

MAY 1973 30K

New Breed

THE FIRST QUALITY MAGAZINE

FOR NEWBREED PEOPLE



- MODUPE AKINTOLA
- '73/'74 BUDGET ANALY
- BRITAIN: Island of Indust
Unrest
- NEWBREED IS ONE
YEAR OLD
- EVOLUTION OF
AFRICAN MUSICAL
HERITAGE

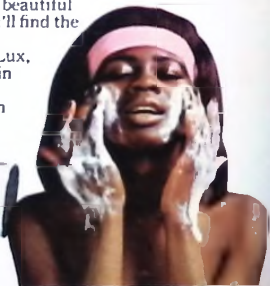


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NEWBREED

AFRICA'S FIRST QUALITY MAGAZINE
FOR NEWBREED PEOPLE

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May 1973 Volume 1 Number 12

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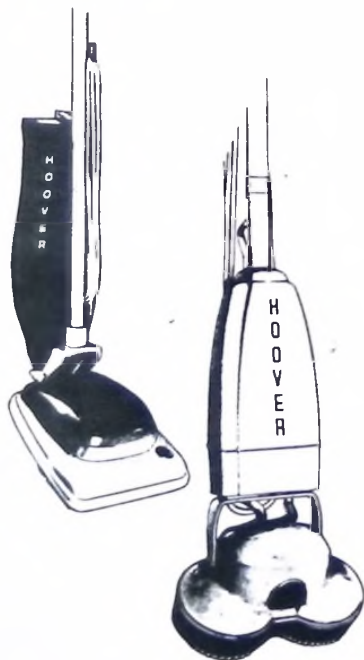
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**NEWBREED
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**NIGERIAN
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NewsBreed

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TOP OF THE

MONTH

ONE TOUGH EXCITING YEAR

This month NEWBREED is one year old. It has been one tough exciting year during which "we have been intimidated, blackmailed and our ideas mockingly and cynically opposed . . .", that notwithstanding, ". . . we will continue to set the pace in accurate, honest, progressive and fearless journalism." The Editor-in-Chief, Mr. Chris Okolie, reviews that memorable one year and tabulates our aspirations, on Page . . . 8

KANO STATE

In all sectors of social advancement, the one-time dull giant, Kano, is now pulling rapidly along side her progressing counterparts.

Our Kano State correspondent, Mr. Ajayi Memaiyetan sent in the facts while the Features Writer, Mr. Mahamuud Ikuniaye, who assembled them says, "Kano's new style is that Alhajis' wives are kept behind in locked up pudahs (kulei) but the Alhajis parade clubs with their flashy girl-friends" and hinted that, "even the Lebanese have started to sense that the open hands with which they were once welcome are closing at a terrible speed." Page 48

NATIONAL BUDGET 1973/74

At the beginning of last month, the Head of State, General Gowon announced his government's intended expenditure for the periods 1973/74. Reflecting the boom in Nigeria's Oil premiums and foreign reserves, the national annual budget keeps on mounting.

Despite the fine economic presentations and results the problems of housing in Urban towns, education, health, transport and some varying necessities of life are in no way improved over their positions of last year, yet the costly gas-consuming torch-of-unity keeps on burning profusely at Tafawa Balewa Square in Lagos.

Olu Akaraoqun, the Ace NEWBREED Contributor reviews that seemingly buoyant budget. Page . . 18



6 New Breed Readers' Comments

In our February issue we threw open the reader's column to Mr. Olu Akaraogun's open letter, titled "in this era of the Naira". In that letter, the author exposed the plight of the common man in Nigeria and called on the "Powers that be" to do something more seriously to reduce the poor and deplorable conditions of the common men.

This month our readers write to us, *En Masse*, to endorse that open letter. We cannot publish all the letters from our readers.

Dear Editor,

Hats off for Mr. Olu Akaraogun for his bold journalistic approach in pointing out the insidious ills biting hard into the present day Nigeria. He is truly a New Breed.

I support his views as narrated in your February issue of NEWBREED. He could not have been more correct.

The common man should be made to feel that he belongs to a rich country by giving him good roads, good medical facilities, uninterrupted supply of electricity, continuous flows of pipe borne water, clear the streets of our capital city of its smellish refuse and other social and economic ills.

Once again I say bravo to Mr. Olu Akaraogun. We want more New Breed men like you.

—O. B. Osibanjo,
*Institute of Management and
Technology, Enugu.*

Having gone through that piece written by Mr. Olu Akaraogun entitled "In this era of the Naira", it behoves me to send this.

Really, what he wrote is just too straight-forward. According to the Economists all over the country, we are rich. Why then should there be so many "have-nots" when some Executives and top civil servants can afford to change their air-conditioned cars every month?

Actually, that the "suffering masses" of Nigeria look forward to seeing improvements by some people in press conferences can not be over-emphasised. People behind the Government "Steering" should think seriously of their less fortunate comrades in the far Southern and Northern States who pay taxes and at the same time embark on self-help projects.

They want to have uninterrupted pipe-borne water supply in their villages, stamps and other things in their postal agencies and cheap kerosene for their hurricane lanterns. The low income workers look forward to a better salary structure without a corresponding increase in prices of any essential commodity. It is only ACTION and not WORDS that is good enough for the farmers, petty traders and the scavengers.

Frankly speaking, I did not know that there is still a hard-hitting writer of Mr. Olu's calibre in view of the fact that a lot of victimisation and intimidation have

been done to journalists. BRAVO Mr. Akaraogun; BRAVO NEWBREED. I sincerely hope the top civil servants, Biz men and others will not throw the magazine into waste paper basket after reading that nice piece.

—E. B. Obayagbona,
Benin-City.

I devoured your February issue from page-to-page and I doff my cap for you for the incredible efforts you are making to satisfy the thirst for knowledge of your readers of all categories. Mr. Olu Akaraogun's comment on pages 6 and 7 is a food for thought. Frankly speaking, the masses of this country are suffering (on which lots have been said and written) and until our voices are heard and adhered to by the authorities, the endeavour should definitely continue.

More grease to your elbows, NEWBREED.

—Gbade Adegbenjo,
*Nigerian Security Printing & Minting
Company Ltd., Lagos.*

May I express my views on Mr. Olu Akaraogun's comments which were published in the *New Breed Magazine* of February 1973. I am in awareness of the commentator's report which indicated precisely the gigantic and extensive neglect of poor people in the country.

That article exposed the imperialists, economists and some who are in big posts in the country in whose hands the country's fate lies.

I think to eliminate this poverty, it is better to refer to the activities of our old people who lived a beneficial and peaceful life. I can say Bishop Ajayi Crowther was one of the eminent people whose life was worth emulation.

Since the periods of the military regime, I have observed a remarkable, though insufficient, step-forward in the economic progress of the country.

Now, let us pipe our hands conspicuously, as brother and sister, either rich or poor, to emulate with our strength and power for the progress of the nation.

I hereby extend my sincere gratitude to Mr. Olu Akaraogun who indicated precisely our unseen mistakes.

—J. B. Olu-Opena,
Lagos.

Mr. Olu Akaraogun in his article entitled "In this era of the Naira" NEWBREED February 1973, spoke in minutes of the Have-nots throughout the country. What the "anonymous masses" the farmer in the village, ordinary worker and such lowly paid people" need a recognition of their existence, the sooner this is done the better.

The ruled make up the government without them there will be no rulers. It sounds funny and ridiculous to hear the same places in the Federal Capital Area yet to be supplied with pipe-borne water they cannot enjoy good road, environment very filthy, the reason for this neglect, probably, is that the occurrences in these areas belong to the low income group and therefore it is no man's business to know how long they track in quest of drinking water.

Let us not talk about the people's villages, perpetual darkness, is the banker. The economy of the Nation is very encouraging but what does it matter to a common man in the street or in the village who only hears about the fantastic revenues of the country through a radio set; to him it is a nightmare.

Personally I will not hold the present regime responsible neither will I give them that full mark. Much has to be done.

—Alpha Nwachukwu
Base Ori, Depot, Y...

GEN. IDI AMIN DADA—TRUE SON OF AFRICA

So many controversial issues have been raised in your article on General Idi Amin's actions (NEWBREED January 1973). Different opinions have been expressed by different people of different nations on this matter. Some have criticised Amin's actions and some pledged their full support to his ways. Whichever way you may view it, Amin's actions are his judgement, be they right or wrong, as they are to the best interest of the people and the people of Africa as a whole.

Those who disapprove Amin's actions seem to forget the difficulties our brothers and sisters in Rhodesia and South Africa have faced and are still facing. They would you feel to be a second class citizen.

in your own motherland? Idi Amin wants his people and Africans to live a more human and freer life and be rid of the obstacles of vested interests or prejudices and inhuman judgements which thwart or pervert the true development of human beings.

Britain and other countries who are now tasting the bitterness of vengeance and suffering, by having to resettle its nationals expelled by Idi Amin, should realise that the support Britain has given and is still giving to the illegal regime of Ian Smith is unjustifiable, and that the reasons being taught to her by the expulsion is her reward for her treachery. The more Africans continue to suffer in Rhodesia and South Africa under the illegal regimes, the more will Idi Amin continue his righteous acts.

On the other hand, if Idi Amin were to follow his predecessors and African counterparts, all the conditions of human relationship and interests would become more and more complicated and our problems more intractable.

Africa as a continent must by now have realised her true sons one of whom today stands out of many and he is General Idi Amin, the Ugandan Head of State. No doubt, Ugandans are blessed, for they have before them a daring leader whose efforts are centred on their happiness. Today Ugandans are a free people because they are being freed from the bondage of imperialism (foreign dominations). Contrary to what is going on today in Rhodesia, the illegal rebel Regime of Ian Smith which is being supported by Tory Government, making life difficult for the Africans in their own country, Idi Amin is nevertheless revenging the millions of our suffering brothers and sisters in that part of Africa.

Whatever any reader who has a different opinion may say of these points, he will at least concede that General Amin is doing a most wonderful job of freeing Africans in general and Ugandans in particular from the grip of neo-colonialism (foreign economic exploiters). He deserves all praise and credit. Goodluck Africa, long live Amin.

Dawi Dandalima Bui
Maiduguri, North Eastern State.

FASTIDIOUS DEMAND:

The letter from a reader Rabiutu Isa, of Kaduna titled "Project The North too" (NEWBRED January 1973) is very fastidious. She wants to divert your interest to the North even though you had been presenting her people as pacesetters.

Please note that any attempt to divert your attention to a particular part of the

Federation will be negative and therefore can never be welcome by New breed people everywhere.

My advise to you is to continue at the present pace while we continue pursuing your widely accepted Magazine. You are just doing fine.

I.U. Osinuwah,
Port Harcourt.

AFRICAN LEADERSHIP CRISIS:

In less than five decades, the newly emergent nations of Africa have developed from self-sufficient communities of farmers, into countries with a sophisticated constitution and administration, modern cities, industries, monetary, economy, written culture and an educational system based on the knowledge and values of the highly developed empires which until recently, governed them. They are anxiously seeking to attain equality with these richer nations.

Although the focus is national at the current stage of development of African National interest. In recent years it has been quite fashionable to denigrate the importance of the constitutional and governmental structures of newly independent states and to inflate the importance of the role of political leaders and political movements.

But it seems quite clear that in Africa at any rate, this has been a serious miscalculation. The emerging states are now faced with most complex constructive tasks, the gradual involvement of which is possible only through nationwide persistent creative endeavour and the mobilisation of all resources of economic growth.

National leadership, no matter how narrow its real base, is under pressure to justify its actions in terms of national consideration. This necessity is in part self-imposed because the ruling party lives by the myth that it acts in the name of all the people; that its goals are for the good of all people, and that its leader is the incarnate symbol of the new nation.

By so doing, the national leadership denies potential rivals access to the same national symbols, and exposes them to charges of treason for acting allegedly as instruments of either external, usually imperialist, or sub-national and frequently, tribal interests.

But when the party government fails to maintain its monopoly of national symbols or is suspected of governing in the interest of sub-national groups, an opposition party (maybe group or individual) can seize the torch of unity and sooner or later the seat of legitimacy. This is a new trend on the African scene and has already happened in Algeria, Togo and Dahomey. It is continuing.

Ephraim Okeya,
Surulere, Lagos.

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This month NEWBREED is one year old: still a baby but growing fast and stronger with each succeeding editions. This is due to your interests, goodwill, and encouraging demand that we continue to move forward and keep pace with your needs and aspirations. In the months and years to come, one thought will be uppermost in our minds: the dream we all share—progressive change that brings more benefit to mankind.

No doubt we have experienced difficulties in all shapes and forms. We have been intimidated, threatened, blackmailed and our ideas have been mockingly and cynically opposed; but certainly the congratulations we have received since our first publication last June, the amazement caused in marketing and advertising camps, the curiosity to discover more our personal identity—all connote more conclusively that NEWBREED has come to stay and it is Africa's first quality magazine for new breed people.

Two things have satisfied us very much. Firstly, NEWBREED now represents the fastest growing and changing society in this land as we move from a tribal past to a modern industrial future. Secondly, NEWBREED has 'aggravated' the magazine market in Nigeria. If you

glance through most Nigerian magazines today, you can see a desperate yet poor imitation of NEWBREED.

We will continue to set the pace for our contemporaries to follow. But as Mr. Ebele Chinye, our Art Director said, "our imitators have failed to realise that in creating the image of NEWBREED we have been deeply involved in the evolution of the creative mix; we have employed tactical tools of the creative man, namely words, symbols, illustrations, photography, layouts, typography and colour. All these did not happen at once."

He continued: "Our attitude to design is one of aggressive humility and with this humility comes a realisation that our success depends to an extent on the efforts of others within and outside the team." He further pledged that "we shall continue to improve our visuals, photography, ideas and designs and we shall not use clever techniques to cover up the absence of an idea."

NEWBREED: CAPITALISM OR SOCIALISM?

Some of you have written to say that from the definition of NEWBREED, it is difficult to know whether NEWBREED is "a capitalist or a socialist magazine." In other words, what is our orientation towards "capitalism and socialism?" Our editorial views at the moment, appear to be at the 'centre' of the two philosophies.

Although your queries gave a clue to our orientation, I would say indeed that, that is a very hypothetical and large question and certainly needs a separate discussion. This is because the terms 'capitalism' and 'socialism' are ever changing concepts whose acceptability depends to a large extent on prevailing circumstances as well as interpretations.

Some African countries, for example, have adopted a system that can neither be called capitalism nor socialism but rather a blend of both allowing for private enterprise and initiative alongside government ownership of the greater percentage of the means of production.

In Nigeria it is primitive capitalism; in America it is naked capitalism; in Britain and Sweden in particular, it is welfarism.

However, our orientation towards both concepts will be fully analysed in NEWBREED July 1973.

OUR IMAGE AND IDENTITY

Another poser that needs clarification is the image of the magazine—because from time to time, we publish sexy pictures and stories, some people have labelled us a sex magazine.

May we make it clear, very clearly, that NEWBREED is a varied medium developed to meet the challenge modernisation and the new society.

Before the birth of NEWBREED Nigerians and Africans had been restricted old-fashioned newsprints as their kind magazine by some publishers. Their attitudes to readers and Africa is that Africa is still a dark jungle, inhabited a primitive race, therefore they would enjoy and more do reading magazines that look like village rags.

That is why you see stories of African warriors, wizards, magicians and crude politics on their pages. Credit has never must go to "AFRICA" and "AFRICA DEVELOPMENT." Both magazines are of good quality in printing and editorial content but their orientation is narrowed down to POLITICS and INDUSTRY.

On our side, we felt and still feel that Nigerians and Africans are not a backward race but rapidly progressing towards the standards of sophistication in Europe and America in our own way.

This progress we felt must be reflected in all human endeavours and the media. We have tried to show these expressions through our varied editorial departments like Politics, The Society, People, Pleasure, Entertainment, Sex, Fashion and Focus on the globe as a system for appraisal.

But despite all these varied contents, some people are still confused about our image and identification. This is very unfortunate. May we say that NEWBREED caters for a broad audience with varied interests because we believe people have common interests but they are no stereotypical types.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Our approach to sex and its photography is that, it is a major social problem challenging mankind.

We try to discuss it frankly because we believe NEWBREED is read by adults. Adults here refers to 16 or 60 year old. It is possible to see a sixteen year old who is matured in his thinking and way of life. And it is possible to see a fool at 40, still childish and living in a dream world. These are also the people who go to News stands and pay as much as ₦10 to buy a purely pornographic magazine and read under their bed covers or in privacy.

We do not publish pornography pictures but this word pornography must be clearly defined or redefined and accepted by society.

We believe it is possible to publish complete nude picture without offending and damaging morality; and at the same

ONE
YEAR
OLD
TODAY

A CHAT WITH THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

JUNE 1978
NEWBREED

NIGERIA'S FIRST QUALITY MAGAZINE



NEWBREED IS BORN
NIGERIA TOMORROW
IBRU
SEX EDUCATION
BRIXTON
THE BLACK
CITY OF
LONDON
FASHION

THANK YOU ALL

time publish a non-nude photograph that could be infectious to society, must be awfully careful we don't ourselves into a great big primary school and feel that we have to take everybody by the hand.

We must face our problems realistically. People will always ask questions about sex and many will blindly experiment. We repeat, sex education is a must to and tomorrow. We hope soon, criticism shall be broadminded enough to accommodate frank commentaries. We are new breeds and one of our major qualifications is quality. We might have made mistakes but it will be rash and hasty to conclude so soon.

THE NEW BREED JOURNALISM

We have also received letters suggesting that our style should be a little heavier than it is at the moment. They feel, it should be more academic.

We regret to say that NEWBREED is not an academic magazine and major criticism still think that a light, intelligent and readable language will suffice. More so, the old age of heavy style journalism; the age where law breaking words and tautology were widely cheered are gone!

The style we are trying to evolve is described as 'new breed journalism' or simply 'the new journalism.' The style would be acknowledged even by Professors!

We are aware that we have not reached the stage of perfection yet, but our writing style and the shape of the magazine are forming.

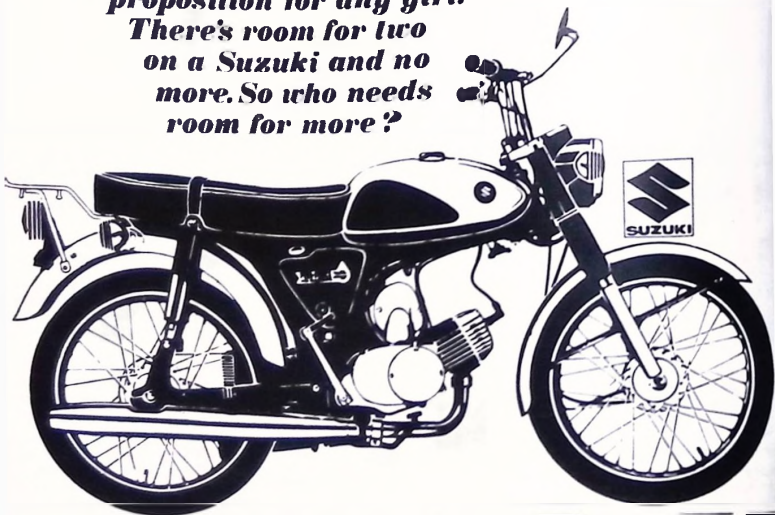
And this formation of shape and style of NEWBREED, can be achieved more rapidly if you let us know what you want, the things you have liked and not liked. Communication is the key to greater awareness, and this awareness helps to bring about change.

MORAL AND BUSINESS PHILOSOPHY

NEWBREED intends to be an activist messiah and champion of the new society. We will urge you to continue reading us every month. Our approach, we emphasise again, constantly calls for continuous dialogue—we all are dissatisfied about the new scale of corruption, tribalism, the suffering and ignored poor. We have subconsciously signed a treaty to wage war against the Bureaucrats by inter-changing

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A CHAT WITH THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

of ideas, criticism and suggestions through the medium.

We will endeavour vigorously to report objectively, accurately and without fear or favour. We have even been warned to conceal facts from you, we would close our eyes to social injustice, fraud and other vices, or pretend they do not exist. All because they say "Nigeria is not a place to succeed on merit or on the principles or conscience. Just do what you can for yourself, including your extended family. In fact, do it and put it mildly. I like to quote a description of Nigeria from "The Observer" of Saturday, March 24, 1973

Nigeria is "where anything goes, and nothing is sacred; where neither the currency nor the ballot box, neither the census, nor examination papers, nor anything whatsoever is immune to the ravages of corrupt men and women; a country where everything is available for sale including justice, passports, certificates, employment, promotions, even corpses in the mortuary." What else could be apt and more descriptive?

If all these assertions are of any credibility, infact, it could be said that the nation and society are fast decaying at a terrific speed.

Anyway, inspite of all the foolish warnings, we will do our best to keep watch and report within the legal framework and constitution of the country. We still believe something could be done to save the country from total collapse. At least, Nigeria is not a dictatorship although it is an illusion and democracy at the present. So, we believe there is still some hope.

Another major point: we will not join the handwagon of some Newspapers seeking recognition by publishing pictures of VIP's doing this, that or nothing in particular. Apart from that our magazine and organisation are marketing orientated. We don't consider such as news, information or a selling point. Or better still to use a marketing jargon—we do not consider it 'a critical ingredient in our product policy.'

We also undertake not to run supplement on this and that (to use a Yoruba word "ori-si-risi"—different kinds) which has no bearing to our philosophy and contain news and important information.

It is with these feelings that we have decided now to interview not only successful middle-aged new breeds as PERSONALITY of the month, but any man or woman who has a new breed outlook and has ideas that can save our nation from the vices that are attacking and des-

DIRECTORS OF NEWBREED ORGANISATION LTD.



Chris F. M. Okolie



Ebele Chinye



Mrs. M. Akintola

CHAT WITH THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

our unity and well-being at the

ersonality column will be thrown
the young and old, male and
with the correct attitude and frame
as soon as we spot them. In other
t will be possible for you to read
Bricklayer who is laying bricks in
and you can read the success story
herman who became a millionaire
king hard.

NEWBREED STAFF



MAHAMUUD IKUNIAYE
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OLUFEMI ABIODUN
Accounts and Circulation



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Advertisement



ALFRED IMHANDEGBELOH
Administration



EMMANUEL OMIIDIJI
Correspondent



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Type Setting



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Transport

**THANK
YOU
ALL**

NEWBREED CLUB

One day, in the foreseeable future, we

shall come together and form a club. One major qualification for membership would be the quality of your character and not just money. It will be also a mind blowing club.

We are aware that our task is an uphill, one that the publishing scene will be increasingly complex, but all we can say at the moment is that we are strong, ready for the challenge and see a bright future for NEWBREED and New Breed Organisation Limited. The position we have occupied in the publishing area, we will continue permanently and expand.

It is gratifying to note that within one year we have hit the 20,000 circulation mark and clearly positioned ourselves in the publishing industry in Nigeria as a financially superior and quality magazine.

We would like to use this opportunity to thank the editors and staff of NEWBREED for their untiring hard work and dedication. Most of them are family men. They have been bold enough to venture into a secured, easy going and pensionable job to join a challenging, motivating, but an extremely vulnerable venture.

The Board of Directors have noted this fact and have expressed satisfaction and appreciation. We have agreed that NEWBREED should at least in the publishing industry attract the best people.

We hereby thank Barclays Bank Nigeria Limited for support and the confidence we have enjoyed from them since the birth of NEWBREED. To Academy Press Limited, our Printers, a grand thank you for doing a quality job and we hope as we enter the second phase of our 18 month cycle, our business relationship shall improve and we can meet delivery dates.

We apologise to people who have taken a year's subscription and got late deliveries thereby defeating the objective of subscribing. We will improve our services and we have decided to mail you complimentary copy at the end of your subscription date as a gesture of appreciation. How about that?

And to Advertising Agencies, especially Lintas International Advertising, pledge that the confidence you have demonstrated by placing NEWBREED your schedules will not be abused. We will also thank our main Distributors: Nigeria-Daily Times of Nigeria, Vendors Union and other Distributors who have helped to circulate our magazine. And finally to our dear readers and other associates, it has been a tough but a citing year, many thanks.

Chris Felix Mada Abrochukwu Omu
Chairman and Managing Director
New Breed Organisation Limited

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newbreed pacesetters



YINKA OLAMIDE ISHOLA:

The rent control Edict, published recently by the Lagos State Government, is now the 'topic of the moment' in most Lagos homes. This is because in Lagos, house-rents and housing problems have placed the pleasure in urban living in a serious danger.

Miss Yinka Ishola, believes that "Lagos State Government has taken a bold and dynamic step forward in the crusade to help the low salary-earners, but a powerful machinery must be set up immediately to impose it."

She however, pointed out that "it is too early to hail or frown at the Edict, it should be given sufficient time to prove its worth," adding that "some landlords may want to wreck the good gestures of the Edict; they should be severely dealt with."

A lover of peace and timely fashion, Yinka (20) is not happy at the rate of material sentiment that now plagues the society. She thinks "it is responsible for the present high level of prostitution and moral laxity in our society, the earlier we do something about it the better," she appealed.

Asked about her do's and don'ts, Yinka did not hesitate to say "I very much hate late night outs, rude people, and highly admire neat, polite and well dressed young-men. I am not for sugar-daddy."



CHARLIE NELSON

"The situation in Nigeria in certain sectors leaves much to be desired. In fact the position is so bad that many countrymen I know now overseas will not like to come back here. The stable is due for clearing." So says Charlie Nelson (28) who left Lagos back to America at the end of March after a brief visit to his parents and relations in Nigeria."

"Moral and ethical values have been left for dogs and people in high places behave with careless abandon. Nobody seems to question anybody again even the huge expenditure at the All-Africa Games have not been brought to public accountability. Social life has degenerated. Go to night clubs and find the rate of young girls swarming in. Teenagers, school girls have been let loose and even working class ladies openly prostitute. These are a result of loss of culture."

Mr. Nelson finished his Master's course in electrical engineering specialising in electronics 5 years ago, but has been working in the United States where he is not doing badly at all. Asked by NEWBREED to comment on the notion widely held in Africa that the negroes, now Afro-Americans try to exhibit some snobbish air of superiority over real Africans while here, Charlie giggled and "observe that Afro-Americans belong to America though they trace their heritage to Africa. There are also Indian Americans, Jewish American etc. Anyway frankly I cannot speak bluntly about Afro-Americans while I am still working in America."

"When does he intend to return home and settle down?" NEWBREED asked. "Cannot say yet!"



MRS. MARY TOWOBOLA:

The 1973/74 annual budget was announced at the beginning of last month, and discussed somewhere in this issue of NEWBREED. Every year national budget keeps on rising to the approval of some members of the society. Others feel that the budget has ignored priority like housing, employment, educational subsidies, roads etc.

Mrs. Mary Towobola, 35, of the Lagos State Sports Council smiled with joy when she told the NEWBREED that "no matter the public opinion, this year's budget brings more Naira to the common people."

A Nursing sister attached to the council clinic who has for long been associated with Nigerian Sports, believes that the Federal Government's N2 million subvention to the National Sports Council will help to raise the standard of our national sports and improve the welfare of sportsmen and sports organizers. This also will reflect in our international sports image.

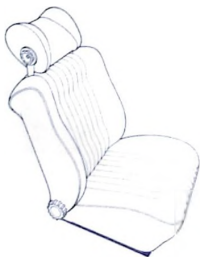
Mary emphasised that the subvention should be decentralised to the various state sports Councils to make it sufficiently effective. "Otherwise," she says "the whole purpose will be completely defeated."

At 35, Mary who now has five children thinks "it is okay for now, afterwards one does not need to incubate children," when asked if she wanted more than five children.

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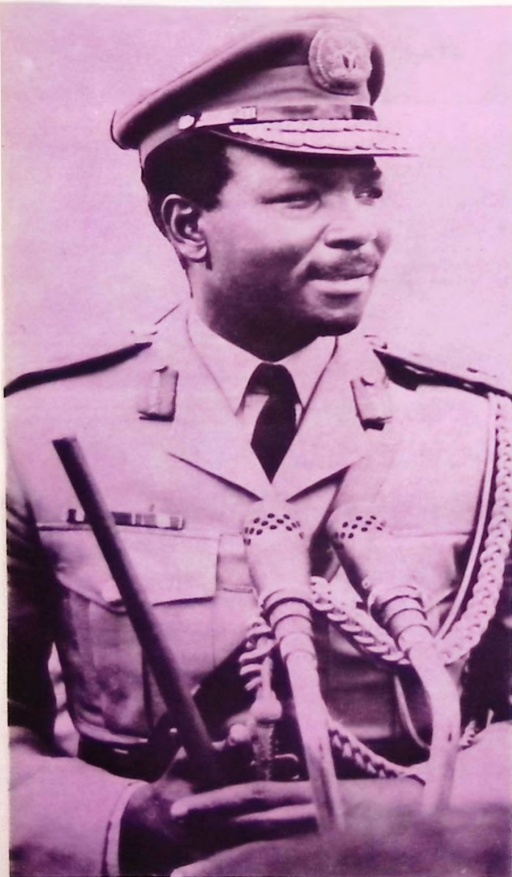
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THE NATIONS



GENERAL GOWON—Nigeria's Head of State

NEWBREED MAY 1973

Since the rise of businessmen-politicians who ousted the civilian regime of the first republic were unceremoniously dismissed by the Armed Forces in January 1966, most of the parliamentary melodrama which surrounded annual budgets has been vanished.

This is a good thing because we have thus been able to view annual budgets with a sense of proportion.

Essentially, the annual budget should be a kind of national house-keeping accounting. That every house wife does daily, weekly or monthly in respect of her small laundry is done annually with respect to the whole country.

Formerly, the melodrama and the fevered expectation which surrounded annual budgets was due to this. Having estimated the expenditure needs of the government for a new financial year, various measures are adopted to raise the needed revenue.

A combination of fiscal and monetary measures are taken. Ordinarily, these may include varying taxes, customs and excise duties; restricting foreign imports and regulating the foreign exchange market.

To businessmen, these measures are of the greatest importance as they may affect their operating costs and ultimately their trading results. Measures contained in the budget also affect the ordinary Nigerian.

Since they affect the level of prices in the economy, budget measures affect the cost of living. The prices of ordinary household items may rise or fall—things like soap, milk, sugar, detergents and textile goods.

1973/74 BUDGET

THANKS TO
THE PETROLEUM TRADE

HOUSEKEEPING

In recent years, budgets have been used by governments not only as an instrument of national housekeeping. Budgets are now used as instruments of economic policy. They are used to achieve certain economic objectives over a period of time. This is more so in this era of conscious economic planning.

Conscious economic planning at government level started in Nigeria with the five-year plan for development and welfare launched in 1946. When a federal constitution was introduced in October 1954, the country was split into three autonomous Regions together with a Federal Territory.

To take account of these constitutional changes, another economic plan for 1955-60 was launched. This plan was reviewed in 1958 and extended to 1962.

The first National Development Plan launched in an independent Nigeria was that of 1962-68. The outstanding achievement during the 1962-68 Plan period was the completion of the 180 million Naira Kajinji Dam.

Currently, the various governments are in the process of executing the Second National Development Plan, 1970-74. The importance of this plan is that it was drawn up by Nigerian technocrats. For the first time, the plan spells out a set of national objectives. It then goes on to formulate a broad programme indicating the path of economic development.

What has all this to do with the annual budgets? It is this. Economic development is a process over a long period of time. It is better that the country should be guided over a period of time in its efforts to develop the economy by the plan which has been laid down.

In that case, the annual budgets are no more than, steps, important steps though, towards the achievement of broad economic objectives.

What follows from this is that an annual budget should be viewed in relation to the Development Plan. We can then judge whether budget measures help towards the achievement of plan objectives and whether they are appropriate in the light of the current economic circumstances of Nigeria.

This is the approach with which to adopt in examining the 1973/74 budget and in casting a bird's eye view over the previous two federal budgets.

The various detailed measures make sense only if they are seen against the broad strategy of government economic policy.

According to the 1970-74 develop-

ment plan: "The ultimate goal of economic development is the welfare of the individual (Nigerian). The focus of our policy objective, should, therefore, be on how the ordinary citizen is to be affected by the resulting set of action programmes and projects. The prospect of the citizen in the process of economic development and social change should not be determined by the mere accident of the circumstances of his birth.

"He should be able to have equal access to all the facilities and the opportunities which could help him realise his potential and develop his full personality.

"A sense of self-reliance and a sense of national pride are worthy objectives which the government believes the average Nigerian wishes to cultivate. But he can only do so in an atmosphere of expanding opportunities for full employment, for education and for self-fulfilment.

"The nation will, therefore, remain fully committed to the achievement of these objectives at all times."

As a statement of intention, this is admirable and not exceptional. It tallies with our hope of having a just and egalitarian society. So, in considering the budget measures, we shall pay particular attention to their overall effect on the welfare of the ordinary Nigerian.

On the control of the Nigerian economy as a whole, the following passage from the 1970-74 Development Plan is highly relevant:

"Experience through history has shown that a government cannot plan effectively what it does not control. The widespread frustration of planning in contemporary Africa has also demonstrated the futility of partial planning that is restricted to public sector programmes, especially when the typical African public sector is an inferior junior partner in a game dictated by the global strategy of modern international combines.

"If Nigeria is, therefore, to be really serious about planned development, it is essential that she should play a dominant role in the public sector. This means having both access to and control of all the major national resources.

"For a minimum resources, such as land, mineral deposits, and other natural endowments, must be owned by the nationals of the country.

"But more important than legal ownership is the effective control over the use of such vital resources. During the planned period, Government will therefore, seek to regulate the use of those resources for the benefit of the Community

at large as well as to control the essential and growth-sensitive sectors of country in the fields of commerce, dust, fuel and energy, construction transport, finance and education."

The significance of that last passage that the government has at long last decided to Nigerianise the economy, has been decided that the Nigerian economy should benefit Nigerians.

There is a gradual shifting away from the present neo-colonial economic system where Nigerian minerals and raw materials are exploited for the benefit of foreign shareholders and of international monopoly capital.

This policy change explains measures such as the Indigenisation decree; the New company decree; participation by the federal government in the running of the petroleum companies and in the business of the giant expatriate banks; the establishment of the Nigerian Mining Corporation and the like.

The latest budget measures should be seen against the background of these fundamental changes in the control of the Nigerian economy.

Now, let us consider the main feature of the 1973/74 budget. Thanks to the petroleum trade, we are not in trouble with our house-keeping accounts. But considering the relative backwardness of the Nigerian economy, compared with that of any of the highly industrialised Western European countries, we find the picture is not all that rosy. We are far from living in an economic El Dorado.

The estimated revenue of the federal government for 1973/74 is 1,410 million Naira, while estimated recurrent expenditure is 786 million Naira. Out of the federal revenue, 308 million Naira will go to the states and a further 34 million Naira to compensate them for the abolition of the export tax on Marketing Board produce.

This leaves the federal government with a surplus of 282 million Naira which will be passed on to the Development Fund.

In the previous financial year, 1972/73, federal revenues were estimated at 1,290 million Naira; expenditure was estimated at 986 million Naira; while the federal government passed on to the states 341 million Naira.

In the 1973/74 financial year, the capital expenditure of the federal government is estimated at 610 million Naira; in the 1972/73 financial year, the capital expenditure of the federal government was estimated at 468 million Naira.

During 1972, the federal revenue from petroleum alone was 860 million Naira. The country's external reserves stood at 243.58 million Naira, while the external debt was 258 million Naira.

Although compared with the previous financial year, there has been a rise in absolute terms in revenue, yet we have to be very careful in interpreting these figures. The increase in revenue is not an infallible indicator of progress.

There are other economic factors that should be taken into account such as the rise in population, the effect of inflation on the level of prices. It would be interesting to know other magnitudes like the Gross Domestic Product for the last financial year.

It would be interesting to know also the changes, if any, in per capita income and an idea of income distribution per social classes of the population.

An alarming development is the impoverishment of the state governments and their increasing dependence for funds on the Federal Government.

During the 1973/74 financial year, statutory appropriations to the state government is 342 million Naira. In the previous financial year (1972/73) it was 341 million Naira.

Two facts have to be borne in mind. This amount is to be shared out among 12 state governments.

Secondly, federal appropriations constitute a lion's share of state government's revenue in view of the fact that incomes through export crops are declining and state governments raise very meagre sums through direct taxes.

However, what emerges from all this is that financially, the federal government is able to keep its head well above water in the current financial year.

Now, let us go on to see how far the economic measures announced in the budget are likely to affect ordinary Nigerians. By far the most important measure is the abolition of export tax on marketing Board produce.

Along with this, the federal government is to fix the producer prices of export crops throughout the country. It is expected that this will result in higher producer prices to farmers in the rural areas. The loss in revenue to the state governments due to this abolition is estimated at 34 million Naira.

It is hoped that this will be fully passed on to farmers in the form of higher prices for their export crops. I do not see why farmers should be called to pay any tax at all on their export crops; if we really mean to fight poverty in the rural areas and to close the urban-rural gap.

I think the complete abolition of the Marketing Board system in its present form is long overdue. In practice, the system has worked to the disadvantage of rural farmers.

The theory is that over the years, farmers are paid in Nigeria far less than their crops fetch on the international market. The difference is kept in Marketing Board reserves.

Farmers were told that in bad years, when world prices were low, funds from the reserves would be used to subsidise producer prices. In other words, the idea is to protect farmers from the wild fluctuations of prices on the international commodity market.

What happened in practice was different. Over the years, farmers were paid far less than their crops fetch on the international market. In bad years, the subsidised prices which they were entitled to, did not materialise.

About 1965, farmers were paid as low as £65 (130 Naira) for a ton of cocoa. And in many cases, they did not even receive this ridiculous price in cash; they were given promissory chits. This happened in both Ghana and Nigeria.

What happened to the marketing board reserves? According to the governments in Ghana and Nigeria, these reserves had been used for various development purposes such as the construction of feeder roads, water supplies and the award of university scholarships.

Also at the moment, we are worried about the economic depression in the rural areas and the widening gap in the living standards between the urban and rural areas. While life is promising in Nigeria's urban areas, there is general depression and frustration in the rural areas.

But why did this happen since over the years, farmers in the rural areas, through their export crops, have been the chief earners of foreign exchange for the country?

The explanation is that the farmers have been working and paying for the development of Nigerian towns and cities. An unhappy instance of "monkey work, baboon chop." The monkeys are in the rural areas working; the baboons are in the cities "chopping."

Why should farmers as a social class be isolated to work and finance the development of the urban areas? This is the poverty in the rural areas; this is the reason for the discontent of ordinary farmers throughout Nigeria.

The solution is to abolish the Marketing Board system as it now operates. More positively, Nigerian farmers should be paid for their crops, producer prices which approximate closely to the prices which they fetch on the international commodity markets.

THE NATIONS HOUSEKEEPING

This will achieve two goals. Such a change will bring social and economic justice to farmers. Their reward (producer prices) will bear a just relationship to their work.

Secondly, there will be general improvement in the economy of the rural areas. What about the theory of shielding Nigerian farmers from the price fluctuation on the world market? Experience over the years has shown that this has never happened and in any case it is not necessary.

I think that to expose farmers to a blast of the world market has some salutary economic efforts. For example, will help farmers to make rational use of their land and labour. It may help the to decide that it is more profitable to plant yams rather than cocoa for example.

Such a choice forced by economic factors on the Nigerian farmer is long overdue. It cannot be made as long as the unfair and unjust Marketing Board system persists.

Since petroleum is Nigeria's major foreign exchange earner, the federal government cannot afford the present marketing board system without castrating financially the state governments. After all, many of them now depend mainly on the picking they receive from the benevolent federal government.

In the interests of the Nigerian farmers, the federal government should abolish the whole export tax on a marketing board produce should be totally abolished. By that I mean the maximum producer price of 10 per cent which the state governments can now levy should also be abolished.

The system of asking marketing board to accumulate reserves from the earnings of farmers from export crops should be abolished. This system has been responsible for the impoverishment of Nigerian rural areas.

Nigerian farmers should be paid what their export crops fetch on the world market. Thus, this year's federal budget holds out a hope to 80 per cent of Nigeria's population who live in the rural areas. This hope should be realised before the financial year is out.

So much for our farmers, peasants, uncles, brothers and sisters who live in Nigeria's rural areas.

An aspect of the budget which is of great concern to ordinary Nigerians in the urban areas is federal government policy with regard to rent and food prices.

Although the problem of inflation is not confined to Nigeria, yet that fact alone is cold comfort to poor workers who are harassed by high rents which account for over half of their monthly wages, and high food prices which ensure that workers and their children perpetually suffer from malnutrition.

The budget shows a recognition of this twin problems. According to General Gowon in his budget broadcast:

"The federal government will in the coming year, intensify its efforts to reduce the cost of living in these areas by improving agriculture and building more houses in the urban areas."

Definitely, the poor workers in Nigerian towns will be surprised to hear that the high costs of consumer goods is no longer a problem. We are told that last October the federal government took certain measures to combat inflationary measures and domestic prices. Then General Gowon announced:

"I am happy to note that these measures are gradually taking effect and that inflation has been successfully contained in many areas."

The common experience of all Nigerians is that inflation of domestic prices is still a serious problem, especially with regard to rents and the prices of foodstuffs.

The declaration of intention by the federal government to improve agriculture and to build more houses is not new.

As far back as the middle 1940's, the Nigerian government controlled the prices of foodstuffs, particularly during the war years. The British colonial government repeated its plans to build houses for African workers. Nothing came of these early declarations.

More recently, the 1970/74 development plan which was launched in October 1970, made elaborate references to government's intention to improve agriculture. It also talked about a housing policy, (Development Plan page 219).

People are tired of hearing annually the benevolent intentions of government. They want a progress report on how these intentions are being carried out.

On the housing question for instance, ordinary Nigerians do not want to be told that government intends to build houses for them. Since the plan was launched in 1970, they want to know how many houses for workers have in fact been built and how many workers are actually living in them.

They want to know how many houses the government plans to build each year; whether the set target is being met, if not what are the problems?

The same thing goes for plans to improve agriculture, especially with regard to the production of more food crops which will lead to the availability of foodstuffs at reasonable prices.

Obviously, the federal government gave much thought to this problem and a programme of action was outlined in the 1970/74 Development Plan. The relevant passages of the Plan on agriculture are on page 103, while the plan deals with problems of the production of food crops on page 107.

Once again, I must remark that the Plan was launched in October 1970. In the federal budget of April 1973, we should not be told merely that the federal government "will intensify its efforts to improve agriculture."

What precisely has the government done since October 1970? Nigerians want to know what concrete steps, if any, have been taken to translate the rosy intentions contained in the plan into realities. These facts are sadly lacking in a serious annual report like the federal budget.

On the question of rising food prices, the trouble is that the Nigerian population is rising fast. At the same time, farmers find it more profitable to plant export crops; people are migrating in large numbers from the rural areas to the cities. The result is that the production of food crops is done almost as an afterthought by a declining rural labour force.

In a nutshell, fewer farmers, using the old methods are growing food for a rapidly increasing Nigerian population. This is

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a perfect recipe for scarcity, food shortages and high prices.

The measures on agriculture contained in the current development plan, if implemented, could radically alter the situation for the better.

The question is, since the plan was launched in October 1970, in what practical ways have the ministries of agriculture and their extension services taken the message to farmers in the rural areas? My observation is that precious little has been done.

As a temporary measure to reduce the prices of consumer goods, the federal government was to engage in the bulk purchase of selected consumer goods which are to be sold through co-operative shops. If such a scheme is going on, it is a closely guarded secret as far as the ordinary Nigerian is concerned.

Mobilising a population for economic development is a long and hard process. It is also a painful process. One of the ways of how NOT to approach economic development is for a government to imagine that it is its duty to sing economic lullabies to its people in order to keep them happy. What I am saying is that the full story of government efforts at development, the problems and frustration encountered should be told to the people, so that they can really know where things stand exactly.

When an urban worker can afford only one meal of cooked beans and gari daily, how does he receive the news that the problem of inflation has been contained and that government hopes to improve agriculture.

I am not minimising the difficulty of the problem. We all have a duty to help the government to solve these problems. But how can we do that when all we hear from the government are bland assertions that everything is going on fine. You see, a hungry worker finds it difficult to deceive himself or to be deceived.

Another aspect of the federal budget which may interest the small-scale business man in Nigeria is the plan to establish a company to finance small industries. Apparently, this finance company will take care of those who are not being looked after by the NIGERIAN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK (N.I.D.B.) and the proposed bank for commerce and industries.

It is hoped that the new company will not operate on criteria which have kept the small businessman away from the N.I.D.B. or from the expatriate commercial banks which are the institutions which really have any money to lend.

According to the development plan, top priority is to be given to agriculture, industry, transportation and manpower development, in that order.

One should not make heavy weather of this, but it appears that the budgetary allocations for the 1973/74 financial year do not reflect this order of priority.

For example, in the federal recurrent expenditure, agriculture and natural re-

sources has an allocation of only 18 million Naira. The Federal Ministry of Health has an allocation of 22.4 million Naira out of which 17.4 million Naira goes to University Teaching Hospitals.

The cabinet office in Lagos alone has an allocation of 48 million Naira out of which 44.7 million Naira goes to the National Universities Commission. The Federal Ministry of Education has an allocation of 12.2 million Naira. The Federal Ministry of Works and Housing has an allocation of 36.8 million Naira.

What I am pointing out from these figures is that these allocations do not seem to suggest the highest priority which ought to be given to the development of agriculture.

This impression is further reinforced by the allocations in the federal capital expenditure estimates where primary production is given a meagre 33.3 million Naira, whereas 68.67 million Naira is allocated for General Administration; while land transportation has a whopping allocation of 147.9 million Naira.

News that plans for the establishment of the second petroleum refinery had been finalised is welcome, but I wish the same could have been said about two other important projects: the first is the Iron and Steel project; the second are the projects to establish car assembly plants at Kaduna and Lagos.

These projects have been so long on the drawing board that Nigerians want the plan to come to a start because they involve the use domestically of vital raw materials (from ore) and they are expected to launch Nigeria on the path of becoming a truly industrialised country.

The Iron and Steel project in fact constitutes a conspicuous omission from the budget.

The ordinary man may not be highly interested in the technical reasons given for the devaluation of the Naira after the devaluations of the United States dollar between January 1972 and February 1973.

We are told however that because of the Naira devaluation, the federal government has considered it wise to leave customs and excise duties as they were during

1972/73. There were minor changes signed to protect a few local industries.

But perhaps of the greatest interest the business community is the announcement of the abolition of the 180-days' deferment of payment for foreign imports. This abolition resulted directly from the improved position of Nigeria's foreign exchange.

Now, it is extremely instructive to glance back at the two previous federal budgets in order to see what progress, if any, has been made in the tackling of outstanding economic problems. Such glance back will also enable us to determine whether we are really moving forward or galloping with the same old economic problems from year to year.

In the 1971/72 federal budget, a economic review of the previous year (1970) was undertaken. We were told that three main problems confronted the economy then. These were first, the deteriorating foreign exchange situation and the continuing unfavourable balance of payments.

The second problem was the critical unemployment situation in the country generally and particularly in the most affected areas.

The third problem was the rise in the cost of living and the inflationary pressure aggravated by the trade restrictions (which were then current), the profiteering activities by unscrupulous businessmen and by the Adebo cost of living allowance award.

After pointing out these problems, the hope was expressed in the 1971/72 federal budget that "the next financial year will witness a vigorous implementation of the second National Development Plan."

What happened in the next budget—which was the 1972/73 financial year?

Alhaji Shehu Shagari told us that the aim of the budget was to "maintain a steady growth of the economy by ensuring general price stability and stimulating local agricultural and industrial production."

In the 1972/73 financial year, tariff changes were designed to reduce import duties on raw materials by 10-50 per cent and to reduce excise duties by an averaged rate of 50 per cent in order to encourage local manufacturers.

From this brief comparison of the current budget with the two previous ones, some facts clearly emerge.

The first is the happy one that this foreign exchange position which was critical in 1971/72 has largely improved.

But we still have with us the problem of the mounting rise in the cost of living and inflationary pressures on this level of domestic prices.

There is also the problem of the critical unemployment situation in the country generally. With regard to the last two problems which have been with us since the 1971/72 financial year, the optimism expressed in the current budget by government economists on the control of inflation is baseless.



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BRITAIN

an island of indust- rial unrest

Since the onset of the system of industrial relations in Britain over a century ago, the concept has been that of voluntary collective agreements between employers and employees based on the negotiation of such matters as the pay level, length of working hours and general rules of procedure.


Recognising the importance of this system, various successive British governments found the need to modernise and reform it in order "to make it better able to function for the benefit of work people, management and the general public, and in particular, to make strikes a last rather than a first resort in the settlement of disputes." But rather than achieve the last objective, the governments of Britain have consistently faced industrial upheaval emanating from governmental policies like wage squeeze and anti-inflationary measures. The period at the beginning of the 20th century before the first world war was particularly marked by a lot of industrial unrest, including some historic cases which led to new legislation, notably the Trades Dispute Act of 1906 and the Trade Boards Act which for the first time in the modern era, introduced a state machinery to determine and enforce minimum wage rates.

In spite of all these, the labour upheavals of Britain continued to escalate culminating in the climax of 1973 major strikes and industrial disputes involving the largest single trade Union in Britain supported by other big unions. These current strike waves have earned Her Majesty's territory the unenviable title of the Island of Industrial Unrest. In the following article, the well-known journalist and lawyer, Mr. Lai Joseph discusses the situation in Britain with relevance to labour, industrial relations and the economy.

To describe Britain as an island of industrial unrest cannot be far from the truth—at least for two reasons. First the country geographically happens to be a collection of islands. Furthermore, industrial unrest is now a notorious feature of Britain and the life of her people.

Trade unionism in Britain started more than two hundred years ago among the skilled craftsmen and spread later to the general labouring and unskilled classes. More recently, it has increased among clerical, supervisory, technical and administrative workers. A number of associations of professional workers, formal primarily for the preservation and improvement of professional standards, have also come into existence many of the functions of trade unions, including negotiations on salaries and fee scales, and are legally trade unions.

In nearly all industries and occupations, some workers—and in some industries, nearly all workers—are organised into trade unions. These have grown up gradually and independently over a great



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many years, and consequently their form and organisation vary considerably as to their traditions and attitudes, for example, their degree of concern with political movements.

As far back as 1965, the total membership of British trade unions was recorded to be over 10 million. These were 580 unions but about two-thirds of all trade unionists were in the 18 largest unions while just over a half were in the ten unions with a membership of over 250,000. The number of trade unionists is increasing but the number of unions has gone down owing to amalgamation.

From the above, it is crystal clear that trade unionism in Britain is not only very old, it is one of the best organised in the world. Nevertheless, trouble within and without British trade unions is perennial. During its long history, the British trade union movement has passed through many tribulations and changes and it is currently undergoing re-examination both within and without.

Over the past 30 years, the number of working days lost each year through stoppages of work arising from industrial disputes, that is, through strikes and lock-outs, has been of an average of about two and a half million which taking the working population as a whole, works out at approximately one hour per worker per year. These figures, however, only record the time lost at establishments where strikes actually take place; they take no account of the effect in other establishments or industries. Nevertheless, the time lost through strikes is very much less than that lost on account of sickness, accidents and absenteeism.

What makes strikes in Britain more, nauseating is that they are not in general caused by a breakdown in the collective bargaining machinery. This, on the whole, may be said to be working smoothly and well. In fact, it is estimated that about 95 per cent of all strikes, according to ILO, between 60 and 70 per cent of the time lost through strikes, are the result of unofficial (and usually unconstitutional) action.

These unofficial strikes have been explained as more of symptoms of a breakdown in relations between management and workers at the place of work itself. The problem of securing a fundamental improvement in relations between employers and the loyal observance of agreements and constitutional procedure freely negotiated seems to be a problem which has eluded a simple and quick solution by the public and the industry.

The current wave of strikes in Britain began when on February 26, about 47,000 gas workers declared a work-to-rule action. Subsequently, hospital staff, labourers, teachers, rail men, auto plant workers and many others joined in the protest strike which has almost completely paralysed the industrial and welfare life of Britain.

The recent industrial action was unprecedented at least in the sense that

250,000 British civil servants, in their first strike ever, staged a one-day walkout, closing down government offices and leaving the customs gates at London's Heathrow airport wide open except for so-called "honest boxes" which must have caused amusement than deterrence to the professional smugglers.

In protest over the wage and price policies of the Tory government, more than a million British workers—from cloth-capped mechanics to bowler-batted civil servants—took part in the strike. As one British journalist put it: "It added up to more strikers causing more chaos than at any time since 1926, when Britain endured its tragic General Strike."

What sparked off this wave of union militancy is Prime Minister Edward Heath's attempt to control inflation with a tough programme of wage and price restraints. Heath is insisting that "it is what the country needs, and it is what it wants."

But if the government's anti-inflation package has held wage increases within Heath's 7-to-8 per cent guideline, it has failed dismally to keep prices from soaring, especially on food. Recent polls indicated that most families were now spending 20 to 25 per cent more on "the basics" than they were eight months ago.

But what is actually responsible for Britain's recurring industrial unrest? The reasons are multiple. But one that is very ugly among them is that Britain is simply a poor country which lacks natural resources save her not much needed coal from Newcastle. It is no secret that Britain is in an unenviable position of even having to import most of her exports to other countries. More still, she depends on the outsiders for over 80 per cent of the food with which to feed her over 60 million people.

In any case, the trouble with successive British governments is that none of them



are willing to dare tell the electorate the real truth about the British economy. Sometimes, the socialist could try, but even then their seeming courage is also dampened by the voters' obsession for falling in only for the sweetest and most flamboyant electioneering manifesto and propaganda.

However, with Britain's welfare programme having reached the end of the road, the difference between the Conservative Party and the Labour Party is becoming less and less fundamental.

Workers seldom go on strike if their salaries and wages are paid and increased as and when expected. So, the reason for the industrial unrest in Britain is clear and unambiguous—it is simply failure to meet the workers demand.



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Britain's social set-up is also a factor which is contributory to the instability of her economy. For example, in the whole of Europe, Britain unlike the Scandinavian countries, is the only country where class distinction is most pronounced and the gap between the rich and poor so wide that it makes the working class so sensitive to changes in salaries and wages issue.

As a result of strikes, the approach of British businessmen to international business is still phobic and complacent. Unlike Americans, Japanese or Japanese businessmen, many British businessmen are still living in their imperial past glory when their manufactured goods, no matter how good, were unquestionably accepted as what they called their 'traditional markets.' They are yet to realise that the time has come for them to go out and push their goods to combat competition now coming from all directions.

Furthermore, because of what the British consider their traditional markets and partly because of their complacency, the British industry is now in a great dilemma of losing more and more orders to the very determined and enterprising industrialised countries hitherto precluded from trading with the old colonies. Besides, the one-time colonies themselves are gradually trying to industrialise and this means making importation from outside uncalled for.

The problem is that Britain, as well as it is, as a great colonial power, had built up for her people an affluence largely from the wealth of the colonies. But as the colonies, one by one, became free, the people of Britain began to feel the pinch of paying for their welfare state. Thus, it will not be wrong to attribute the industrial unrest in Britain to the collapse of the British empire.

The welfare programme with all the good intention is now just too much a burden for any British government to bear.

For example, the state is now responsible, through either central or local government, for a range of services covering family allowances, social insurance, help for war victims, financial assistance when required, health and welfare services for mothers and young children, the sick, mentally disordered, elderly and handicapped and for families in difficulties of various kinds, and the care of children lacking normal home life and for education and housing.

In education, for instance, there are over nine and a half million children and young people in full-time attendance at schools, universities, colleges of education and technical colleges. The great majority of schools, attended by over 90 per cent of school children, are public provided or assisted. Most technical colleges and other centres of further education are also publicly aided from public funds.

Aided, Britain is committed to joining the common Market and the stage of turning back now is definitely over. But as the late President de Gaulle was warn-

ing, Britain needed to put her economy in order before coming into the Common Market. The late President's voice must still be roaring in the grave as the problems he always geared still remain unsolved.

Until recently, for instance, Britain's prices for foodstuffs were the lowest in Europe. Apparently, in their eagerness to be at par with their counterparts in the European Economic Community, sensitive British businessmen have been inventing artificial prices for their foodstuffs. And since then, prices of foodstuffs and other items began to rise well out of proportion to salaries and wages.

The two main political parties in Britain are fully aware of the disastrous economy of their country. And, although during their respective tenure of office each attempted to find a solution to the problem, however, for lack of courage, fear of losing power and playing to the gallery of their respective benefactors (the business owners or the workers as the case may be), the solution mostly short-term, always resulted in problems bigger than that which they were intended to rectify.

To the ordinary man in the street, the Conservative Party is the party of the rich the big businessmen while the Labour Party is the party of the workers—the poor. And as a matter of fact, the two parties



are maintained with funds donated by those two categories of people respectively.

Thus, rightly or wrongly, the public tend to believe that whenever the Conservative Party is in power, industrial unrest has always got something to do with the Labour Party. Similarly, whenever a Labour Party government is in trouble, rightly or wrongly, it is assumed that it is the Conservative leaders, backed by the higher echelon of the industry, who are conspiring to squeeze the socialists out of power.

British economic crisis has been on for so long now that it is feared whether there can be any solution at all. But seriously speaking, the problem cannot be said to be insoluble.



A miracle was expected to happen with the discovery of oil in the Middle East. But unfortunately, such high hopes of the oil improving the British economy have now subsided because of the fact that not only is the oil not in commensurate quantity, it is known to contain sulphuric acid.

A lasting solution to the battered economy of Britain is possible depending on a number of factors which must be acted by any British government, be it Conservative, Labour or ever Liberal as well as the British electorate who are always unpredictable.

Britons must stop living in a false paradise. Their country is not a paradise. They must abide by nature's decision to give them only skill and labour without the blessing of natural resources such as large deposits of oil, iron ore and the like. They must be prepared to more for their welfare state.

As for the government, it must have enough courage to enact and enforce stringent laws against unofficial strikes which account for over 95 per cent of all strikes in Britain. And perhaps it must reach a stage where a state of emergency even for a short period, may be a good prescription.

During such a period of emergency, a national coalition government of all parties should rule. This will leave the government free from party politics to tackle the nation's precarious economy.

Although old habits die hard, British people must also drink less of alcohol and work harder to help their struggling economy.

Failure to do this will mean that the country's economy will continue to suffer with mounting deficit in balance of payments, unemployment and loss of international trade to the more aggressive and stable industrialised nations. Then, of course, it will come to a stage where whether they like it or not, Britons will learn the sad truth that theirs is a position which must streamline its welfare state according to her limited resources. Then, it will not be a question of cutting one's coat according to one's size, but according to one's cloth.

At a party, during the time for toast guests shouted "cheers" and an absent-minded lady sitting at the corner quickly pushed her chair up to the Chairman.

Passenger to taxi driver: What's your fare to Lagos?

Driver: Four Naira

Passenger: What about my luggage?

Driver: I shall carry it free.

Passenger: Then go with my luggage. I shall come down by bus.

Father to son: I have observed with disgust that you are lazy. What do you think you will be at this rate in future?

Son: I have noted with interest that I shall be a Reverend Father.

Father: But priests do a lot of job?

Son: Yes. That's why I am resting now!

MOUNTAINEERING:

Dictionary of terms:

Mountain — Woman

Small — Inexperienced

Pickaxe — Male tool

Accident — A baby

Insurance — Marriage licence.

This sport of mountain climbing is a bit dangerous. It needs a bit of courage to undertake.

If you are a beginner in this sport it is advisable you should try small mountains. This is because they are not as difficult to handle as the big mountains such as Everest and Kilimanjaro.

Note that it is difficult, not impossible. After all men have been to the top of these big mountains and these big mountains were once small ones.

Practice, the saying goes, makes perfect and you should try to get a lot of practice with the small mountains before going for the big ones or they may prove too hard to handle. This difficulty arises from the fact that these big mountains are usually highly developed like America which is always on the look out for new techniques not the amateur style of a beginner. On the other hand the small mountains are like Africa—whose potentialities are partly virgin and partly developed. Further development of these potentialities is thus left to the guy who can get to the top.

Another requirement apart from courage which an individual requires for this game is physical fitness. This is very essential for it will be a disgrace to the individual if on first attempt you faint right at the top of the small mountain.

The third requirement is a good pickaxe and fourthly, most mountain expeditions cost money and you must make sure you have enough.

If you are certain that you have the basic requirements for this thrilling sport the thing you do is to select the mountain you want to climb. When you have done your selection it is essential that you determine to get to the top.

You then proceed to examine the mountain carefully. If the mountain is an easy type to climb lucky you. If on the other hand it is the difficult type then you have to move carefully or better still look for another mountain which does not look too tough. I have mentioned the basic things about mountain climbing, but the other moves which the individual has to make to ensure that he gets to the top comes naturally. Ask any guy who has been up on a mountain and he will tell you so too—you don't pick up the moves from text books.

If you are lucky to make it to the top (Yes lucky—because in spite of surplus mountains some don't just make). Remember to use your pickaxe to dig deep into the mountain—actually dig as deep as you can go. This tells any other guy who happens to get up there that he was not the first. Another point is that you do not forget to use your hands to get a firm grip so that you don't slip off the mountain.

Accidents must be avoided at all costs if you are a freelance and this can be done if all necessary precautions are taken—those who can afford accidents are those who have insurance, their own private mountain and are not going from one mountain to another as the Freelance. Well then after practicing a lot with small mountains, you may want to make a move for a big mountain like Everest and Kilimanjaro (Some who began with big mountains may however try small mountains and help in developing them).

However, the basic requirement for handling big mountains remains the same as for small mountains. Actually all you benefit from climbing big mountains is greater experience because they are already developed. However, if you do not succeed in getting to the top of these big mountains but have succeeded in conquering small ones take heart for you are not a failure.

Guy and gal had fun. Some time later the "MISS" conceived, and the guy refused to take responsibility because he said it was a sheer case of mis-conception.

Some old women fool around with boys who are just old enough to be their children. They call those youngsters their pets. No wonder they keep fondling and

caressing them; as one does a pet one loves.

An ironing lady screamed at her husband—"You are a stupid fool". The husband replied—"I guess I am a stupid fool. If I am not I don't think I would have married you!"

A cute modern gal went to see a gynaecologist who examined her and said—"Miss, have you caught this type of stuff before?" She replied indignantly—"Don't ask such a stupid question—Do I look like I have never been laid before?"

A gal went to look for a job and filled in the usual application form to go under the line headed "sex" she wrote—"I love it"! That got her the job straight away.

We say—sex is relative. Ofcourse it is. Men and Women do have sexual relations.

But dear readers—Isn't it queer to have sex with a relation of yours?

Most girls don't worry about the past nor the future. They worry about the present. Their main worry is how to make more money to buy the latest in fashions.

A police man arrested a motorist along a major highway for speeding. The motorist gave the P.C. one Naira to let him go. The police constable refused and said "Make it two—the Naira has been devalued!"

This foreigner was discussing with a local fellow.

Foreigner: Nigeria is a rich country isn't it?

Son of the soil: How do I know, I never see the money.

Foreigner: How come—is it in the hands of a few?

Son of the soil: Not in their hands but in their bank accounts.

Fellow from rural area: Since I have come to Lagos I have been doing a lot of running exercise.

Lagosian: Why?

Fellow: The motorists keep chasing me on the sidewalk.



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POPULATION

Despite our controversial census figure, the devastating civil war in Nigeria which took heavy tolls of lives, road accidents, air crashes, diseases and other causes of death which decimate our population, the irrefutable fact is that we are increasing in numbers at almost incredible rate and we must as a matter of urgency to examine the general effects of our present population growth in order to avert an imminent population crisis in this country before the next two or three decades from now.

There have been some gloomy predictions and warnings in recent years about the country's population growth. Many observers and writers have even contended that the population tends to be outstripping our means of subsistence. Malthusian prophecy may soon come true in Nigeria and we shall then find ourselves in a great economic, political and social turmoil. Revd. Malthus, an economist and clergyman in the 18th century Britain propounded his popula-

PROBLEM IN NIGERIA

tion theory which is not yet obsolete in spite of the world's economic, scientific and technological progress in this century. The learned gentleman said that the tendency would be for population under favourable conditions to grow at geometrical proportion while food supply would only increase at arithmetical proportions that would expose a nation to various calamities including mass death through starvation or diseases and abject poverty.

We must always remember that the welfare of Nigerians as a whole is profoundly affected by the size and composition of the country's population. In spite of scientific and technological advances noted in the world today given geographical region, and not U.S.A. can support unlimited number of people no matter how vast the resources may be. The indisputable fact is that the average standard of living of people in any given country will be low if the population is too large in proportion to the natural resources on which it depends. The size of the population also affects distribution of income among the suppliers of factors of production which are traditionally land, labour, capital and organization. In Nigeria to it is not our population growth that necessarily creating problems but paucity of our economic resources to meet the demand of our increasing numbers. Despite that our economy is predominantly agricultural, we have started to experience food shortage simply because demand exceeds supply. We are yet to attain a pre-war level of food output in certain parts of the country. In spite of colossal sums of money expended on agricultural researches, conferences seminars, experiments, surveys, extension projects and a host of others, our agriculture remains largely crude and unscientific. Agricultural labour is scarce and expensive and mechanization which can transform the agricultural sector of our economy has not yet made any significant impact. So, with demand exceeding supply, food price persistently rises and the average family spends most of their meagre income on food in the urban areas. Riculously enough, our diet is not balanced rather it is woefully deficient in proteins and essential vitamins.

Despite ambitious national plans formulated in 1962 and 1970 respectively and hopes raised by the plans, basic amenities such as water and electricity are still inadequate for the country. In the urban areas with their teeming populations and ever-increasing demand for these amenities the ordinary people suffer all sorts of hardship. At Ibadan, Lagos and similar places people have their pathetic stories to tell. Frequent power failure and water shortage hit hard on local manufacturers, and industrialists who complain about the consequent loss of production. No wonder, therefore their costs are high and prices for their products cannot compete favourably with those of their foreign counterparts. In the rural areas pipe-borne water and electricity are luxuries where they are available. As a matter of fact, 30 per cent of our rural areas in Nigerian have no water and electricity though our government



POPULATION

Problem in Nigeria

to make the necessary provision in other pressing demands.

Also, our government budget for medical and health services year, yet the painful fact is that are grossly inadequate for our population. Our doctors are few and hospitals are dispersed over large areas they cannot serve the people effectively.

As the population increases the demand will grow worse except doctors and other medical personnel are produced in good numbers and as rapidly as the population grows. But this can prove an impossible task for a country like Nigeria where the resources for the necessary training of medical personnel are limited and time factor which must be considered.

Another important effect of our population is unemployment. Our labour market is being congested. It appears there is no room for the job leavers whose numbers increase rapidly at alarming rate particularly in the urban States of the country. The public sector expands very slowly and does not absorb an appreciable number of secondary school graduates at a time. The private sector though much larger is hampered by scarcity of capital, skilled manpower, efficient business management, technical know-how and restricted market in a country where the income per capita is as low as ₦60 per annum.

A situation like this, we must be frank, does not encourage profitable expansion which can help us solve our unemployment problem on a grand scale. Agriculture simply offers no incentive and labour tends to migrate from our rural areas to the industries in the large towns and cities where wage employment though employment opportunities cannot go round and surplus unskilled or semi-skilled labour is abundant and not utilized.

Rapidly increasing population has made cost of living in urban areas too high for the people in the low-income group. House rent in spite of rent tribunals or edicts continues to soar since forces of demand and supply are too powerful to control. Legislation and imposition of fines on landlords when houses are in short supply will only create a black market for residential accommodation because human beings must be sheltered as a matter of necessity. We are all living witnesses to the current trend at Lagos and Ibadan where landlords arbitrarily increase house rents just because demand exceeds supply as a result of population pressure.

Transport facilities within our large towns and cities are becoming inadequate. In the morning hours to get to work on schedule is a herculean task in places like Lagos and Ibadan. There is always the scramble for places in the buses and taxi cabs. In other places, it costs as much as 20k to board a taxi cab for a trip. In Lagos to avoid unnecessary delay and inconveniences, a business man can spend as much as ₦8 to ₦10 on taxi in a day

otherwise he may lose lucrative business. Even when you have a car, traffic congestion, hold-ups and jams compel you to move on the highway at the snail's pace. To get to the office without getting late, you have to leave the house as early as 6.30 a.m.

When a country is becoming densely populated and the land area and other good things of life are not equally increased congestion is always a serious problem. Skyscrapers are built for offices and residence for lack of land space. This is true of a few of our well known towns and cities in Nigeria. Congestion leads to air, water and land pollution, and of course, to ill-health. Environmental hygiene becomes poor and fire when it breaks out guts several houses at a time and consumes property worth thousands of Naira. Also, in the time of war, aerial bombardment can be extremely destructive. Lives perish in thousands and nearly every household is turned into a mass grave yard. Magnificent buildings crumble and beautiful streets appear as ruins of a city destroyed many years ago. We were very lucky that a city like Lagos did not experience such a tragedy during the civil war or Second World War.

Since modern and thickly populated settlements often offer various attractions, the volume of migration of people from the up country including rural areas to such places can be very fantastic. No wonder, these places harbour people of questionable characters, such as armed robbers, rogues, swindlers, fraudulent businessmen, smugglers, fake doctors, false prophets, prostitutes, killers, vagabonds, thugs, drug addicts, and so on just to mention a few. Crime investigation and detection arm of the Police is put to task and on many occasions it has to be puzzled by some clever criminals who mysteriously escape from the wrath of the law.

Furthermore, it is not right to say that Nigeria is an overpopulated country. In the first place, it must be made clear that in the face of brazen manipulation of census figures for political motive and consequent fraudulent inflation of the figures in 1963 many Nigerian statisticians, policy-makers, research scholars, economists and even demographers hesitate to accept the population total of 55.7 million

on which we unfortunately base our current Fourth Development Plan (1970-74). Secondly, Ghana, U.S.A., Japan and Britain are more densely populated than Nigeria. Nigeria is a geographical giant among the nations in Africa. In spite of the high population density of the country the high rate of economic growth is more than what we have in Nigeria because the available resources are better exploited and utilized. Thirdly, our population in this country is unevenly distributed. Lagos, Ibadan, Port-Harcourt, Kano and others give foreign visitors false impressions of the correct picture.

Our small towns and villages are fast depopulated to the detriment of our rural economy in which agriculture is still pre-eminent. Young men and women in search of employment, education, amusement and so forth flock every year in thousands to the urban areas where they tend to stay permanently. The uneven population we see in the country today reveals the growing immobility of labour due to regionalist and state employment policy. That is, the population pressure in some non-industrial areas in Nigeria is caused by lack of mobility of labour and disparity in the development of urban and rural areas.

Moreover, we must acknowledge the fact that the much dreaded population problem is restricted, to a few isolated areas. With abundant agricultural land yet to be cultivated, idle human resources here and there the future of Nigeria is still bright and full of hopes. Also, to prevent possible population explosion in Nigeria, there will be the need to make the land more productive by attracting energetic and educated young people to farming, by liberal application of chemical fertilizers, draining the marshy area, irrigating the arid regions, controlling effectively insect pests and crop diseases and above all by economically planned mechanization which is capable of increasing agricultural production on a grand scale.

Lastly, we can avert population crisis through well planned programme for industrialization of the country giving some priority to rural areas long neglected and being deserted by the youths.

Ignorance, prejudice and religious faith not withstanding, we must face the stark reality of the age by practising birth control and making use of family planning clinics now found in many towns in Nigeria. As time goes, abortion should be legalised on economic and physical grounds as many more developed countries have done since it is morally wrong to bring into the world children who will only suffer and who may never be given good education and sound moral training.



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BACKGROUND OF THE EXPLOSIVE NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE CORPS

The road to hell they say is paved with good intentions. When the Federal Government announced their intention to establish a service corps for Nigerian youths the idea sounded fine in principle. Since service corps have existed for a long time in other African countries. And in any case, what can anybody have against the idea of mobilising Nigeria youths for service to the country?

But towards the end of February, 1973 violent demonstrations erupted in all the Nigerian Universities. The students were expressing their resolute opposition to the proposal to establish a compulsory National Youth Service Corps covering all University students graduating as from June, 1973.

There were violent incidents in all the Nigerian University campuses. Here is a sample of what happened on the campus of Ife University.

Towards the end of February, a seminar on "National Policy on Education" was scheduled to be held at the Ife campus.

Among the speakers at the seminar was Chief S. O. Adebayo, Nigeria's former permanent representative at the United Nations Organisation in New York. Another star speaker expected at the seminar was Professor Hezekiah Oluwasanmi, the Ife Vice-Chancellor.

According to the New Nigeria, about 30 minutes before the seminar was to open, Ife students began a violent demonstration. The demonstrating students hurled stones, sticks and deflated tyres of official cars carrying some of the dignitaries expected at the seminar.

The students carried placards which bore the following inscriptions:

"Top men enjoying oil boom; young ones suffer," "service corps or suffering corps," "Gowon beware of advisers."

Newsmen were beaten up by the students while an NBC/TV Camera, estimated to cost ₦2,000 was smashed.

Chief Abdul Yesufu Eke, the Federal Commissioner of Education was bombarded with missiles and rotten eggs.

The report concluded by saying that Professor Oluwasanmi, the Ife Vice-Chancellor was too upset to talk to the press.

Similar incidents occurred at the other university campuses. According to another New Nigerian report, demonstrating students at Lagos University barricaded the entrance to their campus. They used for their barricade, vehicles belonging to the university, to the Federal Government and to the Armed Forces.

A car belonging to Dr. Eyiayayo Adetoro Federal Commissioner for Industry was seized and he had to walk about a mile to his house on the campus.

At the Ahmadu Bello Campus in Zaria, the situation was so tense that the university was temporarily closed down. Immediately, students in other universities boycotted lectures in sympathy with the Ahmadu Bello University students who were sent down temporarily.

These incidents indicate the strong opposition of Nigerian university students to the proposed scheme.

I must repeat here that I still think that the idea of a National Youth Service Corps is theoretically sound. Why then are students opposed to the scheme? Or what features of the proposed scheme do they find repugnant? Was there sufficient communication between those who formulated the scheme and the university students who are affected by the scheme?

Before attempting to answer these questions, let us go back to the origin of the scheme—to discover what it is all about, in order to find out what went wrong.

The earliest indication that such a scheme might be established was given in the second development plan. The relevant passage of the plan states as follows:

"Development of a youth service organisation as a measure against youth unemployment is contemplated. A national Youth Corps will be established designed to provide healthy, work orientation for young unemployed school leavers. The Corps will be deployed on projects in the rural communities involving the building of roads, bridges, schools and dispensaries.

In the process, various skills will be acquired in the areas of carpentry, welding, shoe-making, pottery, electrical works, motor and tractor driving, automobile repair and brick laying."

Now, the formulation of this youth policy in the development plan had some antecedents. For example, the Economic Commission for Africa of the United Nations held a conference in Addis Ababa between November 23 and December 4,

1970. The theme of the conference was National Youth Service Programmes.

According to the ECA conference National Youth Service Programmes formal and informal programmes provided by government with or without co-operation of non-governmental organisations, on a national scale, and they concerned with the all-round development of young people according to their individual needs and capacities and needs of their country, to enable youths to find their own place and play their own role in the society.

"The ECA conference recommended that "it is useful and realistic to defocus youths as the age group from 12 to years."

The ECA conference in Addis Ababa suggested that National Youth Service Programmes should be part of the National Development plan. In this way it should be possible to ensure that the train given is relevant to the long-term need of the country.

The conference recommended further that the national youth service programmes should in general be on a VOLUNTARY basis, except for those special circumstances in which a national government feels it necessary and appropriate to introduce some form of obligatory service with the necessary and accompanying safeguards.

These were the general recommendations of a conference which the EC mounted in Addis Ababa in early December 1970.

Later in 1971, the National Youth Council of Nigeria organised a conference of Youth leaders in Kaduna. It is relevant here to point out that the National Youth Council of Nigeria (NYCN) has existed for about 25 years. It is affiliated internationally to the World Assembly of Youth (WAY) which has its headquarters in Brussels, Belgium.

Like most organisations established after 1945, it is a creation of the cold war.

The World Assembly of Youths has the blessing of the western capitalist powers. Its socialist counterpart is the International Committee of Democratic Youth, which has its headquarters in Prague, Czechoslovakia.

Now, the conference of Nigerian youth leaders held in Kaduna in 1971 considered "youth policy and strategy." A special commission studied this topic in detail and its rapporteur was Alhaji Maitama Sule, a former Federal Minister, and now a civil Commissioner in Kano State.

The National Youth Council of Nigeria embodied their views in a booklet titled "Recommendations for a National Youth Service Corps and Directorate of National Guidance."

The relevant passages of this booklet state as follows:

"It is the responsibility of youth to take the banner of freedom and be the vanguard of championing the cause of the oppressed. The post-war problems

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demand that the youths and all, irrespective of age, religion or tribe should unite and help the government in our respective ways to achieve the noble objective of making Nigeria the giant it is destined to be in Africa and in the world.

In order to do this, leaders must give an **EFFECTIVE** and **HONEST** leadership capable of instilling confidence in the minds of the followers.

The NYCN defined "a youth" as a person from the age of 6-30 years. The NYCN went on to say that the Nigerian youth must rediscover himself and must be assisted to rediscover himself.

In its adoption of general principles and recommendations, the National Youth Council of Nigeria relied heavily on the ECA Addis Ababa conference of early December, 1970.

The views of the National Youth Council of Nigeria are very important with regard to the National Youth Service Corps.

It is the only organisation that I know of which has organised a conference to study the subject of a Youth Programme in Nigeria. Not only that, it embodied a set of recommendations in a booklet which I believe I submitted for official consideration.

I imagine that the National Youth Council of Nigeria enjoys an unofficial advisory capacity with the Federal Government.

Apart from the brief reference to it in the 1970-74 development plan, no official mention of a National Youth Service Corps was made until October 1972.

The Daily Times of July 21, 1972 reported that a National Service Corps was to be launched on July 27, 1972.

The Chairman of the Corps, Lt. Col. N. A. Ayanru told the Press that the National Service Corps would among other things:

- *Encourage youth voluntary service and inter-state student exchange in the country.

- *Help train youth in leadership;

- *Promote discipline among others.

Lt. Col. Ayanru explained that the National Service Corps was not a government agency, but was being financed by Nigerian philanthropists.

Apart from Lt. Col. Ayanru, another official member of the National Service Corps Council was Alhaji Kam Salem, the Inspector-General of Police.

Later, the National Service Corps was launched on July 27, 1972 by Alhaji Aminu Kano. At the launching ceremony, a donation of N4,000 Naira was collected.

What was not made clear was why the NSC was launched at all or how it differed from previous voluntary organisations for youths like the Youth Council, the Boys Scouts, and the Man'O'war Bay and

Shasha leadership training program for youth.

Not much has been heard of the NSC since it was launched.

Indication that the Federal Government was determined to launch a National Youth Service Corps came during General Gowon's national day broadcast October 1, 1972.

Among other things he said:

"As evidence of our determination get our youth irrevocably committed to the cause of unity and greatness of the nation, I promised the nation when launching the 1970-74 Development Plan that government proposed to establish **VOLUNTARY** youth Corps transcending political, social, state and ethnic loyalty and as a basis for fostering loyalty to the nation.

"Preparatory work for this voluntary Youth Corp is already in an advanced stage and it is my earnest hope that it will be launched before long.

"The government also proposes to establish a **COMPULSORY** National Youth Service Corps the aim of which is to bring together our qualified young men and women and to inculcate in them a sense of discipline, dedication, national pride and consciousness though nationally directed, disciplined training not necessarily in the Armed Forces, but in serving the nation in any capacity for a short period in their life time before settling

to their chosen careers.
It is therefore proposed that the scheme will start initially with the graduates of our universities, thereafter, in the light of the experience gained with the mature members of the corps, the field of the compulsory recruitment in the National Youth Service Corps may be widened."

"As a start, the federal government therefore proposes to establish in the Ministry Office, a Directorate of National Guidance which will be charged with responsibility among other things, of finding ways and means of inculcating in the mentality of our people, a sense of self-discipline, clean service, self-respect, dedication, discipline and industry."

"It is our hope that in due course, the responsibility of this directorate will be raised to full ministerial status."

Coming from the Head of State, and in a national day broadcast, General Gowon's references to the National Youth Service Corps served notice on Nigerian university students that the federal government meant business.

At first, the students adopted an attitude of wait-and-see. More than anything else, they wanted more details about the practical implementation of the scheme. All that was known at that stage was that the proposed scheme was to be compulsory and it was to embrace university graduates.

After the October 1, 1972 speech by General Gowon, the various university student unions started to make their views about the scheme known.

According to the New Nigeria of December 10, 1972, the Ahmadu Bello University Students Union gave their full support to the proposal to establish a National Youth Service Corps. The President of the ABU Students Union, Malam Isa Mohammed, appealed to the federal government to enlist the participation of students' representatives in the drawing up of the final programme for the service corps because in the final analysis "it is the students who are affected at present." It is the students who are affected at present."

According to another report in the New Nigerian of December 16, 1972, the Ibadan University Students Union held a news conference in Kaduna at which they made the following suggestions.

"The federal government should make education free and compulsory throughout the country.

"The decree should take effect from the 1970/71 academic year, so that government would refund the fees of those to start the scheme in June 1973.

"Eminent Nigerians including military governors, permanent secretaries and civil commissioners should be enlisted and treated like students.

The participation of such leaders in the National Youths Service Corps would spur the country's youths to make sacrifices for their nation as in Mao-Tse-Tung's China, Sekou Toure's Guinea and Castro's Cuba where the leadership had shown positive examples in similar direction."



By the end of last year, students' reservations about the proposed scheme hardened into opposition.

Matters came to a boiling point between February 23-24 this year. The Committee of Vice-Chancellors had arranged a two-day inter-university workshop on the proposed National Youth Service Corps, to be held at Ibadan University.

The workshop was to be presided over by Professor D. A. Baiki of the Ahmadu Bello University. The workshop was to make an exchange of views possible between students university authorities and representatives of the federal government.

Before any useful discussion took place, student representatives walked out of the workshop. The students claimed that they had not been consulted about the proposed scheme.

In a statement issued after their walk-out, the student leaders of all the Nigerian universities rejected the National Youth Service Corps programme as presented to the inter-university workshop.

The students demanded direct consultation with the federal government on the scheme.

"They suggested that the service corps be made voluntary and not compulsory.

"The students demanded free education at all levels for the citizens of Nigeria.

"Alternatively, the students suggested that university education should be made free as from September 1973, so that those who benefit from free university education would be willing to start the National Youth Service Corps in 1976.

As I have pointed out earlier, massive demonstrations: took place in all the Nigerian universities after student leaders walked out from the Ibadan workshop called to discuss the proposed service corps.

Early in March 1973, Chief Abdul Eke, the Federal Commissioner for Education told a news conference that the federal government had not taken any final decision on the form that the proposed National Youth Service Corps would take.

According to a New Nigerian report of March 13, the executive Committee of the National Union of Nigerian Students called for further clarification from the federal government on the proposed National Youth Service Corps.

For most of March, it was not known whether the theme had been temporarily shelved, or whether it will commence in June with modifications. As I have earlier remarked, here was an excellent scheme in theory, which at first was welcomed by students who later rejected it. The questions is—What went wrong?

Reference to the subject in the 1970-73 Development Plan showed an official recognition that at long last, government should do something positive about youths.

Hitherto, government did no more than give some encouragement to the various voluntary bodies which catered for the welfare of youths.

That is why Boys Scouts and Girls Guides Associations, the Federation of Boys and Girls Clubs had governments moral support and no more.

To be sure, the Social Welfare Department ran a number of approved schools, but these were for juvenile delinquents and other youths who had fallen foul of the criminal law.

If this was all the government did about youths, it showed the total lack of a policy for guiding youths during their formative years so that they might become patriotic and productive adults.

The second Development Plan showed a groping toward the formulation of a coherent official policy for youths.

But the development plan seemed to think of a youth policy designed as part of the measures to reduce unemployment.

A comprehensive youth policy should not be so narrow in outlook. It should be part of a country's efforts to develop its human resources of which youths constitute a dynamic segment.

But even then, it is clear that the National Youth Service Corps which General Gowon outlined in his national broadcast on October 1, 1972 is different in conception from what was indicated in the Development Plan launched in 1970.

Between the time the 1970-74 plan was launched and October 1, 1972, there were no official statements on a Youth Policy nor on the establishment of a National Youth Service Corps.

In that interval two important events happened. The conference of youth leaders, sponsored by the National Youth Council of Nigeria was held in 1971 in Kaduna. This was an unofficial body which submitted recommendations to the federal government.

In their views, youths embrace all professions between 6-30 years of age. They also suggested that the participation in national youth programme should be voluntary.

Another significant event was the launching of the National Service Corps by Alhaji Aminu Kano on July 27, 1972.

Nobody has so far spelt out the differences between the National Service Corps and the National Youth Service Corps which is to commence, if all goes well in June 1973.

As far as is known, the National Service Corps is a voluntary scheme which

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be financed by some Nigerian philanthropists. This is so despite the fact that its council are Lt. Col. Ayanru and Haji Kam Salem who is Inspector-General of Police.

The National Youth Service Corps on the other hand is to be run and financed by the federal government, it covers students who are just graduating from universities, and it is a compulsory scheme.

Unfortunately, the introduction of both schemes has been bedevilled by a factor which has afflicted many public measures since independence in 1960.

That factor is the absence of sufficient democratic discussion of matters that intimately affect the lives of Nigerians.

This is not peculiar to the present military regime. Genuine democratic discussion was unknown even when we had a federal house of representatives and houses of assembly.

What went on in these so-called representative assemblies was a circus with a lot of horse trading thrown in for good measure.

After the leading legislators had taken care of their own business interests and those of their friends abroad, they reduced everything else to a huge joke.

What I am saying is that the federal government ought to have published a document in which they will explain patiently the principles of a youth policy which they want to evolve. They will also explain the practical implementation of the scheme.

Why for instance is there not a common scheme for all youths in Nigeria? Why is there one scheme for graduates and another for non-university youths?

Why does national mobilisation of youths not include a period of military training as in that so-called mother of democracies—England?

The fact is that Nigeria is not the first country to start a National Youth Programme. Similar programmes have existed in other African countries like Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Zaire Republic to mention a few.

Then there are various forms of national service or youth mobilisation in China, the Soviet Union, England, the United States, and in Israel.

It is true that Nigeria has to choose a youth programme which is most useful to her in her peculiar circumstances.

But then the principles on which our youth policy is based must be clearly stated and widely accepted after democratic discussion.

The fact that the introduction of the National Youth Service Corps ran into rough waters shows the usefulness of democratic discussion of public matters.

It also shows that in a population of 60 million Nigerians, permanent secretaries in Lagos do not know best.

LET'S START AFRESH

I think therefore that public discussion of a Youth programme should start afresh. It is in the process of such discussion that we shall determine whether the programme should be voluntary or compulsory; who are to be included in the programme; whether or not they are going to be paid.

An important issue raised by the National Youth Service Corps controversy is this: Considering the circumstances of Nigeria, the tone of society and the style of our leadership, do we really need to mobilise youth to make sacrifices for their country?

Here it is relevant to recall that during the civil war, workers were called upon to make compulsory savings of 5 per cent of their monthly wages for a whole year.

This was sacrifice of some kind to see

the country through a civil war which threatened Nigeria's corporate existence.

Early this year, the federal government decreed that the war loan should be immediately refunded. It should have been funded in 1977.

To me, it looks as if the government, saying that its finances are so buoyant that it no longer needs this loan. An thousands of patriotic citizens are thereby denied the satisfaction of having made some financial sacrifices for their country.

This takes me to the suggestion of the students to the military governors, civil commissioners and permanent secretaries should take part in the scheme so as to inspire loyalty in the students by their practical example.

Students have a feeling that in Nigeria today, the ambition of their elders is to become millionaires, through any means, whether fair or foul.

NIGERIA AND PLUTOCRACY

Nigeria has become a plutocracy where those who matter and are respected are the very rich. There are no instances where a man though poor, is respected and nationally honoured for his services to his fellow countrymen and for his honesty and integrity.

Those who subscribe to the old-fashioned virtues of honesty in public service are considered foolish, conservative and "not smart enough."

And in this age of the Naira in Nigeria, if you are now smart enough in this country, you go under. Is this the kind of society, is this the best social atmosphere in which to ask for sacrifice from a segment of Nigerian youths?

I think the decision to establish a Directorate of National Guidance is excellent. The federal government needs also to formulate a coherent policy on youths. But their initial efforts have been half-hearted and half-hearted.

A genuine call for national sacrifice on the part of youths is bound to have repercussions on other classes of society.

Elders cannot go about flaunting their wealth, globe-trotting to various European capitals, dressing in fabulous lace and damask gowns, bedecking their wives in fabulous gold jewellery, and yet turn round to call on university graduates alone to make sacrifices. The students have a right to know why they have been isolated as the sacrificial lambs, as it were.

Personally, I think that Nigeria needs sacrifice, but all of us, from the leader down to the humblest citizen must make this sacrifice.

Nigeria is still an economically backward country. Our leaders must be wondering why we are technologically centuries behind Europe, Japan and the United States.

If we decide to conquer backwardness, we must all do it, not only university students.

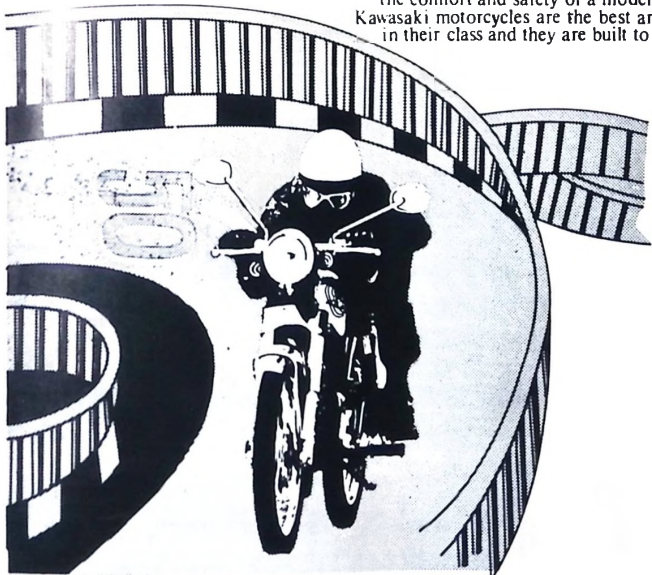
I end this piece with a question. Honestly, are we ready for a society in which the youths are totally mobilised for service and loyalty to Nigeria?



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KANO STATE TODAY

BY
MAHAMUUD IKUNIAYE
AND
MEMAIYETAN AJAYI

The model of social progress is comfort, peace and leisure. It is so today with the people of Kano in the bid to appreciate the awakening to life of their ancient city. It is quite usual to see the citizens, as they are popularly called, paired in fours or six around a heap of fire eating their roasted cow meat (Suya).

Kano now enjoys the largest and most influential business attraction despite the unpredictable weather of the old city. With the limited availability of historical records on the early development of Kano, there are springing signs everywhere in the city which shows that Kano is a traditionally blessed ancient town. There stands to the North East of the town the historical Dalla Rock that was a source of iron ore which the inhabitants smelted, and fabricated. The extent of new expansion in Kano is not only in the social status of the people but in some vivid facts that Kano city which was formerly a walled city of 12 miles radius has now grown beyond the city walls to include larger areas like Fagge, Natarawa, Sabongari, Brigade, Tudunwada and Bompai.

SOCIAL LIFE

The one-time moslem Kano is now in the centre of social upswing dragging along, very rapidly, with the other towns of the federation. Kano now goes smoothly with wine, mid-night parties, night clubs and, amongst other things, ladies. The frenzy of music passion is growing and the young people are also pulling along with the new social demands. Beer and music, ladies and fashion are now occupying a special position in the minds of the new elite. Heavy wiggled, slim legs, red lipped and Lali (native cosmetics) girls now frequent the night clubs to have their own nice time. Noticeably Kano dancers still believe in standing sufficiently far away from each other. It takes nobody time to note that one of the growing social pests facing Kano are these good time ladies.

BEGGARS

The dirty streets and the rampant Almajirai (beggars) are becoming insignificant but not totally non-existent. From the Brigade areas to Fagge quarters, it seems quite uneasy to believe that almost next door or at every stop for miles there could be all sorts of beggars who too lined up at the front doors of beer parlours. Most money in Kano goes for drinking but the real citizens apparently roll constantly in cash, and drinks parked full on their pub-tables, while just a stone throw away is a beggar either crawling or carefully watching in frustration, cursing the messenger of God in charge of distribution of social wealth. Inside the walled city of Kano where the citizens have their residences nobody can drink publicly but beggars still parade all the streets.

The beggars are constituting a new social phenomenon plaguing Kano and serious efforts are needed to wield this

VICES completely out of site. The beggar groups, who seem to believe in their rights in collecting alms, do not impress the government and its agents who has, therefore, voted more than ₦93,000 for the rehabilitation of the beggars now scattered here and there.

It is noteworthy that today's Kano beggars are unique in the sense that they have a separate community and a king of their own. This King, (chief of beggars) pays homage and traditional visits to the Emir as the Head of any other Kano community.

EFFECTS OF CREATION OF STATES

There is probably no other area where the creation of states has developed such a quick and rapid sense of awareness than in Kano State. Else, Kano that has for long been a centre of business international attraction and hot politics had not been in so much forefront of development during the regional days.

Though its long history of association with the outside world placed Kano or guard as a pacesetter, its recent history of economic awakening can only be associated with the awareness which grew along with the creation of states. Today Kano enjoys very sound local government administration which goes back to the dawn of the colonial rule. It had had a record of the richest and the most financially stable local government in Nigeria.

The new status of Kano therefore, as a state has necessitated a steady progress plus economic, social and industrial changes leading to improvements and perfection in the old local government system.

The Native Authority in the four emirates of Kano have now been broken down to eight administrative areas. Five of which were carved from Kano emirate alone. This left behind Hadejia, Guma and Kazaura emirates as the untouched administrative areas in Kano state.

The aims of the new reforms in local administration, which came up as a result of the creation of states, are mainly aimed at bringing the state government closer to the larger percentage of the massive population, bringing about improved services and to ease administrative difficulties in the more remote areas. The eight local governments in the state receive 10% of the government revenue for their effective administration.

The new awareness created by the effects of creation of states on the individual is enormous. Business incentives, private and co-operative endeavours are springing up in all the corners of the state.

It is interestingly revealed that Alhajis exist in Kano with bank deposits as high as ten thousand Naira (cash) without knowing how to write or sign their names. Without classroom administrative skills these Alhajis successfully bring up the business to a very high and sound foundation, and are their own Managing Directors.



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KANO STATE TODAY

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CHIEFTANCY

Chieftancy institution in Kano has been one of the most solidly preserved traditional set up in Nigeria. The honour, prestige and the very high esteem with which the people hold the Kano chieftancy title has been a traditional pride.

The progress history of Kano Chieftancy can be dated back to the periods of the late Emirs of repute like Muhammadu

All the native authority building were reconstructed and modernised. Important institutions like Kano City Hospital, the middle school, Printing Works, N. A. Works Office, were all built during his period in office. Other developments that elevated his own prestige were the Wudil Bridge, inland motor roads and the Kano's only magnificent central mosque in the city. He was quoted to have said, 'why should our worshipping places remain in mud when all other offices and installations of the administration are of concrete?' That is the brief review of the powers of the Emirs of Kano of the past.

Today, those powers are now being shared by state and local governments; and the present Emir only spends time in receiving visitors and settling disputes.

However, the present Emir of Kano is not only placed in a unique position, he is also throwing away some of the shackles that held his predecessors far behind their southern counterparts in progressive thinking. Alhaji Ado Bayero, the youngest to come to throne, was installed at 33 and today he is the Chancellor of University of Nigeria Nsukka. He is closely associated with so many local and international charitable organizations. He was sometimes Nigeria's Ambassador to Senegal, and in Dakar he became so tightly associated with students politics.

The Emir approaches his people and their problems today with more humane and friendly outlook. This is purely the result of the new situation which emanated from the creation of states and the new era for a progressive and dynamic reconstruction of the remains of the past.

MILITARY LEADERSHIP

The unique position which Kano state occupies in the old north today can not be isolated from the zeal and tactness with which the state governor, Alhaji Audu Bako guides the state machinery.

Upholding the principles of one-Nigeria and freedom Alhaji Bako, a police commissioner, is showing serious signs of military vigilance towards state economic decisions and impietations. He is gradually transforming, from a one time dull giant into an active and forward looking cosmopoly. True to him with the same zeal as soldiers engaged in a task, say, of converting a sprawling forest into military barracks, wherever, everytime, everybody seems to be doing something in Kano state.

Conscious of the illustrious heritage and its significance, future, military leadership in Kano, does not leave the social development to the mercy of the individual ministrations of businessmen or contractors. The government, thus, is involved in all spheres of the social reconstruction. Kano is being transformed, faster than any expectation; into an inviable state.

Though the past still pervades the ancient walled city but such factors won't crimp its future. Free business transaction and the escape from the walled city to settlers' zones for social comforts has shown that the new Kano citizens may not accept the religious dogmas that make the life in the walled city very native, ancient and dull to live in.

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Kano's past position as the largest and most influential commercial centre in the old Sudan zonal groupings has resulted in a significant step forward for the average businessman in Kano. The establishment of British Military Administration in Kano in 1903, when the commercial supremacy of Kano in the Sudan was in the decline, introduced a new direction and focus into the city's commercial life. Up to about 1904, the business community exclusively resided within the city walls with the market as the single, strong and positive focus.



Abbas Abdullahi, who was the first British appointed Emir in 1903. That was after the British colonial army captured Kano.

Abdulahi who reigned for sixteen years, was the 51st Emir of Kano and the most popular of all Kano Emirs. His popularity came about by the rapid administrative changes which took place in the local administration of Kano.

He demanded and got salaries, for the first time in the history of Kano, for all those who participated directly in the local administration. Apart from all that, he built many markets and local mosques in the Emirate.

When he died in 1919, the Emirate was starting a chain of progressive chieftancy development. It was such a rapidly advancing period that the 52nd Emir who reigned after Abbas Abdulahi had the opportunity to receive the first Aeroplane that ever flew into Kano. He was the first Kano Emir to receive so many important international guests who included Prince Edward of England. He too reigned till his death in 1928.

Another dynamic Emir whose reign also ushered in many tremendous changes and consolidation of Kano chieftancy institution was Alhaji Abdullahi Bayero Ibn Abbas. So much happened that worn him and his successors a lot of traditional respect and attention. It was in his period that Kano was supplied with pipe borne water and electric power.





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KANO STATE TODAY

Kano is of course a crowded city, and one of the most densely populated states amongst the Northern states. In Kano keen sense of business competition, now sharpened by state's awareness, is a main criteria for business advancement. This flavour for competition, which is now rampant amongst any average Kano man, invariably makes for many rivals and few competitors. Such competition-spirits have now extended from private mode of living to commerce, trade and other aspects of business in Kano.

The original phase of Kano business which was mainly to export embroidered clothes, goat tanned skins, Hides, and ornamental leather works, are now giving way to modern appeal of boutiques, shoe and lady bangles, dyeing, weaving and still primitive metal work.

The foreign settlers like the Lebanese, Syrians and others from moslem countries and Middle East, who have made themselves closest allies of Kano businessmen, had infiltrated almost all aspects of Kano commercial life. The foreigners may not be better educated than the citizens but the ability to live and wrestle business off the hands of the citizens is superb. This wrestling does not please the proud Kano citizen whose immediate alternative is to form giant trading associations at halting the aggressive commercial endeavours of the foreigners. Today giant associations like Kano Citizen Trading Company, (KCTC), and Bawillada Trading Com-

pany have comparatively captured the most commercial strategy in Kano business. They have recently succeeded in keeping at a very distant bay their foreign counterparts. The indiginization decree was received in Kano as a yardstick to push away the threatening position of the foreigners and the Lebanese have started to see that the friendliness with which they were once welcome is closing up at a terrible speed.

PEOPLE AND HOUSING

One thing that may remain inexplicable for a long time is the attitude of the Kano people towards life and property. There are extremely rich people in Kano who have magnificent houses in the settlers' zones, yet, they live in their ancient and round houses inside the walled city. In popular places like Danbatta except government buildings, new houses are still built to resemble the ancient round huts.

Surprisingly enough, the Nursing School Hostel in Danbatta, an arm of Nursing School in Kano, is built completely with mud. It is ironical that the only tourist's hotel in Danbatta has its grass mattresses thrown carelessly on the floor in the rooms.

With its plate of chicken priced at 40k, a bit of modernisation can make that small Danbatta, just 32 miles away from main Kano, a fantastic tourist attraction. Food and other necessities of life are considerably cheap in Kano when compared to the rest of the country. But, there is a clumsy rise in housing problem and ren-

tage in the main towns of Kano. Houses formerly rented for ₦20 have now gone as high as ₦100 and six-months to one-year rentage advance is no longer unfamiliar to Kano landlords.

Too easy going a people, the issue of polygamy is a very highly accepted in Kano. Very few Kano Alhajis ever appeared in public with their usually beautiful wives. The practice is that their chain of wives are locked up in pudah (kulei) while the Alhajis go places and have concubines here and there. Jobless young ladies are moved into Kano from East Central Nigeria soon after the war lives at the mercy of these benevolent Alhajis. Some of these Alhajis have made their own wealth and are beginning to constitute a force to be reckoned with in Kano.

The only skill is in the sense of value, modern spending and proper accounting. The careless nature of spending can be almost everywhere in Kano. No responsible and well organized business community can handle financial matters as is usual in Kano. Imprecise accounting is in order with the Kano Business Community and the generality at now believing in fancy cars, show-lattes, and week end trips to neighbouring states, towns and countries.

If Kano will grow without any economic hazards needs exist for a very serious mental rebirth on the part of the individual. Drastic control of personality and finance, mass education and modern town planning are all new avenues to look into. The people in Kano must help the government to build the state.





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NewsBreed PERSONALITY

type of marriage many new couple today will want to have—dignified, happy and attended by eminent people.

MRS. AKINTOLA: Anybody who told you the situation was tense was crazy. Rather than go by Ambulance on my wedding day, we would have wedded overseas if it was so tense. It was all well and peaceful.

The only incident was during the betrothal ceremony. At the end of the ceremony, people started throwing stones. Car tyres were deflated. I believed it was politically organised. You know there were a lot of wild people around those days.

I hope we have seen the end of such politics in Nigeria. The kind of politics which says 'you either come with me or you die,' should be buried.

I thought this was a chance to talk politics generally and the Akintola politics in particular. She resisted: "I don't want to discuss politics. It brings you back to bad memories. The more you think and discuss the more you hate people." But people like to know some facts I consoled her. —"I still don't believe that the first coup took place because the military wanted to take-over. I believe it was the handwork of hand picked, selfish, wicked and ambitious people" she asserted.

As daughter-in-law of Chief S. L. Akintola, she considered it a great opportunity. "I learnt so much within a short period. I regret that he was extremely too kind and people exploited him."

"At the night of the take-over, Chief S. L. Akintola's residence at Ibadan was ringed by soldiers about 3 a.m. Earlier there was complete black-out. Shortly we saw fire and lightening in all directions of the house. The shooting continued for 45 minutes and Chief S. L. Akintola said to us in the room we (my first child Akinwunmi 7 months then) Tokunboh Akintola, Mrs. F. Akintola, (my mother-in-law my husband Mr. A. Akintola etc) were taking cover "if I am the one they want let them take me." He walked downstairs and was gunned down brutally. How the rest of the family survived was a mystery."

NEWBREED: Would you like to run in the 1976 elections?



MRS. AKINTOLA: I don't like politics. I hate it. Politics is a dirty game. You cannot be successful unless you are one of them. Politicians are open to abuse, blackmail, insults and live under constant fear.

I am not the type for that kind of thing. I am hot tempered and temperamental, so how can I run?

One thing however is clear, I know in the near future any politician will definitely know how to look after himself having learnt from the last experience.

NEWBREED: Suppose your husband decided to run, will you run with him?

MRS. AKINTOLA: That is his entire decision to make. If he decides to run, I will run with him on any political plank.

NEWBREED: I know you're not politically ambitious. But if tomorrow you become Prime Minister or President what would constitute a short list of your priorities?

MRS. AKINTOLA: That is a diabolical and wild question. I am not going to be Prime Minister or President tomorrow.

As a citizen, I am worried about the high level of unemployment. I know that world-wide there are unemployment problems. At the same time, I believe it is an enigma that should be tackled more seriously than at present by any government. Government should help find employment for skilled work people. Unemployment from my point of view is the

cause of armed robbery, house breaking, violence and other dangerous vices.

The right climate for industrialization and the attraction of investors should be created. Some government regulations seem to hamper expansion programmes.

Local industries should enjoy more government protection than at the moment. Custom duty should be reasonable so that margin can be left over to stimulate employment and expansion. Again if government reduces duty payable on raw materials, they should increase import duty on finished products.

NEWBREED: As a supporter of local Industry, are you aware of the quality of 'Made in Nigeria'?

MRS. AKINTOLA: I do not think the quality of 'Made in Nigeria' is all that poor as published by your people (The Press). For instance I cannot find any difference on imported liquor. Our textile materials are good quality.

Our people need to be educated fully on the importance and quality of locally produced products. We all have a complex.

The expatriate importers also need better education and Nigerian orientation. When you go to the shop, they try to capitalise on imports. "This is not made in Nigeria. It is imported," and they expect you to jump at that.

There was a hottle of Jonnie Walker Whisky by a tall glass she was drinking from and I queried "if you are so parr-



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At 25-27 Yakubu Gowon Street, Lagos, the bustling artery of the now conventional capital of Nigeria, Mrs. Modupe Akintola, wife of Mr. Abayomi Akintola, the assassin of the assassinated Premier of the Western Region of Nigeria, runs a busy legal chambers.

The chambers hangs, neatly, a collage of paintings of eminent jurists and the portrait of her late father Mr. Finnih—Lagos popular social elite business tycoon.

The office which is tasteful yet with moderate furnishings reveal her personality. From afar a flamboyant, beautiful and dynamic image emerges always in an ample length dress or maxi walking tall with her head down. On confrontation, she looks severe, tight and unpredictable.

Mrs. Akintola lives close to Island Club Lagos, a prestige Club for top men in Nigeria. Her husband businessman Mr. Abayomi Akintola—(Managing Director of Prod Nigeria Limited representatives of overseas interests in Nigeria) has just been returned as the unopposed Social Secretary of the Club.

Born 32 years ago, she worked as a Programme Assistant in NBC on leaving Methodist Girls High School Yaba. At Methodist, she showed sign of brightness and leadership. She was Senior Prefect and obtained a grade one pass in her school certificate in 1959. She left for London in 1961 and was enrolled at Lincoln's Inn to read law. Within a record time of 2 years at 23 she cleared her LL.B. degree examination at one sitting;



MRS MODUPE AKINTOLA

In her spinster and early days in marriage she was famous for her frequenting top class restaurants and in elegant fashion. "I used to like good food and wine, but I have put on weight that I am now on control diet." Her major interests now are playing squash, light reading and travelling because "I gain vast experience."

A member of the International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) a global association of women lawyers headquartered in New York, she is the African Regional Editor for its official organ—"The International Lawyer."

Apart from other directorship and business interests she is a director, Legal Adviser and Secretary of New Breed Organisation Limited, Publishers of NEWBREAD.

Her main aim in life is to "help mankind and womanhood". How much, charity have you given to mankind I asked? "In every day of one's life, if you are that way inclined, you give charity, even subconsciously. I don't believe I have to advertise a gesture of

PROFILE
AND
CONVERSATION
BY
CHRIS
OKOLIE

charity," but was not called to the bar because law society regulations stipulating that a member of court to be called to the bar should have dined 12 times etc. She turned to Lagos in 1964 and entered Nigerian Law School. Upon leaving, she was called to the bar formally at the Supreme Court of Nigeria, Lagos.

"To gain a good grounding for practice, I joined Chief Oladipo Moore Chambers as a junior Counsel and served 2½ years, (1964-1966).

In 1965, she married Mr. Yomi Akintola amidst conflicting speculations. Before then she has met young Akintola who was holidaying in Lagos from London in 1959. And the courtship continued in England during her legal studies.

It was rumoured that during her wedding at Christ Church Cathedral Lagos because of the tense political situation in Nigeria, she had to go in an Ambulance to her wedding ceremony. It was also reported that the wedding ceremony was historic and lavish. But certainly the

tic and sure of Nigerian quality why did you buy imported whisky." She replied "This bottle was bought by my husband. When I go to shop, I pick anything available from the shelf and my husband does the same too."

NEWBREED: Rapid manifestation of developments has been witnessed since the take-over of the Armed Forces. The Indigenisation decree is one of them. Legal practice was obviously excluded from the schedule despite agitations from Nigerian Bar Association. Are you disappointed as a lawyer that legal practice was not indigenised? And what do you think about the concept of indigenisation?

MRS. AKINTOLA: Indigenisation of the present trades and professions are sound in principle. It entirely depends if the banks and the NIDB are willing to help Nigerians.

Nigerian businessmen on the other hand should make sure that when they take over an industry or factory, the production experience is maintained. It is a notorious fact that when a Nigerian takes over an industry sooner or later it shuts down because of shortage of technical skills.

Another deplorable attitude of our 'budding millionaires' is playing big and 'ostentations.' Never mind the over-draft, there is a need for sensible and rationale spending of bank money.

I am not subscribing to your views that there are rapid manifestation of developments since the military. In my opinion the present development projects of the military have been planned and partly executed by the civilian government. The present government are now executing most of the plans. It is impossible for any government to achieve so much growth in such a short space of time.

Indigenising the legal profession will not change radically the position of Nigerian lawyers. There is no competition in law. And there are few expatriate lawyers/Firms in Nigeria.

It is the attitude of foreign firms to connive with foreign lawyers to jeopardise the interests of Nigerian lawyers that should be updated to meet the present era.

Whatever is the case, I believe law is a profession where competence matters. You either know your law or you don't. It is not a biscuit or pop-corn trade.

NEWBREED: Does big family names and connections give advantage to a lawyer? When a lawyer with a big name and personality appears to argue is he listened to more by the judge?

MRS. AKINTOLA: Everybody is listened to in court. Name does not matter. Name only helps on merit.

NEWBREED: The legal profession was once prestige and power. Today it is getting serious blows because of dearth of qualified lawyers. Some lawyers these

days according to the newspaper report, pocket as little as ₦60 per month. Some are now called "charge and bail" i.e. they make a living by hovering around court premises, standing surety for accused for as little as ₦4.20.

It is a sorrowful decline of prestige and power. Don't you think the 'quack' lawyers should be chased out of the profession.



MRS. AKINTOLA: I don't believe there are 'quack' lawyers in the profession. I believe anybody that has passed through the law education will do well if given the opportunity. Competence in law is the availability of clients and chance to have a good practice. All your other allegations of "Charge and Bail" etc. are misleading.

NEWBREED: The post of the Judge is described sometimes as boring sedentary, and a middle-aged position. In view of this, would you accept if appointed Judge?

MRS. AKINTOLA: I do not consider the bench as sedentary and boring. It depends on your attitude. It is a challenging position that requires hard work and the greatest experience in all fields of practice. The judge must also be conversant with latest legal and government developments and amendments.

I would accept the position of a judge in future but not now. I am still too young to be a judge—the constitution stipulates the appointment age at 45 years.

NEWBREED: Corruption people say should now be endorsed as a part of our culture and way of life in Nigeria. I think it is a mad suggestion. What do you think?

MRS. AKINTOLA: I am bored discussing corruption, tribalism, nepotism etc. Everybody shouts about it. What have they done about it? Who is a saint anyway?

NEWBREED: I am a saint. Are you not?

MRS. AKINTOLA: I am no absolute saint or a demon. I am not in a position to take or give bribe. I don't believe bribing one's way through. Anybody who is sure of himself and his capability will not indulge in corruption.

NEWBREED: The location of Federal Capital of Nigeria is the latest debate

the lips of Governors and Commissioners of Lagos according to them is now old-fashioned, congested, and the capital should be moved to a more central spot with facilities to expand. Where do you think we should carry the Capital to?

MRS. AKINTOLA: Any attempt to move the capital will result to chaos in administration.

In Lagos, we have an international sea port, air port and most of the industries and ministries sited in Lagos.

A way out from the present talk congestion will be for the Federal Government to locate branch Ministry offices in the states. And Lagos State should maintain their capital.

NEWBREED: Public execution as the punishment to armed robbery has a humiliating forthcoming. Some people say it should be modified because it is barbaric to slaughter people openly.

MRS. AKINTOLA: I think public execution has been very effective as a tool to fight armed robbery. There has been noticeable sharp decrease in crime wave. It is a great achievement by the Federal Military Government. Armed criminals should be severely dealt with.

NEWBREED: As a member of the International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) a global association of women lawyers, headquartered in New York, how can you successfully defend it as another OAU or dining Club of Women?

Lawyers. I would like you to support your defence with citations of records.

MRS. AKINTOLA: FIDA is certainly not another OAU. It is more active and responsive. FIDA is one of the few organisations given a seat at the United Nations. And getting a seat in UN is not a walk-over, we were admitted to UN on merit of our contribution to society.

FIDA deliberate mostly on matters of discrimination of women and children at international level. Resolutions are passed and adopted for action to member governments to look into our proposals. If we succeed in making a good case, the government appoints committee who reports back to government for decision. The government reject or accept whole or part thereof.

In Nigeria we have not been able to force anything or influence government decisions because we are just planting our roots in the ground. However, we have participated in various international seminars and meetings.

From May to June 1973, we have planned a seminar to discuss some aspects of sex discrimination against women. The theme of the seminar is "Public Laws affecting women." (a) Labour Laws (b) Immigration Laws. Delegates from East African and English speaking West African countries will attend.

In Canada FIDA have successfully filed a report to the Government on "The status of women in Canada" otherwise known as The Report on the Royal Commission of the status of women in Canada. The report covered:

- (1) The status of a woman in the Canadian economy.
- (2) The Government as Employer
- (3) Women in Public life and the judiciary process.
- (4) Education and training of Canadian women.
- (5) Women and the family.
- (6) Disadvantaged women.

In Thailand, our contribution was incorporated in the law modifying marriage.

NEWBREAD: You have talked so much on discrimination, could you point out sex discrimination in the Nigerian society?

MRS. AKINTOLA: 1. In the legal field, you don't have women as jurors. They are just not allowed.

2. Where a Nigerian man marries a foreigner, she is still treated like an alien. Nigeria and most countries do not subscribe to or recognise the principle of dual nationality.

3. If a woman is married to a man according to the moslem law, the man is entitled to 3-4 wives. When the man is fed up with any of them, he sucks.

4. In the civil service an unmarried mother will not be allowed to continue. That is why you have ficti-

cious marriages—if the government can face up to the problem and take it as it is, it would be far better than the present. Are these no obvious sex discrimination? In any case, I don't regret been born a woman and I am not going to change places with anybody.

NEWBREAD: I believe my wife should adore me and she should understand that man is polygamous by nature. What is your reaction to that view?

MRS. AKINTOLA: A couple should adore each other. A husband must be devoted, spend most of his free time with children and family.

Even from a social point, that will diminish the amount of social delinquency in the country. When a husband runs a second mistress outside it is the beginning of the end.

NEWBREAD: The man is the master of the home and Joint Account people say could be a pillar in marriage. Once you are married the couple is viewed as an individual, so it is natural to have Joint Account. Are you in favour about joint account?

MRS. AKINTOLA: Women should be independent to sustain marriage in the light of modern society. I believe every woman should have a right to own whatever right as an individual. Joint Account is not operative in Nigeria and it is not Nigerian.

The man is the master of the home, yes and that's very essential for success. But that does not prevent property ownership. A woman should be able to look after herself in the rainy day. And I don't believe one has to remarry after divorce.

NEWBREAD: Your statements sounds like those of a member of The Women Liberation Movement.

MRS. AKINTOLA: I do not believe that women need to be liberated from men status. It is impossible to suggest that women should be put on the same footing as men.

All their campaign against lipstick, bras off, aprons etc. are all nonsense. What I am after is that a woman should benefit from her entitlements and not be denied them simply because she's a woman.



NEWBREAD: Contraception is a symbol of new womanhood. The oral contraceptive—the pill is reported to be running out of stock and to get sure result from the pill it should be taken regularly. Contraception generally has been condemned because of its failure rate and physical dangers. Do you in the light of this recommend it?

MRS. AKINTOLA: Contraception is the best means of family planning at the moment. I believe a child should not be brought to the world without being able to take proper care of him. Again, if a family is well planned, both husband and wife can produce best results in education, health, social and other affairs.

I am glad that even market women today know a lot about family planning and it is a credit to the Family Planning Council of Nigeria.

On the so called danger in the usage of contraceptives, certain drugs react badly to certain people. So you cannot call the reactions of the pill or contraceptives a danger.

The Pill and other forms of contraceptives have an international standard. If it is so dangerous it would not be allowed to go into the market. If the Pills run out of supply there are other forms of contraceptives. Anyway, I am not a medical officer or a social research officer or an expert, so I cannot comment further.

NEWBREAD: Our opinion poll indicated that majority of Nigerian women like General Idi Amin.

MRS. AKINTOLA: General Amin has made his mark internationally. I think he is a very witty person and I like his humour. Whether his policies are best for his country is a matter of opinion.

I cannot criticise him from this part of the world. If I were in Uganda, I will be able to judge considering all factors. You have to be there to judge whether he is mad or not.

But as you once said in your editor-in-chief column General Dada Amin could, have given enough time and better plan for compensation. Asians anyway can appeal to the UN General Assembly.



Thousands of years ago, under the branches of a big tree, stood a circle of men and women. They were a tribe of hunters. Their hunting had been a good one, and they were happy. They started to dance, acting out things that had happened on the hunt. As they danced, they sang, clapped their hands, slapped their bodies and stamped on the ground.

They were making music. And — perhaps that is how music began — as a part of a dance.

In those days, many people wore strings of shells, nuts, or teeth of animals around the neck, wrists or ankles. These things were believed to have magic in them. As the people danced, the rattling and clashing of the shell, nuts, and teeth made a pleasant sound. That gave people the idea for one of the earliest musical instruments — the rattle.

EVOLUTION OF AFRICAN MUSICAL HERITAGE

By Johnby Erherhe





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They also found that they could make a good sound by stamping on a bark or a board placed over a pit dug in the ground. Even better was stamping on a slit-drum, which was a tree trunk hollowed in like a boat. The slit-drum, too, was placed over a pit in the ground. It did not, for many years, take man a long time to make better drums. But at last they discovered how to stretch an animal skin over the end of a hollow tree trunk. It made a fine boom! boom! sound when beaten with the *Rand* or a *Stick*.

To the early man, the world was a strange place. It was full of good and evil spirits. The good spirits were helpful, but the evil ones needed to be chased away. And what better way was there to drive them away than by a loud noise? So musical instruments became important in Religion.

Because of the importance of rhythm in African music, it is a popular belief that the African possessed only rhythmical instruments, drums and various types of idiophones. Regardless of possible origin of these instruments their existence in Africa for over two centuries would justify their inclusion in the list of the indigenous instruments. There is documentary evidence to prove that they have been there longer than this period. Thus when *Ibn Batuta* visited West Africa in the 14th century, he found drums, trumpets, bugles and guitars.

The musical instruments of Africa could be classified under the following headings: *Chordophones, Aerophones, Idiophones and Membraphones*. Under Chordophones there are zithers, musical bows like lute bows called *goje*, guitars and harps, twenty-one stringed harp, used in Mali and horns like side blown horns found in Ashanti Ghana, northern Nigeria where they are used to herald the presence of Emirs, Chiefs, and also used by hunters and warriors. Double reed pipe, end-blow flutes, transverse flute and bull roars. Tin cans, cigar-boxes, native gongs and bells, wooden drums, pot drums, xylophone, shaken idiophones like calabash rattles using seeds or pebbles and "thumb" piano - "*agidigbo*" come under Idiophones. Surprisingly large variety of drums can be used to heal-out the drum languages. Only one form is usually employed in any region of Africa, but these forms vary considerably in different parts of the continent. Hence, the drums family called membraphones are called "*dundun*". In Yoruba land and the master drum is called *Iya Ilu*, barred drum, tall drum, pottery drums used by Sakara musicians and still dancing groups especially among the Yoruba tribe, *bata* drums used by Sango worshippers (god of thunder) and Egungun dancers. African drums are popular among the Bambara, Tuareg, Fulanis, Mossi and Songhay - all Northern tribes. Southern - Ibo, Urhobos, Ashanti, Fanti,

Ga and Dahomians. In south-east Congo talking drum variety are called *mands, kyonds* and *ifionels*. In central Africa shin drum called *hgoma* is used for transmitting messages and for accompanying dancing. East and South of Central Africa the shin topped drums are used for signalling, but they probably rely on codes which are essentially different from drum languages.

Now, let us examine the place of those musical instruments in the African culture. In Africa and indeed West-Africa, the instruments are not regarded solely as music makers. They are part of the culture and they play a definite role in the society.

They may be used as status symbol, and can be played only on the behest of a chief or an *oba*. Instruments may also be regarded as sacred. For instance, it was recorded that the sacred xylophone of the sara is reputed to have been instrumental in staging a war between the Kanemba and the Saro in Sierra-Leone. The remote cause was that during the wedding of the daughter of the King of Kanemba and the King of the Saro, one of her attendants inadvertently touched the sacred xylophone of the King. He was enraged at the sacrilege, imprisoned all of the Kanemba which resulted in the declaration of War. Society also places restrictions on the playing of certain instruments - age limit and as to time (like in the afternoon in some village houses) and places. The Ga people of Ghana forbid instrumental performance during harvesting and before the Kutum festival at Axim, drumming is prohibited.

Drumming is done on special occasions, like an *Oba's* death. During the funeral rituals, drums called "*gbedu*" are played and also during *Eyo* festival in Lagos. *Fra-fra* funerals too, in Ghana, drumming features prominently in the obsequies.

Yet, many factors and forces of cultural changes have taken place in all the facets of the African life and society.

The musical scene in contemporary Africa reflects the diversified society and conglomeration of tribes and rapidly changing cultures in the area. The place of performance may be village square, night clubs and hotels, or the universities, the performer may be musically illiterate, semi, or trained musicians. The music itself is varied, many and diversified. Musical creations in indigenous African style are found side by side with the popular Western-influenced folk music.

The causes can be found by probing the various forces of acculturation operating in African Nationalism, Urbanisation, Integration and detribalisation, Western technology and economy, religion and education. Each has its impact on musical practice.

The growth of cities has contributed in some measures to the change in musical practice. Most of the indigenous music are tied to the social organisation, and the



performance of rites and festivals is obligatory in the tribal society. Urbanisation is not as destructive as it appears on the surface, to the indigenous performers of African music. The pull to move to town usually means a move from the tribal community to the tribal areas within large community. These small tribal communities within the city adhere to their own musical traditions. Thus, the *Tapa* descendants of Lagos still perform the "*Igunni Co*" festival, and the *Iyobus* in Lagos or *Ibadan* perform their traditional rites of "*Agemo*" to mention a few. Though it has adverse effect on the quality of performance of indigenous music, it is still improved.

The higher standard of living in town makes it necessary for the town indigenous musicians to regard music as an avocation. As a result, the standard of performance is often lower in the tribal community.

Tribal integration accompanied urbanisation and the aftermath was musical borrowing. Through this increased mobility caused by the pull and push factor interactions, all sorts of intercourse take place while instruments, idiomatic phrases and ideas were exchanged. Bands could contain as many tribes as there were men

NOTES



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THE EVOLUTION OF AFRICAN MUSIC

bers. Integration also brought about a synthesis of the indigenous musical resources. High life musicians using talking drums while juju musicians using not only lead guitar but also bass and rhythm.

The agencies of entertainment introduced and invented by Western technology also contributed to musical change. The tribal forms of recreation were few and communal in nature; story telling, singing, dancing in the evening; everyone gathered to participate. Radio, television, phonographs and gramms have reduced this communal forms of entertainment. Western instruments are rapidly replacing the indigenous ones. Even in the village the proud western guitar is envied more than the owner of a native guitar or "thumb" piano. Moreover, the very nature of the instruments prevents the musicians from participating in many ensembles. The turning, tonal quality and the lyrics restrict the instruments to use in homogeneous combinations in modern orchestration.

Partly because of these disadvantages and partly the desire to play the new music, more and more prospective musicians are turning to the Western instruments with the inevitable result forcing them out of existence and eclipsing much of the native art all over Africa.

It must be noted that the introduction of Western ideas (colonial mentality) civilization and religion also had effect. Western concept of christianity was the imposition on the African of Western morals and values. The general impact was the creation of generations of Africans ashamed of and ignorant of, their music and art. Although it must also be mentioned that musical luminaries like Amu, Fela Sowande, Akin Euba, Doctor Sammy Akpabot, Kwame Nketia, use African material in their compositions, who are keenly interested in preserving and studying their music. In the former French territories it is near impossible to find parallels to these musicologists of note and consequence. Further more, the musicologists in French territories with the exception of Mali are French. In fact, in Upper Volta and Senegal the French have achieved their aim of "Assimilation" in music.

Need be said that a lot of musical metamorphosis and progress have been made up to date.

As far back as when music had not been a money-spinning industry or venture, the music played mostly was *Kokoma* and *Manba*. In fact, *Kokoma* preceded highlife. The *Daily Graphic* in Accra ran a contest on the subject in 1960. Widely speculative — answers were received which placed the origin as far away as Sierra Leone and Nigeria. Most of the Ghana musicologists, however agree that the *Kokoma* band was a for-runner of this music. IAN LANG in "Jazz comes home to Africa" States that the highlife is *Kokoma* in instrumental form.

In all the former French colonies the most popular dance music was the *cha cha cha*, *meringue* and other *Latin American* music jamboree.

In Ghana, the musical highlife giants are E. T. Mensah, Broadway Band and Black Beat, while in Nigeria Victor Olaiya, Victor Brown and his West End Coliseum, Bobby Benson, "Chief" Billy Friday and Roy Chicago. These musicians made highlife popular among the elite of the countries played. Juju music was being played side by side by Ojoge Daniel, Tunde Nightingale, late Ayinde Bakare and Adeolu Akinsanya (Baba Eto) playing his own style of juju called "manba". In those days it was the real indigenous unadulterated juju music different from today highlife or juju.

More native and indigenous is the Apala music and Sakara. Big names like Haruna Ishola, Kasumu Adio and Olatunji Yusuf, Salami Balogun (Alias Lefty), Kelani S. Aka and many like that entertained their own brands of music to mostly native conscious populace like the butchers, motor drivers and garage touts. Although their musical appeals to some of the elite in the society as well, it can not be overstressed that it is full of melody and meaningful proverbial and idiomatic phrases.

With the advent of Western popular music in from the Black Americans, the musical scene in most of African countries has changed considerably. Throwing overboard in its trail highlife music. This has forced one-time musical celebrities like E. T. Mensah, Roy Chicago, Broadway Band, Black Beat, Victor Olaiya (though

still playing) into oblivion. In the mid 70s, the late Rex Jim Lawson and Vin Uwaifo bust out with traditional highlife music which they tagged 'Abanga' 'Agwete' respectively.

At this juncture, Fela Ransome-Kuti was busy experimenting with highlife superimposed on jazz (Africa is the heart of jazz). As a result, 'Afro-beat' was born. Taking a panoramic view of the present musical scene, it is not a gain saying that this popular music of our time is gaining currency and frequency all over the continent and is being the Europe and the America. The United Kingdom bands like *bisa* and *Asagai* have Afro-beat under in their compositions. None the less James Brown's recent compositions has this heavy music machine beat. Aside from this, Ebenezer Obey's band, Sunny Azu Expensive Obi's and other juju bands holding the sway among our extravagant sumptuous elements of the society especially in Nigeria.

The E. K. Jess band of Congo is kicking with many Congo records in market. It appears the soul or Afro music group bands have taken over completely the musical life of Ghana any trace of highlife music band. The rest of Africa seems to be dormant. No single brand of music has yet surfaced to create impact and sphere of influence here, there and yonder.

Suffice to be said that at present West Africa, indeed Nigeria, is dictating pace and tune in Africa music-wise. The whole world look up to African music and fashion orientations and directions.



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