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TUESDAY COLUMN

Abubakar Jika on:
**Of puppets
and
puppeteers**

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Star Feature

**Adakpo: The
wonder-working
Masquerade of
Gede-Karmo**

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FG enlists villagers against border crime

The Federal Government may involve border communities in the fight against the current wave of crime along the nation's borders, if recommendation to that effect is endorsed by the authority.

Current reports indicate that crime rates at most border posts have reached an alarming proportion, a situation which led to a recent directive by government to all security operatives to intensify action to arrest the situation... sets up committee on development

The Federal Government yesterday inaugurated a three-member Border Communities Development Fund (BCDF), to improve the living standard of Nigerian communities along its international borders.

Vice-President Atiku Abubakar who inaugurated the committee yesterday said the measure was for the proper integration of the border communities to prevent undue attraction from either side of the borders.

He said the measure was also reduce the problems associated with hinterland and inter-border migrations.

The Vice-President said the committee, headed by Minister of State for Justice, Barrister Musa Elayo, was set up after due consideration by the Federal Executive Council, of a bill on the fund, now before the National Assembly. He added that people living along international borders are an asset, especially in the monitoring of security situations.

"The government, therefore, seeks to improve the lot of the people living along the borders, to enhance this role," he declared.

According to him, the *contd. on pg 2*

By Suleiman Mohammed

ation.

However, participants at a national seminar on Nigeria-Niger Transborder Cooperation and Management held at the weekend at Sokoto recommended increased awareness, cooperation and management of security issues among border communities of affected countries and Nigeria.

The seminar attended by the Vice-President, Atiku Abubakar, decried the loose security situation along Nigeria-Niger border and stressed the need for the situation to be tackled at both formal and informal levels.

It further noted that the issue of the straddled villages along the Nigeria-Niger international boundary be addressed at bilateral levels as recommended at the 29th session of the Nigeria-Niger Joint Commission Ministerial Council. It added that there should be pillar densification at the relevant areas along the boundary.

The communiqué which was issued in Abuja yesterday by the National Boundary Commission (NBC) also recommended the implementation of Local Bilateral Committees (LBC) by gateway states and departments, while governments of both

contd. on pg 2



Vice-President, Atiku Abubakar being received by former President Shehu Shagari at the Sultan Abubakar III International Airport, Sokoto, during a recent visit to the state.

NEW REVENUE ALLOCATION FORMULA

Govs declare position today

By Osborne Adi & Henry Omu

The meeting of the 36 state governors over the new revenue allocation formula was inconclusive yesterday in Abuja, as they adjourned for further consultations without arriving at a joint position on the matter.

The governors who will reconvene today, are expected to declare their collective position on the proposed formula which was

submitted to the presidency by the Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Commission last Thursday.

Speaking shortly after the adjournment, Ekiti State governor, Chief Adeniyi Adebayo said: "The meeting was yet to conclude, so we

are reconvening tomorrow."

"We have heard about the revenue formula but we have not seen the document and do not forget that the formula has to be approved by the National Assembly before it becomes a law," he said.

According to him, whatever decision the governors

Sack Ige, Rimi urges Obasanjo

The continued retention of Chief Bola Ige by President Olu-segun Obasanjo in the federal cabinet has again come under severe criticism with the former governor of Kano State, Alhaji Abubakar Rimi calling for his immediate removal.

Citing anti-party activities, Abubakar Rimi, who has announced his presidential ambition in the 2003 elections said President Obasanjo should stop treating Ige as a sacred cow at the expense of the progress of his party, the Peoples Democratic Party

From Musa Umar Kazaure, in Kano (PDP).

His words: "he has always been hostile to our party, the PDP, and to the President, but since the Presi-

arrive at today, will constitute their input to the proposed new formula which would be sent to the National Assembly.

The meeting, under the Governors' Forum (GF) is to afford the chief executives of

contd. on pg 2

dent has decided to retain him there must be something between the two of them which other people don't know."

Rimi also accused President Obasanjo of not having

contd. on pg 2

Oputa: Buhari, IBB, Abdulsalami have immunity, says group

A controversy rages over the non-appearance of Generals Ibrahim Babangida, Muhammadu Buhari and Abdulsalami Abubakar before the Justice Chukwudifu Oputa panel on human rights violations, a Northern-based youth group has declared that the former leaders have immunity not to attend the hearings.

The group, Young Northern Professionals (YNP), in a *contd. on pg 2*



President Obasanjo

Middle Belt Forum rejects ACF

The Middle Belt Forum has refused to endorse the activities of the Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF), saying that it was discriminating against some ethnic groups in the northern parts of the country.

The national patron of the Middle Belt Forum (MBF) and former national chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Chief Solomon

Lar, presented the Forum's position at the weekend in Lokoja when he led a delegation on a courtesy visit to Governor Abubakar. Audu.

Lar said that instead of discrimination and segregation along ethnic lines, the MBF is working as a vanguard for unity and progress of the people, and that the issue of majority tribes *contd. on pg 2*

NEWS

New Revenue *Contd. from pg 1*

the states the opportunity to present a common front on the new formula.

The governors are also meeting on feelers that the Federal Government is determined to kick against the reduction of her revenue by 7.2 percent while that of state government was raised from 24 to 31 percent.

In the proposed allocation, local government's allocation was slashed from 20 percent to 16 percent.

Although some of the state governors were impressed with the increase, others were said to be uncomfortable with the establishment of the Basic Education and Skill Acquisition (BESA) fund claiming that they were not consulted over

the issue. The fund is expected to receive 7 percent.

Under the impending arrangement, the FCT development fund will be entitled to 1.2 percent, ecological fund, 1 percent and National Rescue fund, agriculture and solid minerals development fund and technology, research will be entitled to 1.5 percent.

The 16 percent proposed allocation to local governments means increased funding following the take-over of payment of teachers' salaries by the federal government.

It is expected that by the time the National Assembly gives its nod to the proposal, the problem of "Zero Allocation" to local governments would have been resolved.

FG *Contd. from pg 1*

countries should further develop and formalise the existing local bilateral cooperation's and integration within the frame work of African Union and the new African initiatives.

It further endorsed a joint

exploitation of available trans-boundary resources, while experts will take inventory of the resources, and how it could be utilised by Nigeria and Niger governments.

Committee *Contd. from pg 1*

committee is to examine the bill to provide for an act for the establishment of the border communities fund, with a view to harmonising government's position with that of the National Assembly.

It is also to monitor the progress of the bill in the parliament and submit a report within six weeks.

Other functions of the committee include the restructuring of BCDF and to appraise the developmental needs of the border communities in Nigeria.

Vice-President Abubakar noted that for long Nigeria's border communities have been neglected, but that gov-

ernment now wanted them to enjoy alongside their counterparts in the hinterland.

He said, the development of the border region by the states and local governments have proceeded over the years without a pre-meditated co-ordination plan to embrace the inclusive and collaborative approach consistent with government commitment to national integration.

Other members of the committee include the Director-General of the National Boundary Commission (NBC), Alhaji Dahiru Bobbo and the Special Assistant to the Vice-President on local government affairs, Dr. Umar Ardo.

Middle Belt *Contd. from pg 1*

should not be used to victimise any region.

Explaining the mission of the Forum to Lokoja, its chairman, retired Air Commodore Dan Sulaiman, told Gov. Audu that the Forum was out to solicit the support and cooperation of states within the Middle Belt region so as to form a formidable force for the progress of its people.

Sulaiman further disclosed that the MBF was impressed by the performance of Gov. Audu since he assumed office two years ago, and advised other governors in the region to emulate him.

Also speaking to journalists after the visit, former military governor of old Gongola and Benue States, retired Col. Yohanna Madaki, described Audu as a shining example

and pride of the Middle Belt because of his hard work and diligence.

Madaki, who recalled that Audu served under him as Commissioner for Finance in the old Benue State, was full of praises for the governor, saying that he did not expect anything less from him.

Receiving the delegation, Audu expressed his support for the MBF, saying that it would no longer play the role of a second fiddle in the affairs of the nation.

He advised the people of the region to come together and work for its advancement and urged leaders of the Forum to adopt diplomatic approach in their struggle for the unity and progress of the region and the nation in general.

Party registration: Aikhomu warns against manipulating INEC

Any manipulation of INEC by the PDP to prevent registration of new political parties could generate reactions that would make the country ungovernable before 2003, ex-military Vice-President, retired Admiral Augustus Aikhomu has warned.

He told News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in an interview in Benin that he expected the National Assembly to do what was right and truly make INEC to act independently by enacting "a clean and durable electoral law."

Aikhomu, who served as Chief of General Staff and later Vice-President under the leadership of General Ibrahim Babangida, said that "the PDP will shoot itself in the foot if it tried to manipulate INEC," adding that the nascent democracy must be allowed to thrive on a fair process.

The ex-military Vice-President, who is at the centre of the formation of the political association - the Fourth Dimension of Nigeria (FDN) and now metamorphosing into the United Democratic Party of Nigeria (UDPN), debunked insinuations that he was fronting for his former boss, Babangida.

"Yes, I served under him and we remain good friends till date but at a point in life, everyone must learn to answer his own father's name," Aikhomu said.

He described IBB's rumoured second coming as just "assumptions, rhetoric's

and mundane issues which should be rested by people," though he admitted that as friends, "he could work for us and we could work for him."

Aikhomu said he was into partisan politics not because of any special political ambition but to make sure that injustices to ethnic nationalities as those of the South-South by past government,

to which he was a member, were redressed.

The ex-military Vice-President took a swipe at some serving state governors whom he said were "getting out of control and behaving recklessly as touts."

According to the retired admiral the respective state houses of assembly must assert their rightful control over these governors to stem

imminent anarchy in the states.

"They must rise and remedy the situation in their states and not engage in a conspiracy of silence," he said.

He added that it was high time high-level professionals with integrity stepped into partisan politics to displace some of the governors he described as "mediocres."

Waku eyes presidency

The chairman of Senate Committee on Insurance and Allied Matters, Senator Joseph Waku, has said that he will do everything possible to contest against President Olusegun Obasanjo in 2003 election.

Speaking to newsmen at the weekend in Jos shortly after he was honoured by the Gen. Shehu Musa Yar'adua Memorial Association, Waku said that it would be better if another person emerged as the next president of the country.

"I don't hate him (Obasanjo) as a person, but I hate his policies," he said, adding, "his chances in the 2003 election will be determined by the implementation of the 2002 budget."

He criticised President Obasanjo over non-performance and the failure of his government to address the issue of insecurity in the country.

He stressed that the security situation in the country had worsened.

According to him, the

current national media tour under the leadership of the Minister of Information and National Orientation, Prof. Jerry Gana, was a propaganda

as well as a sycophantic way of publicising the activities of the government through its own media.

Tiv community boycotts committee sitting

The Tiv community in Nasarawa State has boycotted the sitting of the committee instituted by the Nasarawa State government and the federal government to identify the causes of the last communal clash between the Tiv and Azara community in the state in order to make recommendations on how to prevent any future occurrence.



Gov. Abdullahi Adamu of Nasarawa State

By Mustapha Isah Kwaru

The chairman of the committee, Justice Aminu Sunusi Funtua stated that the Tiv's refused to attend the sitting to give evidence was out of fear of being arrested and that many of them have migrated.

He added that his commission was not mandated to arrest anybody, but to reconcile affected groups and find the causes of the clash in order to forestall future occurrence.

Justice Aminu said, so far, his commission has received 38 written memoranda and 36 people have given evidence before the committee.

He said as at now, the people have realised the aims of his committee and are giving it maximum cooperation. He disclosed that when the committee rounds-off its sitting at the end of this month, it would visit the affected areas to assess the damage done and enlighten the people on the importance of peace.

Sack Ige *Contd. from pg 1*

the interest of his party at heart because of his frequent rejection of the party's advice, "Ideally in a good democratic system, the President should listen to his party, but this President is not a true civilian President. He is 75 percent military and 25 percent civilian. So he doesn't listen to the party; he doesn't listen to anybody. The President does not listen to advice on this issue, he knows that Bola Ige should not have been in the cabinet in the first place," Rimi maintained.

Rimi also said that despite Ige being in an opposition party and the fact that he was not brought in on a special pact between AD and PDP, the minister's actions and utterances clearly show that he is above board.

On the recent endorsement of the National ID card for use in future elections in the country, Rimi said he does not support such a de-

cision saying that PDP should not have anything to do with the issue of using ID card for elections.

He argued that the move is intended to disenfranchise many voters, especially those from the North.

He, however, doubted that his party's national President made such comment because he knows the implications of using any other card for election other than INEC's voting card.

On the recent meeting of Kano PDP stalwarts in Kano, Abubakar Rimi said it was not a reconciliatory meeting between his faction and that of the governor of Kano State, but that it was a meeting of Kano State executive of PDP which discussed the issue of the new system of using computers for registration of party members.

He also refuted reports that the meeting endorsed President Obasanjo to contest the 2003 elections.

Oputa *Contd. from pg 1*

statement signed by its protem chairman, Mallam Mohammed Rufai yesterday explained that since the commission was established under the Tribunal of Inquiry Decree of 1990, the ex-military leaders are protected.

According to the youths, the same decree, that has now become an act of parliament, was recently upheld by a Lagos High Court, adding that the rulers must be accorded the kind of respect that befits them rather than embarrass them.

"Although we are in dialogue with the former military rulers who incidentally are all from the Northern part of the country, these distinguished Nigerians must be accorded the respect of the office and should not be made to regret serving this country," the statement said.

According to them, investigations have revealed that about N20 billion has

been budgetted, purposely to embarrass the former leaders and the Obasanjo government, through unguarded statements.

"The unsolicited disclosure by one of the witnesses at the Oputa Panel that one of our respected and former Heads of State misappropriated money through the award of contracts is aimed at forcing the retired general to expose some of our leaders who enjoyed government patronage," the youth group claimed.

The group submitted that all contracts awarded during the General Abdulsalami Abubakar's administration and his predecessors were screened and verified by the Christopher Kolade panel set up by the Federal Government, adding that the disclosures at the Oputa panel were mainly to embarrass the contractors and expose them to ridicule.

NEWS

Gov Makarfi raps southern press

Governor Ahmed Mohammed Makarfi of Kaduna State, has accused the Southern press of unfair treatment of the North. The governor, who made the accusation at the first annual lecture of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Kaduna State chapter held at the weekend, said the Southern press has in recent times tended to misrepresent the North in all its reportage and urged it to be fair to the region by reporting issues as they are.

Citing the issue of national conference as an example, Governor Makarfi said the North is not against sitting down to discuss the issues at stake, "what the North dislike is intimidation," he said. He also condemned the orchestrated campaign against the region by the Southern media both after the annulment of the June 12, 1993 election and during the current administration.

"It is a known fact that the North voted massively for the late MKO Abiola and President Olusegun

From Ibrahim Dan Halilu, in Kaduna

Obasanjo. The annulment of the June 12, 1993 election was blamed entirely on the North by the Southern press. The



Gov Ahmed Makarfi

North voted for Obasanjo massively but suddenly the campaign was that the North was against Obasanjo and was plotting to remove him," he stressed.

On the recent clamour for Middle Belt region, the governor expressed bewilderment that though the country is divided into six geo-political zones, the Southern media is making

spirited efforts to create a Middle Belt zone based on religious persuasion which he described as ridiculous.

"If you create a Middle Belt zone based on religious persuasion, what do you do about Niger, Kwara, Adamawa, Nasarawa and Gombe states?" he queried.

Governor Makarfi, who attributed the escalation of crimes in the society to the ongoing communal clashes, warned of the penalty for the press for not doing what it is supposed to do. "When calamity comes, it does not differentiate the good from the bad, the guilty from the innocent, the God-fearing from the sinner. It affects all," he cautioned.

Preaching the gospel of peace, Makarfi proclaimed that, "God is sustaining Nigeria and Nigerians should not fail him," and urged that all play their individual roles in maintaining peaceful co-existence and harmony.

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Zamfara State chapter, has expressed its fears over the inability of the police in the state to protect lives and property of the citizens irrespective of political affiliations.

This was disclosed by the State's Secretary-General of the party, Mallam Bala Mohammed Maru, while briefing newsmen in his office in Gusau, the state capital on the recent destruction and theft of the party's signboards, banners and other structures.

According to him, the party lodged a formal complaint to the police, but nothing tangible was done. This, he said, put the party and its members in a state of insecurity when no arrest has been made by the police.

He stated that after few days of the incident, the officials of the party went

Zamfara PDP expresses fear over police partiality

From Salisu Zakari Maradun, in Gusau

back to the police to remind them of their earlier complaint, and saw eight of the signboards at the police station.

The secretary-general disclosed that between the 9th and 12th of this month, some vigilante group members in conjunction with APP youths



Gov Ahmed Sani

went round the metropolis, destroying PDP signboards which were erected along Sabongari, Galadima, Tudun-Wada and Birnin Mawar.

According to him, if the state police command is not partial, arrests should have been made and the culprits arraigned before the Sharia Court. "But to our surprise, nothing has been done," he stated.

The party, according to the secretary, spent not less than N270,000 on the stolen property. "But here we are without bill boards or banners. Is it because we are from the opposite side that is why we are being deprived of the right to play our political card?" he asked.

He further explained that if really the police had mounted a serious operation in the night of the incidence, arrest could have been made.

Wife kills husband over battering As 28-yr-old man commits suicide

From Buhari Bello, in Jos

Irked by the repeated battering from her husband, a 30-year-old housewife, Mrs. Lucy Nanpon Dala, of Pilgani village in Langtan North Local Government Area of Plateau State, has poisoned her husband, Mr. Ranpon Dala which led to his death.

Mrs. Nanpon made the revelation last week when she appeared before a Jos chief magistrates court on a charge of culpable homicide under section 221 of the penal code.

Daily Trust gathered that following her confession, she was remanded in prison custody as the court was not competent to deal with the case.

The decision was also to allow the police prepare a

formal charge against her in the high court.

The magistrate court judge, Mrs. Phoebe Longon, said the adjournment of the case to October was to allow the police an ample time to complete investigations and arraign the suspect in a competent court.

In a related development, a 28-year-old messenger working with the Health Services Department in Qua'an Pan Local Government Council of Plateau State, Mr. Ishaku Dakop, has committed suicide with a locally-made gun.

The News Agency of

Nigeria (NAN) learnt in Jos at the weekend, that the deceased was found dead on Sunday in a pool of blood in his bedroom, while the gun, suspected to have been used in the act, was lying by his side.

NAN further learnt that late Dakop was seen on that fateful day by his neighbours buying a loaf of bread and had told one of them about his inability to eat hard food due to ill-health. However, none of the neighbours was able to say whether they heard any shot or witnessed any suspicious movement, as the deceased

was the only tenant in that compound at the time of the incident.



Gov Joshua Dariye

Prof. Gana advises Taraba governor to redouble efforts

Governor Jolly Nyame of Taraba State, has been advised to redouble his efforts in executing people-oriented development projects in the state.

The Minister of Information, Prof. Jerry Gana, gave the advice in Jalingo at the weekend while speaking during a dinner organised by the state government for members of the visiting journalists on national media tour.

Gana said the team had seen and assessed the performance of the state government and wished that much more was achieved than what was now on the ground. The minister, who explained that although the observation could be seen as an indictment, but stressed the need for the governor to "move in the right direction," and prayed God to give him the power to move faster and do much more for his people.

Speaking earlier, Nyame had called on the Federal Government to site development projects in the state and expressed his

readiness to accept constructive criticisms for the benefit of Taraba State.



Gov Jolly Nyame



The Inspector-General of Police (IGP), Mr. Muslim Smith (left) watches as the Vice-President, Alhaji Atiku Abubakar (right), representing the president, signs the register after commissioning the Nigeria police headquarters in Abuja ... recently. Pix: Kennedy Egbonodje

North acquires 60% of privatized companies

By Mustapha Isah Kwaru

The Director-General, Bureau of Public Enterprises, Mallam Nasir Ahmed el-Rufai, has disclosed that businessmen from the Northern part of the country have purchased 60 percent out of the 12 privatized federal government companies.

According to a Voice of America (VOA) Hausa, programme monitored in Abuja, Mallam el-Rufai disclosed this at a two-day workshop in Gusau, Zamfara State organised by the BPE to enlighten the people on the importance of the ongoing privatization of some federal government's companies and parastatals.

Stressing the importance of privatization to the development of Nigeria, the director-general maintained

that it would minimize crime and unemployment among youths. He explained that the private individuals who have purchased shares in the companies would employ more youths.

He added that the companies which were abandoned by previous governments to near collapse, would be developed through the ongoing privatization exercise.

Asked to throw more light on what government would do once the privatization exercise is completed, el-Rufai said the Federal Government would shift its focus to the improvement of the living standards of its citizens through the provision of electricity, medicare, education, good roads and other social infrastructure.

NEWS

Minister wants contractors paid within 28 days

The Minister of State for Works and Housing, Mr. Garba Ali, has directed that the processing of all legitimate claims by firms, handling road projects for the Federal Government, should henceforth be done within 28 days.

Inspecting a federal government road project at Donga, in Taraba State at the weekend, the minister said the directive was intended to minimize the delays and accompanying frustrations, which contractors experienced while seeking payments for jobs done.

Ali, who said he abhorred the practice where contractors' claims took several months to process, and advised firms which filed their papers for payment to go to the ministry's headquarters in Abuja after four weeks to pick their cheques.

He lamented that in the past, work had been suspended several times on some road projects because of the delay in processing payments due to road contractors, adding that in most cases, there were no justifiable reasons for the delays.

"This is a problem our contractors have been living with for a very long time, but I want to give the assurance

that from today, a solution has been found to be the issue of delayed payments," the minister stated.

Ali stated that the Federal Government had gone to the extent of asking major oil marketing companies to respond urgently to requests for petroleum products by road construction firms adding that the idea was to ensure early completion of the projects.

The minister also said

that if the Federal Government would go to the extent of granting that concession to road contractors, he did not see why it should fold its arms and allow its employees to frustrate efforts designed to ensure timely completion of projects. "We do not intend to harbour saboteurs within the system," Ali stated, adding that any official found to have unnecessarily delayed any file for payment will be appropriately sanctioned."



Chief Tony Anenih

Gov Nnamani cautions media on survival of democracy

The media has been challenged to work towards the promotion of ideals of one Nigeria and the survival of an enduring democracy

The Governor of Enugu State, Dr. Chimaroke Nnamani passed the challenge at the first annual lecture of Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Kaduna State chapter, held last Saturday.

The governor who was the guest speaker at the annual event, said that the Nigerian media is adequately equipped to perform the role of passing the depth of the nation's political history across so as to build greater vigilance among the cynics and unresponsive elements, who believe that the idea of

From Ibrhaim Dan Halilu, in Kaduna

one Nigeria is only a geographical expression

Dr. Nnamani further emphasised the need for the media in the country to expedite efforts at exposing the deceptive tendencies of the elite that has violated the social contract they have entered into with the populace, which he said, further led to the widening of the gap between the rich and the poor in the society, rather than dissipating energy on promoting ethnic agenda and glorifying personalities.

He noted with dismay how journalists have not considered seriously the need to unmask the Nigerian elite whose duplicity of character has

continued to confuse and divide the poor, adding "I marvel at the ease with which the media is used to deviate from the national ethos, projects and destiny, just the fancy of a certain character.

Governor Nnamani further noted with great concern how the media in the country tended to revert to the previous exercise of subverting the new democratic order and more decent society, and urged editors to appreciate the fact that the society they snatched from the military was a badly deformed one, which needs time and patience to recover



Gov Chimaroke Nnamani

Commission of enquiry begins sitting in Lokoja

The judicial commission of enquiry on the inter-ethnic clashes at the Kogi State Polytechnic began sittings yesterday at the Family Resource Centre, FAREC, Lokoja.

The commission has, therefore, called for memoranda from students, academic and non-academic staff of the Kogi State Polytechnic, and the public on any information that will assist the commission.

All memoranda, according to the commission, which should be in fifteen copies are to be neatly typed and addressed to the Secretary, Judicial Commission of Enquiry into Kogi State Polytechnic Disturbances, at the Family Resource Centre, FAREC, Lokoja, not later than Friday the 17th of this month.

The sittings of the commission are open to the

From Mamman Akpena, in Lokoja

public, and all memoranda submitted in writing shall be orally presented on the floor of the commission. People, the commission said, are at liberty to engage legal practitioners of his choice, but such counsel shall give attention to the proceedings of the commission.

The commission members sworn-in by the Executive Governor of Kogi State, Prince Abubakar Audu has, as its terms of reference among others, to ascertain the causes of the persistent clashes between the various ethnic groups that constitute the polytechnic student community.

Illorin is not a Fulani town - Bola Ige

The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, Chief Bola Ige, has observed that the existence of an emir of Ilorin does not make the town Fulani.

Chief Ige who made the observation in a television programme, *Frank Talk* monitored in Abeokuta on Saturday night, maintained that Ilorin is physically a Yoruba town that has a Fulani descendant as emir.

His word: "It is true that when the Fulani came, they usurped power from Afonja, that is what happened. It is the same thing in some parts of Northern Nigeria; specifically the Habe Kingdom where there are true Habe and non-Habe. The Fulani came, led by the great Uthman Danfodio and insisted on their own emir there.

"Therefore, the mere fact that the emir is there, does not make the Habe Fulani. There is an Emir of Ilorin, but he is a Fulani by ancestry. Although the present emir who is a very good friend, use to be Kolapo

when he was with us in Ibadan as the justice of Court of Appeal.

Ige explained further that, "his father who loved me and whom I loved and never accepted a town that has a Fulani descendants as emir, that is all."



Chief Bola Ige

When asked to comment on whether it was right for the people of Ilorin to ask for an Oba, Ige replied; "How can I from Esa-Oke, decide for the people what they should want?"

FG to establish youth development centres

The Federal Government is to establish three comprehensive zonal youth development centres, the Minister of Women Affairs and Youth Development, Hajiya Aisha Ismail, has said.

She said this at the weekend in Lagos during her two-day official tour of youth training facilities under her ministry in Lagos and Ogun States.

She explained that the three comprehensive zonal youth development centres will complement the youth centres which the Federal Government intends to establish in each state of the federation between now and 2003.

The centres, the minister explained would harness the talents of the country's youth for national development.

... to construct two new roads in Benue

The Federal Government plans to construct two new roads in Benue State next year, the Minister of State for Works and Housing, Mr. Garba Ali, has said.

Speaking at the weekend in Makurdi, during a reception in his honour by the Benue State government, the minister said that contracts for the two roads would be awarded next year. Ali did not disclose the project sites or their costs,

The three zonal centres are to be established in the North-East, North-West and the South-East zones to complement the existing one in the South-West, she added.

While inspecting the facilities of the sea training school, Apapa, Lagos, she said: "It is only through a nationwide physical, mental and intellectual training of youths as well as exposing them to self-sustaining activities that they can meaningfully contribute their quota to national development."

Hajiya Aisha further pointed out that Nigeria wants youths that can generate ideas and create resources that can advance the country, adding, "youths who vandalise, cause confusion and use violence to seek redress are not what Nigeria needs in this dispensation."

but stated that their designs had been completed.

He also said that to demonstrate its commitment to upgrading roads, the Federal Government, shortly on assumption of office in May 1999, took over and completed two abandoned road projects in the state.

He said that the Federal Government has also awarded a contract for the rehabilitation of the 100 km Katsina-Ala-Zaki-Biam-Buruku road at a cost of N2.7 billion.

Aisha Ismail explains essence of PEP

The essence of the introduction of poverty eradication by the Federal Government is to curtail the high level of poverty in the country. The Minister of Women Affairs and Youth Development, Hajiya Aisha Ismail has said.

The minister who was in Dawakin Kudu Local Government Area of Kano State to launch the women's chapter of poverty eradication programme, introduced by the Kano State government, said that the Federal Government has been worried over the high level of poverty in the country where about 80 million Nigerians are living below the poverty line.

By Habiba Adamu

The minister stressed that the present administration decided to introduce the poverty eradication programme in order to intervene in alleviating poverty especially as the bulk of the 60 percent of Nigerians who live below subsistence level are women.

She further observed that the Northern part of the country was worst hit by poverty, disease and ignorance.

"Any development model that intends to succeed, particularly in the northern part of the country, must carry the women along and ensure their equitable representation," he stated.

Hajiya Aisha commended the Kano State governor for recognizing the vital role women play in the economic sector and for setting aside a special package for women in the state.

She, therefore, called on women to form viable and productive co-operative groups so that they could



Hajiya Aisha Ismail

DAILY TRUST

EDITORIAL

Housing as democracy dividend

In an attempt to come to grips with the worsening housing problem in the country, the present administration set up a committee under the chairmanship of Rivers State governor, Dr. Peter Odili last April, to study the problems of urban development and housing in Nigeria to enable government fashion out a more responsive housing policy. It is therefore with relief that we receive the recent announcement by President Olusegun Obasanjo during a visit by members of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Ijebu North local government area of Ogun State, that the federal government would start implementing a new housing policy next year.

It is impossible to exaggerate the qualitative and quantitative housing problem in Nigeria where 80 percent of its estimated 130 million population is inadequately sheltered in rural and urban centres. Our cities are plagued with eyesores in squalid slums where the majority poor live in congested homesteads made of cardboards while a few nouveau riche live in breathtaking architectural masterpieces encased with high walls and steel gates. The housing in the rural areas is still rudimentary without plumbing or electricity.

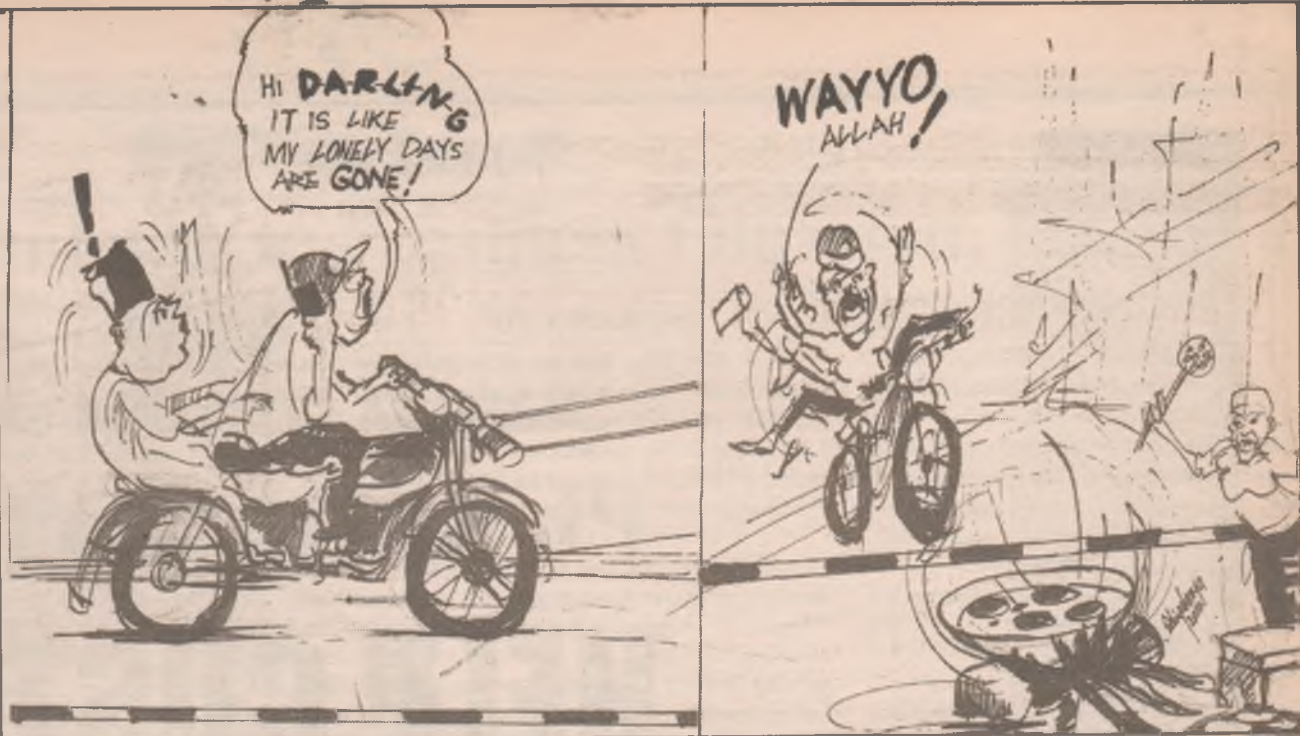
Such housing where privacy is unheard of are incubators for social problems such as diseases, moral laxity, criminal and violent tendencies. Several states have taken faltering steps in solving the problem in their localities. This includes the locally sourced Redemption Housing Scheme in Imo State. But there cannot be an alternative to a well-coordinated national housing policy. This is because shelter is next only to food in basic human needs and any development strategy that does not confront this problem is neither responsive nor comprehensive.

Of course, after the failed sloganeering of housing for all by the year 2000 many Nigerians remain apprehensive about government's pronouncements on housing. Not a few Nigerians will be in a hurry to forget their bitter experiences at the hands of the General Sani Abacha housing policy where up till today huge funds, in many cases sourced through bank loans, are still trapped while the promised houses have remained a mirage.

Daily Trust will urge the Odili committee to also bear in mind the cultural and social needs of the people to benefit from such a policy. It should also make recommendations that would make housing environment friendly. Basic facilities for electricity, water supply, sanitation, drainage and space should be provided.

The mortgage institutions need to be empowered to provide realistic long-term low interest loans to those who wish to own their own homes instead of the moribund National Housing Fund. The Land Use Decree of 1978 should also be reviewed because it has become a major impediment to owning property. Government should also introduce stringent property tax to make speculation unprofitable and make several property now under key and lock available to those who need them.

Finally we believe a major first step the government should take in making housing affordable is to look into the skyrocketing cost of building materials. Solving the housing problem in Nigeria is a matter of priority because it is one of the visible means of alleviating poverty in the society.



TUESDAY COLUMN

Of puppets and puppeteers

By Abubakar Jika

Let us start from a familiar. Former military President Ibrahim Babangida is seen by many Nigerians as a great tactician. They see him as a good student of power and politics. That he is adept at political manipulations. Ibrahim Babangida, a retired general told readers of *Tell* magazine in a landmark interview that of all the tags on him, the one he cherishes most is that of "evil genius". There is no doubt that Babangida is a political genius. Many would readily agree that he is an evil political genius. Many Nigerians believe he single-handedly deprived the late MKO Abiola, his bosom friend, his political crown.

Many speculators even argue that he has power of foresight. That he deliberately denied Abiola his mandate so as to pave way for one of his great friends, late Sani Abacha. Some even argued that Babangida knew Abacha would turn out to be a terror who would forcefully bury June 12. It is obvious however that without an Abacha June 12 cannot be buried in a generation.

Some also speculate that Babangida cleverly avoided condemning Abacha until a few weeks before the latter's demise. Others believe that Babangida "some how schemed" to get Abdulsalami Abubakar, another general from Minna to, "take over" from Abacha. This account going by the revelations of Al-Mustapha and Sabo may not be completely accurate.

In any case, it is true that Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida has the distinct honour or dishonour, depending on where you stand, in publicly inviting Olusegun Obasanjo to come and take over power from Abdulsalami Abubakar. He went to Obasanjo Farms at Otta and publicly invited Obasanjo to contest the presidency. Many of us felt then, and we are sad to now confirm, that Obasanjo as president would come in with his own agenda.

We believed then, and it is now confirmed that the PDP, which was cobbled together, and offered as a vehicle, unsolicited, to General Obasanjo (retired) cannot stand up to him. That he has the experience, status, contacts and strength of character to overrun any party. That if he takes over, the party cannot dictate to him.

That those who sponsored Obasanjo to the throne and are grand masters in manipulation would find Obasanjo a hard nut to crack. I once wrote that the puppet has become puppeteer himself. That the spectators are divided between those cheering the puppet who has now become master puppeteer himself. That the original master puppeteer's feet are stuck in the ropes of the ring which are threatening to throw the original master into the ring for a duel he is yet to fully prepare for.

I don't know how many understand this analogy. Suffice it to say the streets and homes are flooded with posters of Ibrahim Babangida for 2003. The general has been shouting himself hoarse that he is not interested in Obasanjo's job. Aso Rock has suddenly turned out to be a no-man's land. Obasanjo's deputy, Atiku Abubakar has been shouting that he is not coveting Obasanjo's job. Instead he prefers and is working as loyal assistant.

Suddenly, the North's two well-known trump cards, are suddenly not jokers in the pack. Both Babangida and Atiku are falling over themselves to prove their loyalty to Obasanjo. Both are out-shouting each other to prove that they are all out with all their might and supporters to ensure Baba a smooth ride back to Aso Rock in 2003. In the East the Nzeribes and even Kalus are working for the return of Obasanjo in 2003.

The Igbo mainstream appears bewildered. Giants like Iwuanyanwu are now silent.

This scenario reminds me of the days of Abacha. His job, which was ordinarily the most coveted, was suddenly the most despised. Nobody wanted to dream about it. Only Rimi stood up to Abacha in the North and he paid dearly for it. He was incarcerated for six months. Rimi is now standing up to Obasanjo. They are now said to be considering selling the only job they gave him - the company that prints money, that the Mint is to be privatised which means Rimi losing his job. I doubt if Rimi cares. He wants Obasanjo's job. This time I suspect he will not blink.

This is because nature abhors vacuum. Since every big shot is either too close to Obasanjo to want his job or too fearful of him to make a grab at his job, I believe Rimi would go for broke. While this is playing itself out, it is obvious the North has not only lost power to the Yoruba, it is losing both political and economic relevance in the scheme of things.

Two decisions of the Federal Executive Council recently give teeth to this impression. First, the Abuja Stock Exchange is scrapped. There is only one Nigerian Stock Exchange based in Lagos. The Abuja Stock Exchange was a move by the Abacha regime to break Yoruba monopoly of the stock market. It was meant to free other parts of Nigeria from Yoruba economic blackmail as symbolised by its dominance of the Lagos Stock Exchange.

This has been reversed. Key Northerners were used to achieve this great economic reversal. If power reverts to the North, we will reverse this decision. This would not go unchallenged at the right time. We will bide our time as the Yorubas bided theirs. We are a patient people.

The second is the decision reached at the same meeting that the federal government accepts the *Afenifere* position of using national identity cards as voters' cards. Obasanjo and his government have overruled the North's trenchant opposition. We do not agree with the argument. We wish to reassure the Yoruba that we cannot be politically ambushed by the identity card gambit.

First the electoral law has to be amended. That means the Senate and House of Representatives have to pass the law. I personally do not think the National Assembly would do this as voters' cards in all democracies are what are used to identify voters and not identity cards. Even if they pass the law we will meet them in the field. We will have these identity cards and prove that cattle do not vote in the North.

Meanwhile what do you expect from a council whose members were reported to have resigned in advance before getting jobs? That is what the media reported that ministers, except a few, wrote undated resignation letters in advance. It is not possible to muzzle up everybody. Babangida could not. Abacha could not. Even Buhari could not. I doubt if Obasanjo can do so even if he wishes to. Only God can muzzle everybody.

What is obvious now is that the North, seen as a master puppeteer, has now turned to a puppet. Leading members of this regime now wear Yoruba caps as a symbol of loyalty to the dominant political tendency. They want us to accept six more years of this, after which power may be conceded to us as "good boys" of the status quo. They think that therein lies the North's political salvation. I do not agree with them on this. And I am entitled to my opinion. Time would tell who is right.

Jika is of the Department of Mass Communications, Bayero University, Kano.



NIGERIA CUSTOMS SERVICE

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- Customs Officials are paid by the government for the services they render.
- When dealing with Customs Officials at the Sea-ports, Airports, Boarder Stations or any other Customs formation nationwide, **DO NOT** give any un-receipted money in any form to officials in the discharge of their duties.
- All cases of demand for gratification or extortion should be reported promptly to the Customs Area Controller **OR** directly to the Office of the Comptroller-General of Customs on Phone No. 09-5234680.
- **REMEMBER!**
Both the **GIVER** and the **TAKER** are equally liable to prosecution under sections 17 and 18 of the Anti-Corruption Act 2000!

MANAGEMENT

Opinion

Jerry Gana's guided tour

By Abdulazeez Abdullahi

Sometime during the oil boom era in the country, the then head of state was reported to have publicly declared that Nigeria's problem was not that of money but how to spend it. That statement, like a bad affliction or a curse, seems to be trailing us over the years and is manifest in the actions of our leaders.

That successive governments in the country from the 70s to date have all indulged in some form of profligacy is not open to debate. The countless number of white elephant projects that have either been abandoned halfway or even at inception speaks volumes of the attitude of our leaders to fiscal matters.

Many a Nigerian has fervently prayed and hoped that with the advent of democratic governance, things may change for the better owing to Mr. President's promises during electioneering campaigns that with his administration, it will no longer be business as usual. If only Nigerians have heeded the age-old saying that politicians are never to be trusted, maybe we would have spared ourselves the agony of the disappointment we have been going through since May 29, 1999.

At every step of the way we keep coming to terms with the harsh reality that our trust was after all misplaced and as a result, we must endure the pain for two more years to come before we are again presented the opportunity to choose new leaders whose rulership will positively impact on our lives.

The Minister of Information and National Orientation is presently on a six-month media tour of 36 states of the federation with about 60 journalists drawn from different media organisations in the country. The aim is to show to the media men the so-called dividends of democracy who, in turn, are expected to use their media to tell Nigerians that the government has actually delivered its pre-election promises to the electorate. For this 'picnic' of a sort, the sum of 300 million naira of taxpayers' money is to be spent. So far, the minister and his entourage have gone round the eastern states pencilled down to be toured and are now in the northern region. As expected and annoyingly too, the journalists on the tour feed us with trash on the pages of newspapers about how one or two projects have been commissioned here and there and give pass mark by way of commendation to governors concerned for delivering democracy dividends. Hence, throwing aside the principal ethic of journalism which demands they be objective in their reportage.

One expected that the journalists would have seized the opportunity of the free trip to take a closer look at how the government has, through its policies and programmes, improved the lives of ordinary Nigerians especially the rural dwellers.

What democracy dividend can the government boast of having delivered to them when pipe-borne water is still to reach all areas where it is needed? When electricity supply has not significantly improved or indeed the quality of rural roads. Remote areas are continuously cut off from their states due to the very condition of the roads, the situation is made much worse in the rainy season. What dividends has the government got to show to the teeming number of unemployed youths in the society? When one enjoys all the privileges of being in government especially in Nigeria as the minister and his hangers-on journalists are doing, I guess it's quite easy to forget that there are many for whom feeding even once a day is in fact a big deal.

The media tour to me smirks of sycophancy on the part of the journalists and reflects the psychology of our leaders who would rather have their ego constantly massaged with half-truths by those they've chosen to tell them only what they want to hear.

Abdulazeez is a staff of Daily Trust

Open letter to President Olusegun Obasanjo

By Emmanuel Jiya

In view of the complex protocol that is most likely to delay the under-listed pieces of advice (and commendation where necessary), it has been considered needful to submit this write-up as an open letter for your perusal. I believe that it would be a grievous sin if those of us who are members of the holy order fail to offer you advice or keep mute when we observe that you are being influenced to implement certain state programmes which appear laudable on the surface but are actually aimed at your ultimate downfall. (Ezekiel 33:2-6). Deep scrutiny of such programmes would surely reveal sinister motives. The following are recommendations for consideration by Your Excellency.

It is premature for the federal government to allow the Nigerian Television Authorities (NTA) to embark on 24-hour entertainment now because we have many other private television stations which are already doing so. Bringing NTA to join the fleet will encourage idleness in many homes and will constitute health hazard for most Nigerians. It is not a priority.

What Nigerians need now is for the citizens to be encouraged to be hardworking and to develop their hidden potentials to enable Nigeria emerge an industrial giant like Japan and Malaysia.

The President should ensure that all law enforcement agencies are thoroughly mobilised to constantly carry out effective surveillance on all NEPA installations in the country especially from October 2001. These agencies should also not relent in detecting the criminal activities of disguised enemies of the nation who, for selfish political reasons, are ready to jeopardise any move to adequately fund NEPA over the December 2001 target for uninterrupted electricity supply.

Let it be clearly understood that there are many mischievous people who strive and profit from strife in the country as we

experienced in the last carnage in Kaduna. These people are not sleeping. Their ultimate objective is to destabilise the present democratic government of Nigeria. The president and all his aides should therefore constantly beef up security throughout the federation.

It is absolutely necessary to set up an independent security body consisting of men and women of proven integrity to monitor the activities of all security and law enforcement agencies from the top echelon to the grassroots level since corruption has already eaten deep into the social fabric of the Nigerian society. Any amount of money spent on this monitoring project is not a waste at all.

Only a government that has nothing to hide could have the courage to set up a panel of the calibre of the present Human Rights Violations Investigation Commission which has vividly exposed the tyranny of its predecessors. The president should seize the opportunity to correct past injustice where feasible and ensure that those adversely affected and even ruined are reasonably compensated. He should grant general amnesty to some of the culprits whose guilt is not so serious as to endanger national reconciliation. Nevertheless, cases where there is overwhelming evidence of gratuitous wrongdoings should be referred to the courts for appropriate adjudication.

As a mass-oriented president, you are duty bound to do the bidding of the majority of sports loving people of this country who strongly believe that presidential handshake is not enough to compensate the "do or die" sacrifice of our sports competitors. They have brought international laurels to Nigeria. They have spent a lot of time, money and energy to attain international standards and that is not an easy task. They should be reasonably rewarded. There is therefore nothing wrong

or unusual for the president to reverse the ill-advised handshake policy.

All unemployed, educated and skilful Nigerians should be encouraged to massively go into farming for consumption and exportation. This should be a federal project for the alleviation of poverty. State and local governments all over Nigeria should jointly supervise it. The project could be tagged Operation Farm, Feed and Export (OFFE). Those recruited could be attracted with monthly salary of N10,000, N15,000 or N20,000 per month, depending on their level of skill, experience and relevant qualifications. The above project is bound to eventually reduce inflation in the prices of foodstuff and also boost national economy if faithfully implemented, void of selfish political antagonism.

Economic development of this country can hardly be achieved in the present atmosphere of indiscriminate labour crises. No sooner is a labour dispute resolved than another union agitates for higher wages. We have been going in a vicious circle to the detriment of the national economy. It is recommended that the president should forward a special bill to the National Assembly tagged "National Economic Emergency", enacting a law suspending all strike actions in the country for one calendar year to enable this nascent democracy stabilise and grow.

Since the president has encouraged dialogue between the ruled and the rulers by telephone and through his quarterly and weekly programmes on radio, television and press interview, state governors and local government chairmen are advised to do the same if they want the Nigerian masses to take them seriously. Only a very few of them are doing so now.

Your Excellency, thanks for sparing your time to study the above contributions.

Reverend Jiya is of 401, New Layout, Lokoja, Kogi State.



YOUR LETTERS

Re: situation vacant: Man wanted urgently for marriage

I read your advert with the above caption in *Daily Trust* of Wednesday, August 1st, 2001 with keen interest.

I thank Almighty Allah, for giving me the opportunity to hear from the type of lady that I have been hoping to settle down with for the past three years. I would like to have such a strikingly beautiful, adorable and intelligent lady of ages between 25 to 30 years and who is anxious for marriage. It is a blessing for one to have such a partner in life.

I am the kind of man that you

are looking for. I am 35 years of age with facial appearance of your description, light in complexion and height of your mention. In terms of love status, I am new brand type of bachelor that has never had any business with any lady before.

I am smart African ardent, romantic and generous and ready to treat a woman in the best possible.

As of my socio-economic status, I am a senior officer in a fast growing company at Abuja with political ambition and a lot of

business connection in the USA, England, Paris and some Arab countries. I reside in Abuja as well as Lagos whichever one will be of interest to you, is not a problem to me, association with Aso Rock is my daily routine.

Confident lady, you will be lucky to win a heart of such a person like me who is having several bank accounts in different banks around the world, product of good home, because I came from a royal family in Katsina. And also a product of University of Toronto, hold B.Sc. in Inter-

national Relation, Hausa by tribe, and a very devoted Muslim.

But unfortunately Madam confident lady even though you possess some of the qualities I want in a lady, you are lacking in one which I consider very necessary (i.e. believing in destiny). Because you choose the type of husband you want rather than allowing God almighty to choose a person who has better qualities than those you desired.

U. M. Jari,
P. O. Box 4223, Kano.
jari@yahooar.but.uk

Funtua needs roads, schools

Funtua town is the second largest town and the commercial nerve centre of Katsina State. The town is however another victim of the scrapping of the Petroleum Trust Fund (PTF). Ours is a sad story.

The reconstruction work of the two main roads had just started on the Hassan Katsina Road and the Wada Nas/Samaila Isa Roads when the federal government scrapped PTF. The work obtrusively stopped, thus for the past two years these important roads have been left dilapidated and their conditions deteriorating.

I therefore wish to call on Governor Umar Musa Yar'Adua to kindly appease the people of Funtua by constructing a dual carriageway on these roads. Sir, this and other projects, such as upgrading the Funtua College of Administration to a higher institution, if executed, would leave your name forever indelible in the hearts of all Funtuaites.

Engr. Tukur M. Lawal,
P. O. Box 156,
Bisije, Funtua,
Katsina State.

Re: Expand, not reduce Badarawa clinic

I refer to the letter by one Musa A Jibrin of Badarawa quarters, Kaduna, which appeared in the *Daily Trust* of 28th June, 2001 under the above caption.

The said writer of the letter attempted to draw the attention of the chairman of Kaduna North local government to the demolition of the fence round the Badarawa clinic which according to him, reduced the size of the clinic.

My aim of writing this rejoinder is to offer some words of advice or guide to Malam Musa Jibrin not to insinuate or use derogatory words as he did. It is very important to ascertain the fact before going to the press.

I tended to believe that the writer is either ignorant of what he was speaking on

or he intended to be mischievous. If he has any scores to settle with the chairman of Kaduna North local government, or the councillor for his ward or the ward head, let him deal with them alone.

Under democracy, the writer is free to express his views on any issue or call the attention of his chairman to honour a pledge he made of upgrading the Badarawa clinic. But to exploit the avenue to insult others by using derogatory words like "the so-called car dealer", is what I feel was ill-advised and ungentlemanly.

If Malam Musa Jibrin is a bona fide resident of Badarawa, he should have appreciated the job done by the man he referred to as "the so-called car dealer" instead of condemning him because

he had done what most wealthy men in our midst would not do. By using his own resources, earned through hard work, to reconstruct the wall/fence referred to and creating an access road for motorists, where none existed before even though going by the town plan, the road ought not be there, I think the car dealer deserves some accolade.

He has only done that to ease the life of many people by making the area accessible to motor vehicles. What nobler thing can a good citizen do with his personal resources?

Malam Musa Jibrin should give credit to who credit is due. We should learn to commend selfless service.
Hamisu Abubakar,
Badarawa Quarters,
Kaduna.

TRUST INTERNATIONAL

AFRICA & THE MIDDLE EAST

Clash claims three in Gaza

A Palestinian activist and his two young children have been killed in fighting near their home in the southern Gaza strip.

There are conflicting reports about the circumstances of the attack in Rafah, in which at least another nine people were wounded.

Local Palestinians blame Israeli helicopters, which were active in the area shortly before the house was hit.

Israel denied any deliberate attack on the house.

An army spokeswoman told the BBC that a mortar - aimed by Palestinian militants at an Israeli army post during an exchange of fire - missed its target and hit the activist's house to east of the town of Rafah.

The dead man was named

by Palestinian sources as Samir Abu Zayd, believed to be in his mid 30s. He was an official from the Palestinian Popular Resistance Movement.

His 5-year-old daughter and 7-year-old son were also reported killed.

In Nablus in the West Bank, a Palestinian man was shot dead late on Sunday during an exchange of gunfire with Israeli troops.

Earlier on Sunday, Israeli helicopters fired at a position of Force 17, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's elite force, near the town of Khan Younis in the Gaza Strip, Palestinian officials said.

Israel said the attack came in retaliation for Palestinian mortar fire on a settlement in the Gaza Strip, which wounded one Israeli.

Earlier on Sunday, Israeli troops killed two Palestinians in separate attacks in Gaza and the West Bank.

The bloodshed comes as Palestinian officials dismissed as a "just a trick", signals from Foreign Minister Shimon Peres of new Israeli effort to secure a ceasefire to end 10 months of violence in the region.

Speaking on Israeli television, Mr Peres said he soon hoped to meet Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and that the two sides were already engaged in contacts on "different levels".

But senior Palestinian officials insist nothing can be agreed until Israel ends its occupation of the unofficial PLO headquarters in Jerusalem, Orient House.

In the latest violence, a building used by Yasser Arafat's Force 17 was destroyed by two Israeli Apache helicopter gunships, which fired two missiles according to Palestinian security officials.

Israel Radio said it was in response to firing on a nearby Jewish settlement, and that the local headquarters of Palestinian military intelligence had been hit.

The Israeli army also fired two tank shells earlier in the day at a Palestinian police post near the source of the Gaza mortar attack, Israeli sources said.

Palestinian officials said three policemen were wounded in the attack.

Israeli prime minister Ariel

Sharon, speaking in the northern town of Tirat Carmel, said the country was engaged in an undercover war against Palestinian gunmen and bombers.

"We are carrying out special activity, I would describe it as commando actions against terror. These are the types of operation that are being carried out, many of them are not known about," he said.

Earlier Sunday, Israeli troops killed two Palestinians in separate attacks in Gaza and the West Bank.

The casualty in Gaza was a 13-year-old boy shot in the chest by live fire.

The other death came close to Nablus in the West Bank, when a 38-year-old Palestinian was shot dead trying to avoid a checkpoint in Israeli-occupied territory.

Our correspondent in Gaza says that there are conflicting stories as to what the boy, Mohammed Abu Arrar, was doing when he was shot.

The boy's family says he was on the way to the mosque with some friends when he came under fire.

Other locals said the boys saw a tank on patrol in the border zone and started to throw stones.

But Israeli army says that its patrol was the target of Palestinian fire and six grenades.

An official statement declared regret that Palestinians send youths to throw grenades and fire at the army from populated civilian areas.



A Palestinian relative of 14-year-old Mohammed Abu Arrar kisses his cheek after the boy was killed by Israeli soldiers at the Rafah border crossing, southern Gaza Strip, August 19, 2001.

Donald Woods, anti-apartheid activist dies

The South African newspaper editor and anti-apartheid activist, Donald Woods, has died of cancer at the age of 67.

Mr Woods had drawn world attention to the case of Steve Biko, the black consciousness leader who was killed by South African security forces while in detention.

Mr Woods died in hospital near London surrounded by his wife Wendy and five children, his daughter Jane said.

She said the former South African President, Nelson Mandela, had telephoned his good wishes several days ago.

The South African High Commissioner in London, Cheryl Carolus, described Mr Woods as a "truly great son of South Africa".

She said that, though his great life of courage had ended, his spirit lived on with his people.

As editor of the *Daily Dispatch* from 1965 he forcefully condemned the apartheid government's policy of racial discrimination.

Mr Woods was forced to flee South Africa in 1977 after he was arrested and banned because of his friendship with Mr Biko.

Under a five-year banning order, he was barred from his office and forbidden to travel, write or speak publicly.

He fled South Africa disguised as a priest, and settled in London with his family.

In exile he wrote several books and continued to campaign against apartheid.

He and Mr Biko were made famous by the film *Cry Freedom*, which was based on his autobiography.

Last year, Queen Elizabeth II made Mr Woods a Commander of the British Empire, for his human rights activities.

He first returned to South Africa after 13 years in exile in August 1990.

His last visit was in May, where he attended the wedding of Mr Biko's son, Nkosingathi Biko.



Ugandan dancers greet Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad on his arrival at Entebbe airport, Uganda, Saturday, August 18, 2001, for a gathering of officials from nine African nations to discuss ways to attract foreign investment. Mahathir first proposed the idea of "smart partnerships" to encourage foreign investment in 1995 and then hosted a meeting himself in Malaysia four years later.

Angola bars journalist from travelling

A journalist from an independent newspaper in Angola has been barred from leaving the country while on his way to attend a training course in London.

The journalist, Gilberto Neto, was told there was a criminal charge standing against him.

This is the latest of several recent incidents involving the harassment of journalists in Angola.

Journalist Gilberto Neto was on his way to a training course with the Reuters Institute in London when he was stopped at Luanda airport about midday on Saturday.

Mr Neto said he had already checked in his luggage, but when he went through passport control an official told him he was not allowed to leave Angola because of the criminal charge outstanding against him.

Mr Neto's passport is kept with the official.

The charge mentioned by the official relates to an incident in 1999 when the Angolan Catholic radio station, *Radio Ecclesia*, rebroadcast a BBC interview with Jonas Savimbi, leader of the UNITA rebels.

Police then raided the *Radio Ecclesia* studios and arrested journalists.

When Mr Neto reported on this incident for the newspaper

for which he works, *Folha Oito*, he and his editor were also arrested and charged with endangering state security and defaming the police.

Mr Neto said he was really surprised that the emigration official had raised the matter of those charges, since he thought they had been annulled last year.

Last September he was able to leave Angola to attend a conference in Swaziland.

Mr Neto said he is consulting his lawyer on what action to take now, but he cannot reach London in time for the start of his training course.

This is the latest in a series of actions taken against journalists by the Angolan authorities recently.

Khatami begs for MPs' support

President Mohammad Khatami has urged the Iranian parliament to move quickly to back his proposed cabinet list.

Mr Khatami said time was limited for the new cabinet to pick up the work of continuing to develop the country.

The president contended with a possible rejection of his new line-up on Sunday by reformist MPs who feel his choices concede too much to conservatives.

Critics say the list features only five new faces and not a single woman. They say they expected more ambitious choices after the president's landslide victory with a reformist agenda in June elections.

Mr Khatami has not sought to interfere in key ministries like defence, intelligence and foreign affairs, which are traditionally under the control of Iran's supreme religious leader, Ayatollah Khamenei.

Parliament, which is dominated by reformists, voted later on Sunday on each minister in the 20-member cabinet. If any is rejected, Mr Khatami will have three months to suggest an alternative.

Mr Khatami defended his choices in front of parliament, arguing that his recent victory had shown the public was content with his former cabinet and that little change was called for.

He added that political diversity was an advantage.

"We should not manage the country with just one group, a single gang," he said.

But many of the 190 reformist MPs in the 290-seat house have indicated they will not accept several of Mr Khatami's nominations, including those put forward for the economy, oil and foreign ministries.

"There is no harmony

between the cabinet and the slogans of the reform movement," said MP Akbar Alami during a parliamentary debate.

"We shouldn't let even one weak minister into the cabinet."

BBC Middle East analyst said that Mr Khatami's new cabinet is designed to show that he wants to work with the conservatives, rather than against them.

But his attempts to strengthen the middle ground in Islamic politics in Iran are likely to be fraught with difficulty.

There have been increasing signs of a hard-line backlash against Mr Khatami's liberalisation of Iranian society by the judiciary, which is in the hands of the conservatives.

In his speech to parliament, Mr Khatami urged conservatives to adopt a softer touch.

DR Congo talks begin

Talks aimed at bringing peace to Democratic Republic of Congo have begun in the Botswana capital, Gaborone, yesterday.

For the first time since the war in Congo broke out three years ago, representatives of the government, the three rebel movements backed by either Rwanda or Uganda, opposition parties and civil society groups will be meeting to find a lasting solution to the conflict.

The talks - chaired by former Botswana premier, Sir Ketumile Masire - will attempt to establish a new political order.

Proposals include setting up a national unity government, followed by democratic elections are on the agenda.

The dialogue follows the deployment in recent months of United Nations peacekeepers that are helping to monitor the ceasefire between the warring parties in Congo.

TRUST INTERNATIONAL

World Report

Fighting breaks out in Macedonia

Heavy fighting has been taking place between Macedonian government forces and ethnic Albanian rebels in three villages near the town of Tattoo.

The fighting comes just hours before the arrival of Nato's supreme allied commander in Europe, General Joseph Ralston, to assess the security situation in the country.

Reports say small arms and mortar fire were exchanged on Sunday evening in the villages of Neprosteno, Ratae and Slatino.

BBC Jacky Rowland says this is potentially the most serious outbreak of fighting in Macedonia since the government and representatives of the armed Albanian groups signed a peace agreement last Monday.

She says there is no indication yet as to what provoked this renewed fighting and which side fired first.

Earlier, Ali Ahmeti, the leader of the ethnic-Albanian National Liberation Army (NLA) said all of the NLA's combatants would hand over their arms to NATO.

"As far as the NLA is concerned, there will be no problem," Mr Ahmeti said.

The move is one of the key elements in a peace deal with the Macedonian Government.

Troops of the British-led NATO advance party in Macedonia are currently assessing conditions on the ground, deciding whether to go ahead with a bigger NATO deployment and the weapons collection.

NATO said there has to be a genuine ceasefire with full co-operation from both sides in Macedonia before the troops begin their mission of collecting weapons from the rebels.

"What we have to convince ourselves of is that people are committed to the ceasefire," Brigadier Barney White-Spunner, the British head of the NATO force, said.

NATO is due to deploy its main contingent of 3,500 soldiers to collect the arms within a 30-day timeframe.

The advance party is expected to number about 400 troops by the end of the weekend.

The Macedonian Government welcomed the arrival of NATO troops, saying the alliance should use the opportunity to prove to the world that it was acting in the interests of peace and stability.

NATO ambassadors in Brussels have been weighing up the risks of moving quickly into an unstable country against the dangers of a further deterioration in the situation while they wait.



The reclusive leader of ethnic Albanian guerrillas in Macedonia, Ali Ahmeti, waits for journalists' questions at his first ever news conference on Macedonian soil, in the mountain village of Sipkovic, August 19, 2001.

Philippines fire: Hotel owner for prosecution

Officials investigating the hotel fire in the Philippines, which killed 75 people, say they intend to prosecute the owner of the hotel.

They say a criminal case against the owner of the Manor Hotel in the Luzon City suburb of Manila could be ready yesterday.

The hotel owner, who has yet to meet with the authorities, could be charged with multiple homicides according to the head of the investigating team, Romeo Villafuerte.

The suburb's fire marshal has already been temporarily suspended from his post, and other officials may follow if it is discovered that they allowed the hotel to operate with sub-standard safety measures.

Survivors of the blaze said that there was no emergency lighting to guide the way to escape routes and that some of the hotel's fire escapes were either locked or obstructed.

The hotel had been told to rectify its lack of fire alarms, proper fire fighting equipment, adequate escape routes and sprinklers following an inspection last year, according to Mr Villafuerte, who said that the instructions appeared to have been ignored.

Those who issued license documents to the hotel may be interviewed and police have sealed off the city engineer's office to ensure that no one tampers with papers kept inside, according to city mayor Feliciano Belmonte.

Mine blast kills 36 in Ukraine

At least 36 people have been killed and dozens injured after an explosion in Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region.

Ukrainian officials said at least 14 miners were missing and they feared the death toll could rise.

About 250 people were working underground at the Zasyadko mine when the blast occurred. Most of them were brought safely to the surface but 22 needed hospital treatment.

A mix of coal and methane is thought to have triggered the explosion.

A spokesman for the Ukrainian Emergency Ministry said a fire in the mine was hampering rescue workers.

The Zasyadko mine was the scene of a methane gas explosion in May 1999 in which 50 miners died.

A miner who escaped the accident uninjured was quoted by the Associated Press news agency as saying he saw "piles of bodies" on his way to the surface.

Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma ordered an investigation into the accident

and expressed hope that the missing miners would be rescued, a spokesman said.

"This is a tragedy," Deputy Prime Minister Volodymyr Semynozhenko was quoted by the Interfax news agency as saying.

"We understand once again that that we must re-equip our coal industry both technically and technologically to bring it to a proper level. It is one of the state's priorities."

He pledged to help the families of the dead and wounded.

The head of the independent miners' union, Mikhailo Volynets, blamed the owners of the mines for the disaster.

"The safety regulations are permanently being undermined because the pit owners only think about maintaining production levels at the cost of miners' lives," he said.

The death rate in Ukraine's mines started rising sharply when the government, after gaining independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, slashed subsidies to the industry.

Odd World Woman fights for right to die

A terminally ill woman is beginning a legal battle to be allowed to end her own life.

47-year-old Dianne Pretty is bringing the landmark case, from Luton, who suffers from the incurable degenerative disorder motor neurone disease.

Ms Pretty will argue that her quality of life is so low that she has the right under human rights legislation to choose to die.

She will lodge papers at the High Court challenging the Director of Public Prosecutions' (DPP) refusal to rule out prosecuting her husband Brian if he helps her commit suicide.

The Voluntary Euthanasia Society and civil rights group Liberty back her case.

Ms Pretty says that the DPP's decision last week will subject her to inhuman and degrading treatment, in contravention of the Human Rights Act.

DIPLOMATIC Suite

Sudan: Before another sandstorm

By Muhammad Jameel Dahiru

Sudan may be on the verge of clinching a deal that may come to end its myriad of crisis and the imperialists created and prolonged war, if mediators accept and agree. Or so Sadiq El-Mahdi believes. And optimist he may be, the hopes is that El-Mahdi is, in addition to his two eyes, using a third eye to look at the situation critically, bearing in mind its historical background and antecedents, the present situation and all other possibilities of the situation in future.

As far as the conflict in Sudan is concerned, and unless it is decisively dealt with, there are still long hurdles and, at some points, barricades to cross. First, why are the Garang boys labelled rebels by the Sudanese government and all that are sympathetic to it? Isn't it because they charged themselves to violence after accepting to live in and with the larger Sudan? The Sudanese government believes that the southerners reneged on that agreement or understanding. Many things can be attributed to this breach of understanding, amongst which is, fundamentally, the evil machination against the culture, tradition and, in fact, the entirety of the Islamic religion. This is never unexpected at any point in time in history, including now. In fact, more than possibility, it remains a dense, stormy cloud hanging over the conflict in Sudan.

At some point in time, Khartoum might have derailed, dealing unwholesome blows on the society by introducing corruption and injustice, which kindled the fire of dissatisfaction among groups such as the rebels. For instance, although later, Nimeiri's "Islamisation" was deceitfully used, not only to gain legitimately, but also to suppress dissenting voices. There were many injustices inherent in the system.

External influences to the crisis can be traced through its historical developments. Evidences of poisonous and murderous seeds planted by the imperialists abound. Ibrahim Suleiman, in his *Westernisation And Sharia* series, captured it vividly when he gave a historical analysis of how the imperialists created, nurtured and sustained southern Sudan as a buffer zone against expansion of the Islamic religion. Firstly, southern Sudan is to prevent the expansion of Islam southwards. Secondly, and more fundamentally, is for the Garang boys to keep Khartoum on its toes, making troubles, internal strife and a dirty civil war so that the necessary peace that would allow for development and friendship is eluded. Thirdly, is to keep Africa away from blocking up and soaring up to positive developments such as is found elsewhere in the world. For this third reason they created trouble spots and flash points all across the shield of Africa. In North Africa, or the Maghreb, they disunited the Arabs, keeping Egypt in constant blackmail and check with the Arab - Israel conflict. On Libya they constantly showered murderous and terrorist rains of bombs and dirty propaganda. Algeria's case is a bit similar to that of the Sudanese, except that Algeria has to be fighting its own very blood and culture that is being deliberately poisoned and contaminated.

In eastern Africa, it has been imperialists imposed wars all through. Same applies to Central Africa, and Southern Africa.

There has never been such a myriad of crisis and problems in either Europe or America except with the Blacks and other so called minorities. Sudan happens to be just a case in this grand, unholy design. And, true to a bumper harvest for the imperialists, the SPLA has been making good its own part of the bargain. However, what the other side of the bargain gives to the SPLA remains to be seen, except the grand design to dehumanise Africa.

The government in Sudan must understand that war is a dirty game, a measure against development, and a merciless and wicked weapon against the human soul and culture. Yet, war is a means to be guided where and when necessary, and a value against the erring that is arrogant, puffy and unmindful. Khartoum has been fighting the SPLA with kid gloves, perhaps bearing in mind other socio-political and economic considerations. Or other diplomatic considerations and propaganda of the godfathers of the war - the imperialists. However, the longer the war, the more is its social, political and economic toll on Sudan.



A nurse helps an injured miner out of an ambulance at a Ukrainian hospital yard in Donetsk, August 19, 2001.

BUSINESS DAY

Nigeria's external reserve now \$10.3b

—As CBN pegs inflation at 15.7%

From Bright Ewulu, in Lagos

Nigeria's economic fortunes may not be turning for the worse after all as the May 2001 report of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) says the nation's foreign reserve now stands at US \$10.3 billion.

This record, which is a 1.7 percent increase over the US \$10.1 billion external reserve posted in April is apparently positive even though the CBN also put inflation rate at 15.7 percent.

This is an indication that the economy is yet to achieve the envisaged stability when it is considered that inflation rate in the same period last year was 1.1 percent, experts observed. And it stood at 13.9 percent in April 2001.

According to the report, "the upward trend in inflationary pressure was attributed to liquidity surfeit in the banking industry."

"Other factors included supply bottlenecks associated with petroleum products shortages and erratic power supply, which constrained production and the resultant rise in cost of domestic production, exacerbated further by depreciation in the exchange and rising interest rates, the report disclosed further."

Experts believe that with the improvement in power supply and supply of petroleum products as well as improvement in the stability of naira's exchange rate in the last few months, the economic performance

of the nation is bound to improve.

Meanwhile, the report indicated that, the foreign exchange receipts through the economy in May totalled US \$1.4 billion, up by about 5.4 percent from the sum of US \$1.3 billion recorded in April.

Of this amount, receipts from oil sector amounted to about US 1.1 billion (78.5 percent of total inflow) whereas non-oil public sector receipts stood at US 321.1 million (21.5 percent).

However, foreign exchange outflow through the CBN in the month under review was US \$1.1 billion and inflow amounted to US \$1.2 billion. This shows that inflow rose by 2.8 percent while outflow fell by 39.5

percent.

The general performance, in this regard, since January depicts that the nation has been enjoying more in flows than outflows except for the month of April when inflows total led US \$1.2 billion while outflow amounted to US 1.8 billion. CBN believes, according to the report, that the positive record it achieved in Inter Bank Foreign Exchange Market (IFEM) and the ebbing pressure in that market was due to its new policies introduced last May.

According to it: "The drop observed in the demand for foreign exchange was attributed to the tough stance of the CBN in applying sanctions, including the determination to withdraw operating license of any bank

found to be involved in foreign exchange malpractices.

"The directive that the federal ministries and parastatals should channel their demands for foreign exchange to CBN rather than deposit money banks had a positive impact," it argued.

All these, it stated, straightened the value of the naira to N113.07 per dollar from N113.70 per dollar in April 2001.



Joseph Sanusi, CBN Governor

NUBIFIE charges CBN, NDIC on finances

The President of the National Union of Banks, Insurance and Financial Institutions Employees (NUBIFIE), has urged regulatory financial bodies such as the CBN and NDIC to guide the federal government properly in

monitoring the country's finances.

"Let anybody not think all is jolly well with our financial sector. The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and the Nigerian Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC) allow a laissez-faire attitude in their monitoring and regulatory roles within our financial sector. Bolarinwa said at a news briefing on the prospects and challenges of NUBIFIE in the 21st century.

NUBIFIE, he said, was concerned about the welfare of its being taken to help them break "the yoke of servitude" to ensure they were free to express their opinions on issues affecting them in their work place.

He disclosed that "steps are on the way to unionise CBN workers," adding: "ILO said that CBN workers are allowed to belong to a union."

Bolarinwa also said that NUBIFIE was equally worried by the casualisation of workers, redundancies and retrenchment in the industry, and pledged that it would do everything possible to tackle them.

"We know these are very difficult matters to handle as they are causative effects of government policies on privatisation and liberalisation in a weak mono-economy like ours but there can never be any problem without a solution," he said.

The NUBIFIE boss urged caution among the new generation banks, insurance and finance companies which, in spite of their recent emergence, are "declaring mega-profits and have little to show for it in terms of generating or stimulating the growth of the productive sector of the nation's economy."

He warned them against setting unrealistic targets for their workers, adding that although directed at bringing out the best in them. "It becomes exploitative and unacceptable when stretched to ridiculous limits of subverting ethics, norms, or morality such that acknowledged good virtues of African womanhood is abused and threatened."

Union Bank donates N35m to Business School

In its continued efforts to boost the country's education sector, Union Bank of Nigeria Plc has donated N10 million to the Lagos Business School to aid the development of its proposed Centre for Entrepreneurship Studies in Lagos. The bank has also approved a donation of N25 million worth of educational infrastructure and working tools for two state universities and three polytechnics across the country.

A statement signed by Kabir Dangogo, Assistant General Manager Corporate Affairs of the bank said, the institutions include Abia State University, Uturu; Akwa Ibom State Polytechnic, Ikot Osurua; and Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma. Others are Kwara State Polytechnic, Ilorin and Yobe State Polytechnic, Gaidam. The amount donated would be used in procuring computer equipment for the institutions.

At the cheque presentation ceremony at the Lagos Business School, the Group Managing Director/Chief Executive, Mr. G.A.T. Oboh, stated that the donation as borne out of the school's contributions to the industrial sector of the economy to the tune of N33 million in the past year, adding that the proposed centre, when fully developed, would go a long way to assist companies in the training and re-training of their professionals, as well as enhance the image of the country.

Responding, the Director-General of Lagos Business School, Professor Albert Alos, thanked the bank for the kind gesture, saying that the school and Union Bank had been closely associated over the years.

Professor Alos noted that the school was established to imbue the society with values and prepare competent managers that would lead sustainable development in African Nigeria especially, adding that the proposed centre was being set up to promote entrepreneurial skills.

Mr. Oboh was accompanied at the brief presentation ceremony by Alhaji Garba Abdulkadir Yakasai and Mr. Mahmud Lai Alabi, both executive directors of the bank.



Adamu Ciroma, Finance Minister

... sales N14b treasury bills

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) treasury bills sales continued its fall last week as only a sum total of N14.4 billion worth of bills was sold.

This is about 50 percent drop from previous week's record of N31.4 billion, an indication that treasury bills are not very attractive to investors at the moment.

The reason for this could be, according to experts, the tight money situation that has been hitting the system for some time now.

Currently, the cost of money in the system rose during the week to 30 percent, which is quite high considering the situation in the bank-to-bank lending in recent times.

Of the N14.4 billion achieved last week, N1.8 billion was recorded in the secondary market while N12.6 million worth of bills was off-loaded in the primary market.

Nevertheless, the apex bank offered a N16 billion in the primary market as against the N31.8 billion offered in the preceding

week.

Also in the secondary market, only N1.8 billion bids was received while the same amount was attained in sales. This was different from the N122.3 billion bids received in the preceding week.

The bid rates for the secondary market are between 17.4 - 17.5 percent, while the primary market rates range from 17.7 - 18 percent.

According to the CBN release, the true yield of the two markets are 17.7 and 18.8 percents respectively.

Dunlop hits N3b turnover

From Bose Musari, in Lagos

The Chairman, Board of Directors, Dunlop Nigeria Plc, Mr. Gamaliel Onosode has announced a turnover of N3.5 billion for the year ended 2000.

According to the Dunlop chairman who spoke at the 39th Annual General Meeting of the company, the N3.5 billion turnover is a six percent increase over the previous year's performance. This also revealed that the company sold more tyres in unit terms at prices that did not return satisfactory margins because of unfair market competition.

He further stated that the profit before tax which stood at N339.3 million as 51 percent above the previous

year's record. While net financing charges stood at N178 million.

Profit after tax, he said amounted to N130 million compared to the N40 million recorded in 1999, while the dividend payment is 15 kobo on every 50 kobo ordinary share held.

Giving account of the year and its effect on the company's business, Mr. Onosode described the year

2000 as frustrating for the manufacturing industry.

Delving into the problems posed by the National Electric Power Authority (NAPA), Mr. Onosode bemoaned that the severely over-flogged generators could hardly deliver sufficient power to run operations at optimum level.

The Dunlop Chairman also stated that this problem had led to a marked squeeze in output and a steep increase

in shift to recover as much output as could be dawning back to meet the market demand. He also explained that the staff of the company had to sacrifice many weekends to recoup lost time due to power outages.

"An additional N54 million which would have gone straightly to profit had power supply been reliable was expended on diesel purchase alone," he said.

...As DN Meyer targets West African markets

DN Meyer Plc, a subsidiary of Dunlop Nigeria Plc has its eye set on the West African Paint Market, its Managing Director, Mohammed Jimoh Yinusa has said.

The Managing Director who was speaking at the company's "facts-behind-the-figures" at the Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE) stated that "we (DN Meyer) have started introducing Meyer Paints into this market, with the wars in Liberia and Sierra Leone just coming to an end, the opportunities are endless." He maintained that his company stands a good chance of success in the West African sub-region given the fact that Dunlop already has a well-developed export

market for its flooring brands in the sub region.

Yinusa stressed that it was the synergy between DN Meyer and Dunlop that catapulted her from the seventh in the Nigerian paints industry in 1994 to the number two position in terms of market share.

He argued that the paint company is the number one in terms of quality in the market, saying that this could be supported by the various awards it has garnered over the last few years.

Said he: "DN Meyer has been adjudged the most environmentally friendly paint manufacturing company in Lagos State for two years consecutively and has won the Nigeria

Industrial Standards Award for our products and the 150 9002 Award for our company systems and procedures in 1998 and 1999."

The Director-General of the exchange, Mrs. Ndi Onyinke -Okereke in her remarks urged Nigerians to support the products of DN Meyer which she said, are known for their high quality instead of patronising low quality paints.

She praised the management for its ebullient attainments, saying that its achievement is worthy of commendation. The Doyen of Stockbrokers, Mr. Olu Odejim, urged the management to continue its good work and that Nigerian investors are always ready to support viable investments.



Kola Jamodu, Industry Minister

BUSINESS DAY

2008 more realistic for gas flare-out—Ex-NNPC boss

Former Managing Director of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), Mr. Chamberlin Oyibo has observed that 2008 is a more realistic date to put out gas flares in the country.

For some time now there have been arguments over whether year 2004 should be the deadline or 2008.

Mr. Oyibo who was speaking with journalists in Lagos noted that putting out gas flaring takes a lot of investment while gas

From Rakiya A. Muhammad, in Lagos

projects take long time. He said year 2004 was not realistic because between now and that year the industry operators can compute on-going projects but they cannot start new gas projects and complete them.

Mr. Oyibo added that "they don't just turn off the gas, we are producing oil, we need oil so the gas too must be produced."

According to him, since the operators have pledged that by 2008 there will be no flares, "I think we should

give them up to 2008." On local content in the oil industry, the former NNPC boss said after almost

50 years of petroleum operations in the country, there was the need to improve the local capacity in

...As NNPC suffers another vandalism

The Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC's) efforts to stabilise the supply and distribution of petroleum products across the country suffered a setback last weekend with the vandalism of its multi-product pipeline at Ido village near Ekpoma in Edo State.

The NNPC Benin depot manager, Mr. James Sule Audu, told a team of journalists and NNPC officials who visited the site

of the vandalism that the pipeline was pumping petroleum from Warri Refinery and Petrochemical Company (WRPC) to the Kaduna Refinery and Petrochemical Company (KRPC) for distribution to marketers in the northern region.

He explained that a heavy object was technically used to destroy the pipeline which pushed it inward, resulting to diversion of petrol (pms) to deep pit dug underneath the pipeline.

the industry.

"This is the time for it, it is a bit late but it is better late than never," Mr. Oyibo stated.

Improving the local capacity, he said, should involve the employment of more Nigerians in the industry as well as ensuring a lot of local fabrications.

El-Rufa'i restates FG's commitment to privatisation

The Director-General of the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE), Malam Ahmed Nasir el-Rufa'i, has reiterated government's commitment to its divestiture programme and its determination to privatise its key enterprises, stressing that it is occasioned by the failure of those companies to deliver and meet the aspirations of the people in spite of the huge expenditure on them by the federal government.

Speaking in Gusau at the two-day public enlightenment seminar on privatisation for states in the North-West geo-political zone, el-Rufa'i said that it was particularly painful to recall government's expenditure of over 51 billion dollars in three sectors of the economy alone over the years, without corresponding results.

He said the federal government had injected over 23 billion dollars in the Ajaokuta steel complex, Delta steel company and the three rolling mills at Osogbo, Jos and Katsina.

He added that NITEL had received more than eight billion dollars from government and the NNPC.

He also said that despite the injection of funds into those parastatals and others slated for privatisation as well as changes in their managements and restructuring, "they have failed to respond positively," adding that government could not continue to put its scarce resources in the drain pipes.

El-Rufa'i said it was also necessary to inject fresh funds, revolutionise the managements and introduce prudence and greater accountability into those companies being sold out so that they could begin to produce the deserved results and free the government from direct involvement in their operations.

He said that contrary to the common belief in the northern part of the country that the privatisation exercise would further marginalise its population, available statistics indicated that out of the 12 companies successfully sold so far, the northern states gathered to their credit over 50 percent of the shares offered.

"Our fears have been allayed by the fact and reality," he said.



El-Rufa'i, BPE D-G

The People benefit...

- Constant power supply
- Available and affordable fuel supply
- Reliable Air travel
- Efficient telephone services
- and many more benefits.

as the Nation Privatises...

NEPA:
by breaking the monopoly and introducing competition.

NITEL:
more private telephone operators resulting in cost effective telephone services.

AIRWAYS:
a new vibrant airline run by private concerns.

PETRO-CHEMICALS:
reap the full benefits of our natural resources.



THE PRESIDENCY

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... dedicated to making our economy work better



Star

Historical background

Oral account holds that Karmo one of the satellite towns in Abuja, was founded by a tribe known as "Gede" who are descendants of the Bapie-speaking people. It is believed that as a result of the growing population of the Bapie towards the end of the

Adakpo: The wonder-working Masquerade

A tradition of masquerades predominates all over the African continent. In Karmo, a satellite town in the federal capital territory, there is one such masquerade which is called Adakpo, and it has wonder-working capacities. Every December, Adakpo emerges and its splendid manifestation has become a major cultural event among the Gede-Karmo. Yakubu Ozohu-Suleiman of the Features Desk visited Karmo and wrote this rather festal account.

tures the Gede people no doubt needed some spiritual protection. Moreover, as a people who had not encountered the religions of Islam and Christianity, the deity before whom they could present their problems and who could swiftly resolve them



Alhaji Suleiman Adoga, the Chief of Karmo

19th century, some of them decided to leave and find a new place to settle. The group headed into the thick forest, and when they got to a place, the leader of the group whose target was to secure an environment that would be conducive for farming, uttered the following words: "Ngaror-mo," which are words interpreted as meaning "Let us try here."

"Ngaror" means "try here," "mo" means "let us." This indeed is the original name which was premised on the search for a conducive place for farming.

As a matter of fact, the Gede did not migrate to Karmo with the name "Gede." The name was a product of an historical event.

Alhaji Suleiman Adoga is of Gede origin and the Chief of Karmo (*Sarkin-*



The palace of the Chief of Karmo

karmo). In his words "A long time ago, shortly after the first generation of Gede settlers arrived here, some Europeans came and asked the chief, who was at court with some of his cabinet members "who are your people?"

Because of the strange appearance of the European, the Chief responded quickly "Gede!", which was an instruction to his cabinet

members meaning "don't talk!". The Europeans thought "Gede" was an answer to the question they had asked, so they wrote it down, and since then we were addressed as the "Gede" people. Since it was our language, we accepted the name over time but, our actual name is "Bapie".

Having settled in a thick forest inhabited by wild animals and other crea-

would become their god. Hence, the construction of a hut and an invocation of a protective deity to answer the spiritual needs of the people. The deity was later, transformed into a masquerade and named "Adakpo", a name, which suggests the enormous powers and qualities, the masquerade possesses.

Adakpo

Adakpo, the masquerade of Gede Karmo emerged out of the psychical and spiritual needs of the people. Indeed, Adakpo advanced beyond being just the mere name of a masquerade. It became the god of the Gede people before whom they present their spiritual problems with an elaborately celebrated annual thanksgiving, that has graduated into a major festival.

Adakpo is a wonder working masquerade which comes out once a year and this occurs every December. In fact, if the masquerade



The Wonder-Working Masquerade of



The hut from where the masquerade the masquerade



An overview of the major road leadin



L-R: Agabi, Dikko alias scatter

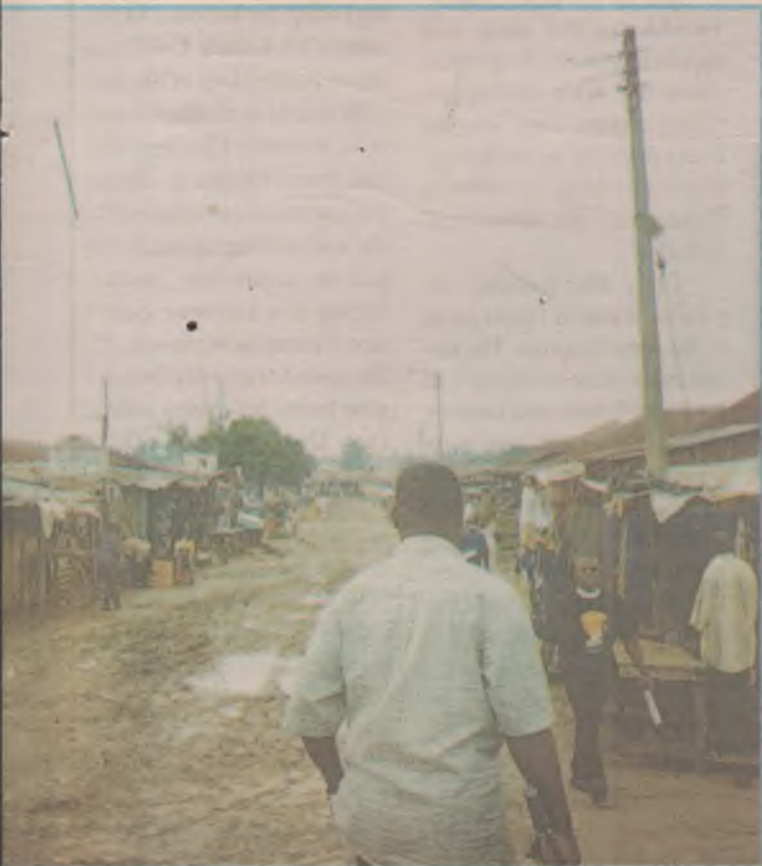
Feature Masquerade of Gede-Karmo



Gede-Karmo



emerges. The custodian sleeps here for seven days during the outing of



to the field where the masquerade performs miracles

is to come out at any other time in the year, it is usually to mourn the death of an elder in the community.

Smithy Galadima is the revered custodian of the masquerade. According to him, Adakpo is a highly revered masquerade among the Gede people. In his words: "Adakpo is our god, we worship it in the same way the Christians or Muslims worship the Most High from the earliest times. Adakpo renders immense help to us here in terms of the security of life, and the protection of people against various dangers, and the detection and punishment of criminals. Whatever problems we have, we present to Adakpo and these will be speedily resolved.

"Adakpo is a masquerade that can take on the image of anything it is drawn to. It can change into a snake, a lion, a crocodile, infact just anything! It can disappear at any time it wishes."

The custodian comments further that "Adakpo is not a human being, but it can talk. It has its own language which cannot be understood by anyone except the person who directs its movement when it

comes out."

December, which is the outing period of the masquerade, was carefully chosen to coincide with the period of the Yam Harvest among the Gede people. Hence the outing of Adakpo and the celebration of the Yam festival occurs in December, making the month that of a major celebration among the Gedes just as it is a significant period for Christians.

Outing procedure

There is no fixed day during the month of December when Adakpo comes out. Once a date is determined, the town crier would announce it, and preparations would begin seven days ahead of the fixed date.

For seven days before the first outing of the masquerade, the custodian along with some members of the community would sleep inside the hut, which is specially built for the masquerade. Within the seven days, a great deal of ritual sacrifices are made. This involves the killing of fowls and



Mr. Smithy Galadima, the custodian of the Adokpa Masquerade

comes out in a long multi-coloured gown, the miracle-performing masquerade goes around the community, paying homage to elders. The shape of Adakpo does not suggest that of a human being especially with its length and spectacular gown with its blue hood and the red borders upon it.

For another seven days,

allowed to follow the masquerade round the community. For the remaining two days, women are permitted to do same but they still cannot touch the masquerade.

If either deliberately or by error, a woman touches Adakpo, such a person would have to see the custodian immediately after the festival to appease the gods with



An old residence at Karmo goats. The community is kept clean, new yams are harvested in large quantity with each household making a contribution to the palace. Such yams would be handed over to selected women who will cook them on the day of the masquerade's first outing.

And when it finally

Adakpo will be entertaining the people with dances and miracles. Every person, men and women, including non-indigenes are permitted to watch the masquerade, but women are not allowed to touch it, and of course, a non-indigene would not have the courage to go near it.

For the first five days of its outing, only men are

whatever it may request. Fighting is also not allowed during the days when Adakpo makes an outing. Violation of this rule would attract the presentation of a he-goat which would be killed and used to appease the gods. The end of the festival is marked with elaborate cooking and the gorgeous appearance of celebrants.

Features

Victims of adulterated petro-products recount ordeal

On Friday 3rd August 2001 the Senate Adhoc Committee on Adulterated Petroleum Products began public hearing across the country. The committee led by Senator Ali Madu Sheriff was in Kaduna last Friday to conduct public hearing under the following terms of reference.

i. to investigate the importation of adulterated petroleum into the country from 1995 to date

ii. to establish those responsible for the importation and the victims of the adulterated products

iii. to establish the losses incurred by the victims

iv. to make recommendations to the Senate

Senator Madu Sheriff told newsmen in Kaduna that the committee was not given any deadline for the assignment because of the importance the Upper House attached to the issue and the number of people affected by the adulteration of petroleum products during the period under scrutiny.

"We were not given any definite date for completing the job because of the importance attached to the problem and the number of people who are victims of the adulteration of petroleum products in the country," Senator Madu Sheriff emphasised.

Essential as the public hearing is, the Kaduna exercise was marred by several oversights, which may be deliberate or otherwise. The choice of the venue for the public hearing was inappropriate. Initially, the Defence guesthouse along Modibbo Adama road was selected as the venue for the event but at the last minute, it was shifted to the conference hall of Command guesthouse along Kanta road. Both venues are hardly known to most of the average citizens, who are the major victims of the adulterated products. The Modibbo Adama road Defence guesthouse is not even known to many of the journalists that went to cover the event because the road itself is in a secluded portion of the Kaduna township. The Command Guesthouse, where the event took place is too elitist for ordinary victims to contemplate entering, especially given the fierce looking soldiers at the main entrance. Besides, the conference hall is newly completed to the effect that only few people know of its existence as no single event of such significance has ever been hosted there.

The changing of the venue at the last minute might have affected attendance at the public hearing and led to

From Ibrahim Dan Ilalilu in Kaduna

a late start of the exercise. Scheduled to start at 9:30 a.m., the public hearing commenced almost two hours behind schedule with less than 60 people in the hall, including the seven members of the committee, observers and some 20 journalists, who came to cover the proceedings.

For the one-and a half hours it conducted the hear-

ing, the committee received only 12 oral testimonies and some score of written ones. It rounded up the sitting by 12:30 noon to allow some Muslim members of the sub-committee to prepare for the Friday prayers.



Senate President Anyim

ing, the committee received only 12 oral testimonies and some score of written ones. It rounded up the sitting by 12:30 noon to allow some Muslim members of the sub-committee to prepare for the Friday prayers.

When the Chairman of the Committee, Senator Madu Sheriff announced the end of the sitting, many of the observers were caught unawares because they thought it was just the beginning of the day-long affair.

Earlier in his opening remarks, Senator Sheriff had attributed the poor attendance to the early morning rain that enveloped Kaduna. But an hour later, it became clear that the rain might not be the reason for the poor showing. Of the 12 persons that gave oral testimony, only three were said to be natives of Kaduna: Balarabe Magaji and Mohammed Baban Dada both officers of the National Union of Road Transport Workers and Owners respectively, who came to testify on behalf of their members and one Ahmed Abdul Aziz, a fruit seller. All others were people from other parts of the country earning their living in Kaduna.

The simple explanation here is that the local government councils and community leaders in the state did not

make any effort to mobilise their people to come forward and testify before the committee as all those that testified were Kaduna-based. The fixing of the Kaduna hearings for Friday was itself inconvenient because it is a short day for most people in the locality. For a state that is notorious in fire explosions and the adulteration of petroleum products, it was considered unimaginable for the

committee to receive less than 50 testimonies, both oral and written. At the commencement of the public hearings, no guidelines were issued to the victims to guide them in giving their own testimonies which led to the rendering of uncoordinated, unverifiable and contradictory testimonies by some of them. For instance one Mrs. Fortune Okafor, 37, of Majalisa street, Angwan Yelwa could not provide an exact account of how her husband's C-20 bus



Dr. Rilwanu Lukman Special Adviser on Petroleum Resources

caught fire but insisted that it was caused by adulterated fuel. She told the committee that only her husband who was lying on his hospital bed, could give details of how it happened. The committee did not make further efforts to clarify some claims made by the petitioner. It only collected some photographs of the burnt bus.

From Mrs. Okafor's account, it could easily be discerned that the burning of the bus was caused either by a wiring fault or some fuel leakage, but no clarifications were sought for by the sub-committee.

The same unverifiable claim was made by one Richard Omaye, a motor cyclist, who sustained fire burns after being hit by a car along Kachia road. The fact that his motorcycle caught fire led the victim to believe that the explosion was caused by adulterated fuel, while it is normal for vehicles to catch fire during accidents.

It was observed that most of the oral testimonies given before the committee, suggested that the explosions resulted from the refilling of kerosene stoves or paraffin lamps by victims or their wives, which pointed to one basic fact. That for the problem to be addressed the committee has to address the issue of selling petroleum products through unconventional outlets in its recommendations to the Upper House. Most of the kerosene users as the testimonies suggest get their supply from unregistered outlets because the conventional outlets - filling stations - are either deliberately refused regular supply or they discharge the product to surface tanks, where

they see it at double the official rate.

Investigations in Kaduna reveal that many of the surface tanks are owned by PPMC and Kaduna refinery workers, their wives and cronies. This could not be further from the truth in view of the discovery that most times the tanks are full while the filling stations are dry. Checks at Unguwan Shanu,

who was in her teens at the time of the inferno. The scars of the fire burns were all over her right leg. He confessed rather innocently that he spent only N21,000 on the treatment of his late wife.

Yusuf Adebyo, a welder was literally crying when he recounted how he lost his wife and son to a similar explosion in 1998. "I gave my



Governor Ahmed Makarfi of Kaduna State

Badarawa, Kasuwan Barchi and Unguwar Rimi quarters have shown that the four litre can of kerosene, which sells for N68 at filling stations is sold for between N100 and N120 by the surface tank operators in those areas even as they get supply at their doorstep. In periods of scarcity the product sells for up to N300 per four litres.

One of the dealers interviewed said that those who supply them with the product cause the price difference. "They charge extra cost for every delivery, so we have to add something in order to make gain," the dealer confessed.

The public hearing was similar to that of Oputa panel in the some respects. The testimonies were a mixture of truth, half-truth and untruth. While some victims were claiming losses amounting to between N200,000 and N700,000 in both property and treatment of their burns, few of them were sincere to a fault. Casmir Okofu, 56, belongs to the second category. He told the committee how he lost his wife to a kerosene explosion at their Dandume street residence in Kakuri and his daughter in her early twenties sustained serious burns. He came to the venue of the hearing with the daughter

wife money to buy kerosene to fill our lamp. As she go buy di kerosene, she de fill the lamp. By then I was outside, all I hear was Baba Jafaru your room don catch fire, before I came in the whole place was on fire. I took my wife and child, Jafaru, to hospital. They all die (he cried)," Adebayo narrated.

For Ahmed Abdul Aziz, a fruit seller, the kerosene explosion at his Kabala Doki residence robbed him of his dear wife and three children sometime in 1999. "I lost my wife and three children to the explosion which occurred while she was refilling our lamp," he told the committee. Another victim of a kerosene explosion, Emmanuel Kolawole, 35, has been nursing his first-degree burns for over a year at the University College Ibadan. Up till the time he appeared to give testimony to the committee the burns had not healed.

The fate of Michael Eze's eight children was the breadwinner's major concern since he was forced out of any meaningful source of income after his house got burnt along with all the fortunes he had made. "I have no job. I have eight children and they are not attending school," he lamented.

NEWS

Katsina releases N70m to computerise schools

The Katsina State government has released N70 million for the establishment of computer centres in some selected post-primary schools in the state.

The state governor, Alhaji Umar Yar'Adua, disclosed this during the opening session of an educational retreat held at the Government House, Katsina.

He explained that the centres would be completed before the end of this year, adding that government would want any graduating student from the state to acquire computer education.

This, the governor added, would enhance the educational quality of students in the state and provide the necessary environment for the growth of the sector as envisaged by his administration.

He further stressed that the establishment of the centres would be a continuous exercise to cover all secondary schools in the state.

On the education retreat, the governor said that it was convened to assess the effort so far made to resuscitate the

From Hassan A. Karofi, in Katsina

education sector in the state.

He called on the participants to evolve ways that government could use to improve the provisions of the Katsina Educational Advancement Programme established at the inception of his government.

Earlier, the State Commissioner for Education, Alhaji Ibrahim Babayo, told the gathering that the retreat was organised to review the progress and problems of the education sector in the state.

He said the present administration inherited an education sector characterised by dilapidated school buildings, low morale of teachers, poor examination results and general apathy.

He, however, expressed his happiness as he announced that the situation has changed as a result of the numerous measures taken to redeem the sector.

He expressed conviction that the retreat will offer useful advice for the growth of the sector in the state.



Alhaji Umar Yar'Adua

Kwara commissioner urges FG to subsidise fertilizer

The Federal Government has been urged to subsidise the cost of fertilizer as a way of bringing down the prices of food items in the country.

The Kwara State Commissioner for Works, Alhaji Ishyaku Adams, made the call in Lafiagi at the formal presentation of 100 bags of fertilizer to farmers

From Abdul Laro, in Ilorin

in Edu Local Government Area.

Alhaji Adams stressed the need for the Federal Government to establish fertilizer distribution centres in each of the six geo-political zones in the country in order to reduce the perennial problems associated with fertilizer procurement and distribution, pointing out that the only way for the country's self-reliance in food production is to ensure that fertilizer gets to the real farmers in the hinterland.

The commissioner who described agriculture as the mainstay of the people of Edu Local Government Area, said he was presenting the fertilizer as a way of assisting the farmers in boosting food production.

He, therefore, appealed to the distribution committee to ensure equitable distribution of the fertilizer to all the wards in the area, stressing that the distribution should be done with all honesty and sincerity of purpose.

Receiving the fertilizer on behalf of farmers in the area, Captain Abdullah Lokoja (rtd), who is also the chairman of APP in Edu Local Government Area, commended the commissioner for the good gesture and promised that the fertilizer would be judiciously distributed among the farmers in the area.

FG bans overloaded vehicles from highways

As the Federal Government embarks on the rehabilitation of roads network in the country, the Minister of State for Works and Housing, Mr. Garba Madaki Ali, has ordered vehicles weighing more than sixty tons to keep off federal highways.

The minister gave the warning while inspecting the 56-kilometre Katsina Ala-Buruku-Zaki-Biam road

From Mike Elaigwu, in Makurdi

under rehabilitation. He stated that a bill on the road maintenance agency, to take care of road maintenance in the country has been sent to the National Assembly for consideration.

Mr. Garba Ali disclosed that the re-construction of the Oju-Obukpo-Oweto road first commissioned 49 years ago, would commence in year 2002.

While commending the contractor, P.W. Nigeria Ltd. for his good work, he warned that the condition for awarding contracts by the ministry depends on early completion of the present contracts.

At the Government House, Makurdi, the acting governor, Chief Ogiri Adene, said the non-completion of the federal secretariat project started some years ago was a deliberate attempt to deny people of the state a federal presence.

Chief Ogiri added that condition of roads in the state was very pathetic and appealed to the Federal Government to complete some federal roads to enable the people of the state feel a sense of belonging in the present administration.

Obasanjo urges mothers to show greater care

President Olusegun Obasanjo has urged Nigerian women to show greater care for children and the youths in order to guide them aright.

Receiving members of the Asalatu Women organisation recently, the president pointed out that with more care and interest in the activities of young people, it would be possible to curb problems such as child trafficking.

According to a press release signed by the Senior Special Assistant to the President (media), Mr. Tunji Oseni, the president reminded members of the

Dariye solicits African countries' support for Nigeria's democracy

Governor Joshua Dariye of Plateau State has made a passionate appeal to democratic African countries to rally round Nigeria by supporting its nascent democracy.

The governor stressed the need for such countries to ignore the media propaganda against Nigeria because it was capable of inviting the military to seize power.

Chief Dariye, who stated this recently when he hosted African parliamentarians at Government House, Jos, called on Kenya and South Africa to assist Plateau State in the area of tourism development.

Governor Dariye told the parliamentarians, who were in Nigeria for a conference, not to forget the abandoned solid mineral deposits in Plateau State during their deliberations.

He urged them not to overemphasise the issue of resource control, stressing that whatever natural endowments God had given a particular area should be used for the advancement of democracy.

Chief Dariye pointed out that there was no alternative to democracy as military rule was synonymous with isolation, adding that any political history and convention always had a link with Plateau State.

Earlier, the leader of the delegation and Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, Chief Chibudom Nwuche, had described Jos as a significant tourist state

From Buhari Bello, in Jos

Chief Nwuche maintained that the tourist potential of the state remained very great, adding that it should be further tapped.

While describing Governor Dariye, as a very good friend of the National Assembly, he commended the government and people of Plateau State for the warm reception accorded members of the delegation from 19 African countries.



Gov. Joshua Dariye

Choba bridge is a jinx says Rivers Legislator

Choba bridge in Rivers State which recently swallowed a 14 seater passengers bus has been described as a jinx by a member of the State House of Assembly.

Hon. Prince Azubuike Odun disclosed that because of a technical flaw at the Choba bridge, it has claimed over 50 lives from 1999 to July 2001.

Odun, who is the deputy minority leader, Rivers State House of Assembly, dropped the hint at the weekend in a motion he presented to the House concerning the engineering lapses on the bridge.

Prince Odun who represents Emohua constituency stated that if nothing was done more innocent lives would be wasted. He therefore called on the authorities to find lasting solution to it.

The lawmaker urged the

From Wisdom-Uduak Patrick, in Port Harcourt

House to invite the state controller of works on the issue, describing the bridge as a death trap.

In his contribution, Hon. Anthony Wali, representing Obio Akpor constituency II, expressed dismay over the way and manner Rivers State had been treated despite its economic contribution to the nation.

He therefore called on the House to take urgent steps to save the lives of the people as he also harped on the invitation of the works controller to examine the bridge.

Announcing the resolution of the House, the Deputy Speaker, Hon. Tonye Harry, who presided over the day's business, stated that the controller of works should be invited to enable the House tackle the problem.

KADPOLY matriculates 159 technology students

The Kaduna Polytechnic last week matriculated 159 students offered admission into the 2000/2001 academic session of the polytechnic's College of Technology, affiliated to the Federal University of Technology (FUT), Minna.

The students who will be awarded a Bachelor of Education degree in technology of the FUT Minna at the end of their three years programme, took their oath as bonafide students of the polytechnic, which was administered by the Registrars of the Kaduna Polytechnic and FUT Minna, Alhaji Garba Bakori and Dr. Kolo respectively.

In his welcome address, read on his behalf by the Director, College of Engineering, Engineer D. Isa, the Rector of Kaduna Polytechnic said the students had been admitted into the three years programme in Automobile, Building, Drafting, Electrical/Electronics, Metal Work and Woodwork technology.

Dr. Isa assured the Vice-Chancellor of the FUT Minna, whose institution awards the degree certificates in B.Ed (Technology), that as a centre of excellence with good calibre of staff, the polytechnic would offer matriculating students the best form of learning experiences.

He appealed to the management of FUT Minna

From Ibrahim Dan Halilu, in Kaduna

to look into the hike in the affiliation fee and other charges recently demanded as the programme was not funded by any of the three bodies charged with higher education but from the polytechnic's internally generated revenue.

He urged the students to also take their work seriously, reminding them that the signing of the matriculation oath was a serious legal undertaking and a legal requirement which affirmed and confirmed them as bonafide members of the polytechnic's community, adding: "You are advised to abide by the terms of the oath."

The Rector also implore them to make judicious use of all the learning facilities available in the polytechnic and dissociate themselves from all forms of vices and dubious activities such as cultism, examination malpractice and sexual harassment, confirming that the punishment for such activities is outright expulsion.

The Vice-Chancellor of FUT Minna, Professor M.A. Daniel, who was represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor J.O. Adeniyi, told the matriculating students that as bonafide students they had all rights and privileges of the institution, and urged them to abide by the rules and regulations of the Kaduna Polytechnic.

For Enquiries
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Street Zone 6 Wuse, Abuja Tel: 09-5238726

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The Trustees are:

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Mrs. Chinenye Glory Chukwudumekwu

Any objection to this registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION GARKI ABUJA, within 28 days of this Publication.

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Signed: Edward E. Ogar, Esq,
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IBRAHIM: I formerly known as **AMINA BATURIYA IBRAHIM** wishes to be known and addressed as **MRS AMINA IBRAHIM -YUSUF**.

All former documents remain valid, Public Service Office, Office of the Head of Service of the Federation, Federal Civil Service Commission, the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Youth Development, and the general public, to please take note.

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INSIDE POLITICS

2003: PDP's drum-beat in Minna

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has embarked on mini-rallies in the various geo-political zones of the country. Last Saturday, August 21, the party moved its apparatus to Minna, the Niger State capital where party heavyweights from the north-central zone comprising Niger, Kogi, Plateau, Nasarawa, Benue, Kwara and the FCT converged to drum up support for the party. At the rally, the PDP not only challenged emerging political associations to test their strength by holding similar rallies, but that come 2003, it would recapture all the states in the zone. Our Minna correspondent, **Kashim Sule** captured the essence of the rally.

The north central zone of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) held a one-day rally in Minna, Niger State, last Saturday, to drum more support for the party and show-case the achievements of the Niger State government controlled by the PDP.

The zonal rally which attracted politicians from Niger, Kogi, Plateau, Benue, Kwara and Nasarawa States, was well attended by party faithfuls. It is one of the mini-rallies designed to test the popularity of the party and also to measure the performances of the various PDP governments in the zone, according to a party source.

As early as nine o'clock on that day, party members had begun to converge at Bako Kontagora Stadium, the venue of the rally. The event which was billed to begin at 10a.m, however, kicked-off at 1p.m.

However, the arrival of the national chairman, Mr. Barnabas Gemade, signalled the commencement of the business of the day.

The rally, drew notable party members from the zone, including the state governors, ministers, National Assembly members, state legislators and council chairmen. Women members of the party were not left out.

Welcoming the guests, the chairman of the zone, Alhaji Abubakar Magaji, told the crowd that he was short of words to express his feelings at the occasion.

The turn-out, he said, can be attributed to the significant achievement of the party in the zone in the last two years.

Furthermore, he praised the contributions of the zone to the general success of the party during the 1999



Gemade elections.

The zonal chairman who spoke briefly, therefore appealed to the people in the zone to continue lending their support to the party.

Responding, the national chairman, Mr. Gemade, explained the reason behind the rally, saying that it was an exercise to measure the performance of the states controlled by the PDP in the north-central zone.

He said the rally was embarked upon to complement a similar one the minister of information, Mr. Jerry Gana, is conducting throughout the country.

At the end of the exercise, he said, the difference between PDP and other

parties will become clearer and will prove once again that the PDP is the best of the three parties.

The chairman also revealed that he had travelled the whole country and seen things, therefore, he was sure of what he was saying.

Commenting on the rally, the chairman said he had attended seven rallies so far, but that Minna deserves a pass-mark for its organisation. He expressed his enthusiasm for the high-esteem accorded the party in the state. He, therefore, challenged the rival parties to organise similar rallies, saying they cannot achieve such a feat, even at the ward level.

The rally Gemade added offers the opportunity for party members and organisations to re-dedicate themselves by strengthening their commitment to the party.

Governor Adamu Abdullahi of Nasarawa State, speaking on behalf of his colleagues, commended his Niger State counterpart. He said what he witnessed of government's achievement was wonderful and gave



Gov Kure

kudos to the rally organisers.

He declared that the achievement of the party was a manifestation of great things to come. In addition, he said he brought along with him the good wishes of Nasarawa people to all faithful members of PDP and Nigerians generally.

This was underscored with a gift of eight vehicles to the party, which he said should be used for mobilisation.

The minister for science and technology, Mrs. Pauline Tallen, delivered an address on behalf of the ministers from the zone. She found endearing words for Kure's administration and pledged their total support to the party.

Thereafter, she announced the donation of a bicycle each to every ward in the zone.

In his address, the speaker of Plateau State House of Assembly, Mr. Simeon Zangon, who represented speakers from the zone, pledged their total support to the party, assuring that nothing whatsoever will

make them abandon the party.

In the same vein, the chairman of the Bosso local government in Niger State

“He, therefore, challenged the rival parties to organise similar rallies, saying they cannot achieve such a feat, even at the ward level.”

representing council chairmen from the zone, Alhaji Aliyu Abubakar Bosso, said that the PDP government in the last two years had done well if compared to past military governments. He said he was sure the people would pitch their tent with PDP. He, therefore, advised his fellow chairmen to give total support to the PDP.

Mrs. Josephine Anenih, the national women leader, congratulated the Niger State governor for the significant success his government had achieved. She reiterated that her leadership will not break

the promise she made to the party to mobilise women for its success in the next election.

The emissary from the National Assembly and also representative of the entire senators from the zone, Senator A. T. Ahmed from Kogi central viewed the rally as an ample demonstration that the party was solidly on the ground. He praised Governor Kure for his exemplary leadership, saying that the party has grassroots followers in the zone including Kogi which he said mistakenly gave the governorship to All Peoples Party (APP).

The deputy governor of Niger State, Dr. Nuhu Zagbaya, in his address displayed enthusiasm at the rally. However, he spoke of the emergence of new associations in the state, and warned people to distance themselves from such associations as their intention was to create chaos.

He told party faithfuls to continue giving their support to the party, as some of the promises made to them have started to yield fruits.

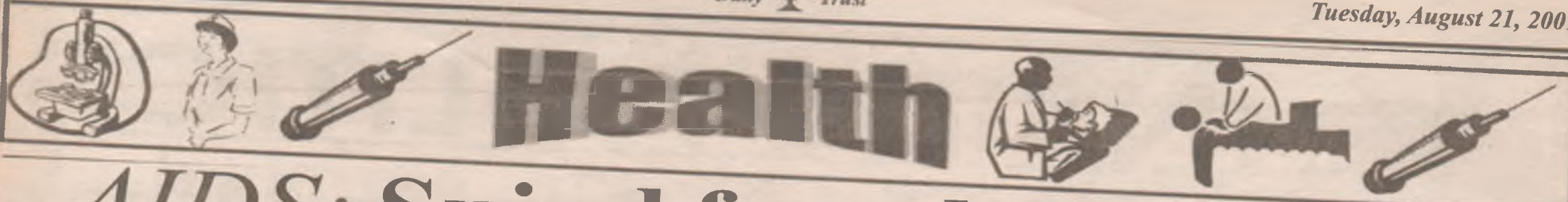
Savouring the adulation, governor Abdulkadir Kure,

expressed his gratitude to all for honouring his invitation, and said he was dumbfounded by the success of the occasion. He, however, pledged his continued and total support to the leadership of Chief Barnabas Gemade as the national chairman.

He supported this position with the religious injunction that: “It is God that gives leadership and only He can deny same.”

“Who are we to question what God has done,” he asked, as he brought the rally to an end.

“At the end of the exercise, he said, the difference between PDP and other parties will become clearer and will prove once again that the PDP is the best of the three parties.”



Health

AIDS: Sujud foundation challenges minister over cure

Sujud Foundation, a leading AIDS cure claimant has challenged the Minister of Health, Prof. Alphonsus Nwosu, over his charge to AIDS cure claimants to prove themselves, stating that all claimants have been waiting for the minister's verification team for over fifteen (15) months.

The foundation, who described as surprising the minister's statement, noted that it had earlier made representations to an expert committee on HIV/AIDS under the chairmanship of Prof. Idris Mohammed and the Health Committee of the House of Representatives.

"To the best of our knowledge, your ministry has not attempted any form of verification," the foundation said in a letter to the minister.

The foundation pointed out that it had stood by the Prof. Idris Mohammed-led committee deliberations and was the only AIDS cure claimant that was willing to part with the samples of its dose, adding that all it wanted from government was a sincere and transparent

Stories by Ikenna Emeka Okpani

verification. "We have already made an offer to assist the Ife-afflicted family. We are encouraging the federal government to add one hundred (100) hopeless cases to those trial. SUJUD is only interested in providing the drug, and nothing more.

For transparency, the trial should be made public. The best consultants and instruments should be used for pre and post-medication analysis," the foundation said.

The SUJUD foundation,



Prof. A.B.C. Nwosu

according to the statement, has already been given a go ahead to administer its drugs to AIDS patients in Kano following what it called "a proper scientific verification and the state legislature's recommendation that the foundation's therapy was effective with zero side effects on April 19, 2001.

Speaking to *Daily Trust* on phone, the Chairman, Board of Trustees of the Foundation, Auwalu Haruna,

said the foundation has so far treated over 2,000 patients, adding that as far as he was concerned, that was history as the interest of the foundation presently is to handle more patients.

Though, he accepted that the foundation has not contacted the minister since he came to office this January over its therapy, the chairman noted it expected the minister to go through records at the

ministry and effect action where he deems fit.

Meanwhile, the foundation has proposed free treatment for all infected children under the age of twelve, adding that all it needed from parents were HIV confirmatory test, full blood count and CD4 cell count. Where the parents cannot pay for these, the foundation offers to bear the cost. Similar discounts and other benefits also await pregnant women and those totally down with the

virus. A running battle between AIDS/cure claimants and the federal ministry of health has been on. Cure claimants in the past have been increased with declarations by government officials that there was no cure for HIV/AIDS despite non-verification of their claims.

A medical expert and Chairman of the committee on non-communicable diseases of the Federal Ministry of Health, Prof. Onyemelukwe, had in an interview, told *Daily Trust* that there was no place in the record where people are allowed to administer unapproved drugs.

Experts ask for improved distribution of treated bednets

Consultant physicians and senior physicians from tertiary and secondary health institutions who met under the national training of trainers workshop on roll back malaria have recommended improved distribution of insecticide treated bednets (ITNs) as a means of controlling the spread of malaria which is said to have attacked close to two million people all over the world every year.

In a communiqué after the workshop, the consultants asked for greater

empowerment of care givers on prompt effective and safe home management of malaria and specific budgeting allocation and timely release of funds for malaria research.

The workshop which was put together by the ministry of health with technical support from the World Health Organisation (WHO) was aimed at creating awareness among medical practitioners on the current method of dealing with the malaria scourge as part of the programmes of the roll back malaria

campaign.

The workshop deliberated on issues like national roll-back-malaria policy; case management of malaria; preventive measures against malaria and public mobilization and health education.

Others are monitoring and evaluation of roll-back-malaria and research and documentation. The consultants who were trained and equipped with current protocols for roll-back-malaria case management and control strategies are expected to coordinate the trainings at zonal, state and LGA levels nationwide.

The training involved a lot of methodology like lectures, clinical and laboratory sessions, demonstrations and role-plays, presentations, group works and discussions using the training manuals.

Emphasis on increased dissemination of information on the malaria control policy and other issues to all health care providers and stakeholder was not only coming from the experts. The Minister of Health, Prof. Alphonsus Nwosu have always emphasized the need for greater generation of awareness on health issues.

Speaking with journalists recently, the minister had assured that government will not fail on its effort to educate Nigerians on health issues and promote them with necessary qualities to prevent diseases which they are exposed to on daily basis.

To this end, he said the first set of insecticide treated bednets (ITNs) was expected in the country soon and would be distributed to all wards and local governments all over the country.

Prof. Nwosu explained that the choice of wards and local government was based on their proximity to the people desoniting them as the easiest avenues to reach many Nigerians.

Despite the advantages of ITNs and successes recorded in other countries in the control of malaria, Nigeria is yet to enjoy its usage extensively. During the first African malaria day which coincided with the African leaders summit on HIV/AIDS; tuberculosis and other infectious diseases, the minister of health had announced the present administration's intention to distribute free WHO-approved treated bednets to school children and pregnant women.

To encourage companies to manufacture more insecticide treated bednets, the federal government announced reduction of taxes and tariffs on the net



Kofi Annan

and all other insecticide for use in the control of mosquitoes.

Reports from World Health Organisation, indicate that such reductions have paid off in countries like Tanzania where reduction in 1994 resulted to production of over 1.5 million treated nets.

"Progress so far should stimulate further action in making less expensive nets available for more people, which will in turn expand the culture of ITNs use. Such an expansion will contribute to mortality reduction, which is the ultimate goal of the roll-back-malaria initiative," the report said.

NAFDAC gets commendation

The renewed fight against fake and adulterated products by NAFDAC has been getting commendations from different quarters, the latest being that of the Minister of Health, Prof. Alphonsus Nwosu, who also pledged to provide it with the necessary impetus to succeed.

This is against the backdrop of renewed efforts by the agency to curb production and distribution of fake and adulterated products in the country since the appointment of Dr. Dora Akunyili as Director-General of the agency.

NAFDAC seemingly lackadaisical attitude toward the issue of fake and adulterated products in the past had resulted in proliferation of unregistered packaged water and other regulated products in the market.

Between January 1994 and April 2000, the agency registered 2,069 locally manufactured and imported drug products. Before then, only 207 drugs, ranging from human drugs, veterinary drugs, vaccines, insecticides, veterinary and human herbal

preparations were registered.

However, the number of registered drugs are likely to increase with the renewed vigour, Dr. Akunyili has approached her duties, she had ordered her staff to ensure rapid verification and registration of drugs, packaged water and other regulated products to encourage people to seek registration of their products.

According to her, most manufacturers in the country have good products and required environment for production but were being discouraged by fear of bottlenecks in the process of registration at the agency.

She believes that if they are encouraged to seek for registration and assured of prompt and honest assessment most of them would come for it.

In the first place, she is against clamping down on people without first sensitizing them and creating the necessary awareness.

The director-general believes the creation of awareness would lead to greater realization by people of importance of their product to be registered to

guarantee the health of the product.

Last Saturday, on a Radio Nigeria programme, Dr. Akunyili had said the agency would swing into action and clamp down on all erring manufacturers and distributors after the ongoing sensitization and workshops.



Dr. Dora Akunyili

Such workshops have already been held in Lagos and last week in Kaduna. In some of the workshops producers confessed that they were not aware of the health implications what they were doing.

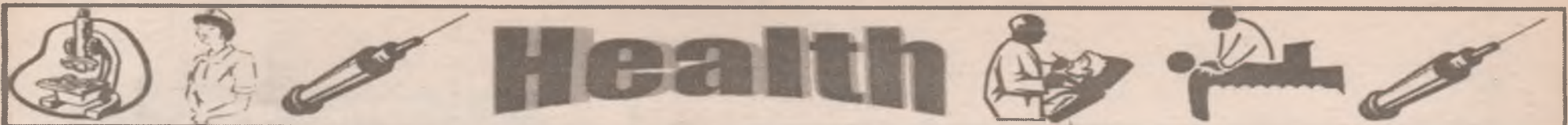
Most of those who confessed, expressed their readiness to comply by the

regulations giving the indication that they have been acting in ignorance.

Recently at Onitsha, dealers on drugs organised themselves and mobilized against peddling of fake and adulterated drugs. This paid off as a major importer of fake drugs confessed and asked for forgiveness. Though some people are of the views that the man should be prosecuted, one feels his prosecution would only hamper the likes of people like him from owing up in the interest of the renewed campaign.

For those who peddle drugs on unwholesome places like open markets, buses and stores, their businesses might be coming to an end. Speaking on a programme on Radio Nigeria, Dr. Akunyili said NAFDAC was reaching out to bus owners with a view to reaching agreement with them not to allow drug peddlers on their buses.

Maybe of special mention is the issue of fake packaged water which are sold in all parts of the country. Reports say over 95 percent of them are not registered while most of them are not treated as claimed by those who package them.



70% of Nigerians under 30 - Nwosu

The Minister of Health, Prof. Alphonsus Nwosu, has said that 70 percent of Nigerians are under 30 years and needed what he called a strategic youth initiative to keep them focused and ensure their development.

Exchanging views with journalists recently in a press dinner, the minister said he had been nurturing that idea from the time he was Adviser to President Olusegun Obasanjo on Political Matters.

A strategic youth initiative, he said, would be a sure way of re-orientating our youths and giving them a solid foundation for unity all over the country.

He, however, regretted the undue exploitation of our youths by unscrupulous politicians for political gain. According to him, "such politicians whenever they feel they have lost in the political system, resort to ethnic insinuations, which most often seem to rock our unity."

Prof. Nwosu advocated greater education for Nigerians, pointing out that education creates civilization. To him, education should be given priority by every administration in Nigeria, as this would solve most of the problems currently faced by the country.



Minister of Health, Prof. A.B.C. Nwosu speaking with journalists at a press dinner in Abuja... recently

You can prevent most headaches

Are you one of the millions who suffer headaches from time to time-or even on a regular basis? Headaches have been around for a long time and are considered to be related to life-style.

The Greeks had a word for it: Hemicrania, the half-a-head pain. Very accurately the ancient migraine suffers described the pain that races on one side of the head and often radiates from the eye. A survey of some 6,000 people admitting migraine-type headaches revealed that most headaches have no physical basis.

Experts believe that practically all headaches can be traced to either one of or a combination of two things-dilated blood vessels in the head, or muscle tension in the head and neck. A lack of physical basis for the headaches is also the conclusion that other researchers arrived at when they ranked occupation against tension. Doctors

came at the top of the list with business executives a close second then followed other professional, housewives, salesmen and clerical workers. Farmers and manual labourers suffered least.

Other Migraine Trigger: Many people associate their migraine with other factors than tension. This is indeed the case. These factors may be either internal or external triggers. Chocolate, cheese and other dairy products often evoke a bad reaction through the presence of the stimulant tyramine. Foods, especially Chinese foods counting the flavouring monosodium glutamate (MSG), have so frequently caused adverse reactions that it is often called the "Chinese Restaurant Syndrome." Coffee, tea, nicotine and alcohol because of their ability to stimulate and depress nerves, and also their ability to alter the size of blood vessels; are highly suspect. "Cerebral" allergy as a reaction to certain specific foods also causes very severe headaches.

Other internal triggers include the chemicals that build up in the body systems as a result of unrelieved stress. More rarely sinusitis, eye-strain or hypertension may be pinpointed as the cause of headache.

A number of women get migraine just before or during menstruation or at ovulation. Blood vessels undergo a change and the oestrogen level drops. Depression and migraine which often appear at this time can usually be relieved with supplementary hormone and vitamins particularly vitamin B6. The menopause usually eliminates this particular migraine.

External factors which lead to migraine include; looking at bright, glaring or flickering lights-especially from fluorescent lighting, television and computer screens; having to be a passive smoker in a room or an office

surrounded by smokers or by experiencing extremes of hot or cold either. We have already noted the role of stress in the process of migraine development but sudden relaxation can also be a problem.

Preventing Headaches: Recognise and identify your tensions. We all have emotions. Counsel with others if you are experiencing some particular or recurring tensions. Many people unconsciously use their headaches to manipulate in spite of the pain, such people find it difficult to change their behaviour patterns and let go. In knowing what is the cause of the tension the right outlet can be sought and used. Others may recognise the tension but still let it get pent up inside, not knowing how it should be released.

Seeking counsel is not an admission of weakness or failure, it is part of good emotional growth.

As stated elsewhere, the essence of hope is to be balanced physically, emotionally and spiritually. Don't be exacting with yourself or others. Take a long hard look at your way of life and the people who share it with you. Someone has aptly said, "He who would find a new lease of life must know the landlord."

Try to rearrange your life to do the things you would like to do and avoid as far as possible anything to which you are sensitive. This may just mean avoiding bright lights or smoke-filled rooms. On the other hand it may mean a major change to avoid an unreasonable work colleague. This is not mining away. It is realistically avoiding unnecessary confrontation daily or whenever. Offending food items will need to be identified and eliminated to avoid recurrence of symptoms.

However, you are advised to relax more!

Culled from Richard Willis' Your Health in Your Hands.

Nature's Pharmacy

With Zainab Ujudud Shariff

Zee's family first aid kit

Onions: Garlic and onions have similar properties and are often combined for similar actions. (Let me tell you one secret property of onion, when cut into halves and place or hung around the rooms, it has capacity to absorb bacteria and insects. Remove the onions after 12 hours and burn it and replace with fresh ones). Use in case of insect bites, boils, and wounds. Onion juice is suitable for nose bleeding, dizziness and fainting.

Ginger-Consists of folic acid, camphenc, zingerone, and pantothenic acid:

It cleans the colon, stimulates circulation, and reduces spasms and cramps, strong antioxidant, effective antimicrobial agent for sores and wounds. Useful in morning sickness, travel sickness, nausea, vomiting, fever, bowel disorders. Can be taken alone or combined with other herbs. Ginger tea (grate one ounce of ginger and simmer for 10 minutes in a pint of water) and this tea can be used to treat indigestion, cramps and nausea. When taken with lemon and honey form an excellent treatment for colds, flues. When boiled with meat, it helps the intestines to detoxify it. For body pains, inflammations and stiff joints prepare 5 ounces of grated ginger in 4 pints of water and simmer for 10 minutes, strain and soak a cloth in the water and rub on the affected part. Ginger oil can be prepared by mixing ginger juice in equal parts of olive or sesame oil. The resultant mixture is effective in muscles pain. The oil is also suitable for dandruff and earaches.



Ginger

Mustard Seed:- Seed
It improves digestion and aids in the metabolism of fat. It is diuretic, blood purifier. (Give a teaspoonful of crushed seeds in a glass of warm water as good as a laxative and blood purifier) can be used as an emetic (give a tablespoonful in a glass of warm water). When used externally, helpful for chest congestion, inflammation, injuries and joint pain.

Nut Meg also called black caraway, flower seed, Bishop's worth:
Carminative, expectorant, relieves, chronic nervous disorders, and heart problems, seasoning foods, improves appetite, good in nausea and vomiting. (Not commonly use because of its side effects and toxic and may cause miscarriage).

Rosemary leaves:- Leaves
Stomach relaxant, stimulates circulation and digestion, astringent, decongestant, improves circulation to brain, prevent liver toxicity, relieves headaches, high and low blood pressure, useful in any circulatory problems, fights bacteria, believes to have anti-cancer and anti-tumour properties. Relief menstrual cramps. Tea is made by adding one-half ounce of rosemary to a pint of boiled water for 10 minutes in covered vessels. Useful as hair and scalp conditioner. The strong tea is used as a rinse after shampoo

Sage (leaves):- Leaves
Central nervous system stimulant, has estrogenic effects on the body, stimulates digestive system, reduces sweating and salivation. Useful in mouth and throat infections, the tea is used as hair rinse to promote hair shine and hair growth. Useful in weaning children (has ability to dry up milk). Useful in diarrhoea, dysentery, bladder infections, reduces vaginal discharge. To make tea: use one-half ounce of herb in a pint of boiled water, steep for 10 minutes. Take three cups and do not exceed one week. Use as a gargle for throats and ulceration of mouth.

No religion encourages senseless multiplication -Mafemi

The country representative, policy project (USAID) Nigeria, The Futures Group International, Dr. Jerome Mafemi, recently told Nigerians that though there were religious injunctions that implore us to multiply, they do not encourage us to multiply senselessly and without consideration for the welfare of those who we bring into the world.

Speaking at the national informed stakeholders review of the draft national population policy, Dr. Mafemi, who expressed fear at the level of population explosion in the country, said historically, those injunctions were made at times of great unrest with high mortality rates very prevalent.

"Family planning and use of contraceptives were not exactly alien to our religions as there are several instances in the holy books where the faithful is admonished to maintain family sizes based on

By Ikenna Emeka Okpani

his wealth, using prolonged breastfeeding and withdrawal as possible methods.

"Had modern contraceptives as we know them today been developed and available then, very likely the holy prophets would not have frowned on them. What would have been likely frowned upon will be the attempt to terminate life once conception has taken place and it is on record today that most governments of the world including U.S. and Nigeria outlaw any such practice," he said.

The representative called on government to ensure that the people were provided accurate information on the options and services available for limiting family size and empower them to make their own decisions based on the preferences.

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- Maximum age: 26 years

Ref: NEXP/02

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Ref: EXP/03

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 - Banking/Financial Institutions
 - Information Technology
 - Management Consulting
- Maximum age: 32 years

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(With a minimum of second class lower division)
- Applicants must have relevant experience of at least 7 years in any of the following:
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 - Banking/Financial Institutions
 - Information Technology
 - Management Consulting
- Maximum age: 38 years

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- ✦ Institutions Attended
- ✦ Degree Obtained
- ✦ Class Obtained

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- ✦ Lagos **LOS**
- ✦ Maiduguri **MDG**
- ✦ Port Harcourt **PHC**
- ✦ Kano. **KN**

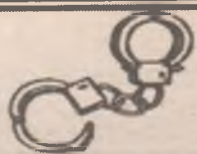
* Applicants should indicate on their applications/CV their state of origin beside the relevant reference code (e.g. NEXP/01/Ogun)

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Crime & Punishment



Communities blame police over escaped murder suspect

By Mustapha Isah Kwaru

Communities in Balanga Local Government Council of Gombe State have blamed the police in the area over the escaped of one Mr. Tommy Ajau who was arrested for alleged murder of his ex-wife, Habiba Tinau.

According to a Voice Of America (VOA) Hausa programme monitored in Abuja, Malam Aliyu Usman, the information officer of Balanga local government made the allegation. He added that the suspect was arrested by a vigilante group who later handed him over to the police, who refused to put him in a cell, rather he was left at the office premises of the local government police station.

The information officer stated that it was later that police explained that the accused escaped while in their custody.

The VOA correspondent who visited Gombe State on a fact finding mission could not meet the state police commissioner or the information officer for further confirmation of the story.

It would be recalled that the accused after divorcing his wife, received information that she has embraced Islamic religion and would soon marry an Islamic scholar which action angered him and attacked the deceased in a farm and killed her.



Loius Edet House, the new Police Headquarters in Abuja recently declared open by President Olusegun Obasanjo.

Pix: Kennedy Egbonodje

Child rapist may get life imprisonment

A 47 year-old Lagos landlord alleged to have raped a 10-month old baby may be sentenced to life imprisonment if found guilty by a Lagos Chief magistrate court sitting at Ikeja, the state capital.

The accused landlord, Mr. Sunday Babalola, according to prosecuting police sergeant Michael Bamigboye, unlawfully had carnal knowledge of the

From Adelanwa Bamgboye, in Lagos

baby by forcing his private part into her organ contrary to section 218 of the criminal code cap 31 vol. 2 laws of Lagos State.

Specifically, the section provides that any one who defiles a girl under the age of thirteen years is guilty of a felony, and is liable to imprisonment for life, with or without caning.

It was also alleged that the accused caused bodily harm to the toddler by his act, an offence punishable under section 360 of the criminal code with two years imprisonment.

According to the police, the landlord on August 10, 2001 at about 2 pm. in his



Justice Muhammad Uwais, CJF

Sharia convict for amputation over N50,000 theft

The judge of Shari'a Court one in Katsina, Khadi Mustapha Darma has ordered the amputation of one Bello Umar's right hand after being found guilty of stealing N50,000 at Kofar Sauri area in Katsina metropolis last week.

According to the police prosecutor, Sergeant Magaji Adamu, the convict

house at No. 4 Jinade Street, Atoboje, Agege in Ikeja did indecently assault the baby, Jumoke Yemi.

They mother of the baby in her statement claimed that she had left the baby with the accused to attend to some household work only to hear the cries of her baby.

She claimed caimed further that when she rushed inside the house, she saw her baby bleeding from the private part.

She also claimed to left her baby with a the landlord who could not give any explanation on what happened to the baby she had left in his care.

A medical report from Madock Hospital Agege, which was tendered in court, also confirmed that there was a tear in the private part of the baby which resulted into serious bleeding. The accused pleaded not guilty to the charge.

While adjourning further hearing to August 31, 2001, the magistrate, Mr. A.O. Isaac ordered that the accused be remanded in prison custody.

In a similar development, a six year-old girl, Bada Bukky who was reportedly beaten up by armed robbers who raided their house has

died.

Daily Trust gathered that as a result of the severe beating she received from the hoodlums, she fell sick and later died.

The hoodlums according to police sources had loaded themselves into two vehicles armed with dangerous weapons and invaded the compound on August 13. When the robbers did not find their target at home, they entered into the rooms of nine other tenants and stole N80,000. It was in this process that the deceased was beaten up.

Police nab Ghanaian robbery suspect

A Ghanaian, Koffi Opoku suspected to be a member of a notorious gang that has been giving some Lagosians sleepless nights has been nabbed by the police.

His arrest came on the heels of a tip off received from members of the public. Based on the information, a team of anti-robbery policemen attached to Isokoko police station, Agege, led by a sergeant raided their hideout and arrested the suspect with a police scorpion pistol.

Police Public Relations Officer for Lagos State, Vic-

Justice Donli bags award

The American Biographical Institute North Carolina, has nominated Justice Hansien Napwaniyo Donli, President of ECOWA'S Community Court of Justice (CCJ) for the prestigious award of woman of the year 2001.

The criteria for the nomination described Justice Hansien Donli as an eminent jurist of International repute whose career has continuously served as inspiration and role model for female legal practitioners across the globe.

Daily Trust gathered that in recognition of her contribution to Women's Rights Advancement in Africa, the American Biographical institute held that Justice Hansien Donli would remain indelible in the archives of American Bibliography as a worthy jurist and ambassador of the continent.

In her acceptance letter, the president of ECOWAS CCJ, Justice Donli commended the awarding institution for its vision in promoting professionalism and excellence as noble virtues for career development. Justice Donli also promised that the award would motivate her focus and determination for the pursuit of equity, Justice and egalitarian society.

Gang charged for conspiracy, rape

Three members of a gang who specialise in raping their victims after robbing them have been arraigned before a Lagos magistrate court charged with gang rape, assault occasioning harm, theft and criminal conspiracy.

In charge No. A/153/2001 filed by the police before the court against the suspects, they were alleged to have conspired with others now at large on August 4, 2001 at about 1200 hours, at No. 38 Ilabere Street, Lagos Island, to commit felony to wit rape contrary to section 516 of the criminal code

The gang, according to the police, stole a pair of earrings valued at N1,500 and one wrist watch valued N1,000, property of one Fatima Ojikutu and thereby committed an offence punishable under section 390 (a) of the criminal code cap 31. vol. 2 laws of Lagos state of Nigeria 1994.

Prosecuting police inspector, Ephiriam Onyia told the court that the accused persons unlawfully assaulted Fatima by using broken bottles to inflict injuries all over

her body contrary to section 355 of the criminal code.

The accused persons- Kehinde Benjamin 25, Waidi Bello 25 and 24 year-old Taiwo Benjamin were alleged to have used ropes to tie the hands and legs of Fatimah Ojikutu before stripping her naked and raping her one after the other.

The police also alleged that the accused persons having stripped her naked defiled her contrary to section 360 of the criminal code.

It was further alleged that the suspects and others now at a large having overpowered her maliciously tore her dress valued at N2,500.

Specifically, Taiwo Benjamin was charged with unlawfully causing grievous harm to Fatimah by hitting her on the mouth with a bottle and causing her the loss of two teeth.

The three accused persons pleaded not guilty to the charges. They were admitted on bail on stringent conditions by chief magistrate Ayo Odugbesan who adjourned further hearing till September 10, 2001.

tor Chilaka while confirming the incident said that the suspect and the exhibit have been taken to the Isokoko police station where further investigations into the matter is being conducted.

In a similar development the police recovered the sum of US \$760 which was allegedly snatched at the Lagos Airport Hotel.

According to the complainant one Arinze of No. 6 Atinuke Street, Ogba, who reported the incident, the \$760 was snatched after he was giving a bite on the right hand as he struggled to save his money.

But luck ran out on the suspect, one Tony Obi when a police constable Ahmed Salisu attached to the General Investigations Department (GID) Ikeja got the thief arrested.

When he was searched, the sum of four hundred fake dollars was recovered from him. Also recovered was the complaint's \$760 dollars. Both the suspect and exhibits were taken to the Ikeja police station for further investigations.

Abuja News

FCT residents react to IBB's request to Oputa Panel

A cross section of residents of the Federal Capital Territory have reacted to former President Ibrahim Babangida's request to the Human Rights Investigation Commission to testify in camera.

Though the respondents did not give a uniform response, a majority of those interviewed, believe that as a former leader, IBB's request should be granted.

Mr. Elvis Uzodinma, a business man in Wuse Zone 5, feels that having ruled this country for eight years, the commission should give respect to whom it is due. According to him, even when it was obvious that a great number of Americans did not approve of Bill Clinton's affairs with Monica Lewinsky, they still allowed him to testify in camera, even though it was later transmitted.

"We should give him that respect as a former President. It could be anybody tomorrow, and we should evolve into a more civilised society," he said.

Malam Hamisu

By Austine Odo

Muhammad who identified himself as a politician in the Bwari area council also said IBB should be allowed to testify in camera. "Whether he testifies publicly or in camera, it will remain that he testified. After all, it is before the same panel. If in the end, the testimony clears him, that is all, otherwise, the fact that he testified in camera would not alter the truth,"

he submitted.

Mr. Abdulkareem Abba, a civil servant, advised the commission to particularly take note of IBB's complaint of public incitement by Gani Fawehinmi during a public testimony.

He said he shared the view that IBB is likely to be subjected to public ridicule if he testifies openly, which necessitates the call for a closed trial.

A resident of Maitama,

Miss. Lucy Adokwu, an unemployed graduate, called on Nigerians to respect their past leaders by granting IBB's request.

"Let us remember that God appoints leaders, no matter what we think of such leaders. Respecting them therefore, is respecting God, since he couldn't have been there even as a military ruler without God's approval. Let us borrow a leaf from the civilised world."

Similarly, Mr. Solomon Aremu, a trader in the new Wuse Market saw the need for IBB's request to be granted on the grounds that he was a past leader who held this country peacefully together for a period of time.

"He deserves that respect," he said, "I do not see anything wrong with his request."

A taxi driver who simply identified himself as Olumide, however, disapproved of IBB's request because according to him, others testified publicly, and IBB should not be allowed to go contrary to the normal procedure.

"Other people talk openly, why him no go talk openly?" he queried.

Miss. Charity Ubani, a student, also dismissed fears

of incitement by Gani. According to her, the presence of heavily armed security men at the venue should put that fear to rest.

Many other residents who spoke, expressed the view that IBB should testify in camera. They said the need to grant IBB's request is predicated on the fact that the Oputa Panel is mainly for reconciliation and not for punitive measures. According to Israel Iluoma, an estate agent in Kubwa, the request would have been unnecessary were the Oputa Panel empowered to hand down judgements or punishments.

"In this case, it is just like a drama or circus, and I know IBB has no time for a drama," he said. Mr. Tony Eziana, a civil servant, however said everyone must be treated equally before the law.

"They said this is democracy, democracy thrives on the rule of law."



Drug peddlers at FCDA Premises, Abuja. NAFDAC wants buyers of such drugs to beware.

Pix: Kennedy Egbonodje.

Nyanya residents accuse FCDA of neglect

By Emmanuel Ande

Residents of Nyanya, a satellite town in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), have accused the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA) of poor attitude towards their town.

The accusation has come as a result of poor state of streets in the area which have become death traps.

A cross section of the residents who spoke to our reporter complained about the state of roads and the condition of FCDA staff quarters in Nyanya.

Mr James Onoja, an employee of FCDA, told *Daily Trust* that every year, the Ministry of Federal Capital Territory (MFCT) votes huge amounts of money for the repair of the FCDA quarters but no repairs had been carried out.

He lamented that in spite of the huge amount of money deducted from staff salaries as house rents, no attention was paid to such houses from which high revenue is being generated.

Alhaji Musa Mustapha, a *suya* seller, maintained that the FCDA authorities had devoted more attention to areas where government officers reside and abandoned the masses.

He blamed the high cost of transport fares on the poor state of the roads in the town, pointing out that most mo-

torists refused plying the route, a situation which forced passengers to sometimes wait for vehicles for over two hours only to pay the high fares charged by drivers.

Our reporter who visited the densely populated town discovered that the road linking Nyanya General Hospital and the Mopol barracks is completely out of use and the road connecting Area F with mammy market is unusable as the three bridges on the road have collapsed.

The condition of houses in Area A of the FCDA staff quarters can be better imagined than told as erosion has completely taken over the area, exposing the foundations of the buildings to the rains.



Engr. Mohammad Abba-Guna, FCT Minister.

Tiv community in Abuja to honour Gen Ikya

By Mhii Samuel Selumun

The Tiv community in Abuja has concluded plans to honour an illustrious Tiv son, Brig. Gen. S.G. Ikya (rtd.), who until recently was the Sole Administrator of the Federal Urban Mass Transit Agency (FUMTA).

The chairman, Planning Committee of the reception, Chief Clement K. Ugandan who spoke to *Daily Trust* in Abuja on Saturday, said the decision to honour the retired general was inspired by his meritorious service to Nigeria. His words: "The community is determined to ensure a befitting reception for Brig. Gen. Ikya (rtd) who spent 28 years in the military and 10 years at the Federal Urban Mass Transit Agency (FUMTA), during which he contributed immensely to Nigeria's socio-economic development."

Also speaking at the occasion, the President-General of the community, Mr. Ahura Matu, said the reception would be the first in the history of the Tiv community in Abuja.

He stated that Gen. Ikya had contributed immensely to the upliftment of the Tiv people and Nigeria as a whole through his selfless and meritorious service.

He stated that honouring Gen. Ikya would ginger other Tiv sons and daughters into leaving lasting legacies in their chosen fields.

Mr. Matu expressed the hope that the Vice-President who was recently honoured by the Tiv as the "Zege-Mule-U-Tiv," is being expected as special guest of honour but stated that due to the Vice-President's tight schedule, he was not very sure of his attendance.

Brig. Gen. Ikya headed FUMTA from inception in 1991 till early this year when the agency was scrapped by the Obasanjo administration.

Commuters call for enhanced traffic control on Berger-Idu road

The police and the Federal Road Safety Corps have been urged to deploy more teams to control traffic at the Berger-Idu road in the FCT.

The call came from commuters on the route who spoke to *Daily Trust* at the weekend.

The commuters believe that the increased presence of uniformed traffic controllers like the FRSC and the police would be the only way to check the frequent flouting of traffic rules by commercial bus drivers on the route.

Investigations by *Daily Trust* revealed that the commercial bus drivers obey traffic rules only when the road safety corps members and the police are on duty along the road. When it is discovered that they are absent, most commercial bus drivers do not keep to the rules. They practise what is commonly called "Araba," a habit of leaving the long queue of vehicles in an effort to beat the hold up. This results in completely blocking the passage of vehicles from the



Musiliu Smith, IGP.

opposite side, and sometimes, serious accidents.

The drivers have a habit of passing coded information to their colleagues to signify the absence of uniformed men. The commuters who spoke to *Daily Trust*, said the presence of more security men, especially at Life Camp, Kado and Old Karimo bus stops would help reduce the

chaotic traffic situation on the route.

Mrs. Andela Idimu, a resident of Kado Village, appealed to transport authorities to take the call seriously if decency is to be brought to the traffic situation in the area.

Victor Akar, a bus driver, said the presence of a handful of policemen would not solve the problem but an increased number of men of the FRSC and the police who would patrol the road in the busy hours of the day.

Daily Trust found out that contrary to frequent calls by the FRSC on the need for decency on the roads, the Berger-Idu road has been host to many rickety vehicles, apart from the deliberate disregard of traffic rules by commercial drivers.

Some of the drivers also disregard the orders of the police if they discover that they are very few, and carry no arms. The commuters called for intensified campaigns and stricter surveillance by more policemen and FRSC to check the trend.

Auto crashes increase on Suleja-Berger road

By Hammeed M. Bello

Frequent auto-crashes along Suleja-Berger expressway have begun to give residents of the F.C.T. who ply the road a serious cause for concern, a *Daily Trust* investigation has indicated.

The investigation has shown that the expressway has been branded an accident zone by commuters due to the frequent accidents that occur along the road.

Daily Trust gathered that civil servants who ply the road have become "perpetual late comers" to work due to the

delay caused by accidented vehicles that usually block the road, making movement of vehicles very difficult.

Contacts revealed that the bulk of the accidents are caused by over speeding and impatience on the part of the drivers who try to display proficiency on the wheels.

Daily Trust also learnt that the number of amateur commercial and other private vehicle drivers is on the increase, especially as

commercial drivers who use the road, always compete among themselves on high speed.

Furthermore, the accidents are not unconnected with the increasing number of car owners in Kubwa, Dutse, Bwari and Suleja, who drive without any driving lessons or license.

Miss. Esther Pam, a resident of Suleja, who plies the road daily, told this reporter that unless the Federal Road Safety Corps, vehicle inspection officers and the police intensify efforts along the expressway, the situation would continue.



SPORTS



Inter thrash Enyimba 7-0

Nigerian champions Enyimba were thrashed 7-0 by Inter Milan in a charity friendly at the San Siro Stadium in Milan on Sunday.

The main focus of the match was the return to action of Brazilian superstar Ronaldo who made a 35-minute comeback after a 21-month injury layoff.

Ronaldo, who partnered Italy's Christian Vieri in attack, twice forced saves out of Enyimba goalkeeper Dele Ayanugba before setting up Vieri's header in the 19th minute.

The two-time World Footballer of the Year then scored 4 minutes later to make it 2-0 with a shot from the edge of the box.

He left the field 10 minutes before the break to a standing ovation from the 40,000 crowd who turned up for what was billed "Ronaldo Day".

Vieri netted the third goal in the 43rd minute to give Inter a comfortable lead at half time.

In the second half Vieri scored two more while Nicola Ventola and new Brazilian signing Adriano got one goal each to complete the scoring.

Enyimba were lined up as last-minute replacements for the Senegalese national team. The World Cup-bound West Africans were unable to assemble a team due to the European club commitments of their

top players.

The game was organised by Ronaldo himself to raise money for a United Nations programme which helps needy children in Asia, Africa and South America.

The Brazilian, who said he was feeling "extremely emotional", played brilliantly in his first appearance since he ruptured knee ligaments in the Italian Cup final against Lazio in April 2000.

Ronaldo offered a glimpse

as Ronaldo returns

of his old self with a sharp turn on the edge of the area, a burst of pace and a well-placed shot to make it 2-0 for Inter.

The Brazilian, whose last appearance at the San Siro was in November 1999, said he was delighted with his return. "I'm feeling extremely emotional and it is a good feeling. I am very happy right now," Ronaldo told Italian television as he left the field.

Ronaldo said his right

knee, which was operated on 16 months ago, had stood up well to his first outing. "I didn't feel anything. I had a lot of faith in my movements. But I can't handle 90 minutes yet and that is my objective now. The fans expect a lot from me, I know that and I am ready," said the former Barcelona and PSV Eindhoven striker.

"I certainly want to be scoring some goals this season," added Ronaldo.



Ronaldo made a successful comeback against Enyimba on Sunday.

NABA plans to woo old sponsors

Nigeria Amateur Boxing Association (NABA) is working on the possibility of bringing back all their old sponsor.

Unfolding NABA's plans to Trustsports, the Secretary-General, Olusola Luke, said the association has opened up discussion with National Oil Plc, the sole sponsor of Eagles Belt Competition, one of the association's glamorous competitions in the year.

The sponsor of this competition, that brings the cream of Nigerian boxers together at the end of the year pulled out of the sponsorship deal with NABA in 1997, when both parties failed to reach compromise after a protracted crisis.

Luke also informed that the board has resolved to bring back the IBB tournament, as a

From Babs Oyetoro, in Lagos

process to facilitate the return of these championships which has begun in earnest.

"We are starting on a new note. This board is trying to break away from the old dispensation," he noted.

Talking on the plans of the new board to embark on a capital project, the former weightlifting scribe hinted that abandoned Ben Anyonote gym will be given full attention this time around.

"The new board is planning aggressive fund drive so as to be asked to generate enough funds to complete the project that had been abandoned since 1991, after the demise of late Ayonote, the man who started the project," he explained.

Kuerten injury gives Rafter win

Australian Pat Rafter won the RCA Championships final in Indianapolis after Gustavo Kuerten had to retire with a rib injury.

Top seed Kuerten lasted just 22 minutes before conceding defeat at 2-4 in the first set.

The Brazilian had played his semi-final against Goran Ivanisevic earlier in the day after rain had prevented their match from taking place on Saturday.

Kuerten eventually beat the Croat in three sets but had to go

back on court just an hour later for the final.

He had received treatment between the matches for the injury.

Kuerten said he was not sure of the exact nature of his ailment but that it had hampered his service action and his forehand.

He thought he had incurred the injury while warming up for the Ivanisevic match.

It was fifth seed Rafter's first title of the year and came on the back of three consecutive final defeats.

Toms takes USPGA title

David Toms has been crowned USPGA champion with a thrilling victory in the final Major of the season.

He holed a 10-foot putt on the last hole to beat fellow American Phil Mickelson by just one stroke at the Atlanta Athletic Club.



David Toms

The pair had been embroiled in a fascinating duel on one of the vintage final days in this famous championship.

But Toms came out on top, his one-under par 69 giving him a 15-under total of 265 - the lowest four-round score in Major history.

It was Toms' first victory in a Major event and puts him into the American Ryder Cup team.

But for Mickelson, it was yet another agonising failure in golf's biggest championships.

With Tiger Woods well out of the running and Open champion David Duval's challenge floundering, Mickelson had a great chance to win.

But despite shooting a two-under 68, the left-hander missed out again - and he remains saddled with the unwanted tag of "the best player never to have won a Major".

Another American, Steve Lowery, was third on 12-under,

with popular Japanese player Shingo Katayama fourth, alongside Mark Calcavecchia.

Toms was one shot ahead of Mickelson going down the 18th - and he played the perfect hole, after controversially laying up in front of the water.

Mickelson had a chance to take the championship to a play-off, but his 25-foot birdie putt finished just inches short.

That allowed Toms to hole out for a par four and victory - and he punched the air in delight as the ball sank into the cup.

"I didn't want to have to do it," he said of his decision to lay up.

"But with the lie I had I just felt it was the best way to make par."

There was misery for one of Europe's leading players, Colin Montgomerie, who was disqualified after the final round for incorrectly signing his card.

And the biggest name in the sport continued to struggle, with defending champion Tiger Woods finishing the event way off the lead at one-under after a level-par 70.

But the fourth round was all about the personal battle between Toms and Mickelson, as the playing partners effectively turned the championship into a matchplay event.

Toms was ahead by two strokes as they both reached the turn in one-under par 34.

Then came a series of nerve-jangling moments on the back nine.

Toms fluffed two short putts in the space of two holes - for par at the 10th and birdie at 12, while Mickelson claimed a birdie three to draw level.

Then came the finale on the 18th - and Toms' conservative tactics paid off to stunning effect.

Use Nations Cup for World Cup preparation

*Laloko advises Amodu

Kashimawo Laloko, former Nigeria Football Association (NFA) Technical Director has joined the growing list of sports loving Nigerians calling on the Super Eagles technical crew use the Nations Cup a dress rehearsal for the mundial.

Laloko, who was speaking from his wealth of experience as a coach and sports administrator told Trustsports that the Nations Cup coming up early next year would afford coach Amodu Shuaibu the appeal opportunity to try new players.

The former Gambian national team coach maintained



Amodu

that the quality of opposition in the Nations Cup is enough fine-tune the Super Eagles for the World Cup.

Aside from expressing confidence in the ability of the three coaches handling the team, the Egba-born football tactician counselled Amodu to expose most of the players he intends to use for the World Cup in Japan/Korea in the Af-

rican championship.

He advised that Nigerians should not expect so much from the Super Eagles in the Nations Cup, as the championship could be an experiment for the national team.

He also emphasised on the need to organise more friendly matches for the Super Eagles before the World Cup proper.

Ferguson criticises defenders, praises Van Nistelrooy

Manchester United boss Sir Alex Ferguson criticised his defence but praised striker Ruud van Nistelrooy after the Old Trafford side's win against Fulham.

Ferguson twice saw United go behind to Louis Saha strikes before David Beckham and a Van Nistelrooy double secured a 3-2 victory.

The £19m Dutch striker then added his second and the eventual winner to rescue the Premiership champions.

"There's casualness about the defending which I hope will improve as the weeks go on," said Ferguson.



Ferguson

"We need to get an edge to our defending - I would expect us to last more than four minutes before conceding a goal."

But Ferguson was delighted with Van Nistelrooy's Premiership debut: "His first goal was absolutely superb, out of nothing. It was a goalscorer's goal which I think won the game for us."

"I thought Fulham gave us a lot of problems. We did a lot of good things but there wasn't the flow of the game we expect."

Fulham troubled the home side with some slick one-touch passing and Louis Saha scored early on in each half.

A lack of concentration in defence also proved the visitors' downfall, although they took plenty of encouragement from their display.

"It's possible to play at this level but we need to score when we have the chances and to progress together," said Fulham boss Jean Tigana.

"I am never pleased when I lose. Our next two games are important."

Fulham midfielder Sean Davis added: "We've come to the best team in the country and we've created a few chances. We could have gone half-time 3-0 up."

Schumacher praises team effort

A tearful world champion, Michael Schumacher, could not stop thanking Ferrari for helping him to yet another world title.

Schumacher took the chequered flag in the Hungarian Grand Prix on Sunday to clinch his fourth world championship.

Sporting Director Jean Toldt showed Ferrari's delight with the epic win by telling Schumacher on his car radio: "Fantastic, fantastic."

The 32-year-old German replied: "It's simply amazing. It's so lovely to work with you guys. I love you all, I love you all, thank you."

Schumacher was clearly emotional as he stood on the winning podium, alongside second-placed Rubens Barrichello and David Coulthard in third.

"I am probably not a bad racing driver, but I am not the right man to find words for expressing emotions," said Schumacher, shedding yet more tears, after the ceremony.

The win on a humid afternoon at the Hungaroring circuit gave Schumacher an unassailable 43-point lead in the drivers' table.

With only 40 points remaining from the last four races of the season, he has become the first driver to take titles with two different constructors.

He captured the championship with Benetton in 1994 and 1995.

to win again last year.

Sunday's result not only allowed Schumacher equal Alain Prost's record of 51 career wins, but also ties him in second-place with the driving legend on four world titles.

Juan Manuel Fangio leads with five titles.

"I ran into Alain yesterday and he told me, 'Please win that race, I am bored with all the same questions,' and I told him I felt the same way," said Schumacher.

"We had a great weekend. I got the pole, I got the victory, I got the 51st victory to share with Alain and I got my fourth championship," said Schumacher.

"It's a bit too much for me to take."

Schumacher's one-two with team-mate Rubens Barrichello over the finish line in Hungary ensured more joy for Ferrari.

The team took their third constructors' title with 140 points, 58 points ahead of McLaren.

"It's fantastic. To finish the championship so early is fantastic," said Ferrari's chief mechanic Nigel Stepney.

"We started well at the beginning of the season, and built on that base."

Stepney was certain that Ferrari had only one man to thank for their success - Michael Schumacher.

"He's been very consistent. He hasn't made any mistakes."

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 NATIONAL SEMINAR
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 UNITY, PEACE & JUSTICE
 IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**
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Manchester United's David Beckham, left, curls in a free kick over the Fulham wall to level the score at 1-1 during the Premiership game at Old Trafford, Manchester on Sunday. Manchester won 3-2



Mike Tyson (R) punches Andrew Golota during their heavyweight fight, that Tyson won by TKO, Oct. 20, 2000. Tyson will fight Brian Nielsen in Copenhagen on September 8, Danish promoter Mogens Palle said.

Okocha pledges his future to PSG

Super Eagles mercurial midfielder Augustine "Jay-Jay" Okocha has dismissed speculation about his future with Paris Saint Germain by committing himself to the French club.

The 28 year-old, who joined PSG for £9 million after two successful years with Turkish club Fenerbahce, has struggled to reproduce his magical skills with the French glamour club.

Okocha came to France with a reputation as a world class midfielder following an impressive 1998 World Cup campaign for Nigeria.

Before moving to Turkey he also had four successful years in the German Bundesliga with Eintracht Frankfurt.

Given the pressure he was under to justify his price tag, Okocha admits to having been unsettled at the Parc des Princes club.

However, an impressive pre-season buildup and a promising start to the new season has restored Okocha's confidence.

He told the onefootball.com website: "I was thinking about leaving, but I knew I was still under contract which I had to respect.

"Now, though, I have started talks over a new deal and if I do sign it will be for

By Ismaila Umar Lere,
 with agency report
 the rest of my career."

According to the Nigerian star, his improved relationship with coach Luis Fernandez was a major factor in his change of fortune.

"I have held very positive talks with Fernandez and that has given me the confidence I needed.

"Our relationship has

improved because we know each other better. When I first arrived I was injured a lot and he didn't really know what to do with me," Okocha explained.

"I'm 28 now, and I'm enjoying my football. I won't have too many more chances to play for a top club so I think I should really be looking to finish my career here."



David Toms tees off on the 18th hole during the final round of the PGA Championship at the Atlanta Athletic Club in Duluth, Ga., on Sunday. Toms won the tournament.

Strands of Fate: written & illustrated by Bolama Mustapha



Serena Williams of the United States, smiles as she poses with the trophy after defeating Jennifer Capriati of the U.S. 6-1, 6-7 (7), 6-3 to win the final of the Rogers AT&T Cup in Toronto on Sunday.