

National Aides
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Economic ills blamed on unrealistic planning

A FINANCIAL expert and banker, Mr B.P. Wadiri has blamed the current state of the nation's economy on what he termed, the "unrealistic planning" by some governments of the federation.

Commenting on the current austerity measures by the Federal Government, the expert told newsmen in Lagos that if the various governments had been scrupulous and realistic in shaping their development programmes, the nation could not have been a reality.

Mr Wadiri who is also the general manager of the Rivers State Government-owned Pan African Bank, noted with profound resentment some of the development projects embarked by some of the governments stressing that many of them were rather utopian and failed to conform with the economic realities of our time.

He blamed the governments for their failure to take into consideration, the nation's earning capacity before designing their programmes, adding that the "erratic" of such serious economic mistakes was poor.

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#1m BOOST FOR FARMERS

by Augustine Fombo

THE Rivers State Government has so far given out N1,191,650 as loans to rural farmers and fishermen while 3,460 tonnes of fertilizer have been distributed to boost food production in the state, the state Commissioner for Agriculture and Fisheries, Chief S. Nwipko disclosed in Port Harcourt at the weekend.

Speaking at a food exhibition to mark the "World Food Day" at the Isaac Boro Memorial Park, the commissioner explained that the massive aid scheme to farmers was part of the government's strategy to boost food production in the rural areas.

He stated that the administration has determined to enhance the production capacity of rural farmers and fishermen, pointing out that under its grass-roots policy more emphasis was being placed on the

positive mobilisation of village dwellers.

Chief Nwipko noted that Nigeria was one of more than 120 countries taking part in the celebrations, which he said was a priority occasion to the government in view of its determined efforts to solve its worsening food crisis.

The commissioner observed that it was the sincere ambition of the present administration to make the country self-sufficient in food production, under what it described as a "seven-year" programmed strategy.

He stressed that through his ministry, the administration has been able to play the dual role of a leader as well as a supervisor in the current agricultural revolution in the state.

Chief Nwipko noted that his ministry has been able to make a major breakthrough in the aid of rural farming.

Fishermen also benefit



Chief Nwipko makes an address at the exhibition to mark the occasion.

and also brought the aims and objectives of the Green Revolution programme to the grass-roots population.

The commissioner

called on all Nigerians to identify themselves with the efforts being made by the various governments to increase food production in the country.

President postpones budget presentation

PRESIDENT Shugu Shagari has decided to postpone the presentation of his 1982 budget proposals to the National Assembly scheduled for today, the Chief Press Secretary to the President, Mr Charles Igbo has disclosed.

Mr Igbo said in a statement that the President's decision followed "recent developments in the revenue allocation matters."

He said that a new date would be announced after the President has had full consultation with the National Assembly and others concerned.

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Postage stamps to mark food day

A set of commemorative postage stamps was launched in Lagos at the weekend by the Minister of Communications, Mr Isaac Shashu as part of the activities marking the "World Food Day".

They are in four denominations 10k, 25k, 30k, and 45k.

The 10k depicts President Shugu Shagari launching the Green Revolution, the 25k exhibits some Nigerian food crops while the 30k stamp shows the effective use of tomatoes and the 45k stamp carries the

picture of a live-stock farm.

The stamps, which were designed by Nigerians, will be on sale in all post offices and postal agencies throughout the country as well as at the crown agents and Stamp Bureau in London for the next six months.

The minister said at the ceremony that his ministry decided to "actively support and encourage the efforts of the Ministry of Agriculture

by participating in the commemoration in issuing the set of stamps."

PAUSE AND PONDER

Our detractors who see red in whatever thing we have done or never did, have in their past never done anything worthy of mention either to this state or to their communities.

Educating the handicaps

NIGERIA is a credit country in terms of education and trying her best to provide free and qualitative education to its citizens. But

her education is not said to be complete if special education is neglected. Particularly in the Rivers State.

Very often some of our educated gentlemen and chiefs ask interesting questions on why educating the handicapped children is not a priority to the government?

As interesting as this question is, one sees the need for education of the handicaps and gifted children as very beneficial to the nation, state and

the communities they live. Thus the justification for this expenditure has been in the nation building and technological development which is one of the Federal Government's objectives.

These handicapped individuals could become self sufficient and contribute their quota to the development of the nation in terms of service rendered and the taxes they pay.

These would have been lost if they were unemployed.

They would be productive, capable of sustaining themselves otherwise the government would spend more if they were allowed to contribute to the social

menace which beggars constitute in any society.

The education of the handicaps would also alleviate the frustration of the downhearted parents who would see their handicapped children become self-reliant and productive workers.

Parents should not be ashamed to register their children for it is a right and not a privilege.

DAVID SWEIZA
(NCE Special Education)



Wrecked jetty

Sir, the former pattern of jetty built by the Rivers State Government for Peremabiri in 1971 was constructed by Wirt &

Bush Company at Port Harcourt.

The floating bridge wrecked accidentally on June 1981. The Peremabiri Community

made all possible efforts to afloat the wrecked Jetty but to no avail.

I congratulated the chief and the community for their co-operation in working vigorously as regards the wrecked Jet-

ty, though the community failed because the task was too tedious for them.

The Rivers State government should also be congratulated for splitting the social amenities to both the urban and the rural areas of the state.

In this short period, government boats and those of companies in particular operating on Peremabiri River have suffered greatly for anchorage and shelter.

I am appealing to the Rivers State Government under the leadership of Chief Melford Okilo to make the wrecked jetty afloat.

KALABERE J OTOSO
GTTC Peremabiri

Close down street

IF one takes a trip to Abaise Street in Rumumasi, near Port Harcourt, it will be seen that the entrance leading to this street is extremely bad and should be closed

to avoid incurable ailments to the passersby.

Despite the fact that this street is very bad and not completely through, the little space at the entrance of this street is covered up with the gab-bages disposed daily by the occupants of this area, who have no choice of where to dispose their refuse. It therefore makes it difficult for the users of this street (both pedestrians and motorists) to pass through this place to their respective destinations.

I hereby call on the Environmental Sanitation / Gabbage Disposal Contractor, responsible for the disposal of refuse in this area, to come to the aid of the residents and visitors of this area.

I may suggest that something be done, and quickly too, by way of mounting gabbage disposal trucks, after the present situation, which is almost a public nuisance, must have been got rid of!

AKPAHIO, E.
Port Harcourt

WHO ARE ENGINEERS AND TECHNICIANS

Sir, It has been a controversial issue when one tries to distinguish between an Engineer and Technician. In as much as one classifies these professional disciplines in the same class, their differences cannot be overlooked.

There is a lot of cry about the need to industrialise our country. This however is becoming a futile effort due to lack of producing hundreds of pure scientists, Social Scientists, Economists, Engineers, and Technicians every year from our universities and higher institutions of learning. It is obvious that proper understanding of the roles of these various professionals in relation to the development of the nation is missing.

In the Engineering profession, the engineers and the technicians seem to be leaving a conflict of identities. This is probably because responsible to the slow impact of the engineers and technicians are jointly working on the society as a whole. All education is supposed to be a preparation for life. If you are trained for specific disciplines, the society expects from you a reasonable amount of contribution for its progress.

An engineer can be said to be a man who, as a result of both broadly based study and wide practical experience, has acquired such a thorough understanding

as scientific principles that he can apply them to the development of industrial processes. He is involved in objective planning, design and development. He has to be familiar with production process available to him and have a reasonable idea of the problems involved in the execution of his designs.

A technician on the other hand, may be defined as a man who has been trained to work under instruction and carry out established techniques, which may be both complex and difficult. As he grows in the profession he will develop the art of objectivity analysing the practicality of design proposals and initiative approach to fabrication methods.

While no barrier should be set up between the two, there is no doubt that the broad distinction is an important one, for no man who has been trained primarily as a technician, can become an engineer in the sense, the word is now being used, until he has a good general education and a wide range of scientific principles.

No amount of instruction in industrial techniques can make up for lack of knowledge of fundamental scientific principles, if a man has to apply himself to a wide variety of problems. On the other hand, no scientist whose training has been limited

to work in a laboratory, is capable of understanding and appreciating industrial problems, until he has had considerable personal experience of their problems.

It is then clear that neither the Engineer nor the Technician can be meaningfully effective without the other. The present state of affairs where the two factions of the profession are engaged in a sort of cold war is therefore most unhealthy for the country's technological takeoff.

Both should realise that they have a duty to the nation to work together towards an effective goal, that should be a better Nigeria for everybody. Engineers in particular should note that their advanced theoretical training will

go down in history as being useless if they do not gear their efforts towards solving the numerous technological problems facing the nation. They must start now by tackling the

design and development of hundreds of technically simple products that we still import. It is time we got things that we take for granted.

IBE J. A. AZUBUIKE
(NYSO) Calabar

Sir, the Federal Government with its traditional character of taking over some of the commercial secondary schools in the states is possible. This takeover is a decision well cherished by the entire people of this state, knowing fully well that Federal Government institutions in the states do not lack anything as to be compared to those of the state owned institutions.

While considering the numerous advantages in the Federal institutions, one would not lose sight of some of the problems facing the schools so taken over, just to mention a few, the Kogi College of Commerce

(KCC) Buguma City, was taken over by the federal government and a new site was cleared for a befitting school hostel accommodation sponsored by the federal government, this project took off lively at the start and more was expected for the school and its student population.

But to the surprise of all the school staff, the school was not taken over as planned, the government also found its way to other jobs, eventually the site was deserted and the people of Buguma do not know who is to be blamed.

The hopes of the ignorant citizens and that of the scholars are dead, the scholars had always hoped to transfer to their new site by the new school year. The ap-

ment now comes why should the state government hand over this old school to the federal government to be put to shambles.

It is obvious that there had never been a federal government project fully executed in the state.

I implore the federal government or its agencies concerned, to restart the work immediately or remove its interest forthwith to give space for the state government's projects.

Onye K. Horodall
Buguma City Delta

Wanted: Postal agency

I WISH to appeal to the Ministry of Telecommunications to build a modern and well equipped postal agency in Yae. This will serve many other villages around Yae of the Boni Local Government Area of the Rivers State.

The nearest Postal Agency to the people of Yae and the surrounding villages is the one at Teabas which is about 30 kilometers away from Yae and its neighbouring villages having both primary schools and

many civil servants and companies.

It is very disappointing to note that Yae which comprises seven villages named Yae, Kpa, Yvowi, Buadu, Luexu, Kabagha, Kora.

If a postal agency is built in Yae these people would be benefiting from it.

Therefore I honestly appeal to the authority concerned to heed my plea and come to our aid as soon as possible.

Nwanagbo Dintwa
Yae, Abia.

Economic ills blamed on unrealistic planning

Continued from page 1

The bank executive claimed that the only remedy to the present situation, was a total restructuring of the country's order of priority, which would involve the suspension or total termination of some projects, depending on their importance to the country.

Mr. Wadwa, Minister of Commerce, the Minister, which announced by some of the states and questioned how a government could allow a situation which it had no planned strategy to conduct. On the activities of his bank, the general manager announced that its loan programme to small-scale industrialists was second to none in the country.

OUR STARS TODAY

AQUARIUS

Trying to keep the peace among arguing family members will set your nerves angling. You'll grudgingly and the day in a very irritable mood that won't be understood by loved ones.

PISCES

Catch up on correspondence and all matters dealing with neglected communications. The telephone will be important to you today. So don't neglect to answer calls. Also check your mail this morning.

ARIES

Monday finds a mood descending which is not conducive to good communication. Work colleagues may display hurt feelings at your seeming indifference to their problems.

TAURUS

Back to the old routine, I am afraid. However, something you learned over the weekend can now be put to good use. An evening with intellectual friends will be most enjoyable.

GEMINI

Oh dear! I'm afraid that things are still not on the up for you. You have a difficult day in store, one in which you are advised to keep as low a profile as possible.

CANCER

Further education and evening classes appeal to you this evening and many trials will find themselves enrolling in some course or other. Don't lend money, or ask for loans, today.

LEO

If your job is connected with communications of any description, this is going to be a frustrating day for you. Get out and about with friends.

VIRGO

Romance will be uppermost in many Virgoan minds at present. Unfortunately, this will have an adverse effect on your work; you will have to try to separate the two.

LIBRA

Working in the background is more progressive for you than pushing yourself to the front of the queue. Work quietly but efficiently and your recognition will come in due course.

SCORPIO

You can obtain some useful career information from an elderly work colleague or relative. Any information gained this way can be put to good use in the future.

SAGITTARIUS

The Monday morning feeling really gets to you today; you feel listless and ready for anything but work. The single will find romance at their place of employment.

CAPRICORN

This is an extremely good day for fixing up meetings with superiors, especially if it is to discuss financial matters. Personal affairs seem to be progressing quite well, although they may be interfering with your career progress.



SLOW DEV BLAMED ON GOVT ORGANS

THE continuous presence of underdevelopment in rural areas have been blamed on the various functional and co-ordination committees in the Rivers State.

Making the remark in an exclusive interview in Bori, a traditional ruler, Gbenemere Mark Tsaro Igbara stated that some of the committees were weak while others were not honest enough to carry out government programmes successfully to the rural citizens.

He praised the state

**No new
states**

before 1983

THE Senate leader, Dr Olusola Saraki has said that new states would not be created in the country before 1983.

He said in a television programme in form that the creation of the new states would not be possible because the procedure for such exercise was convoluted.

Dr Saraki suggested a meeting of the leaders of the five political parties to examine the various demands on the state. On the new Local Government in Kwara State, Dr Saraki said that he supported the creation of present twenty for local governments stating that creating more would depend on the wishes of the people.

THE stability and unity of Nigeria would very much depend on the reorganisation of the country's political parties into two.

And only the Federal Electoral Commission (FEDEC) could do this to ensure the continuity of the Federation as one indivisible unit.

government for establishing these committees but regretted that these organisations have totally forgotten that they are ministerial arms for rural development.

Gbenemere Igbara noted that it was because of the incapacities of these committees that prompted the rural citizens now tending to believe that the decentralisation policy was not meant for all communities in the state.

He cited the Bori Local Government area as an example among places where all committees existed but without any

sign of progress.

This, he noted, was caused by dishonesty and the desire for embezzlement among most contractors and government functionaries concerned with development in the area.

The Chief observed that such negative attitude have discouraged people from doing the right job, hence, the slow pace of development in the area.

He, however, appealed to the committees and other functionaries in the state to help the government by honestly carrying out every assigned duties for the benefit of the common people.



DR SARAKI

TWO PARTY SYSTEM ADVOCATED

This was made known in Calabar by Chief N.U. Akpan, Cross River State leader of the Nigerian Peoples Party (NPP).

Chief Akpan who was addressing the state congress of his party, stated that the two-party system would reduce the confusion of voting and

choice posed to the largely illiterate population of the country.

Chief Akpan called on political parties in the country to evolve a more scientific ideology that would pay particular attention to the social and economic realities of the country.

CLUB DONATES BOOKS TO SCHOOLS

THE Inisa Progressive Club at the weekend, donated some books to three grammar schools at Inisa, headquarters of the Odo-Otin South Local Government in Oyo State.

Here, Mrs Shade Folaran (left) on behalf of the club presents some of the books to Mr B.A. Sunmonu, principal, Inisa Secondary Commercial Grammar School.

Local Government needs experienced staff

LOCAL Government service needs the calibre of officers with practical skills and experience necessary to stir and release the creative energies of the people.

This is because without an efficient local government service, progress in local administration would be impossible.

These observations were made by the Rivers State Commissioner for Local Government, Chief L.D. Ayah, at the closing ceremony of Intermediate Accounting Personnel Course for Local Government staff, at the Rural Development Training Centre, Alimosho.



CHIEF L.D. AYAH

Chief Ayah pointed out that any public officer who is worth his salt should endeavour to possess the virtues of honesty, probity and high integrity.

The commissioner maintained that the concept of "get rich quick" which leads to embezzlement, fraud and mismanagement of public funds should be completely eliminated.

He said the accounting officers to offer sound service consistent with the local government law and financial memorandum and to stand firm against the misuse of funds or other forms of malpractices.

Chief Ayah asserted that his ministry attaches the greatest importance to efficiency in the management of the local government council's adding that it should be understood that there can be no efficiency without the development of manpower.

The commissioner finally enjoined them to put into practice the knowledge they have acquired during the course.

Rejoicing, the participants thanked the ministry for organising the course for them. They requested among other things, rapid promotion in the service, the maintenance of seniority list in order to avoid promotion anomaly and acting allowance for deserving officers.

Govt urged to open Nchia hospital

AN appeal has gone out to the Rivers State Government to open without further delay, the Nchia General Hospital which had been completed by the contractor for the past four years.

The appeal was made by the Chiefs and people of Eieme in the Okrika/Oyigbo/Tai/Eieme Local

Government area of the state.

They noted that all facilities for the take-off of the hospital had been provided and that it only remained sending in doctors and nurses to the hospital and declare it open.

They also appealed to the government, to open a police station at

Ebubu, the headquarters of the district council, to save lives and properties of the inhabitants of the area as well as the properties of the government.



MR S. ORAGE
Rivers State Commissioner for Health.

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Risonpalm workers may soon smile

HUNGRY workers of the Risonpalm Limited will soon have a cause to smile.

This is because the management will now commence payment of August and September salary arrears amounting to N150,000 to them.

Acting general manager of the company Mr M. D. Opuiso told the Nigerian Tide that lack of funds was

responsible for the irregularity in the payment of the workers' salaries.

He attributed the slow pace in oil palm development in the state to lack of funds and milling facilities.

Commenting on the progress made by the company since its inception in 1977, Mr Opuiso disclosed that the production of Elele Oil

Palm Estate has gone up from 20,000 to 50,000 tons of special grade of palm oil monthly.

"Our pioneer oil mills are very old, labour intensive and their parts are very expensive," the acting general manager lamented.

He stated that since it was expensive for the management to complete the large automatic mill project at Elele Oil Palm Estate, the company has alternatively "decided to build a smaller mill expected to be ideal for our needs to solve present financial problems."

Mr Opuiso paid special tribute to the

federal government and the World Bank for their contributions to the development of oil palm scheme in Rivers State.



MR. M. D. OPUISO

Education system to be examined

THE role of the teacher organisation in the educational system is to be examined in the forthcoming biennial conference of the Rivers State wing of the NUT.

The conference scheduled for October 30

— 31 will be held at the Holy Rosary Secondary School, Port Harcourt.

Chief Melford Okilo, the state Governor, is expected to address the opening session.

A statement issued by the state secretary of the NUT, Mr Given Ibraide, said papers will be presented by other eminent scholars, educators, and frontline politicians in the state.

The secretary appealed to the teachers and members of the public to attend the conference.

Other highlights of the conference, he stated, include the election of the new executive council of the Nigeria Union of Teachers in the state.

He disclosed that following the dissolution of the former executive council, about nine offices have been declared vacant.



MR. NGOFO
NUT Boss

Community celebrates new yam festival

THE annual traditional New Yam Festival was celebrated in Rumuokani, Ogbaki recently.

The festival featured, cultural dances and wrestling match which attracted large number of people from different parts of the Rivers State.

In their cultural and traditional ways of the New Yam Festival, the traditional ruler of Rumuokani, Chief Olulu Ibiokani performed the New Yam Festival by slaughtering a ram and pouring libation to the god of the land "Amangwa Wezina" who blessed the land which has produced the new yam now being celebrated.

In his opening speech, the traditional ruler thanked the Ogbaki community for the historical new yam festival which is prominently known as Ogwu 'Wezina that marks the beginning and end of the year.

SOCIAL BODY FULFILS PROMISE

A social organisation in Kalabari Bile district of Demema the Obiama Progressive Society (OPS) has lived up to its promise to contribute effectively to the progress and overall development

of the area.

The Society's president Mr Desipriye Mac Harry had announced at the organisation's inaugural meeting last year that the society would,

among other projects, supply laboratory equipment to a girls' secondary school in the area.

In fulfilment of the promise, the society at the weekend presented various equipment worth N5,000 to Obiama Girls Secondary School.

Speaking at the presentation ceremony Mr Mac Harry said that the society was committed to completing its development programme for the people, particularly the full supply of laboratory equipment for the Obiama Girls' Secondary School.

He announced that the society would soon embark on the second phase of the project and called on the people of the area to eschew hatred, greed, avarice and jealousy. Another N10,000 was realised as donation during the occasion.

Also speaking, the principal of the college, Mr A. D. Obo Sogulu expressed gratitude to the society and appealed to the community to come to the aid of the institution by launching an appeal fund for raising funds towards the immediate supply of all necessary science equipment to the school.

The presentation ceremony was chaired by a prominent Port Harcourt based businessman and environmentalist Dr Idonboye Odu.

Engenni NPN elects officers

THE newly inaugurated National Party of Nigeria (NPN) Oruama branch in Engenni district of the Ahoada Local Government area in its general meeting held early last month elected officers to run the affairs of the party.

Those elected were Mr Promise Marcus, chairman; Mr M. R. Amachree, vice chairman; while the secretaryship went to Mr J. B. Alabinna.

Others include Mr S. N. Adose, finance/publicity secretary, Mr W. B. Dema and Joseph were elected auditor and treasurer respectively.

In another development the women branch of the party (NPN) also of the Engenni district in Ahoada Local Government area elected seven officers to man the party.

Mrs. Celinah Christopher, chairman Mrs Resanah Michael, Vice chairman, the officer of the secretary went to Mrs Sylvester Amachree.

Other officers include Mr Victoria Eli, treasurer, Mrs Mita Ekpa financial secretary while publicity and auditorship went to Mrs Okechime Easter and Mrs Grace Loveday respectively.

"This is a unique occasion that Ogbaki Community should be very proud of—to maintain their forefathers traditional and cultural stability irrespective of the western civilization which now tries to sweep off our cultural identity", he added.

The high-light of the occasion was the firing of cannons in all the five communities in Ogbaki-Wezina from morning till night to appease their

ancestors, singing and dances with merry making.

The remarkable event of this Ogwu Wezina is said to be a special date in the month of October every year and the specific date must be "Riagbo" a sacred day in Ikwerre week days.

The occasion was closed with a thanksgiving service held at St John's Church, Rumuokani-Ogbaki.

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Arms race in Nigeria

Once a copycat [who constitute un- necessary obstacle are now on a check] the armsman must have a copy. In short a photostat copy.

To ensure that we copy verbalism, legislators and office holders have been making political pilgrimages to God's own country (the USA), to wait in line the American Congress and the mechanics of presidentialism.

Some state executives and their counsils also have been embarking on ceaseless economic missions to America as though to tell the Yankees: "Look, you gave us a copy of this rather confusing system, you must give us the whet to operate it."

Confusing because of the superimposition of parliamentarism over presidentialism by our actors. Thanks to the current clampdown on overseas trips engendered by the lean trend in the global economy.

Furthermore, American technocrats have been visiting our country, have been watching the National and state Assemblies to see how well we are adapting their own system to our own environment. "The Eastern bloc is at a loss here," they must have contented themselves.

Of course it does not end there. We have to be as "Yee-men" as possible. Every "goddamn" head should be tossed a bullet at the slightest provocation.

As a result, everybody in Nigeria strives to arm himself. Yes, "those

who constitute un- necessary obstacle are now on a check] the armsman must have a copy. In short a photostat copy.

As a result of what



Amamchukwu Okoye NYSJ

looks like an arms race, there have been acquisitions and counter acquisitions, denials and counter denials by our political leaders, of massive arms importation.

But the reality cannot be dismissed with mere gesticulation. Law enforcement agencies are not resting on their oars. They have been digging up "arms factories" in various parts of the federation.

A man was reportedly arrested in Ekiti Local Government area of Imo State in connection with an "arms factory" operating in the area.

To the "factory" managers the emphasis should be on "killer bullets" not on bread.

To supplement their home products, they now import from outside. Transfer of technology indeed!

Recently, 75 assorted guns were intercepted by cust "men at the Murtala Muhammed Airport in Lagos. A cargo

meant for Kano airport circumvented Kano and landed at Ikeja instead.

This is not surprising because we specialise in circumventing danger zones and have our devilish plans executed without qualms of conscience.

This dangerous development calls for some fundamental questions.

What are we doing with bullets? Amputees and other victims of dangerous weapons are still hopping about without help in our society, if we don't remember again.

What then are we doing with private armories? To destroy our opponents, rob them or perhaps, win elections via the bullet if the ballot cannot help? We must be mad!

Why do we prefer arms to food, as Prof. Ikenna Nnamdi would ask? Arms in preference to good roads, clean water and non stinking environment? Arms in preference to some quiet

atmosphere which nature has provided for our happy existence? We need peace, not instruments for self extermination.

Many might be tempted to think that these questions are being directed at only one group in our society. This is wrong.

The smuggler businessman are also concerned. Perhaps, the smuggler would want to

deal with "those obstinate custommen" so that he can now have his way at will. Have his way indeed!

The essence of this discourse is that the situation calls for a tighter security arrangement if we are going to sleep comfortably and without tension in our beds.

Men charged with the security of the nation are trying their best but they should be reminded of the gravity of the responsibility entrusted in their hands. They have the life of the nation in their hands to be sincere.



Mr. Sunday Adewusi, Inspector-General of Police

Assassination of political leaders now rampant in Africa is often done through the aid of "misplaced" bullets and guns. Such killer-bullets have a source. And as the situation in Nigeria we will be deceiving ourselves if we pretend we do not know their sources or that we cannot check their free-flow.



Customs men inspect arms at the Port Harcourt Airport.

Teaching profession still b

The past two to three decades saw the Nigerian teacher as the most respected and envied person among the Nigerian workers. There is no argument about this because then only pupils with very high intelligent quotient, and who also distinguished themselves in every subject were employed as teachers.

Apart from academic excellence the teacher then was very well behaved and spotless in everything he did. These two qualities—academic excellence and sound moral behaviour were shining qualities of the teacher in the past.

These earned the teacher the respect and envy of the society.

Teachers never behaved in any manner that soiled their reputation. The confidence the society reposed on them were never abused.

The joy in their profession was such that their class-mates who were not selected as teachers felt inferior before them because teachers were "regarded as "Brains".

To the communities where they worked, they were all in all (everything).

To them the teachers acted as lawyers, doctors, counsellors and advisers.

The teachers' judgments were never disputed. Couples who were in difficulty approached or consulted the teachers for advice.

Children's safety were trusted into the hands of the teachers. Such trust was never betrayed by the teachers.

The communities lavished gifts of various kinds to the teachers without caring whether teachers received salaries or not.

School children even fetched water and wood for their teachers without being asked to do so. On weekends the children begged the teachers to be included among those who would work in the teachers houses.

Children regarded that as an honour to be asked by a teacher to come to his house and work and clean his compound. All these made the teacher to teach and enjoy his work without complaint.

The teachers were dedicated and devoted to their duty. They sacrificed a lot of their time to teach both during the school hours and after school.

In some mission schools the teachers were meant to teach catechism classes to their children.

The standard of education then was very high, though a good number of the teachers taught with only "Standard Six" certificates.

The only trained teachers then were perhaps the headmasters and in fact they did all in their power to help the untalented ones so as to improve on their teaching methods. When the teachers were in difficulty they consulted their "heads" for private help.

In terms of salaries, theirs were too small compared with their counterparts in other professions but they never complained. They did not receive salaries for upwards of three to four months but their pupils did not know about that.

They regarded it as self-defeating to let their pupils know that they were owed salaries. In their approach to their work, they did not show any difference whether they were paid or not.

They devoted their time to teach and prepare their lessons. They taught effectively.

They never begged for any "allowance" and they never even heard of any other thing except their meagre but contented salaries. This was the status of the teacher about two to three decades past.



A teacher at work

allowance, teachers are brought into open confrontations with the government.

It is then that the public accuses them of asking too much when they ask for leave, pay, bonus and rent allowances which other workers enjoy without anybody knowing about it.

It is very unfortunate these days that the noble and enviable profession that "teaching profession" was, is never so again. Teachers have lost all the glory of their profession.

Education can be revived

They do not attract respect and sympathy of the society nowadays.

Once the name "Teacher" is mentioned, it is associated with poverty, indiscipline and caricature. There is no daily news from the radio and newspaper that is complete without the mention of teachers' actions.

Moral conscience is no more justified in the teaching profession especially with the new breed of teachers.

These new comers make the profession to look ridiculous.

They smoke hemp, traffic in drugs, prelate their pupils and above all, dress very immodestly. They fight and quarrel with their headmasters and principals when these old breed (mission-trained and well-behaved) teachers correct their misbehaviours.

The new breed of teachers use all sorts of immoral languages to discredit their heads. They lack sense of responsibility, devotion and discipline, they do not teach well.

This is one of the causes of the failing standard of education, which everybody feels the impact nowadays.

The new breed come to school at will. They engage in private business and pursue naira as if they will die the next moment.

At times they should not be blamed because the society is after naira, so the teachers must join in the race for it.

The crave for naira pursuit and the undisciplined minds of the pursuers disorganised the teaching profession.

A careful analysis of the modern teachers case will reveal that they should not be blamed totally for the unfortunate situation in their noble profession.

In his broadcast October 1, 1981, marking the 21st anniversary of Nigeria's independence, President Shagari directed that the exiled former military head of State, Mr. Yakubu Gowon be free to return to his motherland.

Following the accusations made against Mr. Gowon in the ill-fated February 1976 coup leading to the assassination of General Murtala Mohammed, he was declared a wanted man.

President Shagari declared, "It is my belief that a spirit of magnanimity and restraint ought to be injected into our political life if peace and stability are to reign."

"In this spirit, I have in consultation with the National Council of State, given due consideration to giving leniency, as part of our 21 years' independence anniversary celebration."

The president directed those who were convicted or wanted in connection with the February 1976 ill-fated coup d'état into three categories: the guilty who were convicted and sentenced to periods of imprisonment; the participants who fed after the act, and one suspected of having been remotely party to the design.

President Shagari said he had considered his action timely, appropriate and defensible as regards those guilty who were convicted and sentenced to periods of imprisonment as well as those suspected of having been remotely party to the design, and in that spirit, he was giving them remission of the residue of their prison sentences.

It was argued that there was no strong evidence implicating former head of state, Mr. Yakubu Gowon in Dimka's abortive coup of February 1976.

This clemency from the President has since stimulated a barrage of supplications from fellow Nigerians that it be extended to Mr. Emeka Ojukwu, the rebel leader.

Earlier, almost three months ago, the "bafra" war commander, Mr. Philip Effiong, who handed instruments of surrender to the Nigerian Government in 1970 pleaded for Mr. Emeka Ojukwu.

Mr. Effiong stated that "at this stage of the country's national development, we need all hands on deck," after declaring formally for the National Party of Nigeria.

According to the retired Chief of Defence Staff, Lt. General Alani Akinnade, Mr. Gowon's only known

Senator Ahmadu Alli and the Gowon issue



Senator Ahmadu Ali

connection with the coup was that some of the plotters told the military investigating panel that they met him in London.

"Well, he was mentioned a few times by different people but you cannot use that to say there was a strong case against him," said the retired defence chief.

General Akinnade said that what the then military government wanted was for Mr. Gowon to return and clear his name, and this is what was carried too far to say "if you don't come then stay where you are."

Although Mr. Gowon did not come to clear himself as requested by the then military government, the "wanted person" declaration on him has been rescinded by President Shagari.

Many people hailed this decision because Mr. Gowon did a lot to make Nigeria one during the civil war.

It was argued that the country could not easily forget his contributions.

But for his efforts there might have been nothing like Nigeria today.

"Well, Mr. Yakubu Gowon is no longer a wanted man, agreed."

He is free to come to Nigeria at any time if he wishes to do so. But certain things are still not clear, taken his rank and benefits.

Many Nigerians are itching to know whether his freedom to come home will also give him back his former rank and at the same time affect his gratuities.

Immediately Gowon was given his freedom to come home, he solicited that the independence celebration bonanza from Pt Shagari be extended to Emeka Ojukwu.

Senator Ahmadu Ali, a prominent member of the National Party of Nigeria expressed a strong view that the Federal Government should review its stand on the issue of amnesty for Mr. Ojukwu, and allow him to return to

Nigeria as a free man.

He contended that Mr. Ojukwu was being made a scape goat of the "bafra" rebellion, and that while some people were still calling for the head of Ojukwu, nearly 12 years after the civil war, all the other Igbo leaders who took part in the rebellion had since been pardoned.

He stated that if Nigeria could tolerate the other Igbo leaders, there was no reason why Ojukwu should not be pardoned, stressing that in spite of the hue and cry over the return of Ojukwu to the country, there had been no court of law or tribunal which found him guilty of carrying out the rebellion against the nation.

Governor Jim Nwobodo of Anambra State accused President Shagari of politicising the amnesty issue, and that Emeka Ojukwu was not granted pardon along with Mr. Gowon "because he bluntly refused to declare for the NPN."

But the National Secretary of the National Party of Nigeria, Alhaji Suleman Takuma expressed the view that rebel leader Odumegwu Ojukwu's case did not fall in the same category with that of Mr. Gowon.

Alhaji Takuma said that while Mr. Ojukwu led a rebellion against his fatherland, Mr. Gowon was only alleged to be remotely involved in the abortive coup of 1976 and no evidence was ever adduced during the trials to link him to direct participation.

Above all he said, Gowon, as a former head of state, contributed immensely to the unity of the country, we proudly call Nigeria, adding that President Shagari's pardon of

Gowon was completely devoid of political motives.

Alhaji Takuma said that recent reports on the activities of Mr. Ojukwu did not show that he had at any time launched his treasonable action against his nation.

He warned that on no account should political sentiments be whipped up in Ojukwu's case, and that Nigerians should understand that only those with political motives could confuse pardon for Gowon with the Ojukwu affair.

The National Secretary however stated that although the issue of pardon for Ojukwu had been widely politicised, clemency for him was still possible.

by
Fitzallen Briggs

After President Shagari would have duty held consultations on the matter.

In its reaction, the Secretary of the People's Redemption Party (PRP) Mr. Uche Chukwura said that Alhaji Takuma's reason of Gowon's case and Ojukwu's case belonging to different categories was no longer tenable if the President's manifest desire of promoting harmony, peace and unity through general amnesty is to be taken seriously.

Recently in a television interview Presidential Adviser on Political Affairs, Dr. Chuba Okadigbo stated that the President had not forgotten about Mr. Ojukwu but the matter needed time to deal with, and that it would be prudent to deal with the primary case first before thinking of Ojukwu's case which is secondary.

While Mr. Gowon

received all the encomiums as the one who led this country through the civil war and in the end declared that there was no victor and no vanquished; no infamy remained that was not spoken of. Mr. Ojukwu is a rebel leader who wanted to disintegrate the nation.

Heir the you, I osana

charters, it appears we are trying to forget our history or narrowing our minds to the events of this nation by refusing to appreciate the fact that the greatness of Mr. Gowon came from the secession launched by Mr. Ojukwu.

The assassination of General Aguiyi Ironsi brought Mr. Gowon to limelight, and how could he have been great without Ojukwu declaring the republic of "bafra"?

He fought the war, crushed the rebellion and undertook the gigantic tasks of reconstruction, rehabilitation, and reconciliation.

At this point, I will offer a piece of advice to Mr. Gowon that he should stop deceiving himself by asking the Federal Government to pardon Mr. Ojukwu.

This advice also goes to Senator Ahmadu Ali.

After the war, Mr. Gowon ruled for about six years before he was ousted, and Senator Ali was a colonel in the army under Gowon.

During that time Mr. Gowon had the power to pardon Ojukwu but he did not.

Also, Senator Ali never deemed it fit to tell the world that Ojukwu should be pardoned.

Why should Mr. Gowon plead for Ojukwu at this time?



Mr. Odumegwu Ojukwu



Mr. Yakubu Gowon

THE other day, I was with some trusted friends discussing subjects ranging from serious political topics to frivolities when one of them quipped in "Abonema had been in the scheme of things in a way, but it never seemed to have paid with time. What is responsible?"

We all looked at one another for an answer. None came out with one after peering in to our brains.

So I went to town asking questions to know more about Abonema.

Abonema is about 20 nautical miles south of Port Harcourt.

It takes a traveller from the Garden City one hour's steaming in a motor boat to get to Abonema.

The town is an island and looks like a duck sitting on water when seen from afar.

It is bound on the east, north east and north-west by the Sombiero River which empties into the Atlantic Ocean.

During the Nigerian Civil War, the town came under severe bombardment causing destructions and casualties while the inhabitants were subjected to "concentration camp" kind of treatment by the Biafrans.

Due to that bitter experience, women today parade the town dressed like soldiers on the eve of development fund raising periods annually.

Directly opposite the town is Degema, the administrative seat of the government right from the days the British hoisted the Union Jack in this part of the country and made us know the royal seal.

Just at the shore of Degema when crossing from Abonema, one would easily realize that the civil war rocked this part of the land too.

Trenches and bunkers are symbols of war and a traveller won't need a guide to see these land marks at Degema.

History has it that Abonema was founded in 1881, just one hundred years ago, and that the founding fathers sailed from Elem Ama the old shipping port from where the descendants of Bakana and Buguma also came.

They settled on the virgin land and made the best out of "Canaan" which is 9,716 meters long to the college site and 1,218 meters wide.

The people of Abonema are Kalabars who had fought off series of wars during

stay at Elem Ama against many tribes including the Okikans and Ibomos to protect their fishing settlements.

Those were the days when might was right. All over Abonema, there reigned a war that indicates the seriousness of battles fought. These include war canoes, when the watch-word was "the survival of the fittest".

The pride of the people till today was the gallantry of the warriors when the watch-word was "the survival of the fittest".

Youths listen with awe whenever the history of the glorious battles are being told.

Right from those olden days, the town had been blessed with a natural deep sea port.

But now it has been used and abandoned like a dry oil well.

When the going was good, merchandise and export products such as timber, palm oil and kernel passed through it. Being the second largest port in the East, commerce flourished, traders swarmed in from far and near to take business and this earned the town the nickname "York City".

Today, the port is as dead as a grave. When I visited the wharf last, it looked like part of the Japanese town of Hiroshima after the atomic holocaust.

The warehouses are now palaces for rats, lizards and other creatures in need of shelter.

What remained at the port is the innocent refreshing sea breeze sailors enjoyed while bathing.

Firms like the UAC, GBO and SCOA to mention a few, certainly

HIGHLIGHT ON DEV

won't forget the profitable business transaction that Abonema was alive and played the role of Mesopotamia in Nigeria.

The people I consulted for information as to why these companies pulled out, blamed the disdainful NCNC politics of "you vote for me, I vote for you".

In other words the then Eastern Nigeria government instigated the companies to fold up, leaving behind dilapidated buildings and casks as

by
William D. Georgewill

monuments. The people did not feel that the town was better off in the military era either. There were only long promises which were not fulfilled until this second republic.

With the emergence of the presidential government, and with Chief Melford Okilo heading the affairs of the Rivers State, things changed dramatically.

Abonema got an urban council status. The benefits of the decentralisation policy has not bypassed Abonema. It received a fair share of the things spent on in the policy as due to it.

Committees were set up to oversee these projects. A sketch was therefore drawn to see how much of progress has been recorded.

The electricity scheme

continued not long ago has ceased to function and nothing seemed to be happening.

At the office of the Electricity and Water Supply Committee, a committee member, Mr. Ezekema Wariboko, told this writer that the main problem was the damage suffered by three of the five transformers serving the town.

He said that efforts are being made to rectify power supply. On direct power supply by NEPA, Mr. Wariboko had this to say: "They only promise

to do something, but nothing had been seen."

To boost water supply, he said, two boreholes have been sunk.

At the secretariat complex, work done is impressive. The chairman of the Works Committee, Mr. V. C. Briggs, commended the contractor and hoped that the building would in six months be completed.

On his part, the chairman of the Ad-hoc Scholarship Committee, Mr. A. Abo, said that of the three types of scholarships awarded by the state government, his committee is mainly responsible for the supervision and award of the regular annual awards, in its area of authority.

He said that all formal documents have been processed and are awaiting government approval.

On my way to see other projects, I discovered that the cemetery is being walled round.

The chairman of the Abonema Urban NPN Chapter, Mr. Sokara Quakers, whom I met at the cemetery, which is 450 by 250 feet would be a source of income to the Abonema Urban Council. The council is funding the project.

The chairman of the Housing and Environmental Committee, Chief J. O. Briggs, gave a run down of all the projects being undertaken in the area.

He said that the 100 low cost housing scheme had started in earnest, and that the Oduwara to Obonoma Road is expected to start this dry season.

Mr. Briggs stressed the need to reclaim the swampy field around Abonema and the reactivation of the seaport which, he said, is vital to the development of the town.

At the Social Welfare Committee office, the chairman, Mrs. F. K. Brande disclosed that apart from other functions, her committee has settled

many matrimonial disputes, cared for destitutes and tackled the problem of delinquency among youths.

Apart from government projects, the citizens have built through communal effort, a magnificent town hall. They have also built a bridge linking the cemetery with the town.

The town operates scholarship scheme for its indigenes.

My search light finally stumbled on the site of the market built by the local government. It was a wasted effort.

What sheds there are, instead of housing beautiful shoes, clothes and such other goods, they have been stuffed with fishing equipment.

The reason for the state of the market, I would say is the location of the otherwise laudable project. The area is narrow and inconvenient.

I feel the Oduwara is the ideal place. It is easily accessible and spacious, and would have done the town a world of good.

In Abonema, it is a source of pride for any citizen to have his or her personal house and that has lingered all to try. Today, at least about six per cent of the houses in the town are modern buildings.

One other very interesting thing I discovered is a nursery for boarders and day students called the Arch Bishop Makarios Memorial Orthodox Nursery School.

The man in charge of the project, the Right Reverend (Dr) Mark Tom Briggs, took me round the school.

He disclosed that after the reclamation, other institutions like day-care centres and homes for the elderly will be built.

Socially, the people are alive and kicking. Visitors stream in to live and transact business. It looks as if things are returning to the period when Abonema echoed in people's ears.

To add colour to the social life of the people, many clubs have been formed to organise social activities and co-ordinate development efforts by youths.

Such clubs include Nyemom Awo, Minapu and Sombiero social clubs.

When I spoke to the Chief, Gibson A. Oweredaba, a businessman about my mission, he stated that the town is helping itself in development efforts but "what the government should do now is set up industries to check the drift to Port Harcourt."

He spoke the minds of many. As I boarded a boat back for my base in Port Harcourt, I have the impression in my mind that if industries tilted to the villages, hold-ups and conventions would also spread thereby actually enriching the country side.

My travel was a success and it made me laugh with the best side of my mouth.

Go, take a look at "York City" and see what I mean!



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**MICHELIN (NIGERIA) LIMITED
PORT HARCOURT**

COOKS REQUIRED

Vacancies exist in Michelin Staff Canteen for experienced Cooks.

Applicants must possess Standard Six Certificate and must have had at least five years experience in the preparation of both Nigerian and European dishes.

Our Staff Canteen is of top class and therefore requires only high calibre Cooks. A training in a Catering School would be an advantage but is not compulsory.

Salary and conditions of service are very attractive.

Intending candidates should write to:-

**THE FACTORY MANAGER,
Michelin (Nig.) Limited,
P. M. B. 5700,
Port Harcourt.**

Envelopes and applications should be marked "SP01 - CS" at the top left-hand corner.

In Memoriam

IN evergreen memory of our husband, father, grand-father and brother



CHIEF JASPER PEPPLE BORO

who departed this world on 18th October, 1979. Papa, in your last years, you often pondered how much longer you had to live: was it days, weeks, months or years? And once in your last days you wondered what it would be like to be dead.

It is two years now since you died. Yet you know not what it feels like to be dead for neither the living nor the dead know what it feels like to be dead, until resurrection day.

Memorial Service at Kaiama on Sunday 8th November, 1981.

THE FAMILY

THE SHELL PETROLEUM DEVELOPMENT COMPANY OF NIGERIA LIMITED

The Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Limited invites applications from suitably qualified Nigerians to fill a vacancy in the Medical Department, Warri as Theatre Nurse.

REQUIREMENTS:

Candidates for this position should not be more than 40 years old and should possess SRN/SCM, and/or NRN/NCM. In addition Theatre technique certificate or any equivalent qualification with 1-2 years post qualification experience in Theatre practice is essential.

SALARY:

Salary which reflects the level of experience will be offered to the successful candidate.

Applications stating details of age, qualification and experience should be directed, depending on the location of candidates to:

- 1) The Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nig. Ltd.,
PERL/7 (Ref. Theatre Nurse),
21/22 Marina,
P. M. B. 2418,
Lagos
- 2) The Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nig. Ltd.,
Recruitment Section (Ref. Theatre Nurse),
P. O. Box 230,
Warri.

to reach them not later than three weeks from the date of publication of this advertisement. Replies will be sent ONLY to candidates required for interview.



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For distributorship apply to:-

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Saidu House is the best

Saidu house made an impressive debut in the recently concluded inter-house sports competition of the Community Secondary School, Kainji, by scoring 62 points to emerge the overall winner.

They were closely followed by Muben house with 58 points and Odo house with 55 points. Tee house came last with 45 points.

In the invitation relay for boys, Community Secondary School Kono came first while Community Secondary School Egeru came first for the girls.

In an address of welcome the Principal of the school, Mr. P.E. Baribe thanked the present administration in the state for its magnanimity and response to the need of the community.

He further enumerated the problems facing the institution, which include a science laboratory, classroom blocks, quacked staff and staff quarters and sports equipment.

Also the chairman of the Education, Chief M.P.V. Tee who is also the chairman of the Cross River State Board, expressed his good opinion of the school and its efforts to emulate the good example of the Muben family by donating sports trophies and cups for exhibition in the school.

He expressed satisfaction with the self-help effort of the Cross River community for their scientific contribution towards the building and development of the school.

Photograph shows the wife of the chairman, Mrs. M.P.V. Tee presenting the cup to the House master of Saidu house while first from left is the Principal of the school, Mr. Baribe, who is also the chairman.

World Cup: Why Nigeria lost to Algeria

by Ineqela Somari

October 10 was indeed a darkly awaited day for 80,000 Nigerian soccer fans including Vice President Alex Ekwueme who looked in open-mouthed bewilderment as our national team, the Green Eagles received a terrible 2-0 home shock in the hands of the Algerian national team at the National Stadium, Lagos.

This is the second defeat the Green Eagles are suffering at the National Stadium. Their previous defeat was to the Soviet Union in the 1978 World Cup final. This was the first time the national team had lost at home since the 1978 World Cup final.

And October 10 was indeed a dark day for the greatest number of people who had been waiting for the national team to win the 1978 World Cup final. The team had lost to the Soviet Union in the 1978 World Cup final.

The Eagles' shameful 2-0 defeat at last Saturday's international engagement could be described as the worst since 1970. And one thing was responsible for it — POLITICS.

For example, with less than five days to the crucial World Cup elimination first leg match against Algeria, the Nigeria Football Association was still experimenting on players.

About three weeks, after

the national team had been playing in the 1978 World Cup final, the national team had been playing in the 1978 World Cup final. The team had lost to the Soviet Union in the 1978 World Cup final.

For the Sharks boys in the Eagles camp it has been a hell and back game of go, come, go. They started with Ekwueme Amegame who was reportedly said to have lost his mind. But during the match, Amegame was seen to be in a state of confusion. He was seen to be in a state of confusion.

The Sunday Express story that "Amegame Amegame gives the NFA officials much headache as his body swerves gives defenders" is rather unfortunate.

The buff is that there was politics in the whole thing. Or yes! this is the club of the matter.

It viewed from a citizen's perspective one sees that it was those that were regarded

as the best players in the national team who were not in the team. The team had lost to the Soviet Union in the 1978 World Cup final.

lacked the lustre required of a skilful winger. Any wonder why he was sent out before the commencement of the second half?

Skipper Segun Odegbami himself could not make his presence felt not to talk of scoring a goal. Anybody watching him in the first time will be left wondering what he was doing in the pitch. So also was Mustapha Lawal who missed two clear chances in the first half.

What of Turko Bilevskis? He is better equipped than described because it was his faulty back pass that gave the Algerians the curtain raiser. This of course was adding insult to a worse injury.

Another thing that contributed to our defeat was the late repatriation of our boys in various countries. Because of a lot of professionals who are not even from any of the recognised soccer countries 14 players were flushed out of the Eagles' camp. Among them

were those who went on the Eagles playing tour of Europe. What a confusion!

Thus, no doubt, resulted to the Eagles playing in an incoherent side. If there was anything responsible for our humiliation last Saturday, it was lack of marksmanship. Yet, we had all the four (4) im-

ported footballers in the game. However, like I aforementioned the Eagles defeat did not come to us as a surprise. Most soccer fans have been wondering why the NFA seemed to be in a state of confusion considering the task that lie ahead.

Recent developments within the NFA seemed to show that too many cooks were stirring the broth.



CALABAR ROVERS BEAT GABONESE TEAM

The Rovers Football Club of Calabar won overwhelming victory when they hosted the C.S. Batavia of Libreville, Gabon in a friendly encounter at the Calabar Stadium complex.

Rovers defeated their guests by four goals to one to emerge the victors. The match, with a handful of spectators, began at 4.30 p.m. with the newly promoted Rovers riding over opponents' territory.

Rovers chance to score at the second minute of the game was narrowly lost only to concede a corner kick which was not missed.

At the sixth minute, as Rovers fuelled their pressing gears on their invited guests, the curtain raiser was scored for goal number one to Rovers of Calabar.

The seventh minute also saw another goal for Rovers as a heavy bang-out was scored to keep the Rovers in top form against their 1982 assignment.

Personalities who watched the match included the Cross River State Commissioner for Finance, Professor Nta Henshaw, who took the kick off.



NIGERIAN TIDE

Monday, October 19, 1981



Photograph shows one of the sophisticated equipments used in refuse disposal in the municipality.

SANITATION IN PH

Contracts may not be renewed —COMMISSIONER

THE Rivers State Government will not renew its contractual agreements with contractors currently handling environmental sanitation projects in the state capital: if the contractors fail to improve on their present performance, the Commissioner for Housing and Environment, Chief E. J.P. Igonwari hinted at the Port Harcourt airport.



*CHIEF E.J.P. IGONWARI

Talking to airport reporters shortly before his departure to Lagos, the commissioner disclosed that the state government had no plans to enter into any new deal with the contractors at the expiration of their present term.

Chief Igonwari spoke of the numerous efforts of the administration to improve the sanitary condition of Port Harcourt, but regretted that these endeavours have remained abortive due to

the indifferent attitude of the city inhabitants to good environmental life.

The commissioner, however, observed that

by Dan Obinna

there was the glaring need for the contractors to increase their present rate of output, in order to contain the increasing problems posed in the execution of their jobs by

some of the city dwellers.

On the sale of abandoned properties, Chief Igonwari explained that his ministry only played the role of a service organisation, adding that the supply of detailed information on the properties was its only assignment, while the Governor's Office did the sale. But the situation, he pointed out, has recently been reversed by an official directive which now empowers the ministry to carry out the disposal of the properties, though it has not yet started to do so, because of the current evaluation exercise being carried out on some of the properties by the Presidential Task Force.

GOVT SCHOLARS WARNED OVER UNAPPROVED TRIPS ABROAD

ANY student on Rivers State Government scholarship who leaves the country for any foreign institution without the prior approval of the state Scholarship Directorate or the Executive Office of the Governor will henceforth forfeit his or her entitlements, a government statement warned in Port Harcourt.

A release issued by the Scholarship Directorate and signed by Mr P.K. Ambakederemo noted that some students have formed the habit of leaving the country for studies abroad, without the prior consent of the directorate or the Executive Office of the governor.

It stated that the government would no longer tolerate such irresponsible and embarrassing attitude, adding that any student who engaged in

such a dangerous game would only have himself or herself to blame, as the government has made it categorically clear that such students would no longer be paid their fees.

The statement, however, drew the attention of the students to the concern of the state government on the issue and advised them to abide strictly with the letters of the warning.

Such compliance, the statement further added, would save the students the embarrassment and the hardship, their unauthorised departure would cause them abroad.

Politicians to steer clear of trade unionism

POLITICIANS in the country have been reminded that their interference in trade union activities will not be in the best interest of the nation's stability and progress.

Speaking at a two-day seminar organised by the Imo State wing of the Nigerian Civil Service Union at Owerri, the national president of the union, Mr David C. Ojeli warned that such an intrusion would be seriously resisted by trade union.

He spoke of what he called executive despotism, adding that whereas the trade union would be prepared to co-operate with the government it would however not compromise its constitutional rights.

The president noted with deep concern the dangerous role being played by some politicians whom he said have overtly continued to identify themselves with their political favours and cosmetic workers' sympathy.

Mr Ojeli talked of some politicians who preferred revolutionary and re-actionary slogans to meaningful trade union practice, adding that time was very much against such public officers, who think they could perpetually sway



*MR DAVID OJELI

the innocent public with their political favours and cosmetic workers' sympathy.

On the country's trade union philosophy, Mr Ojeli regretted that the high standard of literacy among the rank and files of labour union officials, has continued to undermine the adoption and maintenance of a state-type doctrine and hoped that massive education of the unionist would help eliminate this social cancer.

Earlier, the chairman of the state wing of the union, Mr C.D. Ameh, had outlined the importance of education in labour movements.

HOME INMATES GET DONATION

THE Students Union of the Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Port Harcourt has donated a total sum of N4,440 to the distressed inmates in the state capital.

According to the union, the amount represents the proceeds from its rag-day activities this year.

The donations which were made by a delegation of the union, led by its president, Mr Gogo Harrison, took members of the union to the various homes located in the city.

Composite picture shows the president of the union and the leader of the delegation, Mr Gogo Harrison making presentations to the Port Harcourt Children Home (right) and the Obiano Cheshire Home (left).

