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NEWS

National Confab: 198 delegates represent North

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The House of Representatives yesterday suspended an All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP), member representing Borno state, Hon (Dr) Haruna Yerima, for what it called 'professional misconduct' just as the ANPP caucus in the House indicated that it might take legal

MTN Cards: Reps suspend Yerima

action on the matter.

The House unanimously voted in favour of a motion for the suspension of Dr. Yerima moved by the Chief Whip, Abubakar Bwari Bawa and seconded by Hon Abike Dabiri following media rep-

By Zainab Alimi, Political Reporter

orts in which Yerima accused some House members and committee chairmen as corrupt.

Hon Yerima had on Wednesday briefed the press

on the hot seat where he specifically accused the House committee on communications of receiving recharge cards worth 2.7 million naira monthly from MTN to favour the GSM service in its oversight of its activities.

Although the committee chairman, Hon Yemi Arokodare, who allegedly collected the recharge cards on behalf of the members confirmed the allegation, he said that the cards like the free lines MTN gave to state

governors and pastors across the country, were just complimentary gifts and not bribes to influence their work.

However, the Whip, Hon Bawa at the plenary session yesterday, brought the matter to the notice of the House, saying that media

Contd. on Pg 2

NNPC to fund confab - Na'Abba alleges

Former Speaker of the House of Representatives, Alhaji Umar Ghali Na'Abba, yesterday said the federal government might have decided to ask the Nigerian National Petroleum Cooperation (NNPC), to fund

By Hammeed M. Bello, Senior Political Reporter

the national conference billed to open in Abuja on Monday.

Na'Abba also said President Obasanjo has no moral

justification to ask for the return to a democratic order in Togo because current governments at the federal and some at the state levels in Nigeria lack legitimacy, since they did not win elections.

Na'Abba was speaking while making remarks at the roundtable held by a pro-democracy group in the House of Representatives, Forum for Democracy and Good Governance, to mark its first anniversary. Former

Senate President Anyim Pius Anyim was also present at the occasion.

Na'Abba said he was reliably informed that the NNPC would be instructed by the Federal Government to fund the conference because according to him, the corporation is not accountable to Nigerians and could be deployed at will to raise funds without due process.

He said since there is no minister for the petroleum sector and being under the

control of the presidency, nobody can know what transpires at the NNPC, suggesting that public funds are being spent without accounting for them.

The National Assembly had declined to approve funds for the conference on the grounds that it was unconstitutional for it to do so because section 4 of the constitution empowers only the National Assembly to execute the roles for which

Contd. on Pg 2



L-R: Governor Ali Modu Sheriff of Borno, ANPP national chairman, Chief Don Etiebet and General Jermlah Useni, deputy chairman (North) of the ANPP, jointly commissioning one of the road projects constructed by the Borno State government, yesterday in Maiduguri. Pix: Abdullahi Bego.

Women protest marginalisation

Thousands of members of women groups yesterday conducted a peaceful rally over alleged marginalisation in the forthcoming political reforms conference and presented two separate letters to the president and state governors through the minister of women affairs, Obong Rita Akpan.

The women under the banner of Women Organisations for Representative in National Conference (WORNACO), carrying

By Abubakar Haruna, Reporter, Abuja

placards with inscriptions "Women demand equity" "No woman no conference" "Governors Haba!!!" "Mr President, we thank you o!" But it is 30 percent not 7 percent women representation," marched from the National Centre for Women Development Abuja to the office of the minister of women affairs.

While presenting the letters, the leader of the

group, Professor Jadesola Akande said that women were compelled to come out because their rights have been violated with regards to the forthcoming confab.

The letter to the president

Togo: Faure meets Obasanjo

New Togolese leader, Mr Faure Gnassingbe, yesterday met for more than two hours with President Olusegun Obasanjo at the State House in Abuja.

reads thus: "Sir, we have reviewed all your appointments in the five years of your administration and found that you have achieved about 12.5 percent, before

Contd. on Pg 2

By Reuben Yunana, Senior Reporter, State House

The usual red carpet treatment usually given to visiting presidents at the Villa were however absent at the

...Southern senators endorse

The Southern Senators Forum rose from a meeting yesterday endorsing the forthcoming national political reform conference and went a step further by setting up a six-man committee to confer with delegates to the conference from the southern part of the country to push through issues the lawmakers feel should be deliberated upon at the conference.

Chairman of the forum, Senator Ifeanyi G. Ararume (PDP/Imo), who disclosed the position of the southern senators, said membership of the committee includes, Senator Felix Ibru (PDP/Delta), Senator Victor Ndoma-Egba (PDP/Cross River), Senator Chris Adighije (PDP/Abia), Senator Ike Ekweremadu (PDP/Enugu), Senator Clement Kolawale

By Isa Sanusi & Habeeb I. Pindiga, Political Reporters

Awoyelu (PDP/Ekiti) and Senator Adeleke Mamora (AD/Lagos).

Senator Ararume further stated the position of the southern senators: "The southern senators have just concluded a meeting where we decided on a number of issues. One of the issue is that the southern senators support the national conference. We support it in its entirety. And as against some of the publications in the papers that senators will not support the conference, the southern senators support the conference and we have gone a step further to set up a committee," he said.

The six-man committee, Ararume further said, will liaise with the leadership of the southern senators forum; articulate the position of the people of southern Nigeria and put it to the conference through their delegates, adding that the people of the south are poised to take a unified position at the conference.

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News

NNPC *Contd. from Pg 1*

the conference is being convened. The federal government therefore resolved to find alternative funding.

In his remarks, Na'Abba also said it is very difficult to absolve the present government of misrule because the president is the minister of petroleum resources but that the petroleum ministry and departments have refused to come under the scrutiny and auditing of the House supervising committee.

He said throughout his tenure as speaker between 1999 and 2003, the president had cause to speak only twice with the House committee on petroleum headed by Hon West Idahosa.

On those two occasions, he said the president warned Idahosa not to attempt to open investigations into the activities of the NNPC and to steer clear of over sighting the activities of the corporation.

Commenting on the political developments in Togo, he said President Obasanjo does not have the democratic credentials to question the takeover of the political headship of Togo by the son of the country's deceased president, Gnassingbe Eyadema.

Former Senate President, Anyim Pius Anyim, said at the occasion that the tragedy of the current democratic experiment was the defeat of checks and balances and that unless the three arms of government operate independently of one another, there cannot be democracy in the country.

The coordinator of the Democracy Forum, Hon Usman Bugaje, said in his welcome address that democracy has been threatened by some vices. He said "our

freedom is being suffocated and our hopes for development thwarted. The tragic case of Anambra state for example, the absence of constitution and the preference for policy ambush in governance, the absence of political will to deal with corruption across board have continued to push our democracy to the brink," he lamented.

"Our inability to address the problems of poverty or even the infrastructural decay, our failure to appreciate much less meet the expectations of our teeming and beleaguered populace and the arrogance and impunity with which government dismisses the genuine needs of its citizens, has continued to generate a huge democracy deficit which has fuelled social conflicts and elicited cynicism in the polity," he further submitted.

MTN *Contd. from Pg 1*

reports on Hon Yerima's briefing have cast aspersions on the integrity of the National Assembly.

He therefore prayed the House to suspend Hon Yerima for one month while the House committee on ethics and privileges be mandated to consider the merits or demerits of Yerima's allegations and take action appropriately, a prayer granted by the House.

Deputy Speaker, Hon Austin Opara, at the session, described Hon Yerima's utterances as 'unfortunate and laughable,' adding that his accusations must be substantiated.

Said he: "he (Yerima) needs more than just suspension. He needs to be dismissed. Aside that, he needs a psychiatrist to check him up, especially since reports have it that he is always being kicked out of one institution

where he had served or the other."

Several members of the House described Hon Yerima's action as 'sacrilegious,' 'capable of inducing military coup in our democracy,' and 'shameful,' but when asked by Speaker, Hon Aminu Bello Masari, if it was true that he made the allegations, Hon Yerima said that he stood by the truth that some individual members of the House as well as committee chairmen are corrupt.

"I maintain that I never said anything about institutional corruption as I am being alleged to have said. What I said is the truth and I stand by it. But if the House still wants to arrest or suspend me for that, then it can go ahead and do so. I stand by the truth and have no apologies to anyone," he said.

Governors want 50% of excess crude shared

By Reuben Yunana, Senior Reporter, State House

All the 36 state governors yesterday resolved that 50 percent of the 2004 excess crude should be shared between the federal, states and local governments within this year.

The resolution was taken at the meeting of the National Economic Council presided over by Vice President Atiku Abubakar.

The remaining 50 percent of the proceeds NEC said, is to be saved to take care of possible fluctuations in the price of crude oil.

NEC is a constitutional body made up of all 36 state governors with the vice president as chairman.

The meeting also resolved to invite the group managing director of the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), Engineer Funso Kupolokun, to its next meeting to brief it on the activities of the corporation.

Briefing State House correspondents at the end of the meeting, governors of Kebbi Adamu Aliero, Jigawa, Saminu Turaki, Adamawa, Boni Haruna and deputy governor of Enugu state, Okechukwu Itanyi, anno-

unced major decisions taken at the meeting which was briefly attended by President Olusegun Obasanjo.

Kebbi State governor, Alhaji Adamu Aliero, said "the council has agreed on the decision of the Council of State that 50 percent of that money would be shared and 50 percent would be saved for rainy days," adding, "the 50 percent that will be shared this year is going to be given instalmentally. Every month, states and local governments would be saved in order to forestall any possible fluctuation in oil prices. If there is any problem with oil prices, the money can be ploughed back into the economy and it will be based on the existing revenue allocation formula."

He said "council had requested that the group managing director of the NNPC come to brief the council on the activities of the NNPC. That has not been done. I think anytime we have another meeting he will be invited to come and brief."

Ajaokuta managers buy Delta Steel for N4.3bn

By Ahmed I. Shekarau, Group Business Editor

Global Infrastructure Limited, the Indian firm currently managing Ajaokuta Steel Rolling Mill has acquired Delta Steel Company, Aladja, Warri in Delta state and has taken over the company to commence operations.

According to a statement issued in Abuja by the head of communications and marketing department of the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE), Mr. Adesoji Adesugba, Delta Steel Company was handed over to Global Investments by the BPE last Friday.

Although the statement did not state the amount which the steel company was sold to the new core investor, *Daily Trust* reliably gathered that DSC was acquired for \$30 million (about N4.3 billion).

The BPE statement said that since the new investors are the ones managing Ajaokuta Steel, it would not be proper to hand over Delta Steel to another company since the original design of the steel companies was to achieve a synergy in their

operations. It added that, "it was also a step taken in order to guard against the pit falls of the past, in particular the Nigerian Telecommunications Limited (NITEL), whose preferred bidder, Investors International (London) Limited (IILL), failed to meet its financial obligation after the financial bid in 2002.

The statement said that the BPE was already consulting with the various labour unions in the company for a smooth transformation of the steel company.

It added that it was agreed by both the workers and the BPE that an estate of the company Township 1, would be sold and the proceeds would be used to settle the liabilities of the company on staff welfare, stressing further that the BPE officials led by the Bureau's labour adviser, Alhaji Salisu Nuhu Mohammed, are meeting with the retirees of the company where issues relating to workers benefits are being worked out.



Members of Congress of National Youth Leaders protesting against federal government youth slot to the National Confab at the office of the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Youths Development and Special Duties, Mr Frank Nweke Jnr ...yesterday. They threaten to disrupt the conference if changes are not made to the list.

Southern Senators *Contd. from Pg 1*

Responding to questions from newsmen, the secretary of the forum, Senator David Brigidi (PDP/Bayelsa), said even though the senate had earlier opposed the conference, "but we are saying we as southerners have a position. We are fully in support of the conference. The Senate has voted. Majority have voted against the conference and then an element (southern senators) said they support it. They have a contrary position. It doesn't amount to double standards," Brigidi said.

The treasurer of the forum, Senator Iyiola Omisore (PDP/Osun), denied that the Senate in its entirety is against the conference saying: "where did we reject the conference, where? Go and check the votes and proceedings of the Senate. Where was the position taken? Let me know?"

In his turn, Senator Mambora (AD/Lagos), insisted that: "No matter how flawed the process (of the conference) is, the important thing is that something may come out of it. As flawed as Abacha conference was, it came up with this 13 percent derivation. That is what we are talking about. So you don't just pre-empt the whole thing. Moreso, as representatives of the people, if the

people say they want to talk, who are we to say they cannot talk?"

In a swift reaction, the secretary of the Northern Senators Forum, Senator Saidu Mohammed Dansadau, described the latest position, of the southern senators as "unparliamentary" adding that they were party to the senate's rejection of the conference.

He said: "It is unparliamentary for a section of the senators to come out and say they have a different position. The Senate has not made a u-turn regarding the position we had earlier taken disassociating ourselves from the conference. We have nothing to do with it."



President Olusegun Obasanjo

Women *Contd. from Pg 1*

ore the composition of the national conference committee through that committee in the published list, there are only 30 women. Out of the 392 delegates only four states thought it fit to nominate any woman.

"It is very painful that Nigerian women will be joining their counterparts from other nations, including African nations, at the meeting for the review of the Beijing Declaration and report that they have failed to achieve even 15 percent representation in such an important committee as the national conference committee for the review of the Nigerian constitution.

"We believe very firmly that you can still make a few amendments in the list to give Nigerian women more equitable representation," the letter indicated.

The other letter addressed to all governors indicated thus: "We read with utmost despair, the list of the candidates nominated to serve on the committee for the national conference for the reform of the constitution because you could not find one single female to nominate from your state."

"Sir, we need to remind you that the majority of your voters who voted you into office are women. If they were good for voting, they should

be good enough to be part of a body which will determine the future of this country.

"We do not know how this grave mistake can be corrected but we shall educate our women thoroughly on the effects of this marginalisation on their lives and the lives of their children so that they can be more knowledgeable about the low status ascribed to them by society and those who govern them," the letter further stated.

President Obasanjo to revert to the status quo ante in his country.

President Obasanjo advised Faure and those supporting the constitutional change of government in Togo "to retrace their steps to the position of constitutionality."

The meeting said to be at the instance of the Togolese leader, failed to achieve the purpose of the visitors as Obasanjo insisted that only a democratically elected president in Togo was acceptable to him and indeed the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the African Union (AU) and the International Community.

Presidential spokesperson, Mrs Oluremi Oyo, told State House correspondents that the president

Togo *Contd. from Pg 1*

advised the Togolese authorities to build bridges that would help the country return to the path of democracy, normalcy and sustainable development.

She said President Obasanjo called for "the staging of a free, fair and transparent election that will bring about an elected president whose duty will be to heal the wounds and build bridges for the growth and development of Togo."

She said President Obasanjo told the Togolese delegation that he remains committed to the position of ECOWAS and AU on the unconstitutional takeover of power in Togo.

"The meeting achieved one thing: The president, speaking on behalf of the

African Union, has not departed from the position of AU and ECOWAS. For the Togolese, I cannot say," she said.

She said the Togolese informed the president that anxiety engulfed Togo following the death of President Eyadema.

According to her, the delegation said "that there was fear of an outbreak of violence and that they took the decision to arrest a descent into anarchy. They said they were worried because there was threat of violence and they did not want the country to be rudderless."

President Obasanjo who maintained both AU and ECOWAS stand, said he believes in democracy and abhors coups and things that are unconstitutional and undemocratic.

NEWS

Save the last textile mill, UNTL staff appeals to Makarfi

The only surviving textile mill in Kaduna, the United Nigeria Textile Limited (UNTL), may be forced to shut down unless governor Makarfi orders the release of water from Kangimi dam.

A top management executive of the UNTL Senator Walid Jibril, told *Daily Trust* in Kaduna yesterday that one of its primary raw materials water has become the major challenge to the company as the state water board "cannot produce enough water for human consumption much less for industrial application".

Senator Walid who is chairman, Textile group of the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN), said, "we

From Sani Babadoko, Bureau Chief Kaduna
appeal passionately to Governor Ahmed Mohammed Makarfi to order the release of water from Kangimi dam into river Kaduna so that we can source raw water from the river".

"We employ about 5,000 workers and if we close down, then all the eight textile mills in Kaduna are shut and it will be a tragedy on the once industrial pillar of Kaduna and the Northern region. So we appeal to him now that the problem is at his door step."

Senator Walid commended Makarfi's efforts in the past by securing black oil and presenting the issue to the president but said smuggling of textile materials from Asia has rendered all the intended

palliatives to the industry ineffective.

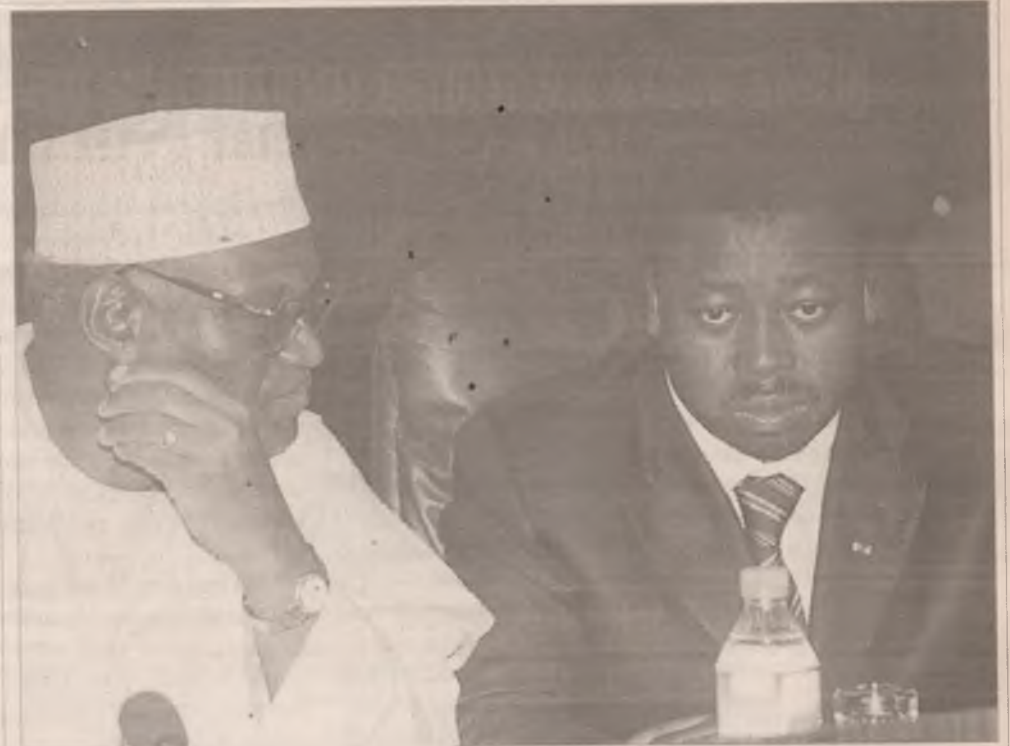
He said over the past five years, the operating textile mills in the country have been reduced from 175 to 35 and while 15 were operating above average, the other 20 were only managing to produce.

Senator Walid lamented that though the federal government has banned the importation of textile materials and the second hand clothing, they are still found in open markets.

He said over 156 illegal smuggling routes were uncovered by the textile group of MAN but that the immigration and customs authorities were aware of them.

The textile executive said other problems faced by UNTL include epileptic power supply, high cost and unavailability of diesel oil.

"There are too many unemployed in Kaduna and industries that are still managing to produce should be encouraged to produce. That is the basis of our appeal to the governor of Kaduna state", Senator Walid declared.



faure Gnassingbe of Togo (right) and Barry Moussa Barquet during their visit to President Obasanjo at the State House, Abuja...yesterday
Pix: Joe Oroye

Britain increases aid to Nigeria by N25bn

The Chief Secretary to the British treasury, Paul Boateng, has disclosed that the British government will increase its aid programme to Nigeria to #70 million (about N18 billion) in 2005/2006 and #100million (about N25 billion) in 2006/2007.

Mr. Boateng who was speaking at the African Business Roundtable (ABR), held in Abuja yesterday, said the increase will help support the Nigerian government to implement its economic reforms programmes and social development.

According to him, the United Kingdom, through the Commission for Africa as well G7 as they will do their best to help Africa overcome poverty.

"There is nothing noble or good about poverty so it is our collective responsibility to eliminate poverty because it is an ugly scar on the faces of our societies," he said.

The Commission for Africa, he said, will focus on five major areas of concern namely; governance, peace and security, human development, culture and inclusion and encouraging growth.

Mr. Boateng who has been a member of the British parliament for over 20 years said the United Kingdom is Nigeria's greatest supporter for debt relief and that it will continue to support its bid to get relief from its creditors.

He commended the Nigerian government for achieving all the economic targets it set for itself last year.

"The UK", he said, "will continue to hold Nigeria as a true friend with both hands."

Speaking earlier, the chairman of the occasion and executive president of the African Business Roundtable, Dr. Bamanga Tukur, commended Britain for its efforts to see that Africa gets debts relief from its creditors.

He hinted that a

By Anas A. Galadima, Reporter (Business)
conference that will address Africa's debt burden and its impact on economic growth will be held later this year.

Former deputy senate president in London hospital

Former deputy president of the Senate, Alhaji Haruna Abubakar has been flown to a London hospital for medical attention following a stroke he suffered last week.

Abubakar has been sick for sometime before he lapsed into a coma eight days ago, one of his close associates said.

He was at the intensive care unit of the National Hospital Abuja, till last Friday and had to be flown abroad that day.

According to his relatives, Abubakar has been responding to treatment.

Speculations were rife on Wednesday that the former legislator may have died. But

By Habeeb I. Pindiga, Political reporter

his eldest son who has been with him in London, confirmed that the politician was alive.

At the senate plenary yesterday, President of the Senate, Chief Adolphus Wabara also dispelled the rumour of Abubakar's death. He said he severally communicated with the former senator's son who confirmed to him yesterday that Abubakar was getting better.

Until June 2005, Abubakar was a senator from Nasarawa state. He served as deputy president of the senate during the leaderships of Senators Evan Enwerem and Chuba Okadigbo.

NNDC declares N83m profit

The New Nigerian Development Company (NNDC), recorded a profit of N83.91 million last year, an increase of N5.01 million over the preceding year, its chairman Lt. Gen. Garba Duba (rtd), has announced.

He said at the company's 36th Annual General Meeting (AGM), in Kaduna yesterday that NNDC's gross earnings in the year ended March 31, 2004 stood at N280.21 million, a decrease of N6.07 million or 2.21 per cent on N286.28 million for last year.

He said profit after tax and before extraordinary interms of N62.46 million was recorded against last year's figure of N63.46 million while an extra ordinary income of N370.80 million were also recorded during the year.

Gen. Duba said though the domestic economic scene

From Sani Babadoko, Bureau Chief Kaduna

was dominated by socio-political crisis, labour union strikes, the crisis in the Niger Delta and general uncertainty the performance of the economy was satisfactory.

The chairman said NNDC subsidiaries and associate companies recorded impressive result, with a positive impact on the group's performance. He said this was made possible through, managements close monitoring and supervision strategies.

"It may interest you to note that for the period ended March 31, 2004, the nominal value of both quoted and unquoted investors stood at N702 million while the market value of the quoted investments was N4.45 billion", he added.

He added that in the period,

IBB lauds Reps, says democracy has great future

Former military president, General Ibrahim Babangida (rtd), has expressed satisfaction with the performance of the House of Representatives stressing that democracy has a great, in the country.

Speaking at a dinner organised for the Chief Whip of the House of Representatives, Hon. (Dr.) Abubakar Bawa Bwari by former Speaker, Hon. Ghali Umar Na'abba in Abuja, Wednesday night, General Babangida said that he felt proud that the blend of the new and the old in the House has produced a dynamic group that gives hope for the future of democracy.

The speculated presidential hopeful, whose remarks were brief, expressed delight with the calibre of members in the House and its leadership purposefulness, said Hon. Bawa is a gentleman whose judgement and reasoning have enriched the House in serving the nation and its people.

FG signs tourism masterplan

The federal government yesterday signed a contract of \$570,000 tourism master plan with a foreign international consultant, Tourism Development International (TDI) from Ireland.

The contract which was signed at the instance of representative of the world tourism organisation (WTO), the United Nations Developing programme (UNDP), a major confutation of the project has finally put to rest the trailing controversy over the condition of the funds allocated for the project.

Speaking after the signing of the project, the minister of cultural and tourism, Amb. Obwegwu said that it was under his directive that the federal government contribution of half of the total money has deposited into the coffers of the UNDP for transparency.

"And the money will remain with UNDP until the project is completed". Obwegwu said. He described the contract signing ceremony as a glorious moment for tourism and added that when completed, the plan will provide Nigeria with a formidable tourism plan for posterity.

"It is now that we can talk about tourism. Let the world know our plans for the country", Ogbuewu said.

Also speaking, the representative of WTO, Mrs. Gaby Villalobos, said the plan, which will be completed by the end of the year, will set out marketing and implementation strategies to increase tourism in Nigerians by at least 50 per cent within five years.

By Abdu Labaran, Group Political Editor

chief host of the dinner, Hon. Na'abba, observed that the lower chamber of the National Assembly has come a long way since 1999 and that its focus, purpose and direction have remained the yearnings of the Nigerian people.

Hon. Na'abba said that the leadership politics of the likes of the Chief Whip has made the House of Representatives a rallying point in the democracy project for Nigerians, urging the members of the House to continue to support the leadership as it charts a course for the lower chamber.

About Hon. Bawa Bwari, the former speaker observed that he "is a rallying put in the National Assembly, and will continue to move the nation forward in the right direction."

The speaker of the House of Representatives, Alhaji Bello Masari said that the House owed its proactive mindset to the good reasoning and judgement of members such as the Chief Whip whose leadership and commitment have added great value to the performance of the lower chamber.

Commending Hon. Bawa Bwari for his contributions to the stability and unity of the House, Masari observed that the House has become one big, united and purposeful family that puts the nation and its people over and above all other interests in its dealings.

Said the Speaker about the Chief Whip, "he looks a gentleman, he acts a gentleman and a point for the members as they feel more comfortable with him than with me. He made my tenure as speaker so easy because he gave us his absolute support. HE is a dependable person who deserves every honour coming to him."

Other personalities who attended the occasion include former Senate President Chief Anyim Pius Anyim, former Speaker of the House of Representatives,

Hon. Ibrahim Salisu Buhari, General Halliru Akilu (rtd) and a host of current and former members of the National Assembly.

FG signs tourism masterplan

From Mohammed S. Shehu, Reporter Travel and Leisure

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NEWS

National Confab... National Confab... National Confab...

198 delegates represent North

At this time, no less than a total of 198 delegates are slated to represent the North at the forthcoming National Political Reforms Conference. This number represents 50.6 percent of the total number of 391 delegates so far approved by the Federal Government. Conversely, the South of the country is to be represented by 193 delegates or 49.3 percent of the total number of delegates so far approved.

Of the 391 approved delegates, three have already indicated their disinclination to attend. They are; First Republic frontline politician, Chief Anthony Enahoro, Nobel laureate Professor Wole Soyinka and Ahmadu Bello University professor of History, Dr Bala Usman. This reduces the number of expected participants at the conference to 388 at this time. There's a possibility this

By Crispin Oduobuk, Group Literary Editor.

figure may change before the conference gets under way as the Alliance for Democracy (AD) is yet to name its delegate(s). Also, Chief Enahoro is said to be consulting with members of his Movement for National Reformation group and it is possible this consultation is a prelude to a change of mind on his part.

Meanwhile, of the 46 elder statesmen and women nominated by the presidency, 26 are northerners while 20 are

from the south. There are also no less than 25 ex military top brass named as delegates, representing six and a half percent of the total number of prospective conferees. Three ex military officers of Kogi State origin are expected at the conference while two each are indigenes of Abia, Benue, Plateau and Yobe states.

No less than 25 delegates with academic backgrounds of professorial rank are to attend the conference. Of this number two are of Niger State origin while no less than 15 in all are from the North.

Controversy trails Plateau list

The list of Plateau State delegates to the national conference on political reforms opening Monday was nearly marred by the controversy in the PDP in the state which now operate two parallel secretariats in Jos.

From Jibrin Daudu (Regional Editor) & Rakiya Muhammad (Correspondent)

The two parallel secretariats submitted two separate and independent lists to the federal government in Abuja. While the Joshua Dariye-led group with Maichibi Vwarji as chairman submitted its list through the office of the secretary to the government of the federation, Chief Ufot Ekaette, the faction led by Habu Sha'aban sent its list through the deputy senate president, Alhaji Ibrahim Mantu.

Reliable sources within the two camps confirmed the existence of the two lists to *Daily Trust* in Jos and the controversy that trailed them.

It was a timely federal government intention that harmonised the two lists into one which was finally released to the public.

A top member of the Dariye group whose name is on the list but who spoke to *Daily Trust* on anonymity admitted that "some changes were effected in the list of delegates from Plateau State because of the division in the state PDP."

He said that the Habu Sha'aban faction complained against Dariye's list insisting that they must have two representatives on the list. They won. "So, Malam Adamu Adio from Plateau central senatorial zone was dropped and replaced with Air Commodore Jonah Jang (rtd.), a top leader in the Shindai group.

Similarly, Dr. Alexander Kebang from Plateau central was dropped in favour of Alhaji Yakubu Sambo from Kanam in central senatorial zone. Even before the changes, the inclusion of Dr. Kebang, a former rector of Plateau Polytechnic, had been allegedly kicked against by his kinsmen from Pankshin local government

TMG picks holes in nomination process

By Austine Odo, Senior Labour Reporter

The groups added that the individuals listed as representing civil societies were nominated by the special adviser to the president on civil society, Alhaji Abba Gana, without consulting the societies.

It would be recalled that government listed Prof. Audu Idris, Malam Shehu Sani, Mr. Idris Miliki Abdul, Chief (Mrs.) Bisi Ogunleye, Chief Barrister Mike Ozekhome and Barrister Mike Nkwocha, as the representatives of the civil society groups in the list

released on Tuesday.

According to Barrister Okoye who spoke on behalf of the groups, the TMG, CFCR and ERN which together have a coalition of 372 civil society groups in the country and have worked assiduously on electoral and constitutional reforms as well as the aspirations and concerns of the civil society did not receive any invitation to send nominees.

Barrister Okoye said the individuals allegedly nominated by Alhaji Abba Gana purportedly representing the civil societies are "parading themselves as representatives of civil society represent themselves and their political masters at the conference and cannot by any stretch of logic claim to represent the Nigerian civil society."

He said Nigerians need a conference that would heal the electoral, constitutional and economic wounds inflicted on them by those the government had nominated to the conference, some of whom had in the past, and even in the present held the Nigerian people hostage and brought economic and political ruins to the nation.

area. His removal was said to have been hailed by his people.

According to our source, governor Dariye single handedly included Yahaya Kwanda in his list.

A top member of the Shindai group also confirmed that initially, they were not represented in the list prompting them to submit a parallel list. He said the

intervention by powers in Abuja resulted in the inclusion of two of their members.

Commenting on the list, Ambassador Yahaya Kwanda said he was grateful to those who thought they were useful. "We will go there and do our best for our country. Though I was one of those who had reservations about the conference, it is clear that we are going to discuss."

Senator faults confab objectives

Senator Mamman Ali from Yobe South senatorial district, has declared that those who agitated for the forthcoming national conference failed to utilise other alternatives to address the nation's problems.

Senator Ali said this while answering questions from newsmen in Damaturu, Yobe State.

According to the ANPP senator, proponents of the national conference have had opportunities they should have utilised to make submissions on issues to be addressed through the constitutional review committee

ency.

Senator Ali said that individuals and groups had

From Isa Umar Gusau, Correspondent (Damaturu)

ample opportunities to presenting issues in the form of monographs to the review committee, but failed to do so.

He added that issues could better still be passed on to the National Assembly through the House of Representatives and the Senate for discussions, recommendations and approval.

Senator Ali declared that any organ set up to discuss fundamental issues on the polity, provided such an

Assembly or approved by it, such organ would be acting unconstitutionally.

Selection process undemocratic - Ex-minister

Former minister of mines and power in the Second Republic, Alhaji Ibrahim Hassan, has described the selection of delegates to the national conference as undemocratic and a show of disrespect for the people of Nigeria.

He said Nigerians should have been given the mandate to elect the delegates on non-party basis as a mark of respect for the democracy we now practice.

Alhaji Ibrahim who is the chairman, Alliance for Democracy (AD), national convention committee, said for the president and governors to select their cohorts as representatives of the people is an indication

From Muhammad Abubakar, Correspondent (Gombe)

that they are only concerned about protecting their interests and not that of Nigerians.

Speaking to journalists in his residence in Gombe, the AD chieftain said there was nothing illegal in convening such a conference but, "the manner in which the delegates were selected is the only illegal thing."

He said the National Assembly should not blame the conference as taking over its responsibility because it has failed Nigerians, the National Assembly has failed the nation failing to amend the constitution in the last six years," he submitted.

Shehu Shagari @ 80



Alhaji Shehu Usman Aliyu Shagari

Nigeria's former President, Alhaji Shehu Shagari will by the special grace of God mark his 80th birthday anniversary on Friday, February 25, 2005.

This is a moment of joy for the elder statesman who has meritoriously served the nation with utmost humility and sincerity.

To commemorate the landmark event, Media Trust Limited, the publishers of *Daily* and *Weekly Trust* will publish a special publication Of tributes to this venerable leader and gentleman.

We invite individuals, organisations, business political associates, governments and people of Nigeria to send felicitations and goodwill messages to this man of honour.

For enquiries and booking of space, please call the Special Projects on the following Nos: 0803-703-8663, 0804-214-5839, 0803-503-9527, 0804-334-1144, 0803-317-5421, 0802-849-4170 or 09-6720346.

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Opinion

Togo's maggot in the apple

African nationalists, writers and poets, have worked hard in trying to build and portray the Africa of their dream. Most of them have used every opportunity at their disposal in exposing the beautiful culture and values of African people. They often sentimentally argued that African culture is far more superior to that of the so-called civilized world. Africa is proudly referred to as the backbone of human civilization.

Pre-independent African nationalists have worked assiduously in making sure that Africa was saved from the exploitation of colonial invaders. Many have lost their lives in the struggle, while others faced all sorts of humiliation and degradation, yet they stood their ground till the dream of achieving self-determination was realised.

In the Africa of today the African envisaged by its founding fathers? The answer to this is not far fetched. Africa of today is bedeviled by bad leadership that is insensitive to the plight of their people and neck deep in corruption. Contemporary African leaders derive pleasure in seeing their people suffer, while they shamelessly milk dry their countries. Today they prefer to go down with their countries rather than relinquishing power to the popular wishes of the people.

The devastation caused through senseless wars as a result of African leaders ineptitude is worst than the tsunami disaster. Our Rwanda still holds the gold medal as the worst human catastrophe ever witnessed in our recent history

From Lawal Saidu Funtua

In the West African sub region, most of the countries in the Mano River region are either at war or enjoying a fragile peace. It is still a fragile peace in Sierra Leone and Liberia, while the once pride of Africa, Cote d'Ivoire has plunged into war.

Togo Republic, a West-African country is also on its way to anarchy. The demise of the age long dictator of the country, Gnassingbe Eyadema has raised the hope for a new dawn in the country. President Eyadema's reign in Togo Republic, portrayed the worst and darkest part of African history. This is a man who used all state instruments at his disposal to subjugate and frustrate the development of genuine democracy in his country.

When the man was failed by the very heart he used in perpetrating all sorts of illegality in the country, most political pundits thought that now is the time for the people of Togo to breathe an air of freedom. But alas! Their hope was dashed by the instruments of fear built by the heart of the late dictator. The instrument of coercion built by the iron hand of dictator Eyadema, have now shamelessly imposed a product of the lustful heart of Eyadema as the new dictator of Togo.

The recent political development in Togo has made a mess of Francis Fukuyama's prediction of "the end of History." Fukuyama believed that with America's dominance of the world, democracy would flourish and peace would reign in all parts of the world. To the hopeless people of Togo, in contrast to

Fukuyama's assertion, it is "The continuation of the ugly part of history."

I believe that with the happenings in Togo and other parts of Africa, the famous African political writer, Walter Rodney would have been weeping in his grave lamenting that he should have written a book on "How Africans under-developed Africa" instead of master piece *How Europe under-developed Africa*.

Most people thought that with the demise of the dictator, his son Faure Eyadema would engage the services of prayer warrior, to help him in seeking God's forgiveness for his father's sins and atrocities committed against the helpless people of Togo. Faure should please use his sense and understand that power is transient. To think that he would succeed his father and continue subjugating the people of Togo is an illusion that would soon evaporate.

Faure Eyadema should also understand that his father had him in mind when he crafted a constitution that doesn't favour him. The young man should please draw a lesson from history. Where is Samuel Doe, Siad Barre and Charles Taylor? Most of these dictators whether dead or alive were dumped into the dustbin of history.

Certainly, the happenings in Togo are far from the Africa of our dream. The people of Togo should not allow the agents of doom to use the current power waste to plunge the country into any form of crisis. They should as a famous African poet, Senghor advised "Not allow the torrent of their seeds to be buried in the sand."

Saidu writes from press centre, Govt. House, Katsina.

"The young man should please draw a lesson from history. Where is Samuel Doe, Siad Barre and Charles Taylor? Most of these dictators whether dead or alive were dumped into the dustbin of history.

Certainly, the happenings in Togo are far from the Africa of our dream. The people of Togo should not allow the agents of doom to use the current power waste to plunge the country into any form of crisis. They should as a famous African poet, Senghor advised "Not allow the torrent of their seeds to be buried in the sand."

EFCC and the law

By Ibrahim Balarabe

Since the inception of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) in 2003 it has been mandated by an establishment act to fight all economic and financial crimes in Nigeria, as a result of which the Commission had rubbed its shoulders albeit negatively with the high and mighty crooks within the Nigerian society.

The EFCC establishment Act 2004 empowered the commission to be responsible for tackling the Herculean task of fighting the rich and those occupying high positions in the land that are found wanting in their characters, especially in the ways they handle public funds and conduct their businesses with other people the world over.

The Commission which is a brain child of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), a Paris based institution of the group of eight (G8) major industrial countries, with the sole responsibility of fighting drug and financial crimes around the globe, also has blessings from these developed economies.

One of its responsibilities is that it is expected to tackle crimes such as advance fee fraud (419)

others, are still under custody for allegedly defrauding a Brazilian bank to the tune of N36 billion, Dariye on his part was able to get off the hook from the jaws of the law at least as long as his constitutional immunity lasts.

The fate of the retired Police boss will eventually be determined by the outcome of the on going investigations by the EFCC.

The crux of the matter however, is those arguments raised in some quarters on the relevance or otherwise of EFCC and whether it actually has the powers to be policing the activities of those among us who found it impossible to stay off monies that belong to others.

For the doubting Thomases, it must be stated here that the EFCC is duly established by a law which has received all the necessary attentions from both the executive and the legislative arms of government of Nigeria and also enjoys the goodwill of civilized governments the world over.

The EFCC establishment Act 2004 carries an explanatory memorandum that states "This Act provides for the establishment of the Economic and

person, if it appears that the person's life style and extent of his properties are not justified by his source of income.

It is therefore crystal clear to understand that the Commission has the powers and authority to investigate any person no matter what his position in the society and going by this provision therefore, the issue of the legality or otherwise of the Commission as is being raised in some quarters, can only be regarded as nothing but a ploy to tarnish the good name of its leadership and other staff who are only exercising their power as specified in the said establishment Act.

Critics of the leadership of the Commission and indeed the whole concept behind the creation of the body are already busy writing and probably sponsoring others to write against the activities of the Commission with a sole aim of ridiculing it and putting it at loggerhead with the general public.

As Nigerians we should not be surprised at all at these criticisms as it is not the first time noble causes are rubbished by those who see nothing good in trying to change the status quo of things in general.

"Therefore, the issue of the legality or otherwise of the Commission as is being raised in some quarters, can only be regarded as nothing but a ploy to tarnish the good name of its leadership and other staff who are only exercising their power as specified in the said establishment Act"

money laundering, pipeline vandalism, oil bunkering, currency counterfeiting etc.

In line with the aforementioned responsibilities of the commission, it is heart warming to realize that within the said one and a half years after creation, it has succeeded in netting alleged kingpins and perpetrators of crimes like advance fee fraud and money laundering most of who are now under prosecution in various courts within the country.

It is also pertinent to note that the Commission recently got involved in challenging the likes of Chief Emmanuel Nwude and Governor Joshua Chibi Dariye of Plateau state and of course recently Mr. Tafa Balogun while he was Inspector General of Police, for their roles in advance fee fraud, money laundering or diversion of public funds entrusted to them.

Financial Crimes Commission charged with the responsibility for the enforcement of all economic and financial crimes laws, among other things". section 1 spelt out that there was a bill before the National Assembly for an act to repeal the Financial Crimes Commission (establishment) Act, 2002 and enact the Financial Crimes Commission (establishment) Act, 2004 and for matters connected therewith.

Under section 7 of the Act, for example, the Commission has power to among other things; cause investigations to be conducted as to whether any person, corporate body or organization has committed an offence under this Act or other law relating to economic and financial crimes.

The section also talks about the Commission's power to cause investigation to be conducted

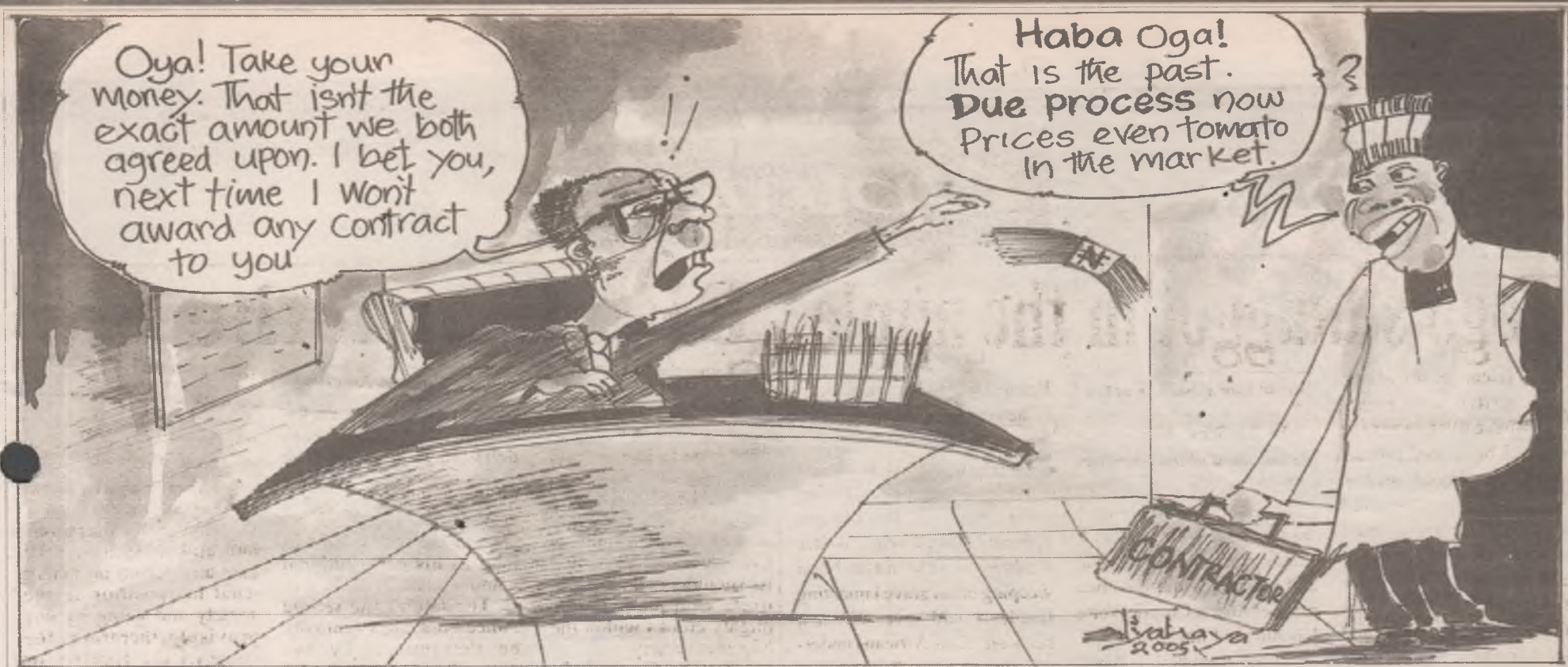
What the Critics seemed to be doing, is to fend off any seriousness in the fight against corruption in the country because some of them rely entirely on this ungodly attitude to achieve riches, success and fame.

If one is conversant with publications in many Nigerian dailies, he certainly must have come across write ups by some Columnists who find joy in writing badly on any attempt either by the federal government, groups or individuals to preach and act against the criminal tendencies of some of us.

As far as these born critics are concerned, as long as they or their cronies are not in charge of affairs they see nothing good in it and, will vow to make things difficult, with the hope of making it impossible for those who dare stretch their necks out to fight for sanity.

Balarabe writes from EFCC House, Abuja

While Nwude and two



YOUR LETTERS

Kebbi 2007: How not to choose Aliero's successor

As 2007 is fast approaching, the battle of succession of various political posts has begun. In Kebbi State, schemes and plans are rolled out strategising who to succeed Alhaji Adamu Aliero come 2007. At the forefront of this are individuals and NGOs who have since started voicing out their opinions on the issue.

The recent write-up in the Weekly Trust of 29th January, 2005, and a rejoinder to it that appeared in the Daily Trust of 10th February, 2005, are but examples of such scheming, sycophancy, and dirty games displayed to misinform and misguide the public. If care is not taken, such propagandists could make the electorate believe their myths by their expertise in mystifying facts and figures about individuals they are in support or not in support.

To start with, any patriotic indigene of the State knows that the State requires a committed, sincere and hardworking person to succeed the incumbent governor. It is not the intention here to assess the incumbent administration but to provide the necessary qualities expected of those wishing to contest the exalted post in 2007.

The issue is about determining the future of the entire State and its collective subjects; out come of which we hope would bring positive change in the general socio-economic and political conditions of the masses.

To realize this objective, it is expected that behind-the-door scheming, sycophancy and blatant misrepresentation of realities can no longer work well-articulated political order that is open, transparent and all-encompassing is surely the best option for the state. The idea of sponsoring the promotions of selves and condemnation of others behind the curtain by way of write-ups by proxy would not augur well

in our search for sincere and God-fearing person to succeed Aliero.

In view of this therefore, the public must be involved in voicing out their opinion in determining their governor come 2007. The credentials of contending candidates should be made public and subjected to evaluation. The background, upbringing, character, level of sincerity and hard work of most of people now being canvassed for the post are known to all. It is therefore waste of time, ink, energy and resources painting the sinners among them as saints.

The sponsorship of these panel-beating exercises is informed by lack of track record

of kindness, sincerity and good intention by the aspiring candidates. For, those that are known for their principles and mean well for the state need not to sponsor such sycophantic write-ups or rejoinders.

A useful guidepost in this direction must start with equity and fairness in the selection and final election of the successor. As these are four emirates and three senatorial zones in the state, the candidate should come from different emirate or zone with the incumbent's. It all depends on the zoning formula people wish to adopt; emirate or senatorial. Producing the next governor of the state from the

same emirate or senatorial zone with the incumbent, unless well bargained and done in maturity and political consensus, may breed the feeling of deprivation and alienation in the young state.

Besides setting a good track record of service, people deserve to know how holders of public offices used their positions in improving the lots of Kebbi State in terms of community development projects, employment and aiding state and federal projects in their communities.

Also, the Public should be wary of those candidates who are bent on occupying the Government House come 2007 at all cost, using blackmail, last

minute display of wealth (when they ought to use the resources to better up the living conditions of their respective communities before now) and tipping the pen pushers to engage in master work of fiction aimed at either portraying one candidate villain or saint.

It is high time that these columnists and sycophants of dubious individuals nursing political ambition realize that while they may reap a little from the service they are now rendering, the entire state is bound to be the loser as we may end up having incompetent, insincere person as our governor.

When people of this kind come on board, corruption,

embezzlement and mismanagement would surely feature in the administration. The beneficiaries will be themselves, their family members and associates who connived in imposing them on the subjects; the hired columnists need to be reminded that their contract masters would forget them, entering the Government House.

Finally, we pray that Almighty Allah protect the entire state from the emergence of unprincipled politicians who might want to unjustifiably impose themselves and their opinions on all citizens.

**Bello Sahabi B/Kebbi,
Murtala Mohammed Airport Road, Ikeja-Lagos.**

Kogi: Time for power shift

The wind of political change of guard that trundled-up the system of rotational political power at the federal level down to the local government levels, has shaped the character of social dialogue in the country today. The on-going political reform session put in place by Mr. President has given me imperious hope that the lingering issues of political injustice, cries of marginalization, battered inter-ethnic group relations, and the impetus hold-on-to-power by a single ethnic group at the detriment of the minorities; Kogi State as case study, shall be addressed appropriately.

The political situation in Kogi today is raging with climate of opinion that the expected hour has come for Ebiras and Okuns to forge a united front and produce the next governor of Kogi State. This idea, I assumed, informed the recent emerge of "Kogi Unity Group". This overwhelm body of thought has resumed and continued to gather momentous support from the political gladiators from the zones and beyond; as concept of power is not given on a platter of gold, but wrestled on the basis of a

sustained struggle and contestation with the holder of power.

The stakeholders of Kogi Unity Group (KUG) should bear in mind that they honestly need to gird armory in order to embark on this struggle, by way of harnessing their immense intellectual resources in mapping out strategies and policies that would guide the realization of this all important desire. The Group should be vigilant of the usual "spurious friends" who would stop at nothing to stab the project (power-shift) in the back, just to advance them politically by boot-licking. This point of caution is in view of an understanding of past political experience.

Let's take some historical excursion and see the pattern that seems to go boldly steering at our faces. Let us begin this nucleus journey in the reverse gear by using the days of the politics of resuscitation and the realignment of sentiments. The politics of resuscitating old conjectures and sentiments and using them to antagonize to secure political glory should be ignored. I think Ebiras/Okun at this point of need, should fashion out a common and purposeful

"unity for purpose". Because where there is no unity, purpose becomes a mirage; and unity can't survive without a purpose. A purpose can be the idea of an individual, but mutual philosophy of "give and take" is the main foundation of unity. Lack of common ideological unity has since bedeviled our political right in the state. What a misery!

My candid opinion goes this way; that the two teams designing an alignment for possible power-shift come 2007 should realize that, Ebiras and Okun could harmoniously concede the first slot to either side without fusion, this to create confident, trust and political brotherhood in them. If this happens, there is no way the Igalas can beat the Okuns and Ebiras put together politically.

In the memory lane, the Ebiras and Okuns have a long standing history of togetherness in terms of peace and war. Hence political understanding entails game of "give and take", if at the end of the day Okuns decides to give Ebiras the first slot, they should be allowed to

The wind of political change of guard that trundled-up the system of rotational political power at the

federal level down to the local government levels has shaped the character of social dialogue in the country of ours today. The on-going political reform session put in place by Mr. President has given me imperious hope that the lingering issues of political injustice, cries of marginalization, battered inter-ethnic group relations, and the impetus hold-on-to-power by one ethnic group at the detriment of the minorities, Kogi state as case study, shall be addressed appropriately. Take for an example of Hausa/Fulani in the choice of Chief Olusegun Obasanjo as the President in 1999 general elections, despite the lean and "never-vote for" he secured from his immediate constituency, Ogun state and Yoruba in general. The Hausa/Fulani gave him block votes because he was their choice.

If the above calculation does not augur well with our political stakeholders from these zones (Central and West) they can erroneously permit the Igalas who had pro-

claimed that Laggard House is their privileged Kingdom, to continue for as many times as possible. May it not happen, Amen.

On the symbolic cemetery of past failure, I stood to lament our endless misgivings, unknown to many, one tricky burden hanging over the shoulders of the concerned citizen thirsty for power-shift, hoping that with today on our hands we would avoid digging fresh graves for tomorrow. Our political gladiators fronting for power-shift in Kogi State should emulate the anthill who chooses their king without much ado. The bees, ant, termites appoint their leaders with ease in a peaceful demonstration of solidarity, maturity and integrity without prejudice. But severally our parochial politicians choose their leaders with egocentric squabbles which now put us in a basket of pity, mockery and shame.

**Isah Itopa Idris,
Madaki Qtrs. Madalla - Zuba
Abuja.**

Reactions to articles published in this paper may be directed to the editor via the email address: editor@dailytrust.com



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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ON PETROLEUM RESOURCES

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, P.M.B. 141, GARKI
THE THREE ARMS-ZONE, ABUJA NIGERIA

PUBLIC HEARING

The House Committee on Petroleum Resources with a view to introducing dynamism into the Oil industry and improving the revenue and economic base of Nigeria has scheduled a Public Hearing on the following Bills:

- i. A Bill for an Act to amend the Petroleum Act Cap 350, Law of the Federation.
- ii. A Bill for an Act to amend the Deep Offshore and Inland Basin Production sharing contracts.

It will be recalled that the Petroleum Act, which is the landmark legislation governing Petroleum operations in Nigeria has not undergone any comprehensive review since its enactment in 1969. It is therefore pertinent that Nigeria Petroleum Laws must be capable of responding to the changing circumstances since the conditions, technology and economics of the oil industry change constantly.

The proposed amendments to the Petroleum Acts will create job opportunities for Nigerians, improve the local content in the oil industry and stop indiscriminate increases in the pump price of refined petroleum and products.

All stakeholders comprising the underlisted whose invitation letters have been despatched and the General Public are hereby invited to contribute positively to the Amendments at the proceedings.

The Group Managing Director, NNPC
The Special Adviser to the President on Petroleum and Energy Matters;
The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum Resources.
The Director, Department of Petroleum Resources;
The Hon. Minister, Federal Ministry of Finance.
The Accountant-General of Federation;
The Managing Director, SPDC
The Managing Director, Total Elf
The Managing Director, Chevron-Texaco
The Managing Director, NAOC
The Managing Director, Mobil Producing unlimited.
The Managing Director, Pan Ocean Oil Corporation.
The Nigeria Labour Congress;
PENGASSAN
NUPENG
Independent Petroleum Marketers Association of Nigeria;
Niger Delta Development Commission;
BMPIU, NEITI & General Public

Date: 22nd – 24th February 2005.

Time: 10:00am

Venue: Hearing Room 2, House of Representatives,
National Assembly Complex, Abuja.

All Memoranda should be submitted in 48 copies to the House Committee Room 22, National Assembly Complex, P.M.B. 141 Abuja before 20th February, 2005.

Hon. (Dr.) Gairo Ojougboh
Chairman, House Committee on
Petroleum Resources



FEDERAL AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF NIGERIA

FEDERAL AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF NIGERIA

PUBLIC NOTICE

INVITATION TO TENDER FOR CLEANING SERVICES AT MMIA, IKEJA, LAGOS AND NAIA, ABUJA.

As part of the efforts by the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria to sustain a clean and healthy environment, tender is hereby invited from reputable companies for **cleaning services at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport, Ikeja, Lagos and Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja.**

Interested companies, which must be capable of providing and maintaining cleaning service up to international standards and are registered with FAAN as contractors, are required to:

- ▶ Collect reference questionnaire from the Airport Managers of the affected Airports (MMIA and NAIA).
- ▶ Inspect the areas earmarked for the job at the airport of their choice.
- ▶ Pay a non-refundable tender fee of N250,000 at the airport of choice.
- ▶ Submit quotations and the completed reference questionnaire to reach the Airport Manager within two weeks from the date of this publication.

The scope of work includes:

1. MMIA, IKEJA, LAGOS

- Refuse collection and disposal in the entire Murtala Muhammed International Airport, including all the four terminals and environs, FAAN's Headquarters and its annexes and staff quarters' zones A, B, C and D.
- Cleaning of the International Terminal Building (2nd floor to 9th floor), the Control Tower and their toilets.
- Cleaning the International Terminal's car parks, Water Treatment Building, Stores and ancillary buildings.
- Cleaning Domestic Terminal II new buildings, including passenger processing halls (2 nos) and environs, VIP/Protocol lounge, Power House and their environs

2. NAIA, ABUJA

- Cleaning International Terminal module "C" ground floor and its environs
- Cleaning International Terminal module "C" 1st floor to 3rd floor.
- Cleaning Domestic Terminal, including new ticketing area, drains and environs.

Further enquiries should be directed to the **Airport Managers of MMIA and NAIA or to the Director of Airport Operations, FAAN Headquarters, Ikeja, Lagos.**

Please, note that late submissions will not be accepted.

Signed:
MANAGEMENT

Trust International

Togo: OATUU condemns Eyadema's son presidency

The Organisation of Africa Trade Union (OATUU) has condemned the unconstitutional manner in which the son of the late president of Togo, Gnassingbe Eyadema, was propelled to the presidency by the Togolese Military.

A statement signed by the secretary general of the organisation, Comrade Hassan A. Sunmonu, appealed to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the African Union (AU) and the United Nations (UN) to impose sanctions on Togo.

The statement said that it was utterly unconceivable that in this era of democracy, the Togolese population should be subjected to the imposition of Mr. Faure Gnassingbe Eyadema as president.

"The constitution of Togo should be restored and election of a new Togolese

By Abdullahi M. Gulloma, Labour Reporter

president held within the constitutional stipulation of 60 days" the organisation said.

The organisation warned that African workers would not accept the flagrant violation of the constitution of Togo, nor the legitimisation of the military."

The organisation also called on the Togolese workers, Trade unions and the entire people of Togo, to ensure the sanctity of the country's constitution and revert to it.



Mohammed Khatami

Iran to help Syria against threats

Iran has vowed to back Syria against "challenges and threats" as both countries face strong US pressure.

"We are ready to help Syria on all grounds to confront threats," Iranian Vice-President Mohammad Reza Aref said after meeting Syrian PM Naji al-Otari.

But Washington said that if Iran and Syria had aimed their remarks at the US they were "misreading the issue".

Both countries should focus on meeting their international obligations, White House spokesman Scott McClellan said.

"Their problem is not with the United States, it's with the international community. Both Syria and Iran ... need to abide by the commitments they have made," he said.

US tensions with Syria soared after Monday's killing of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri in a bombing, although Washington has not directly accused Damascus of responsibility.

Washington is considering new sanctions against Syria because of its refusal to withdraw its 14,000 troops from Lebanon.

US Assistant Secretary of State William Burns, visiting Beirut for al-Hariri's funeral on Wednesday, called for a "complete and immediate withdrawal".

But Syrian Expatriate Affairs Minister Buthaina Shaaban said she was "baffled" by the US reaction to the killing.

"To point to Syria in a terrorist act that aims at destabilising both Syria and Lebanon is truly like blaming the US for 9/11," she told the BBC.

The minister said al-Hariri had been a "great ally" to Syria and his death was "a scandal against Syria and against Lebanon".

In Tehran, Syrian Prime Minister Otari said his meeting with the Iranian leadership was taking place at a "very important and delicate time, with Syria and Iran facing numerous challenges".

Iran's vice-president said his country would stand with Syria.

"Our Syrian brothers are facing specific threats and we

hope they can benefit from our experience. We are ready to give them any help necessary," Mr Aref said.

However, Syria's ambassador in the US denied that the common front was an alliance against Washington.

"We are not the enemies of the United States, and we do not want to be drawn into such an enmity," Imad Moustapha told CNN.

Washington has hinted it may take military action against Iran over its nuclear programme, which the US says is aimed at producing a bomb.

Iran claimed that US has been flying unmanned surveillance drones over the country's nuclear sites.

Such spying activities have been going on for a "long time", said Intelligence Minister Ali Yunesi.

He said the air force had been ordered to shoot down any unknown or suspicious aircraft in Iranian airspace.

US expresses concern over terrorism in Nigeria

The US Central Intelligence Agency Wednesday expressed concerns over growing militia groups and extremist groups in the southern and northern part of Nigeria.

In a report to the US congress called "Global Intelligence Challenges 2005: Meeting Long-Term Challenges with a Long-Term Strategy", the director of CIA, Porter Goss, said that instability in Africa continues to hamper counter-terrorism efforts and pose heavy humanitarian and peace-keeping burden.

"In Nigeria, the military is struggling to contain militia groups in oil-producing south, ethnic violence that frequently erupts through out the country. Extremist groups are emerging from the

Ugandan rebel commander surrenders

A key official in the rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and top negotiator in recent peace talks, Brig. Sam Kolo, gave himself up to the army, according to government mediator Betty Bigombe.

He was attacked by rebels as he tried to escape and phoned the army who came to his rescue in Kitgum district, reported the BBC's correspondent.

During the 19-year war the LRA has abducted thousands of children, causing some 1.6m people to flee their homes.

The military said Brig. Kolo's life was in danger following a dispute with LRA deputy leader Vincent Otti.

Ms. Bigombe, a former Ugandan minister who is acting as a mediator in the conflict, insisted his surrender would not affect the peace talks and said she would continue to negotiate an end to the war.

"I want to assure everyone that it does not mark the end of the peace process.

"I already talked to Vincent Otti, who told me he was going to take over and be in charge of the peace talks in the absence of Brig Kolo," she told the BBC's Focus on Africa programme.

But correspondents said Brig. Kolo was viewed as the most rational of the LRA commanders and therefore, someone with whom the government could talk.

In what was viewed as a major breakthrough, he recently met face to face with

a Ugandan minister, raising hopes of an end to the conflict

At the December talks he told our correspondent he was "tired of being a rebel".

Earlier this month another member of the LRA negotiating team - Col Onon Kamdulu - gave himself up.

A ceasefire is currently in place during which time the government has promised that all LRA fighters who wish to leave the rebellion will be given safe access and an amnesty.

Central Africa seeks end to conflict

Cabinet ministers from 11 African nations gathered in Rwanda yesterday to examine details of a deal intended to end a cycle of wars, rebellions, dictatorships and poverty in central Africa's Great Lakes region, officials said.

The two-day meeting is the first in a series of gatherings in which officials will spell out how they would implement a regional pact on security, stability and development that is expected to be signed in Kenya later this year, said Rwanda's Foreign Minister Charles Muligande.

Fifteen African leaders, including the head of every country in the Great Lakes area, signed a declaration Nov. 20 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, that spelled out the protocols of the proposed regional pact. The initiative was organized by the United Nations and the African Union.

"This conference is of paramount importance as it will determine the course of action for the region and provide the region with a road map to ensure conflict is prevented, managed and resolved effectively," Muligande told *The Associated Press*. "Our emphasis is to collectively seek and find viable solutions to the problems in the region."

Africa's Great Lakes region — an area bordered by DR Congo, Rwanda and Burundi — has been unstable since the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, the civil war in Burundi and the civil war in DR Congo in which more than 500,000 people, most of them from the country's Tutsi minority, were slaughtered by a regime of extremists from its Hutu majority.

Cabinet ministers will review efforts to improve peace and security in the region, including defence and security cooperation, improving border security, stemming the proliferation and circulation of illegal weapons and cross-border crime.

They will define ways to prevent, manage and resolve conflicts, said George Olat Davies, spokesman for the United Nations special representative for the region.

Lebanon: Al-Hariri's family demands probe into killing

The family of slain former premier Rafiq al-Hariri called yesterday for an internationally led investigation into his assassination as pressure mounted to catch his killers, setting the scene for a standoff with the Syrian-backed Lebanese government.

Lebanon's government opposed a foreign-led investigation into Monday's blast that killed al-Hariri and 16 others. It has, however, requested foreign investigators, including Swiss forensic and explosives experts, assist the inquiry. Many Lebanese, including al-Hariri's supporters, accuse Syria and the Lebanese government of orchestrating the attack and fear a domestic probe will lead nowhere.

Both governments have denied any involvement.

"We call upon the international community to promptly take control of this issue and form an international investigation commission, since the assassination of Rafiq al-Hariri is a terrorist act targeting Lebanon's stability and national unity," said a statement released by Hariri's family.

"We will not spare any effort or means to find the perpetrators of this crime no matter what their affiliation is," the statement said.

Many Lebanese are seething over the death of Hariri, whom they credit with rebuilding their country following the devastating

1975-90 civil war, and more than 200,000 mourners attended his funeral Wednesday. Government officials did not attend, at the insistence of al-Hariri's family.

Lebanese Interior Minister Suleiman Franjeh, who paid a condolence call to Hariri's home yesterday, afterward renewed his government's opposition to calls for an international investigation.

"We have said that we can seek help from international experts. But we cannot abandon our role and bring in (foreign) states to investigate," he said.

Lebanese investigators continued searching for clues at the seafront bomb scene marked by huge crater, blackened parts of burned out cars and onlookers standing behind police and yellow tape. Investigators, however, have been tightlipped about evidence surfacing.

"I cannot predict when we will get the results, but I can say one thing — every day reveals something new," Franjeh told reporters at al-Hariri's palace after offering condolences.



Late Rafiq al-Hariri



JIGAWA STATE INVESTMENT AND PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED

Maigatari Road P.M.B. 1020 Gumel
Phone 064-650192 Fax: 650191

Congratulations

The chairman of the Jigawa investment company Alhaji Abdullahi Ibrahim, the Managing Director Alhaji Ibrahim Yahaya (MIICA) and the entire staff of the company wish to join other well meaning Nigerians in congratulating His Excellency the Executive Governor of Jigawa state Alhaji Ibrahim Saminu Turaki for the award of a Honorary Doctorate Degree in Science.

This recognition shortly after an earlier one by the Ministry of science and technology is a pointer that your contribution to your country and Nation is gradually being recognised. We at the investment company have witnessed your visionary contributions that have improved the lives of the people of Jigawa state in several ways.

As we join others in celebrating with you, we wish to pray that Allah in his infinite mercy will crown your efforts with higher and higher awards.

KEEP IT UP THE PEOPLE'S GOVERNOR

SIGNED

**Alhaji Ibrahim Yahaya (miica)
MD/CEO,**

Jigawa Investment and Property Company



**Dr. Ibrahim Saminu Turaki
Executive Governor**



**Alh. Ibrahim Abdullahi Kemba
Chairman**



**Alh. Ibrahim Yahya (MIICA)
MD/CEO**



SECRETARY TO THE JIGAWA STATE GOVERNMENT

Congratulations to an Achiever

The Secretary to the Jigawa state government Alhaji Lawan Ya'u Roni, the permanent secretary Admin. And Finance, the permanent secretary cabinet office and the entire staff and the people of the state wish to join thousands of well-wishers in congratulating His Excellency the Executive Governor of Jigawa state Alhaji (Dr) Ibrahim Saminu Turaki for the award of Doctor of Science by the University of Jos. We also believe that the recognition of your contributions to your people and Nation is yet to come.

As we join others in congratulating you, we wish to pray that Allah in his infinite mercy should continue to guide you in whatever you are doing.

MORE GREASE TO YOUR
ELBOWS

SIGNED

Lawan Ya'u Roni
Secretary to the Jigawa state
government



Dr. Ibrahim Saminu Turaki
Executive Governor



Lawan Ya'u Roni
Secretary to the Jigawa state government

Business Trust

Today's flight schedule

Albarka Air	
Lagos - Abuja	07:20
	10:30
	15:15
	13:00
Abuja - Lagos	8:45a.m.
	11:00
	13:15
	17:00
Maiduguri - Abuja 06:50	
Abuja - Maid.	17:00
Lagos - Yola	1:00 p.m.
Abuja - Yola	14:30
Yola - Abuja	15:30
Yola - Lagos	4:00 p.m.
Chanchangi Airlines	
Lagos - Abuja	8:15a.m.
	11:00a.m.
	12:10p.m.
	4:45p.m.
Kaduna - Lagos	8:30a.m.
P/H - Lagos	9:00a.m.
	4:30p.m.
Abuja - Kaduna	2:30p.m.
Kaduna - Abuja	1:30p.m.
IRS Airlines	
CBQ - Abuja	8:00 a.m.
Abuja - Lagos	9:45a.m.
Lagos - Kaduna	9:30a.m.
Kano - Lagos	7:30p.m.
Lagos - Kano	11:15a.m.
Kaduna - Lagos	11:00a.m.
Lagos - Abu/MM	2:30p.m.
Abuja - MM	1:45p.m.
MM - Abuja	3:45p.m.
Abuja - Cal	5:15p.m.
Kano - Abuja	1:15p.m.
Abuja - Kano	2:30p.m.
Kano - Lagos	3:45p.m.
Lagos - Kano	6:00p.m.
EAS Airlines	
Lagos - Abuja	8:15p.m.
	11:45a.m.
	5:45p.m.
Abuja - Lagos	10:15a.m.
	7:15p.m.
Lagos - Jos	11:45a.m.
Jos - Lagos	2:30pm.
Dasab Airlines	
Auja - Lagos	8:30 a.m.
Lagos - PHC	10:30 a.m.
PHC - Lagos	12:30 a.m.
Lagos - Kano	2:30 p.m.
Kano - Lagos	4:30 p.m.
Lagos - Abuja	6:30pm.
ADC Airline	
Lagos - Abuja	7:15 a.m.
	12:45 p.m.
Abuja - Lagos	8:55 a.m.
Lagos - Calabar	11:15 a.m.
Calabar - Lagos	7:20 a.m.
P/H - Lagos	9:45 a.m.
Lagos-Sokoto	8:55am
Sokoto-Lagos	11:55am

Most airlines operate the same flight schedule on week days.

FG sets up oil stabilization fund

Presidential adviser on petroleum and energy, Dr Edmund Daukoru says government has set up stabilization fund to capture all revenue surpluses arising from high oil crude prices.

He made the announcement in a paper presented to delegates attending the African Petroleum Producers Association (APPA) conference in Algiers.

A News agency of Nigeria (NAN) correspondent in Algiers quotes Daukoru as saying that the initiative was part of transparency and accountability posture of the present administration.

"The measure is also intended to minimise fresh borrowing while encouraging self reliance", he said.

NAN learnt that government raked in over four hundred million dollars last year due to escalating crude oil prices at the spot market.

According to him, government is undertaking radical reforms in the oil sector for the overall interest of all citizens as well as to

restore the national economy growth.

He said government was gradually reversing the dependence of other sectors of the economy on oil through deliberate efforts to earn as much revenue from gas as from oil and privatisation.

The presidential aide said government would soon put on offer 80 oil blocks in both the deepwater offshore and the inland basin with a view to contributing to long-term global energy sufficiency.

"The licensing round will undoubtedly attract international oil and gas operators whose entry will stimulate influx of new competitive commercial arrangements and technology," he said.

He said the exercise would also ginger-up exploration of the onshore Niger Delta without compromising the higher risk/reward play of the deepwater.

He said Nigeria has experienced challenges of oil and gas in the last 40 years and is now reaping the benefits of the commodities through conscious efforts of the present administration.

The adviser however said in spite of the high revenues from the oil sector, Nigeria remain a poor nation due to her large population and relative underdevelopment.

He appealed to APPA member states to learn from each other and to strive to utilise oil revenues for the benefits of their people.

Kano zone customers owe NEPA N361m

The Kano district zonal office of the National Electric Power Authority (NEPA) comprising of Kano, Katsina, Jigawa, Sokoto, Zamfara and Kebbi states is being owed the sum of N361 million by respective customers within the zone.

The director in the Kano

From Lawal Ibrahim,
Correspondent, Katsina

distribution zone and chairman Anti-Corruption committee, Engr. R.S. Obi made the disclosure in Katsina while inaugurating the state arm of the complaint boxes against anti customers behaviours.

Engr. Obi said management has discovered some discrepancies in the remittance of cash collected.

It is also committed to fight the menace of corruption if the Authority is to revamp its lost glory and serve its customers qualitatively and most efficiently.

In an address also, the business manager, Katsina District, Engr. R.N. Sule enjoined the staff to rise up to the socio economic well being of our nation.

He assured them of his cooperation in the discharge of their duties, and said the management will within the meagre resources at its disposal try to improve the welfare of staff. He, however, intimated them of the renewed focus since NEPA is now a commercial venture that relies on its generated income to survive.

SPDC completes

Gbaran/Ubie gas project

Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) has announced the successful completion of its Gbaran/Ubie integrated oil and gas development project.

The project is planned to supply gas to the Nigerian Liquefied Natural Gas (NLNG) trains 4,5 and 6 in order to sustain the company's position as a reliable gas supply customer to the global NLNG market.

This moves, the company said, will be achieved through the development of 2.8 billion standard cubic feet of gas and 215 million stock barrels of oil reserves, even as two more appraisal/development wells are planned this year out of a total of 38 earmarked for the project.

According to SPDC's head, sub-surface development and fields development coordinator, Ufot Ebong, the drilling campaign in Gbaran/Ubie is unique, stressing that working in close collaboration with the people, NGOs and government agencies, the company have been able to get provisional approval of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

He also explained that by the planned developments, the associated gas collected at the various flow stations in the project will be evacuated to the central processing Facilities (CPF) located in the Gbaran field area using booster compressors, adding that the non-associated gas will be produced to in-field manifold and will also be evacuated to the Gbaran and PF where the associated gas evacuation will be optimised.

The major contracts are expected to be awarded this year, while first gas date is within 2008.

Chevron Texaco in peace talks with community

Chevron Nigeria Ltd (CNL) has welcomed the progress made in talks aimed at finding a peaceful resolution to the dispute with the Ugborodo community whose protesting members clashed with government security forces penultimate week at the Escravos Tank Farm.

A statement signed by the company's general manager, Government and Public Affairs, Femi Odumabo a meeting attended by representatives of the federal government, the Delta state

From Mohammed Shosanya,
Correspondent Lagos

government, the Ugborodo community, CNL and government security forces agreed that ways should be found to develop a new global memorandum of understanding (MOU) which encompasses Ugborodo and other communities.

The goal is to find a mutually agreeable solution to bridging the gap between the existing MOU between CNL and Ugborodo and the new agreement.

International Oil price rises above \$48

By Ahmed I Shekarau, Group Business editor, with agency report

Oil prices yesterday, rose above \$48 per barrel, spurred by persistent talk of a cut in supplies that could drain healthy US stockpiles before summer by the Organisation of Petroleum exporting Countries (OPEC).

U.S. light crude rose 29 cents to \$48.62 a barrel, building on Wednesday's \$1.07 rally that took prices to the highest level in three weeks. London Brent crude was up 45 cents to \$46.60 a barrel.

Oil has risen \$3 over the past week on new forecasts for a tighter-than-expected market this year, as well as warnings from OPEC that a slide in prices or big build in inventories could prompt swift action to stem output.

Core Gulf OPEC producer the United Arab Emirates (UAE) said yesterday that current oil prices, again within reach of \$50 a barrel, were reasonable.

OPEC acting secretary-general, Adnan Shihab-Eldin told Reuters that members were leaning toward cutting output at their March 16 meeting to defend prices against a second-quarter stock build.

"If the price looks to be falling now, then after winter we will propose and support a cut in production," Venezuela's Oil Minister Rafael Ramirez said on Wednesday.

The US Energy Information Administration (EIA) said such a cut could squeeze inventories and make it difficult for refiners to meet demand in the lead up to the summer driving season.

At the moment supplies appear robust. US crude oil inventories rose 2.1 million barrels last week to stand 8.5 percent above year-ago levels, while gasoline stockpiles leapt 4.9 million barrels to a 7.4 percent surplus.

But a surprisingly steep fall in heating oil stocks deepened the deficit from a year ago to more than 9 percent, reviving supply worries as forecasters said an arctic air mass was poised to sweep the main US Northeast consuming region this week.

Prices have been supported by an increasingly tight outlook this year, with OPEC and the International Energy Agency this month upgrading their forecasts for demand growth.

Global demand has climbed much faster than most analysts — including OPEC itself — expected over the past two years, helping drive prices to a record-high \$55.67 last October.

Oil prices will continue to hover in the low- to mid-\$40 a barrel this year, as they have since early December, analysts at Cambridge Energy Research Associates (CERA) said.

"China is the big factor from the demand side," said CERA oil price analyst James Burkhard. "And the fear of supply disruption hasn't dissipated."

In addition to endemic pipeline attacks in Iraq, oil traders have also begun to fret over supplies from Iran, OPEC's second-biggest producer.

Reports of an explosion on Wednesday sent prices racing higher before officials said it was part of construction work, underscoring the market's anxiety about rising tensions with the United States over Iran's nuclear ambitions.

An unrelated blast on a gas pipeline at the 270,000-bpd Gachsaran field shut in about 8,000 bpd of production for four days, but did not affect exports, a top official said.

UAE oil minister, Mohamed al-Hamli said his nation planned to increase its oil stockpiles to help cope with potential supply shortages on world markets.

Japan's central bank

Japan's central bank has renewed its pledge to keep monetary policy ultra-loose in an effort to support an economy which was in recession for most of last year.

The Bank of Japan earlier voted unanimously to leave policy unchanged, targeting an outstanding balance of current account deposits held by financial institutions at the bank of around 30-35 trillion yen (286-333 billion dollars).

The bank has been conducting a "quantitative" credit easing whereby it pumps cash into the financial system instead of lowering key short-term rates that are already near zero percent.

The central bank has repeatedly failed in its day-to-day open market operations to inject the targeted amount as Japanese banks are increasingly unwilling to take the funds since their own financial position has improved with the steady reduction in their bad debt burden.

"We believe that we can continue to meet the reserve target of 32-35 trillion yen in any foreseeable future," Bank of Japan governor Toshihiko Fukui told a press conference.

He said the bank also has no plans to boost its Japanese government bond purchases to help it meet the reserve target.

The underlying concern has been that if the central bank were to reduce the amount of liquidity on offer, it technically would result in higher interest rates a tightening of monetary policy in an economy still far from rude health.

An honour Well-deserved



His Excellency,
Alhaji Ibrahim Saminu Turaki
Executive Governor, Jigawa State

Your immense contributions to the development of Information and Communication Technology in Nigeria has not only been outstanding but commendable.

The Board of Directors Management and Staff of
Bank of the North Limited
 heartily congratulate and rejoice with
 The Executive Governor of Jigawa State
His Excellency, Alhaji Ibrahim Saminu Turaki
 on the conferment on him the honourary
 Doctorate Degree of Science (D.Sc)
 by the Senate of University of Jos.

Once again, congratulations



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Business Trust

1ST-TIER SECURITIES

THE NIGERIAN STOCK EXCHANGE

REPORT AS AT THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2005

COMPANY NAME	NO OF DEALS	QUOTATION(N)	QUANTITY TRADED	VALUE OF SHARES
CUTIX PLC	2	1.30	5,100	6,630.00
Sector Totals	2		5,100	6,630.00
AGRICULTURE/AGRO-ALLIED				
THE OKOMU OIL PALM COMPANY PLC	27	15.10	499,769	7,607,177.00
PRESCO PLC	6	12.00	11,360	133,943.50
Sector Totals	33		511,129	7,741,120.50
AUTOMOBILE & TYRE				
DUNLOP NIGERIA PLC.	21	2.07	237,999	484,638.85
Sector Totals	21		237,999	484,638.85
BANKING				
ACCESS BANK PLC	20	3.42	4,300,924	14,709,160.08
AFRIBANK NIGERIA PLC.	13	6.63	28,323	187,781.49
CHARTERED BANK PLC	1	3.90	200	780.00
COOPERATIVE BANK PLC.	2	1.92	4,200	8,064.00
FIRST BANK OF NIGERIA PLC.	608	23.00	3,387,164	78,024,555.48
FSB INTERNATIONAL BANK PLC.	29	1.40	1,171,505	1,657,653.68
GUARANTY TRUST BANK PLC.	260	10.74	1,670,170	17,882,748.28
GULF BANK OF NIGERIA PLC.	4	0.71	55,800	39,648.00
INTERNATIONAL MERCHANT BANK PLC.	40	0.57	2,693,064	1,577,393.03
INLAND BANK (NIGERIA) PLC.	2	1.16	17,200	19,952.00
INTERCONTINENTAL BANK PLC.	3	7.81	313,000	2,444,530.00
LIBERTY MERCHANT BANK	10	0.80	722,000	577,600.00
LION BANK OF NIGERIA PLC.	3	0.71	27,914	19,718.95
MANUFACTURERS BANK NIGERIA PLC.	21	1.25	2,540,227	3,120,318.62
NAL BANK PLC.	2	2.80	3,710	10,388.00
OCEANIC BANK PLC	4	4.94	15,194	75,058.36
OMEGA BANK (NIGERIA) PLC.	17	1.68	853,731	1,401,566.03
STANDARD TRUST BANK PLC	9	7.41	52,998	392,715.18
TRANS INTERNATIONAL BANK PLC.	8	1.62	37,215	59,015.40
TRADE BANK PLC.	1	1.35	4,042	5,456.70
UNITED BANK FOR AFRICA PLC.	41	10.00	137,425	1,374,250.00
UNION BANK NIGERIA PLC.	399	19.86	2,036,918	40,694,609.16
UNIVERSAL TRUST BANK PLC	20	0.80	10,385,000	7,994,080.40
WEMA BANK PLC.	6	3.93	17,004	66,825.72
ZENITH BANK PLC	267	13.60	4,360,526	58,937,901.75
Sector Totals	1,790		34,835,454	231,281,770.31
BREWERIES				
GUINNESS NIGERIA PLC.	150	99.99	288,766	28,864,564.84
NIGERIAN BREWERIES PLC.	426	38.60	1,578,675	60,049,831.32
Sector Totals	576		1,867,441	88,914,396.16
BUILDING MATERIALS				
ASHAKA CEMENT PLC.	84	23.50	3,956,839	101,136,919.15
BENUE CEMENT COMPANY PLC.	10	4.35	96,400	403,060.00
CEMENT CO. OF NORTHERN NIG. PLC	14	7.38	70,382	517,100.24
WEST AFR. PORTLAND CEMENT CO. PLC.	21	10.99	59,390	642,786.50
Sector Totals	129		4,183,011	102,699,865.89
CHEMICAL & PAINTS				
BERGER PAINTS PLC.	16	5.19	113,239	574,159.69
CAP PLC.	4	6.89	5,609	37,651.13
D. N. MEYER PLC.	4	5.09	51,529	262,912.61
NIGERIA-GERMAN CHEMICALS PLC.	4	4.25	9,883	42,002.75
Sector Totals	28		180,260	916,726.18
COMPUTER & OFFICE EQUIPMENT				
TRIPPLE GEE AND COMPANY PLC.	1	0.87	266	231.42
Sector Totals	1		266	231.42
CONGLOMERATES				
A. G. LEVENTIS NIGERIA PLC.	3	1.10	10,000	11,000.00
C F A O NIGERIA PLC.	8	5.08	60,532	307,502.56
CHELLARAMS PLC.	2	1.71	815	1,393.65
JOHN HOLT PLC.	4	0.81	3,937	3,181.98
UNILEVER NIGERIA PLC.	135	15.71	479,255	7,582,486.41
P. Z. INDUSTRIES PLC.	56	13.41	452,258	6,204,298.32
S C O A NIGERIA PLC.	1	1.19	500	595.00
U.A.C. NIGERIA PLC.	69	14.17	256,178	3,630,042.26
U.T.C. NIGERIA PLC.	2	1.16	7,000	8,070.00
Sector Totals	280		1,270,475	17,748,570.18
CONSTRUCTION				
COSTAIN (W.A.) PLC.	2	0.98	8,300	8,134.00
JULIUS BERGER NIGERIA PLC.	2	14.50	8,250	119,625.00
Sector Totals	4		16,550	127,759.00
ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY				
NIGERIAN WIRE AND CABLE PLC.	1	0.92	700	644.00
Sector Totals	1		700	644.00
FOOD/BEVERAGES & TOBACCO				
7-UP BOTTLING COMPANY PLC	32	24.20	184,412	4,484,554.80
CADBURY NIGERIA PLC.	132	57.80	296,635	17,114,338.78
FLOUR MILLS NIGERIA PLC.	41	16.61	83,325	1,384,028.25
NIGERIA BOTTLING COMPANY PLC.	80	52.00	115,264	6,119,054.28
NESTLE FOODS NIGERIA PLC.	53	145.00	59,208	8,631,099.63
Sector Totals	338		738,844	37,733,075.74
HEALTHCARE				
EKOCORP PLC.	17	0.73	352,833	248,774.59
EVANS MEDICAL PLC.	7	3.23	93,600	308,984.00
MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC.	5	5.23	25,838	139,219.00
NEIMETH INTERNATIONAL PHARM. PLC.	45	3.38	148,332	504,539.62
GLAXOSMITHKLINE CONSUMER NIG. PLC	36	8.40	278,551	2,373,205.45
Sector Totals	110		899,154	3,574,722.66
HOTEL & TOURISM				
TOURIST COMPANY OF NIGERIA PLC	5	4.49	192,200	827,068.00
Sector Totals	5		192,200	827,068.00
INDUSTRIAL/DOMESTIC PRODUCTS				
ALUMACO PLC.	1	1.81	20,000	36,200.00
FIRST ALUMINIUM NIGERIA PLC.	9	0.87	242,700	220,869.00
B.O.C. GASES PLC.	2	3.00	5,500	16,425.00
VITAFOAM NIGERIA PLC.	20	3.20	163,764	519,231.08
Sector Totals	32		431,964	792,725.08
INSURANCE				
AICO INSURANCE PLC.	5	2.01	30,750	62,707.50
CORNERSTONE INSURANCE CO. PLC.	6	1.50	210,670	315,639.00
CRUSADER INSURANCE PLC.	1	1.16	10,000	11,600.00
LAW UNION AND ROCK INSURANCE PLC.	2	1.32	19,000	24,480.00
LINKAGE ASSURANCE PLC	1	1.56	1,000	1,560.00
N.E.M. INSURANCE CO. (NIG.) PLC.	1	0.82	13,865	11,369.30
NIGER INSURANCE CO. PLC.	6	3.00	100,297	305,899.76
ROYAL EXCHANGE ASSURANCE PLC.	5	3.26	7,793	25,306.39
STANDARD ALLIANCE INSURANCE	1	1.09	15,245	16,617.05
UNIC INSURANCE PLC.	4	1.07	25,000	26,750.00
WEST AFRICAN PROV. INS. COY. PLC.	6	2.87	42,926	123,197.62
Sector Totals	38		476,546	925,126.62
MACHINERY(MARKETING)				
BLACKWOOD HODGE (NIGERIA) PLC.	1	0.67	14	9.38
Sector Totals	1		14	9.38
MANAGED FUNDS				
C & I LEASING PLC.	9	1.38	251,000	342,720.00
Sector Totals	9		251,000	342,720.00
PACKAGING				
NAMPAK NIGERIA PLC	7	1.59	125,000	193,423.98
BETA GLASS COMPANY PLC.	7	4.07	75,000	305,850.00
Sector Totals	14		200,000	499,273.98
PETROLEUM(MARKETING)				
AFROIL PLC.	9	0.78	107,614	83,720.51
AFRICAN PETROLEUM PLC.	113	62.20	259,873	16,318,641.81
ETERNA OIL & GAS PLC.	12	2.04	107,737	219,783.48
MOBIL OIL NIGERIA PLC.	40	180.00	99,056	17,865,007.60
CONOIL PLC.	68	120.00	65,980	7,989,016.06
TEXACO (NIGERIA) PLC.	18	160.00	8,010	1,274,641.45
TOTAL NIGERIA PLC	34	183.00	31,307	5,736,739.26
OANDO PLC.	153	93.50	150,773	14,271,267.74
Sector Totals	447		830,350	63,758,817.91
PRINTING & PUBLISHING				
DAILY TIMES PLC.	3	0.63	8,659	5,418.31
LONGMAN NIGERIA PLC.	3	2.11	6,240	12,639.00
Sector Totals	6		14,899	18,057.31
REAL ESTATE				
UACN PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT PLC.	32	8.70	255,665	2,227,771.95
Sector Totals	32		255,665	2,227,771.95
TEXTILES				
AFPRINT NIGERIA PLC.	1	0.46	5,000	2,300.00
UNITED NIGERIA TEXTILES PLC.	6	2.41	24,100	58,081.00
Sector Totals	7		29,100	60,381.00
Overall Totals		3,904	47,428,121	560,682,102.12

TOP 10 TRADES YESTERDAY

SYMBOL	VOLUME	VALUE	TRADES
NB	1,578,675.00	60,049,831.32	426
GUARANTY	1,670,170.00	17,882,748.28	260
UBN	2,036,918.00	40,694,609.16	399
MANNYBANK	2,540,227.00	3,120,318.62	21
IMB	2,693,064.00	1,577,393.03	40
FIRSTBANK	3,387,164.00	78,024,555.48	608
ASHAKACEM	3,956,839.00	101,136,919.15	84
ACCESSBANK	4,300,924.00	14,709,160.08	20
ZENITHBANK	4,360,526.00	58,937,901.75	267
UTB	10,385,000.00	7,994,080.40	

TOP 10 GAINERS

SYMBOL	LASTCLOSE	YESTERDAYSCLOSE	CHANGE
NESTLE	144.00	145.00	+1.00
NB	38.00	38.60	+0.60
AP	61.75	62.20	+0.45
WAPCO	10.65	10.99	+0.34
CAP	6.57	6.89	+0.32
CADBURY	57.50	57.80	+0.30
CFAO	4.84	5.08	+0.24
GUARANTY	10.50	10.74	+0.24
TOURIST	4.28	4.49	+0.21
BCC	4.15	4.35	+0.20

TOP 10 LOSERS

SYMBOL	LASTCLOSE	YESTERDAYSCLOSE	CHANGE
MOBIL	185.50	180.00	-5.50
TOTAL	188.00	183.00	-5.00
NOLCHEM	123.00	120.00	-3.00
UNIPETROL	96.00	93.50	-2.50
NBC	53.20	52.00	-1.20
ASHAKACEM	24.67	23.50	-1.17
LEVBROS	16.20	15.71	-0.49
CCNN	7.70	7.38	-0.32
MAY&BAKER	5.50	5.23	-0.27
SKBEECHAM	8.67	8.40	-0.27

Dollar falters between Euro and Yen

The dollar stuttered yesterday as the fact that Federal Reserve chairman, Alan Greenspan did not reignite the greenback's New Year rally in the previous session encouraged some bulls to throw in the towel.

Greenspan provided no surprises in his Congressional testimony on Wednesday as he reiterated the US economy was expanding at a healthy pace and that the fed funds rate remained low in real terms despite recent hikes.

"The market was long of dollars and we have seen some unwinding of positions after Greenspan failed to reveal any surprises yesterday," said Tania Kostos, currency strategist at RBC Capital Markets.

At 6 a.m. yesterday, the dollar was down 0.25 percent against the euro at \$1.3068, close to two-week lows hit in the session. It was down 0.1 percent at 105.28 yen.

The dollar hit three-month highs against the euro and the yen last week and remains up against both currencies since the beginning of the year.

The dollar initially climbed on Wednesday after Greenspan said US interest rates remained "fairly low" at 2.5 percent after six consecutive rate rises by the Federal Reserve since June. But its gains proved fleeting.

"People are very confused which way to push euro/dollar now," said Lee Ferridge, senior proprietary trader at Rabobank. "The dollar is caught between two opposing camps, structural concerns and cyclical economic strength."

Greenspan will give the second part of his semi-annual testimony later on Thursday but is not expected to alter the tone of his earlier remarks.

The market will scrutinise US weekly jobless claims and US import-export prices for January, both out at 8:30 a.m. EST, and US leading economic indicators for January at 10 a.m. EST, for further clues on US economic growth and inflation.

The Philadelphia Federal Reserve Bank's February business activity survey is due at noon EST.

"Our view remains that we will see 3.25 percent Fed funds by the end of June, with three more 25 basis points rate rates," Standard Chartered said in a research note.

The currency market reacted little to the Bank of Japan's decision to keep monetary policy unchanged on Thursday, though statements by central bank officials in recent weeks had sparked talk that the BOJ could alter its liquidity target.



**SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES
DEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF NIGERIA
(SMEDAN)**

MSME TECHNO/RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT EXPO.

As part of her SME promotional activities, the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN) in collaboration with the Federal Ministries of Industry, Science and Technology, and Agriculture and Rural Development, is hosting a Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Technology/ Research & Development Exposition.

The Expo is aimed at creating awareness and encouraging utilization of local technology, Research and Development findings by bringing together entrepreneurs (end-users of Technology and Research and Development results) on the one hand and Local Fabricators, Equipment Manufacturers, Universities, Polytechnics and Research Institutes, on the other hand.

The exposition has been scheduled as follows:

Theme: "LINKING MSMEs WITH RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT FOR WEALTH CREATION".

Date: MARCH 8TH - 11TH 2005

Venue: TRADE FAIR COMPLEX, ABEOKUTA
(along Sagamu - Abeokuta Expressway,
Abeokuta, Ogun State)

Time: 9.00a.m. - 6.00p.m. daily

Participants at this important exposition are invited from:

- All Polytechnics, Universities, and Research Institutes that have relevant technology and research findings to showcase.
- Local Fabricators/ Equipment Manufacturers, Inventors, Designers
- Trade Groups/Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs);
- Business Incubators, Managers and Occupants
- Business Technology Centers
- Government Agencies that deal with MSMEs, Technology Acquisition and Adaptation
- MSME management consultants and service providers

For booking of pavilions (which will be allocated free), please contact:

Engr. Obiora Obi: 0803-329-9061, Mr. Olufemi Adebisi: 0802-223-4051 OR: Dr. Adeniyi Balogun: 09-4137724, 09-2906093, 09-2906095

There are limited number of spaces. Allocation will be on the basis of "First come, first served".

All bookings must be done before February 25, 2005.

Signed:
Mrs. M.A. Adelaja
Director-General



**SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES
DEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF NIGERIA
(SMEDAN)**

MSMEs PRODUCTS FAIR

As part of the strategies to foster the growth of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and encourage consumption of locally manufactured goods, the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN) hereby announces the hosting of MSMEs PRODUCTS FAIR. The Fair is also aimed at showcasing the capacity and potentials of the MSMEs sub-sector as well as promote product quality and competitiveness.

The theme of the Fair, therefore, is:
"ENHANCING MSMEs PRODUCTS QUALITY AND MARKET OPPORTUNITIES".

It is scheduled to hold as follows:

Date: March 21-24, 2005

Venue: Owerri, Imo State (exact venue to be announced later)

Time: 9.00a.m. - 6.00 p.m. daily

Participants are invited from:

- Trade Groups -NASME, NASSI, NACIN, etc.
- All micro, Small and Medium Enterprises/Exporters
- Nigerian Export Processing Council (NEPC)
- National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC)
- Standard Organisation of Nigeria (SON)
- Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission (NIPC)
- Development Finance Institutions - Bank of Industry, (BOI), Nigerian Agricultural Cooperative and Rural Development Bank (NACRDB)
- Other banking institutions
- State Ministries of Commerce and Industry
- MSME Management Consultants/Service Providers

For booking of pavilions (which will be allocated free), please contact:

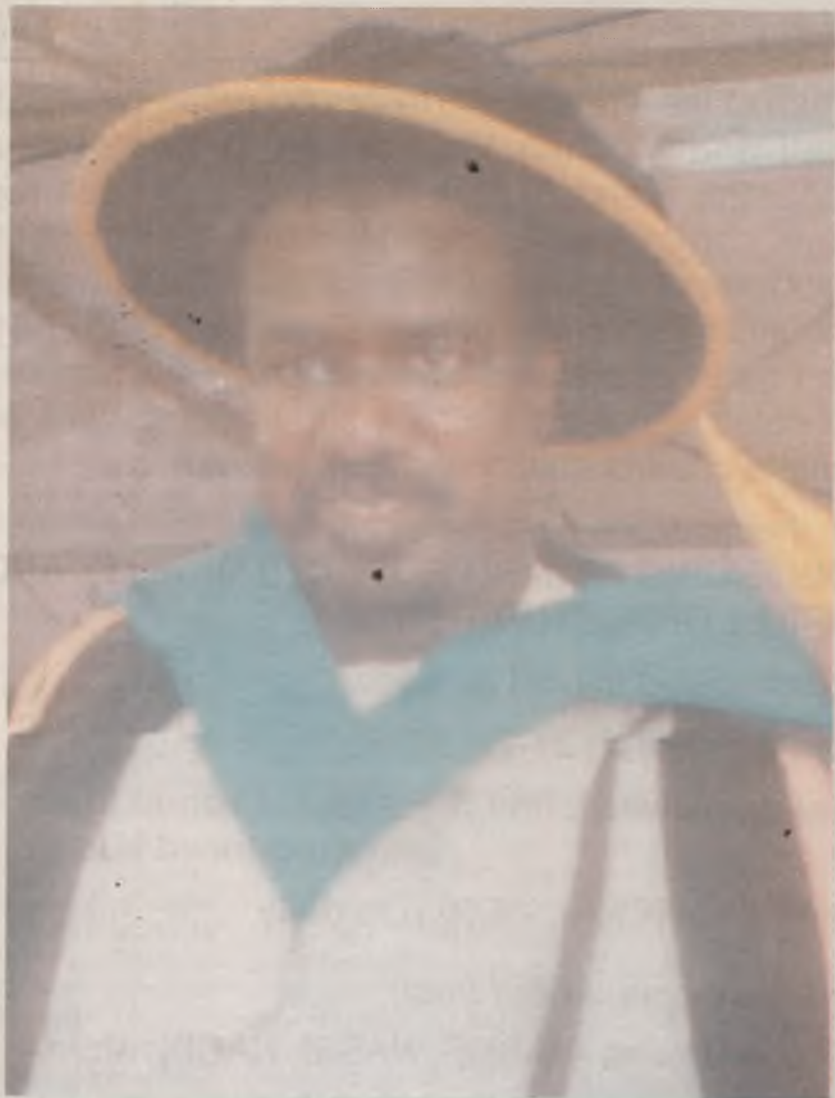
Mr. Olufemi Adebisi (0802-223-4051)

Dr. Adeniyi Balogun (0803-302-6597) OR
09-4137724, 09-2906095.

There are limited number of spaces. Allocation will be on the basis of "First come, first served". All bookings must be done before March 18, 2005.

Signed
Mrs M.A. Adelaja
Director-General

GIVING HONOUR TO WHOM IT IS DUE



**Dr. Ibrahim Saminu Turaki
Executive Governor**

The Commissioner of Land and Regional planning Honourable Alhaji Yusuf Bello Maitama on behalf of the entire staff of the Ministry, Urban development board, Dutse capital development authority and Environmental protection agency, rejoices with His Excellency, the Jigawa state Executive Governor Alh. Ibrahim Saminu Turaki on the meritorious conferment of Honorary Doctorate Degree in Science, by the University of Jos on the 12th February 2005.

Not long ago the Federal Ministry of Science awarded you with best IT Governor of the year. This is a clear testimony that you are manifestly committed to the total transformation of our dear state to match with the contemporary era.

*More grease to your elbows.
Long live Dr Ibrahim Saminu Turaki and
Long live Jigawa state.*



Alhaji Yusuf Bello Maitama
Honourable Commissioner

SIGNED
Alhaji Yusuf Bello Maitama
Honourable Commissioner
Ministry of Land and Regional Planning

Congratulatory Message



ENGR. MOHAMMED GAMBO UMAR, mni

Your appointment as the Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria FAAN is well deserved.

This appointment has brought great honour not only to yourself and your family but to us that are associated with you.

We are proud that your appointment followed your diligent stewardship of our great company for fifteen years. We all rejoice with you in the belief that you will fully justify the confidence reposed in you. We also believe that you will take FAAN to greater heights as you had done to our company.

We congratulate you and pray Almighty Allah to guide and protect you.

MANAGEMENT



Kapital Insurance Company Limited

116, Hadejia Road, P.O.Box 2044, Kano-Nigeria
Tel: 064-645666, 630661, 636614, 640156, Fax: 636962

"Growing faster By Being Better"

The Riddle Of Janus

It has a record of consistent and attractive dividend payouts.

Its return on investment (ROI) is well above industry average.

can you tell?

Clue [You already **know**]

the **future** belongs to those who know.

If you know what it is, an exciting surprise awaits you. Log on to www.riddleofjanus.com or SMS 0502 875 7019. Please indicate your name, occupation & email.



MAGIC TIMES

M - NET BRINGS YOU THE BEST ENTERTAINMENT IN 2005



Bad Boys 1 and Bad Boys 2

8 February, 21:30 CAT (Bad Boys 1) • 13 February, 20:00 CAT (Bad Boys 2)

Watch two of the best in comedy as they share one stage. Double the fun and double the action. The Bad Boys extravaganza brings you both explosive movies from two guys who are bad in the best sense – Will Smith and Martin Lawrence.



Eve

Fridays, 19:00 CAT

For some, winning a Grammy just isn't enough. Eve stars as Shelly Williams, a fashion designer who's looking for love. Luckily, single, ex-model Rita and happily-married Janie are there to help her get all her heart desires.



Lost

Starts 12 March, 19:00 CAT

M-Net brings you a show with the biggest production budget of any TV series produced in the US. 48 passengers survive a plane crash. But will they survive an island with a dangerous beast and other mysteries? Lost may yet prove a winner in the Golden Globes where it's been nominated for best drama.



Shanghai Knights

27 February, 20:00 CAT
 Fresh from the huge success of *The Taxedo*, M-Net's most-watched movie of last year, Jackie Chan returns in *Shanghai Knights*. He teams up with Owen Wilson in the follow-up to *Shanghai Noon*. See them trade punches and punch-lines in this side-splitting comedy caper.



Hollywood Homicide

25 February, 20:00 CAT
 A cop partnership between perennial screen idol, Harrison Ford, and new heartthrob, Josh Hartnett, produces some interesting results. Both LAPD detectives moonlight in other jobs - Ford is an estate agent in his spare time and Hartnett an aspiring actor. Somehow they find the time to solve the murder of a rap star. Arresting entertainment, only on M-Net.

Yesterday

23 February, 20:00 CAT
 An Official Entry for Best Foreign Film at the Oscars, this original M-Net production is a milestone in African filmmaking. The tale, told in isiZulu with English subtitles, centres around *Yesterday*, an HIV positive mother who wants to live long enough to see her daughter go to school. *Yesterday* - an uplifting film for Africa today.



25th Hour

2 February, 20:00 CAT
 It was high time for another big hit from Spike Lee. Edward Norton stars in this hard-hitting drama about a likeable drug dealer who's come to the end of the line. What will he do on his final day before he must turn himself in? There'll be more than a few surprises before the time runs out on this one.



Bruce Almighty

Sunday, 6 February, 20:00 CAT
 Jim Carrey's working miracles again in a divine comedy in which his character does his hand at being God and finds it's not as easy as he thought. Some say he's the Lord of Comedy. We say Amen.



Grammy Awards

14 February, 20:30 CAT
 It's almost time to pay tribute to the best sounds on the planet at the 47th annual Grammy Awards. Last year Beyonce, Outkast, Luther Vandross and Justin Timberlake took top honours. This year, make sure you've got your eyes (and ears) glued to M-Net. Always a feast of live performances, extravagant outfits and outrageous outbursts, the Grammys has often produced some great on-stage duets, like Prince and Beyonce. Of course, the greatest collaboration of the year could be you and M-Net.



Only on



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THE HOMIE FRONT

Fragments

By Safiya I. Dantive, Woman Editor

Can a woman relinquish her baby?

Apart from death, the missing of a child is the worst tragedy that can happen to parents. Some people believe that death is preferable to missing, because with death, you know your child is dead and you have no hope of ever seeing him again. But if your child is missing, you'll always hope that one day you'll see him, even if he is missing for thirty years.

A rescued baby boy from the tsunami that hit on December was initially claimed by nine couples, but a DNA test later confirmed the baby's parents as the couple that battled for his custody in court on Monday February 14, 2005.

The tense drama had made many a woman's heart ache, putting herself in the mother's position. And probably by pressing the custody claim, it showed that the couple are indeed the true parents of the baby, while the other couples gave up because they were not so sure of their claim.

One can imagine the pain of people claiming your just found child after suffering the anxiety of his missing. Many women will die first before they give up their child.

Few weeks ago, one woman told me that if she saw a very

"Even though it is common now to blame all our misfortunes on poverty, I should think the greatest love of all, that is a love of mother to her child can withstand it. All the wealth of the world will never make a woman who has abandoned her child happy. She will always be besieged by the nightmare of where is he? Is he well taken care of? Or did he die? And on and on."

ugly child, she marvelled that his parents loved him.

I said of course they loved him more than the most beautiful child in the world, and if you dare touch him or abuse him, they will not find it funny.

People love their child no matter how he looks, because he is their child and will never trade him for any other child.

True, there are women that abandon their children, so they don't fall into this category since they do so voluntarily, and they don't give up the children because of parentage tussle.

At any rate the relentless battle by the parents of this tsunami baby raises the question of how could any woman abandon her child, judging by the fierce love a mother feels for her child? After carrying the pregnancy to term with all the attendant problems from morning sickness, malaise and the like. It is even said that a pregnant woman is never fully well, until she gives birth. In other words she is in a perpetual state of sickness, then everything will culminate with labour pains to have the 'bundle of joy'.

The common cause of abandoning children is where women are not married and are either ashamed for people to see them with illegitimate children or they cannot take care of the children.

Some parents will never allow such 'grandchildren' in their house. But in spite of everything some women feel that if indeed they can go and get pregnant out of wedlock and having people seen them heavily pregnant, they see no reason not to keep the child.

Women that abandon their children are seen as not having a strong maternal love, and childless women wonder that while they run, from pillar to post in search of a child, some toss them out like garbage.

Even though it is common now to blame all our misfortunes on poverty, I should think the greatest love of all, that is a love of mother to her child can withstand it. All the wealth of the world will never make a woman who has abandoned her child happy. She will always be besieged by the nightmare of where is he? Is he well taken care of? Or did he die? And on and on.

Some people said that such women usually sneak back to find out where the child is, even if it is so, they don't make claims, they never look back.

A woman that abandons her child can kill, after all some babies died in polythene bags before they were rescued.

Is it circumstance that makes women so different, while a woman can never relinquish her baby, another woman cannot wait to get rid of hers? It is hard not to compare.

I wonder that if not for the DNA test that is a sure way to determine the parentage of a child and the tsunami rescued baby was given to other couples how would the mother feel? She would probably fight till her dying



Hajiya Wusila Tanko, left, discussing with Hajiya Aisha Suleiman at one day religious leaders seminar on peace building and conflict management organised by Kaduna Inter-Gender Conflict Resolution committee, held in Kaduna... recently.

Obasanjo advocates women's right

By Aisha Umar, Reporter
Women Desk

President Olusegun Obasanjo had expressed dismay over the low number of women in the Senate, saying that out of 109 senators only three were women.

The president expressed this in a remark at the inauguration of Murtala Muhammed memorial summit as chairman of the occasion.

Women had full employment right as men to earn survival, observed the president, adding that women should be given 25 per cent opportunity in the parliament in 2007, and advocated that 15 per cent of civil service post should go to women.

He said, "we should entreat, mobilise and enlighten our men that women have rights and should not be denied their rights."

For women to achieve their rights, President Obasanjo noted, it should be through persuasion, pointing out that power of entreaty was owned by women, so women should change the thinking, belief and attitude of men

towards them. "And we need advocacy and mobilisation from both men and women to realise these rights and role of women."

Also speaking at the occasion, the wife of the former South African president, Mrs. Grace Michel Mandela argued that she changed the topic of her presentation from "breaking barriers and limitation, the role of women in development" to "women's rights" because

women's right should not be postponed or delayed.

According to Mrs. Michel, even when women are found in government, they are not given serious positions like finance, agriculture etc, but rather they handle positions like education, health, social issues and women affairs, therefore, she urged women to learn to speak for themselves.

She maintained that gender equity was preached from 1975-1985 on women

participation, emphasising that how many women were in parliament, government and major companies? highlighting that only two African countries were able to meet the demand.

Mrs. Grace Michel stated that since rule of the majority was democracy, and women and the youth were not allowed to participate, there was need to reform our parliament by allowing women and the youth to participate for improvement.

Protest over violence against women in Namibia - Reports

Hundreds of men, women and children marched the length of Independence Avenue from the old cinema complex in Katutura to Parliament Gardens to protest against violence against women and children and to demand justice.

In particular, the clergy dressed in their clerical garb,

men and women in black, red and black, and red and white, and others in their church uniforms, came out in numbers to say no to violence, which of late has been demonstrated by the rape and killings of two small children within the past two weeks.

Rachel Hamutundu and Manuela Sofia Hoesemas, four- and six-year-old girls from Tamariskia in Swakopmund and Katutura in Windhoek respectively, were raped before being killed.

Instead of celebrating love as the demonstration fell on Valentine's Day, the marchers were demonstrating against love lost between men and their women counterparts and that women are on the receiving end of rapes, beatings and killings.

Carrying placards, which read: "We fear for our children", "We want peace", "It's high time men changed their behaviour", "Don't you have children, leave us alone", "Silence is crime", "Discrimination against women is unconstitutional", and "Stop raping our sisters, our mothers", the marchers, who were not deterred by the heat, also sang gospel songs.

As they drew close to their destination, Parliament Gardens, where members of

the clergy, under the banner of the Council of Churches in Namibia (CCN) offered their prayers to God, the marchers drew the attention of masses of onlookers, who stood on the street pavements.

Business in town seemed undeterred by the demonstrators while children, some of them dressed in Valentine colours, innocently played their time away at Zoo Park.

Men and women, and of the flock at the gardens, led by the president of the CCN, Bishop Shihala Hamupembe, offered prayers asking for forgiveness for having messed up the world that God created. They also prayed that God forgive the churches for having been silent on the issue, and to give people the urgency to overcome violence.

Others prayed for the lawmakers to be given wisdom to take drastic action because people of Namibia want to live in peace while yet others prayed that God heals Namibia, as "it is a sick nation".

Another member of the clergy led men in prayer for forgiveness because men started doing things they are not supposed to do.

Cleric berates western media over women's freedom

From Mohammed Abubakar,
Correspondent (Gombe)

An Islamic cleric, Sheikh Adamu Dokoro, has condemned western media for portraying Islam as abusing the rights of women.

He said it was rather the western world that reduced women to mere instruments of fashion, living without spiritual guidance.

The cleric said it was a great pity that despite its claim to affluence the western society still allowed its women to dress scantily as those of the ancient times.

Delivering a lecture aimed at uniting Muslim sisters and enlightening them on pure Islamic teachings vis-a-vis the modern world at this year's sisters' week held in FCET Gombe, Sheikh Dokoro lamented the manner in which some magazines and the likes show nude pictures of women saying it was an abuse of

their rights.

He stressed the need for women to stand up against this had influence and seek knowledge of their religion for the hereafter and western knowledge for life on earth.

Also speaking at the occasion, the chief host and wife of the registrar of the college, Hajiya Zainab Tanko Aliyu Girei, called on Muslim women to attend such gathering with a view to acquiring more knowledge of their religion.

In her remark, chairman of the occasion, Hajiya Talatu Waziri, implored participants to make good use of what they have learnt.

This year's sisters' week had as its theme the dignity and rights of a modern Muslim woman.



**NIGERIA SOCIAL
INSURANCE TRUST FUND**



The Honourable Minister of Labour and Productivity,
Dr. Hassan Mohammed Lawal
cordially invites the general public to the

**Official Commissioning of
NIGERIA SOCIAL INSURANCE
TRUST FUND
COMMERCIAL HOUSING ESTATE**

at
**Mararraba-Guruku,
Karu LGA, Nassarawa State**

By His Excellency
President Olusegun Obasanjo GCFR

On Monday 21st, February, 2005
10.00 a.m prompt



R.S.V.P: 09-2340110 09-2340111

Congratulations



Muhammad B. Hussaini.
(Chartered Insurance Practitioner)
B.Sc, MBA, ACII (London), ACIIN (Nigeria), FIIBI (London),
Dip IT (Arizona, USA)

We congratulate our former Senior Manager and Head of Technical Operations (1992 to 1994), the people and Government of Sokoto State, his family and friends/schoolmates, on his appointment by the President and Commander-in-Chief, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, as the Deputy Commissioner For Insurance (Technical Operations) in the National Insurance Commission Abuja.

COMMITTEE OF FRIENDS

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Adamu Balanti | Faruk B. B. Faruk |
| Arch Bashir H. Adamu Kazaure | Hassan Ivluhammed Maccido |
| Badaru Abubakar Talamiz | Honourable Nasiru Dantiye |
| Bello Muhammed Maccido | Honourable Usman M. Balkore |
| Colonel Abubakar Sa' ad | Ibrahim Hassan Dankwambo |
| Donald Duke | Ibrahim Saminu Turaki |
| Dr. Abubakar Zubairu | Lawal Barau Bungudu |
| Dr. Bashir Yusuf (Ph.D) | Maccido Garba Gusau |
| Dr. Lazarus Yusuf | Malami Ladan Sokoto |
| Dr. Nasiru Maiturare (Ph.D) | Olusiji Durojaiye |
| Dr. Silas B. Visa (Ph.D) | Professor Adebayo Olukoshi |
| Dr. Usman Muhammed (Ph.D) | Senator Badamasi M. Maccido |
| Dr. Yunusa A. Rafindadi (Ph.D) | Senator John Azuta Mbata |
| Ekarikpong Ukpanah | Waziri Kyari Muhammed |
| Emmanuel Oguejiofor | Wing Commander Garba Shehu |

We felicitate with his friends and wish him good health and Allah's guidance in the discharge of this onerous task to the Nigerian nation.



Kapital Insurance Company Limited

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"Growing faster By Being Better"

THE HOME FRONT

Sidelining women at the national conference

At the moment, the issue that dominates other pressing issues in this country is the controversial national conference or national dialogue.

There have been agitations to select or elect reputable delegates from every state, people that are expected to protect the interests of their states.

So state after state spewed out their delegates, but sadly most states did not put a woman among their delegations, and this action, more than anything, shows how women are disregarded in national issues.

So far, out of twenty states, only Jigawa and Akwa-Ibom states have a woman each among their nominees. Hajiya Fatimah Mai Borno from Jigawa and Mrs. Helen Esuene from Akwa-Ibom.

Probably the states got their cue from the federal government, which has no woman in the steering committee. Even now that the long awaited federal government list is out, there are cursory number of women and six women from women group. These women are not in any way adequate to represent the multitude of Nigerian women and a case for their problems.

Thereafter, ten years after Beijing and the global declaration of the 30 percent affirmative action for women, Nigerian women are still not regarded as fit enough to represent themselves or even their community.

Yet, for all the disregard, men know exactly when to use women and lobby for their votes. The men get literally on their knees, calling women "our mothers." And furthermore, because women are poor, they are also criticised by gifts of salt and soap and the like.

The gullible women come out in large numbers to queue under the elements, some with babies strapped to their backs, in order to exercise their "national duty."

National duty indeed! But when the time comes for sharing the national cake or to take part in dividing it, as it

By Safiya I. Dantiye, Woman Editor, Abubakar Haruna, Reporter (Women Desk) and Ndidiamaka Kanu, Intern

were, women are not included. They become mere onlookers.

Few months ago at a workshop organized by an NGO, International Republican Institute (IRI), a woman leader urged the participation of women in politics, and that women should stop clapping their hands at men, i.e. at political rallies, as if that is their only use and contribution.

But judging from the nominees to the national conference, it seems men are determined to keep women at the clapping level.

It is in reaction to the nomination that the minister of women affairs, Obong Rita Akpan, held a press conference on February 3, 2005 to register her displeasure.

A few weeks ago the council of states rose from its meeting with a decision to support yet another landmark reform agenda – the national political reform conference or national dialogue, the minister stated. "It is sad and regrettable that with the list of nominees to the national conference making the pages of some newspapers, the state seems set for another meeting where the voices of women will be unheard," she added.

The minister stressed that this poor showing of women so far had saddened many, and that she had been inundated with phone calls and personal visits from Nigerian women who now believed that their concern would not be given a hearing at the conference, as there would be too few of them to make their case.

Was there any state in this federation where there was no woman, educated, knowledgeable and intelligent enough to take part in a national dialogue along side the men? Queried Rita Akpan, while asking again: When would Nigerian women be given the opportunity to participate in making decisions about issues that concern them?

Nigerian women are more aware of their rights now than ever, according to the minister, and as such, they sure know when those rights are violated.

Non inclusion of women in the state lists of nomination for the national conference was a gross discrimination against women and a denial of their rights as citizens of this country, lamented the minister.

She said "I am therefore using this medium to urge all my brothers out there, from all the states of the federation to include at least two women representatives from their states and groups in their list of nomination for the national conference."

Perhaps what the minister of women affairs should have done was to forsee what would happen in our male dominated society, in spite of Nigerian being a signatory to the UN convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women.

She should have check-mated the men by calling governors well before they started nominating people, to ask for women nomination.

Already some women groups have threatened to boycott 2007 election because of this total disregard to them and to everything they stand for.

Sidelining women is detrimental to the conference, and to Nigeria as a great nation, touted as the giant of Africa, and by implication whose other African countries should emulate.

This will further reinforce women's distrust of men that they care to include them in things only if they would benefit the men. In other words, the men use them.

And that by not having adequate representation at the conference, many issues related to women may not even come up, let alone be deliberated on. Because the conference will be rather like a men's roundtable, where women's problems may never be mentioned.

What people say:-
Hajiya Aminu Keri Ahmed, an adviser for UBE project in Niger State and employed by



Governor Ahmed Mohammed Makarfi Presenting the Kaduna State six man delegates to the national political reform conference to the public in Kaduna recently, why are womern not included?

the British Council expressed disappointment at the relegation of women to the background for the national conference.

Amina Keri Ahmed, who also has an NGO, Amini literacy foundation said: "We are beyond experimental status after Beijing conferences." She blamed all governors' wives for complicity, pointing out that as first ladies instead of them to push for the nomination of women at the National Conference, they kept silent.

Mrs. Ahmed also criticised the first ladies pet projects as propaganda, but not for the development of women, emphasising that they had failed.

Hajiya Azumi Namadi Bebeji from Kiru/Bebeji federal constituency insisted that women should be included in the forthcoming political reform considering their position as mothers and wives in the country.

According to her, women are peacemakers in the society therefore, if are given chance they should contribute immensely to the successful deliberation of the conference and the development of the country at large.

Her words, "women should be included, it should be at least 30 to 40 per cent women and then we will see that a lot of positive infact will come up in the conference."

Hajiya Azumi who said that she was against the current evident exclusion of women in the forthcoming conference argued that women knew how to maintain peace more than their men counterparts.

According to Honourable Titi Akindahunsi from Ekiti federal constituency, cultural set up are the backbone of

women marginalisation in the country.

Mrs. Akindahunsi said "may be because of our cultural set up, there are many things that women are not included at all," she added "in a situation where you are asked to nominate six people, at least if you don't put 2 women there should have been only one woman."

According to her, women constitute more than half of the nation's population and as such, they should be treated equally with their men counterpart.

According to Alhaji Danlami Musa, women should be included from the initial stage so as to address their problems from the beginning. Danlami appealed to the government at the various levels to include more women in order to fill the gap within the gender rate in the country.

Mr. Uche Katen, a staff of JAMB, believes that the poor representation of women for the national confab only emphasised the truth that women were still being marginalized in this country.

He said "women have been marginalized in the governance of this country, because they are less privileged to be allowed to compete with their male counterparts. As a result of this, it has made significant progress in the country impossible."

The almost exclusion of women to the national conference was disheartening, lamented Mrs. Ngozi Okpe, a civil servant.

She stated that though women/children constituted about 70 per cent of the population, the discrimination against women was well known, adding that as far as

men were concerned women did not exist in this country, therefore their interest were not considered.

Mrs. Ngozi pointed out that though women were not allowed to handle or occupy sensitive positions in the country, for fear that they might not do well, the irony was that the few women ministers had been doing better than men.

If women were not well represented, argued Mrs. Ngozi, it would look like the government was encouraging social vices against women like widowhood Practices, illiteracy in women and so on.

But all the same, she called on men that at the end of the conference, they should consider relegating 40 per cent of political positions to women.

Mr. Philip, a civil servant, noted that something would definitely be missing, with inadequate representation of women, so he advised that they should be included.

Another civil servant, Mr. Alex Okpe observed that the sidelining of women at the national conference arose from the traditional belief that men should speak for women, adding that men had dominated the political scene, and that women had not made themselves pronounced in politics.

But for Nura Ahmed, a graduate, the exclusion of women at the national conference was not because women were not seen as equals to men in terms of qualification, but rather because the nominees were selected for wrong reasons.

He however cautioned that selecting women just to satisfy women rights activists was also wrong, but that they should be selected if they meet the qualifications applicable to men.

"Thereafter, ten years after Beijing and the global declaration of the 30 percent affirmative action for women, Nigerian women are still not regarded as fit enough to represent themselves or even their community."



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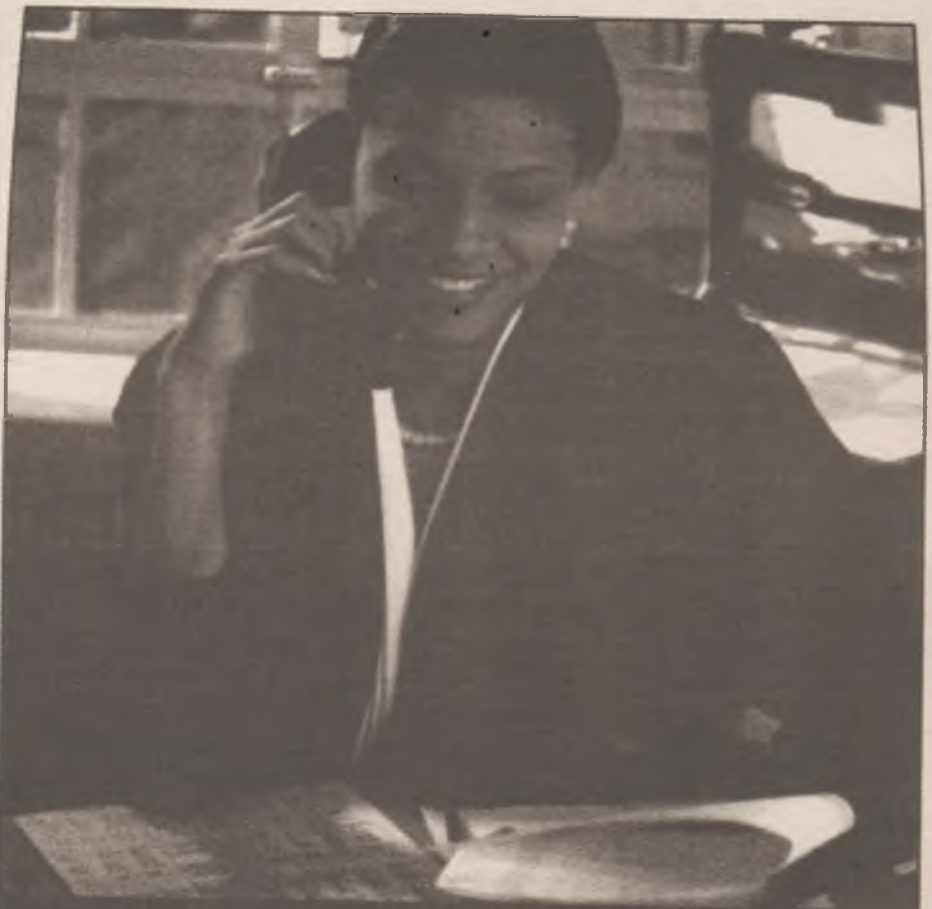
The committee is already doing its work and it shall be completed by the end of February.

All stakeholders, regulatory agencies and other interested parties are hereby warned to maintain the current status quo until the committee has completed its assignment.

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Alhaji Magaji Mohammed
Honourable Minister of Industry



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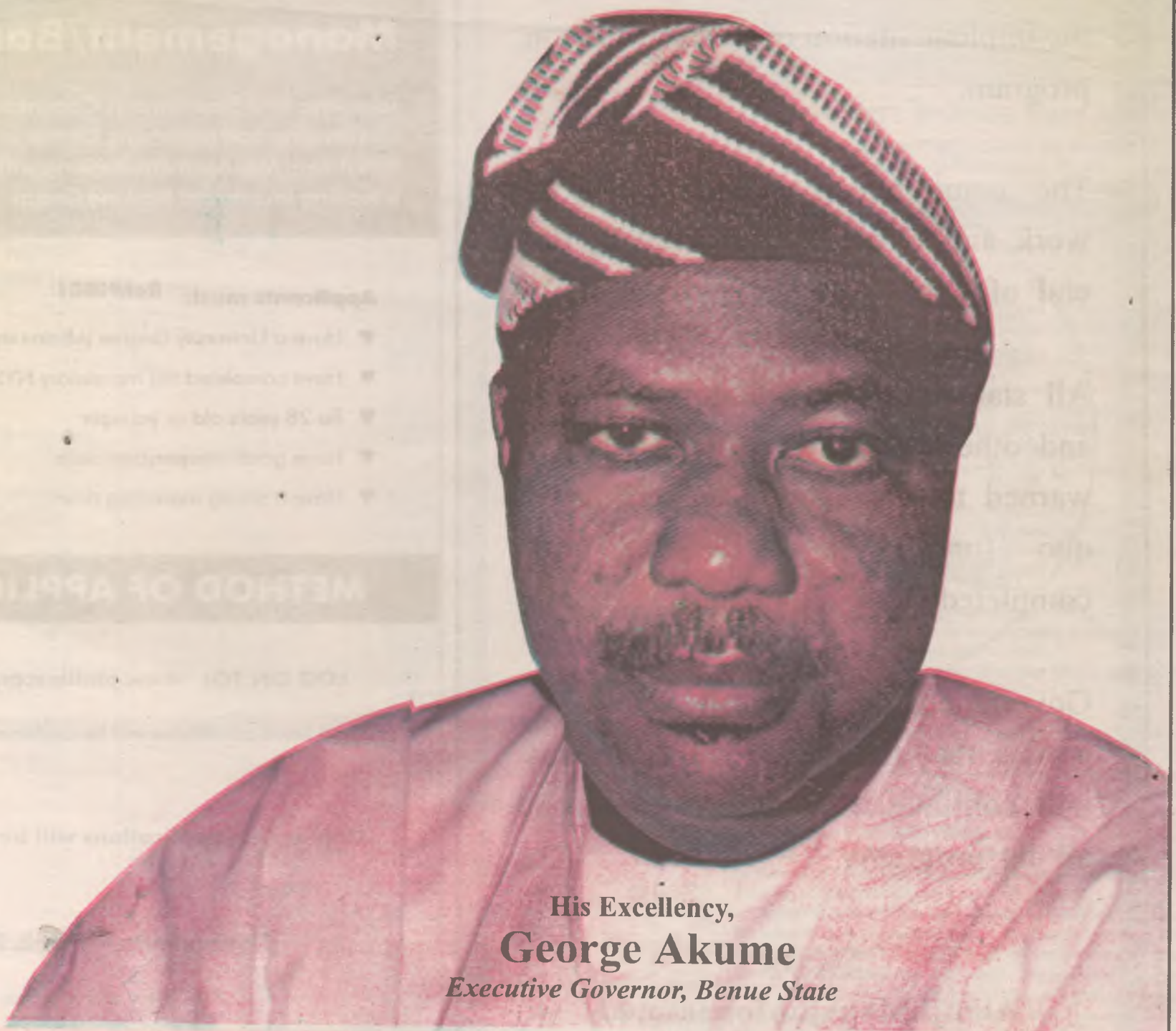
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(ESTABLISHED BY DECREE NO. 44 OF 1989, (CAP 425 L.F.N 1990))



INDUCTION OF NEWLY REGISTERED SURVEYORS

The Council at its meeting 030 on Thursday, 16th December, 2004 approved the results of candidates that were successful in the last 2004 Professional Examinations conducted by it.

The underlisted candidates will therefore be inducted by the Council, having successfully fulfilled all requirements including their financial obligations to it.

NEWLY REGISTERED SURVEYORS AND REGISTRATION NUMBERS

S/N	NAME OF CANDIDATE	REG NO.	S/N	NAME OF CANDIDATE	REG NO.	S/N	NAME OF CANDIDATE	REG NO.
1.	ABIMBOLA, O. A.J.	1477	25.	AYANWALE, S.O.	1471	48.	OGBESETORE, B.G.	1515
2.	ABUBAKAR, A. H.	1503	26.	BAMIDELE, W.O.	1469	49.	OGUNTIMEHIN, J.O.	1486
3.	ADEBOWALE, D.G.	1507	27.	BENYEOGOR, C.T.	1475	50.	OJO, M.O.	1459
4.	ADEJUMOBI, A.O.	1524	28.	BOGUNJOKO, J.T.	1525	51.	OKAFOR, E.E.	1526
5.	ADENIYI, R.R.	1495	29.	CHIGBU, N.	1467	52.	OKAFOR, S.O.	1496
6.	ADEOYE, O.A.	1468	30.	DIMGBA, C.N.	1501	53.	OKE, A.O.	1506
7.	ADEWALE, E.B.	1462	31.	EFFIONG, E.	1494	54.	OKEREKE, C.S.C.	1455
8.	ADUDU, P.O.	1493	32.	EJIANYA, C.O.	1518	55.	OKOH, O.K.	1474
9.	AFODUN, S.B.	1468	33.	EJIANYA, M.O.	1478	56.	OKOME, E.	1514
10.	AGOHA, R.N.	1492	34.	EKAGBO, S.O.O. (MRS)	1461	57.	OKORO, C.E.	1522
11.	AJAYI, A.S.	1509	35.	GBADAMOSI, S.M. (MRS)	1517	58.	OKOTIE, V.E.	1491
12.	AJAYI, Z.O.	1472	36.	IKPENE E.E.	1502	59.	OLUKOTUN, S.B.	1497
13.	AJIBADE B.B.	1482	37.	INGIBINA C.B.	1458	60.	OLUWAJUYTAN, A.I. (MRS)	1463
14.	AJOKU, I.K.	1489	38.	IYERITEI, Q.	1504	61.	ONWUEME, C.N.	1484
15.	AKINADE, B.A.	1512	39.	JENYO, O.K.	1513	62.	OSIBANJO, I.A.S. (MRS)	1457
16.	AKINGBEHIN, O.L.	1523	40.	JIMOH, O.S.	1470	63.	OTUJE, C.O.	1487
17.	AKINOLA, T.G.	1465	41.	KADIRI, B.O.	1498	64.	OYEKALU, R.O.	1481
18.	AKPOMUDJERE, E.	1485	42.	KAYODE, B.O.	1516	65.	RAHEEM, K.A.	1510
19.	ALABI, R.O.S.	1460	43.	LAWAL, A.M.	1479	66.	SALAWU, I.	1480
20.	ANYIKA, M.K.O.	1488	44.	MAKANJUOLA, M.K.	1519	67.	SANGODE, B.B.	1520
21.	ARINOLA, I.O.	1464	45.	MBAKWE, C.OS.	1490	68.	SOREMEKUN, I.O.	1476
22.	ASOLUKA, C.O.	1511	46.	MBELU, L.U.	1521	69.	SULEIMAN, I.A.	1499
23.	AUDU, H.A.P.	1505	47.	ODUYEBO, F.O.	1473	70.	UTRE, S.	1500
24.	AYANSJI, A.A.G.	1483				71.	YUSUF, R.K.	1508

REGISTERED IN 2003 BUT NOT INDUCTED

The following seven (7) passed the 2003 Professional Examination but were unable to meet the conditions for induction along with others on 16th January 2004. They will also be inducted with the above listed Surveyors.

S/N	NAME OF CANDIDATE	REG NO.	S/N	NAME OF CANDIDATE	REG NO.	S/N	NAME OF CANDIDATE	REG NO.
1	ADA, J.U.	1456	3	AKINWANDE, M.O.	1451	5	ILOANYA, B.N.	1450
2	AKANDE, A.M.	1453	4	AWONIYI, A.I.	1449	6	LAWAL, A.S.	1454
						7	SAMALI, J.M.	1452

The Induction Ceremony is scheduled as follows:

Date: Friday 18th February 2005

Time: 10.00 a.m. prompt

Venue: University of Lagos Guest Houses Restaurant, Akoka Yaba, Lagos.

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BRANCHES NATIONWIDE

ABUJA TRUST

60 in hospital with water borne diseases

A total of 60 people are currently hospitalised with water borne related ailments within the Gwagwalada area council of the FCT.

Speaking to the *News Agency of Nigeria (NAN)* yesterday in Gwagwalada, the council chairman, Alhaji Zakari Angulu, said that the water scarcity in the council was adversely affecting the populace.

He said that although 12 people had already died due to such water borne diseases, more people were down in hospitals spread across the council.

He lamented that the persisting water scarcity in the territory and specifically his council, was taking its toll on the health of residents.

He said that those hospitalised were from Unguwar Gada, Unguwar

Gwari, Unguwar Fogi and Unguwar Zanzow communities.

NAN learnt that some of the diseases rampant in the council now include gastroenteritis, dysentery and cholera.

He said that worse hit by the gastro-enteritis outbreak were children of between the ages of one month to 12 years, constituting more than 60 per cent of the cases.

He added that other water related diseases like cholera and dysentery were also afflicting the residents.

According to him, the council was assisting the patients through materials while efforts had also been intensified to prevent further outbreak in other areas.

He appealed to residents to desist from drinking water from rivers and other unsafe sources.

No fewer than 10 persons were last Friday around 12 noon burnt to death in an accident at Yaba junction along Abaji-Gwagwalada road which involved a Toyota commuter Hiace bus with Kogi registration number AX 271 KKS, conveying passengers from Lokoja-Kaduna.

An eyewitness, Mal. Saidu Salihu, who is the secretary of the National Union of Road Transport Workers, Wako branch under Kwali area council, who spoke to *Abuja Trust* said he was at the junction when the accident happened.

He said one motorcycle rider, a young man, who went to buy a jerry can of fuel from Abaji, on his way back swerved to the other lane of the road without looking back and in the process the bus crushed him.

Mallam Salihu said that

10 burnt in bus accident along Abaji road

By Nasir Imam, (Property & Environment editor)

the unidentified motorcycle rider died instantly while the bus (and its occupants), which caught fire from the spilt fuel in the jerry can, skidded into the bush in flames.

Another eyewitness, Abubakar Sadiq, told *Abuja Trust* that when he visited the scene of the accident, bodies of the HIACE bus passenger were burnt beyond recognition, with sympathisers who gathered at the scene of the accident gnashing their teeth and shedding tears.

Mallam Sadiq however said that before the corpses of the dead were given mass burial at the site of the accident on Saturday morning, two bodies were identified by

their relatives and given mass burial, while three persons are presently lying critically at the Gwagwalada Specialist Hospital.

In a related development, another Toyota commuter Hiace bus with registration number Kogi XA 272 LMA, conveying travellers from Kabba to Abuja were involved in another accident, which left two persons injured, with one lady losing one of her eyes in the process.

An Eyewitness report told *Abuja Trust* that the accident was also caused by a motorcyclist, who ran away after the incident happened, and all efforts by the police to apprehend him proved abortive.

South African coy to fabricate SME machines in FCT

South African company, Zhauns Engineering and Special Projects Group, is planning to set up a plant within 12 months in Nigeria with a view to making available machines for SME projects of the FCT.

The plan was unfolded in a meeting between the officials of the FCT administration and representatives of the company on Tuesday.

The special assistant to the president on SME matters, Mallam Muktar A.T. Balewa, stated that the company, Zhauns Engineering Group has been listed among the top 30 companies in South Africa and has proposed to make its technology available to Nigeria.

Speaking at the meeting, the special assistant to the minister on social sector, Hajia Amina Salihu, restated the determination of the FCT administration to ensure that people have sustainable incomes and emphasised on the need to encourage people to own their business.

The co-ordinating executive secretary, FCDA, Engr. Sani Alhassan, informed the representatives of the company of the process of land acquisition in the FCT and pledged the willingness of the administration to accede to the request of the company.

Earlier in his remark, the chief executive of the company, Mr. Zhauns Ahmed, explained that he was per-

sueded to come to Nigeria because of his 30 years experience of reducing multi-million dollar machines to a small-scale machine for SME projects.

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NURTW refutes report

The National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) has denied knowledge of one Mallam Inuwa Abubakar who claimed to be a member of the union of which he called a press conference.

In a press release made available to *Abuja Trust* yesterday and signed by NURTW's general secretary, Alhaji M.M. Amoo, the statement said Mallam Inuwa Abubakar is not known to NURTW. "We therefore dissociate our union, the NURTW over the above publication.

One Mallam Inuwa Abubakar last Monday in a press statement stated that the NURTW was happy with the removal of Tafa Balogun, former Inspector General of Police.

KANO TRUST

Ashura: Celebration according to different creeds

First of all, what is the origin of this Ashura and Tashura which Muslims are celebrating with fasting and other festivities?

Well, the day of Ashura is the 10th day of the month of Al-Muharram, the first month in the Islamic calendar, which falls on Friday, the 18th of February in the Gregorian calendar. First, we should understand that there are four months in the Islamic calendar that are considered very significant to Muslim's worship of Allah, the Creator of the universe. These are Zul-Qadah (the 11th month), Zul-Hajj (the 12th month), Al-Muharram (the first month) and Rajab (the 7th month). Allah (S.W.T) mentioned them in Surat Tauba, while the Prophet was quoted as saying that they are the most significant months for worship to the Ummah in authentic Hadiths.

There are three groups of people celebrating this Muslim day in different ways. The first group is the Shiite group which celebrates it as a day of mourning because historically, it was on the 10th day of Muharram 61 A.H. that their greatest Imam, Imam Hussain who is the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), was killed in a battle at Karbala. That was why they (Shiite) declared every 10th of Muharram as a day of mourning to all their followers and they usually perform many odd practices during such occasion, like their women wearing black clothing and leaving their hair open to show their mourning faces to the public; carrying a mock-coffin on a camel as if they are carrying the corpse of their slain Imam Hussain; declaring the day a work-free; and using sharp objects to cut themselves to spill their blood which they consider an act of piety. This practice began or was created by one Mu'izzideen or Mu'izz-daula Ibn Babawaihi in the year 352 A.H. in Baghdad, and he got the support of the reigning government in Baghdad then. It later became an institutionalised practice of the people every year.

But were those practices right in Islam?

No. They were practices that had their origin from the man I just mentioned; and not from the Prophet (PBUH). The practices of self-inflicting injury, and women unveiling their hair, which is haram in Islam, are not acceptable in Islam. If you look at what they are mourning from the Islamic point of view, it

Today is Ashura day, and Muslims all over the world are fasting to commemorate the day which is annually observed on the 10th day of Muharram in the Islamic calendar. Although celebrated according to different creeds, the authentic and most accepted form of worship on the day of Ashura, according to a renowned Islamic scholar in Kano, Malam Ja'afar Mahmud Adam, is to fast on the 9th and 10th of the month of Muharram. He discussed this and other related issues with our regional editor in Kano, Malam Musa Umar Kazaure.

should be a cause for celebration; not mourning because all Islamic scholars agree that Imam Hussain died a martyr in the Karbala war. Any Muslim that died in such condition of martyrdom is considered to have gotten automatic ticket to paradise. Of course, when someone gets to paradise, it entails happiness and not sadness; hence, they ought to celebrate instead of mourning his killing.

The second argument is that everybody knows that Aliyu (R.A.), the father of Imam Hussain, was also slain in the mosque, and Aliyu is more revered in Islam than Hussain, his son. The question is: why are they not also mourning the death of his father, Aliyu, who is even of a higher prophetic progeny than Imam Hussain? Also, if you take the case of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), every one knows the day he died and none of the four revered Khalifs ever celebrated or mourned on the anniversary of the death of the prophet. If celebrating or mourning the death of any person was mandatory, it would have been that of Muhammad (PBUH).

Which are the other two groups and how do they celebrate their own Ashura?

The other groups are those referred to as Anna-wasib. They are group of people opposed to the house of the Prophet, Ahl-Bait. Because the Shiites elevated those from the house of the prophet to the position of deities for worship, these groups of Anna-wasib became opposed to them for such beliefs and practices. So instead of mourning on the 10th day of Muharram which is Ashura day, they decided

to celebrate the day. They even go to the extent of forging Hadiths to support their position or practice. They claimed that anyone who

celebrants had their origin from the Khawarij who are always in opposition of the house of Aliyu Ibn Abu Talib, the father of Imam Hussain, for po-



Malam Ja'afar Mahmud Adam

feeds his family well on the day of Ashura will be well fed throughout the remaining year by Allah (S.W.T). They also claim that anyone who puts on Kohl on his eyes on the day of Ashura will never have eye problems as well as that anyone who prays four raka'at on the night before Ashura day, reciting one Fatiha and 50 Kul-Huwal-Allah, will have his sins committed in the past 50 years forgiven, and the next 50 years forgiven. Most of such Hadiths are forged and false; Hadiths that were created to suit their selfish desires and to convince laymen who are not learned on the justification to be happy and celebrate on the day of Ashura. These groups of Ashura cel-

litical reasons.

But it has been the practice among most Muslim families here in the Hausa land to celebrate Ashura day in festive mood, like cooking delicious foods, drinks and so on?

Yes. But it is wrong. People are just following blindly without reading and learning what Islam truly is. Many were just following the tradition as part of culture; not really doing it to spite the house of Ahl-Bait as the initial followers believed in. Our past scholars failed to tell the people the truth about these things. And that is why people are not following their religion the way Allah and His noble prophet showed them to do.

What then is the position of fasting on the day of Ashura which Muslims are asked to do?

That is the true way to celebrate Ashura (to fast on the 9th and 10th of Muharram, which is called Tashura and Ashura.) The origin of how Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) celebrated these days is found in authentic Hadiths in Muslim and Buhari. The Hadiths narrated how the prophet, after his Hijra (migration) from Mecca to Medina, met the Jews in Madina, fasting on the 10th of every Muharram. When he asked them why they do that, they told him that it was in remembrance of the day Allah (SWT) drowned their arc-enemy Pharaoh of Egypt, and saved them from his evil plans. So the prophet (PBUH) said: "I am closer to Moses as a prophet than you are". So he joined them in fasting on every 10th of Muharram, and also asked his companions to do so. Before fasting in the Holy month of Ramadan was made compulsory to Muslims, Ashura fasting was the only compulsory fasting for the Muslim Ummah, but after the revelation which made Ramadan a compulsory fast, Ashura was relegated to Mustahab.

In his last year, the prophet told his companions that in the next month of Muharram, Allah willing, he was going to fast on the 9th and 10th so that he would differ from the Jews who do their fasting only on the 10th. So based on this, his companions continued to fast on the 9th and 10th of every month of Muharram because the prophet had already said he was going to fast and the prophet never reneged on his promise. There are several authentic Hadiths supporting this practice in the religion of Islam. For example, the prophet was asked which is the best of fasting after Ramadan, and he said the Ashura fasting. In another Hadith, he was asked the benefits of fasting Ashura, to which he replied that it cleanses petty sins committed in the past years. So the true way to celebrate Ashura is to fast on the 9th and 10th of Muharram, and if one cannot fast the two days, he should endeavour to fast on the 10th and leave the 9th. So you can see that Ashura day is not a day of mourning like the Shiites do: it is not a day of festivity and merry-making because you don't feast while you are fasting, which is also against the practice of Anna-wasib.

Mallam, what is your opinion on the controversy over the celebration of the 1st day of the first month of Is-

lamic year, Al-Muharram, which has been declared a public holiday in Kano State, and events organised to mark the occasion? Is this in line with Islamic practice and teachings?

Honesty, if we really want to go down the history of Islam, and look through the holy book of Islam, the Qur'an and the authentic Hadiths, there is no where we can find any support for what the Kano State government is doing regarding the celebration of 1st of Muharram. Let us now look at the facts before us: the prophet himself who embarked on the Hijrah (migration) from Mecca to Medina lived for about 10 years after the Hijrah in Medina. He never celebrated the anniversary of his Hijrah for once. Umar bin Khattab, the third Khalif who founded the Islamic calendar that we are using today, ruled the Muslim world for 8 years, but he never for once celebrated the beginning of the new Islamic calendar nor did he ask that a public holiday be declared on that day; nor did he organise a gathering for such an occasion.

What do you advise the government to do regarding the issue of celebrating the 1st of Muharram?

I think we Muslims of this generation should refrain from imitating the Christians in their celebrations. Just because the Christians celebrate the New Year, we should not force it upon ourselves to do the same. I know of the argument that it is meant to imbibe the knowledge of the Islamic calendar into the Muslim Ummah, but you can do it in many other ways, like making it an official date for government communications, announcing it on radio and TV before any programme; enforcing its writing on the blackboard of all classes in all schools - primary, secondary and tertiary. We don't need to imitate any religious groups to imbibe the teaching of our religion when Allah has clearly told us that we are the best of communities among all nations. I know there are some people who support this kind of celebration because of what they will make out of it at the end of the day; because if they want to organise such a gathering, they will need money for some programmes. So my advice to the Kano State government is to beware of such clerics who are only interested in using the occasion to siphon government's money. They should adhere to what Islam allows and shun those that will lead them to the wrong path.

"In his last year, the prophet told his companions that in the next month of Muharram, Allah willing, he was going to fast on the 9th and 10th so that he would differ from the Jews who do their fasting only on the 10th. So based on this, his companions continued to fast on the 9th and 10th of every month of Muharram because the prophet had already said he was going to fast and the prophet never reneged on his promise."

EKO TRUST

Kuramo Beach: Prostitution in different guise

First timer to the popular Kuramo Beach along Ahmadu Bello Way on Victoria Island would probably be deceived by the serenity sense of the beach. When *Eko Trust* visited the area during the week, there was a contrasting seedy feature that unfolds for anyone who probes deep.

The visit of our correspondent to the beach revealed a lot of things about the area. *Eko Trust* was confounded with a bizarre sight in one of the shacks called rooms in the heart of Kuramo, a coastal village on the fringe of the Atlantic Ocean. Locked on in a tight embrace amidst profuse sweat in a corner are some teenagers, ten of them all girls. Some of them had their bodies half covered despite the presence of men.

In local parlance these girls are referred to as *Osanle*, a Yoruba word which means runaways. It was not exactly known when the runaways emerged in Kuramo Village but a group of journalists from Boston Globe, USA seeking information on the living conditions of children in Africa first came into contact with them in April last year.

With a population of about 3,000, Kuramo Village along with others on the coastal fringe once served as the Man O War Bay Training Centre from the early 1960s till about the late 1980s.

Parts of their findings include a prostitution racket managed by men who specialise in using innocent-looking teenage girls. The girls are between the ages of 10 and 19.

The visit of our correspondent to Kuramo Village was like taking a heavy load off the community, when the chairman of the community development association, Apostle Alafia Lowo, said our visit was timely and of utmost relevance.

By **Olumide Bajulaiye,**
Correspondent, Lagos

According to the chairman, the greatest problem confronting the community was that these girls are runaways. Alafia Lowo lamented that towards the end of last year, many parents were said to have besieged the community in search of their daughters.

On a daily basis, during this period, the sight of mothers forcefully dragging their children along the sandy path was a common occurrence. Some who could not afford to get physical with their daughters enlisted the services of the community development association (CDA).

Having noticed that the young girls are under the control of men said to be into armed robbery, hard drug sales and ammunition trade,

“Majority of the mothers who managed to take their children back home became helpless afterwards as it turned out that they have lost total control over them. Some of them were said to have even encouraged their daughters’ return to the beach because of the “enormous financial gains” accruing to them. This view was corroborated by one Mrs. Olatunji Idowu, a resident who said some of these mothers are reluctant to deal with the girls because some of them send large sums of money home.”

the CDA reportedly invited a combined police squad from the Criminal Investigation Department, Alagbon and Special Anti-Robbery Squad from Central Police Station, Adeniji-Adele to dislodge the girls and their godfathers. The respite that followed was only temporary.

Those arrested by the police were released not long after, due to what the community leader referred to as “knowing their ways around the police.” Majority of the mothers who managed to take their children back home became helpless



Gov. Tinubu

afterwards as it turned out that they have lost total control over them.

Some of them were said to have even encouraged their

persuade those who still know their way to go home. For those who wouldn't go, we try to fix them up with different kinds of odd jobs that would

most of who once reside at the Kuramo Waters were said to have moved further down into the villages along the coast, which include Kuramo, Igboere, Apese, Inupa, Olukotun, Mgbon and Onijegi.

The massive movement, it was learnt resulted in boom and big business as owners of houses, all wooden structures, jerked up their rents. Efforts aimed at flushing out the girls were in part, allegedly frustrated by these house owners.

Further findings revealed that not all the girls are into vices like prostitution. Some are reportedly house helps in homes in plush neighbourhoods like Victoria Island and Ikoyi. Some of them also work as bar tenders, food vendors and waiters at the Kuramo Beach.

Chidi Nwajuba, who told our correspondent that he has been in and out of the community in the past five years seeking fun, said the community is a home to the hopeless.

“Some of these people are people who have gone from one place to another in search of jobs and opportunities to survive and eventually ended up here. Those that cannot make it especially some with the influence of friends became armed robbers and prostitutes. They are already prostitutes before they even come here and are in the age range of 8, 10, 12 and so on”.

There are also responsible people among the inhabitants according to Chidi, who lead a normal family life.

Some of the girls who spoke with our correspondent lamented their situation. Bunmi Alebiosu, a 17-year-old girl whose parents are separated said she was born in Mile 12 and was brought there by a friend who had since gone back

home.

“My father resides in Mile 12 while my mother lives in Ikorodu. We are five in number and I am the fourth child of my parents. I have been here for some years now but went back home last year and left again because the condition had still not improved.”

According to her, she was at Kriss College in Mile 12 and dropped out from JSS II. She explained that she lives along with other girls with a man who takes care of them. “He is just nice to us and helps us from time to time. Some times we go out and try to earn a living. We often help some housewives around here to do one or two things like washing and helping to carry loads and get paid some money to enable us to move around.

“Some of us engage in prostitution, but I am not involved in it. I am looking forward to going back to school if I can save enough money or get a sponsorship,” Bunmi revealed.

Another girl, Iyabo Kareem, 19, said her mother once lived there, but could not go with her because she was not aware of when her mother left. “There is really nothing for me over there, [home]. I have been surviving on the assistance of the man that I am living with. I am not a prostitute even though I have on several occasions been lured by some of my friends,” confessed Iyabo.

Her elder sister brought on a 19-year-old Bidemi Waiu there. She lived with a man in company of six other girls. “Though he sleeps with us in the same room, he does not make love to us. He sleeps on the bed while we sleep on the floor. I don't think I can ever go back home again. I am Olanipekun. People like us who ran away from home are called *Osanle*,” Iyabo admitted.

British high commission sacks Nigerian staff for extortion

In an effort to make its visa operations hitch-free, the British High Commission last Friday sacked an official of the embassy, Mr. Abubakar Bumba for alleged extortion of visa applicants. The spokesman of the embassy, Mr. Graeme Bannatyne, stated that Mr. Bumba was summarily sacked after the commission's disciplinary panel found him guilty of gross misconduct.

By **Abdulfata Olajide,**
Editor (Lagos)

According to Bannatyne, “Mr. Bumba had been caught red handed in a situation that strongly suggested his involvement in receiving money from applicants to hand over visas which had been approved.”

He stated that the British High Commission is willing to cooperate with the police should they wish to initiate any criminal proceedings

against Mr. Bumba.

He urged Nigerians to report any unauthorised payment demanded from them during visa process.

“We operate a zero tolerance interference policy within our visa operations in Abuja and Lagos. Any allegation of visa interference made against named staff members will be thoroughly investigated and appropriate action taken,” said Mr. Bannatyne

An Igboere Chief Magistrate has arraigned a lecturer of the Lagos College of



Fabian Osuji, Edu. Minister

Court arraigns lecturer for beating colleague

By **Mohammed Shosanya,**
Correspondent (Lagos)

Primary Education for allegedly beating a female colleague.

The accused, Damilola Sanni, 40, was alleged to have on January 11, 2005 at about 10am at Lagos State College

premises, Noforija, Epe, assaulted Dr. Mrs. Eunice Oyetade, a senior lecturer in the same school. The charge further stated that the accused slapped and beat her

and thereby inflicted injuries on her.

According to the prosecutor, the offence contravenes Section 355 of the Criminal Code Cap 32, Vol. II laws of Lagos, 1994.

The lecturer however pleaded not guilty to the chief magistrate, Ayoade Isaacs, admitted him to bail in the sum of N50, 000 with one surety in like sum. Further mention on the matter is now slated for March 4, this year.

News

Teenager stabs man to death

A bizarre tale of murder is raving the ancient city of Bauchi as a crazy football teenager, Ali Musa, alias *Alili*, 15, stabbed to death one Saidu Ibrahim, both of Lalloki quarters of Bauchi metropolis. It was learnt that he committed the offence last week while watching a European soccer shown on television at a viewing centre at the Lalloki quarters, along Yakubu Wanka Street. He has been charged to court by the police for culpable homicide.

According to an eyewitness, trouble started between the accused and the deceased during a half time break of the match, when the deceased was alleged to have sat on a seat previously occupied by the accused. All entreaties by the accused to make the deceased leave the seat for him, it was alleged, fell on deaf ears, hence Alili challenged the deceased to meet him outside for physical combat, saying "if come out I will kill you".

The late Ibrahim, it was

AMBON urges FG to alleviate economic hardship

From Aliyu Haruna
Correspondent (Kaduna) and
Maryam Musa Umar (Intern
Kaduna)

The Association of Muslim Brotherhood of Nigeria (AMBON) has called on the federal government to take concrete measures this year to reduce the hardship being experienced by Nigerians. According to a communiqué issued at the end of one day national seminar held at Al-Madinah Hotel in Kaduna with the theme: "The plight of Nigerian Muslims today and the way out", AMBON also called on the government of Olusegun Obasanjo to create job opportunities for young university graduates.

The communiqué stated that national conference, unity of Muslims as well as education and human resources development are issues that concern Muslims and the nation as a whole.

It decried the economic situation of the country, saying that the well-being of the people was the cornerstone of any meaningful development of a nation.

On the proposed national conference, it called on the government of Olusegun Obasanjo and the politicians to be just in dealing with political issues of the need to encourage the *Zakat* collection and distribution in the Muslim community, disclosing that the proceeds would be used to fund *Islamiyya* schools and reformation of traditional Qur'an schools.

From Tashikalmah Hallah,
Correspondent (Bauchi)

alleged, accepted the challenge and followed the accused outside, and unknowingly to him, the accused had on him a knife which he used to stab him. He bled to death before he reached hospital, and some sympathisers mobbed the accused before police arrested him.

Confirming the incident, Mr Ibiyinka Kayode, the Bauchi State Commissioner of Police, told *Daily Trust* that "it is true that we have arrested one Ali Musa in connection with the murder of one Saidu Ibrahim. We have already charged him to court for culpable homicide, and I learnt that he is in detention at the state's remand home".

The Bauchi State Sharia Commission, disturbed by the incident, has issued a statement banning all video

viewing centres in Bauchi, stressing that it has negative impact on the youth.

Alhaji Mukhtar Ahmed, in a statement signed by Ahmed Bala, the Information Officer of the commission, also stated that "patronising such video houses by the youth does not only contribute in making hooligans, but also making them drug addicts which is dangerous to a developing society."

The commissioner faulted the ban, saying that preliminary police investigation showed that most of "these video operators are licensed by the state's Ministry of Youths and Sports".

According to him, for the ban to be effective, the commission has to liaise with the ministry, and "persuade them to revoke the licence, then the police would enforce the law. The police cannot just go and arrest somebody who is operating a genuine business".

Muazu reshuffles cabinet, appoints five commissioners

The Bauchi State Governor, Alhaji Adamu Mu'azu, Wednesday swore in four new commissioners, head of service and four permanent secretaries. At the ceremony, he threatened to cut down the size of the political appointees because most of them had turned into businessmen.

The new commissioners are Alhaji Adamu Zakari, Youths and Sports; Ibrahim Zailani, former chairman, House of Representatives Committee on Judiciary Information; and Dr. Garba Ibrahim, former dean of students' affairs, University of Maiduguri and provost, College of Education, Azare.

Others are the immediate past head of service in the state, Adamu I. Gumba, who becomes the commissioner for Education; while the new head of service is Alhaji Bello Gamawa, a former commissioner for works.

Speaking shortly after the administration of the oath of office on the new head of service and the commissioners, the governor reminded them that their appointment was to work with him as a team towards a greater Bauchi State, which he said would serve as a model for other states.

He warned that the government would not condone any act of inefficiency and lack of commitment to duty, reiterating that the administration was to serve the people and to leave the state better than he met it.

Mu'azu said no amount of distraction, blackmail, false propaganda or malicious criticism would

deter him, adding that "any commissioner not prepared for this battle should please honourably submit his/her resignation letter".

He maintained further that the commissioners were on the threshold of history and the people of

Bauchi State would watch them closely to see their action and inactions. "You have now been chosen among competent persons to contribute your quota in reshaping and rebuilding our dear state; and in promoting socio-economic and political development of the state," the governor said.

He said all the special assistants and advisers as well as other appointees must take permission either in written or verbal before moving out of the state, and warned that any body who went contrary to the directives would find himself to blame.

Cross River to set up boundary c'ttees

Following worrisome cases of boundary clashes in the state, the Cross River State government has directed the establishment of boundary committees in the 18 local government areas of the state to contend the problem of communal clashes within and outside each local government area.

Also set up by the local government councils was the committee on crisis management as well as peace and responsibility of evolving the intervention was fraud meditative roles in communal clashes.

Daily Trust gathered from the state governor's office that the government's dire-

Against the backdrop of ongoing anti-corruption campaign at the National Electric Power Authority (NEPA), the staff of the authority have demanded improved welfare packages and incentives from the management as a requisite for them to be honest, loyal and committed to duty. At a forum organised to launch the anti-corruption strategy awareness campaign and inauguration of complaint boxes at Katsina business unit, the staff of the authority decried the pro-rate payment of their entitlements and delays in promotion

Corruption: NEPA staff issue conditions to the management

From Lawal Ibrahim,
Reporter Katsina

among others as factors which necessitate their indulgence in corrupt acts.

A branch union leader, who is also one of the committee members, Malam Ado S. Riruwai, said the branch had already embarked on vigorous sensitisation campaign on probity. He urged the management to come up with a commensurate welfare packages if they hope to

succeed in putting an end to the energy received.

The zonal national Chairman of the anti-corruption campaign, Engr. R.S. Obi, who inaugurated the state's committee, charged them to strive to generate funds for NEPA as the management could only set all their incentives if they work hard to generate funds for themselves, saying the little from the headquarters was enough for them to live with comfortably if the staff shun all corrupt tendencies.



The executive governor of Kano State, Mallam Ibrahim Shekarau flagging off NAFDAC's grassroots education and sensitisation programme in Kano State...recently.

Tsetse flies invade Bauchi, kill 500 cows

A strange disease suspected to have been caused by an invasion of tse-tse flies in Gwalameji area in Bauchi local government council of Bauchi State has killed over 500 head of cattle, sheep and goats just as scores of persons have been infested with river blindness. The disease, according to our investigation, has been ravaging the people and animals in the area for about five years, causing serious damage to the socio-economic fortunes of the people.

Trust, an official of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Malam Yusuf Ibrahim, said some species of the tsetse flies had been picked for laboratory test to know how to control the insects. He explained that it was after the test that the ministry would determine the causes of the river blindness.

Also, a member representing the area of the state's House of Assembly, Garba Bala Gwalameji, expressed concern over the ravaging insects and called on the state government to come to the aid of the people

in the affected areas. He disclosed that he had already presented a formal report to the state's Assembly to enable the House to mediate with the relevant authorities to get an enduring solution to the disease, which has caused much damage.

According to him, his constituency had in the last five years been ravaged by tsetse flies' invasion

which apart from denying them of their means of livelihood, had caused sight problem to many, saying that some of them were now completely blind

TI admits weaknesses in corruption rating

From Bassey Ita,
Correspondent (Calabar)

Transparency International has admitted that its corruption index which the bottom last year was not fully proved. The Chairman of the group, Dr. Peter Eigen, said recently in Abuja at a dinner organised in his honour, that the index had

security consciousness.

In a related development, the Local Government Service Commission in the state has granted an award of excellence to the Chairman of the National Union of Local Government Employees (NULGE), Mr. Bassey Okosin, for his role in

piloting workers' welfare at the local government service.

Presenting the award on behalf of the commission, the commission's Chairman, Ntaufam Dr. Sunday Onor, said Mr. Okosin, was carefully chosen for the award because of his contributions to the state.

By Habeeb I. Pindiga

"weaknesses" and "injustice", adding however that coming up with the rating was "standard".

Eigen was responding to complaints by the Chairman of the Independent Corrupt Practices and other related

offences Commission (ICPC), Justice Mustapha Akanbi, who lamented that TI had turned its eyes away from Nigeria's attempts to curb corruption. Akanbi demanded to know how the group continued to rate Nigeria poorly despite the government's glaring anti-graft crusade.

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News

Yobe explores spring water for revenue

The Yobe State government has explored some natural spring water in some parts of the state, with the establishment of a factory to produce bottled spring water in Daforga, Gabai local government area. While inspecting the factory site on Monday, Governor Bukar Abba Ibrahim said that the factory would soon commence production with the view to providing employment and revenue generation for the state.

He said that the need to establish the factory was to make proper use of the available raw materials in the state, so as to create sources of economic manpower. He said bold steps on the exploration of domestic natural resources would discourage the

From Isa Umar Gusau, Correspondent (Damaturu)

reliance on foreign goods, while the exploration would also lead to industrialisation.

Governor Ibrahim, who said the factory would commence operation in May 2005, pledged that Yobe State government would provide road networks to the factory, while the state would be connected with the national grid to ensure steady power supply.

While receiving the governor, the state Deputy Governor, who is also the Commissioner for Commerce and Industry, Alhaji

Saleh Bagari, said that all machinery for the smooth operations of the factory has been put in place while test production was being done, to address any arising problem.

He requested government's assistance on the

construction of staff quarters, 500KVA transformer, landscaping of the factory area, payment of compensation to landowners, among other demands. He noted that the construction of the factory, valued at N132 million had consumed N92 million being an amount so far released to the contractors handling the project.

Tidjani: Counsel, argues over court jurisdiction

Alhaji Hamani Tidjani, the notorious transborder armed robber on Monday told an Igbosere High Court in Lagos to decline jurisdiction on the alleged stealing and conspiracy offences preferred against him.

The accused, penultimate week was arraigned before the court on alleged charges of receiving a stolen property in 2003 contrary to Section 427 of the Criminal Code Cap C17 laws of Lagos State. But his counsel, Dr. Tunji Abayomi in his motion on notice brought pursuant to Section 6(6) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, said the court lacked jurisdiction to try his client since the alleged crime did not take place in Nigeria. He said following a statement credited to one Offiur Banjoko, the accused as at September 25, 2003 was already in custody, whereas the alleged offences were committed on June 22, 2003.

According to him, in his 9 paragraph affidavits, there was no linkage between that day and receiving of any stolen property, even as the proof of evidence disclosed no offence in which the accused can be linked. He argued that the receiving did not take place in Lagos and even if otherwise, it is the state not the court is constitutionally vested with prerogative to investigate the alleged crime.

From Mohammed Shosanya, Correspondent (Lagos)

"The court cannot entertain a receiving by the prove of evidence to have taken place in Benin and consequently the accused is not answerable to this court. Unless it can be shown that the alleged crime occurred within the territorial boundary of Nigeria, the court cannot entertain the claim."

Countering the positions of Tidjani's counsel, the state counsel, Mrs. Omotola Rotimi, urged the court to dismiss the application on the ground that it offends Section 86 - 89 of the Evidence Act, adding that some of the issues raised in the affidavit were matters to be determined at the trial stage.

She further posited that even though the charge against him was receiving of stolen property as claimed by the defense counsel, the court still has jurisdiction to entertain the matter in view of the fact that the constitution has established a prima facie case against the applicant. The court has reserved ruling on the matter for March 2, 2005.



President Olusegun Obasanjo listening to the chairman of the committee on product of Nigerian Software Development project, Mr. Jimmy Ovia also the managing director, Zennith Bank during the presentation of his committee report to President Obasanjo at the State House, Abuja ... Tuesday. Pix: Joe Oroye

Census: Jigawa Ulama canvass support

Determined to ensure the participation of Muslims in the forthcoming national census, the Jigawa State council of Ulama has disclosed its determination to support the national head count, even as it called on all Muslims in the state to participate in the exercise.

In a release signed by Secretary of the council, Ustaz Yusha'u Abubakar Dutse and made available to Daily Trust, the council had after an extraordinary meeting resolved that they are in support of the national population census, as according to them, the exercise is in conformity with Islamic rulings and law. Even as they called for prayers from the Ummah in order for the exercise

From Hassan A Karofi, Correspondent (Dutse)

to be successful.

According to the council's secretary, although the council is in support of the exercise, adequate time should however be given for the exercise so that enumerators will be able to reach all nooks and crannies of the state. The council also called for the recruitment of staff that fully understands the language and culture of the people of the state so that they would fully understand how the exercise would be conducted.

"The staff should always fear Allah and work in fairness to all," the statement added. They therefore advised that Nigerians should join hands in seeing to the success of the exercise.

Reps to inspect areas affected by Typha grass

The House of Representatives recently mandated its committee on environment to four areas affected by Typha grass invasion and environmental degradation in the Hadejia/Yobe River system in Yobe and Jigawa State and report back to the House within four weeks. The prayer which was included in a motion moved by Hon. Ahmed Lawan was amended and adopted to mandate the committee on environment rather than constitute an ad-hoc committee to undergo the four affected areas.

Moving the motion, Hon. Lawan expressed worry that the basin was invaded by the plant otherwise known as Kachalla grass, which impedes free flow of water in the river channels, and subsequently, leads to excessive flooding in adjacent areas, exacerbating the process of desertification in the area.

While noting that the communities inhabiting the Hadejia/Yobe River basin depended largely on the water resources in the basin for their agricultural activities, Hon. Lawan said that he was concerned that the lack of the free flow of water adversely

Zainab Allami, Political Reporter

Complications mar distribution of ID cards in Benue

Less than 24 hours after the flag off ceremony for the distribution of the new available national identity cards in Benue State, the exercise was marred following complications in various forms.

Although distribution officials and their accompanying law enforcement officers were at their posts of duty early, for the first day of the exercise, it was marred by complications as thousands of applicants were turned back without their cards.

Daily Trust observations showed that at various distribution centres, over half the number of the few people who turned up for collection left disappointed. Thousands were asked to check elsewhere on grounds that the code number on

From Hir Joseph, Correspondent (Makurdi)

their registration slips indicated that their cards were not available at the centres where they registered. This was particularly observed at the Government House centre, located in front of the protocol department.

At the centre, Daily Trust observed several people asked to either check at Agan, an outskirt settlement along Makurdi - Lafia road, or at the Makurdi local government secretariat in a week's time when officials must have been through with the field exercise.

At the centre, only persons whose names began with "A" or "O" had

Doctors set for another strike

The National Association of Resident Doctors (NARD) recently gave a signal for another round of strike action should government fail to pay the

By Sunday Ejike Benjamin, Health Reporter

shortfalls owed resident doctors in some public health institutions in the country within the next two weeks.

Addressing a press conference in Abuja, the national President of the association, Dr. Jerry Oguzie, said resident doctors at LUTH; Lagos, UPTH; Port-Harcourt, AKTH; Kano, FMC Abakaliki and Umuahia, that of Makurdi as well as some other health centres are yet to be paid a kobo even though the verification exercise had been concluded at their union hospitals.

"Whatever are the reasons for which these members were not paid should be tackled by the Federal Ministry of Health; and should ensure that all payments are made and completed within the next two weeks," Dr. Oguzie declared and urged that other payments like payment for examination, update courses sponsorship, medical refunds and check off dues should also be effected within the two weeks.

NARD, according to its national president is not happy with the presidential directive to implement the 'no work no pay' rule against members for the period of the strike action.

Ekiti pays N1.8m compensation to victims of police brutality

The Ekiti State government has given N1.8 million compensation to the families of the four victims of police brutality who were killed or maimed as a result of mistaken identity during a recent robbery incident in Ado-Ekiti. The victims included Engineer Olumuyiwa Popoola, working with a construction company supervising the renovation of Ado-Ekiti township stadium,

From Oladipo, Stringer Ado Akiti

who was killed by police who were on the trail of some robbers they snatched a jeep belonging to an Ado-Ekiti businessman.

The immediate elder brother to the deceased, Mr. Olurotimi Popoola received a cash of N1 million on behalf of the victim which, was presented by the state's Deputy Governor, Mr. Abiodun Aluko. The second victim, Michael Uwem, who was shot and badly injured on the right leg which was eventually amputated during the incident was given N500,000, while another victim who sustained injury also received N250,000 as compensation.

Also compensated was the family of a police constable, late Sunday Olufemi Ogunlusi who was killed by a stray bullet fired by another colleague during the incident which happened on July 24, 2004 received N100,000.

Presenting the money to the victims, the Deputy Governor, Mr. Abiodun Aluko, described the incident as quite tragic and unfortunate, saying the state government decided to compensate the victims to cushion the effect on their families.

He warned the families of those killed during the incident that there should be no disagreement or quarrelling over the disbursement of the money.

Mr. Olurotimi Popoola who responded on behalf of the beneficiaries thanked the governor, Mr. Fayose and the state government for the gesture and expressed appreciation to the press for creating awareness on the injustice meted to their relations by the police.



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TENDER REFERENCE**

**TENDER TITLE: PURCHASES, PROCUREMENT
AND PRINTING OF DOCUMENTS**

INTRODUCTION

Education Trust Fund (ETF) invites submissions for bidder pre-qualification from suitable and reputable companies having world-class experience in the purchase of operational vehicles and equipment, printing of documents and media consulting services.

SCOPE OF WORK

The scope of work for the pre-qualification includes:

- purchase of operational vehicles (Peugeot & Toyota)
- procurement of computer equipment
- printing of various documents
- media consultancy services

PRE-QUALIFICATION

Interested Contractors/Companies or their accredited representatives should submit pre-qualification documents containing the followings:

- (i) company profile including details of ownership and evidence of incorporation;
- (ii) ETF receipt of payment of prequalification fee of twenty-five thousand Naira only (N25,000.00)
- (iii) Evidence of financial capability, including audited accounts three (3) years
- (iv) Bank reference letter;
- (v) Evidence of relevant experience in the provision of similar services (include lists of all similar projects undertaken in other organizations;
- (vi) Terms of payment

SUBMISSION OF TENDER

Pre-Qualification Documentation packages must be submitted or sent by courier to the Legal Unit of the Education Trust Fund, Plot 433 Zambezi Crescent, within two (2) weeks from the date of this advert. Pre-qualification packages not received on or before the 14th day shall be disregarded.

NOTE:

- < Notwithstanding the submission of pre-qualification data, ETF is neither committed nor obliged to include your company on any bid list or to award any form of contract to your company and/or associated companies, sub-contractors or agent. Tendering process will be the ETF contracting process requiring pre-qualified companies to submit technical tenders first following a technical review, only technically and financially qualified contractors will be requested to submit commercial tenders;
- < This advertisement shall not be construed as a commitment on the part of ETF nor shall it whatsoever, and/or seek any indemnity from ETF by virtue of such companies having responded to this advertisement.
- < ETF reserves the right to send the tender documents only to qualified bidders
- < Response to this invitation does not obligate ETF to consider a responding company for pre-qualification to include a responding company on a bid list, to award them a contract, or to inform them of any resultant action. ETF reserves the right to either accept or reject any submittal in part or in whole at its sole discretion. All costs incurred as a result of this pre-qualification invitation and any subsequent requests for information shall be to the responding companies accounts.

In all correspondence, please quote the Tender reference and title shown above.

Signed
Management

Inside Politics

Is it a dialogue or a conference?

The decision by president Olusegun Obasanjo to hold the upcoming national conference on political reforms must have been made some years ago. In his usual ways the President ignored the peoples objection to the conference and made mockery of the meek objection of the two chambers of the national assembly not to appropriate funds for the conference. On Monday the President

By Isa sanusi

sovereign national conference have the courage and conviction to tell the president that his conference will not in anyway answer their questions. Obasanjo has been on the mantle of leadership for over six years and at a time when the nation never lacks the means to make a break from the past. But instead life has only becoming even more miserable for the people.

everyone knows the specific problems, those responsible of them and how to address them.

The perceived hidden agenda

Nigerians distrust their leaders so much to the extent that they always finger a hidden motive in whatever they do. Our leaders have severally given good names to their selfish motives and way they deepen our disagreements as a people. In

does not shift to the North by using the platform of the conference to reinforce the notion that the North is the only problem the nation has.

Beatings about the bush

If Obasanjo had any good intention of addressing the nation's problems he has had all the chances but he wasted them in further wounding the polity ruling the nation in a manner that suggests the future can go to hell. From 1999 to date, the nations revenue has persistently been

been on the good side of the nation's history. Instead he lopsidedly supervised over uneven citing of the nation's gas power plants in South West. One will wonder why the political crisis in Anambra state is shamelessly allowed to go on. So many political assassinations remain unresolved and the last election was heavily rigged. In nominations to the conference both the President and state governors choose oldmen and in most cases

dialogue

Conference has always been governments' way of wasting resources and giving some people the opportunity to make easy money. This conference will cost the nation N932 million - amount that is enough to provide water to so many villages that spend everyday looking for water to drink. This apart, what the nation needs is not a conference at which tea and biscuit is shared, what we need is a dialogue not between elites. We need dialogue between



Obasanjo

addressed the nation on his conference. Though the speech was unelaborated it nonetheless tells Nigerians that this conference is in the heart of the President. The President, with heavy voice, told Nigerians: "What has become clear is that Nigerians are becoming more politically mature and willing to explore democratic processes for articulating and pursuing their interests. While existing processes may not satisfy everyone, as is normal in all societies, we must place the interest of Nigeria above everything else and we must remain committed to building a society we can be happy with. We should not be afraid to meet and discuss our problems, challenges, fears, aspirations and prospects as people. We should not discuss in fear and we should never fear to discuss."

President Obasanjo emphasis on facing our challenges and fears in apparently with a reason. As a key player in the nations decay he knows better what goes wrong with the nation and why. many of those who have been clamouring for a

Corruption thrives and the democratic structures were incapacitated in providing good governance.

What is the conference going to address?

The federal government has not yet made clear issues to be discussed and the limitations of the conference. But from the nature of its nomination of the likes of Chief Anthony Enahoro, Wole Soyinka, Arthur Nwankwo and many other proponents of restructuring the nation it is not hard to see the mindset behind its convocation. People like Nwankwo have never ceased from expressing brazen dislike of shariah. Also nominated were those who believe that the North is undeservedly enjoying from oil resources found in their part of Nigeria. The likes of Oranto Douglas will willingly come forward to press forward their resource control crusade. The Northern delegation under whatever name will have to come prepared to depend so many things.

If the conference is aimed at addressing the nations political problems and



Wabara

his first term Obasanjo encouraged this notion by embarking on a wasteful project of national identity card to appease his people who have always believed that northerners were having unfair advantage over, them because of manipulation of number. They said during elections non Nigerians were deployed to vote by Northerners. The national identity card project is fogged down in a mess and it seems not satisfying to those who pushed for it. For so long the Yoruba socio/cultural group 'Afenifere' has been expressing anger on the disparity of the number of local governments between the North and the South. Obasanjo went an extra mile to address this issue by setting up a committee to review local government system headed by the late Etsu Nupe. Many believe that the conference will be a scene to rubbish the image of Northern leaders and do what Oputa panel has failed to achieve. There is the belief that as the scramble for the nations leadership in 2007 inches on all effort will be made to ensure that power

on the rise but on the other hand life has continued to become more miserable for the people. Looting of the nation's wealth goes on. If Obasanjo has taken the last six years to make power supply stable he would have

Masari

those who have always been parties in ruining the nation. Participants in the conference are elitists whose life style and worldview are distanced from the will to make the nation better.

Between conference and

the people who suffer because of the elite's indolence; the people who poverty always compel to sale their votes to the available bidder. The dialogue should be between those who all through life never taste good governance.

"The federal government has not yet made clear issues to be discussed and the limitations of the conference. But from the nature of its nomination of the likes of Chief Anthony Enahoro, Wole Soyinka, Arthur Nwankwo and many other proponents of restructuring the nation it is not hard to see the mindset behind its convocation. People like Nwankwo have never ceased from expressing brazen dislike of shariah. Also nominated were those who believe that the North is undeservedly enjoying from oil resources found in their part of Nigeria. The likes of Oranto Douglas will willingly come forward to press forward their resource control crusade. The Northern delegation under whatever name will have to come prepared to depend so many things."

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Sports

Manchester United named richest football club ...for eighth year running

Manchester United, battling a 790 million-pound takeover bid by US tycoon Malcolm Glazer, has retained its position as the world's wealthiest football club, a survey showed.

The Deloitte Football Money League report for the 2003/04 season meanwhile showed that the world's top 20 football clubs were set to break the 2.0-billion-dollar income mark in 2005.

The survey, formerly known as the Deloitte Rich List, found that English Premiership giants

Manchester United had an income of 171.5 million pounds (248 million euros, 324 million dollars), giving it the top spot for the eighth year in a row.

Spanish giants Real Madrid came second, up two places on the previous season, with income of 156.3 million pounds and AC Milan stayed third with 147.2 million.

Chelsea, bankrolled by Russian billionaire owner Roman Abramovich, climbed

six spots to fourth after earning 143.7 million.

Although the London club made a pretax loss of 88 million pounds last year, the Deloitte review does not include the cost of transfer fees or player wages and instead concentrates solely on day-to-day income from football business.

"There are a number of different methods of defining a large club — in terms of fanbase, attendances, TV audiences, or success on the

pitch," Deloitte said.

"However, for the purposes of this publication, we look at the best publicly available measure of financial muscle — income from day to day football business operations. We don't consider a club's budget for outgoings or what someone might pay to buy a club."

A total of 10 British clubs made up the top 20, including Scottish giants Celtic (13) and Rangers (19).

Other English Premiership teams to feature were Arsenal (sixth place), Liverpool (10), Newcastle (11), Tottenham Hotspur (14), Manchester City (16) and Aston Villa (20).

Italy had five entries,



Ferguson

with AC Milan being joined by Juventus (5), Internazionale (8), AS Roma (12) and Lazio (15).

Making up the remainder of the top 20 were Barcelona (7), Bayern Munich (9), their German rivals Schalke 04 (17) and French outfit Olympique Marseille (18).

Federer overcomes nervous start

Roger Federer was not at his best but still beat Czech qualifier Bohdan Ulihrach 6-3 6-4 in Rotterdam.

The world number one, playing his first match since losing in the Australian Open semi-finals, overcame early jitters to win his first-round match.

He will now play Swiss compatriot Stanislas Wawrinka, who upset Frenchman Sebastien Grosjean 7-6 6-2.

In a second-round match, second seed Guillermo Coria lost 2-6 7-6 6-3 to Thailand's Paradorn Srichaphan.

Joachim Johansson beat Taiwanese qualifier Yeu-Tzuoo Wang, but only after losing the second set.

The Swede eventually won 6-2 6-7 6-3 to set up a second-round showdown with 2002 Australian Open champion Thomas Johansson.

Former world number one Juan Carlos Ferrero suffered another early exit as he struggles to get back into the top flight.

The Spaniard lost 6-4 6-7 (6-8) 6-3 to Czech Radek Stepanek.

Federer was satisfied with a straight-sets win in his first match since defeat to Marat Safin in Melbourne.

"I'm at one of the few tournaments that I didn't win last year so the pressure is off," he said.

"I have confidence in my own ability now and confidence is the best way to win matches.

"I needed to get used to the circumstances of an inside court again, but after that everything went like it should."

Roddick advances after first victory over Clement

Top seed Andy Roddick defeated unseeded Frenchman Arnaud Clement for the first time on Wednesday to advance to the quarter-finals of the Kroger St Jude championships in Memphis, Tennessee.

Seeking a second consecutive ATP title after taking the San Jose Open last weekend, the American world number three won 6-3 6-3 in the second-round match, claiming a maiden victory over Clement after two previous defeats.

Roddick's victory sets up a last eight encounter against the winner of Thursday's match between compatriots Mardy Fish and Robby Ginepri.

Third seeded Tommy Haas of Germany maintained his good form and broke serve three times en route to a 6-4 6-4 first-round victory over American qualifier Jeff Salzenstein.

Haas reached the semi-finals in San Jose before losing in straight sets to Roddick.

Ronaldo returns from engagement bash with toe injury

Real Madrid striker Ronaldo is doubtful for Saturday's league match against Athletic Bilbao after returning from his lavish Valentine's Day engagement party in Paris with an injury to his toe.

Club medical staff said that the Brazilian was suffering from inflammation of the big toe on his left foot and would undergo physiotherapy to deal with the problem.

Ronaldo turned up late for training on Tuesday after

being delayed on his return from the celebrations at a secluded chateau near Paris and also missed the first 15 minutes of the session on Wednesday.

Sports daily Marca said that the 28-year-old would be fined by the club because of his late arrival.

Ronaldo turned up on time on Thursday, but pulled up after a few minutes and it now looks unlikely that he will play against Bilbao. England striker Michael Owen will take his place in the starting line-up if he fails to recover in time.

Owen's England team mate David Beckham and captain Raul, who both complained of some minor muscle pain after playing in the tsunami benefit match at the Nou Camp, trained normally on Thursday.

Real play Serie A leaders Juventus at the Bernabeu next Tuesday in the first leg of their Champions League knockout tie.

Keith Bogans added 18 as the Bobcats eased past the weary Denver Nuggets 94-88 to snap a seven-game losing skid.

Carmelo Anthony had 21 points for the Nuggets, who ended their five game road trip with a 2-3 record.



Ronaldo will likely miss next week's Champions League cracker between Real Madrid and Juventus



Manchester United fans would stage protest against the takeover bid by Malcolm Glazer during the team's Champions League tie against AC Milan on Wednesday

Spurs crush Hornets to match league's best record

Tim Duncan scored 19 points and Ginobili added 13 with 10 assists as the San Antonio Spurs pounded the New Orleans Hornets 101-78 on Wednesday to reclaim a share of the best record in the standings.

The victory completed a successful 5-1 road trip for the Spurs, who head home for the all-star break level with the Phoenix Suns on identical marks of 41-12.

Malik Rose, Tony Rose and Rasha Nesterovic each contributed 12 points to the San Antonio cause while J.R. Smith answered with 25 for the Hornets.

In Philadelphia, Chauncey Billups and Richard Hamilton each bagged 20 points, sending the NBA champion Detroit Pistons into the all-star break with a solid 93-75 win over the 76ers.

The NBA's leading scorer Allen Iverson, coming off career-high 60-point performance on Saturday and a 38-point effort on Monday, made more modest contribution against the Pistons finishing with 23 points and seven assists.

The loss denied the 76ers a season-high fourth consecutive win.

In Cleveland, all-stars LeBron James and Zydrunas Ilgauskas scored 28 and 18 points respectively as the

Cavaliers crushed the last place Atlanta Hawks 111-89.

Drew Gooden contributed 19 points and 11 rebounds as the Cavaliers reached the 30-win mark before the all-star break for the first time since the 1992-93 season.

In Miami, Damon Jones notched a career high 31 points and Dwyane Wade had 28 points and dished out 12 assists as the surging Heat romped to a 113-95 win over the Los Angeles Clippers.

Shaquille O'Neal chipped in with 14 points and eight rebounds as the Eastern Conference leading Heat collected their seventh straight win to improve to 40-14.

The slumping Clippers, meanwhile, absorbed their seventh straight loss despite double figure performances from six players.

In East Rutherford, Jason Kidd recorded his 64th career triple-double and Vince Carter added 21 points as the Nets two all-star guards lifted the New Jersey to 96-85 victory over the Sacramento Kings.

Kidd had 19 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists for his fifth triple-double of the season and third in the last six games while rookie Nenad Krstic had a career-high 18 points sending the slumping Kings to their sixth loss in seven.

In Indianapolis, Reggie Miller nailed a season-high 36

points and Jeff Foster had 14 points and 17 rebounds to spark the Pacers to a 95-87 win over the Portland Trail Blazers.

Jermaine O'Neal and Stephen Jackson had quiet nights scoring 10 and nine points respectively for the Pacers, winners of three of their last four.

In New York, the Knicks got double digit efforts from six players, led by a 23 point performance from Jamal Crawford to register a 108-90 triumph over the Milwaukee Bucks.

The Knicks recorded just their fifth win in 24 games as Stephon Marbury sat out the final quarter.

In Boston, Paul Pierce had 19 points and Ricky Davis drained a clutch jumper with four seconds to play, lifting the Celtics to a 90-88 decision over the Memphis Grizzlies.

Stromile Swift had a game-high 19 points for the Grizzlies before leaving in the third quarter with an ankle injury.

In Toronto, Kirk Hinrich nailed 28 points and Luol Deng added 20 to lead the Chicago Bulls to a season-high 121-115 victory over the Raptors.

Chris Bosh had 28 for the slumping Raptors, who have lost five of six.

In Charlotte, Kareem Rush scored 20 points and

Trust Classified

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public that the document of Offer of Term of Grant/Conveyance of Approval Covering about 1700m² of Plot No. LD 881 within Guzafe District belonging to **ABDULMALIK MAHMOUD** of Bauchi town is missing. If found, please kindly return to the nearest police station.

Signed
ABDULMALIK MAHMOUD

LOSS OF CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY

A CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY NO. FCT/ABU/KT.941 BELONGING TO **IBRAHIM MOHAMMED IDA** ALLOCATED BY THE MINISTRY OF FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY IS MISSING.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVING TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE ABOVE NAMED CERTIFICATE IS MISSING.

SIGNED
BANK-OPASHI & ASSOCIATES
5A Ganges Street Maitama, Abuja.

LIFE FOR THE LIVING MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

Notice is hereby given to the general public that the above named Ministries has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under Part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Act of 1990.

The trustees are:

1. PASTOR JOSEPH O. A. AKACHUKWU (PRESIDENT)
2. PASTOR REJOICE F. O. AKACHUKWU
3. MR. SUNDAY B. EGELE
4. AYODEJI AGBOOLA

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar- General Corporate Affairs Commission, Wuse Zone 5. P.M.B.198 Garki Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:
IKOTUN, TEMOWO & CO.
Suite 201 Copper House
Wuse Zone 5, Abuja.

MEKARIA INITIATIVE

Notice is hereby given to the general public that the above named body has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under Part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Act of 1990.

The trustees are:

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. CHRIS AGWU | 2. UMAZI NDUKWE |
| 3. EKE UNDONSU (JP) | 4. ALEX AMAH |
| 5. OKORO AWA | 6. KEVIN UKIRO |
| 7. OBUBA KALU | 8. WILLIAMS AGBAI |
| 9. MRS IGIRI ONYEANI | 10. EGBUTA ONU |

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar- General Corporate Affairs Commission, Wuse Zone 5. P.M.B.198 Garki Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:
Orchids Chambers

GOOD NEWS PENTECOSTAL GOSPEL MINISTRIES

Notice is hereby given to the general public that the above named Ministries has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under Part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Act of 1990.

The trustees are:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Rev. Cornelius Ahuama | 2. Rev (Mrs) Hope Cornelius |
| 3. Pastor Maxwell Uzoka | 4. Pastor Kenneth Dike |
| 5. Elder Joel Anyanwu | 6. Elder Emmanuel Ikang. |

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General Corporate Affairs Commission, Wuse Zone 5. P.M.B.198 Garki Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:

Secretary

OGBE ONOKPITE DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

Notice is hereby given to the general public that the above named Foundation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under Part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Act of 1990.

The trustees are:

1. Mr. Ogbe Onokpiti - Chairman
2. Alh. Bashiru Ibrahim
3. Mr. Tony Dumuje
4. Mr. Kingsley Agaya
5. Mr. Lucky Ukuwre

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General Corporate Affairs Commission, Wuse Zone 5. P.M.B.198 Garki Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:
Secretary

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public of the loss of Original Copy of Offer of Terms of Grant/Conveyance of approval of Plot No. 1160A of about 1,500m² within Kaura District Abuja (FCT) bearing the name of **AYO ADEYEMI**. All effort to trace the said document proved abortive.

Signed
Ayo Adeyemi

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

I, DR. (MRS) ANNE CHINWE OKORAFOR of 10 Macdonald Road Ikoyi Lagos, hereby inform the general public that my Letter of Offer of Terms of Grant/Conveyance of approval for a Land at Dakibiyu B10 measuring 1346.51 Sqm with reference Number MFCT/LA/AB 586 is missing. If found, please contact me at the above address or return to the Abuja Geographic Information System (AGIS) or the Ministry of Federal Capital Territory Abuja.

CHANGE OF NAMES

I, formerly **HAUWA USMAN**, now wish to be addressed as **MRS HAUWA MUNDI**. All former documents remain valid. General public to take note.

I, formerly known as **BINTU BABA ZARMA**, now wish to be addressed as **BINTU BABA AMINU**. All former documents remain valid. General public to take note.

I, formerly known and addressed as **MISS OKORIE FRANCA ONYINYECHI**, now wish to be addressed as **MRS KPEMERENDU FRANCA ONYINYECHI**. All former documents remain valid. Niger State Polytechnic Zungeru and the general public to take note.

I, formerly **CORDELIA ONYEKURU**, now to be called **(MRS) CORDELIA MADU C.** All previous documents remain valid. Federal Government Boys College, Abuja and public to take note.



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SUBMISSION

Interested developers are required to submit the following documents:

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- Evidence of Registration of the Company in Nigeria
- Tax Clearance Certificate for the past three years
- List of Company tools, machine and plants
- Evidence of Financial capacity to execute the project including Company Financial audited report, Source of funds for the project, and cost of funds for the project.
- Project duration and programme of works.

Only qualified developers with proven capability and requisite experience will be considered. The above should be packaged in four sets in an envelope marked **Confidential: prequalification information for the Development of pharmacy house**, to reach the under mentioned within three weeks of this notice:

The Secretary
PSN Building Committee,
Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria [PSN],
32, Faramobi Ajike Street,
Anthony Village,
Lagos.
Tel: 08038073595

Sports

NFA plans legal action against MINAJ

The NFA board is considering a comprehensive legal action against MINAJ for allegedly defaulting in its financial obligation to the NFA and for embarrassing Nigerians.

By Patrick Andrew, Senior Sports Reporter

from MINAJ restraining the African Independent Television (AIT) from televising live the Premier League match between Kwara United and Nationale, last weekend.

The chairman technical committee, David Suleiman said yesterday that the NFA board was shocked to receive a court injunction

“Instead of coming forward to redeem the debt accruing from the contract which had expired last

November, MINAJ served the NFA an injunction.

“One wonders whether the court order they sought is for defaulting and embarrassing Nigerians. They never fulfilled their obligation as per televising the Premier League matches live last season.

“Again they only paid a fraction of the total value of the contract. That in itself was for the first tenure of the contract. They are owing us apart of that and the second tenure which they have not paid even a dime. So in actuality, who should sue who? The board will give serious consideration to this and raise a comprehensive legal action against them,” he said stressing that the management of MINAJ have taken the NFA and Nigerians for a ride.

He recalled that the Chief

Executive of MINAJ, Senator Mike Ajegbo, had once promised to pay the balance of the first term fee through a post dated cheque but failed to do so even as his broadcast outfit was neither able to beam the Premier League matches live nor even televised a delayed version of the matches.

Trustsports recalls that the station was able to televise some matches in the first stanza of the 2002/2003 season but was off the air in the second half of the season.

Besides, when the deal was struck in 1997 MINAJ was to pay \$650,000 for the league. The sum of \$150,000 was eventually paid leaving a balance of \$500,000 in addition, to the value of the renewed contract upped by 15 per cent. Until the contract expired last November, nothing was paid.

Okocha blunder: Heads will roll - Suleiman

Severe punitive measures will be adopted against any officer or officers found wanting in, the CAF nomination forms blunder that may have contributed to Austin Okocha's failure to clinch the African Footballer of the Year award.

Chairman NFA technical committee, David Suleiman, said the NFA board did not take the matter lightly and has instituted a probe panel to unearth whoever was behind the blunder.

Trustsports recalls that whereas CAF Media Officer Habuba Abubakar said the nomination forms were sent and received on November 27, 2004, the NFA scribe Taiwo Ogunjobi, now on indefinite suspension, has consistently denied receipt of the forms.

As a result, those who were to have voted including

Christian Chukwu, Okocha himself, Laloko Kashimawo, Ibrahim Galadima and Ogunjobi all did not cast their votes.

Investigation so far revealed that the staff of suspended Ogunjobi, who appeared before the panel have denied knowledge of and receipt of the forms.

One Mrs. Idowu, who the CAF Officer confirmed acknowledged receipt of the forms, equally denied ever receiving the forms on fax even as Bola Oyeyede said to have spoken with Habubu on phone confirming same equally denied ever speaking with the media officer.

Consequently, the CAF media officer was said to have insisted on the presentation of the fax foils which could have indicated the time the forms were faxed and receiving for delivery by courier was made.

However, when the panel requested for the foils, they were said to have been burnt.

“They all denied that they received the nomination forms. Again on the requested foils, they said they were burnt so there is no way we can established from this end when exactly the forms were sent so we have to rely on the foils from CAF office and verbal statement of Habuba,” a member of the panel hinted.

Dolphin players in auto crash

Two key players of Dolphin of Port Harcourt, Ochuko Ojobo and Joe Eyimofe survived a fatal motor accident at Ughelli in Delta State on Monday morning.

The two players had returned from Malabo where they were part of the CAF Champions League preliminary round return leg at about 12.30am on Monday and left Port Harcourt about 5am the same day heading for Warri

“They actually thought they could rush to Warri and back the same day to catch up with Tuesday morning training, before they met their waterloo at Ughelli,” Team Manager of the club, Diepreye Fiberesima told nigeriasports.com.

“I know the Volkswagen polo car they were driving,

belonging to Ochuko was badly damaged, but I can't really tell the extent because I am yet to see the car, but I know the front lights were destroyed and the windscreen shattered.”

The team manager said he spoke with Eyimofe who confirmed that they had both been discharged from an Ughelli clinic. However while Eyimofe got off almost unhurt, Ochuko needed stitches on his left hand.

This set back means both players will no doubt be ruled out of Sunday's week two clash against Iwuanyanwu Nationale in Owerri.

Midfielder, Victor Babayaro confirmed that Eyimofe is back to training, but Ochuko might be out for at least three weeks since his leg was also affected.

Ogunjobi: Panel submits report on Monday

The three-man administrative panel instituted to investigate allegations of financial impropriety and administrative ineptitude against the suspended Taiwo Ogunjobi-led NFA management is to hands in the findings on Monday.

A member of the NFA board, David Suleiman, confirmed yesterday that the panel has been directed to shift presentation of the report by 48 hours because of the inclement weather which affected the arrival of both the members of the panel and board chairman, Alhaji Ibrahim Galadima.

Galadima had gone to Pretoria, South Africa for the CAF award ceremony and only came back yesterday.

“He would some time to rest before travelling to Abuja.

Even then, the weather situation has affected flight in the country.

So members of the panel, who were supposed to be here, are yet to be seen.”

Meanwhile, the board will hold an emergency meeting next week to deliberate on both reports. Suleiman said the meeting will offer them ample chance to peruse the report and take any decision that may be necessary based on the recommendations therein.



Midfield tussle between Jigawa Golden Stars Innocent Mordi, Ejembi Daniel and Nwanagu Chimaobi of Udoji United during a pro-league encounter. Soccer fans may be thrilled this weekend in their respective homes if the AIT goes ahead to televise the Premier League live as directed by club owners. Pix: Joe Oroye

Iorfa hails the return of ex-Eagles stars

Former Eagles midfielder star, Duke Udi has been commended for his brilliant return back to the domestic league following his sojourn in Europe.

Udi, who scored in the Premier League last Sunday in Lobi Stars' 3-0 triumph over El Kanemi Warriors, was described by his new boss as the motivator and leader that Lobi need to cruise to glory in the 2005 soccer season.

Iorfa also said that the midfielder, who almost single handedly took Shooting Stars to the domestic league and cup-double in 1995, could turn a match around with his ingenuity.

By AbdulRabeem Aodu Sports Reporter

Lobi Stars chairman, Dominic Iorfa disclosed during an interactive session with reporters in Abuja yesterday, that he knew the importance of the star to his team before he went to sign him, adding that as the season has just kicked off the best of the former U-23 star is yet to come.

“You are asking me what Duke Udi is doing in Lobi Stars but I know what he can do before I went for him. Didn't you see what he did in Makurdi last weekend. The season has just began and he has started paying back

the management's trust in him.

“Last Sunday he assisted a goal and scored another to give us a 3-0 victory over El-Kanemi Warriors. I am sure he would do move as the season progresses. You just wait and see. He is in Lobi to stay and I am happy and proud of him,” Iorfa enthused.

The skilful but temperamental player narrowly missed out of the U-23 Eagles' victory at the Atlanta Olympics though he contributed to the team's qualification scoring a goal in the all-important 3-0 win over Kenya in Mombasa.

His overseas career was

not as successful, as he fizzled out of news, until his emergence in Lobi colours last weekend.



Daniel "the Bull" Amokachi, thrilled fans in Ibadan last weekend

Gabros dreams league title

President of Gabros, Gabriel Cukwuma says his dream is the same as that over the other nineteen club owners, which is to win the 2005 football league.

“It is one trophy, but you have over 20 people fighting to win it, and we are quite optimistic that we can go all the way.”

“The technical crew is also another area I am very convinced of as Kafaru Alabi and Fred Okpalla are tested hands in the business.”

“I have been in this business for seven years, so at least I should know the kind of technical crew I want.”

“By now every body knows that Gabros do not go for big name players, but we are like a factory that discovers these boys. So don't expect to see super stars yet until the end of the season, and then once again we would turn to the beautiful bride of Nigerian football as all clubs would want to get our players.”

He said Gabros moved their matches from the Rojenny Tourist Center in Onitsha to Abuja because they want to make money from the gates, some thing that was difficult in previous seasons.



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FRIDAY COLUMN

Friday, February 18, 2005

EDITORIAL

Census 2005

Ideally, a national population census such as the one that is being planned for this year, should not only strive to give an accurate overall figure of how many Nigerians there are, but should also disclose the characteristics of the population such as age, the employed, the unemployed, religion, ethnic affiliation, etc.

The aim of providing the characteristics of a headcount is to give planners and policy-makers the data upon which to plan and make policies that will ensure fairness, justice, equity and national development.

However, over the years, just knowing how many Nigerians really are has been quite some problem. Every population exercise before and since independence, has been disputed. None has commanded national acceptance, with one ethnic or religious group or another claiming that its figure has been understated and that of another overstated to enjoy unfair advantage in the sharing of national resources.

It is certainly in recognition of this historical reality that recently the National Council of State advised that the forthcoming headcount should only seek to give to Nigerians an accurate picture of how many we are without indicating the ethnic and religious composition of the country.

This advice is, no doubt, informed by the fact that given our history, seeking to establish the ethnic and religious characteristics of the population will make the entire exercise even more controversial, no matter how accurate the figures might be.

Sadly, this well-meaning advice has ignited quite some controversy with some arguing that a headcount without the vital statistics is not worth the effort as the outcome cannot be a very useful instrument for national planning and development.

There is certainly some merit in this argument. However, since the main trouble with our national headcount has been accepting the figure as authentic in the first place, it would seem reasonable to remove those elements that will make the exercise even more contentious.

This paper is of the view that for now our main effort should be deployed in counting every Nigerian so that we can get to know how many we really are. If we are able to achieve this 'feat' with Census 2005, perhaps the next one should be able to give us the demographic characteristics of the population.

This compromise is no doubt superior to carrying out the exercise with a view to having "full disclosures" which in the end will not be acceptable nation-wide, an outcome which will therefore not serve any useful purpose.

It is indeed a great shame that over 80 years since we have existed as one united entity and over 40 years since independence, we have been unable to conduct a successful population census. It is painful not because we lack the intellectual and administrative expertise to carry out this vital exercise but our failure has mainly been because of selfish ethnic, regional and religious competition to have unfair advantage over others.

It is our view that this time around, every Nigerian will resolve to make Census 2005 a huge success to enable us to erase our national shame and to have an accurate data with which some meaningful planning can be done for national prosperity.

Nigeria: Why process isn't due

By Adamu Adamu

In the recent stand-off between the Executive and the Legislature over the question of funding for the National Political Reform Conference, you were not surprised that for once the legislators had struck to their guns, you were surprised that they could even take that stand at all.

In a rare moment of a show of out-of-character courage and a coming of age that seemed almost pre-arranged for its sheer audacity, the two houses of the National Assembly voted in the first and second weeks of February to reject Chief Olusegun Obasanjo's request for ₦932 million to pay for the confab. And they left him, no doubt, dazed; and in no doubt about it at all.

The Speaker of the House of Representatives, Alhaji Aminu Bello Masari, wrote February 3 to intimate him of the rejection by the House. And in addition to rejecting the request, a group of representatives filed a suit at the Federal High Court to stop the conference altogether.

On its part, the Senate, after also turning down the budgetary request, vowed to insert clauses prohibiting Obasanjo from using any other public funds to finance the confab. In other words, not only has the National Assembly not endorsed the conference and not approved any appropriation for it, it has sworn not only not to do so, but also devised means to deter Obasanjo from indulging in illegal and contrived virement to pay for it.

But in an even rarer show of unexpected humour, no doubt sardonic, and not without a hint of bitter irony, Obasanjo didn't call the National Assembly that had treated his request for funds with such disrespectful, offhanded, tight-fisted levity stupid, as one would have expected him to do. Instead, he thanked them profusely.

"I must use this opportunity to commend the National Assembly for its response to government's request for funding," Obasanjo said. "I want to thank the National Assembly for its maturity, support and encouragement and inputs into the arrangements for the conference."

It was indeed difficult to see what Obasanjo could have meant by all this. If he really saw maturity in the opposition to the conference by the National Assembly, the nation is entitled to see immaturity in the decision to go ahead with it. And something must be wrong if Obasanjo really saw elements of support in the vote by the National Assembly to reject his request for funds. And we have every reason now to be really alarmed if he really saw evidence of encouragement from the National Assembly when 57 members of that assembly have gone to court to stop him. To him all this was evidence of support and partnership for which he expressed full gratitude in his speech to the nation Monday, February 14.

"Contrary to some perspectives, the Assembly's response has encouraged us to look inwards and to become creative at sourcing funds for the conference," Obasanjo said, 'gratefully.' "What I can assure participants is that they will have enough resources to complete the assignment in the time allocated to it."

But the question is, "Where is the 'inwards' that Obasanjo will look into to get the money that the lawmakers have refused him." Street economics had already suggested that he had a range of alternatives to dip his hands into.

One, he could direct the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, NNPC, to make the ₦932 million available, and he would, no doubt, have it in a jiffy.

Two, he could create his own Escrow Account and credit some of the current windfall into it. The required sum—₦932 million—is less than a tenth of a day's crude oil sales.

Three, he could pilfer some of the so-called Abacha loot; that is, before we come to the other loots.

Four, he could, as some Senators have already suggested, make use of the money in the Contingencies Fund for the purpose of financing the conference.

But make no mistake about it; if he does any of this, he will not have been creative at sourcing funds as he himself said; he will only have been creative in committing a Constitutional crime, because that will have violated several provisions of the Constitution. Not that this is anything new to him, but a Constitutional, impeachable breach must be seen for what it is.

Making such an admission in a nationwide address sounds laughable for a government that says it is concerned about due process; because the real backbone of any due process in the control and management of public resources is the law that says, "No kobo belonging to the public shall be spent, unless the expenditure for which payment is being made is

backed by a law."

According to the Constitution all moneys belonging to the people, however earned, must be lodged into one, not two, Consolidated Revenue Fund; and nothing could be taken out of the Fund unless a law so directs. Sections 80 and 162 of the Constitution give the details of what is what. Section 80 prescribes what must be done with revenue:

80-(1) All revenues and other monies raised or received by the Federation (not being revenues or other moneys payable under this Constitution or any Act of the National Assembly into any other public fund of the Federation established for a specific purpose) shall be paid into and form one Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Federation.

(2) No moneys shall be withdrawn from the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Federation except to meet expenditure that is charged upon the fund by this Constitution or where the issue of those moneys has been authorised by an Appropriation Act, Supplementary Appropriation Act or an Act passed in pursuance of section 81 of this Constitution.

(3) No moneys shall be withdrawn from any public fund of the Federation, other than the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Federation, unless the issue of those moneys has been authorized by an Act of the National Assembly.

(4) No moneys shall be withdrawn from the Consolidated Revenue Fund or any other public fund of the Federation, except in a manner prescribed by the National Assembly.

Section 162 shows where the revenue must go for it to be shared out according to the law. And sub-section 10 of that section defines revenue, in case someone has other ideas.

162-(1) The Federation shall maintain a special account to be called "the Federation Account" into which shall be paid all revenue collected by the Government of the Federation...

(10) For the purposes of subsection (1) of this section, "revenue" means any income or return accruing to or derived by the Government of the Federation from any source and includes - any receipt, however described, arising from the operation of any law; any return, however described, arising from or in respect of any property held by the Government of the Federation; any return by way of interest on loans and dividends in respect of shares or interest held by the Government of the Federation in any company or statutory body.

So in the circumstance, what creative ingenuity can Obasanjo display to get the funds he needs to hold the conference within these provisions of the Constitution?

And what does the Constitution say about the Contingencies Fund that now increasingly looks like a convenient Constitutional last resort? Section 83 of the same Constitution says:

(i) The National Assembly may by law make provisions for the establishment of a Contingencies Fund for the Federation and for authorising the President, if satisfied that there has arisen an urgent and unforeseen need for expenditure for which no other provision exists, to make advances from the Fund to meet the need.

Firstly, there was nothing urgent about the National Conference in the manner stated by this provision; and no aspect of it could have been unforeseen considering that Nigerians had been talking about it and asking for its convocation for the past 15 years. And secondly, even if "urgent and unforeseen" meant only that the matter had been overlooked by the year's budgetary process, the issue of the conference, which the National Assembly had refused to endorse and had so categorically refused to appropriate for, could not have provided the ground and justification for which the Contingencies Fund was established. In other words, the National Assembly, which created the law that enabled the Executive meet some unforeseen eventualities, would not expect that the same law would be invoked in paying for expenditures that it had already turned down.

All through his speech Obasanjo was at great pains to give the impression that the National Political Reform Conference was a popular affair. Perhaps it was because of this desire to project such an image for it that he found it expedient to thank rather than lambaste the legislators who had refused to do his bidding. Doing otherwise would have revealed that the conference lacked such basic support as that of the people's supposed representatives.

It was because of its great popular appeal that, according to Obasanjo, thousands were clamouring to be made participants; and he had to plead ever so passionately with the distraught multitude that had been left out. Was Obasanjo talking about the same conference to which Dr. Yusuf Bala Usman, Chief Enahoro and Professor Wole Soyinka were invited? Funny, it was only after reading Obasanjo that I real-