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NATIONAL CONFAB

Bala Usman rejects nomination

PRONACO sets up confab c'ttee

From Suleiman Mohammed, Associate Editor (South), Samson Ojo, Maritime Correspondent (Lagos) & Abubakar Haruna, Reporter, Abuja

Following the release of names of delegates nominated by the president to the national conference, eminent scholar and university don, Dr Bala Usman, has rejected his nomination by the president to represent Katsina state, saying that the motive of the conference was deceptive.

Dr Bala Usman made his position known in an interview with the Hausa Service of the British Broad-

casting Corporation monitored in Abuja, yesterday.

He said "I have rejected my nomination due to the fact that the conference is organised in order to deceive and cheat the people."

He added "Obasanjo has no mandate to organise this conference and he is always dancing to the aims and objectives of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)."

The prolific historian argued that the conference

will not yield any useful result while also promising to continue to defend the masses of the country.

Professor Wole Soyinka and Chief Anthony Enahoro had earlier rejected President

Obasanjo's proposed national dialogue and even planned to hold a parallel conference.

President Obasanjo's confab has attracted opposition from the National Ass-

embly whose two chambers separately refused to pass a budget of N935 million presented by the president to fund the confab.

Fifty seven members of the House of Representatives from the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), the opposition All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) and the Alliance for

Democracy (AD), have also filed a case at an Abuja high court challenging the legality of the confab.

President Olusegun Obasanjo however insisted on going ahead with the conference on Monday and announced that government has decided to find an alternative source to fund the confab.

Contd. on Pg 2

Wabara stops senators' motion

Senate President, Adolphus Wabara, may have succeeded in scuttling moves by Northern senators to sponsor a motion reaffirming the position that the forthcoming national political reforms conference is an unnecessary waste of resources and time that will not in anyway impact positively on the nation's polity.

Daily Trust gathered that the senators decided to move the motion at a meeting held last week but after being informed of their intention on Tuesday, Wabara objected to it saying that he was not given a 24-hour notice on the motion. The motion could not however be moved yesterday as according to a source "Wabara will not allow it."

By Isa Sanusi, Senior Political Reporter

The motion, according to the source was scheduled to be moved by Senator Nuhu Aliyu (PDP/Niger North) and to be seconded by Senator Sule Yari Gandi (ANPP/Sokoto East), but many senators contacted said they did not know the reason why the motion failed not see the light of day.

"Well, I don't know what happened to the motion and up to the time I came into the Senate chamber and left, I expected that the motion will be moved. I'm disappointed and don't know what is going on. But you know, Wabara does not like the

Contd. on Pg 2



Vice President Atiku Abubakar (left) and the Minister of Internal Affairs, Dr Iyorchia Ayu, during the FEC meeting held at the State House Abuja ...yesterday. Pix: Joe Oroye.

FG seeks dismissal of Reps suit

The federal government yesterday asked a federal high court sitting in Abuja to dismiss the suit filed by some members of the House of Representatives seeking to stop the national political reform conference.

...Reps file for accelerated hearing

Fifty seven members of the House of Representatives who have gone to an Abuja Federal high court challenging the constitutionality of the on coming national political reforms conference are to proceed to the Court of Appeal to seek

by government's counsel, Prince' Tokunbo Kayode (SAN), the federal government said the plaintiffs lacked legal right (*locus standi*) to institute the suit.

an order compelling the lower court to give them accelerated hearing.

In their suit filed two weeks ago, the lawmakers are

Fifty seven members of the lower house had last week filed a case against the holding of the national confab and also asked for an injunction restraining the

National Assembly from appropriating the sum of N931,721,615.28 or any other fund for the purpose of the conference.

Contd. on Pg 2

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LIST OF DELEGATES FROM NORTH AND SOUTH

(NORTH)	Dr Bala Usman
Senator Mahmud Waziri	Dr Haliru Bello Mohammed
Alhaji Sule Katagum	Chief E.O. Otiotoju
Amb. Mahmoud Yahaya	Prof. J. Idachaba
Chief Bamabas Gemade	Dr. Olusola Saraki
Chief Paul Unongo	Alhaji Aliyu Akwe Doma
Dr. Shetima Mustapha	Senator Jibrin Sabihu
Alhaji Usman Faruk	Mrs. Elizabeth Pam
Amb. Yerima Abdullahi	Alhaji Ahmed Mohammed Gusau
Alhaji Sule Lamido	Mrs. Salome Jankada
Mrs. Aisha Pamela Sadauki	Alhaji Adamu Ciroma
Father Matthew Kukah	Dr. Garba Nadama
Dr. Abdullahi Umar Ganduje	
Senator Ismaila Mammam	

Contd. on Pg 2

News

In-Lagos Chief Anthony Enahoro and Professor Wole Soyinka yesterday rejected their nominations by the federal government for the forthcoming national political reform conference and vowed to hold a parallel sovereign national conference by June this year.

Addressing a press conference on a decision reached at Tuesday's planning committee meeting of the pro-national conference organisation (PRONACO) in Lagos, the two activists said they were never contacted, nor consulted by government. Rather, they only read their names on pages of newspapers as nominees of the government to the conference.

According to Chief Enahoro who was flanked by Professor Wole Soyinka, Chief Fredrick Faseun, OPC factional leader among others, the nomination by President Olusegun Obasanjo was a distraction, "even if I was invited, I will refer the invitation to the body (PRONACO) which I belong for decision," he said.

Chief Enahoro stated that the goals, agenda and structure of the federal government's organised conference fell short of the desire of Nigerians, saying the PRONACO proposed conference will be all embracing.

Also speaking, Professor Wole Soyinka described his nomination by the federal government as a clear "distraction, an unnecessary distraction," saying though President Obasanjo has the democratic right to gather some people for a talk shop, "we want the president to also respect the right of others to meet and discuss issues of national interest. We will not be deterred," he said.

He said though some government sympathisers attempted to harmonise the two conferences, it was not possible "because you cannot harmonise what you did not originate. There is nothing new under the sun. It is left for the people to see whether there is any similarity between government's agenda and that of our organisation."

The meeting also approved the setting up of a technical commission to help identify ethnic nationalities and validate any claim that may arise with regards to the existence of an ethnic nationality.

On procedures for the sovereign conference, PRONACO said decision and solutions shall be arrived at by consensus, and where there is a stalemate, voting process will be applied. Chairman for the conference would be elected among members on a fortnightly basis "and without duplication in terms of geopolitical area or nationality."

According to the meeting, the conference would be composed of two categories of delegates, namely, ethnic nationality and civil society groups based on the 1999 Beijing Declaration which gives 30 percent representation to women.

On the agreed number of delegates to the meeting, the meeting decided to have 300 delegates from the 36 states and the FCT.

Bala *Contd. from Pg 1*

The meeting also resolved that delegates would be funded by their constituencies, while additional funds shall be raised to meet

Reps *Contd. from Pg 1*

seeking a declaration that the confab was unconstitutional. The court had fixed February 22 for hearing, but the federal government announced on Monday that the conference would begin a day earlier.

Leader of the lawmakers, Mr. Victor Lar, told *Daily Trust* in Abuja yesterday that fixing the date of hearing on Tuesday would injure their case since the confab is due to kick off on Monday.

He said they had asked the court to grant them speedy hearing so that they would file a motion of interlocutory injunction to stop the conference from taking off, but this was turned down.

Lar, a member of the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP), representing Langtang North/Langtang South federal constituency of Plateau State, said the option now before the lawmakers was to go to a higher court to ask that the high court be made to promptly listen to the case. He said they will ask

Wabara *Contd. from Pg 1*

motion," a source said. Copies of the aborted motion had also been circulated part of which read that President Olusegun Obasanjo should have implemented the reports of the Oputa Panel, Vision 2010 and the local government reform committee he set up instead of embarking on another venture whose outcome may go the way of the others that proceeded them.

The Northern senators were also of the opinion that since every part of the cou-

ntury has elected representatives in the National Assembly and grievances about the nation's polity will only be properly addressed by the National Assembly.

The senators decided to move the motion, a source said, as a last resort for senators who feel strongly against the conference: "What we want to do is to put it on record that we are totally against the conference. We want history to bear witness that we are disassociating ourselves from the conference."

They are also insisting that the National Assembly must not appropriate any money or the proposed sum of N932 million for the proposed conference because "there is no act of the parliament" on which the planned conference has been premised.

FG *Contd. from Pg 1*

Listed as defendants are: the President, the National Assembly, President of the Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Clerk of the National Assembly and Attorney General of the federation.

But the government in its objection asked the court to dismiss or strike out the case on the basis that the plaintiffs who instituted the suit constitute part of the National Assembly by virtue of Section 47, 48 and 49 of the 1999 constitution and therefore lack legal authority to sue being a minority in the assembly.

It added that the plaintiffs lacked legal or constitutional authority to commence or maintain this action for the purpose of challenging the authority of the president in view of the executive powers vested on the president by virtue of Section 5 and 130 of

Fire guts Wuse new market

The new Wuse market was yesterday evening gutted by fire. An eyewitness informed *Daily Trust* that the market was allegedly set on fire by some occupants of the market who also reside in the area. He added that the market residents got wind

LIST OF DELEGATES FROM NORTH AND SOUTH *Contd. from Pg 1*

(SOUTH)
Dr. Uma Eleazu
Chief Ndaeyo Utah
Chief Emeka Anyaoku
Arthur Nwankwo
Mr. Serena Dokubo
Chief M.T. Mbu
Mrs. Stella Omu
Chief (Mrs.) Mabel Aneke
Prof. Christie Okogie
Chief Tony Enahoro
Chief Afe Babalola
Chief P.C. Egbogu
Dr. Kema Chikwe
Chief J. O. Williams
Prof. Wole Soyinka
Prof. Bayo Adediji
Prof. (Mrs.) Omotayo Oluwoye
Mrs. Tejumade Alakija
Dr. Lekan Are
Dr. Chukwuemeka Nnam Obi Rivers

FCT
Mrs. Esther Audu

3 NO. RETIRED MILITARY PERSONNEL NORTH
Lt. Gen. Joshua Dogonyaro (rtd) Army
Rear Admiral Hamzat Sani (rtd) Navy
Air Cmdr E. Omeruah (rtd) Airforce

2 NO. RETIRED POLICE PERSONNEL NORTH
Mr. Dogan Igube
Mr. James Kpison
Alhaji Yakubu Zubairu Kwana
Group Captain Usman Jibrin (rtd)
Mr. Tanimu Adabson

2 NO. RETIRED SSS PERSONNEL NORTH
Alhaji Sada Ili
SOUTH
Chief Joshua Fumudoh

2 NO. RETIRED CIVIL SERVANTS NORTH
Ason Bur
SOUTH
Mrs. F. Emanuel

2 NO. RETIRED DIPLOMATS NORTH
Amb. Usman Yola
SOUTH
Amb. Dapo Fafowora

STATEREPRESENTATIVES (6 PER STATE & 2 FROM FCT)
NORTH
ADAMAWA STATE
Mallam Abdulkarim Albashir
Prof. Musa Yakubu
Barr. Boss Mustapha
Dr. Aminu Gurin
Mr. Vidon Jaule
Sa'adu Mai Yaki
BAUCHI STATE
Alhaji Mohammed Bello Kirfi, CON
Alhaji Kaulaha Aliyu
Ambassador Mohd Adamu Jumba
Dr. Ibrahim Yakubu Lame
Amb. Mohd Chadi Abubakar, OFR
Barr. Habibu Aliyu
BENUE STATE
Chief Senator Jack Tilley-Gyado
Lt. Gen. Victor Malu (rtd)
Sir. George Korgeba
Barrister Fred Oti
Maj. Gen. Geoffrey Ejigah (rtd)
Chief Stephen Oti
BORNO STATE
His Excellency Alhaji Mohd Gani
Alhaji Ibrahim Dancida
Ambassador Baba Ahmad Jiddah
Alhaji Mohammed Kagu Afibe, nmi
Professor Mohammed Nur Alkali
Alhaji Mohammed Lawan Buba
GOMBE STATE
Senator Muhammad Uba Ahmad
Professor Idris Mohammed
Alhaji Magaji Mufazu
Hon. Nuhu Poloma
Alhaji Abubakar Aliyu Deba
Alhaji Abubakar Musazu Hassan
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HRH Najib H. Adamu, Emir of Kazaure
Alhaji Sulaiman Baffa
Alhaji Mohammed Bashari Gumbel
Hajia Fatima Muhibome
Alhaji Aminu Rana
Alhaji Tajir Idris Daka
KADUNA STATE
Dr. Umaru Usman

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Senator Emmanuel Eke Eke
Senator Akam Nwagwu
His Excellency Mrs. Helen Esuene
Dr. Ekong Anemka
ANAMBRA STATE
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Barr. Zik Obi
Chief Mike Aigboye
Engr. Chris Okoye
Chief Gabriel Akweke
Dr. Obi Ogene
BAYELSA STATE
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Barr. Orono Douglas
Chief Francis Ukwaka
Dr. Anba Anibom
HRM King A. O. Okeke
Chief Linn Okoro
CHROSS STATE
Barr. Orono Douglas
Chief Francis Ukwaka
Dr. Anba Anibom
HRM King A. O. Okeke
Chief Linn Okoro

Alhaji Sule Yahaya Hamma
Professor Asuwalu H. Yadudu
Alhaji Isiaqui Umar Tofa
Dr. Haruna Salihu
Alhaji M. T. Waziri
KATSINA STATE
Alhaji Garba Ja Abdulkadir
Alhaji Saidu Barda
Alhaji Ibrahim Ahmadu Coomassie
Alhaji Kabir Sa'udu Daura
Alhaji Tukur Mani
Barrister Ibrahim Shehu Shema
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Col. Bello Kalil (rtd)
Alh. Isa Mohammed
Senator Abubakar N. Abdullahi
Professor Attahiru Jega
Alhaji Abdullahi Ahman
Dr. Sa'udu Muhammed Bimin Yauni
KOGI STATE
Alhaji Abdullahi Ibrahim (SAN)
Col. Ahmed Ali (rtd)
Gen. David Jemibewon (rtd)
Dr. G.T.N. Ajakpo
Engr. Ahmed Onogo
Mr. Joseph Suleiman

KWARA STATE
Alhaji Saidu Isa, MFR
Alhaji Mahmood Ibrahim
Prof. Albert F. Ogunsola, OFR
Hon. Kola Shittu
Alhaji Ayinla Folorunso
Alhaji Abubakar Kawu Banja
NASARAWA STATE
Alhaji Zakari Yakubu
Mr. Dogan Igube
Mr. James Kpison
Alhaji Yakubu Zubairu Kwana
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Mr. Tanimu Adabson

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Prof. Shehu A. Jibrin Bida
Alhaji Abubakar Magaji
Barrister Umar Kawu
Hon. Dahiru Awaisu Kuta
Alhaji Isiyaku Musa Jikantoro
PLATEAU STATE
Air Commodore Jonah Jang (rtd)
Senator John Wash Pam
Barr. Danjuma Maina
Alhaji Yakubu Sambo
Chief (Dr.) Solomon D. Lar
Yahaya Kwande
SOKOTO STATE
Alhaji Abubakar S. Tambuwal
Alhaji Bala Hassan
Amb. Hamzat Ahmadu
Alhaji Ahmed Achida
Dr. M.Z. Umar
Barr. Suleiman Usman

TARABA STATE
Hon. Tanko Bobbo Anadami
Rev. Sen. Lika Zanya
Alhaji Ibrahim Abubakar
Hon. Emmanuel Bovoa
Hon. Yaku Agbaizo
Mr. Johnny Atiku
YOBE STATE
Dr. Adamu Fika (Waziri Fika)
Alhaji Aji Baitu Dapchi
Alhaji Sidi Yakubu Karasurwa
Col. Mohammed Audu (rtd)
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Maj. Gen. Alwali Jaji Kadir (rtd)
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Barr. Malami Aliyu Yankoto
Alhaji Abubakar Hassan Muski
Mansur Khalifa Muhammad
Malam Yahya Abdulkadir
Alhaji Muhammad Sa'ad Takori

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Rear Admiral Mike Onah
Deacon Gamaliel O. Onosode
Prof. Onafume Onoge
Chief Edwin Kiagbodo Clark
Prof. Itse Sagay
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Elder Anyim Ude
Elder (Dr.) Agom Eze
Chief Martin Elechi
Chief Chima Innocent Ugo
Chief Polycarp Nwite
Chief (Barr.) Agama Agama
EDO STATE
Mr. A.O. Eghobamien, SAN
Chief Sam Iredia
Prof. R.A. Anao
Chief C. Abebe
Admiral Mike Akhigbe (rtd)
Mr. Tunde Lakoju
EKITI STATE
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Prof. Isola Olomola
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Barr. Sole Akinyede
Barr. Akin Omole
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Barr. B. Nwakanma
Chief E.C. Iwuanyanwu
Dr. Douglas Acholonu
Chief Iggy Azuike
Chief Chika Okafor
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Senator Sikiru Shitta-Bey
Chief Hamzat B. Adebowale, OON
Engr. Ahmed Onpede
Mr. Olorunfemi Bashorun
Mrs. Tawa Williams
OGUN STATE
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Aremo Tarwo Alimi, ANIPR
Senator A. Otegbola FNIVS, FRICS
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Dr. Ade Abioye
Dr. Femi Adekanye
Dr. Tayo Dairo
Admiral Akin Aduwo (rtd)
Chief Oluwale Oke
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News

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

NLC wants delegates to elect leadership

The Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), has called on the federal government to allow delegates to the forthcoming national political reform conference to elect the leadership of the conference.

In a letter addressed to President Olusegun Obasanjo, the NLC said that the democratic election of the leadership of the conference would be "critical to ensuring its independence, credibility and acceptance by the Nigerian people."

The letter signed by the president of the NLC, Comrade Adams Aliyu Oshiomhole, said that "a broad-based twelve persons presidium" should be elected by the delegates to give leadership and direction to the conference.

"Congress is making a strong case for the democratic election of the leadership of the conference, upon inauguration by Mr. President, rather than have one appointed for it by government."

"We have no doubt that

Surprise absentees from list

In the light of the presence of their political peers in the list of delegates to the national political reforms conference, some politicians and former public office holders are conspicuous by their absence.

Senator Jim Nwobodo, one-time governor of the old Anambra state and a senator between 1999 and 2003 is one such conspicuous absentee. In a brief phone conversation with our reporter, Senator Nwobodo dismissed speculations that he may have been interested in attending, saying, "I was never interested."

Similarly, a close aide to Alhaji Yusuf Maitama Sule, *Danmasanin Kano* and veteran politician, told *Daily Trust* that though the well-known orator was nominated to serve on the Kano state advisory committee to delegates to the conference, he had been out of the country. he reportedly came back on Tuesday. Not being on either the Kano state list or the FG's list, *Danmasani Kano* will not be at the conference.

Also, Biafran warlord, Dim Emeka Odumegwu Ojukwu, 1999 ANPP-AD presidential candidate and former secretary to the government Chief Olu Falae, veteran Katsina politician and former governor of the old Kaduna state, Alhaji Lawal Kaita, would be noticeably absent from the conference.

In the same vein, Chief C. C. Onoh, another former governor of old Anambra state and Chief Edwin Ume-Ezeoke, a former speaker of the House of Representatives, have not been named as delegates to the conference.

By Abdullahi M. Gulloma, Labour Reporter

given the combined qualitative experience and aptitude reflected in the individuals and groups that make up the conference, it would be able to elect a high calibre leadership that could give it competent, mature and purposeful direction," the NLC said.

The NLC said further that electing a presidium would be the first challenge and test of the capacity of the conference delegates to work "consensually and constructively in furtherance of its mandate in the interest of the nation."

The congress also appealed to President Olusegun Obasanjo to nominate the conference labour veterans like Comrades Hassan Summonu of the Organisation of African Trade Unions (OATUU), Comrade Ali Ciroma and Comrade Pascal Bafyau.

According to the congress, it would be useful if veterans of labour movements were also given the opportunity to participate in the conference, saying that their deep insight into the Nigeria reality and commitment to national progress

would add value to the conference.

Comrade Oshiomhole who described some of the delegates to the conference as "politically used and finished", said that the conference should address the growing poverty and unemployment in the country rather than ethnicity and relational politics.

He said that the NLC is attending the conference as a pan-Nigeria organisation and would table all issues that are bordering the common man in this country at the conference.



Member House of Representatives, Hon. Haruna Yarima addressing press on the corruption in the House of Representatives committee on communication receiving recharge cards worth 2.7 million naira monthly from MTN. With him is Mr. Christian Okpaenyi at the National Assembly Complex, Abuja...yesterday. Pic: Felix Onigbinde

Obasanjo told to strike balance on appointments

From Musa Umar Kazaure, Regional Editor, Kano

President Olusegun Obasanjo has been reminded of the importance of striking a balance in the appointment of the leadership of the forthcoming national conference.

Reacting to the speculation that Rev. Mathew Kukah and Justice Tobi may likely be appointed chairman and secretary of the conference, a reknown Islamic school and preacher, Shiek Mahmud Ja'afar Adamu, said Muslims will be cheated if, despite their being the majority in Nigeria, both positions of chairman and secretary are given to christians.

Shiek Ja'afar advised that the president use numerical strength as a yardstick for giving adherent of both religion representation to the National Confab, adding that the issue of fifty-fifty representation in the federal government's delegate amounts to cheating the muslims whom he said are in a clear majority in the country's population.

The learned Islamic scholar noted that injustices in nomination to such conference in other countries of Africa was responsible for ethnic, religious and sectional upheaval that characterised similar national political reforms they organised.

On the controversy whether the conference should hold, Shiek Ja'afar urged Nigeria muslims to support the conference and play a significant role in protecting the interest of the

entire Nigerian Muslim Ummah. He added, "such conference is overdue because virtually every segment of the Nigerian populace feel it is marginalised, threatened or unfairly treated. If the conference has no hidden agenda aimed at redressing the ills in the Nigerian federation, there is nothing for such dialogue after all, dialogue is far better than fighting."

Also contributing on the debate for National Conference, the only surviving northern delegate to the 1954 constitutional conference in London, Alhaji Mudi, said a

conference should have been for practical efforts to solve the problems of poverty among the Nigerian masses.

The NEPU disciple and close-associate of Late Mallam Aminu Kano, said although time has changed, but during their trip to the national conference in London, they were given only two pounds as allowance and their number was only 56-members. He commended the position of the National Assembly for rejecting the conference, adding that the National Assembly was the right place to hold such dialogue because they are the representatives of the people.

Adisa tackles Saraki on Northern Union

From AbdulRazaq Adebayo, Correspondent, Ilorin

Former works and housing minister, retired Major-General Abdulkarim Adisa, has criticised Dr. Olusola Saraki over the formation of the Northern Union, (NU), saying "the motive is insincere and devilish".

Addressing a press conference in Ilorin yesterday, General Adisa who claimed to be a bonafide member of the Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF), said the objective of the formation of the northern union which Dr. Saraki explained was to forge unity among northerners generally "is simply to factionalise the regional body (ACF) for selfish purposes."

Northerners, "Adisa declared," should reject the Northern Union in entirety adding "I have much respect for Dr. Olusola Saraki but we

are incompatible on several issues."

This conference holding in Ilorin is therefore to show Nigerians and particularly the leadership of Arewa Consultative Forum that Saraki's views were personal to him and does not represent the views of the Arewa Consultative Forum members in Kwara state," he asserted.

General Adisa advised Dr. Saraki and his group to move closer to the leadership of the ACF and make constructive suggestions if they truly love the north saying "to establish a new body is to destroy the unity of the north which both Sir Ahmadu Bello and late Abubakar Tafawa Balewa toiled day and night to achieve."

List of delegates North/South RESPECTABLE ELDER STATESMEN

Contd. from Pg 2

SOUTH
Mr. Adams Aliyu Oshiomhole
Mr. S.O.Z. Ejiofor, mni
Mr. Peter Adeyemi
Mr. Emmanuel Ugboajah

Mr. Idris Miliki Abdul
SOUTH
Chief (Mrs.) Bisi Ogunleye, OFR
Chief Bar. Mike A.A. Ozekhome
Bar. Mike Nkwocha

TRADE UNION CONGRESS OF NIGERIA NORTH

NIL
SOUTH
Comrade Dr. (Mrs.) Nkiru P. Obiajulu
Comrade (Chief) John Kolawole

NIGERIA EMPLOYERS CONSULTATIVE ASSOCIATION (NECA)

NORTH
Mallam Mamman Adoju
SOUTH
Mr. J. D. Lawuyi, MON
Mazi Sam I. Oluabunwa, MON
Mr. Albert Kattiemis
Mr. Val Usifo
Mr. A.O. Osinowo

NIGERIA YOUTH ORGANISATIONS

NORTH
Engr. Yusuf Onogo
Awwal Tukur
Mr. Kabiru Tanimu Turaki, SAN
SOUTH
Amb. Greg Mbadawe
Dr. Wale Babalakin
Norbert Ezerwah

WOMEN GROUP

NORTH
Dr. Eryantun Ifenne
Mrs. Zainab Maina
Hajia Bilikisu Yusuf
SOUTH
Mrs. Joy Ngozi Ezeilo
Olori Yetunde Gbadebo
Mrs. Nkoyo Toyo

MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA (MAN)

NORTH
Amb. (Dr.) H.A. (Wakilin Adamawa)
Alhaji Bashir M. Borodo
SOUTH
Engr. Charles C. Ugwu
HRHEze G.C. Adukwu
Chief G.G. Gwira
Chief Sam Bolarinde

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY, MINES AND AGRICULTURE (NACCIMA)

NORTH
Dr. Ignatius Ijegwa Adaji, mni, FNIM
Chief John Agboola Odeyemi, FCA
Rear Admiral Murtala Nyako (rtd)
Alhaji Mohammed Munir Ja'afaru, OFR, mni
SOUTH
Dr. Simeon Chukwuemeka Okolo
Chief (Mrs.) Mary-Awhotu Iyasere

POLITICAL PARTIES PDP

NORTH
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Bar. Humphrey Abah
Alhaji Farouk B. Farouk
Alhaji Yusuf Suleiman
Senator Maina Ma'aji Lawan
Alhaji Mohammed Waziri (rtd)
SOUTH
Nze Ozichukwu F. Chukwu
Chief Obinna Ogba
Bar. Venatus A. Ikem
Dr. S.O. Ogbemudia
Prof. Ferni Otunbajo
Bar. Toye Olofintuyi

ANPP

NORTH
Alhaji Sani Dahir El-Katuzu
Hajia Halima Alfa
Alhaji A. Bayero Bello
SOUTH
Chief Don Obot Etiebet

AD

NL

NORTH

NL

SOUTH

Senator Ike Omar Sanda Nwachukwu
Chief Chekwes Okorie

CIVIL SOCIETIES

NORTH
Prof. Audu Idris
Mallam Shehu Sani

MUSLIM LEADERS

NORTH
Alh. U.A. Shinkafi (Marfan Sokoto)
Dr. Ibrahim Tahir (Talban Bauchi)
Justice Abdulkadir Orire (rtd)
SOUTH
Professor Ishaq Oloyede
Sheik Adam Idoko
Alhaji O.R.T. Okiri

CHRISTIAN LEADERS

NORTH
Dr. Haruna Mshelia
Dauda Ishaya
Bar. John Achimugu
south
Mosignor John Aniagu
Bishop Peter Adebisi
Rev. Dr. Daniel Oko

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SOUTH
Com. Tony Nwoye

NIGERIA GUILD OF EDITORS

NORTH
Mallam Halitu Baba Dantiye
SOUTH
nil

NIGERIA UNION OF JOURNALISTS

NORTH
Prince Smart Adeyemi
SOUTH
nil

NEWSPAPER PROPRIETORS' ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA

NORTH
nil
SOUTH
Chief Ajibola Ogunbola
Mr. Nduka Obaigbera

PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED PEOPLE

NORTH
Danlami Umaru Basharu
SOUTH
Miss Nike Akinbola
Yinka Ibadunni (Blind)

NIGERIANS IN DIASPORA (1 EACH FROM EUROPE, AMERICA, ASIA AND AFRICA)

NORTH
Dr. Isa Odidi - Canada
SOUTH
Dr. Ola K. Chairman, NIDO America
Dr. Francis Ifejike Adike - Asia
Dr. Olufemi Olojugba - NIDO Europe
O. Luther King - Ghana

SOCIO-CULTURAL GROUPS AREWA CONSULTATIVE FORUM

Maj-Gen Ibrahim Bala Haruna, CFR
Chief (Mrs.) Margaret Icheen
Engr. Bello Suleiman
Mallam Ibrahim Mai Sule

AFENIFERE

Senator Ferni Okunromu

OHANAEEZE

Professor J.O. Irukwa, SAN
Sen. F.J. Ellah, OFR, KSGGF, FNIM

MIDDLE BELT FORUM

Hon. Isaac Shaahu
Mr. John Dara

IJAW NATIONAL CONGRESS (INC)

Chief F.J. Williams

IGBIMO AGBAYORUBA

Major General R.A. Adebayo (rtd) OFR

SPECIAL CASES

NORTH
Professor Jerry Gana
Alhaji Iro Dan Musa
SOUTH
Mr. Kanu Agabi
Mr. Fola Adeola
Prof. Joy Ogwu

News

MTN induces Reps with N16bn

Revelations came yesterday suggesting that the MTN, a leading South African GSM service provider might have spent over N16 billion to induce the House of Representatives to influence its oversight of its activities.

MTN was alleged yest-

By Hameed Bello & Zainab Alimi, Political Reporters

erday to have been inducing each member of the House by providing them free N7,500 worth of recharge cards monthly since inception of the House in 2003, although the communications comm-

ittee chairman, Hon. Yemi Arokodare, who allegedly collected the recharge cards on behalf of the members confirmed the allegations, saying however that he began collecting the cards since August, 2004.

While confirming the story, Hon. Arokodare also revealed that MTN also gave free lines to state governors and pastors across the country.

Nigerians have severally complained of being shortchanged by MTN for providing poor quality service and charging them unfairly even for unsuccessful calls and for making arbitrary billings.

An All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP), member of the House, Hon. Haruna Yerima, accused the communications committee for aiding and abetting corruption by transacting an illegal business on behalf of the members.

Hon. Yarima who also suggested that the Senate were given higher offers, stated also that he last Tuesday warned the communications committee chairman not to include him in the collections.

Plateau: Dariye, legislators head for collision

The cordial relationship between the Plateau State Government and the State House of Assembly since the lifting of the state of emergency about three months ago may soon be shattered as the legislature has rejected an executive bill forwarded to it.

The state assembly which has been hobnobbing with the executive arm of government since the end of the emergency rule has however turned a new leaf when last week it returned to the executive, a bill seeking for the establishment of the joint state and local government account in Plateau state.

The legislators returned the bill after its second reading citing "lack of details" as the reason for their action.

Minority leader, Rujus Bature, representing Barakin Ladi, set the debate rolling when he described the bill as lacking in details and suggested that it be returned to the executive. He was quickly supported by Pam Dong representing Jos South.

The legislators took turns to reject the bill described as dear to Governor Joshua Dariye in his reconciliation and rural development efforts. For instance, David Longlam

From Jibril Dauda, Regional Editor (Jos)

(Pankshin South) argued that the bill did not specify details about the composition of the members who would head the joint account.

Another member, Wanga Lemoro, drew attention of the House to the failure of the state government to allocate 10 per cent from its statutory allocation to the local government lifting of the state of emergency about three months ago. HE argued therefore, that to go into another joint account arrangement would mean a return to the old practice that had been rejected.

FG receives N61.8 billion Abacha loot

The government of Switzerland has approved repatriation of \$458 million to Nigeria (about N61.8 bn) as part of the funds taken out of the country by late Head of State, General Sani Abacha and his family.

The amount, according to the minister of finance, Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, is part of the \$505 million the Nigeria government expects to

By Andrew Agbese, Reporter

receive from the Swiss government in connection with the stolen funds.

The release of the funds which is sequence to the judgment of the Swiss federal court which okayed the country's authorities to return assets of "obviously criminal origin" to Nigeria without a court decision in the country concerned, makes Switzerland the first country to return such monies to Nigeria.

Responding on behalf of the Nigerian government, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala reiterated government's commitment to the Swiss government saying all such assets would be used for developmental projects in Nigeria.

She said this explains why as early as 2004, the Nigerian government, after receiving the assurance of the Swiss authorities factored most of the Abacha funds into the 2004 budget so that infrastructure and social services would be provided to the people.

The minister who was full of thanks to the government of Switzerland said the development of social services and the provision of infrastructure is in line with governments' priorities as spelt out in the NEEDS programme.

The minister disclosed that only last month, President Olusegun Obasanjo had met with a delegation from the Swiss government to share idea on the project and discuss modalities of ensuring transparency in the way the recovered funds would be spent.

NGO's and other civil society groups are said are free to verify the utilisation of the funds while the World Bank has also been invited to monitor the utilization of the funds.

FG identifies 193 illegal airstrips in the country

By Reuben Yunana, State House Correspondent

include Shell with 68, Chevron 25, Mobil 74, Totalfinal 10, Agip and Conoil which has one each.

He said government had ordered all such operations of the airstrips to register them immediately.

"The operation of these

illegal airstrips has meant that they are using the airspace illegally and have not been paying fees as they are expected to do," the minister explained.

It has come to the knowledge of government, however, that some of the airstrips are being used for such illegal activities as surveillance, gun-running and other forms of economic sabotage against the country.

He noted that the operators were exploiting the opportunities offered them by lack of adequate laws to control them.

He then warned that adequate laws were now in place and must be complied with.

Yuguda pointed out that the activities of the operators makes the Nigerian airspace dangerous and air traffic congestion, uncontrolled flight operations as well as threat to safety, national security and loss of revenue.

He said council also approved the rehabilitation and upgrading of facilities at 18 out of the 22 airports in the country.

To this end, he said council approved the installation of flight landing at the Akanu Ibiam Airport Enugu at a cost of N241 million. Council also approved the contract for the Ile-Ife water works which is to cost N24 billion and has a capacity for 15 million cubic litres of water.

Niger Assembly passes law to derobe Borgu Emir

The legal instrument initiated by the executive to derobe the Emir of Borgu, Alhaji Haliru Dantoro, has been cobbled together by the Niger State House of Assembly within a space of 48 hours.

Presiding over the Bill by the Deputy Speaker, Hon. Haruna Labaran which was titled: "Bill for a Law to provide for appointment and deposition of Emir of Borgu 2005", it was passed into law immediately after its third reading on Wednesday.

The bill, which was opposed by members from Borgu and Bida constituencies, however failed to stop the passage of the bill into law.

In the attempt to achieve the aim of the law, the Clerk of the House has been mandated to present the law to the governor for his signature. The governor is presently overseas.

Part of the law has amended the system of the emirate

traditional succession rites by enlarging the number of the kingmakers from five to eleven. Six of the nominees shall be by the government.

According to the new law, the chairman of Borgu and Agwara councils who are under the emirate are automatic members of the enlarged kingmakers. These in addition to the five titled kingmakers of the council, plus four other government appointees, shall form the electoral college.

The law also states that any other custom or law besides the one passed by them is contravenous and therefore ultra vires.

On the issue of deposition, it states that where the governor has approved the appointment of the vacant stool of Borgu, any aggrieved person(s) who want to institute any legal action, shall first deposit a non-refundable sum of N100,000 with the state Accountant General.

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.

Management

Togo apologises to Nigeria

The Togolese authorities yesterday offered a formal apology to the Nigerian government over the refusal of landing rights last week to the presidential jet carrying the advance team of President Olusegun Obasanjo to Lome, Togo.

The presidential plane which was turned back by Togolese aviation officials at Lome airport, was part of president Obasanjo's team to the scheduled meeting with the recent unconditional change of government in that country.

Current African Union (AU), chairman President Obasanjo, along with the presidents of Niger, Benin, Ghana and Mali are to meet the Togolese authorities on the need to restore constitutionality following the death of late President Gnassingbe Eyadema and the installation of his son Faure as president.

However, in a letter to president Obasanjo yesterday, Faure Gnassingbe regretted "the misunderstanding following this denial (of landing rights).

Following the Togolese action, Nigeria had recalled its ambassador from the neighboring country and cancelled all trips to and from

Togo by government officials of both countries.

Apologising for the action, Faure in his letter, recalled that president Obasanjo enjoyed long personal relationship with the late Eyadema and that "our two countries have had long historic ties between them", adding, "we regret the unfortunate incidence regarding your plane and the mis-understanding that it has caused".

The letter also said that Togo realised the important role president Obasanjo plays in Nigeria, West Africa and indeed in Africa. Togo looks forward to strengthening the relationship with its West African neighbour, Faure's letter to Obasanjo said.

Briefing State House correspondents yesterday, presidential spokesman, Mrs. Oluremi Oyo confirmed that the apology has been "accepted by president Obasanjo."

She however said this action does not mean recognition of the regime in Togo.

"It does not mean recognition, President Obasanjo remains the chairman of AU and the AU has pronounced that what has happened in Togo is unconstitutional and it remains so," she maintained.



RC 84254

New Africa Merchant Bank Plc

Congratulations

to a

Worthy Leader



The Board, Management and Staff of New Africa Merchant Bank Plc wish to congratulate His Excellency, the Jigawa State Governor Alhaji Ibrahim Saminu Turaki on his conferment of the prestigious honorary *Doctorate Degree of Science* by the Senate of the University of Jos.

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

The prestigious honour is a testimony of your immense contributions to the development of information and communication technology in Nigeria and West Africa.

More grease to your elbow.

Signed:

Management

Idang Alibi on Thursday

Let Faure Gnassingbe be

I am not in any way trying to play the Devil's Advocate here. I believe very sincerely in what I am going to say and I am convinced that I am motivated by a patriotic desire and pragmatic consideration to spare Africa the trauma of another commotion in Togo.

This caveat is necessary because I am fully aware that the view I will canvas in this piece will be very unpopular. Although mine may be the only lone voice in the entire continent of Africa and even beyond, I am nevertheless compelled by the courage of my conviction to express it.

Mercifully, the issue at stake is not a domestic one for which someone can insinuate that I may have been bribed to canvas the kind of point of view I intend to do here.

The matter has to do with the succession of Mr. Faure Gnassingbe Eyadema to the office of Head of state which his late father occupied.

The whole of Africa, through ECOWAS and the AU, is up in arms against the succession. A majority of Togolese who ought to have kicked against it, appear largely apathetic. Much of the noise against it has come from the outside world who described the action as unconstitutional and undemocratic.

The Nigerian government in particular is so angry that you cannot help thinking that it is trying to incite the world against Togo. Some Nigerians have been so sufficiently incited that they want their government to become the America of the world by sending troops to chase the young Faure out of the Executive Mansion in Lome.

My candid view is that such intended act of aggression against Togo will be ill-advised. What benefits have we Africans seen in democracy that we will risk the lives of our brothers in defence of that system of government? Is democracy worth defending in Africa?

A critical look at much of Africa will show that our harvest from democracy is nothing but a tale of woes and bloodshed. For me, the time has come for us Africans to humbly agree that we have not yet come to the age of political maturity to insist on democracy. Instead, let us adopt what will work in each circumstance.

It is a form of pseudo-monarchism (as in the case in Togo) that will work, let us all support it. If peace and stability will be guaranteed if the son of a deceased president succeeds his father, let us encourage that rather than insist on a democratic election or succession which may bring chaos and bloodshed. One professor called this theory

of mine opportunism but I call it sensible pragmatism.

The double standards which the so-called guardians of democracy in the world exhibit, makes me the more suspicious of this preferred form of government. The United States of America will vociferously call for democracy in one country and unabatedly support a monarchy or dictatorship in another country. We in Africa should adopt this pragmatic approach; we should look at the situation in each country and see what will work there.

Every country of the world has what I choose to call the "owners of the land" who decide what happens there. No matter how much democracy, advocates hate this that is the reality in the world today. Even the USA with its pretensions to be the bastion of democracy still has owners of the land who decide who becomes president of the country. They subtly influence who emerge as candidates of the two dominant parties there. The mass of the people are merely called out every four years to endorse their choices.

I wish to recall that in the year 2000, the whole world was aware of the fact that George W. Bush Jr. did not win that year's presidential election but the owners of the land insisted that he should be president and he became president and is still there today authorizing the bombing of many innocent people all over the world some of whom are strong advocates and practitioners of democracy! That's democracy for you?

When Bush emerged as candidates many Americans even wondered how a man of his intellect managed to come up to aspire to lead a country like the USA.

We have seen in Africa over the years the trauma that usually arises when a strong father-figure departs the scene and there is a hue and cry for democracy. Sooner or later, that country will know neither peace nor stability against. Here is a short roll call: Liberia after William Tolbert; Guinea Conakry after Sekou Toure; Ivory Coast after Houphet Boigny and Sierra Leone after the Maggais.

Advocates of what I call "too much democratic expectation" in Africa must pause a little and reflect on our background before recommending a large dose of democracy for African states. Most African states only just recently emerged and are clumsily trying to forge a true nation from its diverse constituents with a thousand and one political, social, cultural and spiritual orientations or attitudes.

Some of our intellectual elites tend to romanticize the Athenian style market square forms of direct democracy practiced among some ethnic groups in some parts of Africa and cite it as an example that democracy has not always been so to Africans.

That is true but the truth remains that since our embrace of representative democracy, we have little or nothing to show for it. In much of Africa, representative democracy is a monumental fraud. The mass of the people have very little say in what goes on in governance. Why must we continue with the charade called democracy when ultimately the owners of the land will manipulate the people and the process to get what they want?

The "democratic selection" in Togo which has brought little or not fuss internally, is cheaper and more peace-guaranteeing than a "free and fair election" whose outcome may be violence and bloodshed.

African intellectuals must go back to the drawing table and try to evolve for us a system of government that will work in our environment taking into consideration our peculiarities and level of development. When we are mature enough we can join the democratic train. For a continent where large-scale illiteracy, poverty and unemployment reign supreme, it is foolish illusion to expect that the tree of democracy will flourish on its soil.

Africa faces a crisis of leadership or governance. We must admit this fact. The solution, for now, may not lie on insistence absolute democracy. Whee democracy will work, by all means, let us go for it. Where something else will be more appropriate, let us also not hesitate to adopt it.

From what has come out of Togo, the late Eyadema is said to have carefully groomed Faure who everyone acknowledges, is very intelligent, to succeed him. From what has also become clear, the owners of the land (in Togo's case, it includes the French) have decided that they are favourably disposed to this succession arrangement. If the Togolese are largely acquiescent to the succession, why is the rest of the world crying more than

Opinion

Battling poverty on the wrong front

By Obaje Daniel Sunday

September, 2000 marked great watershed in the socio-economic life of nations of the Third World as world leader under patronage of the United Nations Organisation (UNO), converged in America to identify key international development objectives and set time for their actualization. These objectives, a.k.a. the United Nations Millennium Declaration (UNMD), include inter-alia: reduction, by half, of poverty by 2015, with 1990 being the benchmark of reference. The data of the Federal Office of Statistics, (FOS, 1995), put

poverty rate continues to slip upwards from 69.8%, 70% and 70.1% in 2000, 2002 and 2003 respectively, it increased to 70.2% in 2004. The 2004 figure represents 89 million persons. When analysed against an estimated population of 126.2 million. When the actual figure is compared with the expected, it becomes clear that the existing policy option is 24% deficient.

The ineffectiveness of existing policy option to properly address poverty in Nigeria is traced to two faults, namely the concentration of

While employees of the formal sector are made better-off by this phenomenon, their counterparts in the informal sector would not be worse. Thus, unless the nation's 18.2% inflation rate is addressed, employment in the informal sector would not ameliorate poverty. This is evidenced by the continuous increase in the poverty rate of the country despite the 2.9% average unemployment rate (indicating full employment) recorded by the CBN.

To meet the UNMD's 2015 deadline, we must aim at a 4.34% annual cut in poverty for the remaining

"To meet the UNMD's 2015 deadline, we must aim at a 4.34% annual cut in poverty for the remaining eleven years. A sure bet to meeting this target is to seek a 5% reduction in the inflation rate. At 5%, the real-income would be enhanced by an average of over 5% which is about 1% improvement over the 4.34% target"

the proportion of persons living in poverty in 1990 at 45% or 39 million. The expectation of the UNMD, therefore is that by 2015, this poverty rate would have been reduced to 22.5% or 19.5 million through a joint concerted efforts manifested in poverty reducing programmes, schemes or projects by the relevant poverty authorities. Accordingly, in the maiden poverty report expected to be submitted by affected nations at the end of this year, the rest of the world expects to see a poverty rate of 57.4% on Nigeria's report card.

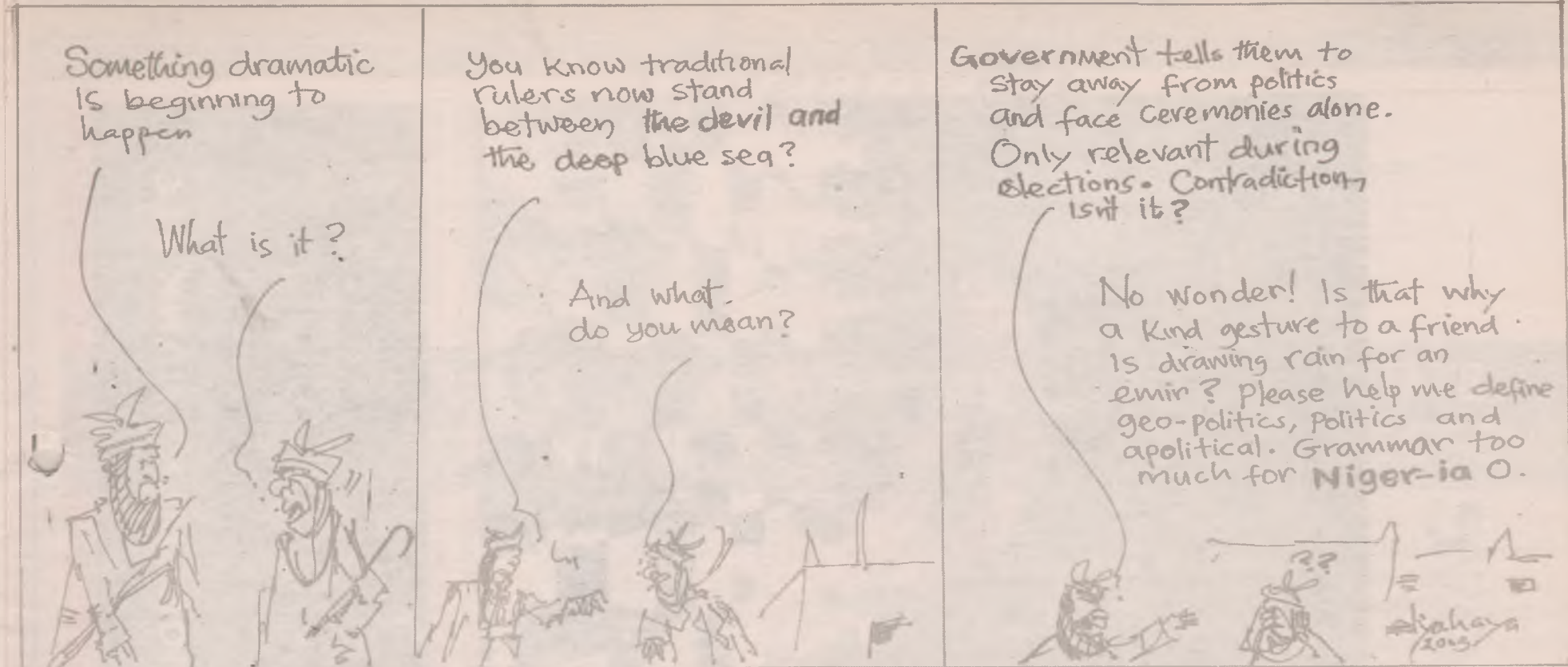
On the contrary, revelation from authoritative sources including the CBN, the FOS, the IBRD and the Federal Ministry of Labour show that four years after the New York meeting, the attempts by government to reverse or at least halt the trend of poverty in Nigeria have yielded negative results as the

poverty efforts in the urban areas when a CBN/IBRD collaborative study reports that 65.71% of the Nigerian poor live in the rural areas particularly in the agro-climatic zone which alone accounts for about 33% of this figure. Second is the policy strategy adopted, which seeks to create employment opportunities in the informal sector while undermining the nominal income/inflation ratio and the real-income/inflation relationship. It is important we emphasise this fault! Poverty has been rightly described as the inability to afford basic desires. Based on this description, the real-income can be argued for as a standard gauge for poverty as it measures the amount of desires a household's income can afford. The trick is that as prices fall, poverty gradually abates as desires, hitherto affordable, become affordable. As prices fall further, the amount of desires (real-income)

eleven years. A sure bet to meeting this target is to seek a 5% reduction in the inflation rate. At 5%, the real-income would be enhanced by an average of over 5% which is about 1% improvement over the 4.34% target. The cost-benefit of this approach is highly significant compared with the existing strategy which discourages the circulation of idle cash in the economy with its concomitant distortions. As conditions for a successful war against inflation, domestic prices of petroleum products must be favourably low and stabilised, and consumers' purchase decision rule which assumes there exists a positive relationship between retail prices and the quality of commodities must be discouraged.

Sunday writes from Block 20, Area 1, Garki, Abuja

"As conditions for a successful war against inflation, domestic prices of petroleum products must be favourably low and stabilised, while consumers' purchase decision rule, which assumes there exists a positive relationship between retail prices and the quality of commodities must be discouraged"



YOUR LETTERS

Revenue: Between tourism and oil

The need to diversify the Nigerian economy has been obvious for quite sometime. It necessitated the introduction of the Structural Adjustment Programme in the late 1980s and early 1990s', which aimed at shifting focus from petroleum to promoting non-oil exports like agriculture, solid minerals and tourism.

Tourism is recognized today as one of the three top constituents of world trade, along side oil and automobile. Given the lucrative nature of tourism as the world's largest industry, successive Nigerian governments have indicated interest in developing the industry into a major foreign exchange earner, employment generator and a means of boosting international goodwill.

Some dividends could be said to have accrued to the country from tourism if recent World Tourism Organization (WTO) report on global tourism destination, which indicates that tourists to Nigeria spent N150 million on accommodation and allied matters in the year 2001 should be taken seriously.

For effective administration of the industry, government in Nigeria formulated necessary statutory guidelines. This is to express the national goal of developing the country as a viable tourist destination in the world. Such guidelines led to the promulgation of Nigeria Tourism Development Corporation (NTDC) Decree of 1992.

Considering her status as the most popular country in Africa; her landmass of about 922,000sq km warm weather and naturally endowed tourist attractions, Nigeria is a potential tourist destination in the world. And proceeds from tourism should by now reflect positively on the Nigeria economy.

But the little progress that was hitherto made before government attempted to develop the industry was due to participation of pri-

ivate individuals and groups. This has resulted to the loss of potential revenue from tourism by government, while paying lip service to boosting revenue generation from the sector.

The Nigeria Tourism Association (NTA), which was formed in 1962, and which flagged-off organized tourism in Nigeria was formed by a group of private individuals, with the major aim of projecting the Nigerian Tourism Industry. The association's activities enhanced both do-

mestic and international tourism activities. They also led to the administration of Nigeria as a full member of the International Union of Official Travel Organizations (IUOTO), now World Tourism Organization (WTO), in 1964.

Government's contribution through the NTDC is mainly in the area of promoting, coordinating and marketing tourism activities in Nigeria; identifying the nation's tourism resources; direct involvement in tour-

ism project development through joint venture with tourist centers, while financing the international Youth Tourism Centre in Jos among others.

In most developed countries and some parts of the developing world, tourism has emerged as a major source of revenue. USA, Britain, Japan, Brazil and Kenya are among countries that earn high revenue from tourism due to their government interest in the sector. Nigerian's expenses on the

other hand have not been particularly rewarding, undermining her enormous potentials. This is largely because government utmost interest still lies on oil.

Recently, governor Donald Duke of Cross State described tourism as a most viable sector of the global economy.

In order to exploit the tourism potentials of the state, governor Duke inaugurated a Tourism Bureau where he told members to take responsibility of policy formulation and implementation of the tourism sites.

Duke has scheduled the Obudu Ranch Mountain Race. This is a particularly encouraging initiative by a state governor. The federal government only needs to take a cue.

At inception of his administration, president Obasanjo expressed passionately, his commitment to diversify the economy and alleviate poverty. He emphasized tourism development as a major step towards that direction.

Nigeria could be said to enjoy comparative advantage in tourism within Africa, going by her status as arguably, the tenth largest country in the world with a population of about 120 million people and considering her diverse cultural and tourism potentials, as well as environmental resources.

Director-General of NIDC Omotayo Omotosho observes that, "despite these vast endowments, little has been realized from the tourism sector which is the mainstay of the economy of most African states".

The Minister of Culture and Tourism, Boma Bnllmllow Jack, on her part

expressed confidence that Tourism will, in no distant future overtake all other sectors as the biggest employer of labour in the country. She cited official reports on foreign investment as indicating that there has been more direct investment in the hospitality industry in the last few years than in any other industry.

Nigeria's rich heritage is typified by her historic arts and crafts, natural and artificial parks, waterfalls, games reserves, beaches etc. The NTDC, over the last few years, enhanced the country's presentation in foreign fairs by devising ways of promoting her tourists' sites to foreign tourists, thus boosting tourism investments. In 2002, Nigeria has a remarkable outing in the ITB Berlin Exhibition. Mrs. Stella Obasanjo, led the countries delegation, which included Brimollew Jack, Omotosho and Agbani Darego, the then Mrs. World.

Nigeria can boast of investible tourist sites like Yankari National Park in Bauchi, Kainji Lake Park in Niger State, Gashaka Game Reserves in Adamawa, Ogunta Lake Resort in Imo State and Olumo Rock in Abeokuta. There are also craft materials like textiles from places like Abeokota, Oshogbo and Benue, Ceramic, wood carving, and many more.

All these require competent apprehension for the Nigeria public to feel their positive economic impact and for government to de-emphasize oil as the main revenue generating resource.

Kadiri Abdulrahman, Kubwa, Abuja.

Thank you Adamu Adamu

This is to thank Adamu Adamu for the article: **Mu'azu, Rimi and Bauchi roads.**

In Nigeria today, to give a minute fraction of people's entitlement makes a leader a hero.

Unfortunately, even the so-called elites cannot discern beyond that. So, crookish leaders embark on eye-service projects and few can even

think it proper to question the cost.

As for our six years' systematic marginalization in Katagum zone, they say the blind man does not know that he is being watched until he is touched.

My magnanimous advice to Mu'azu is to go for the Senate to represent Bauchi South only, come 2007. For the presidency, it is said "Show me your

friend and I tell you who you are". We have known Mu'azu's campaign manager (Dariye) so we can safely conclude they are birds of the same feather. They are however, not immune from our sense of judgment. Wake-up all the more, Adamu Adamu!

Mohammed Ahmed, Galdimari - Misau, Bauchi State.

Letter to Gov Adamu

May I use your widely read medium to solicit for help from the first executive governor of Nasarawa State, Alhaji (Dr.) Abdullahi Adamu.

Sir, I worked as a pioneer staff with the *Nigerian Newsday* newspaper, a parastatal under the Nasarawa State Ministry of Information for 4 years in the Computer section of the Production Department.

Your Excellency sir, throughout the period I served (four years), I was not allowed to go on annual leave (although I applied four times), neither was I paid anything for the times I should have enjoyed the annual leave and I was not served any correspondence in that respect.

Throughout my service to the parastatal, I never enjoyed any promotion or salary review, I believe I contributed

my best due to the fact that throughout that period, there was no week that the paper did not make it to the streets.

Last year (2004), my department was completely forgotten as to the one-step increment that is supposed to be enjoyed by every member of staff. We had to write on July, 2004, before we were paid May and June, 2004, dividends in arrears remaining the balance from January-April 2004, which is still due for payment. We wrote while I was still serving but we were not paid. We wrote again pleading in the Name of Allah (SWT), but were promised to be paid soonest, I am yet to be paid the four months arrears.

My appointment was terminated late last year via a re-organisation by the newspaper, I was advised to go to Lafia to receive my entitlements, I went with the hope of

receiving everything - the balance of 2 years leave grant, (I was paid for 2001, 2002, remaining the balance of 2003 and 2004); four years leave that was refused me (normally managements pay a month's salary for each one year leave you are not allowed to enjoy, I have 4 years), and the balance of my four months yearly increment - (January to April, 2004).

I know your government owes no worker leave grant for the years you have been governor. Infact, workers' welfare has always been in the forefront of your administration's cardinal objectives. I also heard you on FRCN Kaduna's *Hannu Da Yawa* programme saying so. Sir, kindly help me get all my entitlements.

Abdullahi Korau, Kawo, Kaduna.

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



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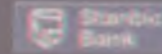
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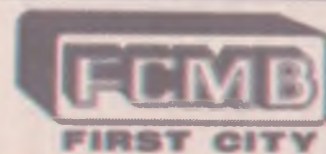


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Advertorial

The Inspector General of Police
 Louis Edet House,
 Shehu Shagari Way,
 Abuja.

14th February, 2005

Dear Sir,

UNLAWFUL USE OF THE POLICE BY THE KATSINA STATE GOVERNMENT TO INTIMIDATE OPPONENTS AND RIG ELECTIONS

We, the undersigned, duly elected representatives of the people of Katsina state under the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP), hereby wish to intimate you on the unlawful use of the police by the Katsina State Government to intimidate opponents and rig elections. We have resorted to writing you publicly because all previous correspondences with the Katsina State Police Command have proved ineffective.

Many commissioners of police (CP) have been in command in Katsina state during the elections held since April, 2003. The misuse of the police has however remained consistent, which suggests that the CPs might be carrying out orders from the highest authorities. This assertion is supported by the Police signal, a copy of which was tendered as an exhibit at the Presidential Election Tribunal. The signal instructed all State Police Commands to ensure victory for the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in the April, 2003 elections. The assertion is further reinforced by various disclosures in the press about the activities of the former Inspector General of Police, Mr. Tafa Balogun, which amounted to collusion with state governors to suppress opposition parties during the elections.

We are glad that you are willing to make a change for the better, as evidenced by your well publicized 10-point agenda and seeming willingness to correct past misdeeds. The misuse of the police by the Katsina state government during elections in the past took many forms, some of which were:

1. The wide-scale arrest of ANPP supporters before, during, and immediately after the elections at the behest of local PDP stalwarts and government officials. They were released long after the conclusion of the elections and only after the extortion of large sums of money from their relatives. This has happened in all elections and all local government areas of the state since April, 2003.

2. Squads of mobile police in motorised personnel carriers have been known to sing war songs, blow their sirens wildly, and shooting in the air indiscriminately, thereby scaring away voters from polling stations (especially women and the aged), and even killing innocent citizens. For instance, Mallam Abubakar Bala Rawayau was shot and killed, while Shehu Kabir was wounded on April 19th 2003 at a polling station in the Kankara local government area. Similarly, at the Malumfashi local government bye-election, which took place on November 29, 2003 a squad of mobile police under the area command terrorised Malumfashi town and its environs both on the eve of the election and on the election day.

3. In the rural areas of the state, the police were used to physically drive away voters from polling stations by beating them up in order to facilitate the stuffing of ballot boxes with illegal ballot papers by PDP supporters and top government officials in collusion with election officials. This happened at the Ingawa local government area during the Katsina state local government elections of March 27th, 2004.

4. Giving cover to thugs imported by the PDP to unleash mayhem among ANPP supporters in polling stations and collection centres while the police look the other way. In the Malumfashi local government bye-election, Hon. Hadi Sirika, a ANPP member of the House of Representatives, was violently attacked and nearly killed in Dayi town. The episode took place in the presence of over 100 policemen, who just stood by. During the Katsina state local government elections of March 27, 2004, PDP thugs under leadership of one Dr. Garba Matazu (a PDP member of House of Representatives) burned over 30 houses to ashes in Karaduwa village in Matazu local government area, including that of the ANPP candidate, Alh. Husaini Adamu Karaduwa. Nobody has been arrested or prosecuted for that in spite of reports to the police.

5. The mounting of heavy security at election distribution centres and prevention of accredited ANPP officials from witnessing and certifying the distribution of election materials, even though material certification is a pre-condition for credible and transparent elections. PDP stalwarts were however allowed free access at such centres. At the just concluded charade otherwise called the Katsina state local government elections of December 18, 2004, ANPP officials were banned by the police from entering the headquarter offices of the Independent Electoral Commission in the state to certify election materials and supervise their distribution. PDP stalwarts were however allowed free passage.

6. At the collation and returning centres, the police were also used to drive away accredited ANPP officials from witnessing the collation. This enabled the PDP stalwarts in collusion with the electoral officials to allocate high votes to their favoured candidates. During the April 2003 elections, ANPP officials were refused access to these centres in Kankara, Safana, Kaita, and Charanchi local government areas.

7. The attachment of armed police squads to top PDP stalwarts and top government officials on election day, who went about driving away innocent voters from polling stations to enable the stuffing of ballot boxes with illegal ballot papers. During the Malumfashi local government bye-election, Engineer Muntaka Rabe, a commissioner in the PDP local government who was protected by a squad of armed police, physically assaulted and injured an agent of *The Network for Justice*, an independent election monitor at a polling station. In the just concluded local government elections of December 18th, 2004, the same person went about polling stations in Katsina harassing innocent voters and spearheading the stuffing of ballot boxes with illegal ballot papers.

8. The provision of police security to residences and business premises of PDP stalwarts while denying same to the ANPP.

We wish to inform you that another state assembly bye-election is coming up in Katsina on 19 February 19, 2005. We expect a departure from the bleak past, and urge you to comply with your 10-point agenda on the reformation of the police during this bye-election. Let the credible face you intend to give the police start to show now.

We wish you good health and God's guidance.
 Yours faithfully,

- 1. Senator Kanti Bello
- 2. Senator Abu Ibrahim
- 3. Hon. Lawal Garba
- 4. Hon. (Engr.) Nuhu Magaji
- 5. Hon. Dr. Ishak Kurfi
- 6. Hon. Tukur Idris Nadabo
- 7. Hon. Bashir Idris Nadabo
- 8. Hon. Hadi Sirika
- 9. Hon Hamisu Gambo
- 10. Hon. Kabir Ado
- 11. Hon. Mahmud Ahmed
- 12. Hon. Kabir Tandama
- 13. Hon. Shuaibu Katsayel
- 14. Hon. Bello Abubakar Ingawa
- 15. Hon. Manzo Yusuf Madaka
- 16. Hon. Bishir Abubakar K/Soli
- 17. Hon. Abdu Abdullahi
- 18. Hon. Ya'u Ahmed
- 19. Hon. Haruna Aliyu Yamel
- 20. Hon. Musa Adamu
- 21. Hon. Abba Mato



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3RD NATION-WIDE ANNUAL SECONDARY SCHOOLS' COMPETITION, 2005

NAFDAC hereby invites all members of NAFDAC Consumers Safety Club (NCSC) nation-wide to participate in the 2005 Secondary Schools' Competition With the theme: "Eradication of Fake and Adulterated Product and Promotion of Quality & Integrity"

This year's competition would be conducted through written examination in all the states of the federation and Abuja on Saturday, 19th February, 2005

Eligible Participants: Members of NCSC in both JSS and SSS levels

Methods of Participation: Members of NCSC are to report at their states' designated examination centres for a written test, with their NCSC identity card duly signed by their school Co-ordinators. All rules guiding the conduct of an examination will be strictly observed.

Notification of Results: State and Zonal Winners will be duly communicated in writing only, while national winners will be communicated both in writing and through National dailies.

Prizes to be Won by Students and Schools:-

- * Computer work stations (with full accessories)
- * Educational Savings Account
- * Colour T.V. sets
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NAFDAC wishes to use this occasion to heartily congratulate the National Winners of the 2003 & 2004 editions of the Nationwide Secondary Schools' Essay Competition, their Parents, Guardians, Principals and NCSC Coordinators.

The 2003 and 2004 National winners are hereby invited to the 2005 National Award Ceremony, coming up in Abuja on the 3rd of February, 2005.

NATIONAL AWARD WINNERS

SENIOR CATEGORY



Name: Ezimako Linda N
School: Holy-Rosary Sec. Sch
Thioma, Imo State
Position: 1st
Personal Prize: N50,000.00
School Prize: A Desktop
Computer set at N120,000.00



Name: Rachel V. Garba
School: Govt. Girls Senior Sec. School
Doma, Gombe State
Position: 2nd
Personal Prize: N30,000.00
School Prize: A Desktop Computer set at N120,000.00



Name: Sangola Adkins
School: Federal Govt College,
Ikirik, Ogun State
Position: 3rd
Personal Prize: N20,000.00
School Prize: A Desktop Computer set at N120,000.00

JUNIOR CATEGORY



Name: Alachukwu Ifeoluwa
School: Fed. Govt. College,
Warri, Delta State
Position: 1st
Personal Prize: N50,000.00
School Prize: A Desktop
Computer valued at N120,000.00



Name: Ijeoma Chizoba Nnonaka
School: Providence High School, Enugu,
Enugu State
Position: 2nd
Personal Prize: N30,000.00
School Prize: A Desktop
Computer valued at N120,000.00



Name: Joy Okon
School: Gombe High School,
Gombe State
Position: 3rd
Personal Prize: N20,000.00
School Prize: A Desktop
Computer valued at N120,000.00

NATIONAL AWARD WINNERS 2003

(Senior Category)

Position	Name of Student	School	Prize
1 st	Jenny Sunday Inuk	Immaculate Conception Secondary School, Itak-Ikono Akwa-Ibom State	N50,000.00
2 nd	Koufa Oyinkepreye	Federal Government Girls College, Imiringi, Bayelsa State	N30,000.00
3 rd	Grace, G. Akpabio	Adiah Obong Secondary Commercial School, Eniong Offot, Uyo, Akwa-Ibom	N20,000.00

(Junior Category)

Position	Name of Student	School	Prize
1 st	Nnamdi Okolodu	Federal Government College, Vandeikya, Benue State	N50,000.00
2 nd	Ezegbu Isaac	Federal Government College, Okigwe, Imo State	N30,000.00
3 rd	Ete Obong Okon Edet	St. Brians Model College, Uyo, Akwa Ibom State	N20,000.00

For further enquiries, please telephone 01-4521212, 08033154512, 08023116264 or 09-5241109, 08037881120.

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Africa

Zimbabwe clamps down on journalists

The police in Zimbabwe have raided the offices of three journalists, saying they were looking for spying equipment.

The journalists - who report for the *Associated Press*, *London Times* and South African newspapers - said they only had normal office equipment.

A lawyer for the journalists said the raid - which lasted six hours on Monday night - was a clear case of harassment and intimidation.

Zimbabwe is due to hold parliamentary elections on 31 March.

Correspondents said the government of President Robert Mugabe is determined to limit reporting using restrictive media laws passed in 2002.

"It's harassment," said their lawyer, Beatrice Mtetwa.

"Police came to their office with three different sets of allegations, so it's obvious

they don't know what to charge them with. They [police] are looking for a reason to lock them up."

After the three - Angus Shaw, Jan Raath and Brian Latham - were accused of

spying, the police accused them of working as journalists without official accreditation - an offence which can lead to a two-year jail term.

Mr Shaw told *BBC News* that they had applied to re-

new their accreditation and so they were legally free to continue working.

He said they were now waiting to see if the police would charge them with any offence.



Anti government protesters run through the streets of Lome, as Togolese troops fire tear gas stun grenades in the streets of Lome, Togo, recently.

Odd World

Pastor hands \$14,000 to congregation for investment

A pastor handed out \$14,000 to congregation members to invest for seven weeks, after which they are to bring the money and profits back to the church to be used in missionary work.

"The idea has always been in the back of my mind," said Pastor Steve Dyer of the Newsong Church.

Loud gasps were heard throughout the 125-member, interdenominational church as the envelopes containing \$100 and \$50 bills were ripped open after the Sunday sermon. Some members thought the bills were counterfeit. Others shook their heads in bewilderment.

Dyer had placed crisp \$100 bills in red envelopes for adults and \$50 bills in green envelopes for school-age children. "That is going to be a lot of fun," Dyer said. "A lot of people already have ideas."

Teacia Williams, 14, said she is going to use her \$50 to purchase newspaper ads advertising her availability to babysit. "I plan on doubling the money," she said.

Dyer said the church isn't keeping track of who has the money, but did give one stipulation: it was not to be used to buy lottery tickets or to gamble.

When asked what the church will do if someone steals the money, Dyer replied, "That's between them and God."

Dyer preached Sunday about the Parable of the Talents found in Matthew 25:14-28.

Farmer paints pigeons to keep off predators

A Dutch farmer has painted pigeons pink and green to keep off hungry birds of prey and it seems to have worked, a Dutch newspaper reported yesterday.

"I'm crazy about the birds... Naturally, birds of prey are going to eat pigeons, but preferably not here," the farmer told the *Algemeen Dagblad* newspaper.

He began painting the birds with environmentally friendly, water-based paint a year ago.

"The colours make the pigeons seem unsuitable as prey. The birds of prey simply don't recognize them anymore," he said.

Woman, 79, attacks cops with cane

Prosecutors have charged a 79-year-old woman who police said injured two officers when she struck them with a wooden cane.

The officers, both of whom were treated for their injuries at area hospitals, were hurt after they arrived at Betty Chambers' home south of South Bend to check on her welfare. One officer had a separated shoulder and hand injury while the other might have suffered a mild concussion, said Jaimee Thirion, a spokeswoman for St. Joseph County police.

Tuesday afternoon, prosecutors charged Chambers with resisting law enforcement and battery, both felonies.

The altercation began shortly after officers John Pavlekovich and Lonny Foresman arrived at the home Friday evening, a police report said.

St. Joseph County Prosecutor Michael Dvorak said officers were called to the home to investigate a possible domestic abuse charge against the caretaker.

"This is a serious concern because police are there to protect all of us," Dvorak said.

When officers arrived, the woman's caretaker, Thomas Holleman, 56, became argumentative and told the officers to leave, according to a police report. The officers reported that the man refused to cooperate and an altercation ensued while they tried to handcuff him.

Holleman also was charged with battery and resisting law enforcement.

US development aid nets \$19 billion

The US government's official development assistance (ODA) has risen from \$10 billion in 2000 to \$19 billion in 2004, according to documents released by the US state department.

In a statement made available by the US embassy in Nigeria, the ODA spending rose faster between 2000 and 2004 than any time since the Marshall Plan, when US spent heavily to rebuild Europe after World War II.

It said that the Bush administration's Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) initiative, which is designed to assist developing countries "rule justly, foster economic freedom, and invest in their people," has received one billion dollars in funding in 2004 and an additional \$1.5 billion dollars in 2005.

Eight of the 17 countries eligible for MCA funding are

By Elkanah Chawai, Reporter (Foreign desk)

in sub-Saharan Africa, which saw its trade with the US increase more than 65 percent from 2000 to 2003, the statement stated further.

The statement added that the Trade for African Development and Enterprise Initiative which aims to expand the role that trade play in African poverty reduction strategy, was funded at \$25 million in 2004 for the purpose of increasing trade and investment in Africa.

In the realm of peace and security, the statement said that the US Global Peace Operators Initiative will provide \$114 million to support African peace operations starting in fiscal year 2006.

Meanwhile, the embassy has disclosed over 6.3 million entries for the 2006 diversity visa lottery were received during the two-month elec-

tronic registration.

The programme was designed to bring greater racial and ethnic diversity of the US and offer permanent resi-

dency visas to citizens of nations that have a traditionally low level of immigration to the US.

AISA wants greater role in AU

The executive secretary-general of the African Iron and Steel Association (AISA), Alhaji Sanusi A. Mohammed said that it can play a crucial role in the African development project.

The executive secretary who was speaking to newsmen Tuesday in Abuja said: "we have a role to play in the AU but the ground is not healthy enough for such effort to yield immediate result."

According to Sanusi, the continent's development is being hijacked by myriad of factors which include: corruption, insincerity, inconsistency in government policy and high level of government interference.

By Jibrin Abubakar, Reporter (Foreign)

"We have written to the AU to address the problem of African leadership in order to sensitise them on the problem of the continent.

He said God has endowed Africa with enough potential that can be harness for developmental purposes.

On importing engineers to help industrialise the country, Sanusi said it was baseless as there are Nigerian experts who can carry out the function of industrialisation.

He said unless Nigerians build trust and domestic security, international investment will continue to elude the country.

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Middle East

Lebanon: Thousands mourn al-Hariri

Screaming and weeping mourners surrounded the flag-draped coffin carrying the body of former Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri as hundreds of thousands of people turned out for his burial yesterday, two days after a huge bomb killed the man credited with rebuilding post-civil war Lebanon.

Thousands of people converged on the Muhammad Amin Mosque, causing a crush, as the funeral service took place.

Al-Hariri and 14 other people were killed in an apparent suicide car bombing in the capital on Monday.

Tensions have soared since the attack, which many

Lebanese blame on Syria. The Syrian government has denied it was responsible for the blast.

The US has recalled its ambassador to Syria in protest at the bombing, although it has not directly accused Damascus of responsibility.

French President Jacques Chirac, for decades a close friend of al-Hariri, travelled to Beirut yesterday to pay his respects.

Syrian Vice President Abdul-Halim Khaddam, also a friend of Mr Hariri, attended the funeral, although Mr Hariri's family had warned Syrian and Lebanese officials to stay away.

Several other foreign dignitaries were present, including US Assistant Secretary of State William Burns, Arab League General Secretary Amr Moussa and European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana.

As al-Hariri's body arrived at the mosque, grieving mourners tried to seize the coffin, prompting Mr Hariri's eldest son, Bahaa, to appeal for calm.

"We don't want his last minutes to be like this, step back away from his body," he pleaded through a microphone.

The casket, was passed through the jostling crowd into the huge sandstone-coloured mosque, where prayers were said, before it was finally lowered into a

freshly-dug plot.

al-Hariri's remains, and those of several bodyguards who were also killed in the blast outside the St Georges Hotel, were earlier transported by ambulance three kilometres to the mosque from his home in west Beirut.

In emotionally charged scenes, a sea of mourners, many carrying Lebanese flags, escorted the cortege.

Men and women wept uncontrollably as spectators on balconies showered the crowd with rice.

The BBC's correspondent in Beirut said Christians, Muslims and Druze alike are grieving for the death of the Sunni Muslim billionaire.

Cries of "Syria out, Syria out" rang out from the crowd, as mourners vented their anger at Lebanon's powerful overlord. Others yelled "Revenge, revenge on Lahoud and Bashar", referring to the presidents of Lebanon and Syria.

A huge security operation was staged for the event, with heavily armed police and troops fanned out along the funeral route.

Armoured vehicles were stationed in back streets and sharpshooters positioned on rooftops.

Anti-Syrian fervour turned violent on Tuesday, when thousands of protesters took to the streets in the northern port of Tripoli and al-Hariri's home town of Sidon in the south.



Mourners surround former prime minister, Rafiq al-Hariri's coffin during his funeral in Beirut, yesterday. Tens of thousands of Lebanese turned the funeral of former Prime Minister, Rafiq al-Hariri, into an outpouring of public wrath against Syria, blamed by opposition leaders for the bomb that killed him.

Yemen arrests five Al-Qaeda suspects

Yemeni security forces have detained five people, including a woman, suspected of belonging to Al-Qaeda and plotting attacks on embassies and Western targets in the country, security sources said.

"At the beginning of this week, we have succeeded to arrest five (suspected Al-Qaeda members) who were trying to plant explosive materials near an installation belonging to a Western country," one source told AFP.

The five suspects, who "were planning attacks on embassies and Western targets," included a woman, the source said.

There were no further details.

Yemeni opposition electronic newspaper *Rai News* said yesterday the five "were plotting suicide attacks against Western embassies, including that of the United States and Britain in Sanaa."

It said "a 22-year-old member of the group hesitated at the last moment to carry out a suicide attack with a belt of explosives against one of the two embassies."

"The suspect then headed to a police station south of Sanaa where he gave a confession that allowed security forces to arrest the other members of the group."

"The police seized arms and explosives from the homes of the members of the group, which probably belongs to the Al-Qaeda network," it said.

Yemen has cracked down on suspected Al-Qaeda members at the behest of the United States. It has already convicted two groups over the 2000 bombing of the US navy destroyer Cole in Aden that killed 17 American sailors and over the bombing of the French tanker Limburg two years later.

Egypt offers border guards for Gaza

Egypt is offering 750 border guards to seal Gaza from smuggled weapons and is urging Syria to restrain Hamas and other activists groups from attacking Israel, Foreign Minister Ahmed Aboul Gheit said Tuesday.

"We will do whatever is needed on our part," Aboul Gheit said before he and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice discussed Egypt's offer to help in Israel's withdrawal from Gaza.

"We have a lot ahead of us," Rice said at a joint news conference after they met at the State Department. She emphasised the Palestinians and Israel had the primary responsibility: the Palestinians to fight terror, Israel to help improve living conditions on the West Bank and in Gaza.

Rice also renewed her demand that the two sides implement President Bush's 2002 "road map" for peace-making.

On a discordant note, Rice said she had raised with the foreign minister "our very strong concerns" about the arrest of the head of Egypt's opposition party on forgery charges.

Rice said the detention of Ayman Nour, leader of the al-Ghad, or Tomorrow Party, was important to the administration, Congress and the American people. She said she had taken it up with Aboul Gheit "at some length."

Egypt will not send its own forces into the territory Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon intends to begin turning over to the Palestinians later this year because there would be a risk of Egyptian casualties, Aboul Gheit said.

But besides deploying border guards, the foreign minister said Egypt would send a few security officials to Gaza to assess the needs of Palestinian security forces, bring senior Palestinians to Egypt for training and ask Israel to approve stationing two Egyptian battalions along its border to guard against two-way smuggling.

"We have to keep pushing for implementing the Israeli pullout" from Gaza and northern parts of the West Bank, Aboul Gheit said.

Egypt, which helped Sharon and Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas reach a truce Feb. 8, is interceding with Syria to stop Hamas and

Iraq's Sunnis demand US exit

A meeting of groups which boycotted January's elections has called for a date for US troops to leave Iraq if they are to take part in the crucial task of writing a new constitution.

A statement issued at the end of the meeting at Baghdad's Umm al-Qura mosque, the headquarters of Iraq's leading Sunni body, called for "an internationally guaranteed timetable for the withdrawal of foreign troops".

The meeting involved a representative of the Asso-

ciation for Muslim Scholars, an Arab nationalist, a former member of ousted president Saddam Hussein's Baath party and a representative of radical Shia cleric Muqtada al-Sadr.

None of those present took part in the 30 January election mostly because they objected to a vote being held under what they call "foreign occupation".

The group also listed "an end to handing out political posts based on religious, racial or ethnic criteria, (and) recognition of the people's right to resist" the occupation as their conditions for taking part in "national reconciliation and drawing up the constitution".

Shia and Kurdish leaders who emerged victorious from the vote have admitted the necessity of bringing in marginalised groups to help draw up the constitution in order for the country to move forward.

The group stressed their "rejection of terrorist acts against innocent Iraqis, infrastructure and places of worship".

Israel to organise pullout with Palestine

Israel Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said his government will coordinate with Palestinians the planned disengagement from the Gaza Strip.

Mr Sharon said he hoped that after the pull-out, Gaza would be under the control of the Palestinian Authority and not Islamic groups.

The move came as Israeli soldiers shot dead two suspected activist near a settlement in the West Bank.

Israeli and Palestinian officials agreed to a ceasefire last week.

Speaking at a press conference on Tuesday, Mr Sharon said: "It's very impor-

tant to us [that Gaza] won't be in the hands of Hamas, Islamic Jihad... but in the hands of the Palestinian Authority."

He said he would not be deterred despite the increasingly vocal threats from Jewish right-wing extremists opposed to the plan.

"My own personal safety does not affect me or my plans," he said. "In my entire life, I have never surrendered to threats."

He said the disengagement was part of a process paving the way towards a return to the international peace plan, the road map.

"The administration that will emerge from the elections must not have the right to agree international treaties which could harm Iraq's sovereignty and independence, nor its natural resources," said the statement.

Participants said the incoming government would be "illegitimate", adding that election day had seen "fraud" and a low level of participation.

They stressed the necessity of "adopting democracy as a means of rotating power ... respecting the Arab and Muslim identity of Iraq, (and freeing) political prisoners, especially women."

Elsewhere five Iraqis were killed and nine others wounded in a string of insurgent attacks across the country, security sources said Tuesday.

Two soldiers were killed and another wounded when a bomb exploded near the restive Sunni town of Dhuluiyah, north of Baghdad, Captain Asad Amjad said.

"The blast went off at 9.00 am as an army patrol drove by," the officer said.

Near the town of Balad, further north, the body of an executed soldier was pulled out of the Tigris river, a police source said. It was not clear when and in what circumstances he was killed.

Five Iraqis, including a child and a soldier, were also wounded Tuesday in a blast in Abu Farraj, near Saddam Hussein's home town of Tikrit, police said.

In Baghdad, a policeman and a member of the civil aviation administration were shot dead late Monday, police said.

Three other policemen were also wounded in a mortar attack in the capital.

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From Friday 18th - Sunday 27th February, 2005.

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United Bank for Africa Plc

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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	1:00p.m.
Abuja - Yola	14:30
Yola - Abuja	15:30
Yola - Lagos	4:00p.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 - CBQ	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	8:30a.m.
Lagos-PHC	10:30am.
PHC-Lagos	12:30am.
Lagos-Kano	2:30p.m.
Kano-Lagos	4:30p.m.
Lagos-Abuja	6:30pm.

ADC Airline

Lagos-Abuja	7:15a.m.
	12:45p.m.
Abuja-Lagos	8:55a.m.
Lagos-Calabar	11:15am.
Calabar-Lagos	7:20am.
P/H-Lagos	9:45am.
Lagos-Sokoto	8:55am
Sokoto-Lagos	11:55am

Most airlines operate the same flight schedule on week days.

Banking

25BN CAPITALISATION

Northern governors to rescue BON

From Isa Umar Gusau, Reporter (Damaturu)

The nineteen northern state governors would soon schedule a meeting to strategise ways of assisting Bank of the North (BON) Limited, to meet the N25 billion share capital requirements for banking operations in Nigeria as demanded by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN).

The governor of Yobe state, Bukar Abba Ibrahim revealed this in Damaturu, Yobe state capital while receiving some officials of the NUB International Bank.

Governor Ibrahim said that assisting Bank of the North has become paramount since the northern states and their people are stakeholders in the sustainability of the bank.

He called on the NUB to consider merging with BON

since both banks were partners in the same economic focus.

Governor Ibrahim noted that the idea of the N25 billion share capital, which he said

had attracted so much concern, was aimed at making solid financial activity in Nigeria.

He further revealed that the Yobe state government plans to invest the sum of N600 million in NUB with a

view to enhancing revenue generation in the state, while also contributing towards the economic base of the NUB.

The governor called on people especially northerners to invest in both Bank of the North and the NUB,

especially with the introduction of the N25 billion.

According him, it is only with the participation of stakeholders that the bank will meet the deadline after the N25 billion recapitalisation.

Emir, Yar'Adua woo investors to Intercity Bank

By Ahmed I. Shekarau, Group Business Editor and Anas Galadima Reporter (Business)

The Emir of Katsina, Alhaji Muhammadu Kabir Usman and the Katsina state governor, Alhaji Umar Musa Yar'Adua have separately urged investors, particularly northerners, to make huge investments in Intercity Bank Plc's shares, once the bank opens its initial public offer (IPO).

Intercity Bank is currently awaiting the approval of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and the Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE) to float its shares on the capital market, in a bid to

raise N17 billion towards its recapitalisation.

Speaking when the directors of Intercity led by its chairman, Alhaji Falalu Bello, paid him a courtesy call in his palace in Katsina last week, the emir said that the state's economy cannot grow without financial intermediation, stressing that he will woo the entire people of his

emirate and Katsina state to invest massively in the bank.

The Katsina state governor had at a stakeholders' dinner also held in Katsina last week urged Katsina state indigenes to ensure that they maintain their level of shareholding in Intercity Bank, which currently stands at 25 per cent.



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at the 2005
Kaduna International Trade Fair

Date: Friday, February 18 - Sunday, February 27, 2005

Venue: Kaduna International Trade & Investment Centre, Km. 4, Kaduna-Zaria Road, Rigachikun, Kaduna.

Theme: PRIVATE-PUBLIC SECTOR PARTNERSHIP FOR ACCELERATED GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT IN COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND AGRICULTURE

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Business Trust

International Oil prices steady

World oil prices steadied as traders geared up for the latest weekly snapshot of US commercial crude inventory data.

New York's main contract, light sweet crude for delivery in March, edged up six cents to 47.32 dollars a barrel in electronic deals.

In London, the price of Brent North Sea crude oil for delivery in April, nudged down four cents to 45.35 dollars a barrel.

The US inventory data was expected to show that recent cold weather in the US northeast - a major consumer of heating fuel - led to stockpiles of distillates falling by 1.1 million barrels in the week ending February 11, analysts at the Sudeen brokerage firm said.

Crude inventories were expected to rise by 1.1 million barrels and stocks of gasoline, or petrol, by 300,000 barrels a few months away from the start of the so-called US driving season, when American motorists hit the open roads for their vacations.

World's longest range airliner

US aircraft manufacturer Boeing has hurled a fresh challenge at European rival Airbus, rolling out its first B-777-200LR, which it says is the world's longest-range commercial plane.

"This amazing airplane will connect virtually any two cities in the world with non-stop service," Boeing Commercial Airplanes chief executive Alan Mulally said as the aircraft was unveiled at Boeing facilities in Everett in the western state of Washington on Tuesday.

The 777-200LR extends the range of the 777 family by more than 1,500 nautical miles (2,787 kilometers) and allows for non-stop service between such cities as New York and Singapore and Los Angeles-Dubai, Boeing said.

It can carry 301 passengers up to 9,420 nautical miles (17,466 kilometers).

The first flight of the Worldliner, as the craft is to be called, is scheduled for early March, which will be followed by a seven-month test program that will include 300 hours of ground tests and 500 hours in the air.

The first 777-200LR is to be delivered to Pakistan International Airlines in January 2006.

Standard Chartered posts profits

Standard Chartered, the British-based emerging markets bank, posted a 39-percent rise in annual pretax profits and said its recent acquisition, Korea First Bank, would be an engine driving the group's growth in earnings.

Pretax profit rose to 2.158 billion dollars (1.658 billion euros) in 2004 compared with 1.550 billion a year earlier.

The figure was above analysts' consensus forecast for pretax profit of 2.10 billion dollars.

Yukos fighting to keep bankruptcy

Two months ago battered Russian oil company Yukos sought a U.S. bankruptcy court's protection from a Russian government-ordered auction of its key production unit. Now the company must fight to keep the case alive on U.S. soil.

Yukos was to begin presenting its arguments and witnesses Wednesday to support its position that the bankruptcy and a related lawsuit were properly filed in Houston-even though the company has no assets here beyond two bank accounts and its finance chief's home.

Yukos filed the bankruptcy Dec. 14 in an unsuccessful effort to head off the Dec. 19 auction of Yuganskneftegaz, which produced 60 percent of its oil.

Once Russia's biggest oil producer, Yukos was the target of a months-long tax probe that culminated in the forced auction to help pay off a \$27.5 billion back-tax levy.

Observers contend the crackdown was retribution for jailed ex-CEO Mikhail Khodorkovsky's funding of opposition parties, while the Kremlin maintains the probe ferreted out a shady business and dubious accounting.

Currency changes boost coke profits

Coca-Cola Corporation yesterday reported a slight rise in quarterly net income, boosted by the impact of currency fluctuations and a late surge in demand for soft drinks, juices and bottled waters.

The world's largest soft-drink maker earned \$1.2 billion, or 50 cents a share, in the fourth quarter, compared with \$927 million, or 46 cents a share, a year earlier. Excluding special items, profit was 46 cents a share.

Revenue rose to \$5.26 billion from \$5.18 billion.

Analysts on average had forecast Coca-Cola, which lowered its long-term earnings targets during the fourth quarter, would earn 40 cents per share on sales of \$5.19 billion, according to Reuters Estimates.

First Bank earns N40bn in 9 months

First Bank of Nigeria Plc has announced a gross earning of N40.6 billion for nine months ended December 31, 2004. This is against N36.6 billion recorded in the corresponding period last year, and translates to an increase of 11.11 per cent.

A statement signed by Toyin Abayomi-Banjo, head of corporate affairs said, the bank's profit before tax also increased to N11.5 billion as against N8.5 billion recorded in the corresponding period last year, while profit after tax increased from N6,476 million to N8,746 million, that is 35 per cent.

The statement said this

came few days after the bank received merger and acquisition proposals from 10 banks, courted and forwarded M&A proposals to four targets, executed confidentiality agreements with three targets, concluded preliminary due diligence on two targets and obtained CBN preliminary authorisation to acquire one bank.

"These moves are in sync with the bank's determination to become the 'clear leader' in Nigeria's financial services industry by moving from total asset of about N400 billion to N1 trillion by the end of the financial year ended March 31, 2008," it

added.

The bank's shareholders' fund is projected to grow from the present N40 billion to over N100 billion by that period.

With over 240 branches and locations of the bank said to be on-line, real-time and a 363-branch network, First Bank has, over the years in the banking industry, paid the highest dividends to its shareholders.

Meanwhile, FBN Plc said it will from tomorrow, Friday, February 18, 2005, showcase its range of unique products and services at the year 2005 Kaduna International Trade Fair. The fair, scheduled for

February 19-27, 2005, will take place at the Kaduna International Trade Fair and Investment Centre, Kaduna.

The bank said, in another statement that it would offer its customers, its "premium technology-driven services like internet banking and banking on wheel, a novel transit banking system that has redefined financial services delivery in the country.

"Domestic Western Union Money Transfer within Nigeria as well as International Monetary Transfer through the Western Union Money Transfer, which First Bank pioneered in the country, will also be available," the statement added.

Chartered Bank opens 2.4bn shares offer

The Chartered Bank Plc's offer for subscription of 50k each at N3.40 per share will open next week.

Speaking at the occasion of the completion board meeting of the bank on Monday the chairman of the bank, Lt. General Muhammad Wushishi (rtd.) said the bank was

From Bright Ewulu, Deputy Business Editor (Lagos)

embarking on the offer in order to meet its strategic targets.

He said the over N8 billion proceeds expected from the offer will enable Chartered Bank to fund its expansion drive, upgrade its information technology

infrastructure and obtain needed working capital for the challenges ahead.

According to him, the offer which opens February 21, 2005 will close on March 21, 2005, adding that the bank which authorised share capital stands at N3.25 billion dividend into N6.5 billion ordinary shares of 50k each

hopes to attract a lot of investor's interest to the offer.

The prospectus of the offer indicated that issuing houses to the offer include Investment Banking Trust Company (IBTC) and FBN Merchant Bankers Limited.

The bank is projecting a profit after tax of N1.2 billion for 2005, N2.5 billion, for 2006 and 2007 (N3.8 billion).

FCMB board heralds IPO

First City Monument Bank (FCMB) Plc, the commercial banking arm and flagship of the First City Group, has opened another chapter in its consolidation programme as the board of directors signed all statutory documents relating to its initial public offer (IPO) which opened last week Wednesday.

A statement from the bank said, other stakeholders, including the financial advisers, registrars and representatives of the regulatory authorities, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) the Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE), reporting accountants, stockbrokers and the issuing houses, among others, attended the event held at the Shell Hall of Muson Centre, Onikan, Lagos.

The event, chaired by Doyen of investment banking in Nigeria, Otunba Michael O. Balogun, chairman of the FCMB Group, attracted several prominent figures as second republic vice president, Dr. Alex Ekwueme, former ministers, Chief Kola Jamodu, Otunba Ayora Bola Koforiji-Olubi and Chief (Mrs.) Onikepo Akande; former Central Bank of Nigeria governor, Mr. Ola Vincent, Mr. Kayode Odukoya, managing director, Bellview-Airlines and Barrister Jimoh Ibrahim, chief executive, global fleet oil & gas.

The statement signed by Okey Nwachukwu of media relations and research said, the meeting was a component of stage two of the bank's consolidation plans, which is to seek N16 billion from the capital market to shore up its capital base to N25 billion.

The first stage was a private placement of its shares, which "it was very successful as it was oversubscribed by 50 per cent."

This subsequently brought the bank's shareholders' funds to about N8.5 billion with the addition of N4.5 billion from the private placement, the statement added.

From Wednesday last week, the bank opened a public offer for four billion ordinary shares of 50 kobo at N4 per share.



THE PRESIDENCY

THE BUREAU OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (BPE)

Announces its Annual Public Lecture on
**Nigeria's Privatisation Program:
What Future For Nigerian Workers?**
By **Dr. Julius I. Bala,**
Director General of the Bureau of Public Enterprises

SPECIAL GUEST OF HONOUR:

Alhaji Ibrahim Mantu,
Deputy Senate President

HOST:

Alhaji Ahmed Makarfi,
Governor of Kaduna State

Date: Tuesday February 22nd, 2005

Venue: Conference Hall,
Command Guest House (Hotel),
Kaduna

Time: 10.00 a.m

Business Trust

INDUSTRY

Diversification, solution to economic woes – Hon. Nguroje

Call has been made to the federal government to

Briefs

Investments

From Abdulfatai

Abdulsalami, Correspondent, Sokoto

The Sokoto state government has been commended for its efforts in attracting investors to the state by providing the conducive environment for investments.

Chairman of Daddy's Smart Cuisine, chief Charles Ejemeka made the commendation at the company's corporate night at the weekend, in Sokoto.

The chairman commended the good initiative of the governor and the Sultan of Sokoto, His Eminence, Alhaji Muhammadu Maccido for ensuring peace and unity among the different tribes in the state.

Exports

From Mustapha Isah Kwaru, Correspondent, Kano

The promotion of export activities has been described as the major panacea that will salvage the total collapse of industries in the country.

A lecturer in the Business Administration Department of Bayero University Kano (BUK), Mallam Ado Kofar Mata stated this in Kano.

In a paper entitled "export: can it save industry in Nigeria from total collapse?" was delivered at the annual general meeting of Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN), Kano state branch, the university lecturer stated that it is known and accepted worldwide that sustainable industrial production is the most important catalyst for socio-economic development.

SMIEIS

The executive director, Community Development Foundation Nigeria, Mr. Akinola has commended Oceanic Bank International Plc. for its commitment to promoting the small and medium scale enterprises being a key player in the Small and Medium Equity Investment Scheme (SMIEIS).

Speaking at the annual Christian business forum of the St.

Dominic's Catholic Church, Yaba held recently at the church premises, with the theme: Effective Management A Divine Command!, the micro finance expert stressed that it was unfortunate that some of the banks in the country have not been receptive to small scale entrepreneurs in terms of giving them loans to expand their businesses and profitability.

A statement from the bank said, speaking on Sources and Management of Fund, the Oceanic Bank team led by Mr. Francis Ebuchi, Head, Products and e-Business, told the hundreds of participants at the event that the bank, with over N27 billion capital base was ready to drive the economy by improving the lots of Nigerians who are ready to tap into any of the many services available to them in the bank.

diversify the economy and look for other ways of generating revenue into the nations coffers.

Speaking to newsmen recently in Abuja, a member of the House of Representatives representing Gashaka/Kurmi/Sardauna federal constituency, Hon. Babangida Saidu Nguroje made this call in the wake of the fall in the prices of crude.



Idris Waziri, commerce minister

SMEDAN's techno expo opens March 9

The Small and Medium Enterprises Development of Nigeria (SMEDAN) would from March 9 to 11, 2005, host the micro small and medium enterprises technology/research and development exposition at the Trade Fair complex, Abeokuta, Ogun state.

A statement signed by Levi Anyikwa, chief press officer of SMEDAN said, the techno expo was initially slated to hold in Ibadan on November 22-27, 2005 but was suspended due to logistics contains that SMEDAN is organising the expo in collaboration with the federal ministries of industry and technology, and agriculture and rural development.

The theme of the expo according to the statement, linking Smes with research and development results for wealth creation. The Expo is aimed at bringing together Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises on one hand and local fabricators, equipment manufacturers, Universities, Polytechnics and research institutes and other stakeholders, on the other hand, the statement.

Trade groups such as National Association of Small Scale Industrialists (NASSSI), Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN), National Association of Chambers of Commerce Industry Mines and Agriculture (NACCIMA) are expected to mobilise their members to the Expo.

Also Nigerian educational Institutions, Research Institutes, fabricators foundry association, and equipment Manufacturers are expected to mobilise their members for the Expo.

government should reduce our over dependence on revenue generated from the oil sector and look onward to other sectors of the economy.

The government can make so much money in agriculture, tourism and by exploiting our solid minerals potentials."

He cited an example with the bauxite and precious stones deposit that abound in his constituency in Taraba state. He said "we have so much deposit of Bauxite and precious stones in my constituency and if these minerals are exploited and harnessed the revenue profile of the nation will increase it might even amaze you to know that the country could realise more than the revenue guaranteed annually from the oil sector".

He also said that, today the tourism industry is a great revenue earner for several countries in the world. "Why cant Nigeria improve her earnings by developing our vast tourist potentials" He queried.

Hon. Nguroje also used this opportunity to remind the federal government to speed up the feasibility studies on the Mambilla hydro power project.

According to him, it is not encouraging that after several appropriations for the feasibility studies on the project, nothing much has been done.

He said that if developed, the Mambilla hydro power project is capable of generating enough electricity that will serve Nigeria and other neighbouring countries.

In his words "Nigeria will make over 20 billion dollars from generating and distributing electricity to neighbouring countries if the Mambilla hydro power project is completed."

British investors eye Nigeria – Envoy

The British High Commissioner to Nigeria, Mr. Richard Gozney, has declared that scores of British investors are eager to come to Nigeria once the Electricity Bill is passed into law by the National Assembly to complement the privatisation of the National Electric Power Authority (NEPA).

According to a statement signed by Adesoji Adesugba, head, communications and marketing of the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE), the envoy dropped the hint when he paid a courtesy visit to the director general of the BPE, Dr. Julius Bala, in his office in Abuja.

Mr. Gozney disclosed that many British companies are now awaiting the passage of the electricity bill into law by

the National Assembly before taking the necessary investment decisions to participate in the privatisation of the key sector of the economy.

The BPE boss however quickly explained that the Electricity Bill has been passed into law by the two arms of the National Assembly, stressing that the bill would soon become law the moment president Obasanjo gives his assent.

He however assured the visiting envoy that the President would give his assent this week to make the bill a law of the land and change the face of the electricity sector in Nigeria.

The British High Commissioner however urged the Nigerian government to encourage Nigerians in diaspora to come back home to participate in the privatisation programme.

The British envoy who visited the BPE office with his Deputy, Mr. David Whyatt, noted that there are many Nigerians in the UK who have made a lot of money and would like to engage in domestic investment back home.

"There are many young Nigerian guys in London who have a lot of money in UK and would be inclined to invest in Nigeria," he said.

'How Africa can attract global oil market'

By Ahmed I. Shekarau, Group Business Editor, with agency report

The African Petroleum Producers Association (APPA), says cooperation and partnership remain the best options for realising the benefits of hydrocarbon resources in the continent, to meet a large percentage of global demand for petroleum products.

President of the African oil cartel, APPA, Dr. Chekib Khaliel made this declaration at the opening of the 129th APPA conference in an address to delegates on Tuesday in Algiers.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) quotes Khaliel as saying that APPA members needed to collaborate more in order to increase their petroleum sector services.

"We produce a large portion of global oil demand and as such we need to strengthen our partnership to be able improve our supply to consumer nations," he said.

He said partnership and alliances would enable national oil companies (NOC's) of member nations to meet the supply needs of the industry in such areas as fiber ropes,

pipe-coating and fabrication, among others.

Khaliel who is also Algerian oil minister said the partnerships would enable the member countries to adapt to the challenges of the ever-changing business environment in the oil business.

He said the planned Trans-sahara gas pipeline from Nigeria to Algiers with Europe as the target market exemplified the trend of collaborative efforts among members.

According to him, APPA

NAN reports that the presidential adviser on petroleum and energy, Dr Edmund Daukoru is leading Nigerian delegation to the conference and he is to present a paper on the role of oil revenue in financing social and economic development.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that the Education Trust Fund of Katsina state (ETF) wishes to make the following changes in the composition of the members of its board of trustees:

Replacement of deceased Hon. Justice Mohammed Bello with Hajiya Indo Mohammed.

Any objection to the registration of this change by the above named Fund could be forwarded to

*The Registrar-General,
Corporate Affairs Commission,
Area II, Garki, Abuja,*

within 28 days of this publication.

SIGNED

SADDIQ RASHID ABUKUR
SECRETARY TO THE BOARD

Business Trust

1ST-TIER SECURITIES

THE NIGERIAN STOCK EXCHANGE

REPORT AS AT WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2005

COMPANY NAME	NO OF DEALS	QUOTATION(N)	QUANTITY TRADED	VALUE OF SHARES
CUTIX PLC	5	1.30	112,050	145,845.00
Sector Totals	5		112,050	145,845.00
AGRICULTURE/AGRO-ALLIED				
OKITIPUPA OIL PALM PLC.	4	0.75	39,000	29,425.50
THE OKOMO OIL PALM COMPANY PLC	20	15.36	830,071	13,028,893.75
PRESCO PLC.	12	12.00	119,150	1,429,215.00
Sector Totals	36		988,221	14,487,534.25
AUTOMOBILE & TYRE				
DUNLOP NIGERIA PLC.	18	2.10	108,132	225,630.22
R. T. BRISCOAE PLC.	3	6.86	7,653	50,153.92
Sector Totals	21		115,785	275,784.14
BANKING				
ACCESS BANK PLC	34	3.42	14,439,444	49,382,898.48
AFRIBANK NIGERIA PLC.	22	6.63	88,108	584,156.04
CHARTERED BANK PLC.	1	3.90	80,000	312,000.00
COOPERATIVE BANK PLC.	1	1.92	3,000	5,760.00
FIRST BANK OF NIGERIA PLC.	487	23.00	2,301,919	52,978,575.71
FSB INTERNATIONAL BANK PLC.	23	1.41	441,304	611,178.50
GUARANTY TRUST BANK PLC.	256	10.50	2,381,875	25,277,446.80
F BANK OF NIGERIA PLC.	4	0.74	117,600	87,024.00
INTERNATIONAL MERCHANT BANK PLC.	49	0.57	8,576,577	5,005,183.71
INLAND BANK (NIGERIA) PLC.	6	1.22	37,150	45,323.00
INTERCONTINENTAL BANK PLC.	16	7.81	151,499	1,183,207.19
LION BANK OF NIGERIA PLC.	2	0.68	70,016	47,410.72
MANUFACTURERS BANK NIGERIA PLC.	18	1.20	1,619,924	1,927,965.85
NAL BANK PLC.	5	2.80	13,836	38,740.80
OCEANIC BANK PLC	4	5.20	13,020	66,138.80
OMEGA BANK (NIGERIA) PLC.	32	1.67	475,651	784,221.58
STANDARD TRUST BANK PLC.	18	7.41	392,492	2,908,365.72
TRANS INTERNATIONAL BANK PLC.	26	1.64	502,111	829,490.92
TRADE BANK PLC.	1	1.35	4,000	5,400.00
UNITED BANK FOR AFRICA PLC.	96	10.00	5,618,841	56,188,410.00
UNION BANK NIGERIA PLC.	422	20.00	2,760,889	55,223,958.44
UNIVERSAL TRUST BANK PLC	12	0.77	434,560	332,752.40
WEMA BANK PLC.	5	3.93	37,671	148,047.03
ZENITH BANK PLC	198	13.62	2,563,775	34,543,039.05
Sector Totals	1,738		43,125,262	288,516,694.74
BREWERIES				
GUINNESS NIGERIA PLC.	119	99.90	152,646	15,223,618.84
INTERNATIONAL BREWERIES PLC.	1	0.90	400	360.00
NIGERIAN BREWERIES PLC.	421	38.00	1,496,712	56,199,199.48
Sector Totals	541		1,649,758	71,423,178.32
BUILDING MATERIALS				
ASHAKA CEMENT PLC.	95	24.67	924,636	21,857,560.08
BENUE CEMENT COMPANY PLC.	6	4.15	38,543	159,569.15
CEMENT CO. OF NORTHERN NIG. PLC	27	7.70	443,441	3,366,892.30
NIGERIAN ROPES PLC.	1	1.57	2,000	3,140.00
WEST AFR. PORTLAND CEMENT CO. PLC.	18	10.65	58,465	626,217.50
Sector Totals	147		1,467,085	26,013,379.03
CHEMICAL & PAINTS				
BERGER PAINTS PLC.	20	5.00	172,935	864,825.00
CAP PLC.	7	6.57	3,117	20,288.35
D. N. MEYER PLC.	3	5.09	6,566	33,411.94
NIGERIA-GERMAN CHEMICALS PLC.	9	4.25	10,212	43,401.00
Sector Totals	39		192,830	961,926.29
COMMERCIAL/SERVICES				
TRANS-NATIONWIDE EXPRESS PLC.	4	1.00	459,730	459,730.00
Sector Totals	4		459,730	459,730.00
COMPUTER & OFFICE EQUIPMENT				
TRIPPLE GEE AND COMPANY PLC.	1	0.87	1,000	870.00
Sector Totals	1		1,000	870.00
CONGLOMERATES				
A. G. LEVENTIS NIGERIA PLC.	8	1.10	117,200	129,370.00
C F A O NIGERIA PLC.	3	4.84	11,554	55,874.20
CHELLARAMS PLC.	1	1.71	10,000	17,100.00
JOHN HOLT PLC.	2	0.81	5,534	4,467.54
UNILEVER NIGERIA PLC.	173	16.20	1,188,384	19,162,294.10
P. Z. INDUSTRIES PLC.	91	13.41	322,711	4,275,725.80
U.A.C.NIGERIA PLC.	76	14.17	293,277	4,155,735.09
U.T.C. NIGERIA PLC.	5	1.16	7,242	8,338.30
Sector Totals	359		1,955,902	27,808,905.03
CONSTRUCTION				
ARBICO PLC.	1	1.25	5,000	6,250.00
CAPALBITO	2	7.25	3,000	21,750.00
COSTAIN (W.A.) PLC.	8	0.98	40,697	39,883.06
JULIUS BERGER NIGERIA PLC.	4	14.50	6,470	93,817.00
Sector Totals	15		55,167	161,700.06
FOOD/BEVERAGES & TOBACCO				
7-UP BOTTLING COMPANY PLC	34	24.40	228,335	5,682,723.30
CADBURY NIGERIA PLC.	167	57.50	415,601	24,064,379.58
FLOUR MILLS NIGERIA PLC.	26	16.61	69,566	1,155,491.26
NIGERIA BOTTLING COMPANY PLC.	74	53.20	147,012	7,895,031.53
NESTLE FOODS NIGERIA PLC.	71	144.00	121,130	17,660,194.04
Sector Totals	372		981,644	56,457,819.71
HEALTHCARE				
EKOCORP PLC.	11	0.73	31,675	22,671.25
EVANS MEDICAL PLC.	16	3.40	242,363	799,931.80
MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC.	6	5.50	25,006	133,798.74
MORISON INDUSTRIES PLC.	1	1.08	1,000	1,080.00
NEIMETH INTERNATIONAL PHARM. PLC.	8	3.38	29,183	95,024.54
PHARMA-DEKO PLC.	1	4.50	5,000	22,500.00
GLAXOSMITHKLINE CONSUMER NIG. PLC	27	8.67	92,184	801,891.42
Sector Totals	70		426,411	1,876,897.75
INDUSTRIAL/DOMESTIC PRODUCTS				
ALUMACO PLC.	2	1.90	20,000	38,000.00
NIGERIA ENAMELWARE COMPANY PLC.	2	3.40	1,000	3,400.00
FIRST ALUMINIUM NIGERIA PLC.	8	0.91	79,350	73,342.50
B.O.C. GASES PLC.	6	3.00	52,150	147,395.50
VITAFOAM NIGERIA PLC.	42	3.20	454,484	1,387,789.89
VONO PRODUCTS PLC.	2	1.90	1,493	2,836.70
Sector Totals	62		608,477	1,652,764.59
INSURANCE				
AIICO INSURANCE PLC.	10	2.10	103,598	205,840.20
BAICO INSURANCE PLC.	1	0.96	5,000	4,800.00
CORNERSTONE INSURANCE CO. PLC.	12	1.55	406,148	624,217.00
CRUSADER INSURANCE PLC.	5	1.16	88,900	103,124.00
LAW UNION AND ROCK INSURANCE PLC.	1	1.26	200	252.00
LINKAGE ASSURANCE PLC	6	1.56	303,000	490,409.00
MUTUAL BENEFITS ASSURANCE PLC	3	0.93	3,000	2,790.00
N.E.M. INSURANCE CO. (NIG.) PLC.	3	0.82	16,135	13,230.70
NIGER INSURANCE CO. PLC.	4	3.10	45,298	142,700.62
ROYAL EXCHANGE ASSURANCE PLC.	2	3.23	4,524	14,612.52
STANDARD ALLIANCE INSURANCE	1	1.14	15,879	18,102.06
UNIC INSURANCE PLC.	14	1.12	250,885	281,491.20
WEST AFRICAN PROV. INS. COY. PLC.	8	2.76	100,153	276,162.28
Sector Totals	70		1,342,720	2,177,731.58
MANAGED FUNDS				
C & I LEASING PLC.	15	1.37	317,000	446,845.00
NIGERIAN ENERGY SECTOR FUND	4	889.00	3,000	2,667,000.00
Sector Totals	19		320,000	3,113,845.00
PACKAGING				
NAMPAK NIGERIA PLC	2	1.52	1,831	2,783.12
BETA GLASS COMPANY PLC.	3	4.28	3,850	16,478.00
POLY PRODUCTS (NIGERIA) PLC.	2	1.00	135,000	135,000.00
Sector Totals	7		140,681	154,261.12
PETROLEUM(MARKETING)				
AFROIL PLC.	7	0.78	100,000	78,200.00
AFRICAN PETROLEUM PLC.	125	61.75	231,908	14,377,826.66
ETERNA OIL & GAS PLC.	10	2.04	64,718	132,024.72
MOBIL OIL NIGERIA PLC.	53	185.50	640,576	113,741,119.10
CONOIL PLC.	81	123.00	33,867	4,122,865.78
TEXACO (NIGERIA) PLC.	26	160.20	18,988	3,025,019.69
TOTAL NIGERIA PLC	45	188.00	51,377	9,568,326.29
OANDO PLC.	212	96.00	3,400,784	325,104,711.02
Sector Totals	559		4,542,218	470,150,093.26
PRINTING & PUBLISHING				
LONGMAN NIGERIA PLC.	2	2.11	1,083	2,251.83
UNIVERSITY PRESS PLC.	2	1.64	14,705	24,116.20
Sector Totals	4		15,788	26,368.03
REAL ESTATE				
UACN PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT PLC.	36	8.65	356,720	3,084,221.50
Sector Totals	36		356,720	3,084,221.50
TEXTILES				
UNITED NIGERIA TEXTILES PLC.	2	2.53	23,000	58,190.00
Sector Totals	2		23,000	58,190.00
Overall Totals		4,107	58,880,449	969,007,739.40

TOP 10 TRADES YESTERDAY

SYMBOL	VOLUME	VALUE	TRADES
NB	1,496,712.00	56,199,199.48	421
MANNYBANK	1,619,924.00	1,927,965.85	18
FIRSTBANK	2,301,919.00	52,978,575.71	487
GUARANTY	2,381,875.00	25,277,446.80	256
ZENITHBANK	2,563,775.00	34,543,039.05	198
UBN	2,760,889.00	55,223,958.44	422
UNIPETROL	3,400,784.00	325,104,711.02	212
UBA	5,618,841.00	56,188,410.00	96
IMB	8,576,577.00	5,005,183.71	49
ACCESSBANK	14,439,444.00	49,382,898.48	34

TOP 10 GAINERS

SYMBOL	LASTCLOSE	YESTERDAYSCLOSE	CHANGE
MOBIL	180.00	185.50	+5.50
ASHAKACEM	23.50	24.67	+1.17
UNIPETROL	95.11	96.00	+0.89
NOLCHEM	122.50	123.00	+0.50
NB	37.70	38.00	+0.30
MAY&BAKER	5.30	5.50	+0.20
PFIZER	3.22	3.38	+0.16
EVANSMED	3.25	3.40	+0.15
WAPIC	2.63	2.76	+0.13
KGL	2.89	3.00	+0.11

TOP 10 LOSERS

SYMBOL	LASTCLOSE	YESTERDAYSCLOSE	CHANGE
NESTLE	147.00	144.00	-3.00
TOTAL	189.00	188.00	-1.00
OKOMUOIL	16.01	15.36	-0.65
TUP	24.90	24.40	-0.50
WAPCO	11.13	10.65	-0.48
AP	62.15	61.75	-0.40
GUARANTY	10.80	10.50	-0.30
CADBURY	57.80	57.50	-0.30
UAC-PROP	8.90	8.65	-0.25
CCNN	7.94	7.70	-0.24

European stocks dip

European shares dipped yesterday easing from 32-month highs as placings hit shares in Spanish bank BBVA and Norwegian energy group Statoil and investors awaited comments from US Federal Reserve chairman, Alan Greenspan.

Meanwhile the DJ Stoxx basic resource sector peaked after BHP Billiton, the world's biggest miner reported that it more than doubled its first-half net profit on soaring demand for commodities.

"The hike in the progressive dividend per share which is very significant is perhaps the best and most telling guidance as to the short, medium and long term outlook. BHP are very confident," CSFB said in a research note.

By 6:32 a.m. yesterday, the FTS Eurofirst 300 index of pan-European blue chips was 0.52 percent weaker at 1,097.3 points while the narrower DJ Euro Stoxx 50 index also fell 0.53 percent to 3,070.5 points.

Greenspan's testimony to the Senate Banking Committee kicks off around 10 a.m. EST, with markets attuned to any change in Fed comments that the 'measured' pace of tightening will continue.

"The risks, from an equity point of view, have to be on the downside," said Rolf Elgeti, a strategist at ABN AMRO.

"It is clear that part of the support equity markets have had over the past two years has been the cheap and ample liquidity that the Fed has pumped into the world's financial system. Any noise that that there might be less liquidity available could and should be taken negatively."

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FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON PRIVATISATION
Secretariat: Bureau of Public Enterprises

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) AS INVESTOR IN
QUARRY COMPANIES

The National Council on Privatisation [NCP] under the Chairmanship of His Excellency, the Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and with its Secretariat at the Bureau of Public Enterprises [BPE] is the only Agency charged with the mandate for the implementation of the program of privatisation and commercialisation of public enterprises of the Federal Government of Nigeria.

The Privatisation and Commercialisation Act 1999 slates the Nimco Quarry Companies, which the Federal Government of Nigeria owns 100% equity holding for full privatisation.

The companies are:

1. Kujama Quarry Ltd; Kujama, Kaduna State.
2. Kuru Quarry Ltd; Kuru Jos.
3. Gano Quarry Ltd; Gano, Kano State.
4. Gubi Quarry Ltd; Gubi Bauchi and
5. Suleja Quarry Ltd; Suleja, Niger State.

The companies are subsidiaries of the Nigerian Mining Corporation Jos. All the companies are enriched and abundantly blessed with outcrops of granite rock. Their major products are chippings and quarry dust used for road construction and buildings.

The Federal government of Nigeria through the NCP/BPE hereby invites prospective Strategic Investors to express interest in the purchase and acquisition of the FGN's 100% shares in any of these companies.

Applicants are expected to be local / international investors with a proven track record in ownership, financial capability and technical competence in the management of quarry.

In order to be pre-qualified, prospective Investor must possess verifiable evidence of Technical, Managerial and Financial capability to own and manage the companies. These including, but not limited to the following:

- Record of successful investment and technical management in the Quarry Industry;
- The requisite financial resources; and
- Technical competence not only to run the plant efficiently but also to improve the plant thus enhancing financial and economic value to other Nigerians in general.

METHOD OF APPLICATION

Interested investors should indicate their interest by providing the following documentation and information:

- Full name of company and contact person, postal address, telephone / fax numbers and e-mail address.
- Ownership structure of company;-*
 - Name(s) of major shareholders, and
 - Percentage shareholdings.
- Audited financial statements for the past five (5) years and most recent management accounts.

- Technical and operational capabilities
 - Number of years in Quarry industry.
 - Local and international experience in the industry, and
 - List of plants owned or managed by the firm.
- Composition and profile of management team showing qualification and years of experience in the Quarry industry.
- Evidence of ample financial resources.

Upon receipt of Expression of Interest from interested investors, the NCP/BPE shall evaluate and pre-qualify applicants. Thereafter, pre-qualified applicants would be issued an Information memorandum on the company of their choice upon payment of **Five hundred thousand naira (N 500, 000) only** in bank draft drawn in favour of the **Bureau of Public Enterprises**. Details of the bidding procedure shall be contained in the Information Memorandum.

An original copy and five (5) other copies of Expression of Interest in a sealed envelope clearly marked "EOI QUARRY" at the top right hand corner shall be delivered to the address below not later than Monday, 28th February 2005 by 5.00pm:

Dr. Julius J. Bala
Director General
The Presidency, Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE)
Hamza Zayyad House, 1 Osun Crescent, Off Ibrahim Badamosi Babagida Way, Maitama District,
P. M. B. 442, Garki,
Abuja - Nigeria
Tel: 234 - 9 - 4134636-46, 4134670, 4138839; 4134673
Fax: 234 - 9 - 4134671-2; 4134674
E-mail: jbala@bpenq.org

Attention: Elder A. A Udofiah
Director (Natural Resources & Services)

Web site: <http://www.bpenq.org>

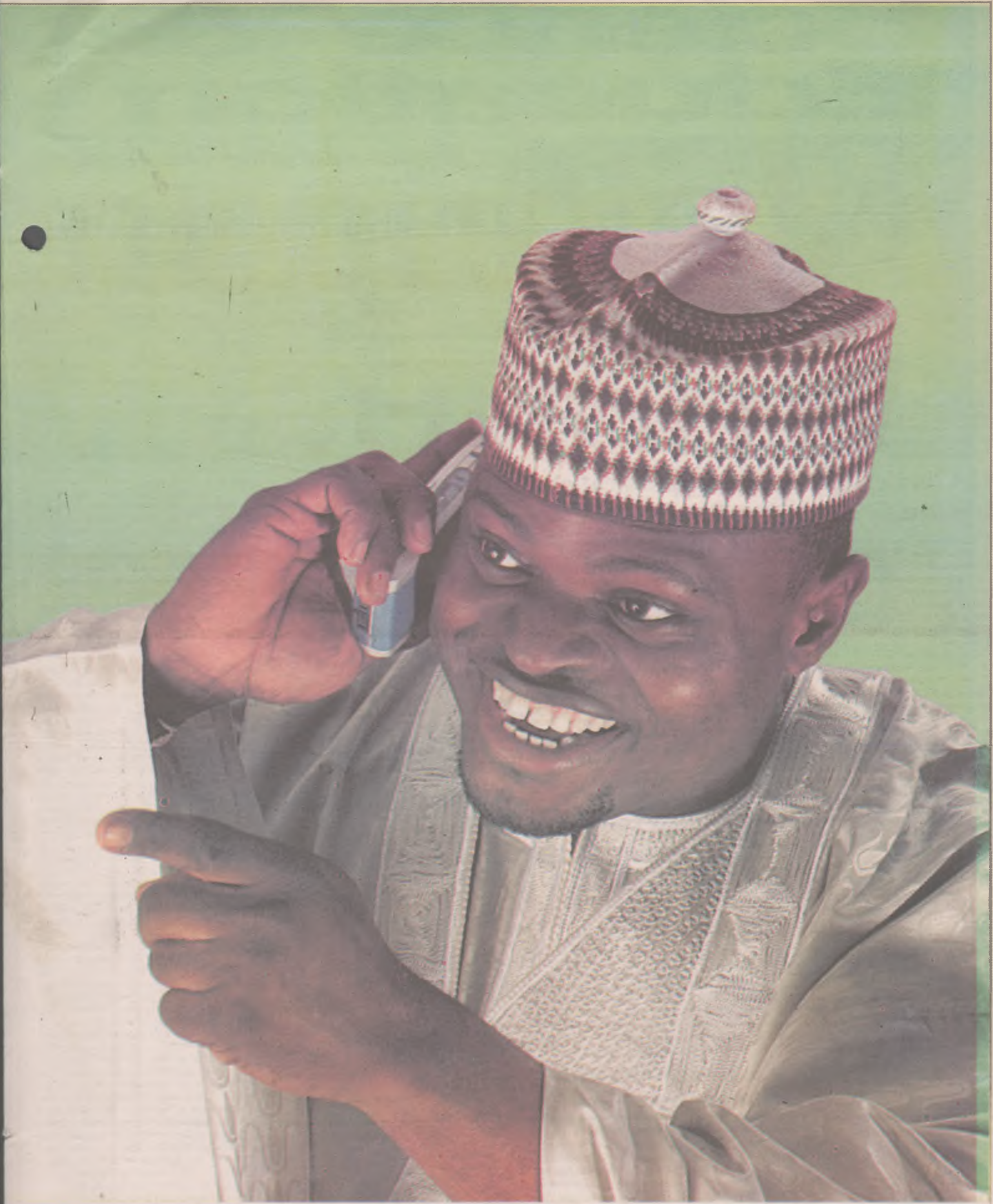
Late submissions will be rejected

Maiduguri. wushe.

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Science & Education



President Olusegun Obasanjo receiving the report of the committee on the software development project from the chairman of the committee and managing director Zenith Bank, Mr. Jim Ovia during the ceremony held at the State House, Abuja
Pix: Joe Oroye

NUC indicts lecturers over publications in journals

By Henry Omosa, Senior Reporter (Education)

The National Universities Commission (NUC) has indicted Nigerian university lecturers of publishing their academic works in sub-standard scholarly journals, asserting that nearly 23 per cent of such published works fall into this category.

The executive secretary of NUC, Prof. Peter Okebukola who made the accusation in Abuja, said his commission arrived at this conclusion after a recent survey of the curriculum vitae of Nigerian academics, explaining that some of the journals were published by a few staff in a department with the

aim of facilitating their promotion or those of their friends.

"When there is faculty support, about 90 per cent of the articles in every issue would be authored by faculty staff and the rest from friends in other universities to present a semblance of spread.

"There are claims of instances where the entire review, editorial and publishing process is conducted within the confines of the bedroom of a self-appointed editor-in-chief who is a lecturer grade II. The pervading proliferation of these sub-standard journals with labels such as international journal of ... is worrisome," the NUC said.

According to Prof. Okebukola, scholarly journals are periodicals whose goal is scholarly communication, providing the means by which scholars and researchers share their findings with one another and with the public, with distinguishing features such as a peer review mechanism for assessing the quality of research/scholarship.

Another feature of these published academic works in sub-standard journals, the NUC revealed is the quality of assessors or reviewers, warning that unless these sub-standard journals were weeded from circulation, then danger looms for the credibility of the nation's

tertiary education system.

"Likened to the water hyacinth weed in freshwater, the Nigerian university system would be suffocated by the continued proliferation of these water hyacinth journals", he said.

For example, Prof. Okebukola said one of the dangers of this phenomenon is the promotion of undeserving staff who lack the requisite scholarship, but use these poor quality journals as outlets for their mediocre work.

"It is claimed that some people who are senior academics, especially in recent times do not have a single article in an international journal in their field. All the numerous papers they cite in their CVs are published in road side journals.

"Over time, there will emerge a large corpus of these mediocre academics who cannot give sound academic leadership and who will angle to become top administrators such as deans and vice-chancellors. When the system becomes populated by this calibre of staff, system collapse becomes imminent," he stated.

Moreover, there is the danger, Prof. Okebukola added, of the lowering of the national and international esteem of Nigerian academics whose outstanding scholarship is legendary, while there is the danger of producing poor quality post-graduate students who have been supervised by senior academics of doubtful scholarship.

Minister inaugurates centre for earth study

The Centre for Geodesy and Geodynamics meant to study the earth structure and movements in the country has been inaugurated in Toro, headquarters of Toro local council in Bauchi State.

The minister of science and technology, Prof. Turner Isoun, said at the weekend during the inauguration that the centre would study and identify all natural resources in the country.

He thanked the Bauchi state government for providing a suitable site for the centre and urged it to take advantage of the centre to identify available natural resources in the state.

Represented by the director-general, National Space Research and Development Agency, Prof.

R.A. Borofice, the minister said the site was selected by Nigerian scientists. The centre was similarly certified by a delegation from the U.S. National Aeronautical Space Administration (NASA), the minister said. "The NASA delegation has certified the site to be suitable for hosting the sensitive equipment needed for the research activities," he added.

The Bauchi Governor, Alhaji Ahmadu Mu'azu, lauded the federal government for its foresight in embarking on space technology. He gave an assurance that a borehole would be drilled for the use of the centre, while electricity would be provided and the centre fenced.

Higher Education This Week

By Dr. Isaac N. Obasi, zikobasi@yahoo.com

The hostel privatisation crisis (IV)

We conclude this difficult essay today by using our personal and research experience to demonstrate why we now believe that there is need for a policy shift in the management of our higher education system. We apologise in advance if we appear somewhat too personal and immodest. Our intention is far from such impression.

During the early period of our career, we believed very strongly that the state should play dominant role in socio-economic life of the society. We contended then that public corporations that provide electricity, water, housing, mass transportation through the railways and even some communication organisations like NIPOST and NITEL among others, should be well funded by the state to enable them render services at reasonable and affordable prices which in any case was what the statutes establishing them said. But against the wish of many radical intellectuals in the 80s, these corporations first became commercialised and we all saw how they hiked their prices following the introduction of the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP). In our academic writings then, we condemned this as exploitative.

The main thesis of the protagonists of SAP and in this case commercialisation was that these organizations would become effective and efficient in their services and would be in position to attract and retain highly skilled staff needed to keep the organisations going. After few years, we used our research project students to monitor the performance of some of the public utilities. We found out that even though these organizations were making profits, their services were still very poor and worst still, embezzlement of the generated funds made it impossible for them to have enough money to attract and retain critically needed professionals. Yet during this period of poor service delivery, bills from NEPA and the others kept on rising. Many of us paid for bills even when there was no light throughout a long period of time or when we traveled for a long time without using electricity. When one complained to NEPA for example, one got no fair hearing and all kinds of reasons were used to exploit consumers. It was then I realised the exploitative power of government monopoly backed by the overbearing power of the state.

The next stage in my research on public utilities was to then argue that since they were now charging consumers as if they were private organisations, they should be evaluated with private sector efficiency measures and should no longer be allowed to hide under state monopoly to exploit consumers. In reality what was happening was that even though they were generating a lot of money, few individuals in high positions were privatizing these public resources. Yet we paid high bills and never got electricity when we needed it. It was then that it dawned on me that corruption was the worst affliction in any society. It was also then, I came to reason that if NEPA had a viable competitor, it would perhaps be different in the way it takes consumers for granted. I also came to reason that if I was paying the high electricity bills to a private organisation rather than to NEPA and got light when I needed, it would have been better for me. At this stage, the purchase of generators by every serious minded business persons including upward moving academics who had serious research projects to execute within specific tight deadlines became the common practice. It was then again that I realised that we were just supporting state-induced inefficiency if we continue to argue that public utilities should not have competitors. The liberalisation of the telecommunication industry is now an eye opener. Furthermore, I realised that we were only paying our money to sustain the greed of corrupt public officials. It was then that my academic writings on public utilities had an ideological shift. I could not sustain my earlier academic views in the face of contrary evidence that the masses were not benefiting from these organisations which public ownership should have guaranteed and protected.

Another turning point came in my career when I turned my research interest on higher education policy and management after my doctoral thesis on ASUU-Federal Government in January 1991. With the harvest of strikes which we had through ASUU of which I was an active participant, I ran into occasional arguments from my students who forcefully felt that if

they were paying and getting quality education as well as graduating when they were supposed to, it would have been better than what they said lecturers (through ASUU) was doing to them. For many of them except students' union activists, ASUU was the problem in the crisis in higher education system. They never followed the intelligent logic of ASUU that if the system was funded well, the students would benefit more. Again, many of these students did not commend ASUU's struggles that prevented the federal government from imposing tuition fees in higher institutions. All that we saw was wide condemnation of ASUU and lecturers as selfish lot.

My study on cost sharing dilemma revealed that if the system had allowed incremental (progressive) increase in tuition fees that avoided shocks and upsets, the system would have been a little more stable. Again my investigation of the issue of the parental socio-economic status of the beneficiaries of higher education opened my eyes to how our public policies were far removed from the reality of empirical evidence. Although, many of our students come from poor parents, we have no concrete facts on how they are financed and supported. My study revealed the potency and effectiveness of our extended family system. I discovered that although poor parents who cannot support their children in higher institutions were still having these children there through the support from the extended family system. I recall how my findings opened the eyes of experts on Means Testing in higher education financing in a conference in Tanzania. Experts from Europe and the United States who were used to carrying out means testing from working parents came to realise that in Africa we need different approach to the calculation of students' financial capability. Here in Africa, a pensioner on meager income but who during his active working years had trained one or two of his children who are now working, should not be assumed to be incapable of supporting any one of his children still in higher institutions. This he can do vicariously through his employed children. This is the reality of extended family system.

I have therefore argued that before we assume that students are poor, we need to know empirically how they are supported. My present hunch is that we are not making our higher education system sustainable in the way we allow the very few powerful public officials enrich themselves in the kind of policies we adopt. Again let me add that one of the findings of my study is that majority of those presently in federal universities are students whose parents are from higher socio-economic status. And proceeding from this research evidence, my thinking is that we are only supporting the very rich through price distortions. I say so because, many students from these rich parents were product of a corrupt admission system that saw their parents securing them admission through the discretionary list of VCs. And because of this, children from poor parents were driven into the high fee paying state universities that were able to admit them. At one time in the University of Nigeria, Nsukka some years ago, the discretionary admission list was more than those that came in unassisted through either the merit list or catchment area through which those without Godfathers could get admitted. All these got me saddened as a scholar. And it is the totality of these experiences that I now feel that the time for policy shift is NOW. We need to do a serious study on the socio-economic status of students in federal government institutions to help us adopt appropriate policies in the area of higher education financing. Until we do this, we would continue to be in the dark and be inundated with attractive but presumptuous arguments that are however empirically vacuous and hollow.

NOTE: The news of the death of Prof. Donald E. U. Ekong has reached my desk. Since there is no more space, we shall pay him appropriate tribute next time.

Dr. Obasi writes from the Department of Political and Administrative Studies, University of Botswana, Gaborone, Southern Africa



Mallam Ibrahim Talba
Permanent Secretary, Fed. Min.
of Education

Science & Education

Yobe to establish university

The Yobe State government is to establish a state university this year in line with the priority it accords the education sector.

Already, a consultant to draw up the master-plan of the proposed university has been appointed.

Governor Bukar Abba Ibrahim, who disclosed this to newsmen in Damaturu, said his administration will soon appoint a vice-chancellor and all other principal officers for the university, which was allotted N500m for its capital development this year.

He said academic activities were expected to start in the university by 2006, while five sites to serve as the colleges of the university had been identified.

He identified them as the university's college of agriculture and veterinary medicine to be located at College of Agriculture, Gujba; faculty of education at College of Education, Gashua, and faculty of administration, social and business studies at College of Administrative and Business Studies, Potiskum.

According to the governor, the faculty of civil and sharia law of the university will be located at Atiku Abubakar College of Legal and Islamic Studies, Nguru, while the 125 houses at Gujba were allocated as lecturers' quarters to enhance the smooth take-off of the

university.

He noted with satisfaction that the state polytechnic situated at Geidam has now fully taken off since January this year.

The governor promised that his administration would accord priority attention to the settlement of liabilities and payment for on-going projects, such as constructions of classes, laboratories and hostels as well as the purchase of basic teaching and learning materials.

He stated that priority would also be given to the payment of scholarship, tuition and registration fees as well as students' feeding in all boarding schools in the state, adding that teachers in both primary and secondary schools would continue to enjoy the earlier approved welfare packages for them in the 2003 and 2004 budgets respectively.



The chairman committee on establishment of private universities, Professor Julius Okojie (l) the executive secretary, NUC, Professor Peter Okebukola and the minister of education, Professor Fabian Osuji during the presentation of licences to owners of private universities in Abuja...recently.

ETF takes HIV/AIDS campaign to schools

The Education Tax Fund (ETF) has introduced an awareness campaign in secondary schools in Abuja and Lagos on the dangers of HIV/AIDS virus, and the need to curb the alarming spread of the disease among school children.

The chairman of the ETF board, Chief Olakunrin, said the awareness campaign was aimed at educating the

By Henry Omu, Senior Reporter (Education)

school community, especially students and teachers on the facts about the HIV/AIDS scourge and ways of curtailing the spread of the disease.

She said even though the campaign would begin in secondary schools in Abuja and Lagos State on a pilot scale, it would eventually be introduced in all post-primary schools in the country because of the significance of the campaign.

Chief Olakunrin said ETF decided to embark on the HIV/AIDS initiative because education was directly linked to the existence and preservation of the human race for national development.

"ETF has been intervening in a lot of special projects and critical areas essential for the health and well-being of students, hence the HIV/AIDS awareness education pilot project, which if not started now, spells doom to our future workforce and school population.

"This project is a critical intervention area dear to the heart of the ETF in the sense that statistics has shown that HIV/AIDS is predominant among youths of ages 16-24, which represent the future workforce and reproductive age group on which the future school population will depend," the ETF chairman added.

She warned that in the event of the extermination of

youths between the ages of 16-24 by the HIV/AIDS scourge as is likely to happen in developing countries unless drastic measures are taken, 'a time will come when the country will not have the labour force for the economy nor students or pupils to educate'.

Chief Olakunrin therefore said it would be necessary for states and local governments to replicate the ETF HIV/AIDS awareness campaign in secondary schools in their respective domains in order for Nigeria to reap the benefits therein, and achieve better impact in the fight to reduce the scourge.

"We have decided on this campaign in the realisation that the provision of infrastructure would not make any meaningful impact if the end users are unhealthy and at risk of being infected, as the AIDS scourge is assuming a grave dimension because post-primary

students are considered sexually active," Chief Olakunrin said.

Zamfara earmarks N1.7bn for schools rehabilitation

From Salisu Zaari Maradun, Correspondent (Gusau)

The Zamfara State government has earmarked N1.7bn for the renovation of all primary and post-primary schools in the state.

Also, another N90m has been set aside for the establishment of four mobile clinics with a view to easing the health care delivery system in the state.

This was disclosed by the state commissioner for information, Alhaji Aliy-Mohammed.

He explained that the government decided to embark on the renovation of the schools to enhance educational development in the state.

According to him, the renovation exercise was expected to be completed before the commencement of the rainy season and warned contractors to comply with the contract standards or be ready to face the wrath of the law.

"It is because of the importance attached to the educational sector that the government, in addition to the renovation, introduced the use of fabricated classrooms which are expected to cover the whole schools in the state," he added.

Non-accreditation of varsity's college of medicine worries politician

The inability of the Ekiti State government to provide the N750 million required to accredit the college of medicine of the University of Ado-Ekiti has been criticised by a stalwart of the Alliance for Democracy (AD), Bashorun Tunde Odetola.

Bashorun Odetola, who decried the state government's attitude, said the college has remained unaccredited two years after its establishment.

He said the state government ought to provide whatever was required to ensure the sustenance of the college, since education remains the state's major industry.

"It does not make sense to deny the students the opportunity to pursue a career of their choice after spending two years in the college of medicine.

From Olumide Bajulaiye, Correspondent (Lagos)

"A government that can invest as much as N1.4 billion to set up poultry farms which have no birds is now saying it has no money to do the accreditation of a college of medicine that has been in session with up to 200 medical students," he said.

He also condemned the preference of the state government to build an ultra-modern school in Afao-Ekiti, the home of Governor Fayose, saying it amounted to insensitivity.

"Rather, the government prefers to establish an international school worth N1 billion in the governor's hometown. Of course, it does not make any sense.

"The development is a confirmation of the

people's belief that leaders would never engage in any venture that would not profit them. It does not augur well.

"It is not good for a state like Ekiti where education is the only industry. Declining to get the college accredited is like mortgaging the future of the state," he lamented.

Don blames over-population for poor educational standards

A university lecturer, Professor Effanga James Usua, has attributed the falling standard of education to over population. While speaking with *Daily Trust* in an interview, he said there were too many people in the university system more than the system could cater for. He added that this situation accounted for the series of examination malpractices ravaging the educational system.

"We have not performed well by our standard. If you go to some schools, you will realise

From Bassey Ita, Stringer (Calabar)

that some children sit on the floor. Though, the private sector is trying to maintain standard, by and large, in terms of infrastructure, our education is very poor.

"Frankly speaking, we have a very long way to go in our educational sector because the money for research is no there. When examination bodies set standards and the students cannot meet the requirements, they, students, go for certificate racketeering

and all sorts of examination malpractices as an alternative."

He said the nation must control its population so that schools could have enough facilities to maintain standard. The university don however canvassed for true federalism based on fiscal strength of states.

"We want true federalism so that states will be financially independent," he said, adding that states needed to generate funds from their resources and remit a percentage to the federal government.

Science & Education

BUK receives N70m hostel grant from bank

Bayero University Kano has received a cash donation of N70m for the construction of a students' hostel from the management of Inter-Continental Bank plc.

This was disclosed by the acting vice-chancellor of the university, Professor Danjuma A. Maiwada, during the foundation laying ceremony of the project.

He described the bank's gesture as timely because of the need to provide more hostels for the increasing number of students in the institution.

Professor Maiwada said already a new schedule for students' hostel

From Aliyu S. Machika, Correspondent (Kano)

development by private investors had commenced in many universities, including Bayero University, but said the proposal should not be seen as privatisation of hostels, rather it was aimed at an effective management of hostels.

The acting vice-chancellor mentioned some executed projects carried out by private firms to include the endowment of a N7.5m professional chair in the paediatrics unit by First Bank plc. office block constructed by the CBN at a cost of N10m and

the construction of a computer laboratory by the Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC).

In his remarks, the vice-chairman of Inter-Continental Bank plc, Dr. Erastus Akingbola, said the initiative was in line with the bank's corporate responsibility policy of commitment to providing solid platform for qualitative education for Nigerian youths.

He described the success of the Kano branch of the bank as a clear testimony of the patronage the bank has enjoyed since it began operations in the state.

The hostel, when completed, would comprise 60 rooms and 24 bed spaces.

The federal ministry of education has inaugurated a technical committee to map out strategies to separate junior and senior secondary schools in federal unity colleges by September this year.

Performing the inauguration, the minister of state for education, Hajia Binta Musa, said this was one of the major resolutions of the 31st session of the National Council on Education (NCE) held in Minna, Niger State, last December.

She said it was essential that the federal government takes the lead in this initiative for the state governments and other secondary school owners to follow, adding that separating junior and senior secondary schools in the federal unity colleges would ensure that the implementation of the Universal Basic Education (UBE) programme remained on course, and 'focused to

Govt to separate JSS/SSS in unity schools

By Salaudeen Ozigi, (Intern)

provide focussed and compulsory qualitative basic education.

"As you are aware, it is intended that the implementation of the UBE programme at the JSS level will begin in September 2005," she said.

To achieve this goal, she said the task of implementing the policy was enormous, requiring not only huge resources, but most importantly, careful planning.

She added that special attention must be given to management, staffing, infrastructure and funding as well as how to secure stakeholders' support to sustain the policy.

The terms of reference of the committee, the minister said, were to identify the cost, management, staff and the implications of implementing the policy beginning from September, and prepare an action plan for the take-off of the pilot phase of the initiative as well as to make other recommendations to facilitate the successful implementation of the policy.

The membership of the committee is drawn from the federal ministry of education, Universal Basic Education Commission, National Teachers' Institute, and National Union of Teachers.

NCC donates 20 computers to school

From Abdulrazaq Adebayo, Correspondent (Ilorin)

The Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) has donated 20 computer sets to Government Secondary School, Ilorin, under the first phase of its Digital Awareness Project (DAP) aimed at encouraging information technology among students in Nigeria.

Under the first phase of the initiative, selected educational institutions across the nation would be equipped with computers with full internet facilities to enable the students have access to information.

Daily Trust learnt that GSS, Ilorin, was selected as one of the benefiting schools under the first phase of the project based on the recommendation of the minister of communications, Chief Cornelius Adebayo, himself an alumnus of the college.

Apart from the 20 computer sets, the school also received two printers and other accessories, while a

computer laboratory would be constructed by the NCC.

The Principal of the school, Alhaji Yakubu Oloriegbe, confirmed the donation of the computers and revealed that a site had been provided by the school for the construction of the laboratory.

UNILAG postpones resumption

The Senate of the University of Lagos (UNILAG) is yet to fix a resumption date for academic activities after it was shut following a violent students' protest.

Students of UNILAG razed the official residences of the institution's vice-chancellor and the dean of students' affairs on Jan. 19.

They were protesting the death of Mr Olaoluwa Akosile, the Speaker of the Students' Union after allegedly answering a telephone call from the school's authorities.

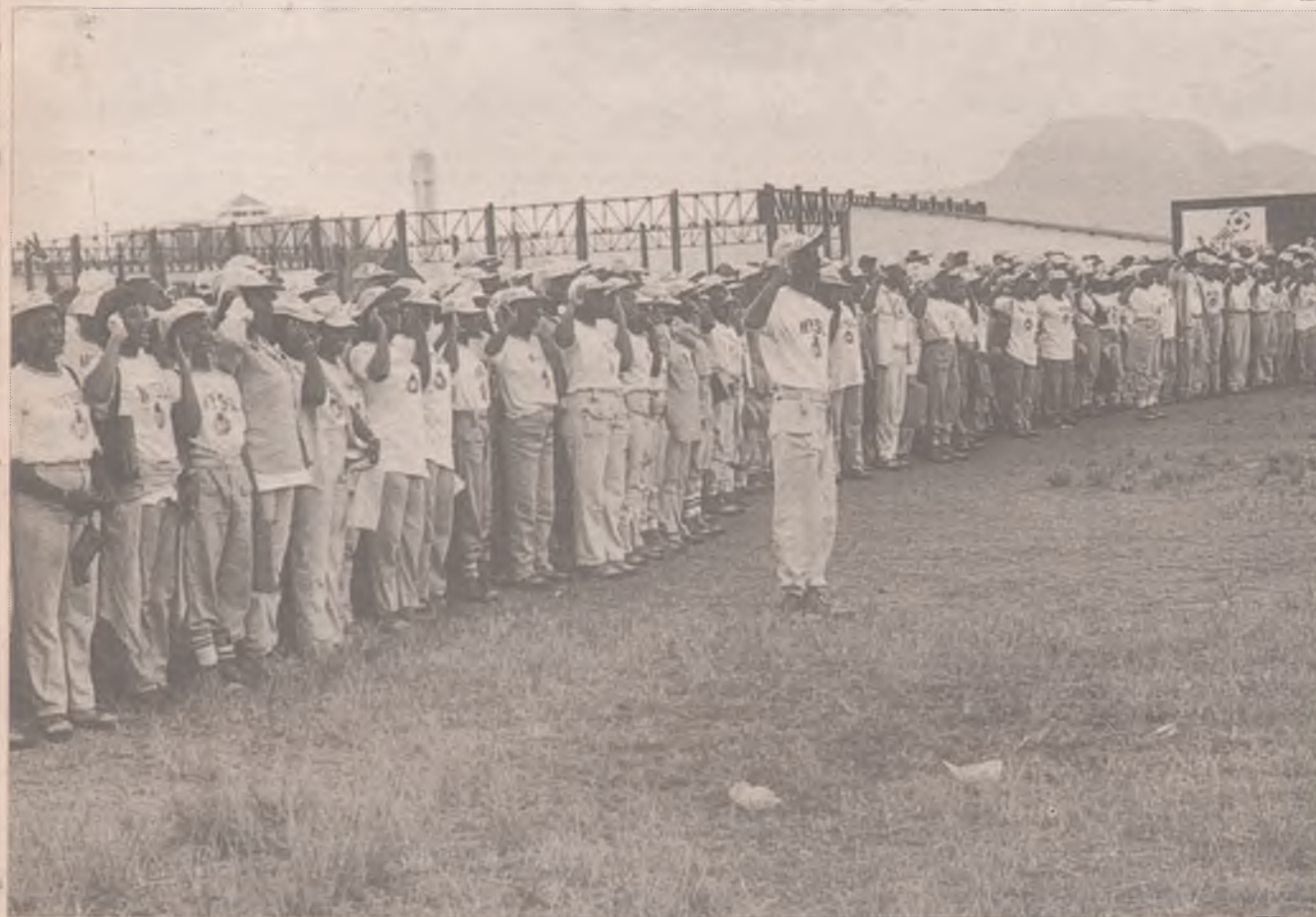
About seven cars were also burnt during the early morning rampage.

UNILAG's acting deputy registrar (Information), Mr Segun Ogunsolu, told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) today in Lagos that the Senate had not met over the resumption date.

Ogunsolu said a committee set up to evaluate and quantify the amount of damage done by the students had submitted its report, which would be deliberated upon by the Senate at its next meeting.

He said the report would be made public only after the Senate meeting, but did not disclose the date.

Meanwhile, the NUC has urged UNILAG authorities to ensure that academic activities resumed in the institution immediately.



Cross section of National Youth Service Corp members during their passing out ceremony in Abuja...recently.

FG begins \$100m science, technology initiative

The federal government plans to commit \$100 million (N13.8bn) in a new initiative to boost the development of scientific research and education in the country.

The minister of science and technology, Professor Turner T. Isoun, made this known at a workshop tagged: "Forum on the Reform and Revitalisation of the National Science, Technology and Innovation System," held by UNESCO in collaboration with the federal ministry of science and technology in Abuja.

He disclosed plans by the federal government to increase the amount expended on scientific

By Hassan Idris, Senior Reporter (Agriculture)

innovations and agricultural research and biotechnology, adding that the government had raised \$2m for the new policy initiative while the United Nations Education Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) was expected to provide \$1m.

Speaking also, the representative of UNESCO in Nigeria, Dr. Hubert Charles, urged Nigerian scientists and leaders to work diligently to implement science and technology policies effectively.

He said developing science and technology was not a matter of making statements alone, and stressed that the 'most important thing is to take action which will make Nigeria

achieve success in science innovation reforms'.

Earlier, the head of the civic service of the federation, Alhaji Yayale Ahmed, represented by the permanent

secretary, management services office, Dr. Ardo Ogunbambi, tasked Nigeria's scientists to develop the nation's science and technology sector in order to achieve economic prosperity.

Minister commissions N4.5m FGGC, Abaji library

The minister of state for education, Hajia Binta Ibrahim Musa, has commissioned the N4.5m library built by the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) of the Federal Government Girls' College, Abaji, in the FCT.

Speaking at the occasion, she called for the active participation of all stakeholders

in the development of the educational sector, adding that the challenges before the country were to "device new ways of funding education which will involve the contribution of all stakeholders as government alone cannot continue to shoulder the cost of education."

She thanked the federal government, members of the PTA, the principal as well as the staff of the school for devoting themselves to the completion of the library.

In her speech, the Principal of the college, Hajia Ramatu Usman, disclosed that the PTA of the school had been instrumental to the execution of many projects, like the purchase of five typewriters and lockers.



FEDERAL AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF NIGERIA

FEDERAL AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF NIGERIA

PUBLIC NOTICE

**INVITATION TO TENDER FOR
CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR
THE PROPOSED NEW GENERAL
AVIATION TERMINAL BUILDING
AT THE DOMESTIC WING OF THE
MURTALA MUHAMMED INT'L
AIRPORT, IKEJA, LAGOS.**

The Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria hereby invites tender from reputable registered consultancy firms for the proposed new General Aviation Terminal Building at the domestic wing of the Murtala Muhammed International Airport, Ikeja, Lagos.

The scope of works includes:

- ▶ Architectural Services,
- ▶ Structural Engineering Services.
- ▶ Mechanical and Electrical Engineering Services.
- ▶ Quantity Surveying Services
- ▶ Geo-technical Survey

Further brief can be obtained from the office of the Director of Engineering Services, FAAN Headquarters, Ikeja, Lagos, after payment of the non-returnable tender fee of =N=25,000 (Twenty Five Thousand Naira only), from the date of this publication.

All tenders must be accompanied by the following:

- Evidence of payment of the non-refundable tender fee
- Evidence of company registration with FAAN in at least Category F.
- Company profile and evidence of experience on similar projects.
- Evidence of company income tax payment for the last three (3) years.
- Evidence of registration with appropriate Professional Bodies (ARCON, COREN, QSRBN)

All Tenders are to be submitted to the office of The Secretary, Tenders Board, FAAN Headquarters Ikeja, Lagos, in a sealed envelope marked CONFIDENTIAL: "TENDER FOR CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR THE PROPOSED NEW GENERAL AVIATION TERMINAL BUILDING AT THE DOMESTIC WING OF" THE MURTALA MUHAMMED INT'L AIRPORT IKEJA, LAGOS" not later than fourteen days (2 weeks) from the date of this publication while all tenders will be opened on the same date at 12 noon.

NB: Tenderers are advised to be present for presentation of their designs at the tender opening and should note that FAAN is not bound to accept the lowest tender and shall not give any explanation for rejection of any tender.

Signed:
Management



FEDERAL AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF NIGERIA

FEDERAL AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF NIGERIA

PUBLIC NOTICE

**INVITATION TO TENDER FOR
CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR
THE PROPOSED NEW CORPORATE
HEAD OFFICE BUILDING AT FAAN
HEADQUARTERS, IKEJA, LAGOS.**

The Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria hereby invites tender from reputable registered consultancy firms for the provision of consultancy services for the proposed new Head Office building at FAAN Headquarters Ikeja, Lagos.

The scope of works includes:

- ▶ Architectural Services,
- ▶ Structural Engineering Services.
- ▶ Mechanical and Electrical Engineering Services.
- ▶ Quantity Surveying Services
- ▶ Geo-technical Survey

Further brief can be obtained from the office of the Director of Engineering Services, FAAN Headquarters, Ikeja, Lagos, after payment of the non-returnable tender fee of =N=25,000 (Twenty Five Thousand Naira only), from the date of this publication.

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All Tenders are to be submitted to the office of The Secretary, Tenders Board, FAAN Headquarters Ikeja, Lagos, in a sealed envelope marked CONFIDENTIAL: "TENDER FOR CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR THE PROPOSED NEW HEAD OFFICE BUILDING AT FAAN HEADQUARTERS, IKEJA, LAGOS" not later than fourteen days (2 weeks) from the date of this publication while all tenders will be opened on the day immediately after the expiration of the notice.

NB: Tenderers are advised to be present for presentation of their designs at the tender opening and should note that FAAN is not bound to accept the lowest tender and shall not give any explanation for rejection of any tender.

Signed:
Management

CHAN Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL VACANCIES

CHAN Pharmaceuticals is a Christian Health Association of Nigeria (CHAN) company and is today the oldest and largest drug distribution NGO in Nigeria. CHAN Pharmaceuticals has expanded to acquire an asset base of over N200 million with

headquarters at Jos and six zonal drug depots within Nigeria. With a vision to be the preferred partner in healthcare, the company is seeking to recruit dynamic and performance driven individuals to fill the following vacancies:

1) GENERAL MANAGEMENT

A) Internal Auditor:-

The Internal Auditor shall be responsible for continuous evaluation and monitoring of the company's internal control systems and procedures to ensure compliance with these procedures, effectiveness and efficiency in operations while safe-guarding the company's assets and resources.

Skills, Qualification And Experience Required:

- i) A good degree in Accounting, Economics or any of the social or management sciences.
- ii) Should be at least an Associate of ICAN or any recognised accounting professional body in Nigeria. Must have a good knowledge of Microsoft Office. Must have a good knowledge of any of the following accounting packages - Quickbooks, Peachtree, DacEasy, or Sage. He should also have at least two years post-professional qualification experience.

B) Internal Audit Officers -

The ideal person shall assist the Internal Auditor in carrying out his functions and achieving his audit objectives.

Skills, Qualification And Experience Required

- i) A good degree in Accounting, Economics or any of the social or management sciences.
- ii) Should have at least a part-qualification of ICAN or any recognised accounting professional body in Nigeria.
- iii) Must have a good knowledge of Microsoft Office.
- iv) Must have a good knowledge of any of the following accounting packages - Quickbooks, Peachtree, DacEasy, or Sage. He should have at least two years auditing or accounting experience.

C) Personal Assistant to CEO

The staff shall assist the CEO in daily secretarial and communication services as well as workflow management.

Skills, Qualification And Experience Required

- i) First Degree in Secretarial/Admin and/or Business related course.
- ii) Must be conversant with Microsoft Office.
- iii) Three years experience in similar position
- iv) Must have excellent interpersonal and communication skills.

D) Information System Manager -

The ideal person shall be responsible for optimising and managing the company information resources. He shall handle the maintenance, security and continuous service of the company's information system.

Skills, Qualification And Experience Required

- i) A good degree in Computer Sciences, Statistics or Business Administration or any related field.
- ii) Must have more than average knowledge of Microsoft Office and other software.
- iii) He should have at least four years experience in computer, operations, management and security.
- iv) He should be proficient in at least two programming languages.
- v) Involvement and experience in successful implementation of any of the following accounting software is necessary.
- vi) Self-starter with ability to work with a wide range of people.
- vii) Solution conscious and performance driving individual.
- viii) S/he must be innovative and must be able to learn new tools and transfer knowledge to team mates.

2) SALES AND MARKETING

A) Field Sales Managers -

The ideal person shall control, coordinate and stimulate the field sales operations in accordance with sales policies and programmes and shall grow the company's business by giving commitment to monthly, quarterly and annual sales targets in a defined area of the country.

Skills, Qualification And Experience Required

- i) A good degree in Pharmacy, First Degree in Biological Sciences with five years experience in Sales and Marketing of pharmaceuticals could be considered.
- ii) Excellent communication and interpersonal skills is required.
- iii) Must have a good knowledge of Microsoft Office.
- iv) Minimum of three years experience in Sales and Marketing of

pharmaceuticals.

- v) Possession of an MBA (preferably in Marketing) will be an added advantage.

B) Medical Representatives -

The ideal person shall be responsible for promoting, selling and redistributing the company's pharmaceutical products and consumables to our member hospitals including other selected outlets and institutions.

Skills, Qualification And Experience Required

- iii) First Degree in Pharmacy. A first Degree in Biological Sciences with a minimum of Second Class Upper and two years experience in sales of pharmaceuticals could be considered.
- iv) Excellent interpersonal and communication skills.
- v) Honesty and maturity in character is most desirable.

3) FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

A) Financial Accountant:-

S/he shall be responsible for the timely provision of all financial accounting reports to management and to handle other finance related assignments to support effective decision making.

Skills, Qualification And Experience Required

- A B Sc or HND in Accounting or related disciplines is a must for this position. Knowledge of Microsoft Office is very important. Ability to use any of the following Accounting packages - Peachtree, Sage, DacEasy and QuickBooks, is very important. Possession of not less than three years post-graduation experience.

B) Finance Assistants -

S/he shall be responsible for day-to-day financial record keeping, treasury management and management reporting.

Skills, Qualification And Experience Required

- Minimum of OND in Accounting, Marketing or business related course with strong bias for book-keeping. Average knowledge of Microsoft Office. Knowledge of basic accounting software. Experience in similar position of not less than two years.

C) Admin/HR Manager -

S/he shall be responsible for daily office running, work flow management and employee services management.

Skills, Qualification And Experience Required

- Must hold a minimum of B.Sc (Hons) in any of the Social Sciences. Must have a good knowledge of Microsoft Office and Internet explorer. Should have not less than three years post-qualification experience in administrative function. Experience in Human Resources Management is important.

D) Secretary/Receptionist -

S/he shall be responsible for reception and management of external parties and information.

Skills, Qualification And Experience Required

- An OND in Business Administration, Secretarial Studies, Mass Communication or related discipline will be most suitable for this position. Must be conversant with Microsoft Office. At least two years experience in similar position.

4) CUSTOMER SERVICE

A) Distribution & Logistics Manager -

The ideal person shall be responsible for implementation of our distribution and logistic programme especially those arising from our programme related activities.

Skills, Qualification And Experience Required

- i) A good Degree in Pharmacy or related discipline.
- ii) Ability to travel at short notice
- iii) Good interpersonal and communication skills.
- iv) At least three years experience in distribution and/or selling of pharmaceutical products.

B) Customer Service Officer -

The ideal person shall provide leadership at the zonal office, issuing invoices and ensuring customer satisfaction and loyalty.

Skills, Qualification And Experience Required

- i) An HND in Business Administration, Marketing, Mass Communication, Accounting or related discipline will be most suitable for this position.
- ii) Must be conversant with Microsoft Office.

- iii) At least three years experience in similar position.

C) Stock Control Officers -

The right person shall be responsible for receipts, issuance, and safety of stock. He shall also handle record keeping and reporting.

Skills, Qualification And Experience Required

i) An OND in Business Administration, Marketing, Purchasing and Supply or related discipline will be most suitable for this position.

- ii) Must be conversant with Microsoft Office.
iii) At least two years experience in similar position.

5) OTHERS

A) Programme Manager:

The ideal person shall be responsible for developing our consultancy business, writing and packaging proposals to donor and other international agencies covering all areas of service competence especially in distribution, logistics and pharmaceutical capacity building.

Skills, Qualification And Experience Required:

- i) A good Degree in Pharmaceutical Sciences and/or Public Health Management.
ii) Possession of Master Degree in research oriented discipline will be an added advantage.
iii) S/he/ should have a good knowledge of Microsoft Office and research tools.
iv) Should have at least five years experience in a pharmaceutical consulting or public health environment.

B) Procurement Officer -

The person in this position shall be responsible for coordinating all procurement activities and making excellent relationship with external parties to ensure timely supply of relevant products and services to the company.

Skills, Qualification And Experience Required

- i) A good first Degree in Pharmacy, Business Administration, Economics, Purchasing and Supply or any other Social Sciences.
ii) Excellent negotiation skills.
iii) Excellent Analytical and Forecasting skills.
iv) Proficiency in Microsoft Office, especially Microsoft Excel.
v) At least two years experience in a similar position.

C) Shipping and Regulatory Officer -

The staff shall be responsible for liaising with regulatory authorities in all areas of product registration, importation and clearing of goods and shall ensure compliance with standards and procedures.

Skills, Qualification And Experience Required

- i) Must hold a minimum of B Pharm.
ii) Must have a good knowledge of Microsoft Office.
iii) Should have not less than three years post-qualification experience in clearing and forwarding operations.

D) Drivers -

The ideal person shall be responsible for driving the company delivery vans and other official vehicles within the country.

- i) A good School Leaving Certificate is a pre-requisite for this position.
ii) The person should also possess a valid driver's license.
iii) He should have a good understanding of the country terrain.
iv) He should have a good knowledge of vehicle maintenance and performance.

All applications should be submitted not later two weeks after this publication and be directed to:

Finance & Admin Manager,
CHAN Pharmaceuticals LTD
Little Rayfield Road, Jos, Plateau State

OR to joseph.taiwo@taijowonukabe.com

CHAN
PHARMACEUTICALS
A Christian Health Association Of Nigeria Company



THE ABUJA MUNICIPAL AREA COUNCIL



PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

The Management of Abuja Municipal Area Council wishes to bring to the notice of the public that the Area One open air market allocations have been revoked.

This has become necessary in view of the need to conform with the original standard of the Federal Capital Territory, as well as pave way for urban renewal in the overriding interest of the public.

Consequently, all beneficiaries are hereby requested to submit copies of their original letters of allocations to the Abuja Municipal Area Council for further action, while all developed spaces in the market are to be vacated before March 15, 2005.

**COMMITTEE ON AREA 1
MARKET URBAN RENEWAL
For: MANAGEMENT**

ABUJA TRUST

Robbers rob widow of N200,000

About four robbers last Tuesday stormed the house of a widow, one Mrs. Hanatu James, at her residence in Kuchigoro a suburb of Abuja along airport road and took about N200,000.

Hanatu, a restaurant operator behind Garki, Area 2 shopping complex returned home after a hectic day's work and retired to her room unknown to her that men of the underworld were trailing

her.

According to Amos, her son, they were woken at about 3:30am by the continuous barking of their dog, which he said was unusual.

Amos said that he got agitated and peeped through the window only to see a man standing at the entrance of their house with a "big gun."

Amos further said that the robbers broke into the house forcefully as they asked

everybody in the house to lie down.

Amos said that they were severely beaten by the robbers, (children) and their handsets collected with some money.

Amos said that the about N120,000 taken from their mother was part of her sales

proceeds for that day and some amount withdrawn that afternoon from the bank for their school fees.

An eyewitness to the crime, one Ajia, who is a tenant in the widow's house told *Abuja Trust* that he heard the robbers saying: "we are robbers and we are sent to rob

you," after they have broken the security light in the house.

He said the robbers were shooting randomly in the air to scare people from coming out.

Ajia further said that he heard the widow (Hanatu) pleading that "we know you

are a widow. But we were sent, have you ever seen us here."

Ajia told our reporter that the police came to the scene of the robbery after the robbers had left the scene.

Abuja Trust gathered that only operated in the house of the widow and did not enter any other house in the area.

NEPA urges residents to pay up or get disconnected

NEPA has said that only regular payment of bills would guarantee adequate and constant power supply.

NEPA business manager for Garki district, Bayo Dokunmu, told the *News Agency of Nigeria (NAN)* in Abuja that it has become mandatory for all customers to pay for electricity consumed.

Dokunmu said that the unbundling of NEPA required that the various zones pay for bulk electricity supplied while such cost would be recovered from the eventual users of the electricity.

NAN recalls that some Mosques in the FCT had protested recent directives by NEPA to religious houses to ensure prompt payment of electricity consumed or risk disconnection.

Reacting to the protest, Dokunmu said that there was no room for free service stressing that every unit consumed must be accounted for.

He said that NEPA would be in position to provide better services, maintain its equipment and expand facilities

to other areas when customers pay for units consumed.

He appealed to all NEPA customers irrespective of their status to assist the authority serve them better in this era that "NEPA no longer receive subvention but depend solely on its ability to harness its revenue."

He also called for legislation prohibiting the sale of transformers and other accessories common to NEPA as a way of safeguarding its installations across the country.

"The rate individuals are selling electrical appliances such as transformers, aluminium cables, poles, and other accessories used by NEPA has made tracking vandals very difficult," he said.

He regretted that in this era of NEPA's unbundling, scarce resources that should be used to upgrade equipment would have to be channelled toward replacing vandalised installations.

"The cost of servicing and replacing vandalised items is enough to inject more transformers and sub stations into the network for a reliable power supply to our customers," he added.

FCT opens camp for Makarfi championship

FCT Volleyball players have, been invited for camping ahead of the maiden Ahmed Mohammed Makarfi Volleyball Championship which kicks off next month in Kaduna.

The council's volleyball association's secretary, Ene Ayuba, disclosed to *Abuja Trust* on Tuesday that the male and female players have been asked to report at the teams' Mogadishu Barrack training camp ahead of the tourney.

"Our players have been asked to report for camping towards the Ahmed Mohammed Makarfi Volleyball Championship which

By AbdulRaheem Aodu,
Sports Reporter

kicks off on March 4, 2005. Though we have been undergoing training with the team in our open camp, we intend to commence closed camping on February 27 to intensify our training ahead of the March 3rd departure date for the championship," she said.

The team's preparation for the championship, which runs between March 4th and March 13th 2005, may however be hampered by lack of fund which has engulfed the FCT sports council since the beginning of the year.

Bwamba Ayuba Kwali, council's deputy director of sports development, told *Abuja Trust* that the council is currently undergoing a lull in its activities as MFCT budget is yet to be approved.

He added that the volleyball team would only be in Kaduna for the championship, if funding can be secured, as the council's coffers is too lean to cater adequately for the team's needs.

Kwali however, expressed hope that the budget will be approved and released before the commencement of the camping exercise.



Catholic Bishops in procession during mass at the opening of the 1st plenary 2005 Bishops conference in Abuja ... on Tuesday. Pix: NAN

Petitioner writes NHRC on Wuse Market demolition

By Kemi Ogedengbe,
Judicial Editor

An Abuja based journalist, Emmanuel Onwubiko, has petitioned the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), over the demolition

of his properties worth over N400,000 at the old Wuse Market on the orders of the FCT minister, Malam Nasir el-Rufai.

In the petition, Mr. Onwubiko, claimed that his books, which were distributed to traders in the market, were destroyed by the tax force set up for the demolition of illegal structures in the market.

He said the policemen and other operatives did not allow the traders to take away their wares before pulling down the structures.

The petitioner said that due to the closure of the market for over ten days people have not been able to patronise his wares.

He called on the NHRC to probe the gross human rights violation by officials of the FCT on what he called "illegal and tyrannical" orders of Malam el-Rufai.

He further call on the NHRC to advise the FCT minister to desist from

deploying dictatorial style of administration by ambush, as the actions of the FCT officials will increase crime rate in the city as many people who earn their livelihood in the market will become unemployed.

Mr. Onwubiko prayed the commission to compel the minister to personally

endorse an apology for the destruction of his books worth over N400,000.

He also prayed for the payment of N5 million compensation for the gross abuse of his human rights, which was occasioned by the restriction of movement around the market to make purchase.

Woman arraigned over criminal intimidation

By Ebenezer John Buoro,
Intern

One Mrs. Stella Abillo of Plot 170, Wuse Zone 6, has been arraigned before a Chief Magistrate sitting in Jabi, Abuja on Monday for criminal intimidation and assault contrary to section 397, 328 and 266 of penal code.

The FIR said one Mrs. Ogokwe Genievive of the same address reported that she was beaten up by the accused and one Mr. Shalom

who pursued, hit and damaged her door.

Mrs. Stella pleaded not guilty to the charges levelled against her. Her defence counsel prayed the court to grant her bail as contained in section 341 of criminal procedure code.

The chief magistrate granted the accused bail and adjourned for hearing to March 9, 2005.

KANO TRUST

BUK receives donation for new hostel

Bayero University Kano has received the donation of N70 million for the construction of a students' hostel from the management of Intercontinental Bank Plc.

The acting vice-chancellor of the university, Professor Danjuma A. Maiwada, disclosed this during the foundation laying ceremony of the project at the university's premises. He described the gesture as timely due to the need for the provision of more hostels.

He said, already a new scheme for students' hostel development through private investors initiative has commenced in many universities including Bayero University.

While speaking on some projects donated by some financial institutions to the university, Prof. Maiwada highlighted those of the First Bank of Nigeria which is an endowment of a professorial chair in pediatrics worth N7.5 million, Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN)'s constructed an office block at the cost of N10 million and the construction of computer laboratories by the Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC).

Earlier, the vice-chairman and chief executive of Intercontinental Bank Plc, Dr. Erostus Akingbola, said the initiative is in line with their bank's corporate policy

By Aliyu Saleh Machika,
Correspondent, Kano

of commitment to providing platform for quality education for the Nigerian youths and national development in general.

Represented by the executive director, public sector, Mr. Neka Nweke, Dr. Akingbola described the success of their Kano branch office as a clear testimony to the good support and patronage they enjoy from the people of Kano, since they began operations in the state.

The hostel when completed would comprise 60 rooms of 24 bed-spaces each and would be dedicated to Alhaji Aliko Dangote, said the management of the Bank.



Governor of Kano State, Malam Ibrahim Shekarau, in a crowd at the open air theatre, Government House, Kano.

Doguwu LG gives goats to women as loans

About 400 goats have been given to women in Doguwu local government area as loans. According to the chairman of the council, Alhaji Wada Abdu Riruwai, women are known to be good animal rearers. He also said the loan was aimed at reducing the level of poverty among them.

The chairman also revealed that about N3 million was spent on the empowerment of the women folk and rural dwellers in Doguwu local government area. The chair-

man revealed this while answering questions from newsmen in the state.

Alhaji Wada Abdu Riruwai

said about N3 million have so far been disbursed as loans to rural women in order to empower them and

reduce their over dependence on the men-folk.

Alhaji Wada Riruwai however said the money disbu-

rsed is expected to be paid in four years and devoid of any interest so as to be in tune with the teaching of Islam.

Emir tasks drug manufacturers on NAFDAC

The Emir of Kano, Alhaji (Dr.) Ado Bayero, has charged drug manufacturers and dealers in the nation to strictly comply with laws governing the regulation of drugs and other related products as directed by the National Agency for Food and Drug Adminis-

By Yusha'u Adamu Ibrahim,
Correspondent, Kano

tration and Control (NAFDAC).

Speaking at the grassroots consumer education programme organised by NAFDAC held in Bichi local council, Kano, Bayero said only by their compliance to the rules and regulations by the agency that qualitative and safe drugs could be produced for consumption.

Alhaji Ado Bayero explained further that only by obeying the laws of the land that Nigeria can stop the circulation of fake drugs and other related products that are causing serious damages to people.

He disclosed that regulating drug business in Nigeria is a collective responsibility that needs concerted efforts from government and non-governmental organisations as well as individuals.

The emir who therefore urged people to support and cooperate with NAFDAC also called on them to use only products that have NAFDAC registration number.

On her part, the director general of NAFDAC, Dr. Dora Akunyili, said that NAFDAC chose Kano to flag-off the campaign because of the emir's support and assistance to the agency.

Dr. Dora disclosed that the agency has divided the

country into zones with 3 states in each zone for the campaign, which she said is aimed at sensitising the people on drugs.

The agency's boss who urged the general public to consume only drugs that have NAFDAC numbers, expiring date and address of the manufacturing company

warned them also to desist from buying drugs from drug-hawkers.

She said that drugs that were exposed to sun will become ineffective and is harmful. She also urged them to report to NAFDAC any suspicious activities particularly concerning drugs manufacturing.

Polio to be eliminated soon - NPI Coordinator

Wild polio virus (WPV) has been confirmed to have drastically reduced from 13 cases in 2004 to no single case in January this year.

This was contained in a press release by the zonal coordinator, National programme on Immunisation (NPI) North-West Zone, Kano, Dr. M.Z. Mahmoud. Dr. Mahmoud said the feat was achieved due to the quality of perso-

nnel, the judicious use of resources and increase in the level of oral vaccine (OPV) acceptance.

Dr. Mahmoud assured that the little cases of wild polio virus circulating will soon be eliminated in six intensive rounds of NIDS that would be carried out this year.

The NPI has made a selection and trained 186 central facilitators and 372

core trainers that will ensure the smooth implementation of the exercise while efforts are made to ensure that all the personnel are from the North western geo-political zone in order to enhance the social acceptance of the immunisation services in the zone.

Meanwhile, the NPI hoped to administer measles vaccines and promote the use of insecticide treated nets against malaria.



From (L-R) the special advisers to Governor Shekarau on special duties, Hajiya Mariya Sunusi Mahadi, women and children, Hajiya Binta Garba Abdullahi, the commissioner for women, Dr. Gaji Alhassan Dantata and Hajiya Balaraba Bello Sale, the commissioner for education at a retreat...recently.

Kano flags off schools census

Kano State has flagged off the head count for all students, pupils in both secondary and primary schools in the state capital.

To flag of the exercise is registrar, Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board, Professor Bello Salim, who represent the minister of education.

Prof. Salim said he was in Kano to oversee the conduct of the census as directed by the federal government who also said the essence is for both government and parents of children in schools to know exactly what are on ground as it relates to the number of pupils, the number schools, the infrastructure, the student/teacher ratio.

Bello Salim said it is also aimed at producing accurate data and information about exact number of schools existing in states in order to assist them in the planning of such schools.

Salim described some classrooms in some of the schools as crazy due to congestion and not ideal for learning. He said he is going

By Ahmed Abubakar,
Correspondent, (Kano)

to report back what he had so far seen as regards the progress made by the state government in against what some have said.

On her part the commissioner for education of the state, Hajiya Balaraba Bello Maitama, assured the state government's support in the conduct of the exercise while ensuring the governments dedication to uplifting the standard of education in the state.

She also assured that by the end of this year 70 percent of Kano State students and pupils will be properly furnished.

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A traditional dance troupe at the 2004 Fujifilm African press photo awards in Lagos...recently.
Pix: Oladipupo Odunewu

Lagos opposes fresh proposal on Bar Beach development

The Lagos State government on Tuesday at its weekly meeting kicked against plans to table a fresh proposal on the development of the popular Lagos Bar Beach to a tourism haven by the Federal Executive Council (FEC).

According to it, the proposal allegedly being promoted by the Works minister, Adeseye Ogunlewe, was belated, as the state had already signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with a French firm, Messrs Energyx International.

Under the arrangement, Energyx had agreed to raise the \$400 million required from a Paris based financial institution to fund the development of the sprawling beach into a world-class tourism center.

The Works minister had stirred the hornet's nest at the weekend when he told journalists that a memo on the Bar Beach would take the center stage at the FEC's meeting yesterday.

Ogunlewe who spoke of plans to throw the bid open before appointing a developer also confirmed that President Obasanjo had endorsed a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) arrangement for the Beach's transformation.

But reacting to Ogunlewe's comment, Lagos State deputy governor, Mr. Femi Pedro said the development ran counter to an initial directive by Obasanjo that a committee being chaired by the Works minister appraises the Energyx proposal.

president had in a memo dated July 12, 2004 directed the Ogunlewe-headed committee to expedite action on the MOU and make formal arrangement on how to hand over the Bar Beach to the State government for leisure and recreational development.

Pedro said it was necessary to counsel the FEC to ignore the new proposal by the Federal Ministry of Works as it ran foul of the

president's written directive. Pedro, who traced the problem of the Bar Beach to between 1908 and 1912 when the East and West Moles were constructed, said that the Lagos approach is the best solution to the problem of the beach.

According to him, between 1990 and the 1997, the federal government spent N925 million in sand replenishment and another N3.888 billion between 1999 and May 2003.

LG to prosecute those who fell trees

The chairman of Ikoyi/Obalende local government area of Lagos State, Dr. Folarin Gbadebo-Smith has said that the council would henceforth drag any individual or group of people who cut trees indiscriminately in Ikoyi before the law courts.

Gbadebo-Smith who stated this in an interview with our correspondent on Tuesday said it was part of the measure put in place by the council in its campaign against tree cutting in the area.

He said the council would do everything possible to sustain the serenity and the aesthetic nature of Ikoyi, which was inherited from the colonial masters many years ago.

He said the legislative arm of the council would soon come up with a legislation, which would make it an offence, for anybody to engage in indiscriminate cutting of trees in the area.

"Our environment

concern to us in the council. It is worrisome that some residents and corporate organisations have been engaging in tree cutting activities regardless of its implication to the environment.

He regretted the recent cutting of trees in Ikoyi by officials of the National Electric Power Authority, estate developers and some residents of the area.

He said the NEPA management had not find it proper to reply the series of letters sent to them from the council over the issue.

He said those who cut trees illegally would be dragged before the magistrate when the law becomes operational and may be forced to plant some apart from being punished for their act.

He said the council would embark on an aggressive campaign as from next month to sensitise residents of the area about its plans to discourage tree cutting in

Tax: LASG threatens closure of erring companies

The Lagos State government on Tuesday initiated moves to enforce the immediate remittance of the Pay As You Earn (PAYE) tax with threats to close down the premises of erring companies and organisations.

Members of the State Revenue Committee on Enforcement and Prosecution of tax evaders were at the premises of the Nigerian Red Cross Society warning the organisation to pay up the N8 million it deducted from its workforce as PAYE between 1999 and 2001 or risk closure.

Construction firm G. Cappa Limited, which owed N10 million as PAYE escaped the sledge harmer as its management remitted N500,000 and signed an undertaking to write off the debt with monthly remittance of N500,000 to the government purse in the next nine months.

The committee led by the legal adviser to the Lagos State Board of Internal Revenue, Mrs. Mojisoluwa Olukolu on Tuesday went to

By Olumide Bajulaiye, Correspondent (Lagos)

the premises of the Nigerian Red Cross to effect the court judgment which gave it the power to distain any defaulter of its goods.

Armed with the court judgment delivered by the Hon. Justice R. I. B. Adebisi of the Lagos High Court, Mrs. Olukolu said the committee had followed due process to ensure that the organisation pay up, but rather it claimed ignorant of the matter.

While pleading for time to pay up, the secretary general of the Red Cross, Mr. Abiodun Orebiyi who had earlier claimed ignorant of the whole matter, pleaded with the committee to give it time to enable them put their house in order.

According to him the organisation at present had no money in its coffers, adding that in the last two months it has not been able to meet all its financial needs including that of the staff salaries.

"As I am talking to you

now all the donors have not sent in their donations. We are in a serious financial mess. The last time federal government gave us money was in 1998, N100,000 and we spend over N200 million yearly here.

"If you seal up this place now it will send wrong signals to the international community who had already had bad impression about Nigeria. Already your presence here will be sent to Geneva and this will be debated and sent into the net for the world to see."



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DIESEL PRICE HIKE

NARTO warns of high transport cost

The National Association of Road Transport Owners (NARTO) has threatened to pass the additional N12.00 cost of AGO (diesel) to commuters in the country if the recent price hike of the product is not reversed. The N12 increase in price of diesel has raised the price of the product from N41.00 to N53.00 per litre.

By Austine Odo, Senior Labour Reporter

Speaking with *Daily Trust* on the development in Abuja yesterday, the NARTO national operations coordinator, Alhaji Layal Isa, said diesel was a major input for transport operation, and the freight rate was tied to the cost of

the inputs which in turn would affect the cost of operation when there is a price hike.

"If this happens, it means the increased cost will be passed onto the consumers and of course, you know the consequences. That is why this increase by N12.00 will not be acceptable," he said.

According to Alhaji Isa, there was no way the new price could be built into the present matrix, hence the rejection. He however said the association would on Saturday hold a meeting in Kano to examine the cost implications of the increase and react accordingly. He said his investigations on the matter had revealed that apart from the price increase, those who paid for the product seven days before were prevented from lifting until they paid up the balance of the new rate.

This, he pointed out, was unjustified because they paid the approved price before the increase came into affect.

"In other words, we are not prepared to carry this burden any more. Something has to be done; the NNPC will have to reverse this increase," he said.



Gov Ibrahim Idris of Kogi state receiving the national primary education productivity award certificate from Prof. (Mrs.) Shokom of UBE ... recently

Justice Uwais tasks lawyers on book writing

The Chief Justice of Nigeria, Justice Mohammed Lawal Uwais, has enjoined lawyers to write books for generations yet unborn.

By Kemi Ogedegbe, Judicial Editor

the draft of a proposed new legal practitioners' Act."

Justice Uwais said that the two authors of the book were former lecturers at the Nigerian Law School. "They decided after leaving the employment of the Nigerian Law School to go individually and later as partners into legal practice."

According to him, the action had brought their experiences to bear in writing the book; hence "I recommend the book to lawyers and students".

The reviewer of the book, Mr. Femi Lijadu, praised the contents of the piece. According to him, "it treats more than 550 separate topics ranging from civil procedure, merges and acquisitions to the law of evidence. It has 567 pages and easier to read."

Speaking during a formal presentation of a book entitled: *Quick Reference Material on Nigerian Law and Practice*, written by Aisha Umar and Sylvester Imhanobe, Justice Uwais said that more books for reference purposes were needed in the country.

According to him, the book would serve as a source of reference to all in the legal profession and students of law because it covered a wide scope of procedural as well as substantive laws.

He said, "It is so up-to-date that it covers the newest of our civil procedure rules, the High Court of Lagos State civil procedure rules 2004, and

Kogi Gov gets education award

The Kogi State Governor, Alhaji Ibrahim Idris, has been awarded the National Primary Education, Productivity Merit Award by a non-governmental organisation, Citizens of Repute Biographic Centre, in conjunction with the Universal Basic Education Commission. The award, which was in recognition of his visionary approach to the growth of primary education in Kogi State, was witnessed by top Kogi State indigenes in Abuja.

By Benjamin Auta

fruitful results as his administration had completed over 600 units of four classroom blocks with offices across the state, with over 200 units currently undergoing construction.

The governor further stated that his administration had ensured the prompt payment of salaries and allowances of teachers. He also disclosed that arrears of 2002 and 2003 leave grants owed teachers by past administrations had been paid

In his address of welcome, Dr. Tom Ohikire said that Governor Idris was chosen after a thorough assessment of his contributions in the area of primary education. He said the governor had 'made quality contribution to education in Kogi State within the shortest time of assuming office', and added that the state had been included among five others for a pilot programme sponsored by an international donor agency in the UK.

In her remark, Prof. Bridget Shokrud, who stood in for Prof. Gidado Tahir, the Executive Secretary of the Universal Basic Education (UBE), said that the federal government would soon set up an intervention project for primary education.

In his acceptance speech, Governor Idris said his resolve to revive education in the state was borne out of past neglects on the sector by previous administrations. He said the

Court grants bail to suspected horsemeat consumer

A Bauchi State Shariah court has granted bail to one Alkasim Rabi for allegedly slaughtering and eating horse meat in the state. The presiding judge, Abubakar Jubrin Jahun, while reading the judgement, said that the court agreed to grant the bail for lack of evidence and prohibition of slaughtering and eating horse meat in the Islamic law and the Nigerian Constitution.

By Abubakar Haruna

accordance with Islamic injunction.

"I slaughtered and ate the horse because it is lawful in Islam. I didn't do it in order to cause chaos or intimidate public. That is why I did it secretly in my house and shared it to my fellow brothers in the same faith," he said.

He insisted that despite the fact that people have different understanding with regards to the issue of eating horse, it has not been prohibited in Islam. It could be recalled that Malam Alkasim Rabi was arrested last week by the police in Bauchi State for alleged causing chaos and intimidating public for slaughtering and eating horse in the state.

The judge also said that the accused should explain to the court the issue of causing chaos and intimidating public in the state.

The accused, Alkasim Rabi, told the Hausa Service of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) monitored in Abuja that he slaughtered and ate the horse in

Postponement of NHIS launch not politically motivated - NHIS boss

The Executive Secretary and Chief Executive Officer of the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS), Dr. Muhammed Mustafa Lecky, has affirmed that the postponement of the formal launching of the scheme was not politically motivated, adding that it was done in good faith to strengthen the grey areas and further reposition the scheme for an effective take-off.

By Sunday Ejike Benjamin, Health Reporter

Addressing newsmen Tuesday in Abuja, Dr. Lecky maintained that the postponement had nothing to do with pressure on the

alleged by some people. According to him, it was meant to create avenue for further repositioning of the scheme for the successful implementation of its programmes.

Commenting on the fears that politicians would 'dip hands' on the scheme's funds, the NHIS boss assured that politicians would not have access to the funds which would accrue from the contributions of civil servants, adding that the monies would be paid to registered health mainte-

would in turn pay registered providers for their services under the scheme.

The scheme, he declared, was comprehensively designed to cover all categories of disease, pointing out that 'there is no limitation to the number of items one could be treated at a giving time under the scheme'.

According to him, the scheme, when launched on May 29, 2005, would be of great benefit to the generality of Nigerians as the programmes were comprehensively designed to take care of all segments

Reps c'ttee chairman flays deputy over recapitalisation policy

The House of Representatives subcommittee on Banks and Banking has dissociated itself from the claims by a member that the House was opposed to the categorisation of banks into three by the Senate in modification of the N25

By Hammeed Bello, Senior political reporter,

billion recapitalisation policy of the government.

The Senate recently passed a bill which required that banks be classified into three such that mega banks meet the N25 billion capital base; medium banks N10 billion, while small banks are to satisfy N5 billion capitalisation requirement.

Reacting to the action of the Senate, the Deputy Chairman, Committee on Banking and Currency, Prince U.S.A. Igwe, said the Senate acted unilaterally and that the bill did not reflect the views of the Senate.

Igwe suggested that the currency committee which was still working on the bill would recommend that the House upholds the N25 billion recapitalisation policy across board without categorising the banks.

But Honourable Lawal Garba, the Chairman, subcommittee on Banks and Banking, in a statement, said that Hon. Igwe expressed his personal views and not that of the

entire House.

"Neither the subcommittee on Banks and Banking nor the House has deliberated on the two bills (the proposed amendment to the CBN Acts and the BOFID.) Indeed, the bills are yet to be listed for reading in the chamber after which it will then be referred to the House committee on Banking and Currency, and subsequently to the subcommittee on Banks and Banking.

"Unlike the Senate whose decision to endorse the categorisation of banks for the purpose of the capitalisation exercise followed wide consultation with stakeholders and a public hearing, the bills are yet to pass the committee stage at the House of Representatives.

"Any decision taken on the recapitalisation issue by the House of Representatives will be guided by the nation's economic interest which will involve an informed analysis of our diversity, level of economic development and other variables," Hon. Garba said.

FG approves dualisation of Abuja - Lokoja road

The federal government has approved the dualisation of the road linking Lokoja with the Federal Capital Territory. The Minister of Works, Chief Adeseye Ogunlewe, disclosed this Tuesday while paying a courtesy call on the Kogi State Governor, Alhaji Ibrahim Idris. He said his ministry had already completed the design of the accident prone road, and expressed hope that construction work would start before the end of the year.

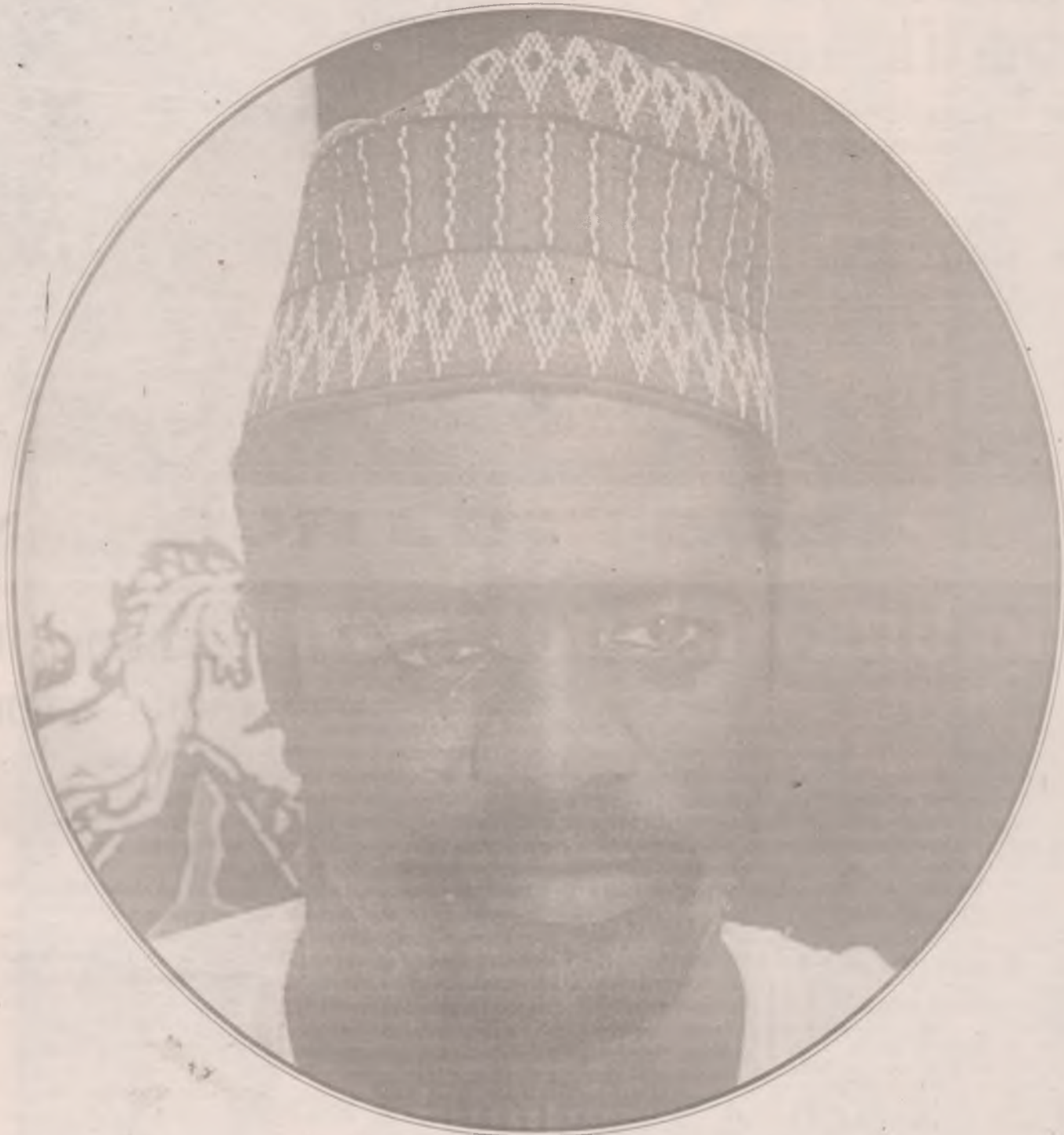
Ahmed Tahir, Correspondent (Lokoja)

federal government had also approved the reconstruction of Ikpele Kabba - Auchu road, and that of Lokoja - Auchu road.

Welcoming the minister, Governor Idris expressed appreciation to the federal government on the planned dualisation of the Lokoja - Abuja road on which many lives had been lost to accident. He also appealed to the federal government to also dualise all federal roads in the eastern senatorial

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Executive Governor, Jigawa state

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Inside Politics

Masari wants reps to deliver democracy dividends

Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Aminu Bello Masari has assured members of the House that the future would honour them when the benefits of the sacrifices they are making now begin to bring dividends to Nigerians.

Hon. Masari was speaking to members of the Future Leaders Forum (FLF) who paid him a congratulatory visit over the recent award of Legislator of the Year to him by *Thisday* newspapers.

"I want all members of the House to know that the future of our country will honour them for the sacrifices they are making today. They chose the pursuit of public good over selfish interests where

they could have done otherwise. The future will show appreciation when the benefits of their sacrifices begin to mature," he said, according to a statement by his media special assistant, Austin Iyashere.

Hon. Masari told the youths that he dedicated the award to all members of the House of Representatives and Nigerians who believe in democratic practice, observing that whatever was achieved by him was made possible through the cooperation of all members of the House of Representatives.

Recalling that it was difficult in the early days, to resist pressures to play to the gallery, he observed that

"people believed that the House was not doing any work because we were not abusing people and grandstanding against the executive arm of government," adding that it was really difficult then to persuade people that there were other ways of managing disputes.

Hon. Masari assured the youths that the House of Representatives would dedicate itself to even better service to Nigerians.

Borno State House of Assembly has resolved to probe Marte local government chairman, Dr. Abubakar Ali Kullima for allegation of financial impropriety and mismanagement.

The House resolved to carry out the probe following a petition sent to it by some members of the All Nigeria People Party (ANPP) from the local government area.

Some people within the ANPP in Borno State however see the probe as a fall out of the political crisis between Governor Ali Modu Sheriff and the member representing Maiduguri metropolis constituency in the House of Representatives, Barrister Umara Kumalia, seen as Dr. Kullima's

Borno assembly to probe LG boss over fraud

From Abdullahi Bego, Regional Editor (North East)

political godfather. The probe is therefore seen by those people as witch hunt by Sheriff's supporters in the house.

Members of the Borno assembly decided to set up a three-man probe panel when speaker of the House, Alhaji Goni Ali Modu read the petition letter sent by the Marte local government ANPP members.

The probe panel was the suggestion of Alhaji Zanna

Agid, an ANPP member of the House representing Kala Balga local government area. Agid had suggested that based on the allegations contained in the petition, the House should set up an investigation committee to look at the allegation.

However, the fact that the house broke away from its recess to discuss the matter in a special session two weeks before the official date of resumption, made some voices within the ANPP to allege that the house move might not be unrelated with the on-going 'cold war' between the two senior ANPP politicians in the state, Sheriff and Kumalia.

The sour Kumalia-Sheriff relationship is threatening to sunder the ANPP into factions, with potential implications for the party's future electoral fortunes. No date has been fixed for the completion of the House probe of the Marte local government chairman.

PDP chieftain alleges plot to kill Gov Daniel

The secretary of the Ogun State Chapter of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Ogun State, Elder Yemi Akinwonmi has alleged plot to kill the Ogun State Governor, Otunba Gbenga Daniel at Ifo, in Ifo local government area during the proposed state-wide tour of the governor.

Addressing a press conference at the PDP state secretariat in Abeokuta, Elder Akinwonmi alleged that nine people were behind the assassination plot on the governor.

According to him, three persons from neighbouring state, who were in Abeokuta on Monday to distribute blackmailing documents on Otunba Daniel were arrested by the police.

Elder Akinwonmi, while giving insight to the alleged plot declared that a secret meeting was held at Ibara by nine men, adding that this development has embarrassed the PDP and all the good people of Ogun State.

"We cannot imagine at this level of our civilisation and democracy that some evil minded individuals will plan to eliminate the man adjudged as the best governor in Nigeria. A man that has brought the dividend of democracy to all the people of Ogun State. A man whose humility is almost to the point of a fault."

The secretary PDP Ogun State said the Peoples Democratic Party in the state has directed a full scale investigation into the allegation, assured that whoever that is involved no matter highly placed in the

From Kayode Ajibola, Correspondent (Abeokuta)

PDP party or rival parties will be dealt with according to the law.

Elder Akinwonmi accused a neighbouring state as the arrowhead of the plans to foment evil against Ogun State alleging that a number of clandestine activities have been uncovered by the party in the state.

Elder Akinwonmi, however assured the people of the state that the PDP party in the state was equal to the task, adding that it has been resolved to defend and protect the interest of our governor at all cost in whatever circumstance.

Meanwhile, the Ogun State Police Relation Officer (PPRO), DSP Femi Awoyale, confirmed it to our reporter in a phone interview yesterday that three people were arrested by the police, for distributing inciting leaflets that could cause chaos in the state.



Abia State Governor, Chief Orji Kalu with the Director General, National Orientation Agency, Alhaji Idi Faruk, during a visit to the Chairman, Abia State Football Association, Mr. Emeka Inyama at his hometown, Umuwawa, Abia State.

2007: Bafarawa lauds Kalu's courage

Governor Orji Kalu of Abia State was over the weekend commended for his courage to contest for the number one seat of this country.

Governor of Sokoto State, Alhaji Attahiru Dalhatu Bafarawa made the commendation while welcoming his Abia State counterpart to Sokoto.

Governor Bafarawa said there was the need for the younger generation to come out and take the lead noting that even though they are not from the same party that he

From Abdulfatai Abdulsalami, Correspondent (Sokoto)

will not stop from praying for him for the realisation of this noble goal.

The Sokoto State governor expressed confidence that Orji Kalu could make it having administer Abia for two term successfully, adding that most of the presidential candidates in United State of America are former governors.

In his words, "as far as I am concerned, as far as ANPP who is loyal to the party

and continue to be loyal, we have not started discussing that project now.

"If we start talking about that project I hope to invite you to come and join our party (ANPP) for the realisation of your ambition," adding that what they are doing now is resolving their differences which they did successfully.

Speaking earlier, the Abia State governor remarked that he was in Sokoto in the continuation of his building of unity and bridge of oneness, as well as to commiserate and condole him on the fire incident at the central market recently which resulted in the loss of lives and properties.

Orji Kalu explained that he was also in the state to congratulate his father, the former president, Alhaji Shehu Aliyu Usman Shagari on his 80th birthday, adding that 80th years in anybody's life is not easy especially for a former president of the country.

Governor Kalu assured that despite party differences between him and Bafarawa, their brotherhood would still be there whether he is in politics or out of politics, adding that he is a man who knows no party but believe in development.

PDP youth group denies plot to impeach Wabara

By Zainab Alimi, Political Reporter

The national coordinator of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) youth vanguards, Mr. Yusuf Ahmed, has denied media reports (not *Daily Trust*) that a group loyal to Chief Chris Uba was plotting to impeach Senate President, Chief Adolphus Wabara.

The alleged impeachment plot started making the rounds following Chief Wabara's failure to stop the replacement of Senator Ikechukwu Abana with former Senator, Chief Ben Obi.

Calling for perpetrators of the false stories to leave Chief Uba's name out of the alleged impeachment, the group stated in a press release signed by its national coordinator that no iota of truth exists in the whole story which it described as a figment of the imagination of originators of the falsehood.

"Dr. Andy and Chief Uba are not senators" the statement said, "and only senators can remove a senate president. Let the impression not be created that the 109 senators do not know who should lead us to warrant a presidential aide to come and impose a senate president for them."

The group said that just because Chief Andy Uba, a personal aide to President Olusegun Obasanjo works in the presidency did not justify linking his name with the alleged impeachment plot, and that he should be left to pursue his undertakings without dragging his name in the mud.

Gov Goje orders arrest of political thugs

Gombe State Governor, Alhaji Muhamad Danjuma Goje, has directed the police command to arrest political thugs known as *Yan Kalare* in the state.

The governor said any youth seen carrying weapons and harassing people in the name of party loyalty should be arrested and dealt with accordingly.

Governor Goje was addressing youth who they paid him a thank-you visit over the inclusion of one of their own, the PDP youth leader, Alhaji Abubakar Mu'azu, among the state's delegates to the

From Mohammed Abubakar, Correspondent (Gombe)

proposed national conference on political reforms.

According to him, "I have directed the police to arrest any youth who engages in unlawful activities even if he's my son, Ahmed. Nobody should see himself above the law just because he helped my party during campaign."

He added that he was aware some prominent people in the state who are against his administration, are sponsoring these youths warning that they would be unmasked and arrested too.

He absolved youths of his

party of fermenting trouble in the state saying they are all from the opposition.

"The police have recently arrested some youths for unlawful activities and none of these youths is a member of my party," said the governor.

The governor's directive to the police came amidst media reports of the activities of *Yan Kalare* who have undertaken themselves into terror gangs, engaging in fights that often result in bloodshed as well as harassing political office holders in the name of begging for alms.



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Dividend Per Share (k)	20	20	25	25	5
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Sports

African Footballer of the year

Why Okocha failed again

It was great expectation. The hope and positive anticipation were hinged on the five star performance, Austin Okocha, the Super Eagles and Bolton Wanderers skipper posted at the African Cup of Nations tournament in Tunisia February 2004.

Okocha, who was on top of his game, practically dusted every other star to twinkle and sparkle like a meteor. His skills; prolific, artful and masterful set tongues wagging that the sun may have set for his forays into the prestigious hall of fame.

The former PSG pearl lived up to high billing in all the matches inspiring the bunch that lacked shrewd technical bench with his on-the-pitch technical instructions that impacted positively on the Eagles.

Okocha scored CAF's 1000th Nations Cup goal. He was the most valuable player, the highest goal scorer and led the best behaved team of the fiesta. His exploits were crowned alas not with the prestigious Unity Cup but a bronze that tasted like gold.

These set the stage for high expectation and hope. Many were convinced he had done enough to justify being named Africa's best for the year.

However, it seems the splendid performance was a mere flash in the palm. His exploits less than inspiring and were even punctuated by disheartening bouts of injuries that ensured he was as inconsistent as inconsistency itself.

Even in Bolton, Okocha flopped repeatedly

By Patrick Andrew, senior Sports Reporter

engendering anxious care from his pious devotees. In spite of the signs of failure, many chose to anchor their faith on the believe that his Nations Cup exploits which commanded about 60 per cent parameter for selecting Africa's best player would be the cliché.

They were wrong. Nations Cup is only one of the major criteria. The others being CAF, UEFA Champions leagues, Confederation Cup, World Cup qualifiers.

It would seem reasonable to assume that the eventual winner, Samuel Eto'o Fils, had overwhelming edge. Albeit, the Cameroun prodigy was a shade of himself at the Nations Cup fiesta, he took up the gauntlet stepped up his game and has ever been consistent.

Unlike Okocha, who falters, whether due to injury or lackadaisical altitude, Eto'o remained a constant decimal on the pitch scoring at virtually every match. His consistency was as sure as dawn.

So far in the season, Eto'o has banged in 17 goals for Barcelona. He never missed any World Cup qualifiers for Cameroun and has always posted splendid performance.

So, consistency, participation in major games and outstanding performances marked him out and justified his choice.

However, Okocha's greatest albatross may have been NFA's administrative

ineptitude. Notwithstanding the buck passing a manifestation of the "Nigerian Factor" in the issue of who acknowledged receipt of the nomination forms at the NFA secretariat: whether one Bola Oyeyede or Mrs. Idowu" the onus lies with Taiwo Ogunjobi, who failed to act, when it was necessary. Why were the forms not distributed to those to vote? What about the NFA board? Should not members have been concerned with this all

important matter? No, losing some 25 points is no mean issue and someone should pay the prize for this show of negligence.

This lapse brings to the fore the quality of administrators who run the affairs of football in this country and are even now pulling the strings to stay put on the job which they have shown glaring incompetence. Whoever was responsible has done Okocha permanent harm period.

Outrage greets Jay Jay loss

Nigerians have expressed outrage over what they termed the denial of the captain of the senior national soccer team, Austin Jay Jay Okocha, from winning the highly prized African Footballer of the Year award.

At the CAF/MTN award held in Durban, South Africa, on Tuesday night, Cameroon's Samuel Eto'o Fils once more beat the Nigerian midfielder to the coveted prize.

Chief coach of the national soccer team, Christian Chukwu, told KICK OFF: "I am sad, very sad about this development."

He accused the Confederation of African Football (CAF) of "playing politics with this award in giving a Cameroonian Samuel Eto'o Fils a second time."

Chukwu said: "This denial of Okocha is very painful. When somebody merits something, he should not be denied that thing. Okocha merited this award over Eto'o or any player for that matter. But I am happy the player himself understands the politics of CAF and he will not allow it to weigh him down."

"If we are to go by the performance for last season, there is no player whose performance matched that of Okocha. He was the most valuable player at the African Cup of Nations, and he was equally outstanding in his club. CAF were unfair to him and to Nigeria as a whole."

Former national team coach, Tunde Disu, attributed the failure of the Super Eagles captain to win the award to "the Francophone versus Anglophone politics in CAF."

Disu declared: "When you talk of star performance, Okocha has an edge over any player in the continent. In the past two years, there is no player like him technically. Caf's method of selecting the best player is faulty. They should borrow a leaf from FIFA who are more transparent."

A former Nigeria international, Henry Nwosu, also told KICK OFF: "It is unfair that Caf will deny Okocha of the award for the third time."

"I must say CAF did not do a good job. From his performance last year, he ought to have won easily."

However, Nwosu advised the Eagles captain not to be



Austin Okocha

discouraged. "He should not feel bad with this development for this is not the end of the world even though nobody is really happy with what has happened."

Eto'o sparkles on big stage at Barcelona

A child-like enthusiasm for the game, electrifying pace and a burning desire to succeed are some of the ingredients that have helped Samuel Eto'o scoop his second successive African Player of the Year award.

The 23-year-old Barcelona and Cameroon striker has already won the African Nations Cup twice, an Olympic gold medal and the King's Cup and is now well on course to win his first league title.

The Primera Liga's leading scorer with 17 goals, six more than last season's leading marksman Ronaldo, Eto'o could challenge the Brazilian's 34 strikes when he was at the Catalan club in 1996-97.

A nervous, fidgety figure on the pitch, Eto'o torments even the most well-drilled defences with his darting runs in search of the ball. When he does receive it, his devastating turn of pace makes him almost impossible to stop.

No wonder many Real Madrid fans wonder why president Florentino Perez turned down the opportunity to buy a player the club already had a half share in and then sold him to their

arch-rivals. Spotted by a Real Madrid scout when he was just 15 playing for Cameroon in a youth tournament in the Ivory Coast, the wiry centre forward was whisked away from his homeland to sign for the Spanish giants in 1996.

Real's oversight in forgetting to pick him up from Madrid airport when he arrived in the Spanish capital was the first in a series of careless acts that have returned to haunt them.

Initially the prospect of allowing the young talent to sit on the bench as cover for Raul and Fernando Morientes persuaded Real to loan the striker out to second division neighbours Leganes, then Espanyol and finally Real Mallorca.

The islanders were quick to realise his value, however, and despite severe cash-flow problems stumped up a club record \$6.31 million to buy half his rights in 2001.

Renowned for his cool finishing, fiery temper and commitment to the cause, Eto'o quickly became a favourite with the Son Moix faithful despite his poor disciplinary record.

He even promised to buy 30,000 euros worth of tickets for fans to apologise for a

sending-off against Barcelona that resulted in him being banned for four matches.

Eto'o was elevated to hero status when he steered Mallorca to victory in the 2003 King's Cup final, scoring two brilliant goals and winning the penalty that gave the club their first major title with a 3-0 win over Recreativo Huelva.

His best performances, however, came against Real. He inspired Mallorca to a 4-0 win over the nine-times European champions in the Cup quarter-finals and tore them to shreds in the league as he spearheaded a famous 5-1 win at the Bernabeu.

He repeated the trick last season, scoring another double in the islanders' 3-2 win at Real, a performance that brought him to the attention of the Catalans.

They persuaded Perez to go back on his promise that Eto'o would never play for Barcelona by paying 25 million euros to secure his services.

Six months later, there is not a Barca fan who would not have gladly paid double that sum for a player whose goals have fired the club to the top of the table and inspired the Catalans to a 3-1 victory over Real at the Nou Camp in November.

"Eto'o is, without doubt, the most decisive player in the league," says team mate and World Player of the Year Ronaldinho. "He is incredibly important to us and I'm delighted to be able to play alongside him."

Eto'o himself is determined to live up to his billing.

"I can't let Barcelona down," he says. "They paid a lot of money for me and I want to make my mark here by helping to begin a new era."

PAST WINNERS

Full list of African Footballer of the Year award winners:

- 1970: Salif Keita (St Etienne, France and Mali)
- 1971: Ibrahim Sunday (Asante Kotoko and Ghana)
- 1972: Cherif Souleymane (Hafia and Guinea)
- 1973: Tshimen Bwanga (TP Mazembe Englebert and Zaire)
- 1974: Paul Moukila (CARA Brazzaville and Congo)
- 1975: Ahmed Faras (Mohammedia and Morocco)
- 1976: Roger Milla (Canon Yaounde and Cameroon)
- 1977: Tarak Dhiab (Esperance and Tunisia)
- 1978: Karim Abdoul Razak (Asante Kotoko and Ghana)
- 1979: Thomas Nkono (Canon Yaounde and Cameroon)
- 1980: Jean Manga Onguene (Canon Yaounde and Cameroon)
- 1981: Lakhdar Belloumi (GCR Mascara and Algeria)
- 1982: Thomas Nkono (Espanyol, Spain and Cameroon)
- 1983: Mahmoud Al Khatib (Al Ahli and Egypt)
- 1984: Theophile Abega (Toulouse, France and Cameroon)
- 1985: Mohamed Timoumi (Royal Armed Forces and Morocco)
- 1986: Badou Ezaki (Real Mallorca, Spain and Morocco)
- 1987: Rabah Madjer (FC Porto, Portugal and Algeria)
- 1988: Kalusha Bwalya (Cercle Bruges, Belgium and Zambia)
- 1989: George Weah (Monaco, France and Liberia)
- 1990: Roger Milla (St Denis, Reunion and Cameroon)
- 1991: Abedi Pele Ayew (Marseille, France and Ghana)
- 1992: Abedi Pele Ayew (Marseille, France and Ghana)
- 1993: Rashidi Bekini (Victorial Setubal, Portugal and Nigeria)
- 1994: Emmanuel Amunike (Sporting Lisbon, Portugal and Nigeria)
- 1995: George Weah (AC Milan, Italy and Liberia)
- 1996: Nwankwo Kanu (Inter Milan, Italy and Nigeria)
- 1997: Victor Ikpeba (Monaco, France and Nigeria)
- 1998: Mustapha Hadji (Deportivo Coruna, Spain and Morocco)
- 1999: Nwankwo Kanu (Arsenal, England and Nigeria)
- 2000: Patrick Mboma (Parma, Italy and Cameroon)
- 2001: El-Hadjji Diouf (Rennes, France and Senegal)
- 2002: El-Hadjji Diouf (Liverpool, England and Senegal)
- 2003: Samuel Eto'o (Real Mallorca, Spain and Cameroon)
- 2004: Samuel Eto'o (Barcelona, Spain and Cameroon)

The award was organised by the French soccer magazine 'France Football' until 1994, after which the Confederation of African Football instituted a

2004 award winners

- The winners of the 2004 African football awards handed out in Durban on Tuesday:
- African Footballer of the Year: Samuel Eto'o (Barcelona, Spain and Cameroon)
- Team of the year: Tunisia
- Club of the year: Enyimba (Nigeria)
- Coach of the year: Okey Emordi (Enyimba, Nigeria)
- Goalkeeper of the year: Ali Boumnijel (Club Africain and Tunisia)
- Young Player of the Year: Obafemi Martins (Inter Milan, Italy and Nigeria)
- Best African Champions League player: Vincent Enyeama (Enyimba, Nigeria)
- African Women's Footballer of the Year: Perpetua Nkwocha (Nigeria)
- Best African Goal of the Year: Benni McCarthy (FC Porto, Portugal and South Africa)

Sports

Premier League

NFL insists on security plans

The organizers of the semi-autonomous league have directed all premier and professional league clubs to submit their security plans to the NFL secretariat.

By Patrick Andrew, Senior Reporter (Sports)

plans would enable them to assess the adequacy or otherwise and the safety of

fans at such venues. The NFL gave the order after observing inadequacies in security arrangements in two venues: Ilorin and Ibadan where Kwara united

Nationale and Shooting Stars, Nasarawa Utd clashed for the maximum points.

Though Salihu said there was no security breach at both venues, he was however not satisfied with the entrance and exit ways and other arrangements for evacuation of fans in an event of untoward incident.

"We want, in fact, insist on the respective security plans of clubs so that we can guarantee the safety of spectators.

"We are insisting on seeing the plans because we do not want to be told but must see prove of availability and readiness to implement same to enhance the beauty of the league and encourage fans to turn up en mass to watch matches."

According to the NFL scribe, Salihu Abubakar, the

NFA disowns MINAJ

The NFA has disassociated itself from MINAJ which claims it has an existing contract to beam premier league matches live.

MINAJ had sought and obtained an injunction restraining African Independent Television (AIT) from televising live the premier league match between Kwara Utd. and Nationale.

MINAJ had claimed that its contract with the NFA on the league was still binding despite claims by the NFA that the contract was terminated for non-performance.

But the chairman technical committee of the NFA board dismissed the claims on the proceeds that the contract had expired last November. Suleiman David said last Tuesday that MINAJ has no legally binding contract noting that the NFA reserved the right to terminate any contract that fails to meet its terms.

Suleiman regretted that the MINAJ contract failed to honour its contractual obligation which was to beam live matches of the premier league.

Even then, the NFA had only Monday given MINAJ an ultimatum to commence forthwith the live telecast of the premier league this weekend as well as pay it the full monetary value based on the claimed existing contracts.

Suleiman, however insisted that there was no such contract any more since the board and the NFA at its annual general meeting had terminated the contract even only after the tenure ended.

"So, one wonders on what grounds, MINAJ wants to still claims ownership of the right to beam the premier league matches live.



Alh. Ibrahim Galadima, NFA boss

Results			
Lobi Stars	3	El-Kanemi	0
Kwara United	3	Nationale	0
Dolphin		Insurance	(PP)
Gabros	1	Rangers	1
Gombe United	2	Wikki 1	
Tornadoes	1	Enyimba	1
Zamfara United	1	Sharks 0	
3SC	3	Nasarawa United	1
NPA	1	Pillars 1	
Berger	0	Gateway	0

Week II matches			
Warriors	VS	Kwara Utd.	
Nationale	VS	Dolphin	
Insurance	VS	Gabros	
Rangers	VS	Gombe Utd.	
Wikki	VS	Tornadoes	
Enyimba	VS	Zamfara Utd.	
Sharks	VS	3SC	
Nasarawa	VS	NPA	
Pillars	VS	Berger	
Gateway	VS	Lobi Stars	

Preleague Week I fixtures

Division IA			
Adamawa Utd.	VS	Buffalo	
Raiders	VS	Kogi Utd.	
JUTH	VS	Plateau Utd.	
Kaduna Utd.	VS	VON	
Jigawa Stars	VS	Mighty Jets	
BON	VS	Court of Appeal	
SEC	VS	Ranch Bees	
NEPA	VS	Yobe Stars	

Division IB			
Crown	VS	Globe Stars	
Bayesa Utd.	VS	Delta Utd.	
Sunshine	VS	Bendel Utd.	
Ila Orogun	VS	F.C. Ebedei	
Akwa Utd.	VS	Ocean Boys	
Ebonyi	VS	First Bank	
Rovers	VS	OUK Utd.*	
Union Bank	VS	Bussdor	

* Formerly Abia Warriors

Top scorers

Ladi Gasper	3SC,	(5:45)
Chinazor Okeke		63 rd
Zubair Kazeem	Nasarawa	39 th
Emmanuel AtoAbasi	NPA	(25 th)
Prince Olomu	Enyimba	(37 th)
Aliyu Muhammad	Tornadoes	(48 th)
Hassan Abdulayiu	Pillars	(85 th)
Nsikak Akpan	Kwara Utd.	(43 rd)
Isah Ali Iseh	Kwara Utd.	(66 th)
Chukwuma Akabueze	Kwara Utd.	(85 th)
Bala Manu	Gombe Utd.	(7 th)
Simeon Shehu	Gombe Utd.	(26 th)
Onyekachi Okoye	Lobi Stars	(35 th)
Duke Udi	Lobi Stars	
Chinedu Ezimora	Lobi Stars	
Yawale Yusuf	Wikki	(74 th)
Akami Valentine	Gabros	
Igho Otegheri	Rangers	

Dolphin play Insurance on Feb. 23

Premier League defending champions, Dolphin of Port Harcourt are to engage Insurance of Benin on February 23 for the maximum points.

The star encounter could not hold last weekend because Dolphin had CAF Champions League date with Renacimiento of Equatorial Guinea.

Consequently, NFL has rescheduled the fierce encounter for next Wednesday some three days after both must have had their maiden premier league clash this season.

Briefs

Clash of jersey

There were clash of jerseys in two centres; Ilorin and Ibadan. Kwara United and Nationale had the problem while the following day host Shooting Stars and Nasarawa United had clash of colours forcing Nasarawa United to put on pink bib over their white top.

Goals

An average of two goals per match were scored in nine matches last weekend. In all, 20 goals out of which 15 were scored by host teams were scored in the opening match of the season. Only Berger and Gateway ended in a draw.

First goal

Ladi Gasper of 3SC scored the first goal of the season five minutes after the match against Nasarawa Utd. got under way. Of the 20 goals scored, nine were scored in the first half. Only one was through penalty by Aliyu Mohammed of Tornadoes. Bala Manu 7 minute goal was two minute short of the record.

Cards

Two red and 10 yellows cards were issued. The red went to Rangers goalkeeper, Segun Oluwaniyand Gabros Tajun Okotie while three players in the Berger, Gateway match received bookings the highest in a month.

Crowd pullers

The Shooting Stars/Nasarawa Gabros/Rangers and Kwara United, Nationale were the most watched matches, statistics showed that no fewer than 10,000 spectators were on hand, even though officials at Ilorin gave 5,591 as attendance, a figure NFL strongly contested.



Players of Tornadoes and Gombe Utd. filing out last season to trade tackles for maximum points.

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- v. Scrappers
- vi. Rollers
- vii. Cranes
- viii. Mixer trucks
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- xi. Welders
- xii. Lathe operators
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Sports

Broadcast Right: Club owners dare MINAJ

Club proprietors have directed the Nigerian Football League (NFL) to ignore the threat of



Salihu Abubakar NFL Scribe

Kwara United 'll remain in Ilorin -Bello

Kwara fans have their assured that their hope of watching their beloved team, Kwara United at the Ilorin stadium, Ilorin will not be dashed.

The stadium, which featured the star match of the week one of the 2005 premier league season, between Kwara United and visiting Iwuanyanwu Nationale was deemed to be below the standard recommended by the NFL, which resorted to impose a ban on the venue.

The NFL leadership, who watched the opening match at the stadium, scored it low because of the patchy nature of the pitch in addition to lopsided nature of the terrain itself. Besides, spectators seats were said to be eye sore.

Kwara United officials were thus given two weeks to put the stadium in order or be ready to move to a better venue, as the NFL wants all venues to be TV friendly pitches and to have comfortable seats for fee playing spectators.

However, Kwara United Chairman Dr. Ayo Bello has assured that the stadium will meet the expectation of the NFL inspecting team and the spectators.

"The Ilorin Stadium was given till our next home match to improve on the state of the pitch to the standard expected. But I can assure that we would play our next home match in Ilorin, because Kwara United will not be moved to another

venue considered in earnest on Monday and Tuesday when I was in Ilorin, the state of the pitch had improved tremendously. The pitch deteriorated to that state due to the carelessness of the people in charge but things have now been set in order," Dr. Bello said.

By AbdulRaheem Aodu
Sports Reporter

MINAJ Broadcast International (MBI) and enter into discussions with television stations, who are ready and willing to buy the broadcast right and beam the 2005 premier league matches live to Nigerian audience.

The league club owners said yesterday, after their

one-day meeting in Abuja, that Minaj has no telecast right over the league since the initial contract they signed was severed last November due to poor performance and inability to pay up the agreed contract fees.

"The NFL determined the position of MINAJ and uncovered that it has no right to contest the TV broadcast right of league matches. We

also discovered that MINAJ contract has been cancelled by the NFA due to poor performance since last year," League club owners secretary, Barrister Iyke Igbokwe said.

He added that the NFL will now go ahead to discuss sponsorship agreement with interested TV stations, following which a new contract that will be

beneficial to both parties will be signed.

"The club owners have empowered the NFL leadership to go ahead and discuss sponsorship arrangement with TV organisations. The NFL chairman has also been mandated to fight the Minaj broadcast right imbroglio to the final conclusion," he added.

"The body, however, reiterated that the current arrangement with AIT, that was put on hold last weekend due to Minaj's court action, will be continued this weekend as the star match of the week will be televised live by the AIT station.

"This weekend the star match of the Premier league will be televised live by AIT in continuation of the existing arrangement that was scuttled by Minaj's spurious court order.

This arrangement is however a temporary one that would remain in place until a concrete sponsorship arrangement is achieved by the NFL," he concluded.

Trustsports recalls that AIT crews were on ground at the Ilorin stadium ready to televise the Kwara United/Iwuanyanwu Nationale match before it was stopped by Minaj's court order, which restrained anybody from encroaching on its TV broadcast right.

...Phase out play-offs

The innovative play-off that was used as life line to rescue teams relegated from the premier league last season and to increase the number of teams in the elite league has been described as misnomer.

Consequently Club Owners Association has directed the Nigeria Football League to phase out play-offs from the statute guiding the premier and professional league.

The body also said, following their one-day meeting in Abuja yesterday, that four teams will be relegated from the Premier League this season, while two teams each will be promoted from the two professional league groups.

Three of the league constitution on promotion and relegation of teams is to be amended as follows: Two top clubs of each professional divisions A and B are to be promoted to the premier division, while the four last teams will be relegated from the premier league to the professional divisions.

"Also, the last four clubs in each of the professional

league groups will be dropped to the amateur division at the end of the season. Play-off has been abolished from Nigerian Football League constitution," Club owners secretary, Barrister Iyke Igbokwe, disclosed after their meeting.

Barrister Igbokwe, who also serves as secretary of Gabros FC, added that the club owners are satisfied with the league proceedings so far, even as they commended the NFL for a job well done.

He also said the situation which led to the disruption of the league match between Gabros and Enugu Rangers last weekend in Aba was not the making of the teams supporters but that of overzealous fans.

There was no protest from any of the teams because what happened was nobody's fault and it could happen anywhere."

Six teams benefitted from the play-offs introduced by the NFA as part of arrangement to expand the 18-team Premier League format to 20. The teams were

Wikki Tourists, Mighty Jets, Ebonyi Angels, Plateau United, Kwara United and Adamawa United, which declined to participate.



Eyimba's goalkeeper Vincent Enyeama and his team manager, Felix Anyansi Agwu admiring the Champions League trophy the team won at the expense of Etoile Du Sahel of Tunisia at the National Stadium Abuja last December. Enyeama was named Champions League best for 2004 penultimate night in Pretoria, South Africa.

Pix: Joe Oroye

Nigeria hosts commonwealth handball championship

Nigeria has been offered the hosting right of the Commonwealth Handball Championship.

The championship, which is for both male and female youths, was awarded by FCT Sports Council by the Commonwealth Handball Secretariat, now situated in Nigeria.

In a letter sent to the FCT minister, Malam Nasir Rufa'I available to Trustsports, the executive director of the Commonwealth Handball Association, Malam Mamba Attahiru requested the minister to assist the association by hosting the youth competition.

Malam Attahiru also requested for feeding and accommodation facilities for the 300 players and officials expected to feature in the

respectively, is billed to run between August 18 and 28, 2005.

Meanwhile, FCT Sports Council has set machinery in motion to reach a workable agreement with the commonwealth sport body.

FCT deputy director sports development, Bwamba Ayuba Kwali disclosed to Trustsports yesterday that they are making enquiries on the logistics needed to host the English speaking nations. "We are making enquiries about hotel accommodation and other logistic. Once that is done, we would discuss with the Commonwealth Handball Association workable agreement ahead of the championship.

"The acting director of sports will then advise the minister properly on the championship," he said.

Trustsports recalls that

CAF award challenges Enyeama

Super Eagles goalkeeper Vincent Enyeama has exclusively told KICK OFF that the CAF Champions League Player of the Year award is a challenge to achieve even more in his career.

"The award sets the stage for future challenges for me," Enyeama exclusively told KICK OFF. "It makes me aware that I have more things to achieve in my career and I have to work really hard to justify the responsibility that this award brings."

He dedicated the award to his Enyimba team mates and officials without whom, according to him, it would not have been possible.

"I just want to thank the Enyimba players and officials for making this possible, because I couldn't have done this alone," Enyeama said.

to Ali Boumijel, but he told KICK OFF that he is not disappointed.

"I won't say I am disappointed," he said. "You can't win all the time. You win some and lose some and I have been blessed to win the Champions League trophy voted best goalkeeper of the

Nations Cup and now Champions League Player of the Year.

"To win such prestigious awards is not an easy thing to achieve and I thank God for this."

The player declined comments on his career for the immediate future.

Enyimba will win FIFA Club World Cup - Kain

After conquering an home domestic and continental honours, African champions Enyimba have targeted this year's Confederations Cup in Japan according to state governor and financier Orji Uzor Kalu.

Kalu said on Tuesday that with proper motivation, Enyimba would win the Confederations Cup.

represent the continent in the competition, but Kalu is certain that Enyimba will be that team.

"I have no doubt in my mind that we will win the Champions League and keep," Kalu told players and officials of the club who were in Lagos to present the trophy to sponsors Clubworld.com. "I want to see Enyimba win the trophy."

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DAILY TRUST

THURSDAY COLUMN

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Further thoughts on the National Conference

Two Sundays ago, I called up Chief Sunday Awoniyi, the Chairman of the Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF) to seek clarifications about the speech he presented at a recent book launch in Kaduna.

The speech has provided one lead story for the next day's newspaper, but as is usual with the Chief, he took me through some of the experiences he gathered in the Nigerian journey. It was vintage Awoniyi, because he spoke about several contemporary issues as well.

The most striking story he told me that evening was the effort made by Northern leaders at the height of the crisis around the detention of Chief Moshood Abiola, to build bridges to the leadership of the *Afenifere* elite, in order to forge a working alliance to be able to get the Abacha administration to release Chief Abiola from prison.

Chief Awoniyi had led a high-powered delegation from the North, during the month of Ramadan to Lagos for the meeting. Even before the meeting commenced, the prejudices were beginning to be displayed. The time set for the meeting was eight o'clock in the night, but while the predominantly Christian *Afenifere* team had been seated, it took the Northern team, predominantly Muslim and fasting, a few minutes behind schedule to arrive the venue.

Chief Awoniyi told me that the Yoruba team had begun to accuse the Northern team of "their usual arrogance," until he reminded them that these people had travelled all the way from Kaduna because they genuinely believed there was the need for all Nigerians to work together at such a critical point in our national history. Besides, he said, these were people who had just broken their fast, and would then relax a little and go on to pray.

He went further that no sooner had he finished speaking, than other members of the Northern team entered the hall. One of the landmark agreements reached at the meeting, was that half a million signatures would be collected in the North, two-fifty thousand in the West and another two-fifty thousand in the East.

The idea would then be to present a total of a million signatures to the Abacha junta showing that Nigerians from all over the country were united in the demand for the freedom of Chief MKO Abiola. The next meeting was to hold in Kaduna, but not only did the *Afenifere* team refuse to come up North, they did not bother to try to collect the signatures. But they did even worse, because they eventually would announce that Chief MKO Abiola was receiving his comeuppance for opposing Chief Obafemi Awolowo in the past!

I learnt a lot from the discussion I had with Chief Sunday Awoniyi that evening, because in a tangential manner I received confirmation of what I had long known to be one of the elements of the mindset of the *Afenifere* elite, and that is a persecution complex which makes them assume that somehow, Northerners feel 'superior' in their relationship with other Nigerians. That's why they never tire to say that Yoruba people don't want to dominate others, but won't allow anybody to dominate them.

Especially for Northern delegates who will attend the forthcoming conference, it is important to understand this mindset, because of the attitudes it has fostered in the political theory and practice of that elite, and how it has shaped their attitude to contemporary Nigerian statecraft. It is in fact in that complex psychological baggage that we must locate the ceaseless demand for Sovereign National Conference or the need for the restructuring of Nigeria as well as that sometimes, exasperating display of a victim's complex, even when it is one of their sons that has been ruling Nigeria since the return of democracy in 1999.

It is very important for our delegates to remember that Nigeria is a country of conspiracy theories, and a lot of times events have often flowed in a way that seem to justify those conspiracy theories. Let me tell you about some of them. Before the last elections, it begun to make the rounds that Obasanjo would eventually hold the National Conference to achieve the restructuring that the elite of Yoruba land had always canvassed and also

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achieve the overturn of the local government structure as it presently is, in order to ensure that the preponderance of local governments in the North is reigned in.

These were some of the conspiracy theories making the rounds in 2003. Well, as it turned out, the Obasanjo who has long emphasised that no nation can have two sovereign powers, has now lined up a conference, which despite the quixotic posturing of the PRONACO



President Olusegun Obasanjo

elements; might actually have been primed to achieve the same agenda, even while we are expected to believe there is no meeting point between Obasanjo and the Wole Soyinkas and the Enahoros. I did not forget the statement of the Late Bola Ige, that he was in Obasanjo's government because it is implementing *Afenifere*'s agenda. It is a statement that has not been denied to this day.

Northern delegates should therefore bear these facts in mind as well as also remembering the fact that for most of Nigeria's recent history, cutting the North to size has been at the heart of the political strategies of the elite of the South-West especially, and they have used their control of the Lagos-Ibadan press to canvas that strategy for years.

In the First Republic, the North was too big and despite everything that Chief Awolowo did, including fanning the embers of minority agitations in the Middle Belt, he was unable to achieve power. The military intervention led to the creation of states and local governments. Now, those who opposed the thirty-six state structure want us to return to regions, in a structure that Alex Ekwueme was able to canvas during Abacha's Constitutional Conference.

One of the lingering arguments has been the cost of maintenance of the bureaucratic structure that our thirty-six states brought into being, yet they want an additional, regional structure, simply because of the possibility of creating enclaves within which the tribalist cabal can achieve their hegemonic control.

This is why I argued in this column two weeks ago, that we must decisively defeat the rubbish of so-called six geo-political zones. The implication for the territorial states is that they are then subsumed under an incongruent regional structure. For example, I am from Kwara State, and do not want to have my state collapsed into a so-called North Central Region (or is it Middle Belt?), that would be under the suzerainty of the likes of Chief Solomon Lar!

Historically, the Middle Belt idea never made sense in Ilorin, where I come from and Joseph Tarka's Middle Belt agitation did not have any impact on the politics of our patch of Nigeria. But in the context that is emerging with the so-called geo-political zones, we are being lumped into the basically anti-North, and often anti-Islam Middle Belt concept that, in the words of Senator Joseph Waku, has become the wheelchair used by political disables to find relevance in Nigeria's contemporary politics.

There is also the fundamental issue of the local government system. A major part of Obasanjo's agenda for setting up the Late Etsu Nupe's Committee, was to reverse the trend whereby there are more local governments areas in Northern Nigeria. The popular belief is that the committee did not do Obasanjo's bidding, and the conference is expected to be an avenue to sound the death knell of the local government structure as it is presently constituted.

It is important for Northern delegates to the conference to always remember that a scenario has been crafted over the years whereby the North has been set out as the villain in the context of the development of Nigeria. The destructive rule of the various military regimes has been equated with rule by Northerners and they have been responsible for frankly irresponsible and racist statements by even eminent people, such as Chief Richard Akinjide, to equate theft of public wealth as intrinsically in the Northern character! We thank God that we have all lived through five years of Obasanjo, and the demystification of the alleged expertise of a certain section of Nigeria!

The conference will certainly be a battle ground, and we must not kid ourselves, about the intentions of those who have set it up. We need to go in there holding to certain basic values that we should never allow ourselves to be intimidated about. The cheapest form of blackmail is often that they will secede if their political platform is not adopted wholesale. So issues of restructuring of Nigeria into regions and resource control would certainly generate a tremendous amount of fireworks at this conference.

Northern Nigeria should stand firm for the preservation of Nigeria's territorial states. These states should be strengthened through the devolution of more powers and resources from the centre, so that they can truly become the locus of development. We must dialectically balance this devolution of power and resources in order to preserve the capacity of the Nigerian centre to also coordinate and be engine of growth as well as have the resources to protect the Nigerian state.

Our delegates should decisively open up Pan-Nigerian alliances that would be built firmly on the basis of construction of an independent, integrated national economy which offers scope for the flowering of the talents of all the Nigerian peoples.

Such a basis cannot be achieved upon the hare-brained, anarchic formula of 'ethnic federations', which has been vigorously promoted in the media since the mid-1980s, but which has no basis in the context of the historical evolution of the Nigerian peoples.

It is also possible that talking to each other in a brutally frank manner might actually be the catharsis which various segments of Nigerian people need, in order to realise how historically significant the space we call Nigeria has truly become. We all need each other and need our country to be able to reap the advantage which is there potentially, but has almost always eluded us in achievement, because of an irresponsible ruling elite.

Finally, we must use the platform of the conference to strengthen the cause of social justice in this polity, including I believe, instituting a proportional representation in the political system in our country. The winner-takes-all policy being pursued now, leaves too many political actors out of the system, and consequently also encourages non-state types of activities such as criminal tendencies, violence, brigandage, to flourish.

Let's wrestle to conference from whatever hidden agenda might have informed it, and despite its imperfections and even its unconstitutional nature if members of the National Assembly are to be believed, and make it work for the strengthening of the democratic process in Nigeria.