to farmers in the area.



Special Adviser to Kano State Governor on Sports delivering his address at the closing ceremony of the Kano Open Scrabble competition. On his immediate left is, Alhaji S. G. Musa, President of Kano Club, on the extreme left is, Barrister Sanda Lamurde, Commissioner for Integration and Border Area Development, Adamawa State and also President of Adamawa Scrabble Association.

## Hajj: Kabo returns 1,448 to Sokoto

A total of 1,448 pilgrims from the Sokoto zone have so far been airlifted back home.

The third flight which airlifted 486 pilgrims of Kebbi state origin touched down at the Sultan Abubakar International Airport Sokoto on Tuesday at about 10.00 p.m.

However, the first and second flight which conveyed pilgrims from Sokoto

From Aminu Mohammed,  
Regional Editor, Sokoto

state airlifted 474 and 488 pilgrims respectively.

The first batch of pilgrims who are from Gada, Gudu and Isa local government areas of the state were the first to be airlifted to Saudi Arabia on December 15, 2005 when the airlift of the 2006 hajj was flagged off in Sokoto.

Again, those who came by the second flight are from Illela, Tangaza and some of the pilgrims from the local governments earlier airlifted but who could not join their colleagues.

Meanwhile, the 486 pilgrims from Kebbi state who returned from Saudi Arabia on Tuesday are from Zuru local government areas along with some state officials.

It would be recalled that about 340 pilgrims from Kebbi state could not be airlifted to perform the just concluded hajj exercise because the airliner contracted to airlift intending pilgrims from the Sokoto zone failed to beat the dead line for the closure of the Jeddah airport.

Again both Zamfara and Sokoto state also had 466 and 270 intending pilgrims left behind as a result of the closure of the King Abdul Azeez International Airport in Jeddah.

However, all the 270 intending pilgrims from Sokoto who could not be airlifted were given N20,000.00 each by the state government and were assured of being the first to be airlifted in next year's exercise.

In Zamfara state, Governor Ahmed Sani promised to give each of those left behind who still want to perform the hajj next year 500 dollars and an automatic first flight.

## 'NASS yet to take position on electronic voting'

Rep Hamisu Shira, the chairman of the House of Representatives Committee on Electoral

Matters, has said that the National Assembly is yet to decide on the use of Electronic Voting Machine (EVM).

Shira told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Abuja today said that the committee would present its report on the matter to the House before the end of the month.

Shira had conducted public hearing in the six geo-political zones of the country on the use of the machines, adding that the views collated during the exercise was not favourable to the use of the machines.

"People vehemently rejected the use of EVM as it has not been tested in the country before now," he said.

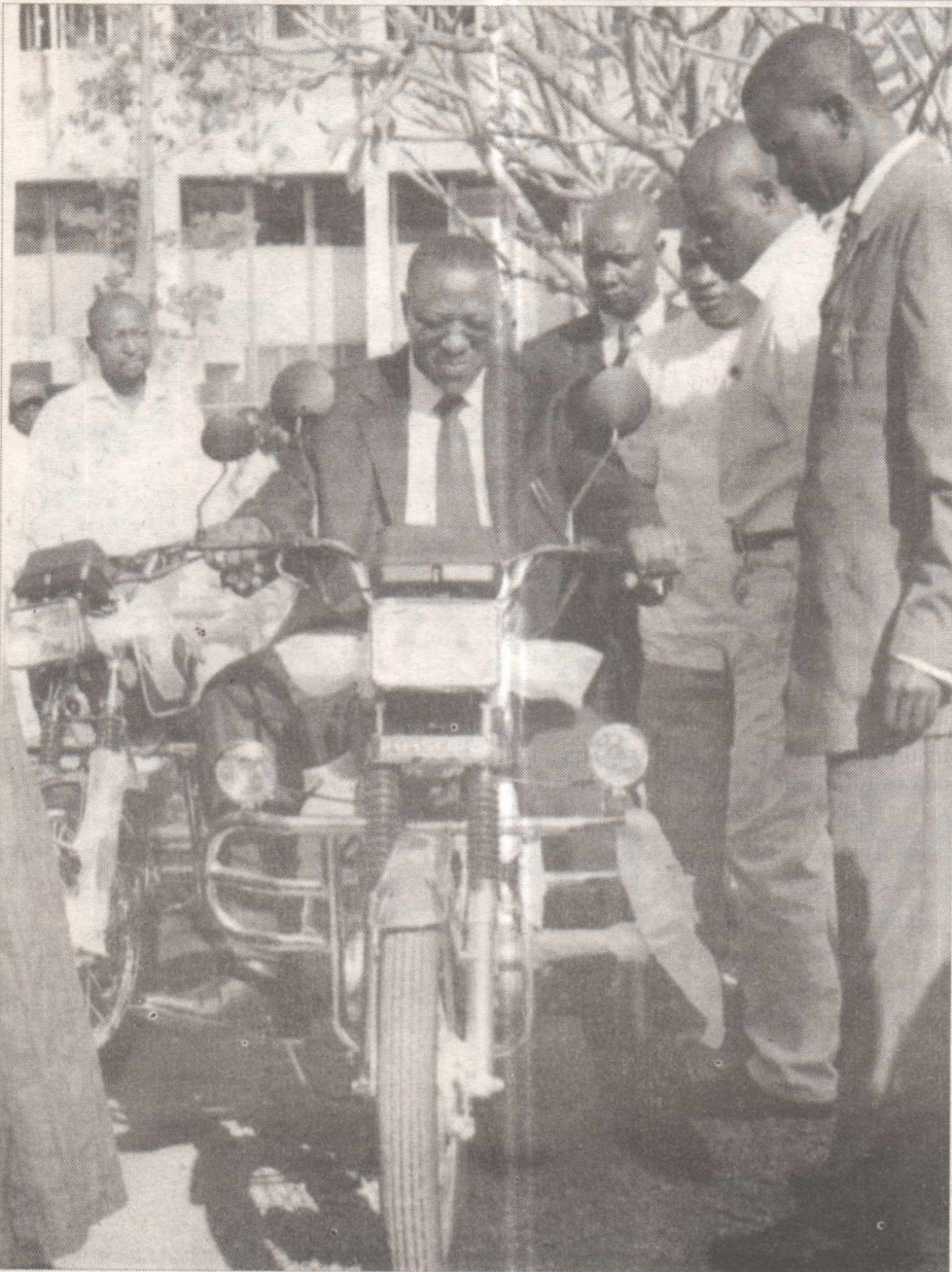
The chairman said some of the people that presented memoranda at the hearing pointed out that the US

tested the machines for 10 years and Brazil for 15 years before adopting it.

He, however, said that the committee had invited INEC and the manufacturers of the machines to demonstrate them to the lawmakers before the end of the month.

"My worry is that we in National Assembly have not taken a position on the use of the device. So, what will happen to the N20 billion proposed for its purchase in the 2006 Appropriation bill," he asked.

# NEWS



Governor Joshua Dariye of Plateau State test riding one of the motorcycles commissioned by him for civil servants of the state at the J. D. Gomwalk, Standard Building premises in Jos ...recently.

## NAFDAC assures harsh regulation on foreign products

The National Agency for Food, Drugs Administration and Control (NAFDAC) said yesterday that it will put in place strict regulations to ensure quality of foreign products for the benefit of the country.

The Director-General of the Agency, Prof. Dora Akunyili who made the remark while receiving Thailand's Deputy Minister of Commerce,

By Abubakar Haruna, Reporter

Preecha Laonhapongehana, said that the gesture was aimed at removing unfair competition by counterfeiters in the country. "Our regulations are very stringent because we want better quality products for our people. We want to remove unfair competition of coun-

terfeiters so that genuine people will come into the sector, because you cannot effectively compete with fraudsters because they will get round."

Dr. Akunyili, who described Nigeria as a goldmine for genuine businessmen and women, assured Thailand of prosperity if its products make an in-road to Nigeria.

According to her, Nigeria is strategically placed to launch Thailand into the African and West African sub-region, adding that the population of the country will help if Thailand brings genuine business.

Earlier, the Thailand Deputy Minister of Commerce, Preecha Laonhapongehana, said that he was in Nigeria to solicit the federal government's cooperation for the benefit of the two countries.

According to him, Thailand has plans to set up a rice factory in Nigeria and to process Cassava in order to boost export and import.

He noted that Thailand will set up an embassy in Nigeria in order to strengthen more cooperation between the two countries.

## FG seeks new law on same-sex marriage

The Federal Executive Council (FEC) has approved a draft law seeking to prohibit marriage between persons of the same sex.

The Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Chief Bayo Ojo, disclosed this while briefing State House correspondents after the weekly council meeting held at the chamber council of the Presidential Villa, Abuja, yesterday.

According to him, persons of the same sex who engage in or aid and abet homosexual or lesbian relationships risk five years' jail sentence without an option of fine, when the law becomes operational.

By Joe Oroye

minister.

The provisions of the proposed law include validity and recognition of marriages, non-recognition of same-sex marriage, prohibition of such marriage contract in places of worship like churches and mosques and customary courts.

He stressed that the punishment for would-be offenders is five years' imprisonment without an option of fine, adding that state and federal high courts will be made to have jurisdiction over offences relating to the act.

Giving the details of the draft bill, the justice minister explained that formation of association to make demands for recognition as well as the use of protest would be offences punishable under the law.

The federal government, Chief Bayo Ojo said, was already moving against the practice because of its spread in South Africa as was reported last year.

"We all know that marriage is a unique institution between a man and a woman and this fact is universally acknowledged. It is also contained in the holy books.

"But in recent times, this incident of marriage or relationship between people of the same sex has been growing in the developed world," he stated.

The draft bill, which was approved by the federal executive council after the amendment, will be immediately forwarded to the National Assembly for passage into law, according to the

## Makarfi pledges to rebuild burnt Zaria market

The Kaduna State government has undertaken to reconstruct the Sabon Gari market in Zaria recently gutted by fire, in conjunction with Sabon Gari local government council and the traders.

Governor Ahmed Mohammed Makarfi, who made the disclosure yesterday in Zaria when he visited the scene of the fire incident, said the decision was informed by the need to give the market a face-lift that would modernize it and make it more accessible.

"I commiserate with the traders and people who lost their goods and other valuables in the fire incident. The market will be rebuilt by the state government and the Sabon Gari local government area, along with the traders.

"The re-planned market

From AbdulRaheem Aodu, Correspondent (Kaduna)

will have good road network that will make all parts of it accessible in case of an emergency like this."

Alhaji Makarfi added that relief materials would be made available to the victims of the incident according to their respective loses.

He then called on the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) and the Sabon Gari local government council to investigate and ascertain the extent of damages suffered by the victims.

Earlier in his address, the Iyan Zazzau, Alhaji Bashir Aminu, thanked the governor for his visit and urged the traders to organize themselves to assist the government in rebuilding the market.

## Textile workers condole Rimi

Members of the National Union of Textile Garment and Tailoring Workers of Nigeria (NUTGTWN) have expressed their condolence to the former governor of Kano State, Alhaji Abubakar Rimi, over the death of his wife, Hajiya Sa'adatu Rimi.

The late Hajiya Sa'adatu Rimi was murdered by unknown persons on Saturday, January 14, 2006 in Kano.

In a letter addressed to Alhaji Rimi, the textile workers urged the politician to bear the irreparable loss and take solace in the fact that Allah gives and takes.

The letter signed by the acting general secretary of NUTGTWN, Comrade Issa Aremu, said that the gruesome murder of Hajiya Sa'adatu in her bedroom portrays the high level of insecurity in the country.

The textile workers therefore called on the security agents to, as a matter of necessity, expose and prosecute the assailants to serve as a deterrent to others.

In a related development, the textile workers have petitioned Governor Ibrahim Shekarau of Kano State over the murder of Hajiya Sa'adatu, expressing fears about the poor state of security in the country.

In a letter addressed to

By Abdullahi M. Gulloma, Reporter

Governor Shekarau, the textile workers said that "if the families of respected

former office-holders, like Alhaji Abubakar Rimi, were so vulnerable to such dastardly murderous acts, then the masses of Nigeria remain ever endangered."

## Why I was arrested by SSS

— Shehu Sani

From AbdulRaheem Aodu, Correspondent (Kaduna)

A civil rights activist and president of Civil Rights Congress Campaigner, Malam Shehu Sani, has berated the federal government and the State Security Service (SSS) for his recent arrest.

Malam Sani, who spoke to *Daily Trust* yesterday, faulted his arrest by the security agents, saying that he was accused of incitement and breach of public peace, while insisting that he would not be deterred in his fight against the alleged third term bid of President Olusegun Obasanjo.

"I have never for once since the inception of democracy in the country been so threatened. The SSS officials came to my residence with a search warrant issued by a court to conduct a search in my house. The warrant reads incitements and breach of public peace.

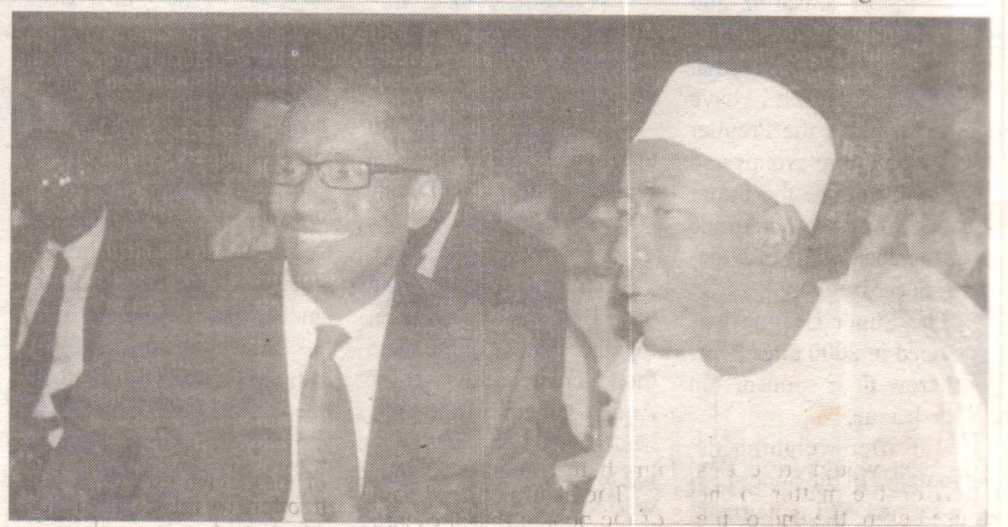
"I suspect that the move was more informed by misinformation, disinformation and mischief fed to

them by disgruntled elements who felt threatened by our views, activities and positions."

The chairman of the Socialist Front added that the Northern Civil Society Community and Progressive Forces will continue to work against any third term agenda and rotational presidency in 2007.

"We, the members of the Socialist Front, believe in democracy and the rule of law as such, the third term agenda is impossible, unwarranted, illogical, unconstitutional, irrational and illegal.

"There is no way the democratic forces can support any act that will subvert and undermine the constitution of Nigeria. We are of the firm belief that the difference between a democracy and a dictatorship is the rule of law and constitution."



Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) chairman, Malam Nuhu Ribadu (left) and Hon. Haruna Yerima, during the Media Trust dialogue.

# SPORTS

**N**o ground-yielding Chairman, Nigeria Football Association, NFA, Alhaji Ibrahim Galadima received what could go down in his books, as one of the rudest shocks in life so far, this week, when he was refused entry visa into Egypt, hosts of the 25th edition of the African Nations Cup.

Galadima, had warmed-up to fly into the North African nation, to be part of the countless soccer lovers expected to

## FIFA's ban imminent over Galadima

form the horde of the game's lovers ready to either to officiate in whatever capacity, or add to the glamour of cheering at the games.

But it was not so. Rather than issue Galadima an entry visa, the Nigerian FA chairman, had his passport returned to him from the Egyptian Embassy in Abuja, without an Egyptian visa - a nation to which, he travelled only two months back. However, that was not the end of the story. FIFA, the world's football-ruling body, from its base in Zurich, Switzerland, it was gathered, has directed that, the sports ministry

should ensure that, "everything is done to ensure that, Galadima gets an Egyptian visa on point of entry."

According to sources, sports ministry officials now in Faro, Portugal are "running from Pillar to Post to ensure that, the Zurich directive is carried out to the letter. This

is to forestall the imminent ban of the nation's flag bearers, Super Eagles from the EGYPT

2006 Nations Cup billed to kick-off on January 20, 2006."

## ...he's a joker - Yakmut

**S**pecial Assistant to the Sports Minister, Alhasan Yakmut has described Chairman of the Nigeria Football Association, NFA, Ibrahim Galadima as a joker who is fighting a lost cause.

Yakmut said that the congress of the Nigeria Football Association rejected Galadima and FIFA will only listen to that congress.

"The man really is a joker if he thinks he can remain as

the Chairman of the Nigeria Football Association." Yakmut told *nigeriasports.com*.

"The Congress of the Nigeria Football Association is the one to convey its decision to FIFA and that congress held a meeting annulling the charade Galadima called an election in December.

"There is no way we can have an NFA chairman without a congress, just like there

is no emir without an emirate or subjects."

Yakmut also rejected ideas that the elections of the NFA scheduled for 17th of February or the current impasse in the football house will impinge on the Eagles preparations for the African Cup of Nations.

"The players are not voting are they? Administratively the role of the NFA is to provide logistics and that has been done. The technical crew and the players have also been enjoying their camp unabated."

"Besides, the Minister spoke with every one of the players on Saturday night as well as the Technical crew. He will also join them in Faro on Wednesday night to leave with them to Egypt on Thursday.

"We also sent the Secretary General to Cairo and he has concluded all logistic requirements for the team and its contingent in Cairo so all is well with the Eagles."

And I must add that every congress has a chairman and a secretary general and since we do not have a substantive chairman now, Fanny Amun is the man to represent the NFA."

The special assistant also defended the lock up of the Football House stating that it was for security reasons.

"The structures are gov-

ernment property and have to be protected. So shouldn't they be? There was serious threat to the property as the ministry received threats from unknown peoples who said they will burn down the place if they see Galadima around the building so for that reason as custodians of security, Government said it had to protect the structures.

Galadima was during the week denied visa to go to Egypt for the Nation's Cup even though the Confederation of African Football, CAF has now waded into the matter.



Yakmut ... believes Galadima is fighting a lost cause

## NFA splinter election guidelines out

**T**he 7-man Election Committee for the NFA splinter election have released guidelines for Thursday February 16 poll into the breakaway board of NFA after the December 29, 2005 NFA election in Kano was purportedly nullified by the NFA Congress.

According to the guidelines signed by the chairman and secretary of the committee M.A Kadiri and Charles Ojughana respectively, candidates for the posts of NFA chairman and vice chairman must be 35 years and above.

The guidelines equally stipulated that no geo-political zone should produce more than two members into

the NFA breakaway board. The guidelines stressed that all board members must be elected on the floor of the congress by a simple majority, with at least 2 members from different geo-political zones endorsing the candidate.

The guidelines equally added that 6 members from other zones will endorse the candidacy of a chairmanship or vice chairmanship aspirant.

"The election is open to all Nigerians including those who contested for the earlier NFA election in Kano which was nullified (purportedly) by the NFA Congress," the Guidelines concluded.

## Two groups for Premier League

**T**he body charged with the organisation and conduct of league football in Nigeria, the Nigerian Football League, NFL, have opted to divide the Premier League into two groups and also re-introduce the Super League format to determine the true champions of Nigerian soccer league.

The Super League was scrapped in 2000 after Pepsi withdrew their sponsorship of the league.

But after weighing the advantages of the Super League format, NFL Chairman, Chief Uyuki Obaseki said Wednesday morning that re-

introducing the system meant that the Globacom Premier League will be divided into Groups A and B as is the case with the Pro League.

"We want to have Groups A and B in the Globacom Premier League in the coming 2006 season," Obaseki, also a vice chairman of NFA, said.

"This means that we will have 19 round of matches altogether instead of the marathon 38 matches in a season. And at the end of the matches, the first two teams on the log in each of the two groups will converge at a centre to decide who eventually wins the league title through a

round robin play off otherwise called the Super League," Obaseki said.

The NFL boss further hinted that February 25, 2006, has been slated as kick off date for the Premier League.

"All things being equal, we are expecting the new season to kick-off on February 25, 2006," the former Insurance of Benin boss stated.

"And before then, specifically on February 14, 2006, all the Premier League clubs will assemble in Abuja where a pool will be drawn to determine which clubs that will be in Group A and those to be in Group B."

**Weekly Trust**

...pick of the week

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## Man kills brother, goes into hiding

# EFCC battles Dariye

**Hajiya Sa'adatu Rimi: When Kano wept**

**Boyfriend nabbed over 16-year-old girl's death**

# Sports

AS THE 25TH AFRICAN CUP OF NATIONS KICKS OFF TODAY...

## Mido is Egyptian idol, says coach

Mido's goalscoring streak for Tottenham Hotspur is good news for

Egypt's hopes of winning the African Nations Cup, says national coach Hassan Shehata.

The much-travelled striker has been in fine form for the English Premier League club, scoring nine

goals and creating several others to help lift Spurs into the top four.

"He's very important for the team," Shehata told a news conference on Thursday as he prepared for the hosts' tournament opener against Libya the following day.

"I've been following him for the past four or five months and his improvement (at Tottenham) is good for Egypt.

"Mido is playing in one of the best teams in England. Most of the players in the national side look up to him like an idol because he's used to playing in one of the strongest leagues in the world. He's used to speed and to strength."

Shehata is likely to give Mido a different role to that assigned by Spurs Dutch coach Martin Jol, who exploits the player's aerial strength as a target man who can lay the ball off to strike partners Robbie Keane or Jermain Defoe.

"It's different," Shehata said. "We know Mido...we Egyptians raised him. He is so talented at different things, he can shoot, dribble and he's strong in the air.

"Why should I use him in one role, when I can use his talents in so many different ways?"

Hugely popular in his native country, Mido can expect his fair share of pressure from the exacting Egyptian crowds.

Team mate Mohamed Barakat said recently that the players were scared of making a mistake before the home fans and there were jeers as Egypt left the field last Saturday after losing 2-1 to South Africa in a warm-up game.

Even Shehata is wary of the home support in a tough Group A also featuring Ivory Coast, Morocco and Libya.

"It's a two-sided weapon," he said. "If we do well, the fans will all be behind us. But, on the other hand, and especially here in

Egypt, if we were unlucky — we might not get the same support."

Asked if it was harder or easier being hosts, he said: "It's more difficult...if we don't play well and don't win it — it will be really bad, not just for now but for the future...and for the coach."

Egypt lost to Libya in a World Cup qualifier under former Italian coach Marco Tardelli but beat them under Shehata. "And in my playing career, I never lost to Libya," he added.

Another source of optimism is the feisty presence of Hossam Hassan, one of the best-known players in African football but, at 39, a surprise inclusion in the squad.

"Maybe he's a bit old but he's had some remarkable achievements in his career," said Shehata. "I need him because of his character, his personality, his spirit and because he spreads that spirit around the whole team."



Egypt's striker Ahmed Hossam, popularly known as Mido, left, is being challenged by Cameroon's Rigobert Song during an international engagement.

## Polo: Ibadan Challenge gallops off Jan. 24

As the curtain draws on the Vmobile-sponsored Niger Delta Polo tournament, action shifts to the ancient city of Ibadan next week.

Among the traditional trophies up for grabs are the Ibadan Cup, Arthurday Cup, Rotimi Cup, and Saffiedene Cup. Vmobile trophy was introduced in honour of the

company as the lead sponsor of the tournament. Other awards to be jostled for include: the Most Valuable Player Award, Most Improved Players Award, and a host of others.

It will be recalled that Ibadan Dream Team won the

President's Cup in the recently concluded Vmobile/Niger Delta polo fiesta. This victory seems a sign of the club's preparedness for a successful tournament.

Often referred to as the "King of games", polo has received tremendous support and encouragement from Vmobile Nigeria since it launched service about six years ago. Other polo tournaments actively supported by the Vmobile are: African Masters International Polo, Niger Delta Polo, and Abraka Easter Polo fiesta.

The Ibadan Challenge is the second Nigerian Polo Association (NPA) organized tournament held every year, usually held after the Niger Delta fiesta.

This year's event is billed to last from Tuesday, January 24th to Saturday 28th, 2006

Commenting on his company's involvement in the game of polo, Emeka Oparah, HOD, PR, Events, and Sponsorships, Vmobile Nigeria, noted that it is, among other objectives, to grow the game in leaps and bounds annually, to stimulate polo infrastructural development, make the game more exciting, and create excitement around it through entertainment and hospitality.

## Nigerians react to FIBA draw

By Ismaila Umaru Lere,  
Assistant Editor

Nigeria basketball community reacted to the draw conducted last Sunday by the organizers of the FIBA World Championship 2006. The Nigeria senior national team, D'Tigers will scale through their hard group-A made up of some basketball power-house such as Olympic gold medalist, Argentina, world championship defending champion, Serbia & Montenegro among other notable teams.

In the words of these Nigerians the country senior national team code named D'Tigers should be able to get past the likes of Lebanon, France, Venezuela and even post a respectable results against Argentina and Serbia & Montenegro who made it to the FIBA World Championship due to the wide card given it by FIBA.

According to the first Vice-President of the Nigeria

Basketball Federation, NBBF, Dr. Adesegun Erinle who describe D'Tigers assignment as a tough one but was confident that the Tunji Awojobi captained side would qualify for the knock-out stage.

"Argentina would be a tough nut to crack but they won't be easy against Nigeria and I can confidently say that D'Tigers will make it to the knock-out stage, we should be able to go past the likes of Lebanon, France and even Venezuela because we saw a bit of what the South American side got to offer at the Fiba U-22 world championship in Argentina last year."

"All things being equal we should go beyond the round of 16 and do Nigerians and indeed Africa proud."

D'Tigers assistant coach, Scott Nnaji believed anything is possible when

the first jump-ball went off the air signaling the start of hostility on August 19.

"Argentina and other teams in our group are beatable, who ever thought that Argentina would win the Athens 2004 Olympics gold not even the South Americans themselves but they got to the finals and went all the way to win the gold, the same situation could repeat itself in Japan and I'm confident that Nigeria will scale its group-A hurdles."

Team manager of Union Bank basketball club, Rotimi Savage counseled the Nigeria basketball ruling body, NBBF that the time to commence preparation is now if the country must better its 1998 outing in Greece.

Savage who believed that Nigeria has the resources (both financial and human) to prosecute a successful FIBA World Championship outing

and to compete against the best in the world plead with the Gyang Buba led NBBF to operate an all inclusive policy where every stakeholder would contribute its quato towards a success outing in Japan and Brazil.

He advised that more players should be given the opportunity to prove their worth and that the federation should clarify the issue of who head the coaching crew and not a situation which saw Sam Vincent showing up barely 24 hours to the departure of D'Tigers to Algeria last August for the Fiba Africa Championship where the country took a step back-ward from its traditional second position to third.

Savage who described coach Vincent as a good person but want him to take the issue of coaching Nigeria with all seriousness, if he is still being considered.

Another area the Union Bank basketball team

## NOC urges associations to aspire for international posts

As Nigeria's Amos Adamu bagged FIFA's Executive Committee membership, the Nigeria Olympic Committee (NOC) says that the country needs more of such feats to stamp its relevance in the international sports arena.

NOC's Secretary-General Banji Oladapo told the *News Agency of Nigeria (NAN)* yesterday in Abuja that Adamu's

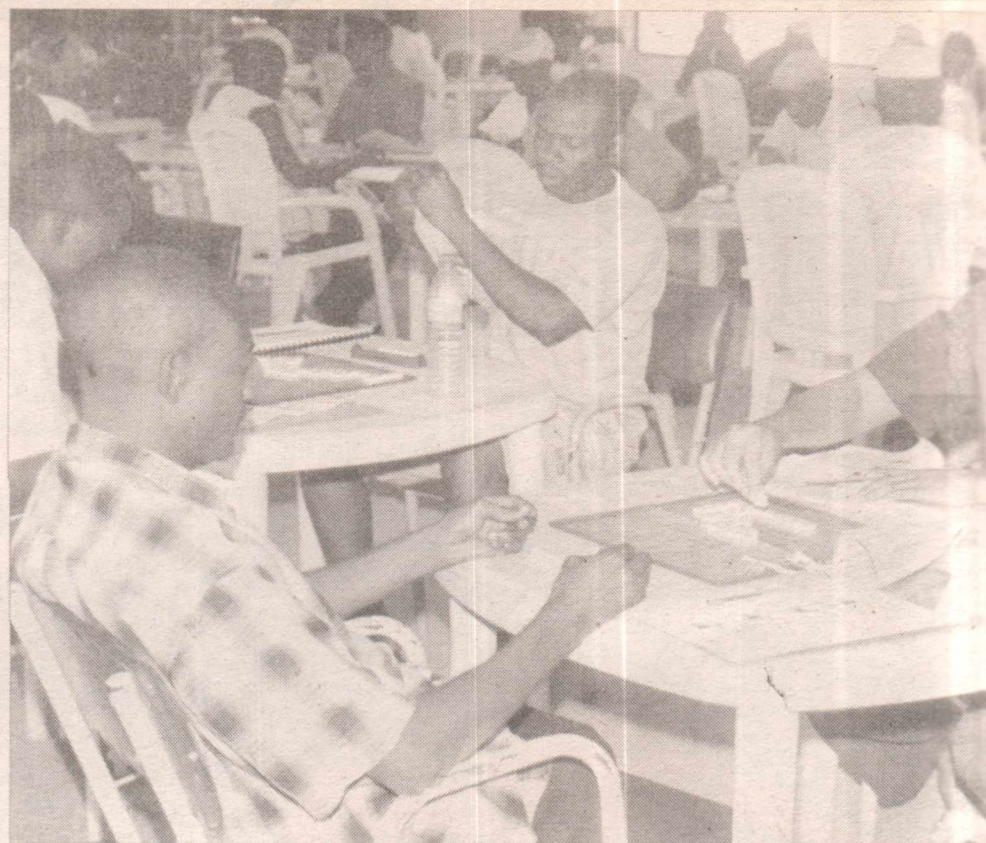
election was "a good thing and a plus" for the country.

He said that the country required as much as 20 of such seats in some international sports federations in view of the dynamics of sports politics.

Oladapo urged other sports associations in the country to strive toward getting representations on the executive committees of international federations.

NAN reports that Adamu on Wednesday at CAF congress in Cairo, brushed aside all obstacles by winning one of the two African seats in FIFA executive committee.

By the feat, the former COJA director became the first Nigerian to bag the seat in an elective status after former sports administrator Orok Oyo Orok who was appointed an honorary member some years ago.



A cross section of participants at the just concluded Kano Scrabble Open tournament

## Ahmedu cautions D'Tigers

Nigeria Basketball Federation (NBBF) board member, Colonel Sam Ahmedu (retired) has sent out a warning to the male national basketball team, D Tigers, that their group at the FIBA World Basketball Championship in Japan is a tough one.

Ahmedu said that Nigeria's group, which also features current Olympic Games champion, Argentina, can never be a walk in the park.

"Anyone who thinks we're going to find it easy in Japan should start thinking again," Ahmedu said. "I just want us to note that we have to be on our toes if we expect to pull through that group."

The proprietor of Dodan Warriors basketball club of Lagos went on to declare that only the best players would be able to withstand the pressure expected from Nigeria's dreaded opponents at the championship.

He said: We have to start planning quite early and, at the same time, the team should be made up mostly of our US-based players. They are well exposed and know what it means to play the game at the international level," he opined.

Colonel Ahmedu concluded with a revelation that Sam Vincent, who handled the team during the African championship in Algeria, where they placed third and qualified for

the global spree in Japan, is still in charge.

"Until otherwise stated by the federation, we can safely say Vincent is still in charge of the team, for now," he stressed.

## Toro may reject NFL appointment

Newly-appointed chairman of the Electoral Committee for elections into the board of the Nigeria Football League [NFL], Sani Toro has told Kick Off that he might not accept his recent appointment to oversee the conduct of polls into the soccer body slated for Abuja next week.

Toro angrily told our reporter on telephone on Tuesday that he was shocked, "that such appointment involving my person could be made without consulting me."

"I heard of the story and read of it just like any other person."

"This is not the best approach on an issue like a

place where I was their first secretary-general. I was also the NFA Secretary-general for years. I was not consulted before the announcement was made."

He however added that he might still consider taking appointment, "If I study the NFL statutes with that of the NFA. I have not done that yet. But if the NFL statutes

are at conflict with those of the NFA, there may be no use for me to take the job."

Toro who is currently a member of the House of Representatives however maintained that, "as a citizen of this country, I am ready to serve the nation in any capacity deemed fit; but it must be done with decorum."

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AND WHEREAS the persons whose names and address is set out in the second column hereunder claimed the relationship of the said deceased and has applied to the above named court for the grant of Letters of Administration of the personal property.

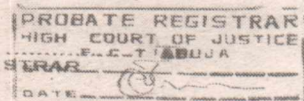
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DECEASED ADDRESS	APPLICANT FOR GRANT
MRS. FUNMI ELIZABETH STEVE-OBİ	ENGR. (DR.) STEPHEN I. OBİ & KIMBERLY CHINENYE STEVE-OBİ
HOUSE 72A, E CLOSE 1 <sup>ST</sup> AVENUE, GWARINPA, ABUJA.	HOUSE 72A, E CLOSE 1 <sup>ST</sup> AVENUE, GWARINPA, ABUJA.

DIED ON 22<sup>ND</sup> OCTOBER, 2005. HUSBAND & DAUGHTER

DATED IN ABUJA 16<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2006.



### CHANGE OF NAMES

I, formerly CHINYERE IHEANACHO, now wish to be MRS. CHINYERE HANNAH IHEANACHOR. Former documents remain valid. General public to note.

I, formerly known as MISS RUKAYYA MUHAMMED WADA now wish to be called MRS. RUKAYYA MUHAMMED MUKHTAR. Former documents remain valid. UNIABUJA, NYSC, and general public to note.

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### LOSS OF RIGHT OF OCCUPANCY

The general public are hereby notified about the loss of Right of Occupancy in respect of Plot No. 255, located within Kado District, belonging to Hon. Dan'azumi Musa with No. MFCT/BA/94/BA/1148 as a result of fire incident which occurred on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 1995 at my Bauchi residence.

Concerned Authorities should please take note.

Signed:

Hon. Dan'azumi Musa

# SPORTS

## EGYPT 2006 AFRICAN NATIONS CUP

### Group D: West African affair



**NIGERIA**  
Whoever coined the expression about shooting oneself in the foot must have had Nigeria's footballers in mind, for the Super Eagles are often the architects of their own misery.

This is a team with the ability to excite but they also have the ability to crumble like the Berlin Wall.

With mind-boggling regularity, they press the self-destruct button during major tournaments, and there is no guarantee that Egypt 2006 will be different.

That Nigeria have some of the most gifted players in the world is beyond dispute, but many of them have got super-sized egos which undermine the team's unity and morale.

So the million-dollar question is: which Nigeria will turn up in Egypt, the one that can brush opponents aside with ease or a team that will push the self-destruct button again?

Coach Austin Eguavoen knows exactly what to expect if his team fails to win Nigeria's third African title. Even in a country of more than 120 million people, there will be no hiding place.

World Cup failure means that Nigeria's Super Eagles have had their wings clipped and will want to take out their frustrations on the continent in Egypt.

**Key players:** It used to be Jay-Jay Okocha, maybe one day it will be John Mikel Obi, but for now it is most definitely Obafemi Martins.

The Inter Milan striker has the power and guile to break down any defence in addition to having the ability

to create goals from nowhere, and score them from anywhere.

Tellingly, this will be the last throw of the dice at international football for Okocha - a Nations Cup winner with the Super Eagles in 1994.

The 32-year-old midfielder is still capable of magic spells when inspired and could well bow out of international football with an almighty bang!

**Verdict:** If all is well within their ranks, the Super Eagles will soar to great heights. But as we know from experience though, where Nigeria are concerned, that is one big 'if'.

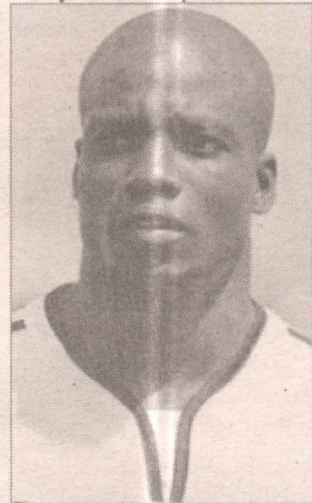
**GHANA**  
They were down, they were out, and missing the last Nations Cup finals made them very much yesterday's team.

But the Black Stars are back in business, their tails firmly up after qualifying for their first World Cup finals.

The Ghanaians go to Egypt with realistic hopes of winning their fifth Nations Cup title.

Their opening clash with Nigeria immediately caught the eye following the draw and pundits and fans alike await that game with baited breath.

Although Ghana's Nations Cup pedigree is beyond dispute, they have been waiting an awfully long time for Nations Cup title number five - 24 years to be precise.



Appiah

That said, there has been much to admire from the Black Stars of late, not least their new-found self-belief, which helped secure a maiden World Cup appearance.

Ghana's campaign was showing signs of faltering when the Serbian Ratomir Djukovic became their fourth coach on the road to Germany/Egypt 2006.

With Stephen Appiah and Michael Essien in fine form, they beat South Africa away from home in June and then won their last two matches to finish top of their qualifying group.

**Key players:** With Essien, Africa's most expensive footballer, absent through injury captain Stephen Appiah will need to live up to his reputation as arguably the most effective midfielder on the continent.

He has the ability to find acres of space in even the most congested midfields and will carry the burden of ensuring Ghana's survival in the 'group of death.'

He can expect a lot of help from the nimble-footed Matthew Amoah, scorer of some key goals in the qualifying campaign.

**Verdict:** Having experienced far more downs than ups in recent years, the team seems to have finally come together, thanks largely to the astute management of Djukovic.

The Serbian has given the Black Stars a renewed sense of purpose but the biggest question seems to be whether or not the strikers have enough goals in them to carry Ghana beyond the group stage.

Djukovic now faces the hardest task - guiding his team to their fifth Nations Cup title. He may have to be content this time around with a quarter-final appearance.

**SENEGAL**  
For a squad as decent and highly experienced as the Teranga Lions, missing out on a World Cup place was a huge disaster, especially after their exploits in the 2002 finals.

The Senegalese were no doubt the success story of Japan/Korea but they seem to have fallen victim to the complacency they so famously exploited against France.

This is why few have talked about them being a factor at Egypt 2006, but the truth is that they do have what it takes to make it to the quarter-finals at the very least.

Like Nigeria and Ghana, Senegal are not exactly short of experience because they possess players who have waged battle against the best in the world.

In fact, the current team represents an upgrade from the 2002 version and their supporters would be delighted if the players can come close to replicating their excellent performances of four years ago.

**Key players:** No player splits public opinion quite like El Hadji Diouf - the striker who was banned for four matches after abusing a referee during the last Nations Cup.

He may be as popular as a plague of smallpox to many, but the volatile striker's value to Senegal's Nations Cup cause is beyond doubt.

Diouf's ability to find the back of the net might make the difference in Egypt.

Henri Camara weighed in with seven goals during the qualifiers, so he will share the load upfront with Diouf.

Pape Boupa Diop is another of Senegal's big players. Literally.

Nicknamed 'the Wardrobe' because of his massive frame, Diop is a much-admired midfielder who can do a lot of damage if given the freedom of the ground.

**Verdict:** How far will Senegal go? Not many will be surprised if they are on the first plane home but it would be unwise to write them off completely.

You can never say the Teranga Lions are not a contender to win the Nations Cup. The bottom line is that they will have to play out of their skins to deny both Ghana and Nigeria.

**ZIMBABWE**

After picking up their group's wooden spoon in the 2004 finals, surely Zimbabwe cannot do any worse in Egypt.

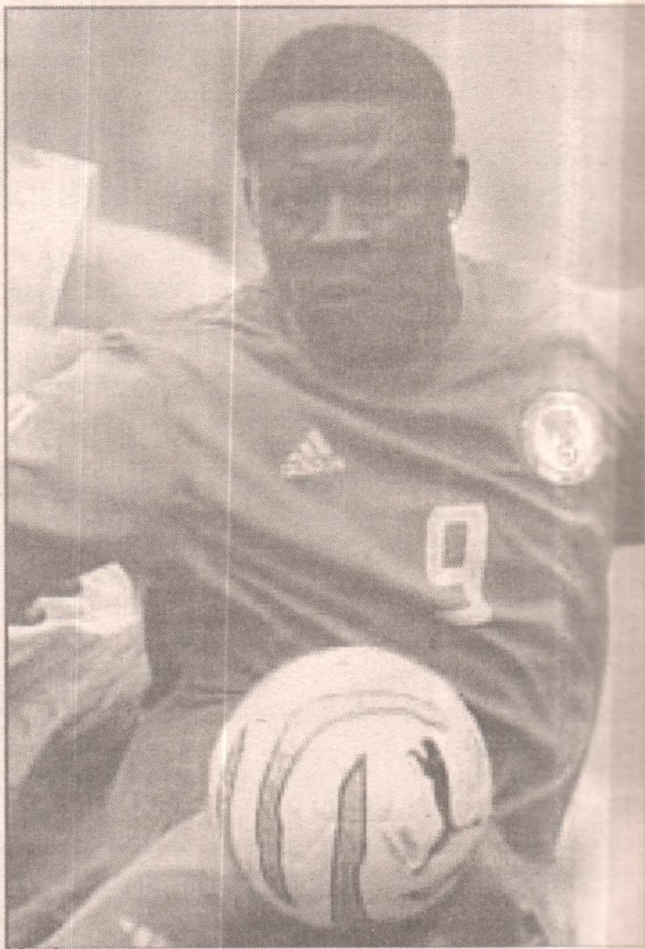
Well, actually they can. So spare a thought for the Warriors.

Not many of their supporters would have been jumping for joy when they

modern coach - he has got his own website! Check it out at: www.charlesmhlauri.com

Like the majority of his players, Mhlauri is a bit of a novice at this level, but he will have to extract the best from his squad in Egypt. It is a big ask.

For the Warriors, just reaching their second Nations Cup finals is a massive



Martins

were drawn in the so-called group of death.

For the second successive Nations Cup, the Warriors have been caged in a pool containing three heavyweights all with credible chances of winning the title.

In their maiden Nations Cup, Zimbabwe were eliminated in the first round, but not before being involved in a high-scoring thriller against mighty Cameroon.

In Charles Mhlauri, the Warriors have a thoroughly

coup. However, the fact that most of Mhlauri's squad play their club football in South Africa encapsulates the task he faces in Egypt.

The Warriors will be on a steep learning curve in Group D, against three established sides. Egypt 2006 should, therefore, be no more than an exercise in gaining experience.

His team lacks the depth of quality to really trouble any of their three opponents, so there will be little shame if, as expected, they finish bottom of the pile.

**Key Players:** Peter Ndlovu may have lost a few yards of pace in the twilight of his career but he is still Zimbabwe's talisman.

The 32-year-old is gifted with a fine appreciation of the whereabouts of his teammates and his experience will be vital in a side populated with players from South Africa's Premier League.

France-based striker Benjani Mwaruwari missed Tunisia 2004 through injury. The 27-year-old will no doubt be keen to shine in his first Nations Cup finals.

**Verdict:** Surely, even the most optimistic Zimbabwean does not expect the Warriors to knock over three giants on their way to lifting the most coveted prize in African football.

The Warriors do not have enough quality to make the second round and are destined to struggle against the gravitational pull of Group D. In other words, earliest possible flight home.

## Sambawa leads Nations Cup delegation

Sports Minister, Samaila Sambawa, will be at the head of Government Delegation to the 25th Edition of the African Cup of Nations which kicks off in Cairo, Egypt

on Friday, 20th January.

The Super Eagles are kick starting their campaign for a third win of the Nations Cup with Black Stars of Ghana in Port Said, on January 23.

Alhassan Yakmut, Special Adviser (Technical), to the Sports Minister, hinted on Tuesday that the Nigerian delegation to the Nations Cup will leave for Egypt in batches

with the Minister at the head of the delegation.

"The Super Eagles and their technical crew will leave Faro, Portugal on Thursday 19th January 2006 for Cairo,

Egypt for the Nations Cup," the Minister's aide informed.

"They will leave in a chartered flight straight from Portugal to Egypt because government want the best of comfort and relaxation for the players in view of the big task ahead of them.

"But ironically, not all the members of the contingent will leave at the same time as they will leave in batches.

"The other part of the contingent with the Honourable Minister of Sports and Social Development, Dr. Saidu Samaila Sambawa as Leader of Delegation will leave on January 22, 2006 for Egypt.

"Certainly that will be on time enough to be part of the Super Eagles versus Ghana Black Stars first group match on January 23," Yakmut said.

## Okocha tips Obafemi to explode

Inter Milan of Italy whiz kid, Obafemi Martins, could be the star of the Africa Nations Cup tournament in Egypt after veteran Eagles skipper, Austin Okocha, said that the bursting forward is a "fantastic talent."

Okocha, who will captain Nigeria at his last Nations Cup, told Nigeriansportsonline.com on Wednesday about Obafemi, who will be making his first appearance at

the African championship in Egypt: "I think we're blessed to have a special player like Obafemi Martins. To be honest with you, I've never played alongside such a terrific forward in the Super Eagles.

"The only forward I can compare him with in terms of pace is Julius Aghahowa.

"But Martins is a different kind of flavour. He brings a different dimension to the

team. "He is the dream of every midfielder because he makes your job easier.

"I must say that I am glad that we've got such a player in our squad.

"He (Obafemi) is such a fantastic talent that one can only be pleased to have him around."

Okocha would however add that Obafemi alone can not make the Eagles win the

Nations Cup.

He told Nigeriansportsonline.com: "Hopefully, he and the rest of the team will have a nice tournament in Egypt.

"But it's not going to be a man's job. It's a team thing and every member of the team holds a key to our success in Egypt.

"I just hope we can play to our potentials at the Nations Cup. If we can do that, we'll be unstoppable."

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# 'Crude and cruel' master plan?

By Matthew Ogwuche

We wish to kindly ask you to exercise your discretion over the well-known journalism tenet of 'right of reply' to enable us respond to the issues raised by your columnist Adagbo Onoja in the Monday column of November 21, 2005 as entitled above.

We wish to reassure the contributor that we hold him in high esteem, and respect his rights to freedom of expression and inputs into public debates. He raised other issues concerning the interface and conflicts between the Sule Lamido and Abubakar Rimi tendencies of the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), as well as newspaper production pressure vis-à-vis his responsibility as a columnist.

But we in the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA), will rather restrict ourselves to the issues he raised in respect of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) master plan. We appreciate the personal difficulties he may have had with the claim in his article that squatters who are his relatives fleeing from areas where illegal structures were removed have turned his homestead upside down.

But we do not feel it is appropriate for a columnist to go off the handle because of personal emotions, in his description of the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Malam Nasir Ahmed el-Rufa'i, who is also having a difficult time of his own doing a difficult job as "Malam Nasir el-Rufa'i and his demolition regime in the FCT." It is certainly underhand to attack the person, and not the issue.

We think that given the challenges of sanitizing the FCT, name-calling will certainly be unhelpful in confronting the issues and the problems. We wish to thank him for the compliments he paid to Amina Salihu, the Special Assistant (Information and Strategy) to the Minister in respect of her civil society antecedents, we are grateful.

Beyond that, it appeared Mr. Onoja lampooned our emphasis on always using facts and figures to state our case. How else can any responsible and legitimate argument ever be made? Anyone who neglects facts and figures, and resorts to fiction and demagoguery is simply engaged in a futile exercise of propaganda that can only stimulate societal tensions and emotions, and obfuscate the real issues.

No one can run away from the fact that the Abuja master plan was a sensible and simple plan but was distorted by a culture of impunity in the last 30 years. What is wrong in seeking to take legitimate steps to correct that?

It is shocking that the contributor could suggest that rather than removing illegal structures, they should be "incorporated" and be preceded by some "complex trade offs" with the owners. He is suggesting that illegal activity and criminal behaviour should be rewarded by government through a policy of appeasement, no responsible government will ever do that.

Besides, these unplanned informal communities are responsible for the distortion of the master plan in the first place, so how can their "incorporation" correct the distortion? It appears to me to be putting logic on its head.

The contributor referred to the settlements where illegal structures are currently being removed such as Chika, Piwoyi, Pyakassa, Alieta, Galadimawa, Nyanya, Kuchingoro, Idu-Karmo, in his words as "slums."

He accused the FCT administration of engaging in sophistry, instead of "taking development to the people", it is rather focusing he said on turning around these "slums" through removal of illegal structures.

It is simply amazing that anyone can kick against removing slums in a modern city. Taking on his

personal war, which is rather unfortunate.

We do not wish to join issues over your claim that the current market reforms are aimed at empowering certain elements within corporate Nigeria at the detriment of the "Esthers" of the FCT who you alleged are further impoverished. This is an ideological argument outside of the purview of the FCTA's mandate, and we do see a dis-connect between your claim and the FCTA's mandate to



choice of the word "development", does a slum meet the bar or the minimum standard requirements for development?

Without looking for help either from the dictionary or a thesaurus, slums are certainly unhealthy for human habitation as they are unplanned and do not have basic amenities as good access roads, water, health facilities, schools, sewages and drainages among others. Is the writer by any stretch of imagination recommending slums as the benchmark for habitation for the people of Nigeria?

The FCTA has a policy of providing the basic social amenities earlier highlighted in settlements as soon as illegal structures are removed to make for planned healthy environment suitable for orderly development. Besides, alternative areas are always provided for resettlement and relocation of residents where illegal structures are pulled down through mutually agreeable terms and concessions from the FCTA. So it is a policy that has a human face.

We sympathise with his relative Esther, who by his own account, went through different ordeals as she lost her accommodation from one illegal settlement to the other. Using her as a metaphor to insist that there are other "Esthers" within the FCT, and the ongoing campaign symbolises an attack on the poor in Abuja and their livelihood appears to be a usage of the writers' poetic license to fight a

reclaim the distorted master plan.

However, what we are proud to point out since we started implementing our mandate is not only the narrow focus on removal of illegal structures which passes by the euphemism "demolition" by critics, but the massive reconstruction and rehabilitation that is ongoing in the FCT.

We are eternally grateful to the increasing number of residents who are appreciative of the new planned gardens and parks, rehabilitated roads, hospitals, schools, public water supply, markets, repaired sewages and drainages, traffic lights and the provision of new public infrastructure among others which have made life worth living in the capital city. I think objective critics should also dwell on these for a change.

There is nothing crude and cruel about the master plan's recovery. It is a planned, orderly and an all inclusive consultative process with all stakeholders. I am sure given this fresh perspective, our respected columnist will be hard put not to admit that it is a "caring and careful" master plan, rather than 'crude and cruel' as he claimed.

Please, accept our highest assurances that our doors will always be open to dialogue, consultation and debates as we put all hands on deck to make Abuja fit into the dream of its founding fathers, and our own, as vital stakeholders. Please, accept my warmest regards.

*Ogwuche, is with the Information Strategy Department of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.*