

# DAILY TRUST

Visit us at://www.dailytrust.com

Trust Is A Burden

VOL. 13 NO. 2 TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2006 DHUL-HIJJAH 17, 1426 A. H. N80

## KANO 2007

PEOPLE'S CHOICE

USMAN SULE RIRUWAI

## STAR FEATURE

300 years of Hausa settlement in Nsukka

Pages 20 & 21

The Man of the Moment  
The Great Reformer

2007

Kyan Tafiya Dawowa

Courtesy: Dr. Haruna Usman Mashegu

Violence continued in the Niger-Delta amid claims and counter claims by armed militant youths and the Joint Task Force (JTF) of Operation Restore Hope as to who is in control.

Mr. Preye Cathel *alias* Maxy, a frontline Ijaw youth told this reporter on phone

## Fighting rages in Niger-Delta

From Ikenna Emeka Okpani, in Port Harcourt & Shehu Abubakar, in Abuja

yesterday that the Niger-Delta youths Sunday, attacked and dislodged soldiers from the task force and took

over control of the four oil locations at Benisede, Ogbotobo, Opukushi and Tunu in Bayelsa state.

Cathel said that the *Salvation Youths* have taken over control of the four oil in-

stallations and may proceed to take over the remaining oil locations in the state adding that the Trans-Ramos pipeline manifold located at Brass creeks had since been badly damaged.

Cathel who could not confirm nor deny the link between the restive youths and the two remanded Ijaw leader, Alhaji Majaheed Dokubo-Asari and former governor DSP Alamiyeseigha of Bayelsa state, said the youths

were fighting for the total liberation of the Ijaw nation and the freedom of it's people.

However, the Commander of the Joint Task Force, Brig-General Elias Zamani, though admitting that fighting has continued in the crises area said, "Our

Cont. on Pg. 2

# Murder of Rimi's wife politically motivated - Solomon Lar

## Former Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), national chairman, Chief Solomon Lar, yesterday in Kano described the murder of Hajia Sa'adatu Rimi as politically motivated. He said the

By Yusha'u Adamu Ibrahim, Corerespondent (Kano) & Shehu Abubakar, Reporter

murder was a big challenge to the Inspector General of Police, Mr. Sunday Ehindero, to

unravel.

Chief Solomon Lar who was speaking to newsmen at Rimi's residence, said that "I saw the place where they killed her and definitely the assassins were after Rimi and

when they did not see him, they ended up killing Sa'adatu who is innocent."

He stated that it was a big challenge to the police to fish out the culprits and prosecute them.

Chief Lar stressed that the police and other security agencies must have to intensify efforts in their investigations, adding that "our security agents must do something about security of life and property because today in Nigeria, nobody is safe in the country."

The former PDP national chairman added, "let the Inspector General for once, make it happen that, if someone commits an offence, he will be found as soon as possible."

He pointed out that due to insecurity in the nation, "no one is free in Nigeria to go to his bed happily as he or she might be counted among the victims of assassins due to insecurity."

He recalled that many people like Bola Ige, Harry Marshal; were assassinated and yet nothing has been done, noting that in other countries, the culprits must have been fished out but that

Cont. on Pg. 2



Liberia new president, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf (left) being sworn-in yesterday.

## Oyo Crisis: Ladoja fails to report to office

The former governor, Rasheed Ladoja, did not report to office as promised regarding his impeachment as unconstitutional.

Investigations revealed that Ladoja's failure to show up at the state secretariat might not be unconnected with unfavourable security reports.

Human and vehicle traffic at the secretariat was unusually light as some workers stayed away from work as directed by the state chapter of the NLC.

As a direct response to the order, armed plainclothed policemen arrested the state NLC chairman, Alamu Oloyede and his secretary, Remi Adediji and took them to an unknown destination. The new governor directed workers to ignore the order, threatening to deal ruthlessly with anyone who wants to create chaos in the state.

Armed police officers were also seen around major road junctions in the state conducting searches on vehicles and commuters. Many residents who remained indoors early in the morning, started coming out after about

From Olumide Bajulaiye, in Ibadan

10am and there was no incident reported.

In some of the schools visited, many students failed to turn up while there was low activity in the markets as some traders failed to show up.

The new governor of Oyo State, Adebayo Alao-Akala, yesterday made key appointments as he settled down in office as the chief executive of the state following the impeachment of Rasheed Ladoja.

Akala swore-in former commissioner for finance under the military administration

Cont. on Pg. 2

## CBN withdraws licences of 14 banks

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), yesterday withdrew the licence of 14 weak banks that failed to raise the N25 billion recapitalization as at the December 31st deadline.

The affected banks are, African Express Bank,

By Anas A. Galadima, Business Reporter

Allstates Trust Bank, Assurance Bank, City Express Bank and Eagle Bank.

Others are, Fortune Bank, Gulf Bank, Hallmark Bank, Lead Bank, Liberty Bank Met-

ropolitan Bank and Societe General Bank. The rest are Trade Bank and Triumph Bank.

Governor of the CBN, Prof. Charles Soludo, made this known at a press conference in Abuja yesterday where he said the Nigerian

Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC), has been directed to obtain a court order to liquidate the weak banks.

His words: "in the exercise of the powers conferred upon us by the Banks and Other Financial Institutions Act, the

Cont. on Pg. 2

## INSIDE

News	Pg. 3
Trust Int'l	Pg. 10
Business	Pg. 16
Kano Trust	Pg. 22
Inside Politics	Pg. 35
Sports	Pg. 36

# NEWS

## Murder *Cont. from pg. 1*

Nigeria was an exception.

Commenting yesterday, the force public relations officer (FPRO), Mr. Haz Iwendu, a deputy commissioner of police, said the Inspector General of Police, was yet to be briefed on progress made in the ongoing investigations into the assassination of Hajiya Sa'adatu.

Iwendu who was speaking with this reporter on phone, said, "We are on standby. We are on standby." He said as soon as there is any breakthrough in investigations, the police will let the public know.

The police had in an earlier statement issued to the press said 13 persons had been arrested in connection with the assassination while the Deputy Inspector General of Police in charge of force criminal investigation, Mr. Ogbonna Onovo, had relocated to Kano to co-ordinate investigations.

The sum of N5 million has also been placed by the police for anybody that can assist with information that could lead to the arrest of the assassins.

## CBN *Cont. from pg. 1*

licenses of the following banks are hereby revoked the Nigerian Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC) has also been directed to obtain a court approval to commence the process of liquidating the affected banks.

The apex bank on Sunday announced the dissolution of the board and management of 11 out of the affected 14 banks. The board and management of three of the banks were replaced last year by interim managers appointed by the CBN.

Soludo explained that a total of N177 billion depositors' funds are currently trapped in the 14 failed banks out of which N107 billion were not insured.

The apex bank is currently upgrading its black list of managers that have contributed to the fall of the banks with a view to ensure that they are shut out of the banking industry.

"The CBN maintains a black book of discredited practitioners in the system. The black book is being automated for easy identification of persons on the list. Meanwhile, a list of bank debtors is being screened to ensure that no non-performing debtor is left on the board of the 25 successful banks", he

said.

The list of "chronic debtors" would be forwarded to the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), for investigation and prosecution while a post consolidation due diligence would be conducted on the successful banks to verify the funds said to have been raised by all the groups.

Soludo assured private sector depositors of all the affected banks that they would get a refund of 100 percent of all their deposits, noting that measures were being put in place to ensure that deposit verification and certification was concluded within 90 days so that depositors would begin to get their deposits paid.

The CBN governor lamented the inability of the eight banks in the Alliance Bank group to meet the recapitalization requirement despite concessions granted the banks by the regulatory body.

Specifically, the banks in the group had failed to recover N10.5 billion non performing loans which the apex bank had asked them to recover as one of the conditions for their merger in order for final approval to be given to them.

## Another female leader emerges in Chile

### ●Sir-leaf sworn-in

By Abdu Labaran  
Malumfashi, Foreign Desk  
Editor with agency report

Michelle Bachelet has become the first woman to be elected president in Chile, winning 53 percent of the vote in Sunday's runoff, compared to 46 percent for Sebastian Pinera, a conservative wealthy businessman, according to official results.

Her victory extended the rule of the market-friendly, center-left coalition that has governed since the end of Pinochet's 1973-90 rule.

"Who would have said, 10, 15 years ago — that a woman would be elected president!" Bachelet told thousands of supporters.

The elections underlined Latin America's tilt toward the left, though Bachelet has promised to maintain the free-market policies that have made Chile's economy one of the strongest in the region.

The 54-year-old pediatrician had expected resistance from Chile's conservative military establishment — and not only because of her family background.

"I was a woman, a divorcee, a socialist, an agnostic ... all possible sins together," she said recently. Bachelet's father was an air force general who was arrested and tortured for opposing the 1973 coup that brought Pinochet to power. Alberto Bachelet died in prison of a heart attack, probably caused by the torture, Bachelet says.

A 22-year-old medical student at the time, Bachelet was also arrested, along with her mother. They were blindfolded, beaten and denied food for five days while their cellmates were raped — an ordeal she doesn't want to talk about except to say she and her mother were "physically mistreated." She insists she harbors no rancor because she has "a political understanding of why those things happened."

They were later forced into five years in exile, first in Australia, then communist East Germany where Bachelet married a fellow Chilean exile. They later separated and she had a third child from a new relationship.

Back in Chile, Bachelet worked underground with other leftist exiles, quietly advancing in the Socialist Party. She became a well-known figure in the center-left coalition that has ruled since 1990.

Current President, Ricardo Lagos, who was constitutionally barred from seeking re-election, made her his health minister, then in 2002 named her defense minister. She won praise for helping heal divisions between civilians and military left over from the dictatorship.

Bachelet — who was at the top of her class in a Chilean course on military studies — became a popular figure among the Admirals and Generals. The air force presented her with a leather flight jacket with her name stamped on it and as defense minister, she would often respond to an officer's military salute with a smile and a kiss on the cheek.

Bachelet, the third woman in Latin America to be directly elected president, will be inaugurated March 11, joining the ranks of Latin American leaders including leftists such as Venezuela's Hugo Chavez and newly elected Evo Morales of Bolivia.

She indicated she would work with all the region's leaders. "Chavez, Morales, they are presidents elected by their peoples. Chile must have relationships with all of them."

Also yesterday, Ellen Johnson Sir-leaf was sworn-in as

Liberia's president, making her Africa's first elected female leader.

Loud cheers greeted her inauguration, with US First Lady, Laura Bush and Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice among those at the ceremony.

Mrs. Johnson Sir-leaf says her top challenge is to maintain peace, law and order after 14 years of civil war.

UN peacekeepers and Liberian police maintained tight security around the capital, Monrovia.

About 500 UN troops have been redeployed to the area, with more police officers on the capital's streets.

Public vehicles have been banned from Monrovia's streets for the day.

Two US Navy warships are stationed off Liberia's coast, in a show of support for Mrs. Johnson-Sir-leaf's presidency.

"I am excited by the potentials of what I represent — the aspirations and expectations of women in Liberia, African women and women all over the world," Ellen Johnson Sir-leaf said.

The BBC's Elizabeth Blunt in Monrovia says that after all the years of war, there was no public building in a good enough state to host the ceremony.

The guests gathered on the grounds of the Capital Building and sat on white plastic chairs with coconut matting to protect them from the sun and the rain. They will then walk over the road to the stained and gloomy Executive Mansion for a reception.

Report said Ms Rice got an especially warm welcome in a country founded in 1847 by freed American slaves.

Other guests included Presidents Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria, Thabo Mbeki of South Africa, Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal, John Kufuor of Ghana, Laurent Gbagbo of Ivory Coast and the Chinese foreign minister.

Thousands of volunteers repainted buildings, bridges and road signs and cleared rubbish from Monrovia's streets ahead of her inauguration.

Mrs. Johnson-Sir-leaf becomes Liberia's first elected Head of State since the end of the war in 2003.

The 67-year-old grandmother won 59% of the vote in November's run-off election, beating Liberian football star, George Weah.

Speaking at the ceremony, she called for a moment of silent prayer to remember the thousands of people who died during the war.

"I pledge to live up to your expectations," she promised.

A former World Bank economist and veteran politician, Mrs. Johnson-Sir-leaf is nicknamed the Iron Lady but has promised to show a new, softer side as president.

The challenges which lie ahead as she begins her six-year term are great.

After a quarter of a century of war and misuse, Liberia's road network are in ruins, there is no national telephone network, no national electricity grid and no pipe borne water.

## Oyo crisis *Cont. from pg. 1*

of Col. Ahmed Usman, Olayiwola Olakunjo, as the new secretary to the state government.

The new SSG who hails from Oyo, replaces Barrister Sharafadeen Alli regarded as a Ladoja loyalist.

Also, a new Chief of Staff to the governor was sworn-in. He is Saka Adedite Balogun, a former commissioner for finance in the state and one of those thought to be in the good books of Ibadan political godfather, Alhaji Lamidi Adedibu.

There are also indications that the new governor may have picked Alhaji Azeem Gbolanunmi as his new deputy.

Gbolanunmi, a former personal assistant to the strongman of Ibadan politics, was the linkman of the Peoples Democratic Party in the state.

A source close to Alao-Akala confided in our correspondent that Gbolanunmi was chosen based on his commitment and loyalty to the party as well as being the appropriate candidate for the position as he is a native of Ibadan and a Muslim.

The new governor had earlier arrived the state secretariat with a large entourage which included permanent secretaries and went into his office amidst a huge presence of security operatives.

Also yesterday, the President of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), Adams Oshiomhole, expressed concern about the ongoing political crisis in Oyo state. The

attempt to ignore a court order which voids the impeachment of the incumbent governor and the purported swearing-in of another governor, he said amounts to a most dangerous subversion of the rule of law by its custodians.

Ironically, he said in a statement that this impunity and subversion of the rule of law has featured the acting chief judge of Oyo State, who by his position should ordinarily be the preeminent custodian of the rule of law in the state. "In this respect, we share the outrage expressed by the Nigeria Bar Association (NBA) about the unprofessional conduct of the Ag. Chief Judge of Oyo State and the regrettable way he has lent his office to abuse.

"Clearly, constitutional democracy is being imperiled in Nigeria by the subversion of the rule of law and the patent lawlessness with which many key operators of the system conduct themselves," he said.

In view of the clear pronouncement of a competent court voiding the impeachment process, the NLC he said, is unable to recognize Otunba Adebayo Akala as governor unless and until the court order is set aside by a superior court.

He called on the Inspector-General of Police to take necessary steps urgently to restore order in Oyo State and provide security for Governor Rasheed Ladoja in compliance with the court order voiding the impeachment.

## Fighting *Cont. from pg. 1*

soldiers have returned to the area. We have re-enforced and we are now in control."

General Zamani who said four of his soldiers were killed by the militant youths who also lost 8 of their men as at press time yesterday, said oil production has resumed at the offshore terminal.

Gen. Zamani said he could not confirm if officials of Bayelsa state government have met with the youths who kidnapped four expatriate workers of Shell as the intelligence report he received did not specify that there was any such meeting.

He said though the location where the four whitemen are being held still remains unknown, officials of Delta and Bayelsa states are making frantic efforts to reach the youths for dialogue.

Four expatriate workers of Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC), that include an American, Briton, Bulgarian and a Honduran, were last week taken hostage by armed youths from a sea eagle vessel at an offshore oil terminal.

Heavily armed youths in

four speed boats carrying general purpose machine guns (GPMG), self loading rifles (SLR) and other heavy arms were said to have attacked Benisele where they opened fire continuously for over 20 minutes.

Two houses belonging to Shell staff and several oil exploration equipment were reportedly damaged. Shell's acting External Affairs Manager (West), Mr. Charles Akeni, has confirmed the attack and said 42 of their contractors and staff were on duty when the youths attacked the installation.

Bayelsa state governor, Goodluck Jonathan, has threatened to invite the military to take over the crises areas if the crises persist. He warned that his administration will not tolerate act of lawlessness.

Meanwhile, the Asari Dokubo-led Niger-Delta Peoples Volunteer Force (NDPVF), has disassociated itself from the kidnapping and vandalism.

Comrade Oduri James, secretary of the NDPVF in a

statement in Port Harcourt said destruction of lives, property and kidnapping of innocent citizens were not in the plans of their force and did not form part of the Niger-Delta struggle.

He said his organization has no knowledge of the destruction of oil installations in the region and the kidnapping of persons.

Comrade James said NDPVF was not in support of the acts and asked the perpetrators to desist and called on the federal government to reconsider the case against Alhaji Asari Dokubo, the leader of his organization.

It would be recalled that four foreign staff of Tidex Drilling Company Limited working for Shell Nigeria Exploration and Production Company at the OA field in Ekeremor local government area of Bayelsa State were kidnapped last week and have not been rescued yet.

Due to the development, Nigeria's oil production and export has fallen by 10 percent. Nigeria produces 2.5 billion barrels a day and is the

world's number eight oil producer. Brent Crude prices have risen by 1.5 percent in the international market.

Reports from Bayelsa state say the militant youths are demanding the release of former Governor of Bayelsa State, Chief Diepreye Alamieyeseigha and the Niger-Delta People's Volunteer Force leader, Alhaji Mujaheed Asari-Dokubo.

Security, we gathered, has been beefed up in Dodo community and environs, location of EA facility. However, more flow stations were seized last Sunday by the militant youths. Although details are still sketchy, our reporter gathered that the Benisele flow station located in Ekeremor LGA has been taken over completely.

The deputy governor of Bayelsa State, Mr. Peremobowe Ebebi, who is from the affected area, has been directed to intervene by the governor of the state while the state government has also beefed up security in parts of the state.

# NEWS

## N100m contract controversy rocks Borno

Controversy is brewing in Maiduguri, the Borno state capital over how funds released by the state government in April last year for the evacuation and clearance of drainages in the state capital were used.

The government set up a 10-member committee under the chairmanship of former Majority Leader in the state House of Assembly, Alhaji

From Abdullahi Bego,  
Assistant Editor (Maiduguri)

Abdurrahman Abdulkarim, on 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2005, to supervise the 'clearing and cleaning of drainages' in Maiduguri and released the sum of N101 million for the committee to execute the job.

Daily Trust learnt that the sum was meant to 'clean and clear' selected drainage channels, rehabilitate some

that have collapsed as well as carry out gully erosion control activities in certain parts of the state capital.

However, nearly nine months since the setting up of the committee and over six months since it completed its assignment, the committee was yet to formally submit a report on its activities; a situation that has made some key officials of the Borno state government to suspect foul play.

Although no formal accusations have been made by the government against the committee yet, our correspondent authoritatively gathered that the office of the secretary to the state government had formally written to the chairman of the committee asking that

the report of the committee's work be made available to the government as of last week.

The letter, a copy of which is in Daily Trust's possession, specifically asked that the "report to be submitted should clearly indicate all monies received by the committee from government and how they were spent."

Earlier, our correspondent learnt that a letter signed by the Permanent Secretary, Administration in the governor's office dated 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2005, had asked the committee's chairman "to submit a full account of your expenditure on the exercise of your committee."

When contacted by Daily Trust, the committee chairman said that the report of the committee was ready since

August last year but that it was not submitted because the governor did not grant request to give a date for the submission of the committee's report to him.

"The committee successfully completed its assignment. I contacted the governor three times to give us a date at his convenience to submit the report but he asked me to hold on, I also wrote a letter on 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2005 with reference no. TFCCD/MOEN/ADM/2/Vol.1/14, to the governor through his Chief of Staff where I requested a date for formal submission of the report."

"As we speak now, the report is ready. If anyone suspects foul play, let them receive the report first and

look at its contents before they can make any allegations."

"We did our work according to the mandate given to us and I am ready to face even the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), to defend our activities," Alhaji Abdurrahman Abdulkarim, said.

The former House Majority Leader had resigned his position as majority leader, citing differences with the Borno state governor as one of the reasons for his resignation.

Abdulkarim also alleged that some people within the government now wanted to use the drainage clearing committee which he headed, to witchhunt him politically.

## ANPP suspends Gov Turaki

The All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP), in Jigawa state has announced the suspension of Governor Ibrahim Saminu Turaki from the party with immediate effect over what it described as the governors anti-party activities in the state.

The ANPP caucus made the announcement at a world press conference it held in Dutse the state capital yesterday just as a six man committee has been constituted to probe the governor.

The ANPP caucus leader in the state, Alhaji Hadi Ukashatu, said the party has made the decision to suspend the governor over his reckless attitude to camouflage for different parties.

"We are all living witnesses that recently, the governor has decamped to the PDP together with members of the state executive council and members of state House of Assembly with the

From Ahmed Abubakar, Dutse

hope of backing President Obasanjo in his third term bid and now he wants to claim part of the ANPP," he said.

The caucus leader also gave reasons for the suspension of the governor that he has duly registered himself with the People's Democratic Party (PDP) with registration number 148 at Unguwar Gabas ward in Kazaure local government of Jigawa state.

Also, among those suspended from the party were the governor's cabinet member assistants, all ANPP members of the state House of Assembly who have made known their defection from the party to the PDP in the state.

According to a statement signed by the state ANPP secretary, Barrister Sani Hussaini Garun Gabas, the state party has lost confidence in the party leadership of Chief Don Etiebet in his arrangements to host the NEC meeting in Jigawa state.

"The ANPP, Jigawa state chapter, wishes to dissociate itself from the national chairman's decision and strongly opposes any plan or arrangements to host the said NEC meeting by the Jigawa state governor," as according to the statement, the governor has decamped to the PDP.

Also, according to the statement, in view of the above, "the governor sought to have control of the leadership of the PDP Jigawa state by attempting to make some of his commissioners state party executives, but when he lost out to a more stronger faction of the PDP, he is now struggling to make a detour to the ANPP through the national chairman."

The Jigawa state chapter therefore announce, "the suspension of His Excellency, Alhaji Ibrahim Saminu Turaki from the party, while a six man panel has been constituted under the chairmanship of Alhaji Garba Gumel, chairman, elders committee in the state.

It also reads in part that for the avoidance of doubt, the Jigawa state chapter of the ANPP, hereby specifically and unequivocally, call on the national leadership to reconsider the national chairman's decision, as according to the statement, such an act will amount to rewarding the anti-party activities of the governor which calls for disciplinary action and condemnation.

## ...condoles Buhari

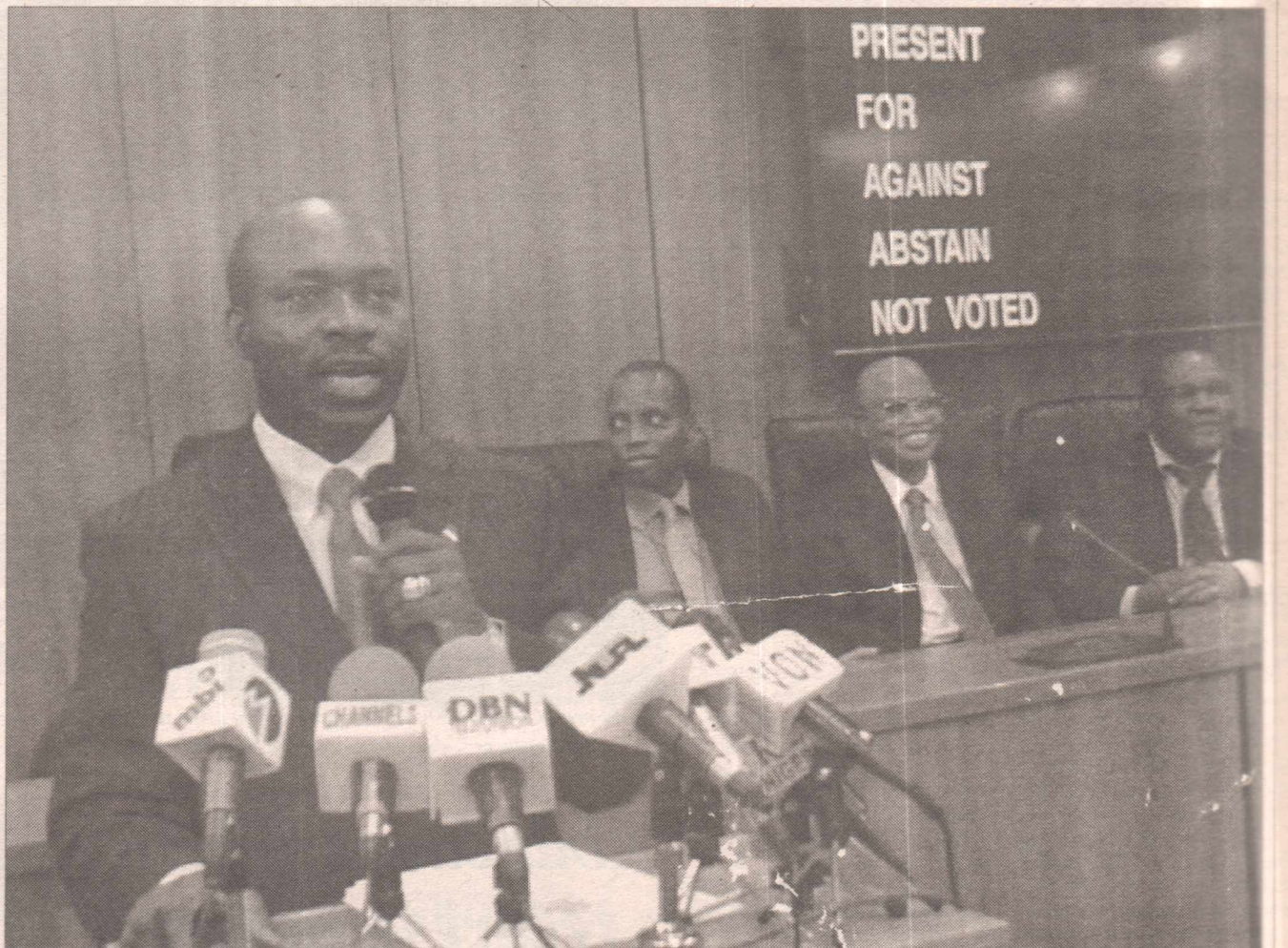
By Habeeb I. Pindiga

National chairman of the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP), Chief Don Etiebet, has sent a condolence message to General Muhammadu Buhari over the death of his ex-wife.

Hajiya Safinatu, who was married to Buhari until 1990, died at 53 on Sunday after a protracted illness in Kaduna.

A statement from the ANPP national secretariat in Abuja yesterday, quoted Etiebet as saying that Safinatu was a "humble and humane housewife, with a deep sense of humility, exemplary character and above all a high sense of responsibility."

The statement said further that the ANPP chairman received the news of the death with mixed feelings while abroad and sent Buhari a GSM text message as follows: "Your Excellency, just heard on NTA news that you lost your wife and has already been buried. O my God! I, on behalf of myself, our great party and our teeming supporters, send our condolences and pray Almighty God to grant her eternal rest in peace and you, the grace to bear the irreparable loss - Amen."



L-R: Central Bank Governor (CBN), Professor Charles Soludo, Deputy Governor, Operations, Dr. Shamsuddeen Usman, Managing Director, NDIC, Chief Ganiyu Ogunleye and others at the world press conference on 14 liquidated banks by the governor in Abuja ...yesterday. Pix: Kennedy Egbonodje.

## Mantu recall: No date fixed for signature verification - INEC

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) said yesterday that no date has been fixed for the commencement of the verification of the signatures of petitioners seeking to recall the Deputy President of the Senate, Alhaji Ibrahim Mantu.

INEC national commissioner in charge of political party monitoring, Dr. Ishamel Igbani, speaking to Daily Trust in Abuja, said however, that contrary to some insinuations, the commission was not dawdling but was executing the process systematically.

He said INEC was "looking" at the signatures presented to fish out fake ones before going to the verification stage where each petitioner is expected to physically appear.

By Habeeb I. Pindiga,  
Assistant Political Editor

Though he refused to be categorical on whether any fake signatures have been detected, Igbani said there may be ghost petitioners. "I cannot tell you because it is part of the process, but there may be, let me put it that way, there may be," he said.

The commissioner faulted those accusing INEC of foot dragging, saying the signatures were too numerous to be authenticated in a hurry.

"The signatures are many; we have to check all of them. So we have been looking at the signatures and we have not set a date for the verification. When they bring signatures, we have to look at all of them. After checking them, then we will

go to that place and physically see the people from the voters register, look at the names and then look at the people, see whether they are the ones. It is after all these have been done that we will look at what the constitution provides, that is whether there are more than one half of the voters among the petitioners.

"They have presented the papers, with more than fifty percent but whether all these are authentic is what we have to verify. You can bring 1000 names, but it may turn out that 900 of them are useless. If you bring 900 names and 900 is supposed to be 50 per cent, we will go and see whether they are exactly the people they say they are, if they are less, then the case closes. If they are authentic, then we will conduct the referendum."

The commissioner said. On allegations that INEC was not as speedy in Mantu's case as it did in the case of Plateau Assembly Speaker, Simon Lalong, Igbani said "INEC has no special interest in any candidate in any referendum including Mantu, including Lalong, including whoever. All INEC does is to follow the constitution letter by letter, paragraph by paragraph. We have no interest. In fact it is costing INEC money, extra money but if that is what the constitution says, then we will do it. We have not slowed down. There is no reason to slow down."

He dismissed allegations of pressure on INEC to drop the Mantu recall, saying, "I am guaranteeing you there is nobody who is doing anything to stop us whether it is Mantu or anybody. We are doing our job according to the constitution."

# CRIME & PUNISHMENT

## Hoodlums disarm police patrol team in Rivers

A gang of suspected hoodlums numbering about 30 attacked a joint police army patrol team in Abua/Odua local government area of Rivers state injuring many of them.

From Ikenna Emeka Okpani,  
Bureau Chief, Port Harcourt

The hoodlums seized one police berate pistol, two FNC rifles and 40 rounds of ammunition from the security

forces.

The public relations officer of the state police command, Mrs. Ireju Barasua, who confirmed the incident in Port Harcourt, said the hoodlums were armed with guns and other dangerous weapons.

The injured members of the team are said to be receiving treatment in an undisclosed hospital.

Police said that following the attack, they reinforced

their team at about 4.00 p.m. the same day and combed the surrounding bushes in a bid to arrest the hoodlums.

In an exchange of fire, the police gunned down two of the hoodlums and recovered a locally made revolver pistol with other dangerous weapons and charms.

The police service pistol with seven rounds of live ammunitions and the two FNC rifles with 40 rounds of live ammunition were not

however recovered.

Daily Trust gathered that the state criminal investigation department, are working on the case.

In a related development, the police have shot and killed two armed robbery suspects who dressed in army camouflage uniform and robbed a staff of the Nigeria Bottling Company, Port Harcourt of the sum of N71,000.

The suspects who were

arrested alive were said to have been shot on the legs while trying to escape.

"The said armed robbery suspects were being taken to their hideout in Ndebe village by the police in a bid to arrest others but while taking them to hospital for treatment, they bled to death," a statement from the police said.

Investigations into the matter still ongoing in Port Harcourt, police said.

## Benue police fight bank robbery

The Benue state police command yesterday redoubled efforts to check the rising cases of bank robbery in the state as it's new commissioner, Mr. Ibezimako Aghanua, acknowledged that the trend was becoming worrisome.

Briefing newsmen, Mr. Ibezimako Aghanua, decried the spate and vowed to use the resources under him to stamp out the culprits.

His determination came at the heels of complaints by executives of the various banks operating in the state that the business atmosphere was no more conducive following the rising cases of bank robbery and assassinations.

The Makurdi area manager, United Bank for Africa (UBA), Alhaji Danjuma Salihu, who spoke for the executives of the various banks at last week's get together

From His Joseph,  
Correspondent (Makurdi)

organised by the state government, cried out that business in the metropolis was being crippled by robbery incidents whose perpetrators are never arrested in most cases.

The new commissioner solicited the support of the banks to fight crime as he challenged them to be watchdogs themselves as well as be ready to supply the police with tips about the criminals.

"I have already marshalled out plans to deal a blow to the criminals and force them into taking to legitimate businesses," added Mr. Aghanua, who disclosed that he was going to dialogue with all stake-holders including traditional and civil society leaders to find possible solutions to the problem.

## Murder suspect arrested in action

Soldiers on patrol at the weekend arrested a man near the Shell manifold, Rukpokwu town in Etche local government area of Rivers state after he and three others were caught hacking a boy to death.

The soldiers who are charged with pipeline patrol in the area were said to have ran into a group of four persons hacking their victim to death.

The soldiers, the police in Port Harcourt said, "accosted the criminals attacking the victim and on arrival at the scene of the incident observed that they had already killed their victim.

The suspects took to their heels and only one Nwenendu Nnachenchem of Rukpokwu town was

arrested.

Meanwhile, the corpse of the deceased has been deposited at the hospital pending an autopsy.

Police public relations officer, DSP Ireju Barasua said the suspect arrested was being interrogated and was helping the police with information about the others and the motive for the murder.

Meanwhile, the police have also announced that 10 suspects have been arrested in connection with the murder of one Miutughia Ebenezer of Ogbokuma town, Otapha district in Abua/Odua local government of Rivers state. The suspects were arrested at Tombia town in Bayelsa state where they were said to be taking refuge after the murder.

## Katsina police arrest 8 trans-border motorcycle thieves

The police in Katsina have successfully tracked eight persons who specialise in stealing motorcycles across the Nigeria/Niger boarder. Five motorcycles have been recovered from the suspects.

The suspects were arrested at the border town of Jibia while trying to cross over with the stolen motorcycles to Niger Republic.

Daily Trust gathered that, the division police officer, Jibia, Superintendent Surajo Salisu Malumfashi led a crack team following a tip off by a good Samaritan which led to

From Lawal Ibrahim,  
Katsina

the arrest of the suspect.

Confirming the report the police public relations officer, SP Yusuf Adamu said that as a result of the development, surveillance had been intensified along the border.

He gave the names of the eight arrested suspect as Rabe Mohammed alias Yar Shirwa, Umar Maikwai alias Mari Kafa, Bishir Musa, Mansir Dayyabu, Masudu Ibrahim, Suleiman Ya'u, Tanimu Nasiru and Abullahi Labo.



The Honda car abandoned along with five guns at Kukawa street, off Gimbia street, Garki - Abuja by armed robbers that stormed the quarters of a Justice of the Supreme Court. They were chased away by vigilant police and soldiers ...recently.

Pix: Shehu Abubakar.

## Abductions: Clerics resort to prayers

Worried by increasing cases of abduction and killing of innocent people in recent times in Gombe metropolis, religious leaders and traditional rulers have turned to prayers as a means to end the ugly situation.

Our correspondent reports that most Imams at various times on the Eid-el-Kabir day and on Friday, focused their sermons on the unfortunate cases of abduction and the occasional killing of members of the public for reasons yet to be ascertained.

The Chief Imam of the Bolari Izala mosque, Ustaz Abdulmumini Ibrahim, declared in his sermon on Friday that "the situation is highly disturbing and is now getting out of control."

The Chief Imam said the spate of abductions and killing of innocent persons was becoming unbearable in the state and therefore called

From Muhammad Abubakar,  
Gombe

for prayers to stem the trend.

He called on the youths and the general public to assist security operatives to fight crime while challenging the law enforcement agents to fish out and penalise the culprits.

On his own part, the traditional ruler of Waja, Muhammad Danjuma Muhammad, said that the situation calls for prayers.

The traditional ruler advised people to be cautious with strangers and report any suspicious person to relevant authorities.

The Gombe state police public relations officer (PPRO), Mr. Kingsley Omorie, had in a press statement recently, said that "recent reports reaching Gombe state police command indicate that people are being abducted probably for ritual purposes."

## POLICE EMERGENCY PHONE LINES

Route/coverage area	Telephone numbers
Apo (Gudu) Legislative Mechanic Village	0806 580 3210 0804 231 5582
Asokoro/Maitama District	0806 580 3206 0804 490 7942
Central Business District (Construction and Independence Avenues)/City Gate Giri Junction	0806 580 3203 0804 490 7939
Garki I & II	0806 580 3205 0804 490 7941
Jabi/Utako/Gwarimpa I & II/Karmo/Gwagwa	0806 580 3207 0804 490 7943
Karu/Nyanya	0806 580 3208 0804 491 1520
Kubwa/Bwari/Zuba/Dei-Dei Route	0806 580 3209 0804 491 1496
Roving Unit	0806 580 3211 0804 491 1526
Wuse I & II	0806 580 3204 0804 490 7940
Zuba/Giri/Kwali/Abaji Highway (1)	0806 580 3201 0804 491 1523
Zuba/Giri/Kwali/Abaji Highway (2)	0806 580 3202 0804 491 1524
<b>Other Hot Lines</b>	
<b>Compol/DC OPS Numbers</b>	
FCT Police Commissioner's Director Line	09-2341470
Office of FCT Police Commissioner	09-2341800
FCT Deputy Police Commissioner (operation)	09-2341811
Co-ordinator MOPOL Visiting Units	0802 301 9123 0805 591 7706
<b>Others</b>	
0803 200 3913, 09-2341199, 09-2341198, 09-5238711	
<b>Daily Trust Hotlines</b>	
08039686854 and 08056418945	

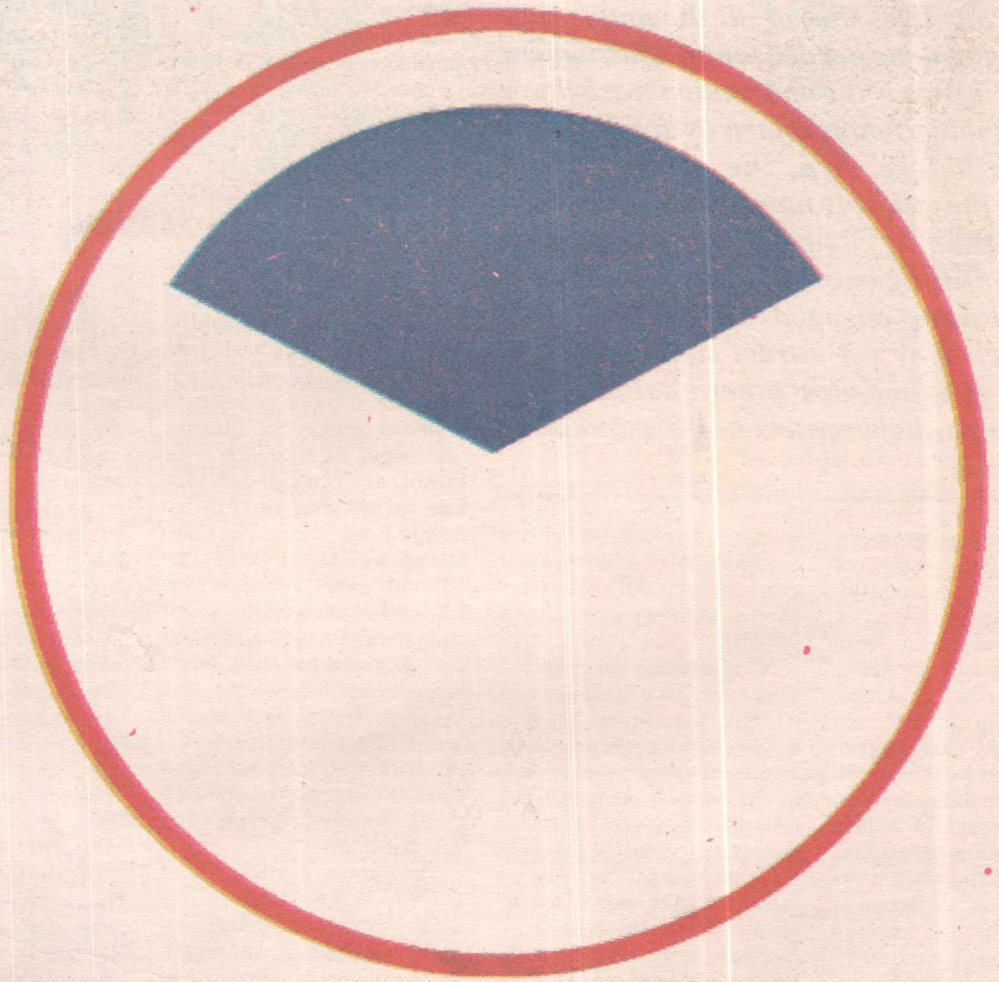
ADSTRAT

You're...

...You are the essence of our existence.  
Our focus on you rather than digits make you our priority.

**Our Vision**

To be first and distinctive in all  
aspects of our business.



# MUHAMMAD AL-GHAZALI

ON TUESDAY  
temphist@yahoo.com

## My Nations Cup preview!

By this time next week, the much-awaited African Cup of Nations soccer tournament would have kicked off in Egypt. Nigeria would also have played its first match against eternal rivals Ghana, and, depending on the result, we would have won a much-needed respite from this season of endless political debauchery, gruesome assassinations, misery and poverty in the midst of obscene wealth and opulence. The thrills and excitement it is sure to generate would also have diverted attention from the president's thinly-veiled seat-tight agenda, the conspiracy to balkanize the nation if that fails against the backdrop of the nocturnal meetings and the shameless antics of politicians we wrongly assumed to be democrats but who, quite incredibly, fail to see the contradiction in their archaic and irresponsible agitations for power shift, rotational presidency hinged on base sentiments and ethnic chauvinism.

After all, democracy, like the retired Colonel Dangiwa Umar reminded the citizenry apparently sedated by seven years of Obasanjo's abuse and misrule, is not only hinged on the people but also derives from the people. Government like John Locke also reminded us not only rests on popular consent, rebellion is also per-

the mandatory twenty-three. The net effects of all these developments should be evident when Nigeria plays its first friendly, sorry match on Monday against Ghana. But let us dwell a bit on the chances of various squads named so far.

In my view, the champion will emerge from the following pool of nations - Cote D'Ivoire, Senegal, Egypt, Cameroun and Nigeria. To make any sense out of my analysis, I have chosen to adopt coaching, teamwork and organization as well as talent base as indicators. On that score, for all the confusion surrounding the team, even Brazilians would be the first to acknowledge riches talent-wise. With the Serie-A attack boasting of the trio of Obafemi Martins, Obinna Nsofor and Stephen Makinwa, and competition from the likes of John Utaka, Julius Aghahowa, Osaze Odemwingie and Nwankwo Kanu, Nigeria, collectively, should be too good for Africa in this department. But strikers are only as good as the quality of the midfielders in any game or competition. In that sense, Nigeria will be hoping on the talented Okocha to produce better form than he has displayed for his club in recent times. But if that fails, the burden will fall on the youthful and supremely talented Mikel Obi to come to the party and early too. Inevitably, they would need the ball

are sure to receive a mugging at the tournament, in my opinion, they are far short of resources in the creative component of their midfield, and that would ultimately prove to be their Achilles heel. Still, never underestimate the abilities of the speedy Diomansy Kamara or Henry Camara or to a large extent, the temperamental El-Hadj Diouf. It is just that their unbalanced midfield, added to the limited exposure of their coaches who also happened to have included the recuperating defender Habib Baye to their squad, I can't see them progressing beyond the quarter-finals. But football can be a funny game.

Few doubt that in Samuel Eto'o, Cameroun boasts of Africa's pre-eminent football talent at the moment. After all, it was not for nothing that he finished in the top three in the running for the recent world Footballer of the Year. Beside Ososuna's Achille Webo, they form one of the deadliest attacking pair in the entire continent, while the Coach Arthur Jorge is without doubt a shrewd manager of resources. But in Raymond Kalla and Rigobert Song, they would struggle to cope with the likes of Obafemi Martins and Henry Camara on their good day. Cameroun is no doubt a handful for any opposition any day, but with the aging team they are taking to the tournament, they will do well to make the quarter-finals, not to talk of the semis. But that is if their opponents are capable of exploiting their weaknesses!

As for the Egyptians, they would soon discover - if they have not already done so going by the results of their friendly recent matches - that the Nations Cup is a different ball game from the African Champions league. For emphasis, it is not surprising that at the club level, the North Africans generally have done very well largely because their most talented players stayed at home, encouraged by their better economics, while those from the other parts of the continent trooped to Europe in search of greener pastures. But if they are counting on the successes of the likes of Zamalek and Al-Ahly to be repeated this time, then they are due for a rude shock. The Cairo International stadium would overflow with over-exuberant fans buoyed by nationalistic fervour. Unfortunately this time, they will face not average players who were not good enough to make the grade in Europe like they did at the club level, but the cream of African football, some of who remain the backbone of their teams in Europe! Still, they look good for the quarter-finals, but only just!

That narrows the field to Cote D'Ivoire. In Henry Michael, they boast of an experienced coach who has brought discipline and organization to the team. Talent-wise, in Didier Drogba, Mark Zorro, Didier Dindane, Yaya and Kolo Toure, added to a certain Didier Zakara, they leave me short of breath to say the least. Add that to flawless preparations which included friendly matches against respected Romania in Bucharest [3-0 win] and Italy in Geneva [1-1] where they left their foes panting at the end, they seem the most organised team heading into the championship.

**"It is only consistent with the sordid developments in the polity since Obasanjo sauntered into our lives that of all the major soccer-playing nations headed for the tournament in Egypt, Nigeria is the only nation not to have played a single friendly match as at this morning. Even before then, the coach, Austin Eguavoen inexplicably named forty-nine players for the training camp in Portugal. As if that was not confusing enough, the sports ministry and the NFA also engaged in a needless power play, which may yet attract sanctions from FIFA, all at a time most other qualifiers had pruned down their squads to the mandatory twenty-three."**

missible when government subverts its basic fruits [the protection of life, liberty, and prosperity]. Against that backdrop, unless we believe the self-serving opinion of a predictable section of the media, intrinsic to the notion of democracy is the inalienable supremacy of numbers, which clearly suggest that the greater majority of Nigerians have, over the past seven years, been bludgeoned to the limit of human endurance by a cocktail of unpopular reforms which, on account of what we see around us these days, has not only deepened their pauperization, but also the extent of their enslavement and exposure to the negative effects of international capital and resources. But that is hardly my topic for today.

It is only consistent with the sordid developments in the polity since Obasanjo sauntered into our lives that of all the major soccer-playing nations headed for the tournament in Egypt, Nigeria is the only nation not to have played a single friendly match as at this morning

winners in Kazim Ayinla Yusuf or Sanni Kaita to be on the top of their game. Still, it is at the rear where Nigeria, in my opinion, is most vulnerable.

No one doubts the talent and work-rate of Taye Taiwo at the left wing-back position, but it is equally obvious that he needs more experience to blossom in that role for the team. On the right, Chidi Odia, like Taiwo, also looks awesome going forward but sluggish in his defensive capabilities. But it is in central defence, where I have my greater fear. Doubts about his fitness aside, he showed in our qualifiers in Kigali and Luanda and numerous matches for his club that he is prone to one fatal error in a match; while in goal, Vincent Enyeama has never inspired me. Also, if their rowdy preparations and lack of training matches are sufficient yardsticks, the team would also score low in terms of organization and team work, while Coach Austin Eguavoen is not exactly on the same level with Roger Lammere, Arthur Jorge, Henry

# Opinion

## Sa'adatu Rimi: Is this the judgement of God?

By Sufuyan Ojeifo  
(ojwondermgr@yahoo.com)

I had just finished at the gym last Saturday and I decided to put a call through to a prominent northern leader who was in Kaduna for the 40th anniversary of the brutal assassination (a remembrance) of the Premier of Northern Nigeria, Sir Ahmadu Bello, the *Sardauna* of Sokoto, which event took place in the Arewa House. I understand that the place where the Arewa House is located is within the vicinity of the office and official residence of the late Premier, where he was killed by the late Major Chukwuma Kaduna Nzeogwu, the leader of the mutineers who plotted and executed the January 15, 1966 insurrection.

Because of the importance of the occasion and its likely implications for national politics, I had wanted to quickly debrief him on the proceeding of the day so that I could begin to interpret the event within the context of the on-going scramble for the soul of the nation in 2007 by the two major regional blocs - North and South of the country. But as my call got through and we exchanged pleasantries, the first question he asked me was: "Have you heard that Abubakar Rimi's wife was murdered, assassinated this morning in his Kano home, while he was here in Kaduna for this event?" Immediately, my initial enthusiasm to receive briefings on the grand event in Kaduna, all for the late *Sardauna*, whom I am told was a man of peace, gave way to despondency.

I was devastated. And there is a good reason for that. Like a philosopher once said "The death of any man diminishes me because I am a part of mankind..." Who could have done it and for what motive? As the questions gushed through my mind, the voice of the person who broke the news to me punctuated the labyrinth of many other posers begging for answers. "Is this the judgement that would come on the opposition elements?" I did not immediately understand the import of his question. He said there was a report by someone in government in which he (the one in government) was declaring that the judgement of God would come upon those opposed to the government.

Perhaps, the assassination of Sa'adatu Rimi (48), which happened on the eve of the celebration of Sardauna's assassination 40 years ago and which occasion her husband was in Kaduna to attend, was part of the judgement. If indeed it was, then it was man's cruel judgement on Alhaji Abubakar Rimi, former Governor of the old Kano State, former Minister of Communications and former Chairman of the Board of Nigerian Printing and Minting Corporation, who recently resigned his membership of the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) where he was a member of the Board of Trustees, to join in the fray against President Olusegun Obasanjo's third term agenda.

Rimi, a stormy petrel of northern politics, has become a thorn in the flesh of the establishment. He is uncompromising and courageous; he walks where angels

Recently, I had cause to reach him for an interview and I called him on phone having got his number from a professional colleague. I introduced myself and told him why I was calling him. We wanted to know exactly his next political move. He had asked me to call back in five minutes as he was trying to lock his doors and get out of the house. I did not call back until after ten minutes as I wanted to give him enough time to finish up with what he was doing. By the time I got back to him, he requested that I should hold on; and, I could hear him conversing with some people. By the time he was through, he was apologetic, saying he had many visitors to whom he was attending.

I fired my salvo, wanting to know his next political game-plan and he responded in his characteristic frankness: "We have left the PDP and we are forming our own party so that millions of Nigerians can be provided with a credible platform to aspire to be anything that they want to be within the political context. The PDP that we laboured hard to form is not doing the right thing. It has been seized by fascist and undemocratic elements. If after several years of efforts to make them change and they refused to change, the best thing to do is for you to part ways with them".

He did not hold back anything; he did not speak tongue in the cheek: "Obasanjo has unilaterally arrogated to himself the position of leader of the party. But there is no such position in the constitution. What Obasanjo agrees with is only what is good for him and not the party. He wants to stay beyond 2007. The party leadership is acquiescing to his plot. But the difference between us and the party leadership is that we are ready to say, no. We will stop Obasanjo and the PDP in 2007. Look at what is happening now: Dr. Iyorchia Ayu has resigned from the cabinet... Others will resign very soon. In the next few days and weeks, more desertions will take place in the party. So many people will not tolerate Obasanjo's manipulations any more.

"When we formed the PDP, Obasanjo was in prison for treason. We spent our money to form the PDP. We fought the Abacha regime. Because I was against Abacha, he locked me up but God has locked him up permanently. Now, what is wrong with Obasanjo is that he is doing the wrong things that he accused his predecessor of doing. He wants third term. Even if there is a provision for third term in the constitution, he cannot get it. This is a man who signed for one term and now he is denying. He got a second term by arm-twisting the party leadership and now he wants a third term. It is an act of madness to want to continue when there are no achievements on ground to justify that".

For a man who could take on the powers-that-be without qualms, it is not impossible that something could be done to rattle

son. He has completely switched off from matters political, from national issues and he is mourning his loss in silence.

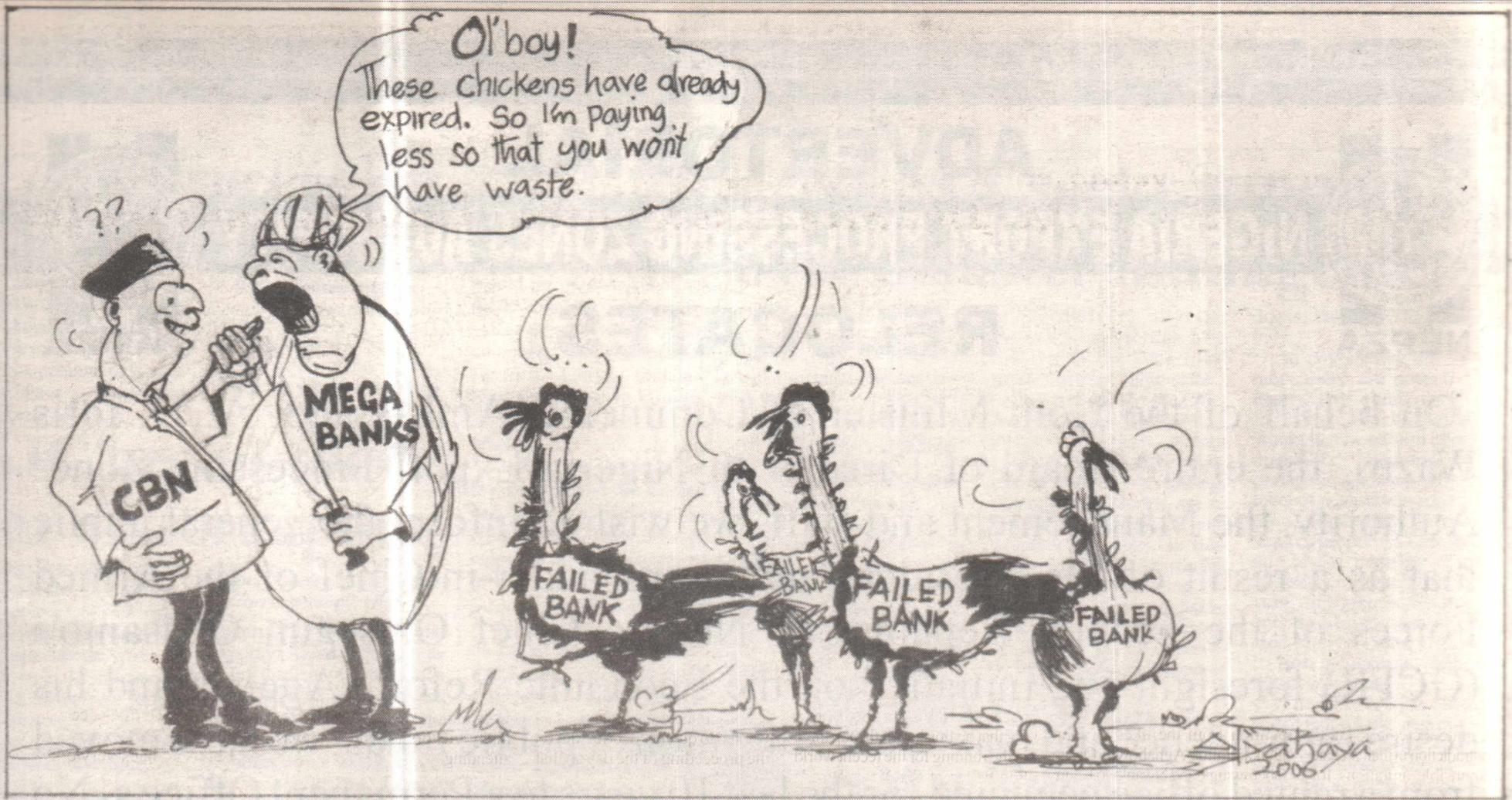
In fact, I am beginning to see a sense in which the assassination of Sa'adatu could be some grotesque jabbing at the heart of Rimi to "kill" his spirit and instill fear of the apocalypse into his person. But does Rimi look as someone who is easily intimidated? Now, even if the assassination of Sa'adatu did not have any nexus with oppositional politics of her husband, there is the tendency, and that is exactly what is happening now, for concerned individuals to look at the other camp as the first suspect. After all, this is not the first time such a dastardly act would be committed in a desperate bid to silence the opposition.

Let us go back very quickly to the days of the late military dictator, Abacha and consider the incidents of assassination and attempted assassinations perpetrated in a bizarre fashion to denigrate the clan of opposition elements and impose on their clan a culture of silence: the assassination of Pa Alfred Rewane, Alhaja Kudirat Abiola, Bagauda Kaltho as well as attempts on the lives of Pa Abraham Adesanya and Alex Ibru, among others, would serve to refresh our memory. The ghoulish suppression of voices of dissent had pushed opposition underground and given rise to external coalition of pro-democracy groups under the umbrella of National Democratic Coalition (NADECO) abroad.

It is worth remembering that it was in the thick of Abacha's self-transmutation plot - to have the five political parties that his government established then to adopt him as their common or consensus presidential candidate - that some leaders decided to stake their lives by standing up against Abacha's dictatorship and his plot to succeed himself as civilian President. Rimi was a leading member of the group, which started as G-18 before it became G-34. So, if the theory being developed around the assassination as being politically-motivated is sustainable, it will then not be difficult to hazard the conclusion that there is a return to the Abacha infantile tactics to deal fatally with the opposition.

The only way to prove to Nigerians that some forces have not taken it upon themselves to cause a collateral damage to Rimi's vibrant spirit of oppositional politics by infiltrating his home and taking out his wife in cold blood is for the Police to resolve the matter quickly and get the real culprits. But from records, it seems unlikely that anything positive will come out of the ongoing investigations. You ask the basis for my pessimism? Ask the families of the late Attorney General and Minister of Justice, Chief Bola Ige, the late ANPP chieftain in Rivers State, Dr. Harry Marshal and the late National Vice Chairman of the PDP (South-South zone), Chief Aminasori Kala Dikibo, among others. Their killers are still at large. My heart goes to

for my head if they wish, but this cup is headed for Abidjan except football lives up to its billing as the most unpredictable sport! Just his belly; I met him only once before the inception of the Obasanjo administration at a press briefing in his Abuja resi- unknown persons about the eve of his wedding under the regime of the late General Sani Abacha. Onagoruwa, according to feelers, has not got over the shock of the... Ojeifo is a staff member of the Daily Trust, publishers of Daily Trust Weekly Times



**YOUR LETTERS**

**My ideal gov. for Adamawa 2007**

The position of Adamawa in Nigeria's scheme of happenings may not be readily discernible to the ordinary on-looker. Geographically, it is located in one of the remote areas of Nigeria – about ten hours drive from Abuja, the capital city of Nigeria and also Kaduna, the political capital of the Northern states. But when one considers the fact that there is virtually no position in Nigeria, be it military or civilian, that has not been occupied by an Adamawa indigene, except the presidency of the country, then the importance of Adamawa comes to the fore.

A state that has produced tested war Generals like late General G.S. Jallo, who rose to be one of Nigeria's respected Army Chiefs, two Chiefs of Air Staff – AVMA.D. Bello and late Air Marshal Ibrahim Alfa; the first Naval Chief from the North, Admiral Nyako; two Inspectors General of Police – late Adamu Suleiman and Gambo Jimeta; Captains of industries like Bamanga Tukur and Hassan Adamu; renowned intellectuals like Professors Iya Abubakar, Jibril Aminu, Samuel Aleiyedeino and Dr. Mahmud Tukur; technocrats like Ahmed Joda and Musa Bello, ministers, permanent secretaries and heads of key agencies in every government since independence, and Nigeria's only Vice-President from the North, is certainly a state in reckoning.

Unfortunately, all these positions have not translated into real development for the state. With abundant human and natural resources, Adamawa State is still yearning for good governance. Part of the problem can be found in the quality of those elected to run the affairs of the state since its creation. Except for the brief tenure of Bamanga Tukur in the 1980s, most of those elected at the state level are local politicians with powerful godfathers

and who mostly do not have enough independence to exert their influence and act to their full capacities. Boni Haruna has a Masters degree, had some experience of state administration as Special Assistant in Taraba, but is a hostage of some vested interests since coming to office and that is why he is not delivering to full capacity.

The coming 2007 election is yet another opportunity for Adamawa State to chart a new course by breaking from the tradition of electing those who can be constrained by powerful local interests. There is need to scout for an experienced and exposed technocrat, preferably from outside the state service, to pilot the affairs of the state for a positive change.

The next governor of

Adamawa State must be an indigene of Adamawa State whose horizon is beyond Adamawa. He or she must be of proven integrity, highly exposed, well experienced, aware of national developments and global trends. And if the objective of having someone with these qualities but also unencumbered by local influences is to be achieved, then the searchlight for the next Adamawa State governor must be outside those hobnobbing currently as potential governors in Adamawa State. Because all those names being touted now will most likely repeat the same avoidable mistakes of trying to satisfy vested interests by awarding contracts and patronage at the expense of real development of the state. With them, it will still

be business as usual. To avoid the pitfalls of the past, the next governor of Adamawa State should be someone who was never exposed to the corrosive influence of the local terrain either as a politician in the past or has served in any capacity in the state in the past. This will give the state an opportunity to start on a clean slate and the person chosen be given free hands to do away with clogs in the wheel of progress. Such Adamawese abound in the federal and international public services. They are well educated, highly motivated and reasonably talented to fit into any given assignment. The Adamawa vision for the 21<sup>st</sup> century must clearly be different from that of the past which has retarded the state's

progress. If we are to achieve our goal of putting this beloved state on the road to admirable stability and considerable prosperity, then we must understand the fundamental differences between our concept of government and the others. While there is for a government of pessimism, limits and despair, ours is for a government of hope, confidence and limitless opportunities; they live by promises – the bigger the better, we are advocating for someone with proven records of achievements in the services of Nigeria and humanity; they deny our differences, our next governor is going to bridge them; they pride themselves in being the epitome of privileges, we want our next governor to be the mirror image of the future. If the differ-

ence is clear, then indeed the choice is clear!

The problem confronting Adamawa State and people are likely monumental and the choice that faces the people is also very fundamental. It is a matter of wrong choices having life changing consequences. Principles and values in politics should not be compromised, but strategies and tactics must be flexible enough to make progress possible, especially under the difficult political conditions Adamawa State faces. The next campaign will centre on government policies which would build community, expand opportunity, demand responsibility and reward enterprise.

**Abba Mahmood**  
abbamood@yahoo.com

**The crisis of succession at NIPOST**

Nigerians are known to be good mourners of the dead. But the opposite appears to be the case at Nigeria Postal Service (NIPOST), otherwise how could one explain the struggle by some top managers of the organisation to take over the job of the late Postmaster-General, Malam Abubakar Musa Argungu, barely few days after his interment. Worst of all, those involved are least qualified.

Watchers of the postal industry, including my humble self, have been following with concern, this crisis of succession at NIPOST. This is because if the struggle continues unabated, the ultimate casualty will be the organisation which my late friend, Argungu, 'picked' from near dead and nurtured to become one of the institutions of pride to our great nation today. Before I proceed further, and for the purpose of un-

derstanding this message clearly, I am a former staff of the defunct Post and Telecommunications Department, a former Communications Correspondent of two national newspapers – *The Mail* and *The Punch*. All the top managers of NIPOST from inception, including those who have left, are personally known to me. My position here therefore, is driven by objectivity.

Since the beginning of January 2006, I have read from a number of national dailies, stories with deliberate lies and bias by certain contenders to the Postmaster General position at NIPOST. Some of the publications include those made in *The Punch* of 2/1/2006, *Daily Trust* of 4/1/2006, *Daily Sun* of 4/1/2006 and *Weekly Trust* of 7/1/2006.

In the story, as contained in the *Weekly Trust* of 7/1/2006, one name, Nick Ezenwa Okafor, used as a retired Senior Assistant Postmaster-

General (SAPMG) of NIPOST, was said to be urging the Federal Government to appoint a particular official of the organisation to the position of PMG. My concern here is not the request of this so-called Okafor, my quarrel is that no such name, with the rank of SAPMG, ever existed at NIPOST. One thing the sponsors of these publications have not realized is the futility of their efforts in this regard.

There is a precedent which the government of Chief Olusegun Obasanjo normally follows in matters of succession in the federal parastatals, agencies and departments. This explains why Mr. Tafa Balogun, from South-West geopolitical zone, replaced Mr. Smith from the same geopolitical zone as the Inspector-General of Police. To effect this, government had to compulsorily retire several senior officers to Balogun. The same precedent was followed when Mr. Sunday

Ehindero from the same geopolitical zone took over from Tafa Balogun.

Again, at the Immigration Department, when the then Comptroller-General, Mrs. Uzoamaka Nwizu died in office, the Federal Government replaced her with Mr. Chukwura Udeh, Nwizu and Udeh are from the same geopolitical zone of South-East. There are many instances as these. I believe that the same precedent will apply in the case of NIPOST. Chief Olusegun Obasanjo is not the kind of person easily influenced or misled with sponsored publications.

Besides, I am sure if meticulous investigations are carried out on the contending managers of NIPOST for the PMG position, it will be discovered that some of them are hunted by adverse records. One of them who was an Area Postal Manager (APM) was in 1995 removed from office following his al-

leged involvement in printing and circulation of fake postal orders.

I remember in 1995, on the date of his departure from office, this particular APM then, was caught red-handed making away with NIPOST property. I also remember that this case was widely publicized by both Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) and other media. I remember also in 1993/94, this same official was accused of being the mastermind of the fire incident which gutted the General Post Office (GPO) building at Marina, Lagos. It was alleged then that the GPO fire incident was to cover-up scandalous deals on fake postal orders by some NIPOST officials. Surprisingly, the 'Nigerian Factor' has kept on protecting these officials.

**Mr. Chibuikwe Igbokwe,**  
Public Relations Manager,  
Ushcco Nigeria Limited,  
Dei-dei, Abuja.



## ADVERTORIAL

# NIGERIA EXPORT PROCESSING ZONES AUTHORITY



## RELOCATES

On behalf of the Hon. Minister of Commerce, Ambassador A. D. Idris Waziri, the entire Board of Director of Nigeria Export Processing Zones Authority, the Management and staff, we wish to inform the general public that as a result of Mr. President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria Chief Olusegun Obasanjo's (GCFR) foresight and initiative on the Economic Reform Agenda and his desire for prudence and maximum utilization of public funds, we have moved from a rented office occupied for the last 10 years to a Permanent Office at No 2 Zambezi Crescent, Cadastral Zone A6, behind Merit House, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama Abuja constructed with locally high-tech prefabricated materials.

The movement will provide a more convenient and conclusive environment for our business and improve efficiency with customer service delivery in line with **SERVICOM CHARTER**.

For further information, please contact Nigeria Export Processing Zones Authority (NEPZA) No 2 Zambezi Crescent, Cadastral Zone A6, behind Merit House, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama Abuja P.M.B. 037, Garki Abuja.

**Tel: 09 - 4131584**

**4131585**

**4131586**

**Fax: 4131550**

**Nigeria Export Processing Zones Authority (NEPZA)...Hallmark for Export Manufacturing and Commerce**



**SIGNED MANAGEMENT**

**E-mail: [md@nepza.org](mailto:md@nepza.org), website: <http://www.nepza.org>**

# INNA LILLAHI WA INNA ILAIHIR RAAJI'UN

*In the Almighty God the Beneficent the Merciful: "God's Truth makes all things clear, and he will guard it. But his signs are not for those who mock who fail to see the majesty, beauty, order, and harmony blazoned in his creation, and his goodness to all his creatures, in the heavens and on earth? With him are the sources of all things, and he doth freely give will remain when all else passes away". Surah Al Hijr (The Chapter of Rocky Tract). (C119-XV1. 25).*

*It is exactly ten years today since you answered the call of the Almighty god. Gaji, you were exceptionally upright and an obedient son, a cherished brother, and admirable friend and a marvelous and triumphant businessman. You were honest, intelligent and very helpful. The precious, priceless and momentous years you spent in this world were blessed with sweet memories and wonderful experience.*

*Your moral efforts and good intentions are never in vain because your superlative public relations and diplomatic links made you a hero. Through your hospitality and enthusiasm to embrace people, your close friends and associates are presently very prominent people. They include Governors, Ministers, Ambassadors, Senators, Members of the House of Representatives and successful Businessmen, your friends are surely your exemplary Ambassadors. We thank God for your life because your good name still remains in the heart of millions. We truly miss your love, guidance and liveliness.*



**Late Alhaji Ibrahim Sani Abacha  
Ameen an Shaheedan  
(1966-1996)**

*We shall also continue to be comforted by the memory of your legacy and consoled by the fact that you are resting happily in Aljanna Fiddausi as God has promised all Shaheed.*

*May God Almighty continue to grant you eternal peace and elevate you higher in Aljannah Fiddausi along with your friends that lost their lives with you*

**Signed:**

**E.H. Dr. (Mrs.) Maryam Sani Abacha**

# Trust International

Foreign & Diplomatic

## Understanding China's diplomacy in Africa

The Chinese foreign minister, Mr. Li Zhaoxing arrived Nigeria yesterday for a two day working visit as part of his 9-day Africa tour which has seen him visit Cape Verde, Senegal, Mali, Liberia and would move on to Libya after Nigeria. For Nigeria, this is coming after the historic deal in which Chinese state oil Company, China National Offshore Oil Company (CNOOC) last Monday acquired 45 percent shares of South Atlantic Petroleum in Akpo Oil Field, located in oil prospecting licence (OPL) 246. The Chinese secured the strategic oil asset, after an Indian Oil and Gas Conglomerate, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGS) was stopped by its government from acquisition after it has successfully bid for it, for what the Indian government's said "wasn't a commercial opportunity worth pursuing."

The china's giant state corporation would be paying a whopping N2.3 billion in cash for the acquisition and the oil field itself is said to hold an estimated 1.6 billion barrels of oil reserves.

Since 2003, the Peoples Republic of China has displaced Japan as the world second largest guzzler of oil, after United States of America; and projections are that if China maintains current lead in exponential economic growth, the fastest in the world, it could overtake the US in oil demand in the next 20 years or so. And oil is just one among other commodities like steel that China needs desperately to feed its burgeoning industry. The country already nick-named the "workshop of the world" is more or less at the root of handsome oil and other commodity prices that have been stable in more than a year. In the nearest future, Chinese appetite for the commodities would mean that prices would remain reasonably well and stable. The crucial fact is that Beijing seem to hold the ace

By Charles Onunaiju,  
Senior Reporter, (Foreign Desk)

in world commodity prices and by extension global economic stability, shifting dramatically from Washington, Tokyo or Brussels. This clout is no mean one and that is why China is throwing diplomatic weight all around.

However beyond its seeming desperate thirst for the essential commodities, China has traditionally felt herself part of the South and the third world. She has consistently rejected rich nations overtures to drag her into the membership of their Group Eight (G8) club, even though Beijing has always accepted its invitation to participate in its annual gathering. But it is the South and the so-called third world that China sees its destiny tied.

In a speech at a special session of the UN General Assembly on the 10<sup>th</sup> April 1974, the then Chinese Vice Premier, Mr. Deng Xiaoping who later as its paramount leader would inspire the reforms leading to the earth-shaking economic modernization proclaimed "China belongs to the third world." Declaring that "China is not a superpower, nor will she ever seek to be one," Mr. Deng Xiaoping outlined that, "if one day China should change her colour and turn into a superpower, if she too should play the tyrant in the world, and everywhere subjects others to her bullying, aggression and exploitation, the people of the world should identify her as social-imperialism, expose it, oppose it and work together with the Chinese people to overthrow it."

The point being made is that China's vigorous diplomacy especially in Africa, where her leaders have taken turns to visit beginning with president Hu Jianto, Prime Minister Wen Jinbao is not just in pursuit of commodities and other business deals, though as important as they



President Olusegun Obasanjo

are, but that China's fundamental interest as a socialist developing country coincides with the critical demand of a new world architecture in which multi polarism, multilateralism, respect for sovereign rights of all nations and institutionalized dialogue are the norms of international relations.

In pursuit of this conviction, China's foreign ministry has instituted consultative mechanism with several countries, including Nigeria where she engages in bilateral dialogue on major issues. In actual fact, Chinese vigorous diplomacy in Africa may have changed its contents from the past, but its style of mutual consultations and respect is largely the same. In the past, instead of handing out laptops and engaging in mutual explorations of joint venture investments, Chinese leaders would have been handing out chairman Mao's little red books, and sorting out local insurgent forces to support



President Hu Jianto

and prop up. Prior to the African nine day visit of the Chinese foreign minister, Mr. Li Zhaoxing, the foreign ministry spokesman, Mr. Kong Quan said that the visit would upgrade economic and political ties with Nigeria where the minister would be expected to sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on China-Nigeria strategic partnership and an economic and technical agreement. This would conform to a number of existing cooperation agreement, which brought reasonable number of Chinese business investing in Nigeria. Currently a Chinese Telecom giant ZTE has opened assembly line in Abuja while another for the assembly of refrigerators have debuted at the Calabar Economic Special zone. However, the Chinese firms have complaints about avalanche of issues that they see as making it difficult to invest in Nigeria. A Chinese business executive based in Abuja who pledged anonymity, told *Daily Trust* that multiple taxation, by various government agencies, demands for bribes still makes the Nigeria business environment very opaque, not to talk of security which is still a nightmare, he said. "Chinese investors would have flooded here but we are telling them of our experience, and those of them without guts are staying and some few brave ones are daring to come here," he added. While Nigeria presents a worthy economic prize for Chinese diplomacy in Africa, the other countries, where Mr. Li Zhaoxing called at, has very little on offer, except perhaps, Libya. China has traditional friendship with Cape Verde, where

she supported the militant party of Independence for Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC) led by the intelligent and charismatic revolutionary, Amilcar Cabral, who fought tenaciously, the Portuguese colonialism. Liberia would most likely present a request list to the Chinese visitor and in return would promise never to gamble with diplomatic recognition with the rebellious Taiwan province again. Liberia is just pulling out from nearly two decades conflict, which has left all her infrastructures totally broken. Its first African elected woman leader, Mrs. Johnson Sirleaf would have tested her diplomatic skills with the giant extra-African power. Former President Charles Taylor succumbed to Taiwan's money diplomacy and Switched recognition from Beijing to Taipei. The interim administration of Mr. Byrant saw the folly and retraced the step of the oldest state in West Africa and re-established relations with Beijing. The stop-over in Monrovia by the Chinese foreign minister, would ensure that the impoverished Liberia does not step out of line again, and in return, Madam Sirleaf would have surely carted away some goodies, from the Chinese overflowing diplomatic basket. Senegal, traditional France backyard would see China's embrace as the necessary diversification it badly needed, at a time, when France is passionately enamoured in her European vision of a single entity to counter balance its traditional rival, United States of America. Mali, which snubbed the French protected community in 1958 with its then fiery socialist leader, Moddibo

Keita would be happy that its estranged relation with France since then would be taken by the Chinese. For Libya, China is a long term ally and colonel Ghaddafi would solicit that China takes more active role in providing a bulwark against the rampaging West. The Chinese would listen very attentively, but will only act in conformity to their status as respectable global player, that would not abruptly dislodge well-oiled traditional pillars of global diplomacy.

The Peoples Republic of china formerly nick named the reclusive "Middle Kingdom" exploded on the world scene in the mid-1980s following its economic reforms and modernization drive. This followed the stability of China's internal political process, after the end of the chaotic cultural revolution in 1976, with the downfall of the "gang of four," who spearheaded it under the ambivalent tacit support of chairman Mao-zedong.

The emergence of the former Vice-Premier, Deng Xiaoping at the core of post Mao leadership sparked off a new thinking, which culminated in the decision of the 3<sup>rd</sup> plenary session of the 11<sup>th</sup> communist party of China; central committee in December 1978. The notion that class struggle was the "key link" or primary goal was abandoned. The party's focus was shifted to "Socialist modernization" or industrializing China and importing technology, while retaining the primacy of the state.

The session concluded that reform must be a fundamental national policy, insisting that China find a unique path of development to build "Socialism with Chinese characteristics."

**"While Nigeria presents a worthy economic prize for Chinese diplomacy in Africa, the other countries, where Mr. Li Zhaoxing called at, has very little on offer, except perhaps, Libya. China has traditional friendship with Cape Verde, where she supported the militant party of Independence for Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC) led by the intelligent and charismatic revolutionary, Amilcar Cabral, who fought tenaciously, the Portuguese colonialism."**

# Trust International

## Africa

### China unveils new 'win-win' partnership with Africa

China unveiled plans to boost its ties with Africa, outlining a new relationship with the continent based on a "win-win" concept of economic and military cooperation.

"China plans to establish and develop a 'new type of strategic partnership with Africa' characterized by equality and mutual trust on the political front, cooperation conducted on the basis of 'win-win' economics with reinforced cultural exchanges," according to a document released in the Malian capital, Bamako, at the end of a visit by Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing.

China already has a strong presence in Africa and its investments there are being boosted by a recognition of the continent as a source of raw materials such as oil, as well as an important market for Chinese goods.

China's intention, the document said, is to "ensure reciprocal advantages with a view to shared development" through economic, commercial, military and social cooperation.

Beijing plans to open up the Chinese market to African merchandise, reducing tariffs on some goods from Africa's least developed countries to zero and says it will work to boost bilateral trade on an equal basis.

Sino-African cooperation will also focus on "developing land, agricultural output, animal husbandry, and food

security."

Health and tourism are covered in the plan, while Beijing also intends to boost its cooperation with regard to military technology and "will continue to help African countries train their military personnel".

The Chinese government is also encouraging "Chinese businesses to invest and set up in Africa and will continue to give them loans at preferential rates," the document added.

It explained that China regards Africa as "a powerful force for bringing peace and development across the world" and that China plans to work with bodies such as the African Union and the United Nations so as to promote "a new international political and social order" for the sake of security.

In this regard, Beijing wants to help Africa contribute to international efforts to fight terrorism, reduce the smuggling of light arms and to "strengthen international judicial cooperation."

The document stressed that all this was contingent on African countries' refraining from developing official relations with Taiwan.

Before leaving Mali for Liberia and the presidential inauguration of Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Li Zhaoxing spoke about the new partnership.

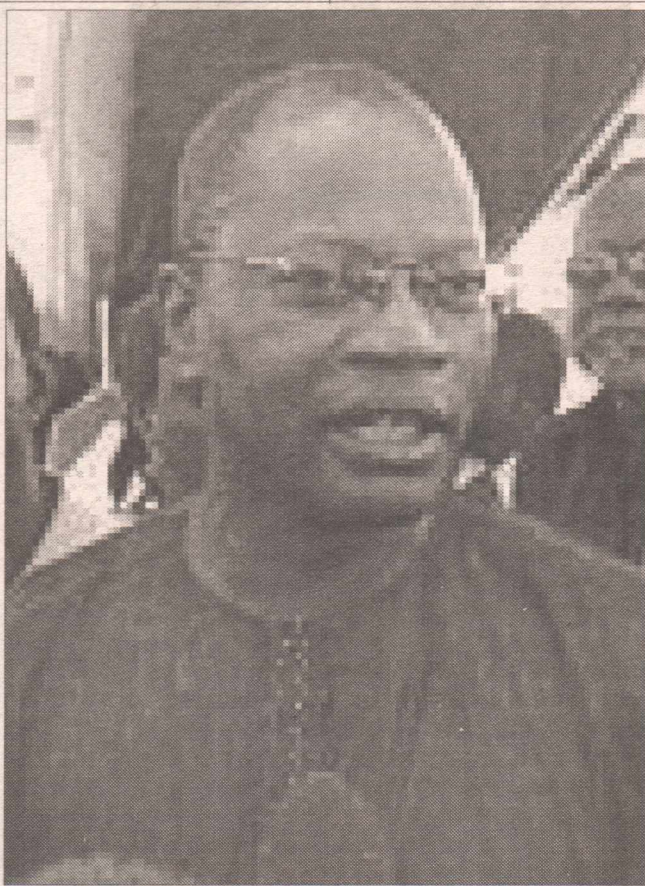
"China and Mali, both developing countries, are urged to support each other, step up their exchanges and

broaden their cooperation."

In a statement, the Malian foreign ministry reaffirmed "the commitment of the two sides to step up their cooperation."

Malian Foreign Minister Moctar Ouane told AFP: "This visit marks a surge in cooperation between our two countries in a number of areas. It's a good example of South-South cooperation."

During his visit, Li announced a grant-in-aid of about two billion CFA francs (three million euros, 3.6 million dollars) to Mali.



ECOWAS scribe, Dr. Ibn Chambas

The United States is throwing its geopolitical might into breaking the Eritrea-Ethiopia border deadlock but analysts say its only hope is to persuade Addis Ababa to fully accept the deal that ended a murderous war between the Horn of Africa neighbors.

Washington is sending a delegation to the region this week to try to end a years-long stalemate between the countries, so divided over the enactment of a legally binding mapping of their common border that some fear a new war could start.

Diplomacy in the sense of brokering a deal will not cut tensions, analysts say, because Eritrea insists the border is a clear-cut matter of law where compromise has no place.

Where the United States

### US leverage with Ethiopia key to Eritrea border row

may have been reluctant to push Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi too hard before, raised fears of war in the Horn and the prospect that the UN peacekeeping mission could fail has prompted action.

"Clearly the danger that is there has sunk in. And there is a perceived - and quite correctly perceived - need to do something about it," Tom Cargill, an Africa expert with the London-based Chatham House think-tank.

Washington's leverage over Ethiopia is a promise to help Meles deal with a turbulent political situation at home and to persuade European donors to give back \$375 million in aid they withheld over an opposition crackdown last year, Lyman said.

"I do think the Eritreans are going to hold to this very stubborn line, but the Americans can get Meles to move," he said.

The US mission, headed by Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Jendayi Frazer, has already been given more of a welcome by Eritrea than the last high-level

diplomatic effort.

Eritrea's Information Ministry in an editorial on its Web site on Wednesday said Eritrea would welcome "initiatives that are focused at bringing about an appropriate resolution to the fundamental issue."

But the editorial said Eritrea would not accept "other 'diplomatic' efforts" that would bypass the legally binding decision.

"Diplomacy doesn't fit very well alongside international law in the sense that you can't tinker with international law, a binding decision, because it would undermine every other decision," said Martin Pratt, research director at the University of Durham's International Boundaries Research Unit.

That was the lesson Eritrea tried to impart to UN Special Envoy Lloyd Axworthy, sent in late 2003 to break the impasse.

By the end of his term in August 2005, the former Canadian foreign minister had never even met the Eritrean leadership, which suspected he might try to circumvent the border ruling.

### S/Africa main opposition kicks off campaign

South Africa's main opposition party launched its campaign Sunday for local government elections promising to fight corruption and improve services for millions still disadvantaged by decades of apartheid.

The Democratic Alliance, which draws most of its support from the tiny white minority, is seeking to woo more black voters for the March 1 poll.

"We will help the poor. We will stop corruption. We will accelerate delivery," party leader Tony Leon told hundreds of supporters - black and white - gathered in the eastern port city of Durban.

He mocked the election slogan of the governing African National Congress: "A plan to make local government work better for you."

"Twelve years in power and all you can offer us is a plan?" Leon asked. "We don't need a plan. We need houses. We need toilets. We need roads. We need police. We need electricity. We need jobs and opportunities."

Despite widespread support among the black majority for leading the fight against oppressive white rule, the ANC risks a backlash in these elections from people fed up with inefficient, corrupt local government.

There have been repeated violent protests in some of South Africa's poorest townships where unemployment is high and many still live in shacks despite the construction of some 1.8 million new homes since 1994.

of some 1.8 million new homes since 1994.

The ANC, which launched its election campaign in Cape Town last week, has promised to crack down on self-seeking party members and improve the lot of the poor.

ANC executive member Mathews Phosa lashed out Sunday at members who plan to run as independents because they were left off the party's candidate list, the South African Press Association reported.

"To those councilors who have been stealing our money, we say to them the honeymoon is over. We don't want them on our list," Phosa was quoted as saying at a rally in the Johannesburg township of Soweto.

The ANC won 59 per cent of the vote in the last municipal elections in 2000, compared to 22 per cent for the Democratic Alliance. In national elections in 2004, the ANC swept to an overwhelming majority of just under 70 per cent and is expected to win most local councils in March.

The Zulu nationalist Inkatha Freedom Party also launched its election campaign in Durban on Sunday, with its leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi "blowing the whistle to stop corruption."

Inkatha dominates local government in KwaZulu-Natal province, but was weakened by a leadership dispute that saw its national chairman leave to form a new party last year.

### ECOWAS secretariat becomes commission

A statement from the ECOWAS secretariat made available to Daily Trust indicates that 31 year old secretariat has been turned into a commission.

The 29th ordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS held on 12th January 2005 in Niamey has approved the transformation of the ECOWAS Executive Secretariat into a Commission. The Commission, which will enable ECOWAS focus better on the discharge of its core function, will be headed by a President assisted by a Deputy and seven other commissioners.

The summit emphasized the importance of ensuring that the Commission has a structure that will be efficient and effective in achieving the objectives of ECOWAS. The summit also called for measures that will ensure that ECOWAS programmes are adequately funded by making sufficient provision for the financing of programmes and controlling the levels of administrative expenditure.

The summit commended the establishment of an EC-

OWAS Project Development and Implementation Unit (PDIU) which will accelerate the realization of the crucial regional infrastructural projects in sectors such as energy, telecommunications and transport.

The one-day summit also endorsed other recommendations from the preceding meeting of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers including those for the harmonization of telecommunications services that will culminate in a region-wide GSM roaming facility with the use of a single SIM card. In this regard, the summit approved the use of the Special Fund for Telecommunications to plug identified gaps in existing inter-state links that will facilitate the cross-border telecommunications connectivity.

On the West African Power Pool (WAPP) programme, a project to improve access by Member States to electric energy through the interconnections of their electric grids, the summit approved its management structure. The management will ensure the implementation of identified

projects under the pool for which the World Bank has already approved a funding of 450 million US dollars.

Heads of State and Government also endorsed an action plan for the implementation of the ECOWAS Regional Agriculture Policy (ECOWAP) which was approved at the last summit held in Accra. ECOWAP is intended to enable the sub-region improve agricultural productivity so as to attain food-sufficiency, standardize agricultural produce, improve the dissemination of agricultural information, enhance the health of West African citizens as well as the international competitiveness of farmers in the sub-region.

In addition, they approved that the Secretariat sign a Memorandum of Understanding with private sector promoters for the establishment of a regional airline that will help eliminate the existing difficulties associated with intra-community air travel.

The summit reviewed the security situation in the sub-region and expressed satisfaction with the progressive return of peace and stability,

particularly with the historic elections in Liberia which produced Africa's first elected female President as well as the election in Guinea Bissau.

On Cote d'Ivoire, they expressed satisfaction with the emergence of the new Prime Minister acceptable to all the parties as well as the formation of a government of national unity and urged the parties to continue to cooperate with the Prime Minister to ensure successful disarmament and the conduct of elections in October 2006.

Also in Togo, they pledged to support the internal dialogue of the parties as well as the dialogue with the European Union.

They pledged their determination to remain engaged in Member States coming out of crisis and to work with the international community to address the post-conflict challenges, particularly in Guinea Bissau and Liberia both of which needed substantial infusion of resources for reconstruction, rehabilitation as well as the implementation of programmes that will ensure sustainable development and employment.

ADSTRAT

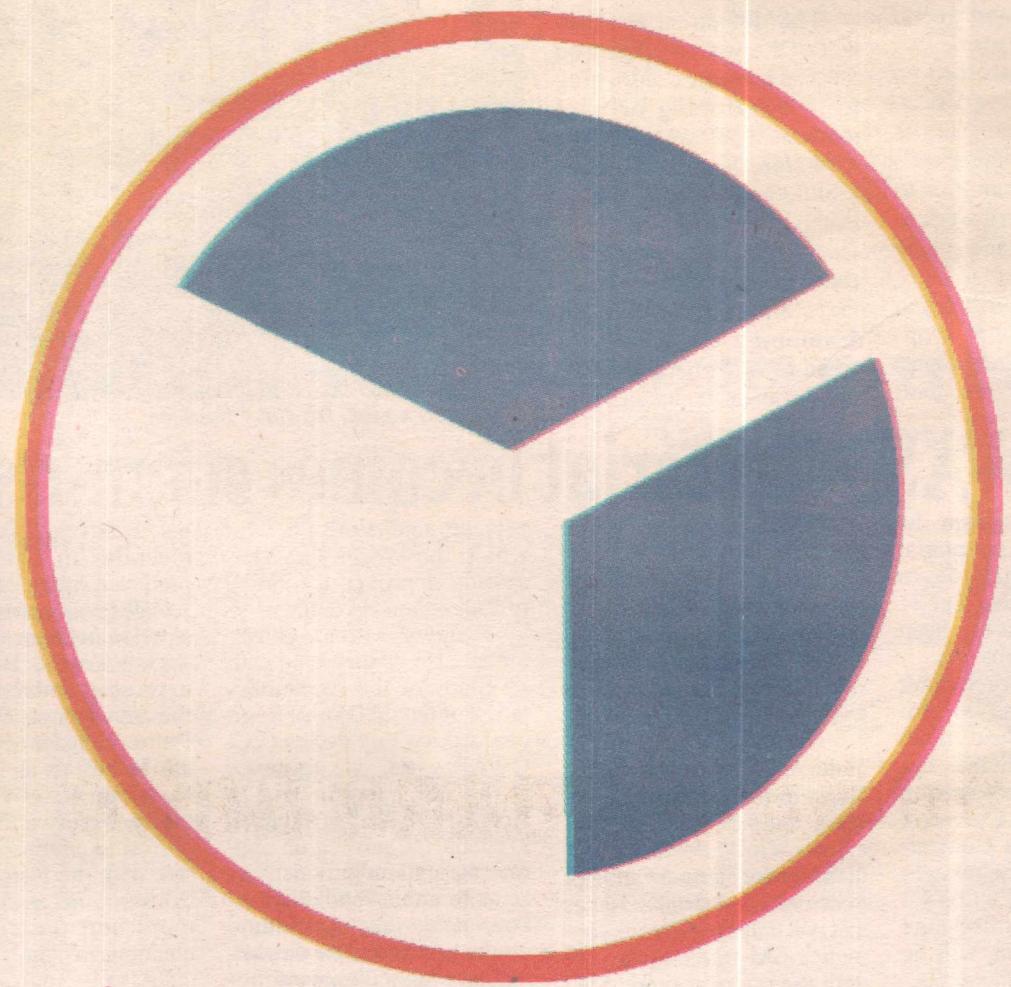


# You' re welcome

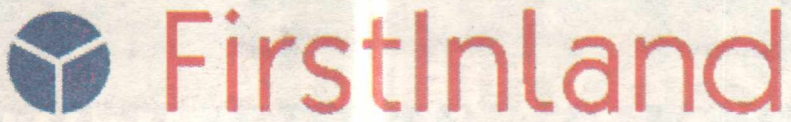
Our welcome delights always. Traditional. Old fashioned.  
Deeply passionate.  
We strongly believe that the welcome you receive determines the memories  
you take away.  
This propels us.

## Our Misson

To delight our customers and other  
stakeholders through the application  
of the very best in people,  
technology and practices.



ADSTRAT



You're welcome to



Our merger is a strategic fit, a **real plus**. Tailor-made to consistently add value beyond meeting your basic banking needs.

With a branch network spread across **31 states** in Nigeria, and a strong balance sheet with total assets in excess of N120 billion we are well positioned to consistently meet your financial needs.

Our major driver is the quest for cutting edge financial solutions that make banking seamless.

**Our Pay-off**  
-you're welcome



**FIRST INLAND BANK PLC**  
- you're welcome

4/6, Adetokunbo Ademola Street, Victoria Island, Lagos.  
Tel: (01) 2622472-80 Fax: (01) 2622497.  
[www.firstinlandbankplc.net](http://www.firstinlandbankplc.net)



# Trust International

## World Report

### US, others discuss Iran nuclear programme

The United States, EU, Russia and China met yesterday to discuss Iran's nuclear program, with Washington and the European Union pushing to bring the Islamic state before the UN Security Council.

Iran's decision to restart its nuclear program alarmed the West, which fears the regime intends to build an atomic bomb. Iran, which insists it only wants to produce electricity, has threatened to end cooperation with the UN nuclear watchdog if it is brought before the Security Council.

On Monday, Iran's state-run radio reported that the country has allocated the equivalent of \$215 million for the construction of what would be its second and third nuclear power plants.

Iran's first reactor has been built at Bushehr with Russian assistance. Iran plans to build 20 more nuclear plants, and Russia has offered to build some of them.

Speaking before Monday's talks in London, British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said the "onus is on Iran" to prove its program is peaceful. He said the international community's confidence had been "sorely undermined by a history of concealment and deception" by Iran.

Britain, France and Germany said last week they want Iran referred to the Security Council, declaring more than two years of tense negotiations at a "dead end."

But they need the support of Russia and China, which have close commercial ties with Iran and have resisted such a measure in the past. Straw said talks with the two countries, which have veto power on the Security Council — was of "crucial importance."

Monday's talks aim to build consensus on what action to take ahead of an emergency board meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the UN nuclear watchdog, expected in February.

The agency has found Iran in violation of an international treaty intended to stop the proliferation of nuclear weapons technology. But it has not yet voted on whether to refer Iran to the Security Council, where it could face possible sanctions.

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said the vote "ought to be as soon as possible."

"We've got to finally demonstrate to Iran that it can't with impunity just cast aside the just demands of the international community," Rice said Sunday during a trip to Africa.

With the backing of Russia and China uncertain, European diplomats have been unwilling to talk publicly about what sanctions could be imposed on Iran.

China, which is highly dependent on Iran for oil, has warned that referral to the Security Council would escalate the confrontation.

there are signs that Russia, which is deeply involved in building Iranian reactors for power generation, is leaning toward backing the move.

Economic sanctions targeting oil and gas exports are thought unlikely. Iran is OPEC's second-largest producer and preventing it from doing business could disrupt the world's energy markets.

China's Foreign Ministry struck a cautious tone Monday, saying "all relevant sides should remain restrained and stick to resolving the Iranian nuclear issue through negotiations."

Straw again ruled out military action against Iran. "I have ruled it out enough times in the past. Military action is not on the agenda and it is certainly not on the agenda at this meeting," he said.

Monday's talks aim to build consensus on what

action to take ahead of an emergency board meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency, expected in early February.

US Undersecretary of State Nicholas Burns and Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Kislyak will also attend, joined by senior British, French and German diplomats.

The National Council of Resistance of Iran, an Iranian

opposition group, called a rally outside Britain's Foreign Office to demand Tehran's referral to the council.

US Undersecretary of State Nicholas Burns and Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Kislyak were

attending the talks, joined by senior British, French and German diplomats. The director of China's Arms Control Department will represent Beijing, China's Foreign Ministry said. Straw will not attend.

### Islamic groups vow to keep up anti-US protests

Islamic groups vowed yesterday to keep up their anti-American protests over a purported CIA airstrike that Pakistan says killed innocent civilians instead of the apparent target — al-Qaida's No. 2 leader.

For the second straight day, thousands of Pakistanis poured into streets in cities across the country on Sunday chanting "Death to America" and demanding US troops leave Afghanistan.

Protesters believe Friday's attack — in which missiles struck a Pakistani village near the Afghan border — was the work of US forces in the neighboring country. The United States has 20,000 troops in Afghanistan searching for Taliban and al-Qaida, and Pakistan says it has not given the Americans permission to pursue their enemies across the border.

There will be more ... bigger protests," said Shahid Shamsi, spokesman for an alliance of Islamic groups.

"Pakistani civilians, including children, were killed," he said. "Principles cannot be broken in the name of (fighting) terrorism."

Two Pakistani intelligence officials said Ayman al-Zawahri, Osama bin Laden's top lieutenant, had been invited to a dinner in the village to mark the Islamic holiday of Eid al-Adha but passed it up and sent some aides instead.

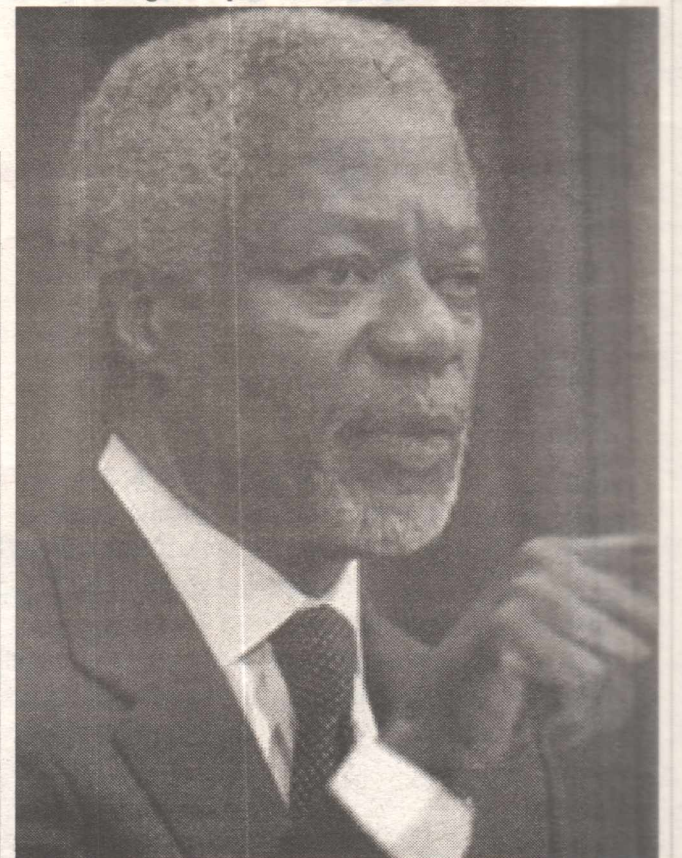
Investigators were trying to see if they were among at least 17 people killed the attack, which destroyed three houses in the Pashtun hamlet of Damadola, the officials said. They spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue.

Pakistani officials have strongly condemned the

strike, without directly blaming the United States. The United States hasn't confirmed the incident but Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said al-Qaida can't be treated "lightly."

She praised the Pakistanis as "great allies" in the war against terrorism but said extremists continue to occupy parts of Pakistan, noting that two attempts have been made on the life of President Gen. Pervez Musharraf.

A senior army official told The Associated Press on Sunday that "foreigners" were reported in the area around Damadola, which is four miles from the Afghan border, but he said there was no information al-Zawahri was among them.



Kofi Annan, UN scribe

### Left-leaning candidate surges in Peru

When Venezuela's populist leader welcomed Bolivia's socialist president-elect at a ceremony in Caracas, an unexpected guest had a front-row seat: Ollanta Humala, a left-leaning nationalist who is surging in popularity in Peru's presidential race.

Humala burst into the spotlight when he and his brother, Antauro, a former army major, led some 70 followers in a short-lived military rebellion in October 2000, a month before President Alberto Fujimori's autocratic 10-year regime collapsed in a corruption scandal. Humala was later pardoned by Congress.

He has taken on the mantle of the anti-establishment newcomer, a role that Fujimori, a university dean, played to the hilt to get elected in 1990. Current President Alejandro Toledo, a close US ally who is barred from running again, also ran as an outsider in 2001, becoming the country's first elected leader of Indian descent.

Many Peruvians disenchanted with Toledo's weak leadership had hoped for a return of Fujimori and his tough style, which helped end the economic chaos of the 1980s and defeat leftist guerrillas. But they have turned to Humala since Fujimori's November arrest in Chile, where he is fighting extradition

of human rights abuses and corruption.

In the interview, Humala scorned his opponents. "None of them offers hope for a true change in Peru," he said.

Humala said he would impose greater state control over the economy and give preference to Peruvian investors over foreign capital. He wants to boost taxes and royalties on foreign mining operations and take at least a 49 percent share for the government in Peru's giant Camisea natural gas fields, which are now run by a consortium of foreign companies.

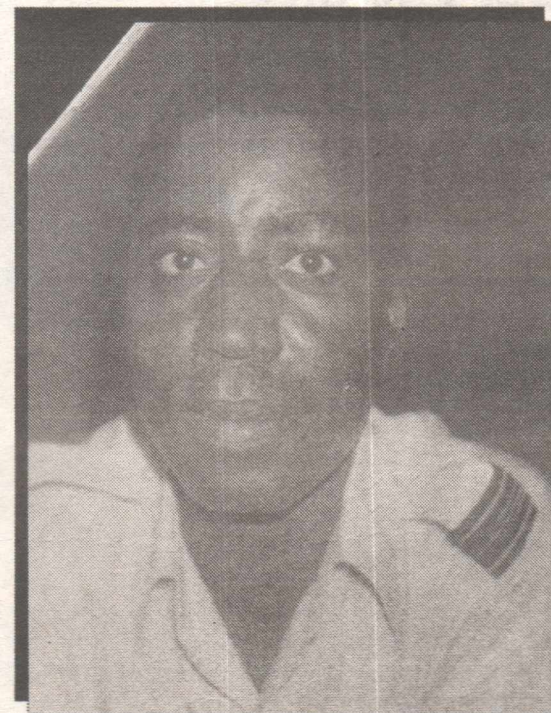
But Humala said he differs from Velasco's dictatorship in that he does not believe in "expropriating property or limiting freedom of expression."

A key concern for Washington is the illicit growing of coca leaf, the raw material for cocaine.

Like Bolivian President-elect Evo Morales, an Indian activist who is a coca farmer, Humala said he does not support the US-financed eradication of coca because it hurts poor farm families. "They're human beings trying to do the best for their children," he said.

He said he would battle drug trafficking in other ways. Humala said he is not anti-American and hopes to have good relations with Wash-

### TEN YEARS REMEMBRANCE OF A TRUE FRIEND



Late Squadron leader Nalaku Elishua Daudu

Late Squadron leader Nalaku Elishua Daudu  
Captain of the ill-fated HS125  
Presidential Jet that crashed near Kano Airport  
On January 17<sup>th</sup>, 1996.

We lost a friend and confidant, who departed this sinful world on the 17<sup>th</sup> January, 1996. He was a shining example for all his friends he left behind. We remember your kindness, love, warmth, honesty and discipline which distinguished you.

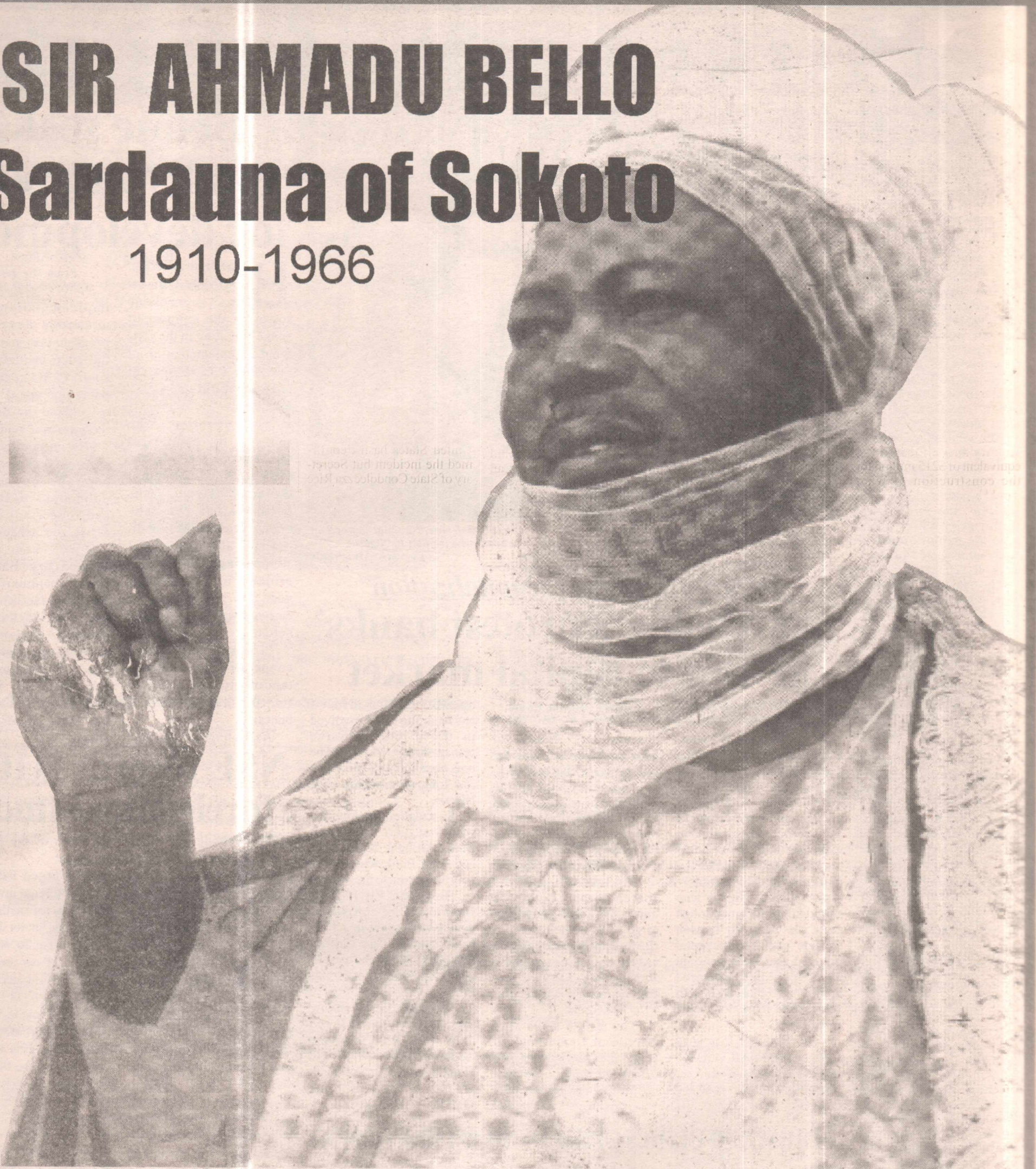
Fondly remembered today and always by:

SIGNED:  
Daniel D. Dibal & Family.

# SIR AHMADU BELLO

## Sardauna of Sokoto

1910-1966



*Just like Yesterday,  
it is forty years  
since your demise,  
leaving behind giant foot prints.*

*Your quintessential life of honesty, truth and courage  
are etched permanently in our collective memories*

**SIGNED:**

**ATIKU ABUBAKAR, (GCON)  
(TURAKI ADAMAWA)**

**VICE PRESIDENT, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

# Business Trust

## Briefs

### Policy on solid minerals for FEC soon

By Anas A. Galadima,  
Business Reporter

The minister of solid minerals development, Dr. Oby Ezekwesili said over the weekend that the ministry would soon present a comprehensive national policy on solid minerals development to the Federal Executive Council for endorsement.

The minister spoke at a two-day retreat organized by the ministry for its staff across the country where she said the new policy would provide the necessary platform on which solid minerals exploration and exploitation would be done across the country.

She said that the policy became necessary as a way of ensuring that the economic potentials of the nation's solid mineral resources are fully exploited as a way of diversifying the country's revenue base, pointing out that unless that is done, the country would not realize its full potentials in the sector.

The minister said that the ministry in December 2005 disengaged a total of 1350 workers, drawn from the ministry and its parastatals, as part of a restructuring of the ministry and its agencies to provide efficient services, which she described as critical for the development of the sub-sector.

### CSL Fund offer begins Jan. 31

From Bright Ewulu,  
Deputy Business Editor, Lagos

CSL Stockbrokers Limited has indicated plans to kick-off its one billion legacy fund offer on January 31, 2006. According to the company, the fund is open to individuals, companies, societies, PFA's and their clients as well as foreign and non-resident investors.

The chairman of CSL limited, Otunba Micheal Balogun during the completion board meeting in Lagos posited that the legacy fund, which is constituted under a trust deed, is an open-ended unit trust scheme designed for investors interested in earning attractive returns.

"It is also appropriate for investors that wish to subscribe on behalf of their wards or dependants as a means of providing for their future.

An investment in units of the fund can also be bequeathed to one's beneficiaries, children and loved ones to ensure future financial security," he said.

The issuing house for the offer which goes for N1.00 per unit is FCMB Limited and the offer is expected to close



Adamawa state deputy governor, Mallam Bello Tukur (r), with the chairman, National Council on Privatisation, Mr Akin Kekere-Ekun, during the launch of a book privatisation in Nigeria.

Pix: Felix Onigbinde

## Insurance sector recapitalization

### Shareholders protest banks' return to capital market

The bid by top Nigerian banks to meet the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) N130 billion capital base requirement for banks to manage part of Nigeria's \$24 billion foreign reserve may spell doom for the insurance subsector consolidation exercise.

Shareholders under the Progressive Shareholders Association of Nigeria who raised this sentiment through their president, Mr Benson Okezie over the weekend advised that banks should first deploy their enhanced capital base before rushing to the capital market to raise more funds.

The National Insurance Commission (NAICOM) has mandated Insurance and re-Insurance Companies in the country to raise their

Stories by Bright Ewulu,  
Deputy Business Editor, Lagos

shareholders funds to between N2 billion and N10 billion before March, 2007.

Therefore, most of the Insurance firms are expected to hit the capital market between now and the end of the year in furtherance of their consolidation process.

But, according to the shareholders, with the number of banks proposing to go back to the market in the bid to partake in the external reserve management, fears are real that the insurance firms may be crowded out.

The group managing director of Union Bank of Nigeria Plc, Mr Godwin Oboh disclosed that its current efforts to shore up its capital was to manage the external

reserve. According to him if any bank should be involved in the external reserve management, UBN should be one based on its heritage and long relationship with Nigeria.

Speculations making the rounds suggest that Zenith Bank, Afribank Nigeria Plc and First Bank Nigeria Plc may also return to the market.

However, FBN Chief executive officer, Mr Jacobs Ajekigbe stressed that First Bank shareholders had not mandated, as yet, the bank to go back to the market to raise funds.

On the fears expressed by the shareholders that the bank should rush to the capital market as others were doing in order to maintain its position Ajekigbe said that FBN has its strategies.

### Transcorp denies plans to invest in aviation

The Transnational Corporation of Nigeria (Transcorp) has denied plans to enter the aviation sector. According to its chairman, Dr. Ndi Okereke-Onyuike who disclosed this last week, the statement became imperative following a deluge of applications by some airline operators who wish to go into merger with Transcorp.

She said that Transcorp has no plans to go into the aviation sector since it lacks the skill and manpower to effectively operate in the sector.

Nevertheless, it stressed that it is resolute in going into the oil and gas, agriculture, power, hospitality and tourism sectors, saying that it is getting set to bid again for the Port Harcourt

Going further, she stressed that the whole idea is to make Transcorp a totally private sector institution, maintaining that no government will own shares in Transcorp.

Dr. Okereke-Onyuike urged Nigerians and others



Ndi Okereke-Onyuike

to disregard any information in the dailies alluding that the corporation is about to enter the aviation sector.

Meanwhile, Mr Nicholas has been appointed the chief executive officer of Transcorp and as a result of his departure the Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE) has appointed Mr Farouk Orioragba to serve in his stead.

Transcorp is an idea of President Olusegun Obasanjo to enable Nigeria's private sector compete favourably with their foreign counterparts for jobs within and outside the country.

The idea was also to form a vehicle that will enable Nigerians play at the commanding height of the nation's economy in the oil and gas and other sectors.

## Benue seeks banks' support for development

Benue State governor, Dr. George Akume at the weekend solicited the support of banks operating in the state for the implementation of the state's development programmes in this year's budget.

The governor who spoke at the annual get together organized by the state's Accountant General, Hajiya Nana Fatima Meda for bank executives in Makurdi, praised the banks for supporting the state's projects in the previous year and hoped that the current fiscal year would be better.

"I look forward to more cooperation and understanding in our business relationship for mutual benefits.

As we forge ahead in the

From Hir Joseph,  
Correspondent Makurdi

implementation of our numerous development programmes, particularly the 2006 budget, we will continue to knock on your doors for capital to enable us achieve the set goals," the governor said.

He said on its part, the state government would continue to meet its obligations to the banks and render any possible assistance needed.

"We have demonstrated our commitment to fiscal responsibility by servicing facilities extended to the state government promptly. I do assure you that government will continue in the same vein this year and throughout remainder of our term of office," he added.

## NSE records N10bn foreign investment

The Nigerian Stock Exchange has disclosed that foreign investors in 2005 poured in over N10 billion investment through the Exchange, excluding strategic foreign investments in banks under the consolidation exercise.

Revealing this, the director general Ndi Okereke-Onyuike in her new year press briefing in Lagos, said that NSE market capitalization went from N2.112 trillion in 2004 to N2.9 trillion in 2005 while the index moved from 23,84445 to 24,085.76 in the period in review.

According to Okereke-Onyuike who alongside the managing director of Central Securities Clearing System (CSCS) Mr. Onyewuchi Asinali and other top executives of the Exchange said the average daily turnover was N882.1 billion compared to N1.06 billion in the review period, added that new issues approved last year totaled N689.76 billion up from N235.53 billion.

She expressed the hope that Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) will fast track its effort and ensure that NITEL and Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) shares are listed on

the floor of the Exchange this year.

She urged BPE not to wait for foreign investors for NITEL before selling the 20 percent meant for the general Nigerian public, saying that once the 20 per cent is sold a core investor could easily be attracted for NITEL.

According to her, once there is a mini core group that will emerge after the 20 per cent sale on the floor of the Exchange the situation in NITEL will improve as its management problems owes to government ownership.

Mr Asinobi in his intervention said that CSCS had transactions valued at N262.9 billion last year compared to N225.8 billion in 2004, representing a 16 percent increase, and added that it had N779 billion worth of transactions since inception.



Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, finance minister

# Business Trust

## Motoring

### Infiniti FX: Nissan's targets in crossover utility

The new Infiniti FX is designed to be a crossover sport-utility vehicle that top Nissan Luxury brand. The FX is from Nissan's upscale division and is part of Nissan's plan to make Infiniti a top luxury brand, the company said in a statement.

The 4-door FX according to the statement is about the size of a large sedan. It has a long hood, wide stance and large rear hatch.

By Hamisu Muhammad, Business Reporter

Its height is halfway between that of an auto and sport-ute. It thus calls for a little extra effort to get in and out, but not much more than with a car.

The FX has a long 112.2-inch wheelbase partly to smooth out the ride and provide more interior room. It's a 189.1 inches long for fairly easy garaging.

The FX comes with rear-drive or an all-wheel-drive system not designed for off-road use. It has luxury car comfort and features. It also has excellent handling and performance especially with the V8. The statement added

The FX hits 60 mph in just 6.3 seconds with the V8 and has such items as an aluminum independent rear suspension similar to the one in the Nissan 350Z sports car.

The FX45 version weighs 4,299 pounds. As with the FX35, a driver can feel the weight during hard acceleration and driving maneuvers such as quick lane changes.

Nissan said both engines work with a very responsive 5-speed automatic transmission, which has a manual shift feature. It added that the FX is nearly as much fun to drive as a larger sports car—especially in FX45 trim. The quick power steering of the FX45 is heavy, but provides good road feel.

Both FX versions have an anti-skid/traction-control system and anti-lock brakes to help keep drivers out of trouble if they push too hard.

Standard for the FX45 and optional for the FX35 are such items as leather upholstery, heated front seats and power tilt-telescopic steering wheel.

A Premium option package has a power sunroof. A Technology package has radar cruise control to keep the FX a predetermined distance from vehicles ahead and a rearview television camera that operates when reverse gear is selected. Standard safety features include side air bags up front, and front and rear curtain side air bags.

The FX45 not only has a smooth V8—it also has a very tied-down sport suspension and wide 50-series tires mounted on those 20-inch aluminum alloy wheels, which help provide a very aggressive appearance.

In terms of the safety the company said larger wheels and tires are optional for the FX35, as is the FX45 sport suspension. But those items are rather out of place without the V8. Trust Infiniti to set up the FX with the proper standard suspension, wheels and tires.



Infiniti FX

### Mitsubishi in joint venture with Malaysia's Proton

Japanese automaker Mitsubishi Motors has ruled out jointly manufacturing and assembling its vehicles locally with embattled Malaysian carmaker Proton, a report says.

Mitsubishi Motors Malaysia, which distributes the company's vehicles in Malaysia, has reportedly said it was looking into assembling its cars in partnership with car manufacturers, including Proton.

But the Japanese company, which partly established the Malaysian carmaker, said it had no deal planned with Proton.

"Mitsubishi Motors provides production parts and components to Proton, based on a technical assistance agreement," the company said in a statement to the New Straits Times newspaper. "However, we do not have any plans to launch a new plant in Malaysia as a joint venture," it said.

Proton was formed in 1983

by Malaysian companies as well as Mitsubishi Motors and some Mitsubishi group companies.

Mitsubishi Motors sold its entire 7.93 percent stake in Proton in 2004 to stem its losses after slumping sales in North America, and in the face of falling Proton sales over foreign competition.

Proton was dealt a major blow during the week when German carmaker Volkswagen abandoned plans for an alliance seen as crucial to the national carmaker's survival.

#### Auto Briefs

### GM to save \$4 bn in 2006

General Motors Corporation expects to save about \$4 billion this year as it implements its North American turnaround plan, Chairman and CEO Rick Wagoner said Friday. But he declined to give earnings guidance, saying there are too many outstanding issues facing the struggling automaker. Wagoner also refused to speculate on whether the board of the world's biggest automaker will consider cutting dividends to shareholders. Earlier this week, Jerome York, an aide to billionaire investor Kirk Kerkorian, said GM should consider halving its annual \$2 per share dividend, which he estimated would save \$566 million a year.

"We have a lot of topics under our corporate governance structure that require board approval," Wagoner told a gathering of automotive analysts in Dearborn. GM stopped providing earnings guidance last April after it lost \$1.1 billion in the first quarter.

Wagoner said GM's financial picture will be affected by the outcome of negotiations with Delphi Corp., its former parts division, which has filed for bankruptcy protection and could seek billions from GM. GM also is trying to sell a controlling stake in its finance division, GMAC.

Wagoner also said it's unclear when the automaker will see the full benefit of a new health care agreement that requires retired autoworkers to pay more for their health care. The agreement has received preliminary approval in federal court, and GM hopes it will go into effect April 1, Wagoner said.

### Mahindra

Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) is planning to double its exports of sports utility vehicles (SUVs) to 6,000 this financial year. This includes 5,000 Scorpios and 1,000 Boleros. "In the first six months of the current financial year (April-September), SUV exports grew by 160 per cent to 2,600 vehicles compared to 1,000 vehicles in the corresponding period of the previous year. By the end of the year, we are targeting total exports of 6,000 SUVs," said Pawan Goenka, president (automotive sector) and member of the group management board.

The company expects the demand from Russia, western Europe and Malaysia to go up. Likewise, exports to the Middle East, Brazil, Argentina, and South Africa is also expected to grow. M&M has exported 100 vehicles to Russia, 600 each to Italy and Malaysia, 300 to South Africa, and 100 to Uruguay so far this year.

"The company would set up a completely knocked down plant in Russia and Malaysia once its exports reach 500 vehicles a month in these countries," said Goenka.

M&M targets double-digit growth in sale of SUVs within the country this year. M&M's total sales (excluding tractors) in September stood at 13,839 vehicles compared to 13,093 vehicles in the same month last year. Sales of Scorpio surged 37 per cent in September to 3,164 units from 2,313 units in Expert Review.



2006 CLS-Class

## VACANCY

A reputable company invites applications from suitably qualified candidates for the post of drivers.

#### REQUIREMENT

- 1) SSCE/NECO or its equivalent
- 2) Valid drivers licence
- 3) Aged between 25-30 years

#### METHOD OF APPLICATION

A handwritten application, detailed C.V. and photocopies of certificates and relevant credentials should be addressed to:

The Advertiser  
P.O. Box 6873  
Wuse Zone 3, Abuja.

Applications should be marked "driver" on the top left corner of the envelopes.

# Business Trust

## Energy

### Shell evacuates 330 workers from Niger Delta

Shell has evacuated around 330 workers from four sites in the Niger delta area of Nigeria following a gunboat attack. Gunmen fought Nigerian soldiers on Sunday as they overran the Benisede pumping station near the port of Warri.

Five Shell workers were injured and there are unconfirmed reports that some soldiers and gunmen died in the attack.

The evacuations from Benisede and three other pumping stations will not affect production, already halted because of a pipeline attack last Wednesday.

The latest attack helped put upward pressure on oil prices, with markets already worried about the nuclear standoff involving Iran, the world's fourth largest crude oil exporter.

In London on Monday morning, the price for a barrel of Brent crude had risen by 19 cents to \$62.45.

In two attacks last week, militants ruptured a major pipeline feeding an export terminal and kidnapped four foreign workers from another Shell oil rig in the region.

The hostages, who are still being held, come from the UK, the US, Honduras and Bulgaria, a Shell spokeswoman said.

Correspondents say the move will increase pressure

Stories from Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

on Nigeria's government to crack down on ethnic Ijaw militants who want more control over the region's oil revenues.

The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger

Delta, the group that says it is holding the hostages, has demanded the release of a separatist leader, Mujahid Dokubu Asari, who is being held on treason charges, and a former state governor, Diepreye Alamieyeseigha, who is accused of money-laundering.

Despite recurring upheavals in the Niger Delta region which has affected its operations, Chevron Nigeria Limited said it has set on course a number of major capital projects that would bolster its reserve status.

Such capital projects, according to the company's general manager, asset management, Chuck Taylor include the South offshore

### Chevron plans projects in Niger Delta

Water Inject Project (SOWIP), Meren-X, Meji Redevelopment and Delta drilling campaign.

According to him, in addition to the company's completion of its drilling campaign in Robertkiri and Idama fields in the eastern part of operation, Chevron

recently reached finalised an investment decision on both the Escravos Gas Project Phase 3 (EGP3) and Escravos gas to liquid (EGTL).

"Both are now in the detailed design and fabrication stages. We are also looking at LNG projects at Brass River and Olokola, pursuing an independent power project and creating the means to supply more gas to the Nigerian domestic market," he said.

He further said his company has restored about 18000 barrels a day in the Abiteye, Makaraba and Utonana South swamp as flowstations at each of these locations have been repaired.

He also explained that Chevron is making a significant progress in Olero Creek and Dibi area in the North Swamp with a view to guaranteeing his company same production from these areas in the first half of this year.

"Another key asset for us in the north Swamp is Opuekeba. We are encouraged by damage assessments at that location. Because its production flows through the Olero Creek and Dibi area, it will necessarily follow in restoration," he said.



Honorary Doctor of Science in Engineering awardees at the 11th & 12 Convocation ceremony, University of Agriculture, Makurdi. Engr. Funsho Kupolokun, GMD, NNPC (left), and Engr. Joseph Makoju MD, PHCN (right), congratulating each other after the conferment at the University...last year.

### Stakeholders laud extension in payment for oil blocks

The January 18, 2006 deadline extension for the payment of signature bonuses by winners of oil blocks in the recent licensing round has been commended by stakeholders in the oil industry.

The federal government's decision to shift its ground from its December 15, 2005 earlier deadline it was gathered was informed by the need to encourage indigenous winners to pay the signature bonuses and as well as own licenses for the oil blocks.

Only Conoil among the indigenous successful winners of the block was said to have hitherto paid its full signature bonus.

The federal government

had announced that oil block winners who failed to fulfill their signature bonuses by December 15 2005 would lose ownership of the block out rightly.

And when asked three weeks ago at a news conference in Lagos about the fate of some of the winners who made apartments for the oil block, Tony Chukwueke, a director of the directorate of Petroleum Resources (DPR) explained that there was no room for part payment as far as the whole transaction is

concerned.

He said following the successful conduct of the 2005 round, the federal government is poised to revamp its million dollars revenue.

He however stated that the federal government may consider a safety for indigenous winners of the block as the whole exercise is geared to encourage indigenous operators to have a stake in the nation's oil industry. But a number of experts who spoke with *Business Trust* on the new date for the winners to pay their bonuses expressed satisfaction over the development.

### Oando opens service station in Lagos

Oando Plc, at the weekend launched its "New Look" service station at 25 Awolowo Road, Ikoyi in Lagos.

The move according to the chief marketing officer, Retail of Oando, Mr. Ayo Ajose Adeogun, is in line with his company's initiative to drive the growth of non-fuel revenue which recently brought about the signing on of four new partners namely Tastee Fried Chicken, Tastee Pot Limited, Nu Metro Store and ATM consortium, the leading provider of offsite ATMs in Nigeria.

Ayo Ajose who spoke at the launch also explained that besides his company's range of services, Tastee Fried Chicken and Tastee Pot Limited will provide fast food and African dishes for both "eat in" and "take away" consumers; Nu Metro Media will provide CDs, DVDs, Tapes, reading material, audio/visual home and recreational goods and essential lifestyle merchandise.

He added that ATM consortium on the other hand, will facilitate quick and convenient cash withdrawals for customers through its

Dennis Fahy, the managing director of the West African Gas Pipeline (WAGP) project has said that the first gas deliveries from the project are scheduled to start in December this year.

According to him, the \$590 million project will be the first regional natural gas transmission system to be developed in sub-saharan Africa with an initial volume of 150-165 million standard cubic feet per day of gas deliveries.

Most of these volumes, the managing director stated are already under contract.

"We are designing the

### WAGP begins gas deliveries Dec

pipeline with an ultimate capacity of 475 million standard cubic feet per day which in our estimations can be reached in 15-20 years".

He stated though at present, his company has no immediate plans to expand the pipeline westward "but this is an option that would be considered for a commercially viable opportunity to develop."

The managing director said local content development in the successful development of WAGP project further explained output from 200 local employees working in his company's pipe goading plant is expected to generate more than \$10 million into the local economy.

He further disclosed that his company will have a significant amount of onshore construction activity, particularly in Nigeria where it expected to utilise a significant amount of local goods and services.

"We are also forming our operating phase organization which will predominantly employ citizens of the four

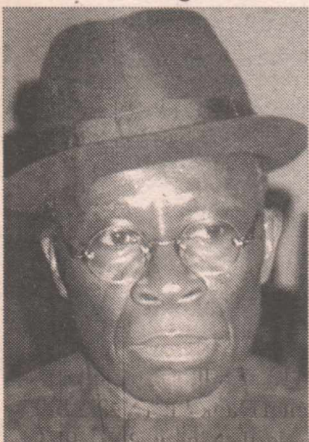
countries of our operation."

According to Fahy, the World Bank is a strong supporter of the project for reasons which was not only hinged on environmental benefits such as flare reduction in green house gasses but also for the economic benefits that it can provide for the region.

"By the World Bank's own calculations, the economic benefits to the four countries operation, at historic oil prices, we exported to exceed \$1 billion. At today's oil prices this figure will be substantially higher," he added.



Funsho Kupolokun GMD, NNPC



Edmund Daukoru, min of state, petroleum

# Business Trust

## 1ST-TIER SECURITIES

## THE NIGERIAN STOCK EXCHANGE

## REPORT AS AT MONDAY, JANUARY 16 2006

Company Name	No of Deals	Quotation(N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares
CUTIX PLC	4	3.15	46,000	141,050.00
Sector Totals	4		46,000	141,050.00
AGRICULTURE/AGRO-ALLIED				
LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC.	1	2.56	4,000	38,400.00
THE OKOMU OIL PALM COMPANY PLC	3	18.55	3,050	56,577.50
PRESCO PLC.	14	11.45	176,600	2,033,380.00
Sector Totals	18		194,650	2,128,357.50
AUTOMOBILE & TYRE				
DUNLOP NIGERIA PLC.	19	2.51	147,413	374,868.80
R. T. BRISCOAE PLC.	23	6.01	274,977	1,619,612.65
Sector Totals	42		422,390	1,994,481.45
BANKING				
ACCESS BANK PLC	132	2.96	7,538,387	22,297,828.75
AFRIBANK NIGERIA PLC.	19	9.10	518,449	4,717,885.90
FIRST ATLANTIC BANK PLC	1	3.41	2,000	6,820.00
EIB INTERNATIONAL BANK PLC.	1	2.26	2,079,520	4,699,715.20
FIRST CITY MONUMENT BANK PLC	4	5.11	123,024	628,652.64
FIDELITY BANK PLC	1	2.93	550,000	1,611,500.00
FIRST BANK OF NIGERIA PLC.	206	32.00	8,230,768	263,384,576.00
GTBANK PLC.	277	12.57	2,699,304	33,954,687.05
INVESTMENT BANKING	8	4.57	379,817	1,735,763.69
INTERCONTINENTAL BANK PLC.	84	8.79	2,275,078	19,552,230.57
LION BANK OF NIGERIA PLC.	2	1.40	4,350	6,090.00
NAL BANK PLC.	2	2.80	3,022	8,461.60
OCEANIC BANK PLC	28	6.00	461,722	2,771,279.78
UNITED BANK FOR AFRICA PLC.	8	2.60	3,410,500	8,867,300.00
UNION BANK NIGERIA PLC.	100	12.90	1,562,135	20,265,895.88
WEMA BANK PLC.	56	25.48	166,909	4,252,841.32
ZENITH BANK PLC	20	3.74	69,373	259,455.02
Sector Totals	28	19.64	70,640	1,387,369.60
BREWERIES				
GUINNESS NIGERIA PLC.	62	99.00	84,002	8,269,747.69
NIGERIAN BREWERIES PLC.	270	38.89	3,182,542	123,953,213.56
Sector Totals	332		3,266,544	132,222,961.25
BUILDING MATERIALS				
ASHAKA CEMENT PLC.	57	33.00	657,099	22,128,877.84
BENUE CEMENT COMPANY PLC.	8	6.50	19,769	128,498.50
CEMENT COMPANY OF NORTHERN NIG. PLC	6	7.51	10,375	79,616.25
WEST AFRICAN PORTLAND CEMENT CO. PLC.	92	17.00	973,297	16,564,182.95
Sector Totals		163	1,660,540	38,901,175.54
CHEMICAL & PAINTS				
BERGER PAINTS PLC.	3	3.83	9,942	37,315.40
CAP PLC.	5	10.30	9,655	101,874.00
D. N. MEYER PLC.	1	4.02	5,000	20,100.00
NIGERIA-GERMAN CHEMICALS PLC.	1	4.15	132	547.80
Sector Totals	10		24,729	159,837.20
CONGLOMERATES				
A. G. LEVENTIS NIGERIA PLC.	2	1.20	22,490	26,988.00
C F A O NIGERIA PLC.	4	3.60	21,729	78,224.40
JOHN HOLT PLC.	2	1.50	408	606.00
P. Z. INDUSTRIES PLC.	35	16.20	176,457	2,858,603.40
U.A.C.NIGERIA PLC.	55	17.40	208,948	3,631,166.70
UNILEVER NIGERIA PLC	84	21.78	243,683	5,308,998.45
Sector Totals	182		673,715	11,904,586.95
CONSTRUCTION				
JULIUS BERGER NIGERIA PLC.	4	21.50	3,850	83,450.00
Sector Totals	4		3,850	83,450.00
ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY				
NIGERIAN WIRE AND CABLE PLC.	1	0.68	280	190.40
Sector Totals	1		280	190.40
FOOD/BEVERAGES & TOBACCO				
7-UP BOTTLING COMPANY PLC	9	27.00	11,670	315,090.00
CADBURY NIGERIA PLC.	104	66.00	273,918	18,421,170.71
FLOUR MILLS NIGERIA PLC.	81	27.20	643,462	17,621,907.32
NIGERIA BOTTLING COMPANY PLC.	32	64.00	88,105	5,616,762.16
NESTLE FOODS NIGERIA PLC.	33	186.50	34,944	6,514,598.50
NORTHERN NIGERIA FLOUR MILLS PLC.	1	14.75	1,125	16,593.75
Sector Totals	260		1,053,224	48,506,122.44
FOOTWEAR				
FOOTWEAR & ACCESSORIES MAN. PLC.	1	0.30	10,000	3,000.00
Sector Totals	1		10,000	3,000.00
HEALTHCARE				
EVANS MEDICAL PLC.	3	2.75	23,000	63,250.00
GLAXOSMITHKLINE CONSUMER NIGERIA PLC	8	10.91	13,166	142,051.30
MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC	1	5.36	2,436	13,056.96
MORISON INDUSTRIES PLC.	5	0.88	250,000	220,000.00
NEIMETH INTERNATIONAL PHARM. PLC.	1	3.23	1,000	3,230.00
PHARMA-DEKO PLC.	1	4.77	400	1,908.00
Sector Totals	19		290,002	443,496.26
INDUSTRIAL/DOMESTIC PRODUCTS				
ALUMACO PLC.	5	1.24	2,086	2,586.64
B.O.C. GASES PLC	3	3.00	3,419	10,318.90
FIRST ALUMINIUM NIGERIA PLC.	1	0.80	1,000	800.00
VITAFOAM NIGERIA PLC.	46	4.75	1,400,644	6,657,123.94
VONO PRODUCTS PLC.	1	1.46	937	1,368.02
Sector Totals		56	1,408,086	6,672,197.50
INSURANCE				
AIICO INSURANCE PLC.	16	1.81	805,377	1,461,970.97
CORNERSTONE INSURANCE CO. PLC.	11	1.56	1,021,000	1,589,589.18
CRUSADER INSURANCE PLC.	6	1.68	192,000	322,000.00
LASACO ASSURANCE PLC.	3	0.70	95,000	66,500.00
LAW UNION AND ROCK INSURANCE PLC.	3	1.22	107,200	129,068.00
LINKAGE ASSURANCE PLC	1	1.45	1,000	1,450.00
NIGER INSURANCE CO. PLC.	9	2.76	127,000	352,820.00
PRESTIGE ASSURANCE PLC.	5	2.12	107,464	231,571.52
ROYAL EXCHANGE ASSURANCE PLC.	3	3.04	2,500	7,680.00
STANDARD ALLIANCE INSURANCE	1	1.36	40,000	54,400.00
UNIC INSURANCE PLC.	5	1.31	285,866	375,204.46
WEST AFRICAN PROV. INS. COY. PLC.	5	3.27	37,116	119,763.63
Sector Totals	68		2,821,523	4,712,017.76
MANAGED FUNDS				
C & I LEASING PLC	6	1.30	84,291	112,340.34
Sector Totals	6		84,291	112,340.34
MARITIME				
JAPPAUL OIL & MARITIME SERVICES PLC	23	2.04	496,240	1,034,363.60
Sector Totals	23		496,240	1,034,363.60
PACKAGING				
AVON CROWNCAPS & CONTAINERS PLC.	1	1.07	25,000	26,750.00
NAMPAL NIGERIA PLC	1	1.52	35,000	53,200.00
STUDIO PRESS (NIGERIA) PLC.	1	1.62	480	777.60
Sector Totals	3		60,480	80,727.60
PETROLEUM(MARKETING)				
AFROIL PLC.	4	0.45	18,730	8,763.10
AFRICAN PETROLEUM PLC.	106	50.00	610,095	30,411,453.38
CONOIL PLC	26	95.00	84,492	8,064,847.90
ETERNA OIL & GAS PLC.	10	2.75	86,774	247,349.00
MOBIL OIL NIGERIA PLC.	11	162.00	6,347	1,023,932.00
OANDO PLC	107	96.71	165,396	16,011,160.66
TEXACO (NIGERIA) PLC.	24	117.00	9,262	1,089,731.00
TOTAL NIGERIA PLC	23	187.50	40,910	7,762,179.20
Sector Totals		311	1,022,006	64,619,416.24
PRINTING & PUBLISHING				
LONGMAN NIGERIA PLC.	2	3.05	9,000	27,450.00
UNIVERSITY PRESS PLC.	1	1.52	500	760.00
Sector Totals	3		9,500	28,210.00
REAL ESTATE				
UACN PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT PLC.	22	9.40	391,526	3,626,719.75
Sector Totals	22		391,526	3,626,719.75
TEXTILES				
AFPRINT NIGERIA PLC.	0.39	81.937	1,937,193	12,455.43
UNITED NIGERIA TEXTILES PLC.	2.40	41.460	41,460	99,976.60
Sector Totals	2.79		1,978,653	123,432.03
Overall Totals	2,513		44,157,971	707,895,426.81

TOP 10 TRADES YESTERDAY			
SYMBOL	VOLUME	VALUE	TRADES
Trades			
WAPCO	1,089,597.00	18,541,202.95	101
VITAFOAM	1,414,644.00	6,724,743.94	47
UBA	1,568,685.00	20,350,338.16	105
EKOBANK	2,081,920.00	4,705,139.20	2
GUARANTY	2,752,379.00	34,622,400.20	288
INTERCONT	3,105,578.00	26,636,505.57	95
PLATINUM	3,410,500.00	8,867,300.00	8
NB	3,513,657.00	136,833,688.21	281
FIRSTBANK	8,271,193.00	264,678,176.00	222
ACCESS	8,560,467.00	25,323,894.95	144
TOP 10 GAINERS			
SYMBOL	LAST CLOSE	YESTERDAY'S CLOSE	CHANGE
GUINNESS	98.00	99.99	+1.99
MOBIL	160.00	161.20	+1.20
NNFM	14.05	14.75	+0.70
AP	49.61	50.00	+0.39
FLOURMILL	27.63	28.00	+0.37
RTBRISCOE	5.73	6.01	+0.28
VITAFOAM	4.60	4.83	+0.23
OANDO	96.51	96.71	+0.20
GLAXOSMITH	10.40	10.57	+0.17
7UP	26.00	26.16	+0.16
TOP 10 LOSERS			
SYMBOL	LAST CLOSE	YESTERDAY'S CLOSE	CHANGE
TOTAL	195.00	187.50	-7.50
TEXACO	117.00	113.00	-4.00
CONOIL	97.00	93.69	-3.31
NESTLE	188.00	186.00	-2.00
ASHAKACEM	34.00	33.05	-0.95
CAPALBETO	14.00	13.30	-0.70
CADBURY	66.20	65.50	-0.70
OKOMUOIL	18.55	18.00	-0.55
JBERGER	22.00	21.50	-0.50
CCNN	7.85	7.52	-0.33

## Zenith Bank plans N3bn public offer

From Bright Ewulu in Lagos

Zenith Bank International Plc is concluding arrangement to organize a N3bn public offer to further shore up its capital base. It would be recalled that the bank's initial public offer last year sought to raise N20 billion, but raised N48 billion.

The bank communicated its move to further raise its capital base to the Nigerian Stock Exchange recently. Speaking on the development, NSE director general, Dr. Ndi Okereke-Onyuike said nothing was wrong in the bank trying to further raise its capital base. She believes that the bank's initial public offer was a hit for shareholder, who invested at the time.

According to close sources, Zenith Bank is returning to the market at N16.90 kobo per share which is quite higher than the N10.90 per share with which it came to the market last year.

Nevertheless, the bank, shares traded at N19.90 kobo on the floor of the Exchange Thursday, down from its last year's high of N20 per share. Zenith Bank declared over N6 billion post tax profit in its latest half year report.

## Oceanic Bank, UBA, IMB most active stocks for 2005

The Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE) has declared Oceanic Bank Plc, IMB and United Bank of Africa (UBA) as the most active stocks for 2005. According to the NSE, Oceanic Bank beat the others with 2.342 billion shares followed by UBA with 1.6 billion shares while IMB International Bank came third with 1.47 billion shares.

Access Bank Plc, Africbank Nigeria Plc and Intercontinental Bank Plc came fourth, fifth and sixth with 1.316 billion shares, 1.223 billion shares and 1.182 billion shares respectively. Others in the top 10 include Standard Trust Bank Plc, First of Nigeria Plc, Guaranty Trust Bank Plc and Great Nigeria Insurance Plc. The Exchange also named Nigeria Breweries Plc as the most capitalized stock on the Exchange last year with N293.42 billion. 10

Other companies include First Bank Nigeria Plc, (N160.1 billion), Union Bank Nigeria Plc (N113.27 billion).

Also included are Intercontinental Bank Plc (N99.2 billion), Zenith Bank Plc (N99 billion), Nestle Nigeria Plc (N98.9 billion) and UBA (N90.7 billion).

Ibagwa Nkwo is a community in Nsukka zone of Enugu State. With a population of over fifty thousand, nearly 5,000 of the inhabitants are Hausa, which is increasing in number on a daily basis. Although Hausa natives live across other parts of Nsukka, such as Enugu, Ezike, Ibagwa Ani, and Eha-Alumona, Ibagwa Nkwo is regarded as the head-quarters, being a community that has the Hausa Quarters. Hausas in Ibagwa Ngwo, a community in Igbo Eze LGA, are evenly distributed in the community's five autonomous communities of Ndioke, Ikolo, Amaebo, Eche Ezema and Ishiagu with relatively equal right with the 'real' indigenes of the community. They are predominantly Muslims, and constitute about 8,000 of the population out of which 3,000 are the locals of Ibagwa Nkwo, according to 25 year old Ustaz Ikechukwu, who declined much comment because he lacked the knowledge of how Islam came to be in Ibagwa Nkwo.

There were many speculations about how the Hausas came to settle at Ibagwa. According to Frederick Ayolo, alias *Igwurube*, and a native of the community, 'When I was born seventy years ago, the Hausas had settled here. In fact, they were here many generations ago. And that is why we see them as

indigenes, and not settlers. My late father told me that trading brought them to Ibagwa Nkwo, and Nsukka in general.'

From facts gathered, a group of Hausa traders arrived at Ibagwa over 300 years ago with the sole aim of trading. Ibagwa Nkwo (Nkwo, being the fourth market day in Igbo market calendar) was reputed as the market nerve-centre of the Igbos then. Hence, some Hausa traders discovered that kolanut sales were flourishing there, thus they started bringing the commodities from far North down East. Majority of the traders, according to reliable sources, are Nupe people of Niger State.

"In return," in the words of 52 year old Christopher Ajibo, "Hausas bought *jigida*, aka (or beads in English) and horses, and returned to their respective abodes up North to sell them. At that time," he stressed, "Ibagwa Nkwo was surrounded by thick forests and erosion, where exotic animals, such as elephants, lions, tigers, chimpanzees and guerrillas live in abundance. And Ibagwa people, up to today, are still good at hunting, if not that civilisation has led to the extinction of our forest reserve. So apart from *jigida*, Hausas also were attracted to this place by delicate parts of these high breed

***"I gathered from my late father that when Islam began here, Igbos did not understand much about the religion, but they were not hostile to it. As years went by, Muslims in the community integrated themselves with the natives; it was then that the indigenes began to appreciate the virtues of the Islamic religion, and some of them became converted. That is why many of them are Muslims today. It was with this kind of welcome that the first mosque was built. Since then, we have been multiplying in numbers."***

# 300 years of Hausa

## ● *Jigida, horse trade* ●

By Chinedu Aroh,  
Proofreading desk

all the Hausas in Ibagwa Nkwo speak both the Igbo and Hausa languages

eventually settled in Ibagwa Nkwo for good, after realising that they could accomplish their business goals here." Abubakar said that he

thirteen children, added that all his wives were Christians before he married them, but converted to Islam on their own volition later on

animals, which they bought and used in their native medications. They also bought skins of lions in a great quantity."

He said that following the flourishing of their business, a great number of them started buying some pieces of land from their Igbo counterparts, who readily sold to them because of their open mindedness. Christopher remarked that 'we intermarry. And because they are peace-loving, we don't regret being with them. They have a leeway to aspire to any position here, although most of them do not want to partake in politics, but they support the political parties of their choice.'

It was in the course of this sojourn that the Islamic religion gained roots in Ibagwa Nkwo, and has evenly spread to other neighbouring towns in Nsukka zone and beyond. "Our great grandfathers who settled in Ibagwa brought Islam along with them," began Musa Yakub, who said, "Although I was not born then, I gathered from my late father that when Islam began here, Igbos did not understand much about the religion, but they were not hostile to it. As years went by, Muslims in the community integrated themselves with the natives; it was then that the indigenes began to appreciate the virtues of the Islamic religion, and some of them became converted. That is why many of them are Muslims today. It was with this kind of welcome that the first mosque was built. Since then, we have been multiplying in numbers."

What is amazing however is that after over 300 years of Hausa settlement at Ibagwa Nkwo, 95 percent of them still maintain close ties with their respective hometowns in the North, to the extent that some of their children readily return to their native states after graduating from schools, mainly the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, which is a stone's throw from Ibagwa Nkwo, to secure jobs if they could not find one in the East. Surprising as well is that



Alfa Abubakar, a Nupe from Niger State, who now lives in Ibagwa Nkwo, says the Hausa community has been in Ibagwa Nkwo, Enugu State for well over three centuries.

fluently.

Alfa Abubakar is among the Hausas who still visit their hometowns in the North. He is Nupe from Niger State, but readily identifies himself as a native of Ibagwa Nkwo by virtue of birth. In his words, "I live in the Hausa Quarters of Ibagwa Nkwo. I hail from Niger State. My being a native of Ibagwa Nkwo is a result of my great grandfather's sojourn here, in search of a fertile ground to do business. My parents were traders and settled here. In the course of time, they bought plots of land, built houses and

was born at Ibagwa Nkwo alongside his aged brothers, over seventy-two years ago, and has been living in Ibagwa Nkwo since then.

He remarked that he has never regretted living in Ibagwa Nkwo. In his words, "I believe in the oneness of Nigeria. Igbos are indeed an enterprising people. They are egalitarian."

He said his conviction on his belief made him marry four wives from Nsukka: one from Ero Agu, two from Ibagwa Nkwo, and the youngest of them from Eha Alumona. Abubakar, who disclosed that he has

in the union.

On his visits to his hometown in Niger, Alfa said without equivocation, that hitherto, he used to frequent Niger state, but of late, he had reduced his trips, and that he had taken Ibagwa Nkwo as his home, and not a settlement, because, 'where you live is your home'. He revealed that his ancestors were buried in Ibagwa Nkwo. Thus, here is my home.

Nonetheless, he disclosed that some of his children, after their graduation from schools, used to return to Niger to secure employment

# Isa settlement in Nsukka brought us here — Alfa Abubakar

because of a dearth of jobs in the East generally. Baring his mind as well, Ibrahim Abubakar, Alfa's younger brother, said that "Igbos and Hausas, on the one hand relate very well and traditionalists, Christians and Muslims see themselves as partners in progress. By virtue of the fact that a large number of Ibagwa Nkwo locals are Muslims, makes our mutual existence more progressive."

All said and done, it will be an overstatement to conclude that there is no threat to peace to Muslims in Ibagwa Nkwo, after all human ideologies naturally differ, let alone a case of tribes/religions.

An indigene of Ibagwa Nkwo, a Christian, who sought anonymity, said although there has been peace among them; nevertheless, there are some ideological/religious differences. He said, "of course, everybody has a right to live. At times Christians refuse to marry Muslims on the religious basis. This is because both parties would like the other to convert to his or her religion; and so, many people who would have married have had their plans scuttled by virtue of their religious differences. Similarly, some parents stipulate that their daughters will never marry from another religion. So it is misleading to affirm that all is rosy," he said, but added, "we attend each others' marriages

without any sign of differences, if invitation is extended to us."

Considering the issue of integration, facts show that Hausas, although living in all the autonomous communities of Ibagwa Nkwo, have their separate clans in themselves, which report to the community as any other clan. Similarly, they integrate more with their Muslim counterparts.

Isa Yakubu, who was seen beside the mosque, supported this discrepancy. He said that although Ibagwa Nkwo is a home to the Hausas, "We have not gotten the courage to contest elective positions such as ward councillorships: not that we are disenfranchised, but simply because we see ourselves as a minority. To embark on such adventure seems to us to be a suicide mission which is not worth it. But some of us are partisan."

In a similar vein, recently, there was a squabble which involved Muslims and traditional religious believers. The problem was sparked off by the Akatakpa masquerades which beat up some Muslims and the fracas led to a court case.

Isa Ukwuaba, from Owere autonomous community, who while narrating the "ordeal, displayed a deep cut in his face caused by the masquerades, said that he was surrounded by four Akatakpa masquerades, which beat him up beside the mosque. He said that he

***"But as they wanted to set the mosque ablaze, Allah refused. The fire caught the clothes of one of the masquerades which was already wet with the fuel, and instead of continuing with their wicked mission, the masquerades ran to a bush where they de-masked their colleague already in agony. The matter almost brought a big problem here, if not for the quick intervention of leaders of thought, who waded into the matter to find solutions. At any rate, the matter has gone to court, although we have reached a truce to settle out of court." He added that there could not be any way Muslims could have come out to disobey the masquerades with impunity, rather, 'we don't subscribe to such tradition, hence we embarked upon our prayers as usual.'***

watched the masquerades "bring out a gallon of petrol and sprinkled the content around the mosque with the aim of burning it. But as they wanted to set the mosque ablaze, Allah refused. The fire caught the clothes of one of the masquerades which was already wet with the fuel, and instead of continuing with their wicked mission, the masquerades ran to a bush where they de-masked their colleague already in agony. The matter almost brought a big problem here, if not for the quick intervention of leaders of thought, who waded into the matter to find solutions. At any rate, the matter has gone to court, although we have reached

a truce to settle out of court." He added that there could not be any way Muslims could have come out to disobey the masquerades with impunity, rather, "we don't subscribe to such tradition, hence we embarked upon our prayers as usual."

Christopher Ajibo, on his part, said that his shop was also burnt by Akatakpa masquerades. He maintained that "traditionally, on Nkwo Akatakpa market days (the days Akatakpa masquerades are designated to display in the Nkwo market arena), no shops are allowed to open. Again, everybody is expected to be indoors. But on that day, I opened my shop for

business, and I was attacked. It was the same story for Muslims, because they showed indifference to the masquerades which angered them."

That is not all. "Some time ago," began Alfa Abubakar, "we experienced a threat of reprisals, although among the youths. It happened that a religious crisis erupted in the North, and led to the death of one young man from Ibagwa Nkwo. When the remains were brought home (Ibagwa Nkwo) for burial, some enraged Ibagwa youths organised themselves, and began to instigate their colleagues to lead a reprisal attack on the Ibagwa Muslim

community. They did not attack, but there were some unpleasant comments which they circulated that was capable of triggering off problems, save for the wise intervention of elders, who defended us and also fined the perpetrators. However, our mosque was burnt, but since then, we never experienced such ugly incident again."

Majority of the Hausas in Ibagwa Nkwo are farmers, drivers and traders. Findings show that just a few of them engage in white collar jobs, and the reason, according to one of them, is that "we are not keen in working for government. Again, there is no job, and even when there is, politics will be ruled out of the selection."

On a final note, Alfa Abubakar advised that "for peace and oneness to reign in Nigeria, the state of origin syndrome should not be considered in any national affair, to ensure the practice of a true federalism."

"Once one is a Nigerian, there should be no dichotomy. Any person who lives in a place for ten years should be seen as an indigene." He also called on the government to initiate people-oriented projects, because, in his words, "religious cum tribal squabbles are caused by frustration on the part of the led."

***"We experienced a threat of reprisals, although among the youths. It happened that a religious crisis erupted in the North, and led to the death of one young man from Ibagwa Nkwo. When the remains were brought home (Ibagwa Nkwo) for burial, some enraged Ibagwa youths organised themselves, and began to instigate their colleagues to lead a reprisal attack on Ibagwa Muslim community. They did not attack, but there were some unpleasant comments which they circulated that were capable of triggering off problems, save for the wise intervention of elders, who defended us and also fined the perpetrators. However, our mosque was burnt, but since then, we never experienced such ugly incident again."***

# KANO TRUST



Stranded pilgrims at MAKIA

Pic: Yusha'u Adamu Ibrahim

## Hajj: Bayero wants FG to change tack

The Emir of Kano, Alhaji Ado Bayero has expressed concern over the country's lingering problems of Hajj exercise, even as he urged the federal government to change its style of organizing the annual ritual.

Alhaji Bayero who spoke when he paid a traditional Sallah homage to Governor Ibrahim Shekarau at the government house, expressed dismay that the perennial hitches associated with Hajj have undermined the image of the nation and its citizens.

The Emir stressed that all hands should be on deck in bringing an end to the series of difficulties being experienced by the intending pilgrims.

He observed that as a giant of Africa, Nigeria should evolve policies that worthy of emulation by other nations, saying that the unwieldy nature of preparations that has been bedeviling hajj operations should be discarded.

Alhaji Bayero however, enjoined states local governments and other stakeholders to join forces by initiating measures aimed at checkmating the problems adding that it is

From Mustapha Isah Kwaru,  
Correspondent (Kano)

a duty requiring collective effort.

While lamenting the spate of armed robbery incidents in the state, the emir made a passionate appeal on the government and other security operatives to, as a matter of urgency, find lasting solution to the menace.

Responding, governor Shekarau said his administration has promptly responded to the challenges of insecurity in a bid to minimize the suffering of pilgrims, saying the move yielded fruitful result. He also said government has continued to collaborate with security agents in the fight against armed robbery and other social ills.



Gov Shekarau

## Yoruba community elects new leader

The Yoruba Community in Kano has elected Chief Ganiyu Akanbi Bello as their new leader during a ceremony that took place at a palace on Emir Road in Sabon Gari.

Dr. Bello, during the handing over ceremony, attended by many Yoruba within and outside the state, promised to use the position conferred on him to consolidate the already existing unity of Yoruba community in Kano.

The new Oba also commended the interim and out-going Oba for the responsible leadership he demonstrated for the community, saying that has made the community more efficient in the state.

Dr. Bello further stated that his door would be open to any member of the community, adding that all must have good intention and good ideas to move the community forward.

Thereafter, the transfer of the mantle of leadership to the new Oba was performed by the Oba Olowo, with the Yoruba elders disclosing that the out-going Oba, Alhaji Abdullahi Salihu Olowo would be away for six months.

In his speech, Dr. Jimpat

From Aliyu S. Machika,  
Correspondent (Kano)

Ayelangbe the president Yoruba Council Kano, (YCK) called on members of the community to cooperate with the new leader and

further admonished members of Yoruba Community against rumour-mongering and back-biting which, according to him, could easily destroy the community.

In a separate interview with newsmen after the

handing over, Alhaji Bello who is also an ambassador of Oyo state indigenes in the North, promised to do everything possible to economically empower its members in particular and the entire Yoruba community in general.

## Aide tasks appointee on probity

The commissioner for Zakkat commission, Alhaji Adamu Gwaram has advised the newly-appointed director of the commission, Malam Ahmad Shua'aibu to be god-fearing, accountable and transparent in the discharge of his responsibilities.

Alhaji Gwaram, who spoke at the official handing over ceremony, also told the new director-general that he should prepare to confront numerous challenges on how to move the commission forward.

The commissioner noted that Shari'ah commission needs hardworking and trustworthy managers, considering the task of collecting and distribution of Zakkat.

He said government is always careful in making appointments into the commission, so that only visionary individuals who could com-

plement its effort are brought in.

Alhaji Gwaram expressed optimism that the appointment of the new director-general would yield fruitful results by way of enhancing the activities of the commission, even as he charged the entire members of staff to offer all the needed support.

In his remark, the outgoing director-general, Alhaji Kabir Sani Hanga said his exit from the commission should not be perceived as the end of his contributions to the development of the commission.

According to him, "the opportunity given to me by Kano state government to serve as the director-general was a thing of pride to me, which was why I adopted effective measures to overhaul the commission."

The ex-director then advised staff of the commis-

sion to treat his predecessor, the same way they dealt to him, adding that "we are all here to serve the people of the state."

## COMPASS mobilises PTA chairmen on prudence

Parent Teachers Associations [PTAs] in Kano state have been enjoined to imbibe the principles of accountability, transparency and dedication while handling the financial affairs of the association, an international Non-Governmental Organization, Community Action For Participation in the Social Sector, [COMPASS] made the call through its central office coordinator of community/PTA training, Alhaji Adamu Khalid.

Alhaji Khalid was speaking at a two-day workshop for PTA chair-

men, secretaries and treasurers of ten local government areas on effective ways of improving the skills of participants in better financial management.

Declaring the workshop open, which was organized by COMPASS Kano field office, the coordinator said the event was designed to educate and enlighten the participants on the need to revamp their efforts towards ensuring viable financial report and management.

He said effective financial management is the bedrock for rapid develop-

ment of any organization, urging the participants to implement the strategies learned during the workshop.

Alhaji Khalid, who said the workshop will continue on monthly basis however, solicited the support of state government and other stakeholders towards making it successful.

In his welcome address, the acting team leader on the COMPASS, Malam Baballe Garba Sa'id explained that training is also aimed at sensitizing the participants on the activities of the organization.

# EKO TRUST

## Ibeju crisis: 10 charged to court

Ten persons have been charged before a Yaba Magistrate Court over the recent disturbances that engulfed Ibeju Local Government area of Lagos state.

The accused persons, arrested on December 29th last year are Shola Agunbiade, Lukeman Ayanlaja, Shitta Idowu, Jamiu Salami, Aransi Busari, Nikepo Awolowo, Ajofoyinbo Asunle, Abiodun Ogunlaja and Paul Omotoyinbo.

Four of the accused were slammed with an 11-count charge before Justice Alli Balogun's Magistrate Court. Their offences, committed along with others still at Large, include conspiracy to felony to with stealing and assault occasioning harm; an offence punishable under section C. 17; Vol. 11 Laws of Lagos state 2003.

They were also alleged to

**Stories by Olumide Bajulaiye, Correspondent (Lagos)**

have stolen N360,000 belonging to the council as well as another N100,000 and two Nokia handsets belonging to the Council Chairman, Bayo Balogun.

The accused were also charged with willful damage or cause to damage two wind screens and four door glasses of one Land Rover Discovery Jeep with registration number LG 15 AKD, belonging to the council.

Also damaged was a Nissan Primera with number LG 05 AKD and a Mazda 626 car with registration number LG 03 AKD, a Peugeot 504 saloon car among other properties valued at N2 million.

The case was adjourned to January 30. Ibeju local government has been in crisis beginning late last year with al-

legations that a special adviser in the presidency was

behind it. The crisis boiled over following an attempt to

downgrade a traditional ruler in the area, but was reported

to have been resisted by his colleagues.

## LASG, VIIRA oppose FG over car park

The Lagos State Government and the Victoria Island Residents Association (VIIRA) at the weekend kicked against the planned conversion of the Ozumba Mbadiwe/Akin Adesola loops in Victoria Island to car parks by the Federal Ministry of Works.

They also objected to the conversion of loops and road setbacks in any parts of the state saying such a move is capable of creating chaos.

Affirming government's opposition at the weekend, Commissioner for the Environment, Tunji Bello maintained that the federal ministry of works has no business with establishment and maintenance of car parks which is

the prerogative of the local governments, going by the provisions of the 1999 constitution.

Speaking while on tour of on-going vegetal control of major highways by the Emergency Sanitation Services of the ministry, Bello noted that any attempt by the Federal ministry of works to convert loops in the state to car parks would be a flagrant disobedience of the directive of the President who has directed the ministry to face its statutory responsibility of road construction and maintenance.

According to Bello, not only are parks matters the duty of councils going by the provision of the constitution, a court has also affirmed the same position. He expressed regrets at the brazen disobedience to the directives of the President, which stated that the Federal Ministry of Works should face its road repair job, rather than dissipate energies on jurisdictions that are not its concerns. Car parks related issues are by provision of 1999 constitution a Local Government Affair as was also affirmed by a court order.

In kicking against the move, VIIRA said that turning the loops into car parks would turn Victoria Island into another slum as well as breeding ground for touts and area boys.

A female VIIRA official who craved anonymity also said that the action of the federal ministry of works would

compound traffic congestion around the area.

The association, she said, had applauded the new rapprochement between the State and Federal Government, but regretted the new position.

"We suddenly woke up to find notices erected by the Federal Ministry of Works stating that the loops are to be turned into car parks, which we are greatly opposed to.

"In view of this development, we are hereby urging the State Government to help stop this act. Any attempt to destroy the serenity of the environment as well as further destroy the master plan of the

area shall be greatly resisted", she said.

According to VIIRA, the spaces in question had earlier been given to them, to be beautified adding that while they were on it, they were chased away by staff of the Federal Ministry of Works.

"It is now surprising to see notices of car parks to be constructed by the Federal Ministry of Works on a land that we were planning to beautify".

But, the commissioner appealed to residents to maintain the peace, even as he promised to pass on their request through the State Governor to the President.

## Tinubu assures protesting military pensioners of payment

Governor Bola Ahmed Tinubu of Lagos state on Sunday told protesting military pensioners that the Federal Government has worked out an enhanced welfare package for them.

Some military pensioners had protested at this year's Armed Forces Remembrance Day at the Tafawa Balewa Square, demanding the payment of their accumulated pension arrears.

But the governor noted that following the persistent protests by the military pensioners the state government had officially written to the federal government on their behalf.

According to the governor, the federal government replied the state, claiming that

it is only after the verification and authentication of all military pensioners had been completed that all outstanding allowances would be paid with the enhanced package.

The governor told the retired soldiers that only the federal government has responsibility for the armed forces, adding however that the state government would continue to mount pressure on Abuja on their behalf.

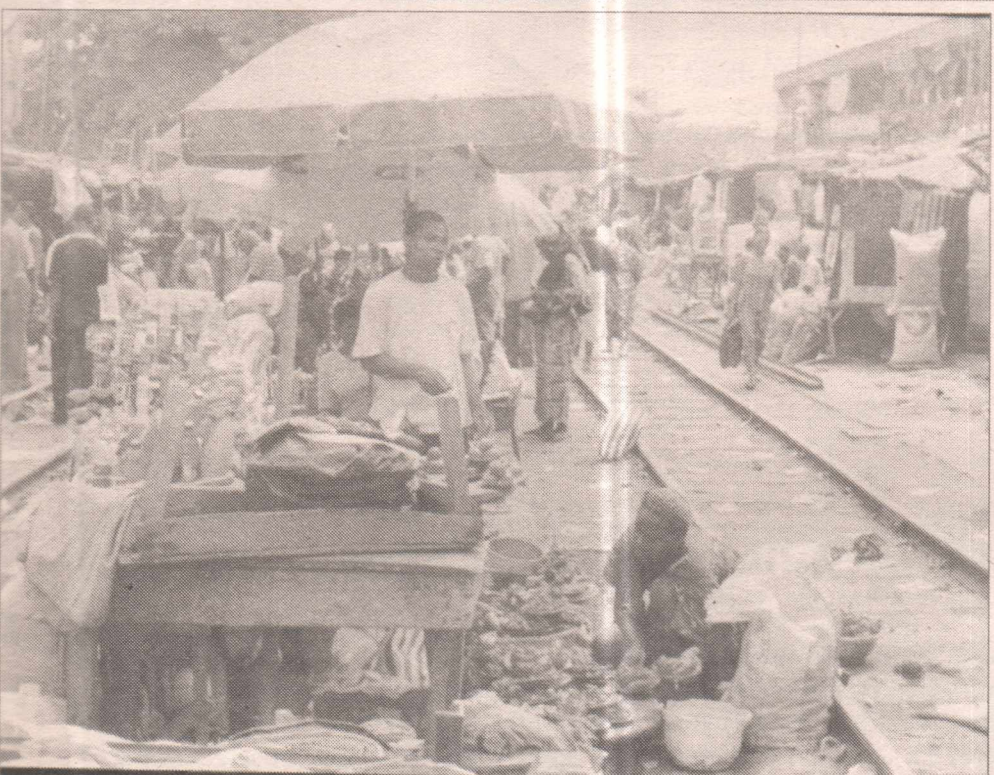
The governor expressed worry that members of the armed forces who served the nation meritoriously are being made to suffer before collecting their legitimate entitlements.

He charged Nigerians to continue to pray for the souls of those who paid the supreme price in their quest to ensure that Nigeria remains one, emphasizing that the honour of dedicating a week of activities in their memory is not too much.

Tinubu also emphasized the need for Nigerians to pray for peace to continue to reign and also sought God's wisdom for all leaders at all levels of governance.

The governor had earlier laid a wreath in memory of the fallen soldiers, with the deputy governor, Otunba

Femi Pedro, Speaker of state House of Assembly, Adeyemi Ikuforiji, Chief Judge Ade Alabi and representatives of the Nigerian Army, Navy, Air force Police and Oba of Lagos took their turn to also lay wreaths.



Buyers and sellers carrying out their business along the Rail Lines at Yaba after the holidays  
Pix: Oladipupo Odunewu

## Striking LASUTH staff to be paid soon - NMA boss

Indications emerged week end that all demands made by the aggrieved Resident Doctors of the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital (LASUTH) will be met by the end of January 2006.

President of the Lagos State branch of the Nigerian Medical Association (NMA), Dr. Mathew Izegebu who disclosed this in a chat in Lagos also confirmed that the state government has rescinded its decision to sack the doctors for embarking on an industrial action after signing an agreement with the state

government.

Top on the doctor's demands includes, payment of the deducted Call Duty allowances and the 22 per cent increase in basic salary of the aggrieved doctors as well as arrears since November 2005. The State government agreed to be meet all the demands.

Izegebu said: "We have met the Commissioner of health, Dr. Leke Pitan with the agreement and government has given us their word that the demands of the doctors will be met by the end of January this year. There was an agreement signed by the par-

ties and we are acting based on the agreement.

"The Commissioner has made a firm promise that the state government will definitely honour the agreement by the end of the month. We are not doubting their promise because there will be no need doubting them since the agreement was signed by the commissioner and the permanent secretary of the ministry".

Izegebu who disclosed that the NMA had waded into the crisis, explained that the strike would have been averted if the congress of the Associa-

tion of Resident Doctors (LASUTH-ARD) had acted on the agreement earlier signed by both parties but rather they sought for a confirmation of the agreement. This, he said, was apparently to avoid a situation when promises were made and not fulfilled.

"The major problem was that the agreement was signed by the president of the association, but when he went back to the congress, the members rejected it and found it very difficult to think that their own President could go ahead and sign such a

document on their behalf. So, they claimed that what they needed was a confirmation of the agreement because it has happened in the past when such promises were made and not fulfilled.

"Government was in a hurry to have sacked them but it is understandable because they were also under pressure to avoid a situation whereby a patient gets to the ward and find out that the doctors are not there.

It is a self mechanism to ensure that all is well in the hospital. Since the ARD is our affiliate, we will ensure that the agreement is met."



# A Quality of Service Performance Survey of GSM Providers in Nigeria

The Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), the independent regulatory body established to monitor and regulate the Telecommunication Sector in Nigeria, engages in numerous activities intended to ensure high quality telecom services in the interest of all stakeholders. The NCC commissioned a research that rated the services provided by each GSM Service Provider on specific parameters and evaluated the incidence of individual user problems on one hand, and complaints handling by the Service Providers, on the other hand.

Specifically, the study was aimed at measuring the quality of service delivered by the operators in various locations across Nigeria, in terms of the following range of attributes:

- (a) Network Efficiency: Call Set Up and Call Interruption,
- (b) Termination of Calls,
- (c) Customer Service / Customer Care Service Center responses,
- (d) Short Message Service (SMS): Speed of receiving messages and Ease of sending messages,
- (e) Billing: Call timing and Voice Call / SMS charges,
- (f) Credit balance information, and
- (g) Recharging Credit.

In addition, the study sought to establish subscribers' familiarity with the Commission's readiness to listen to and handle complaints.

The Commission engaged Decision Support Systems Limited, an independent consultant, for [the analysis of] this study. The fieldwork for this study was carried out and supervised by NCC-trained personnel between August and September 2005. This Report is, therefore, an interpretation of the findings based on the structured Questionnaires [used for the fieldwork] supplied to the Consultant.

## LOCATIONS / SAMPLING POINTS AND SAMPLE SIZE / DISTRIBUTION

The study was conducted across Nigeria, and involved a total of 20,000 interviews; however, the effective sample size of 17882 was achieved and the distribution in the various locations was as follows:

LOCATIONS	V-Mobile	MTN	Globacom	M-Tel	Total
Abuja [Abuja Metro + Kubwa, Lugbe, Nyanya, Zuba, Karimu, Gwagwalada]	473	587	506	454	2020
Aduna	380	370	219	55	1024
Zaria	148	188	103	61	500
Kano	532	825	377	226	1960
Madugun	176	121	102	95	494
Jos	303	230	229	238	1000
Bauchi	300	243	151	126	830
Calabar	80	289	106	47	522
Port Harcourt	278	918	109	67	1372
Owerri	73	203	214	110	600
Enugu	156	216	554	74	1000
Benin [Benin City, Auchi, Ekpoma]	474	567	462	457	1960
Lagos [Lagos Metropolis + Ikorodu]	634	711	318	137	1800
Ibadan	205	361	216	18	800
Kwara [Ilorin, Offa]	256	978	611	155	2000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4468</b>	<b>6807</b>	<b>4287</b>	<b>2320</b>	<b>17882</b>

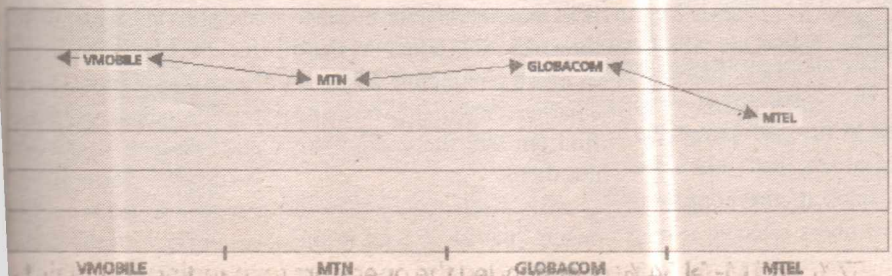
## OVERVIEW AND CONCLUSIONS

The Networks have provided varying levels of quality of services across the locations. Quality of service has only been 'fair' generally. The Networks would require improvements in the following core service quality areas:

### AVERAGE NUMBER OF DIALS BEFORE GETTING A CALL THROUGH

Generally, all the operators performed poorly in the area of number of times that users dial before a connection is made. Only less than half of the subscribers on each of the Networks got their calls through on the 1st or 2nd dial (V-Mobile 49%, MTN 46%, Globacom 47%, and M-Tel 33%). In other words, subscribers who dial 3 times or more were: M-Tel 63%, MTN 50%, Globacom 50%, V-Mobile 49%.

Average Number of Dial Before Getting Through ( 1-2 Times)

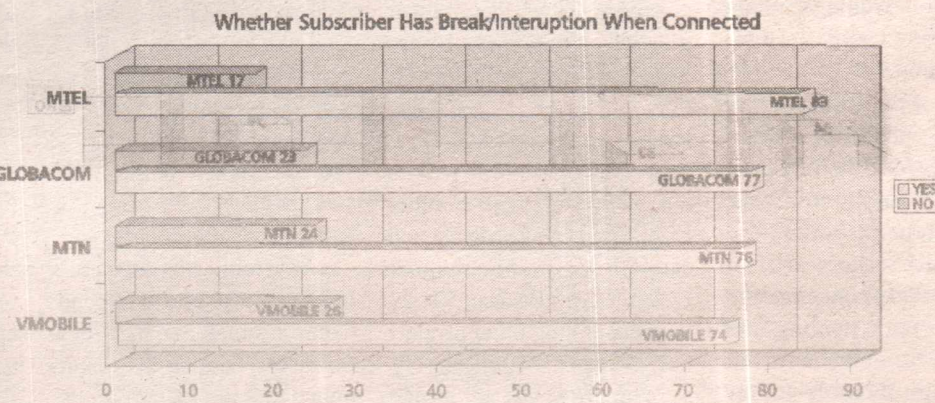


In Benin and Kano, more than 70% of respondents claimed that with M-Tel service they would dial more than three times before getting connected.

In Calabar and Bauchi, MTN subscribers (79% and 68% respectively) were also experiencing problems having to dial more than 3 times before getting any connection. Similarly, Globacom and V-Mobile in Abuja (67% and 56% respectively) and Owerri (45% and 63% respectively) experienced difficulties in providing services quickly.

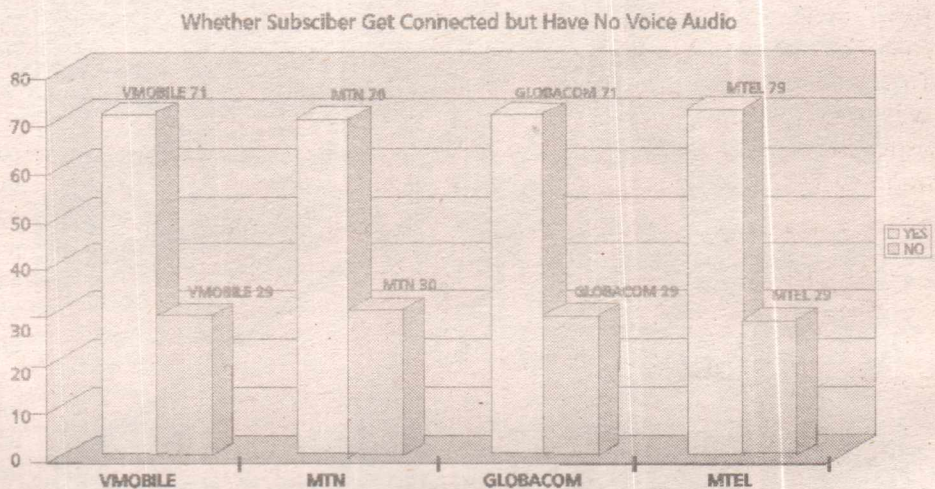
### WHETHER SUBSCRIBER HAS A BREAK / INTERRUPTION WHEN CONNECTED

Survey shows V-Mobile 74%, MTN 76%, Glo 77% and M-Tel 83% experienced interruption when connected.



### WHETHER SUBSCRIBERS GET CONNECTED BUT HAVE NO VOICE AUDIO

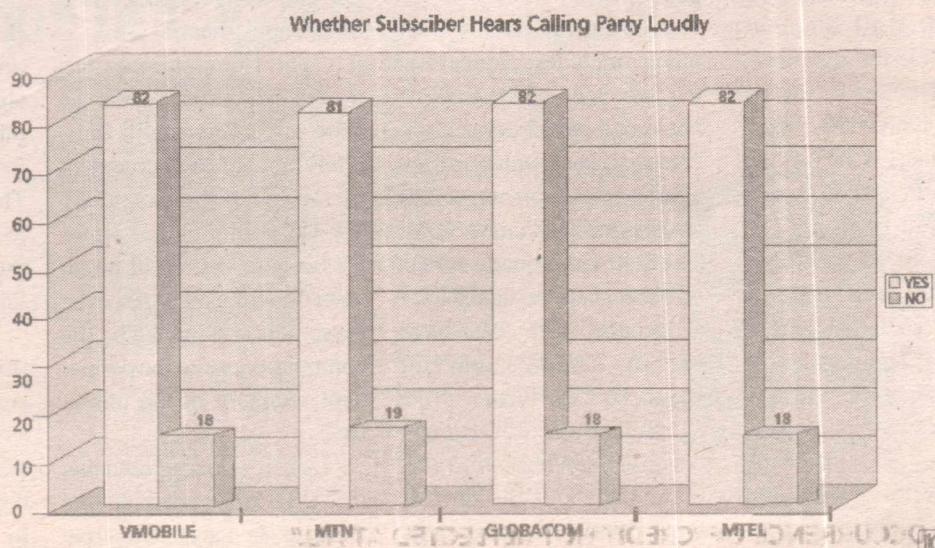
An overwhelming number of subscribers in all the Networks experienced this problem of "getting connected but have no voice audio": M-Tel 72%, V-Mobile 71%, Globacom 71%, and MTN 70%.



In Calabar, Port-Harcourt and Enugu over 90% of users in all the Networks complained of being connected but do not have audio or hear their called party. All the networks users experienced this problem, especially in Calabar (MTN 93%) and Port-Harcourt (M-Tel 96%), which was most prevalent in the M-Tel network (72% on aggregate).

### WHETHER SUBSCRIBER HEARS CALLING PARTY LOUDLY

Majority of subscribers said they hear their calling party loudly whenever they successfully connect to their calling party and they have voice audio: V-Mobile 82%, Globacom 82%, M-Tel 82%, and MTN 81%.



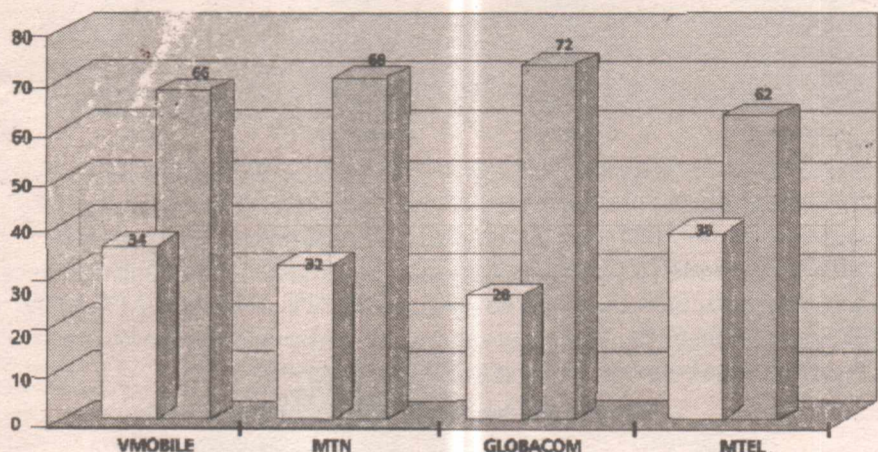


# A Quality of Service Performance Survey of GSM Providers in Nigeria

## ▶ WHETHER SUBSCRIBER SOMETIMES GETS CONNECTED TO A NUMBER NOT DIALED

Subscribers that experienced this problem were M-Tel 38%, followed by V-Mobile 34%, MTN 32% and then Globacom 28%

Whether Subscriber Sometimes Get Connected to Number Not Dialed

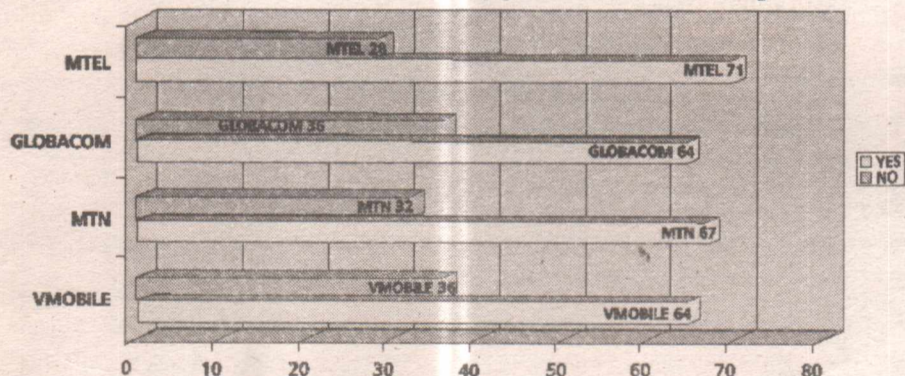


The four networks were fairly good in connecting people to the numbers dialed (M-Tel 62%, V-Mobile 66%, MTN 68%, and Globacom 72%). In Maiduguri (V-Mobile 69%, MTN 68%) and Bauchi (MTN 60%, M-Tel 60%), the operators largely seemed to have problems that result in connections to numbers not dialed.

## ▶ WHETHER SUBSCRIBER SUDDENLY GETS CUT OFF WHILE CONVERSING

Majority of subscribers in the Networks (M-Tel 71%, MTN 67%, V-Mobile 64%, and Globacom 64%) experienced very high incidences of dropped calls (i.e., calls cutting off while conversing) as shown in the diagram below. This problem is more prominent in Port Harcourt than in any other place with a complaint level of over 78%. On the other hand, Maiduguri experienced less dropped calls (with a complaint level of over 42% on aggregate) compared to most other parts of Nigeria.

Whether or not Subscriber suddenly get cut off while Conversing



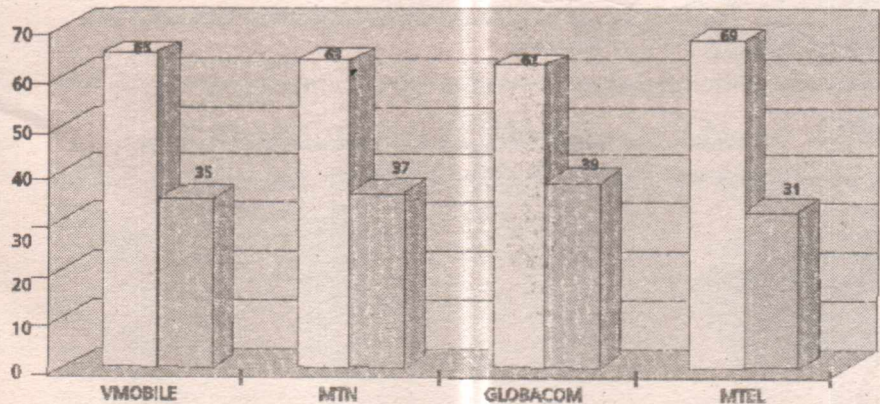
## RECHARGING OF PHONE CREDIT

All the Networks had at one time or another, during the period of review, come short of having its account support services available at the times needed subscribers.

## ▶ OCCURRENCE OF "SERVICE UNAVAILABLE" PROBLEM IN RECHARGING

Highest occurrence: M-Tel 69%, then V-Mobile 65%, MTN 63%, and Globacom 61%

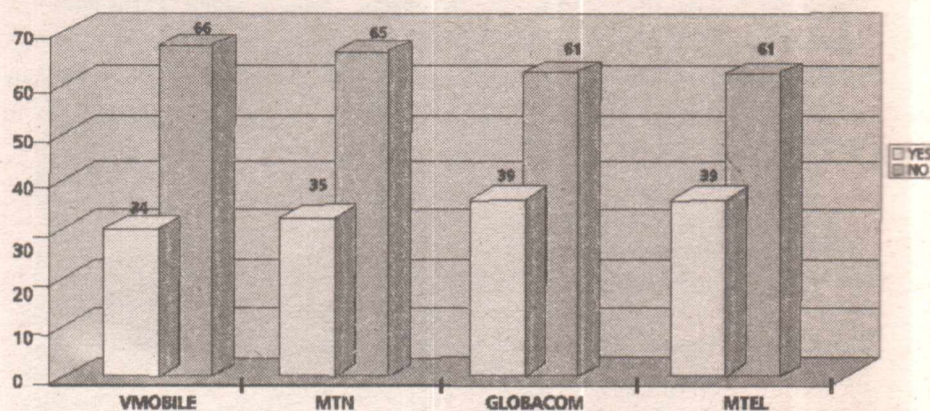
Occurrence of "Service Unavailable" Problem in Recharging



## ▶ OCCURRENCE OF "CREDIT NOT REFLECTED AT ALL" PROBLEM IN RECHARGING

Subscribers experienced "credit not reflected at all" in the Networks as follows: M-Tel 39%, Globacom 39%, MTN 35%, and V-Mobile 34%.

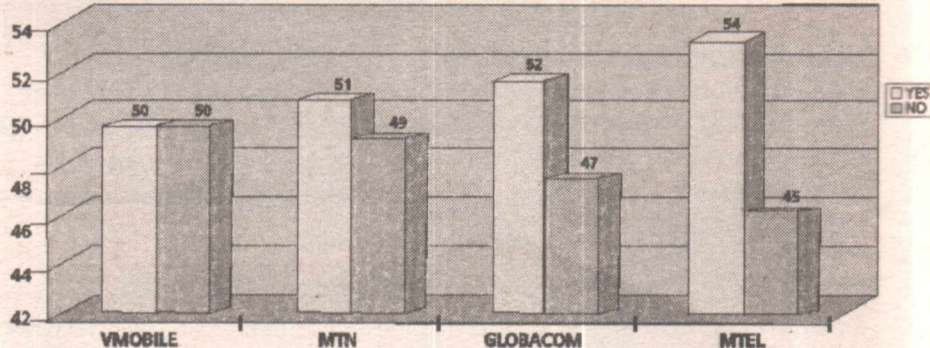
Occurrence of "Credit not Reflected at all" Problem in Recharging



## ▶ WHETHER SUBSCRIBER EXPERIENCED NON-RESPONSE FROM THE SYSTEM

Subscribers experienced non-response from the recharge platform as follows: M-Tel 54%, Globacom 52%, MTN 51%, and V-Mobile 50%

Whether Subscriber Experience Non Response from System



Between 31 - 41% of subscribers in all the Networks claimed credit are not correctly reflected during recharge. This is not as bad as the 50% to 69% of respondents that alleged no response from the system and unavailability of service, in all areas and in all the networks.

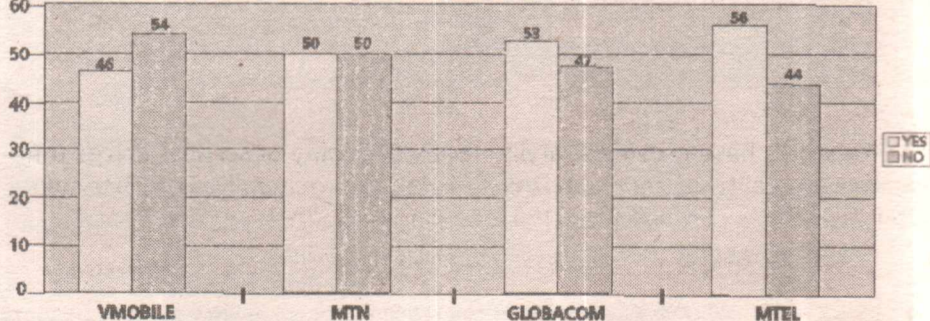
All operators provided poor service in the form of "unavailable service" in Port Harcourt (V-Mobile 84%, MTN 85%, Globacom 70%, and M-Tel 87%) and Enugu (M-Tel 96%, V-Mobile 92%, MTN 51%, and Globacom 92%).

## CUSTOMER SERVICE

### ▶ REPEAT COMPLAINTS

About half of the subscribers in each of the Network have experienced repeated complaints. The performances of the Networks with respect to "repeat complaints" were: M-Tel 56%, Globacom 53%, MTN 50%, and V-Mobile 46%.

Repeat Complaints



The highest incidents of repeat complaints occurred in Enugu with Globacom (98%). Maiduguri (V-mobile 39%, Globacom 30%) and Abuja (MTN 46%) had the lowest percentage of subscribers that believed that Providers' Representatives deal with subscribers with respect.

Network Not Available was the major repetitive complaint against all the Service Providers; though this was relatively higher among MTN subscribers (60%), followed by M-Tel users (59%), Globacom users (55%) and V-Mobile users (44%). Other complaints that occurred frequently were Low Network Coverage by 10% of all GSM users, Web Access (14% of all users), and Text Message problems (by 7% of all users).

### ▶ PROMPT HANDLING OF COMPLAINTS

A sizeable number of subscribers (V-Mobile 60%, Globacom 58%, MTN 57%, and M-Tel 54%) commended the operators for handling complaints promptly. Overall, subscribers in Port Harcourt rated the Networks highest of all the study areas with 80% of the respondents claiming promptness in handling complaints.



# A Quality of Service Performance Survey of GSM Providers in Nigeria

## ▶ WHETHER COMPLAINTS ARE RESOLVED CORRECTLY

Complaints were mostly resolved correctly. V-Mobile 78%, MTN 75%, Globacom 77%, and M-Tel 76% users had their complaints well resolved. However, about a quarter of subscribers (MTN 25%, M-Tel 24%, V-Mobile 23%, and Globacom 23%) claimed that their problems were not resolved correctly.

## ▶ AVERAGE RESPONSE TIME

Less than 1 Hour: Globacom 56%, V-Mobile 50%, MTN 49%, and M-Tel 46%

More than 1 Hour: M-Tel 25%, MTN 21%, V-Mobile 17%, and Globacom 15%

A good percentage of respondents (V-Mobile 50%, MTN 49%, Globacom 56%, and M-Tel 46%) expressed that their complaints were handled in less than one hour.

## BILLING OF CALLS AND SMS

### ▶ SATISFACTION OR OTHERWISE WITH PER MINUTE TIMING

Subscribers were not generally happy with their Networks regarding Per Minute Billing, with MTN 59%, Globacom 58%, V-Mobile 54%, and M-Tel 44% of subscribers said "No". The percentage is so high in Ibadan (MTN 88%, Globacom 81%) compare to other locations. Most subscribers are happier with M-Tel.

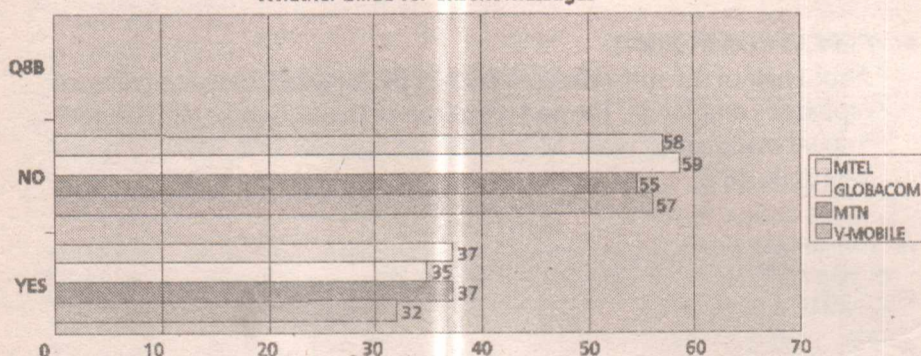
### ▶ SATISFACTION OR OTHERWISE WITH PER SECOND TIMING

Subscribers were happier with per second timing / billing in their Networks (V-Mobile 58%, MTN 54%, Globacom 55% and M-Tel 68%). However, those not satisfied with the Per Second Billing were mainly MTN 46%, Globacom 45%, V-Mobile 42%, and M-Tel 32%. Again, most subscribers were happiest with the M-Tel network.

### ▶ WHETHER BILLED FOR UNSENT MESSAGES OR NOT

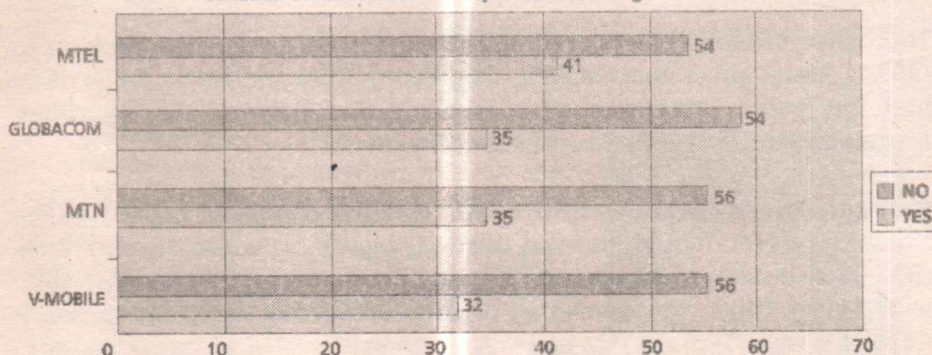
Many subscribers said they were billed for unsent messages: M-Tel 37%, MTN 37%, Globacom 35%, and V-Mobile 32%.

Whether Billed for unsent Messages



▶ WHETHER BILLED FOR CALL ATTEMPTS THAT DO NOT GET CONNECTED  
Most respondents claimed to have been billed for call attempts that do not get connected: M-Tel (41%) had the highest % of its users who complained followed by MTN 35%, Globacom 35%, and V-Mobile 25%.

Whether Billed for Call Attempts that do not get connected

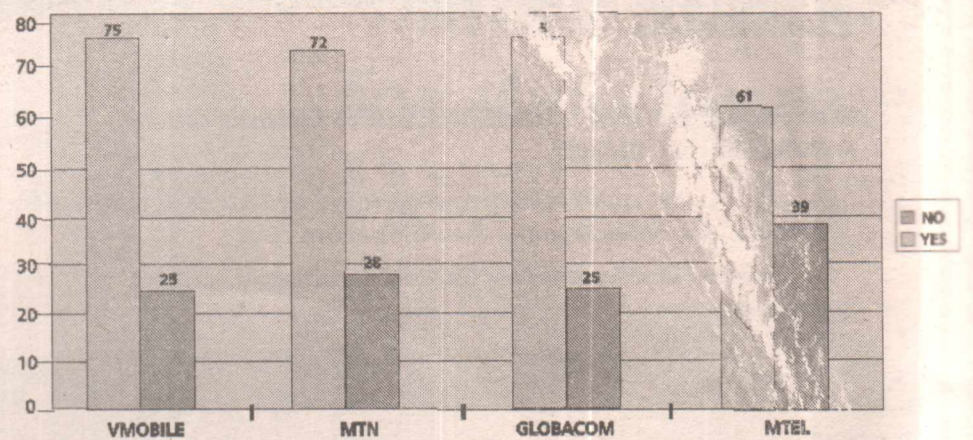


## SMS SERVICE

### ▶ WHETHER SMS SERVICE IS SATISFACTORY ON TIMELY DELIVERY

A sizeable proportion of subscribers (M-Tel 39%, MTN 28%, Globacom 25%, and V-Mobile 25%) expressed dissatisfaction with the time/promptness of delivery of SMS messages.

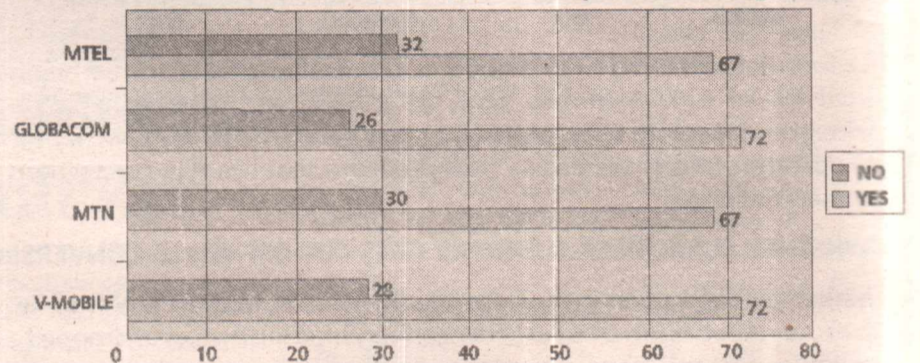
Whether SMS Service is Satisfactory on Timely Delivery



### ▶ WHETHER SMS SERVICE IS SATISFACTORY ON CORRECT BILLING

A sizeable number of subscribers (M-Tel 32%, MTN 30%, V-Mobile 28%, and Globacom 26%) were unsatisfied with SMS billing. However, over 50% of respondents (69.5% at aggregate) believed that SMS billings were accurate, and correctly delivered (Globacom 72%, V-Mobile 72%, MTN 67% and M-Tel 67%). There were some non-responses that accounted for the difference between those satisfied and unsatisfied.

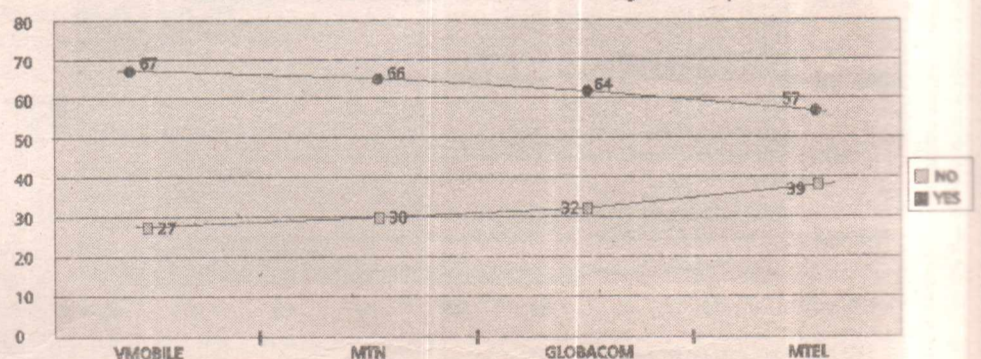
Whether SMS Service is Satisfactory on Correct Billing



### ▶ WHETHER SUBSCRIBER RECEIVES UNSOLICITED MESSAGES FROM OPERATORS

Customers of V-Mobile (67%) receive the most unsolicited messages than Other operators (M-Tel 57%, Globacom 64%, and MTN 66%). A small percentage (V-Mobile 19%, MTN 19%, Globacom 16%, and M-Tel 16%) of respondents were indifferent to being solicited by messages.

Whether Subscriber Receives Unsolicited Messages from Operators



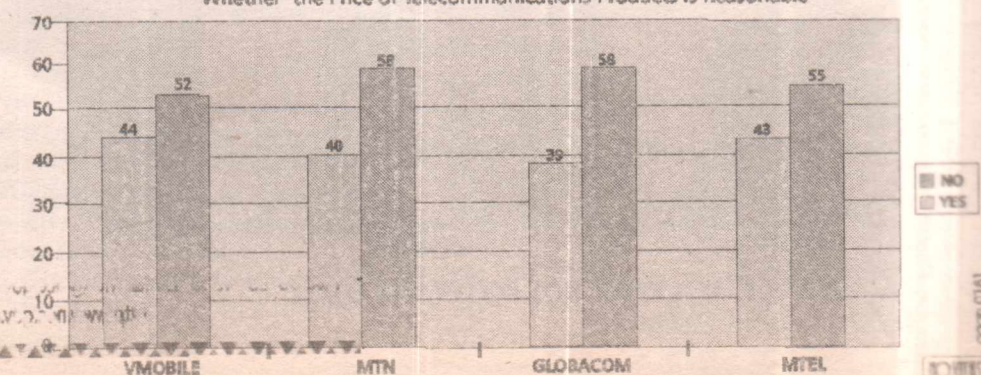
However, some subscribers (V-Mobile 17.8%, MTN 25.3%, Globacom 17.8% and M-Tel 7.2%) found unsolicited messages sometimes disturbing (although in some locations, the sizes are quite considerable, about 50%). Nevertheless, amongst those who responded to the former question, V-Mobile 19.5%, MTN 26.7% and Globacom 17.8% showed interest in receiving these 'unsolicited' messages and acknowledged usefulness of the messages.

## OTHER SALIENT TELECOMMUNICATION ISSUES

### ▶ WHETHER THE PRICES OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS PRODUCTS IS REASONABLE

Majority of the subscribers found the current prices unreasonably too

Whether the Price of Telecommunications Products is Reasonable



# A Quality of Service Performance Survey of GSM Providers in Nigeria

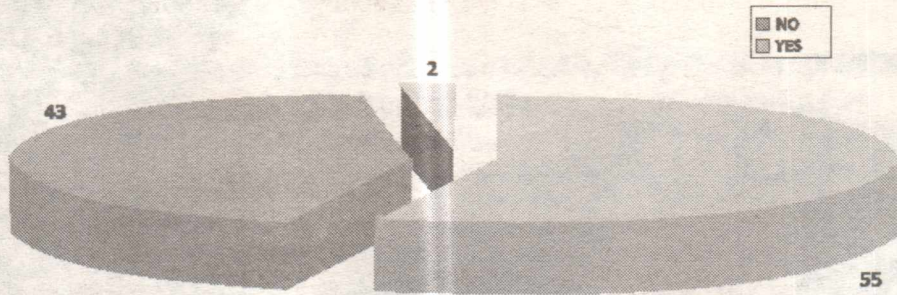


### CHARGES CONSIDERED MORE REASONABLE

The average charges the subscribers considered more reasonable were: Per Minute call - N17 Per Second call - 29 Kobo Per SMS text message - N5 Per MMS message - N9.5

### KNOWLEDGE THAT ONE COULD COMPLAIN TO NCC

Many of the subscribers (43% overall) were aware that they could complain to NCC; largely distributed as follows: M-Tel 46%, MTN 44%, V-Mobile 42%, and Globacom 40%. However, over half of the subscribers were unaware they could complain to NCC to resolve their problems: Globacom 58%, V-Mobile 56%, MTN 54%, and M-Tel 53%.



This [report] result is in sharp contrast to the results of an earlier study, carried out by NCC in April 2004, in which an overwhelming 70% of respondents were unaware that they could lay complaints with the NCC, and conversely then, a meager 28% claimed to be aware. There was a remarkable improvement in awareness of the functions of NCC's Consumers Affairs Bureau.

### SUMMARY OF CALL SET UP BY NETWORKS AND LOCATIONS

Figures below show % of Network subscribers who complained in each Location

	Dial 3 X/ More Before Getting Call				Connected To Number Not Dialed			
	VMb	MTN	Glo	M-Tel	V-Mo	MTN	Glo	M-Tel
Aggregate	47	50	49	63	34	32	28	38
Abuja	56	63	67	70	38	35	27	38
Kaduna ind Zaria	39	50	45	69	41	36	28	39
Kano	61	53	39	72	39	42	35	44
Maiduguri	41	42	53	51	69	68	54	30
Jos	33	38	47	54	46	29	34	57
Bauchi	57	68	49	36	19	60	31	60
Calabar	45	79	50	57	15	14	20	43
Port Harcourt	44	47	20	27	27	28	17	25
Owerri	63	54	45	62	33	31	41	42
Enugu	37	59	61	49	19	33	13	27
Benin	51	60	58	78	22	51	23	18
Lagos	35	39	50	58	31	37	34	56
Ibadan	46	41	42	45	15	27	22	28
Kwara	46	36	33	44	40	25	32	32

	Connected But Have No Voice Audio				Cut Off While Conversing			
	V-Mob	MTN	Glo	M-Tel	V-Mo	MTN	Glo	M-Tel
Aggregate	71	70	71	72	64	67	64	71
Abuja	71	70	72	75	67	69	60	73
Kaduna ind. Zaria	76	77	68	79	29	67	59	71
Kano	86	80	63	88	74	77	73	67
Maiduguri	64	42	52	72	47	34	34	54
Jos	72	71	69	81	57	64	74	71
Bauchi	42	38	69	83	32	36	58	69
Calabar	84	93	73	85	65	59	75	70
Port Harcourt	89	85	82	96	84	78	79	91
Owerri	71	70	67	64	52	62	51	62
Enugu	95	72	97	89	69	57	60	82
Benin	59	70	68	72	62	71	70	73

In general, the Networks performed fairly well in Dialing Few Times Before Getting Call and Getting Connections to the Number Dialed, but did poorly in Cutting Off While Conversing and worse in Connections Without Voice Audio. Specifically, the Networks urgently need improvements in specific locations where comparatively large proportions of subscribers have complained, viz.:

V-MOBILE	Connections Without Voice Audio	Enugu (95%), Port Harcourt (89%), Kano (86%), Calabar (84%)
	Cutting Off While Conversing	Port Harcourt (84%)
MTN	Connections Without Voice Audio	Calabar (93%), Port Harcourt (85%), Kano (80%)
	Connections Without Voice Audio	Enugu (97%), Port Harcourt (82%)
MTEL	Connections Without Voice Audio	Port Harcourt (96%), Enugu (89%), Kano (88%), Calabar (85%), Jos (81%), Bauchi (83%), Ibadan (88%), Lagos (82%)
	Cutting Off While Conversing	Port Harcourt (91%), Enugu (82%)

### CONCLUSIONS

The results presented in this report reflect the experiences of subscribers as they perceived the quality of services offered to them by their respective providers, up to and including the period of the administration of the information gathering instrument. The situation of each Network might have changed subsequently. The present results indicate that the performance of the GSM Networks in Nigeria is still a Far cry from expectation of the consumers.

The Commission intends to monitor and publish the Networks performance indicators for quality of service on a Quarterly basis.

**Engr. Ernest Ndukwe OFR**  
Executive Vice-Chairman/CEO

**Nigerian Communications Commission**

Benue Plaza, Plot 72, Ahmadu Bello Way,  
Central Business District, Abuja.  
Tel: 09-2344591-2, 2340330.  
Fax: 09-2344589. E-mail: ncc@ncc.gov.ng  
http://www.ncc.gov.ng



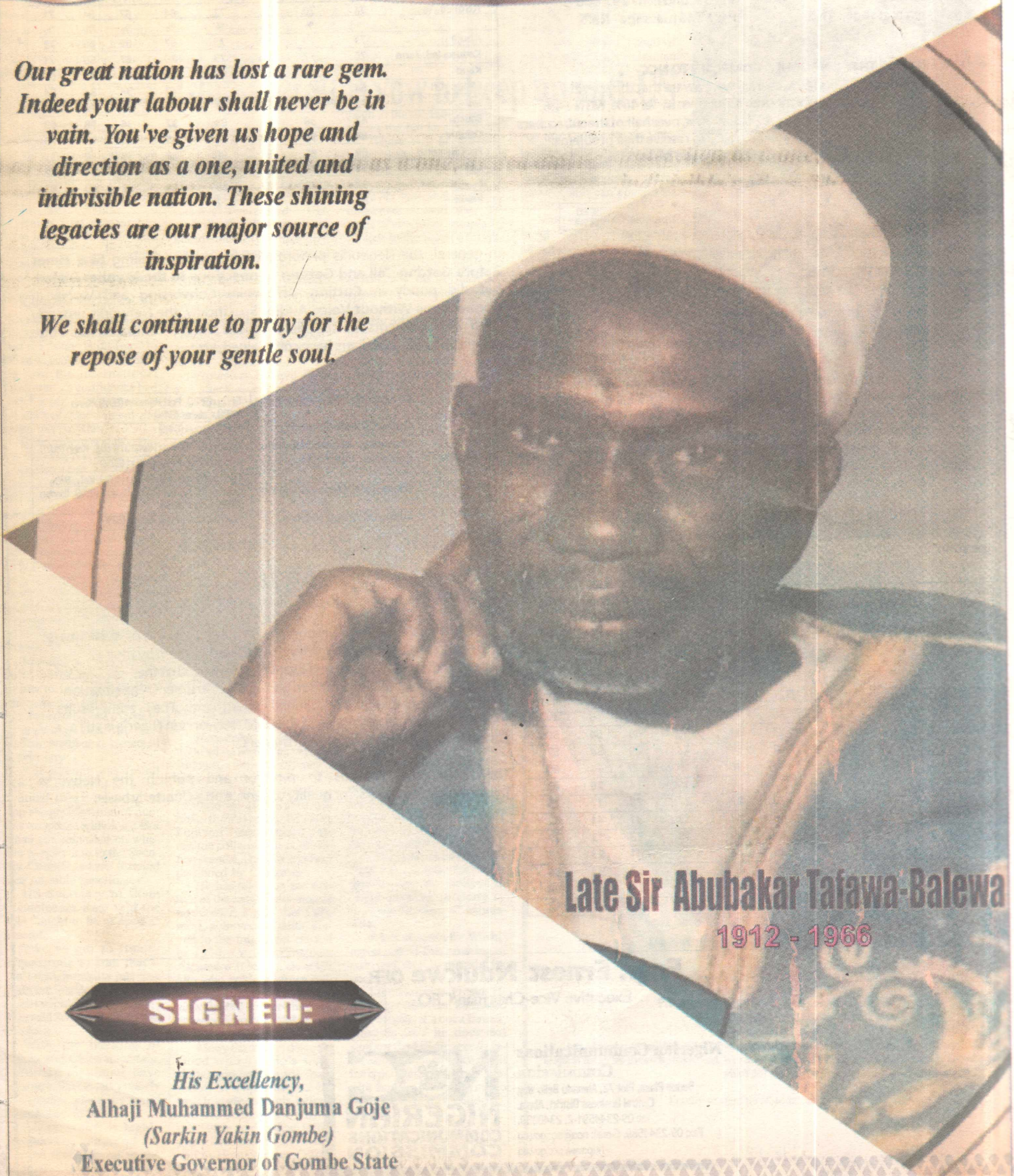


# GOMBE STATE GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA

## Tribute to a Founding Father

*Our great nation has lost a rare gem. Indeed your labour shall never be in vain. You've given us hope and direction as a one, united and indivisible nation. These shining legacies are our major source of inspiration.*

*We shall continue to pray for the repose of your gentle soul.*



**Late Sir Abubakar Tafawa-Balewa**  
1912 - 1966

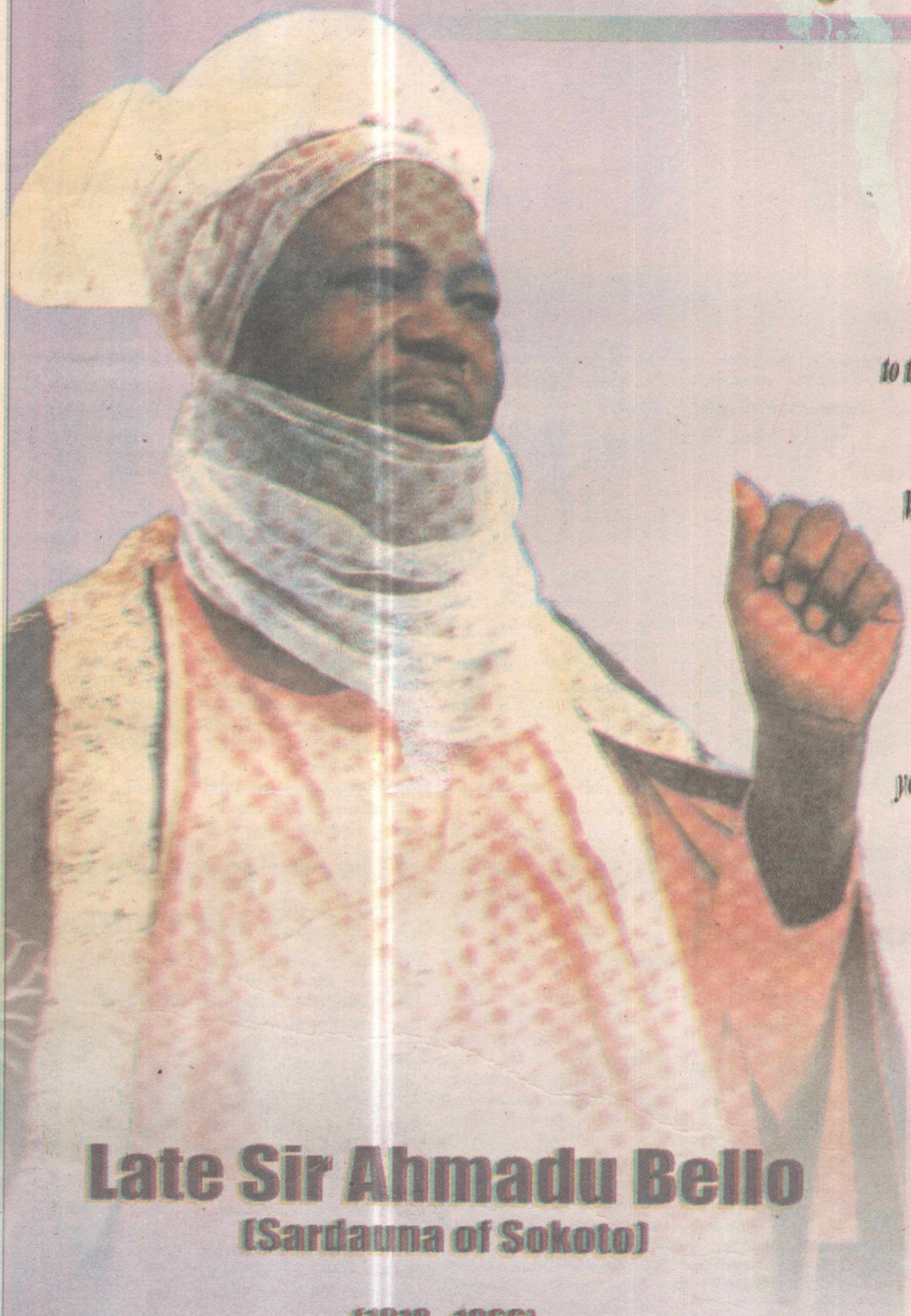
**SIGNED:**

*His Excellency,*  
**Alhaji Muhammed Danjuma Goje**  
*(Sarkin Yakin Gombe)*  
**Executive Governor of Gombe State**



# GOMBE STATE GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA

## *Tribute to a Living Legend*



**Late Sir Ahmadu Bello**  
(Sardauna of Sokoto)

(1910 - 1966)



*It's forty years today since you departed to the great beyond through tragic circumstances that still remain fresh in our memory.*

*We are proud of the foundations you laid for us and we shall continue to build on them so as to keep the flag flying.*

*May the Almighty Allah (SWT) continue to shower his blessings upon your grave and grant you Al-Jannah, Ameen.*



**SIGNED:**

*His Excellency,*  
**Alhaji Muhammed Danjuma Goje**  
(Sarkin Yakin Gombe)  
Executive Governor of Gombe State

# NEWS

## NAFDAC seizes N100m fake drugs

The National Agency for Food, Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) has announced the seizure of faked drugs worth more than N100 million in Anambra State last year.

The Deputy Director of the agency, Mr Macdonald Garba, made the announcement in an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Onitsha yesterday.

He explained that the seized products, which he described as unwholesome, would be destroyed after necessary directives had been received from the agency's headquarters.

Garba added that more than 100 persons were arrested for various offences relating to importation and sale of fake drugs and unwholesome products.

"The offenders were either convicted and fined or

released for minor cases by our legal department," he noted.

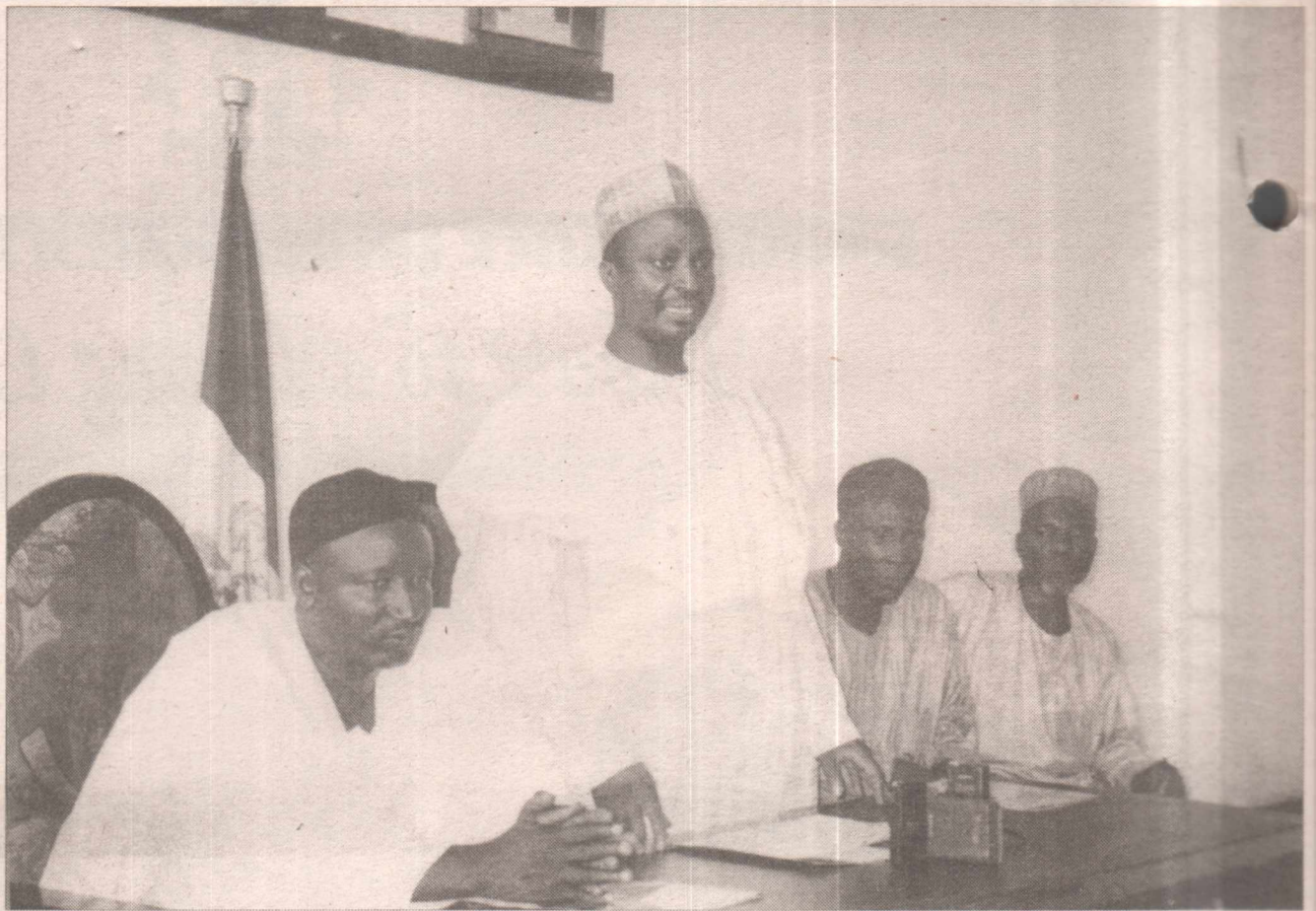
He confirmed that the Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) was ensured by most registered producers of packaged water, saying that some of the water packages were sampled and analysed.

"We are happy that most of companies have good results, while those that failed were sanctioned accordingly," he added.

Garba also announced that the country had achieved 100 per cent compliance by salt manufacturers on the amount of iodine impute in their products.

He said this was achieved in collaboration with international agencies like UNICEF.

"NAFDAC wants to ensure that the compliance level is maintained," he added.



Dr. Shuaibu Hashimu Abdullahi Hon. member representing Awe, Doma, Keana Federal Constituency responding at a reception organised by Awe people during New Year 2006 calling on him to contest for the Senate. From his right is Alhaji Musa Madaki, acting chairman, Awe Local Government Area.

## War College participants tour military establishments

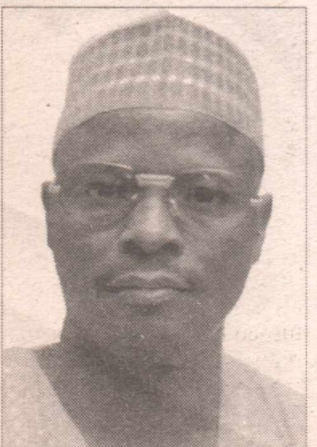
Fourteen high-ranking military officer of the National War College yesterday began a tour of military and police establishments in Lagos and Ogun states.

A statement issued yesterday in Abuja by the College spokesman, Lt. Commander Suleman Dahun, said the participants were divided into two groups for the five-day tour.

Dahun said that Nigerian participants would visit the 81 division of the Nigerian Army and the Western naval command of the Nigerian navy.

Other establishments to be visited by the group are the Logistics command of the Nigerian Air Force and the Ogun Police Command.

He said that the tour would familiarise the participants with the tasks, organisation, capabilities, mission, operational readiness and equipment of the establishments.



Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso, Defence Minister

Dahun said that while the Nigerian participants would visit military and police formations, their foreign counterparts would be visiting tourists sites in Cross River.

He said that the tour of tourists sites by the foreign participants would provide them with the opportunity of knowing other parts of the country and diverse cultures.

## NURTW blames touting on unemployed graduates

The National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) has blamed the problem of touting in Lagos metropolis on the rising unemployment rate in the country.

Mr. Stephen Falusi, the Lagos state secretary of the NURTW, made the remarks at a news conference in Lagos at the weekend.

He explained that many of the touts at the various bus stops in Lagos metropolis were graduates who, after roaming the streets for jobs, resorted to touting for survival.

Falusi denied the involvement of his members in touting activities, saying "our employees are always in white and green uniform and only collect money from commercial bus drivers at designated bus stops".

He, however, assured that the NURTW was already working on new measures to bring sanity into intra-city road transport business and to safeguard the interest of passengers.

Sub-Saharan Africa will need between 500 million dollars and 800 million dollars annually to eradicate poverty through the application of Information and Communication Technology. (ICT) The estimate was contained in a report entitled: "Financing ICTs for Development with focus on poverty, progress and issues in sub-Saharan Africa", which was made available to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN)

## NURTW blames touting on unemployed graduates

there are going to be positive changes that will bring sanity to our roads especially with the conduct of our members," he explained.

In addition, Falusi said the union had also received assurances from the state commissioner of police, Mr. Emmanuel Adebayo, on how to curb touting activities in the state. "The Commissioner has assured us that his men would soon resume the raiding of bus stops to arrest touts and other social miscreants who are always extorting money from commercial bus drivers," he added.

Falusi accused local government officials as the brains behind traffic congestion in most parts of Lagos metropolis.

He declared: "When local government officials issue tickets to the traders, they give the traders the license to display their wares along some of the parking lots and lanes around the bus stops.

"With this, it is always difficult for our buses to park at the bus stops to either pick up or drop passengers."

yesterday in Abuja.

The report commissioned by Association of Progressive Communicators (APC) said that the estimated amount excludes existing private sector and multilateral funding.

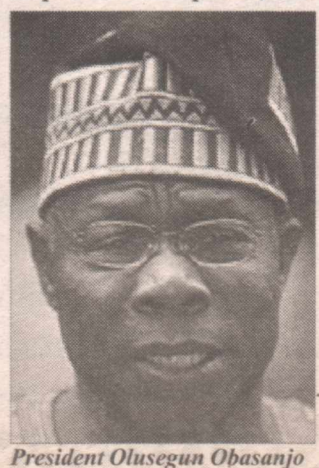
It said ICT financing should focus primarily on the needs, aspirations, capacities and perspectives of the vast majority of the poor people in Africa rather than on re-determined end products articulated by ICT professionals.

The report maintained that Africa remained the least developed region in terms of ICT.

The report presented some distressing statistics showing that penetration varies considerably, with broadcasting technology more diffused than personal computers and the Internet.

"Of the approximately 900 million people in Africa, it is estimated that one in four had radio, one in 12 had television and one in 33 had a fixed telephone line.

"One in 16 had a mobile phone, one in 80 had access to personal computers, one



President Olusegun Obasanjo

## Sub-Saharan Africa needs 800m dollars for ICT development — Report

in 90 had access to the Internet and only one in 360 had access to cable television," it stated.

The report also stated that the money needed would afford sub-Saharan Africa the opportunity to start playing the "catch-up" in the ICT world.

It stated that the fund would increase access to radio by at least 100 per cent,

television by 25 per cent, phone by up to 10 per cent and computer, as well as the Internet by up to five per cent.

According to the report, the increases will meet the goals in the NEPAD contract with the developed world and will contribute to poverty eradication and economic growth and help to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

## Rivers govt employs 50 ex-servicemen

Rivers state Governor, Dr. Peter Odili has directed the immediate employment of 50 members of the state branch of the Nigerian Legion in the state civil service.

Odili gave the directive at the weekend in Port Harcourt when he addressed members of the state branch of the legion and widows of ex-servicemen at the Government House.

He spoke shortly after a wreath laying ceremony to mark the 2006 Armed Forces Remembrance Week.

The governor assured the widows of the fallen heroes that they would benefit from a government-financed revolving loan package of N25 million to enable them to run small-scale businesses.

Odili asked multi-national companies in the state to employ the legionnaires as security officers.

"Let me use this opportunity to thank the service commanders in Rivers State for the wonderful work they have done in the security

sector," he said.

The governor stressed that whatever the government was doing to improve the lot of the legionnaires and widows of fallen heroes was appropriate.

"We believe that we should stand by you in the celebration of this event in appreciation of the wonderful work you have done for the nation in the past, and in memory of those who fell in service, paying the highest price for the nation," Odili said.

In his speech, the state Chairman of the legion, retired Col. Diggs Akobo, thanked the governor for his support to the legion since 1999.

The highlight of the ceremony was the laying of wreaths at the Isaac Boro Park cenotaph by the governor, his deputy, the state chief judge and the speaker of the state House of Assembly.

Others who laid wreaths were service commanders, the police commissioner and the chairman of the state legion.

# NEWS



Al-Habibiyat Islamic Movement - 2006 Eid-el-Kabir feed the indigents programme committee presenting bags of rice and ram to the officer in charge of Abuja Children's Home, Karu, Abuja during the Eld-el-Kabir celebration ...recently.

## Taraba resettles flood victims

Taraba state government has acquired land to resettle 300 households affected by the August 7, 2005 flood in the state.

The government will also assist 576 victims with building materials and cash to reconstruct their houses.

The Chairman of the Relief and Resettlement Committee, Mr Hamza Farouk, made the announcement in Jalingo at the weekend.

He lamented that the flood had killed many people, destroyed many properties and left many homeless.

He explained that the committee had decided that the 300 households who formerly resided in green areas would be transferred to the newly acquired area.

The chairman added that the 576 people whose houses

were partly destroyed were provided with cash and bundles of zinc and nails.

He said the disbursement of funds and distribution of building materials was based on the number of rooms destroyed.

According to him, N20,000 and two bundles of zinc nails as well as other accessories were given per room.

Farouk said the committee had verified more than 1,000 individuals who lost few belongings and would be assisted with such the materials.

He disclosed that the Taraba Environmental Protection Agency (TEPA) and the Ministry of Land and Survey had been contacted to provide technical advice on the issue.

## Nigeria's nuclear programme is for peace, says D-G

Nigeria has assured its neighbours that the ongoing nuclear power programme is meant to promote peaceful co-existence. Prof. Sani Sambo, the Director-General of the Energy Commission of Nigeria, gave the assurance shortly after an inspection of the Centre for Energy Research and Training, Zaria, Kaduna State.

The nation's nuclear programme was meant to promote economic development through electricity generation, he stressed.

According to Sambo, the programme will also be used to boost agriculture, water resources management as well as health and mineral

exploration.

He said the nuclear programme had the approval and backing of the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna.

The director-general explained that the essence of his visit to the centre was to reaffirm the country's interest in utilising its resources for achieving national aspirations through the application of nuclear science technology.

"Let me quickly add that Nigeria's commitment to the peaceful use of nuclear science and technology for socio-economic development alone remains unshakable," he added.

## Coomassie salutes Ribadu on anti-graft war

Former Inspector-General of Police Ibrahim Coomassie has saluted Deputy Commissioner of Police Nuhu Ribadu for boosting the image of the police force.

Coomassie told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Kaduna at the weekend that the appointment of Ribadu as the head of EFCC, the federal government's anti-graft agency, was an image booster for the police. He dismissed insi-

nuations that Ribadu, by virtue of his rank, was not capable of heading the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission. "What matters most in the fight against corruption is integrity and honesty, not the rank of the officer saddled with such responsibility," Coomassie said.

He, however, frowned at the "behaviour of some policemen who collect N20 bribe from motorists", saying

such policemen could technically be described as armed robbers. Coomassie criticised the recent demand by some police personnel for the payment of monetised allowances to the police.

The former police boss said the federal government was duty bound to ensure decent accommodation for all police officers and men. He described police barracks across the country as ghettos

which deserved urgent rehabilitation and renovation.

Coomassie called on the government to find a lasting solution to the frequent clashes between police and soldiers in the country.

He said the ransacking of police stations by soldiers at any slight provocation or misunderstanding with the police was inimical to the nation's quest for stability and security.

## Adamawa PDP warns against misuse of party symbols

The PDP in Adamawa has warned unauthorised persons against speaking on behalf of the party or misusing its flag and logo in the state.

Giving the warning at a news conference at the weekend in Yola, the state secretary of the party, Dr Aliyu Hong, said that only authorised officials were allowed to issue statements for the party.

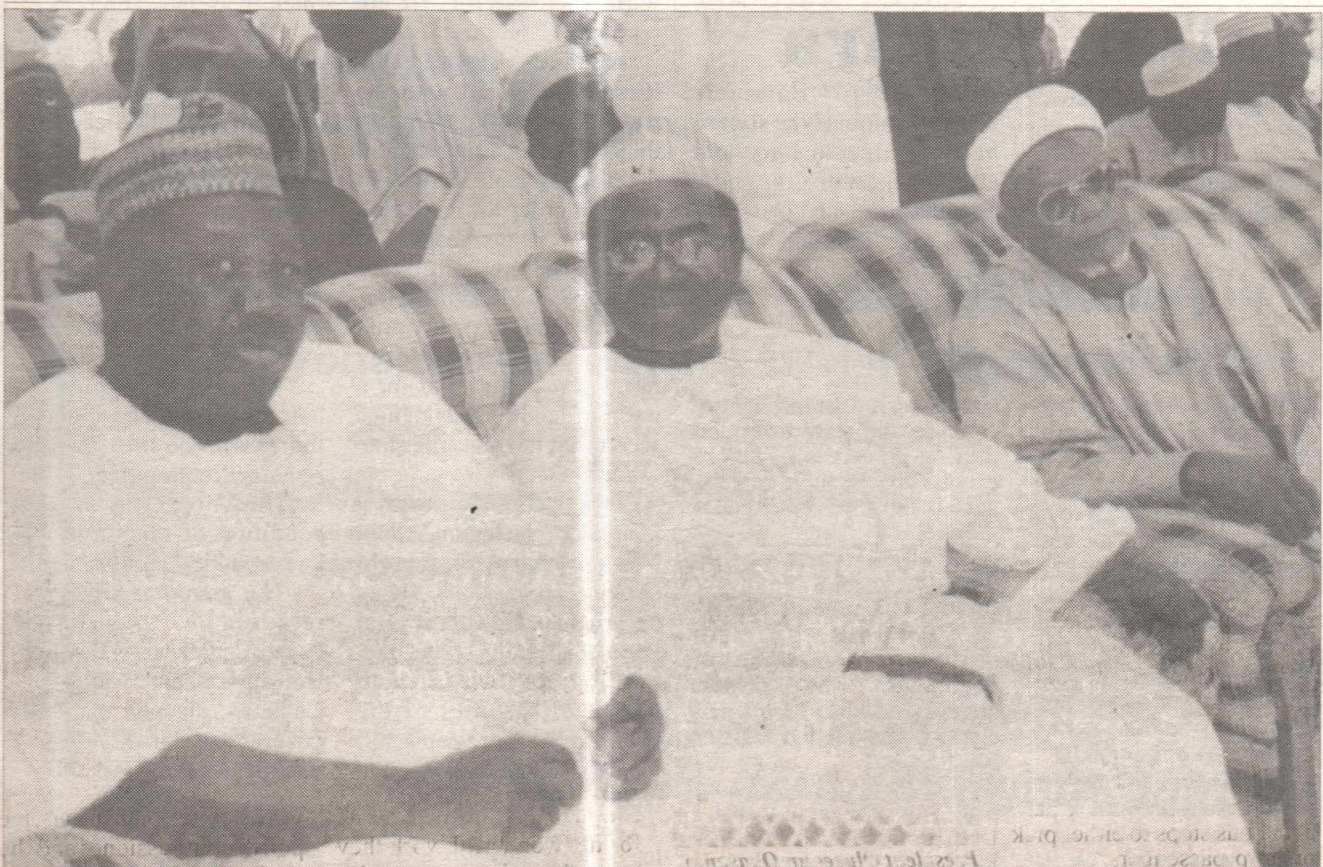
Hong observed that some former party officials were still speaking for it, adding that there must be discipline and respect for constituted

authority.

He specifically warned a former secretary of the party, Mr Tahir Shehu to desist from such action and denied that there was any crisis in the state's PDP chapter contrary to statements credited to Shehu.

He also decried the withdrawal of some facilities, including vehicles attached to the state chairman of the party, Chief Joel Madaki, by the state government.

Madaki was alleged to have teamed up with the Jibril Aminu/Buba Marwa group in the party.



From (L-R), Hon. Nuhu Magaji, Hon. Lawal Garba and Arch. Nura Tela Daura, during the ANPP youth awareness forum on third term agenda held in Daura, Katsina State ...recently.

## NTA loses employee

The Kaduna network centre of NTA has lost one of its senior newscasters, Alhaji Abdullahi Argungu.

Argungu died at his residence at Uguwar Sarki, Kaduna, at the weekend after a brief illness.

Hundreds of sympathisers attended the funeral prayers for the ace broadcaster on Sunday at his residence and at the Uguwar

Sarki Muslim cemetery.

The deceased, who was to perform this year's pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia, was aboard the plane that was turned back by Saudi authorities from Chad Republic.

The late Argungu, 49, left behind his wife, children and relations.

A condolence register has been opened by both the NTA and Kaduna state NUJ chapter.

## NEWS

## This year's Eid was a blessing – *Al-Habibiyyah*

The *Al-Habibiyyah* Islamic Movement, Abuja chairman, Alhaji Ridwan Adebayo Mustapha has described the Eid-ul Adha 1426AH celebration as blessing from Allah. He stated this at the movement, 2006 Eid-el- Kabir feed the indigents programme which was in collaboration with the Federal Capital Territory Action Committee on AIDS (FACA) Abuja last week.

Alhaji Ridwan said he gives thanks and praises to Allah for the improvement experienced in this year, celebration which was celebrated without argument from any zone of the country compared to last year. "In fact it was a huge success to our movement. Last year the activities of the movement on this rewarding course was few but this year we couldn't be able to complete all; as such we have to reduce the activities to manageable days of two."

The two days activities which include visit to Leper village at Durumi village, area 1 and Abuja Children's home Karu both in Abuja was received with happiness. The committee under the leadership of Alhaji Mikail Lawal distributed rams and bags of rice to the camps.

While receiving the gifts, the heads of the indigents in the camps appreciated the gifts and prayed for the organization, the entire Muslims and the nation at large.

The second day was however rounded up with distribution of food stuff, ram and cooked food to the Muslims and lecture delivered by the representative of Federal Capital Territory Action Committee on AIDS (FACA), Dr Isah Y. Vasta

In his lecture, which was also translated into Nupe and Hausa language by Imam Abdulazeez Alokolodo of NASFAT, Bida, Niger state, on *awareness on HIV/AIDS among Muslim Ummah* explained the three social evils that are most vehemently condemned by Islam through the holy Qur'an, which are adultery/fornication, homosexuality and consumption of intoxicants which he said are sources to HIV/AIDS and can be corrected through promotion of chastity before marriage, abstaining from sex outside marriage, upholding fidelity during marriage and encouraging sexual morality.

He further said that the stigma surrounding HIV/AIDS needs to be eradicated, therefore earnest effort must be made to enforce the Islamic moral code of conduct regarding the relationship between males and females in the

By Mustafa Abubakar,  
Abuja

society, promoting respect for women at all levels of the society and eradicating of sexual exploitation and to encourage team work among all social and cultural organizations to eradicate promiscuity, prostitution, homosexuality and drug abuse.

He added that growing up as young person in today's modern world can quite challenging and not only to contend with studies and peer pressure but there are also the challenges of drugs, raves and HIV/AIDS which are enough to leave one overwhelmed and confused and said it could be solved through one knowing whom he is, where is he going after this world, love and respect oneself and his creator, choosing friend wisely, keeping away from smoking, drugs and alcohol at all cost and considering his life as a trust that Allah will ask for.

"We all want freedom and we must choose wisely by being wise and moralized by living an Islamic lifestyle which provides the key to stemming the tide of HIV/AIDS worldwide. For our brothers and sisters living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA), the cure extends to an increase level of spirituality that would culminate in expressing closeness to Allah, by accepting the situation and helping others through compassion and care giving in terms of constant remembrance of Allah and the desire to increase "Taqwa" the consciousness/fear of God the Almighty", he stressed.

## New NPC Commissioner warns staff in Kwara

The new Federal Commissioner of the National Population Commission for Kwara state, Mr. Barth Enoch, has warned comptrollers across the 16 local councils in the state to be committed to their duty or face sanctions.

He handed down the warning at a get-together party in his honour by the NPC in Ilorin.

Mr. Enoch, said any comptroller found wanting would be placed on suspension for four months and be denied financial entitlements for the period.

The new commissioner said, the sanction was in accordance with the rules and laws of the commission.

He promised to introduce professionalism into the commission in a bid to achieve its goals and objectives and assured staff



The guard of honour Nigeria Army, ready to shoot the 21 gun salute in honour of the late heroes at the National Academy in Abuja ...yesterday.

Pix: Joe Oroye.

### ARMED FORCES REMEMBRANCE

## Retirees berate Jigawa over for non-fulfilment of pledges

The Nigerian Legion in Jigawa state has expressed dismay over non fulfilment of pledges by the state government and urged Governor Ibrahim Saminu Turaki to intervene on their behalf.

The chairman of the state legion, Malam Lawan Isa Kazaure, said this on the occasion of 2006 Armed

From Ahmed Abubakar,  
Dutse

Forces Remembrance Day and Emblem Appeal week yesterday in Dutse.

The chairman told the state governor in his speech that their members went through hell in order to persuade individuals and arms of government to

redeem their pledges.

"Your Excellency, we usually go through hell in collecting money that has been pledged to us and most often some arms of government do not care to redeem their pledge."

He added, "for two consecutive years the state House of Assembly and state Ministry for Local Governments have never bothered to redeem any of their past pledges despite all effort which met with strong resistance," he said.

Malam Lawan Isa Kazaure, pleaded with the state governor to come to their aid in ensuring that all the pledges made were redeemed in order for the legion to support its members.

He, thanked the state government for donation of a tractor which he said would ease the trouble faced by farming members and for a piece of land for the legions secretariat in Dutse the state capital.

In a separate interview a member of the legion, Alhaji Musa Inchara Auyo, told *Daily Trust*, that, "it is unfortunate that after several years he spent in Ogidi, Orka, Port Harcourt in order to preserve the unity of the nation, yet, some people still regard us as a nuisance to the public.

He said, "If they really meant well, and truly respect us as those who risked our

lives to protect the interest of the country they will always have redeemed their pledges against what we hear everyday of them spending our money on bogus projects."

In his speech, the Jigawa state governor, Alhaji Ibrahim Saminu Turaki, said the occasion was an avenue to remember and honour the country's fallen heroes who paid the supreme sacrifice with their lives for the integrity of the nation.

"The essence of the celebration and central focus of this commemorative event is remembering the dead and living heroes and of cause looking into the plight of the living and their families especially the welfare of those who suffer various deprivation, incapacitation, anguish and frustrations as a result of wars," he said.

Turaki, also said it is in consideration of the plight of the ex-service men that "it remained committed to the upliftment of the living ones and their families."

The governor who was represented by the State Commissioner for Land and Housing, Alhaji Yusuf Shittu Galamba, pledged the state government donation of N1 million and the governors personal donation of N200,000. The total of N3.8 million was realised at the occasion.

From Abdulrazaq Adebayo,  
Correspondent (Ilorin)

of his maximum cooperation. Earlier, outgoing Federal Commissioner of NPC in the

### National ID card:

## Distribution begins in Kwara

The distribution of the national identity cards will begin today in Kwara state sequel to the directive of the Minister of Internal Affairs, Ambassador Magaji Mohammed.

The flag-off for the exercise will take place at Stella Obasanjo Multi-purpose Hall, Ajasse - Ipo road at 11 a.m. with the state governor, Dr. Bukola Saraki as the special guest of honour.

A statement by Malam Shaibu Idris Sabon Bimi, from the Directorate of National Civic Registration, urged members of the public who

state, Alhaji Bamidele Ahmed, enjoined the staff to be dedicated to duty and cooperate with the new commissioner and shun any act of backbiting and rumour.

had registered for the identity cards in the state to attend the flag-off ceremony before proceeding to their registration centres for collection of their identity cards.

It also advised people who were unable to register for the issuance of the ID cards during the mass registration exercise in February 2003 and those who have just attained 18 years of age to come out and register for the cards.

The registration is an ongoing exercise at the DNCR offices in all the 16 local government council headquarters in the state.

# NEWS

## LG construct 60km road in Gombe

Dukku local government council of Gombe state is to construct 60 kilometre roads this year with a view to opening up its rural areas to ease movement of people and goods.

From Muhammad Abubakar, Correspondent (Gombe)

Speaking to *Daily Trust* on the focus of his council this year, chairman, Alhaji Ahmed Walama, said the

council would construct two major roads in the area that would open up most of its villages.

He said, the council would on its own construct the 25 kilometre Gombe Abba - Kunde road while it will construct the 35 kilometre Hashidu - Lafiya - Malala - Dukkuyel road in conjunction with the state government.

Alhaji Walama said, for the second road the council had already saved more than N50 million while arrangement for the commencement of work on the Gombe Abba - Kunde road has begun.

He said, Dukku, one of the oldest local governments in the state, has now become a hub of activities as a result of heavy vehicular traffic along Gombe - Dukku - Kano road which is now free of armed robberies.

The chairman of Dukku local government said, the road has been free of armed robberies for the past seven years which is a departure from the past where robbery occurred almost on daily basis.

He said that Dukku would soon enjoy mobile telecommunications (GSM).

## NEMA seeks support over disaster management

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), has described disaster management as an amalgam of different activities and functions geared directly or indirectly towards protection and rehabilitation of both human and material resources from hazards.

A statement signed by NEMA press officer, Ibrahim Farinloye, and made available to *Daily Trust* said the Director-General of NEMA, Alhaji Salihu Shuaibu Makarfi, made the assertion

at the delivery of relief materials to victims of a disaster at the Dala local government of Kano state.

Represented by the Chief Admin Officer (Relief), Alhaji Abubakar Alkali, Alhaji Makarfi, said that the missions of most disaster management organisations are to reduce the loss of life and property and protect institutions from all hazards by leading and supporting the people in comprehensive risk-based disaster management programmes of prevention, mitigation, prepara-

tion, response and recovery.

In any society, he affirmed, there are potentially destructive elements like, rainfall etc which otherwise would just be natural phenomena. The magnitude of a disaster is determined by the level of devastation inflicted on a community's infrastructure, properties and lives due to the inability of the affected community to prevent, mitigate and bounce back to life, through organised recovery and rehabilitation programs, Alhaji Makarfi posited.

The NEMA boss, further stated that for disaster management to be more effective, states and local governments must be actively involved which will in turn evolve the people on the mechanism of disaster management at all levels in our society as complement to federal government efforts.

He maintained that many hazards which resulted into serious disaster had long been with us and we live by them but little was done to call the attention of the organisations saddled with the responsibilities of handling it until when it caused major disaster.

Alhaji Makarfi, appealed to media organisations, as a major stakeholder, to regularly carryout a major focus on potential hazards as they are the voice of the people and source of mass education for the people.

This, he said, will arouse the people to the hazards around them and at the same time, the necessary organisations will act appropriately.

Items delivered include rice, beans, maize, wax materials, mattresses, mixed beverages etc.

## NJC begins silent war on corruption

A member of the National Judicial Council, retired Justice Mustapha Akanbi, has said the commission has embarked on a silent war in the judiciary to flush out all corrupt judges in the country.

Justice Akanbi, dropped this hint while featuring on a Radio Kwara personality interview programme "Playing Host."

According to him, information reaching the council from the high court downwards was saddening as alleged area of corruption had been reported against some high court and even area court judges.

He said, the council retired most of those found either guilty of corrupt practices or who deliberately passed judgements or made orders that aught not to or for underhand deals.

Justice Akanbi, who is also the immediate past chairman of the Independent Corruption Practices Commission (ICPC), described the present crops of the council as more dynamic and active explaining that any citizen could make a report to the Chief Justice of the Federation against any judicial officer and such complaint would be adequately investigated.

Commenting on the activities of the ICPC while in office, the former chairman said, he had tried to maintain his integrity and also succeeded in establishing offices in all the geopolitical zones of the country.

He, however, advised the federal government to ensure that ICPC was well funded, while his successor should be encouraged in terms of provision of logistics and adequate funding adding that the fight against corruption was not President Olusegun Obasanjo's issue alone but the entire citizenry.

Any government that wants to see this country achieve greatness, must rally round the ICPC, Justice Akanbi added and lamented that while in office, he did not receive the support of either state governors or local government chairmen in the fight against corruption.

Answering another question, he said the immunity clause in the nation's constitution should be expunged because it was inimical to the fight against corruption.

Justice Akanbi, stated that the ordeal the former

From Abdulrazaq Adebayo, Correspondent (Ilorin)

governor of Bayelsa state, Diepraye Alamiseigha is now going through was the efforts of the ICPC who first exposed his corrupt act but blamed the court for frustrating the commission's activities in prosecuting the former governor.

He announced that he had flouted a non-governmental organisation (NGO) which is essentially concerned with anti-corruption ethics and judicial responsibilities.

According to him, praises should be given to the Kwara state governor, Dr. Bukola Saraki for the relative peace the state is now enjoying.

## Lack of funds threatens cassava production in Katsina

As many rural farmers of Katsina state embrace government's initiative of boosting cassava production, lack of funds is threatening their capacity to acquire working tools, water and sufficient labour.

Our correspondent who visited some villages including Yar Shauya, Gangara, Sabon Garin Alhaji Yahuza and Tsohon Garin Fadama communities in Batagarawa local government noticed a number of dry wells with crops facing serious drought as a result of insufficient water in the farms while hope of obtaining loan from the Nigeria Agricultural and Rural Cooperative Bank (NARCB), still remains a mirage.

At the Yar Shauya village where most of the people cultivate cassava, farmers have expressed the fear that they may be unable to meet government target in cassava production as a result of insufficient funds.

Chairman of the Cassava Farmers Association, Ado Musa Yar Shauya said, that despite that the association deposit over N500,000 with the NARCB as 10 per cent requirement for securing the loan for cassava production over two months ago, nothing has been heard from the bank.

He, therefore, appealed to the bank to assist them to secure the loan in good time to enable them cultivate additional hectares of land as soon as the loan is obtained.

From Lawal Ibrahim, Correspondent (Katsina)

Furthermore, he said, the loan would also enable them secure more seedlings, undertake harrowing, and obtain pumping machines and boreholes to ensure sufficient watering of the crops for the desired level of cassava production.

## Widows petition EFCC over inheritance

Widows and 23 children of one, late Alhaji Sani Tela Yabo have petitioned the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), over their inheritance said to be in the custody of a dismissed magistrate, Bala Haruna.

The three page petition made available to *Daily Trust*, yesterday was signed by the four widows of the deceased: Hajiya Diya, Hajiya Larai, Hajiya Fati and Hajiya Aisha. They appealed to the EFCC to: "save this family of 23 children and four wives of late Alhaji Sani Yabo Tela by recovering our monies from Bala Haruna."

The petitioners said: "At the time of the death of the deceased (Alhaji Sani Tela) was owing Bank of the North, Garki branch Abuja, the sum of N150,000. We raised funds and give to Bala Haruna the sum of N170,000 only for the

purpose of settling the debt. We were astonished to hear from the bank on inquiry that the sum was not remitted by Bala Haruna. And the debt accumulated to the tune of N328,000 at the time of inquiry."

They also asked the EFCC to recover the sum of N2 million belonging to the family from the former judicial officer who they said issued them a dud cheque in respect of the money.

The petition whose receipt by EFCC was acknowledged on January 5, noted "we hereby forward this petition to your commission in the firm belief that the commission having stood for justice since its inception is the only body that can give us justice and if you fail then we will appeal to God."



From left are, the Erulu Olusola Obada the deputy Governor of Osun State, Governor Peter Odili of Rivers State and Governor Sam Egwu of Ebonyi State, during the inauguration ceremony of the Southern Forum held at the Yar' Adua Centre in Abuja ...recently.

PHOTO BY O. O. OYE

# News

## Yobe Scholarship Board decries low number of medical students

The Yobe State Scholarship Board, has decried the low number of students engaged in medical courses, among those enjoying scholarship from the state. The board was speaking through its chairman, Alhaji Yahaya Gwio Kura, who gave highlight on the board's activities recently.

The Yobe Scholarship Board observed that out of about eleven thousand pupils interviewed for potential scholarship benefits, only 25 are pursuing medicine, noting that the figure requires an adjustment.

The Board identified two reasons for the low enrolment of pupils into medical courses, noting that, the reasons include the expensive nature of the course, where students, according to the

**From Isa Umar Gusau,**  
Correspondent (Damaturu)

Board, need about two hundred and fifty thousand naira to be registered, while other students are faced with another problem arising from failure to meet admission requirements for medical courses.

"In view of this, the Board recommends that government sets up a committee comprising members from the scholarship board, Ministry of Higher Education, Ministry of Health, among others, to determine the short and long term period as manpower priority needs of the state," the particular emphasis on science studies.

The Board also recommended that the Yobe government should solicit for

special placements of students into tertiary institutions to study science and technical courses, while local government councils were also called upon to give special assistance to students who desire medical courses

The Yobe Scholarship Board, noted that more than 32 percent of students from

the state read administrative courses, agriculture; 11.30%, NCE with 11.84%, 24.18% for other courses, while medical students occupy 0.23% among students from the state.

The Board, declared that Yobe state is the most outstanding from the North-East

sub-region with the highest scholarship allowances that are paid promptly.

The Board noted that only recently, the allowances given to law school students have been reviewed upward from thirty thousand naira to one hundred and twenty thousand naira annually.

The Yobe State Scholar-

ship Board, declared that from 1999 to date, the sum of one hundred and twenty seven million, twenty thousand, four hundred and twenty two naira has been distributed to students across the country, while as at 2003, the state sponsors 13,613 students, with a cumulative beneficiaries figure standing at 46,682 students from 1999 to date.



Students of Crawford University, Igbesa, Ogun State taking oath of allegiance during their matriculation recently at the schools main campus. Pic: Oladipupo Odunewu.

## Muslim group writes Obasanjo on hajj crisis

The National Hijrah Ummatul-Islam, has asked President Olusegun Obasanjo to probe those responsible for the failure to airlift all intending pilgrims for this year's hajj exercise.

In a strongly worded letter to the president signed by Deputy National Chairman, Kwara State, Alhaji Ahmad Olayiwola Kamal, the body noted with great concern the yearly embarrassment recorded on hajj operation in Nigeria which denied more than 12,000 pilgrims the opportunity to make the trip this year.

"This is not the first time, in fact it is not only embarrassing to Nigeria as a nation but to the Muslim Umma. This has demonstrated our inability to learn from past experiences to improve on future

**From Abdulrazaq Adebayo,**  
Correspondent (Ilorin)

arrangements," it added.

While sympathizing with those intending pilgrims who could not make the trip to the holy land, the Hijrah committee suggested among others the establishment of a permanent National Hajj Commission instead of the ad hoc hajj committee constituted yearly.

It also called for sanity in the collection of hajj fees and payments made early enough while the proposed hajj commission should be strictly instructed to patronize only airlines that own aircraft.

The body commended the president for directing Virgin Air Nigeria to cancel its scheduled international flights in order to airlift Nigerian pilgrims to the holy land even as the directive could not be carried out.

## Media Trust holds Annual Dialogue Thursday

All is now set for the third Annual Trust Dialogue organized by The Media Trust Limited, Publishers of Daily Trust and Weekly Trust newspapers, on Thursday, January 19, 2006.

The Chairman, Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Mallam Nuhu Ribadu is expected to be among the main speakers at the dialogue slated for Ladi Kwali Conference Hall, Sheraton Hotel, Abuja.

The EFCC chairman and

**By Sa'adatu Ovosi, Abuja**

the other speakers, the chairman, Transparency in Nigeria, Gen Ishola Williams (rtd) and the Vice Chancellor, Bayero University, Kano, Prof Attahiru Jega, are to speak on "Corruption; The trouble with Nigeria."

A press release from Media Trust Corporate Affairs Officer, Mr. Yusuf Ozi-Uzman, said apart from the main speakers, other outstanding professionals will also gather at Sheraton Hotels and Towers, to diagnose and attempt to proffer solutions to corruption, which has been identified as Nigeria's major national problem.

The Dialogue which was first held in January 2001 will be chaired this year by Major-General Garba Ali Mohammed (rtd) while the Senate President, Senator Ken Nnamani will be the special guest of honour.

Mr. Ozi-Uzman, said the forum would provide opportunities for brilliant Nigerians, including politicians, students and notable scholars to discuss the social menace which has given Nigeria a negative image in the international community.

According to him, the management of Media Trust Limited views the Dialogue forum as part of the company's modest contribu-

tion to the development of Nigeria and a social responsibility towards making the country relevant in the comity of nations.

He said, copies of the books; *The Nigerian Ques-*

*tion; The way forward, and Reforming Nigeria; Which Model?* which were put together from proceedings in the previous dialogues would be offered for sale at the venue.

## Buhari mourns late ex-wife

Former head of state and ANPP presidential candidate in the 2003 national elections, General Muhammadu Buhari has described the death of his ex-wife Hajia Sefinatu as a sad event.

General Buhari, who spoke through his personal assistant on media and publicity, Mallam Yau Darazo, said.

"It is a sad event for the family. She is a big loss to us all most especially to the children she left behind. Four of them are women and the loss of a mother is always felt heavily by the female children

**From AbdulRaheem Aodu,**  
Correspondent (Kaduna)

who sees them as advisers and counselors.

"They are going to feel the impact of her loss because the loss of a mother is always great. Three of her children are mothers who would have relished the opportunity of taking their children to see their grand-mother, that opportunity is no more so the grandchildren would also miss her," he said.

Hajia Sefinatu who died last Sunday has since been buried in Kaduna.

## Education: Shagari appeals to Sokoto indigenes

Former president in the second republic, Alhaji Shehu Shagari has made a passionate appeal to indigenes of Sokoto to come to the rescue of education in the state.

Alhaji Shehu Shagari, who made the appeal during the annual general meeting of personalities of Sokoto origin at Sultan palace Sokoto, said the call became necessary in order to save the community from ignorance.

The meeting which was at the instance of Sokoto Education Development Trust Fund and chaired by the former president was aimed at saving the poor populace from illiteracy. Alhaji Shagari, lamented

**From Sadeeq Aliyū,**  
Senior Reporter (Sokoto)

that most of the pledges made to the fund during the previous meetings are not redeemed and therefore urged those who made the pledges to fulfil them for the sake of those who would be assisted through the fund.

He said, the fund are being used to assist students of higher institutions especially those studying medicine, law, engineering and to train unemployed youths and divorcees.

In his address, the sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Muhammadu Maccido explained that seven years after the establishment of the fund it has only been surviv-

ing with what was realized at its launching, which he said, was only one third of the total pledges.

He therefore charged well-to-do indigenes of the state to brace up and empower the trust fund and less privileged people in the state.

To this end, the Sultan called on any individual wishing to give assistance or secure employment to Sokoto indigenes to channel it through the fund so that such individual could be accorded recognition by the fund.

He said, Sokoto State is in dire need of assistance in all facets of human endeavour more especially on industrialization and local trades that are synonymous with peoples' culture and tradition.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**OBOSI YOUTH CLUB**  
This is to inform the general public that the above named club has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for Registration under Part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Decree No. 1 of 1990. The Trustees are:

1. CHUKWUDI IBBANO	7. PIUS AJAORO
2. EMEKA ISHU	8. NHAZI OKANU
3. IKEN MBANUGO	9. EKPELE OKAGBUE
4. GABRIEL ONUEKWUSI	10. DEJUN ANENE
5. BEN UGHANZE	11. GODWIN ANYAFULU
6. EMEKA EBUNAM	12. NZUSE ILOMUANYA

Any objections to the registration be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, West Zone, FCT, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

# Inside Politics

## Oyo Crisis: When Adedibu laughed last

As for the strongman of Ibadan Politics and the exponent of Amala and Gbegiri politics in Oyo State, Alhaji Lamidi Adedibu finally had the last laugh, as a new chapter was opened in the life of the state last Thursday, when the Adedibu carried through the threat of impeachment of the former governor, Rasheed Ladoja as he was removed from office.

Last Thursday, just under 30 minutes, loyalists of Adedibu dislodged albeit unconstitutionally, Governor of the State Ladoja from the Agodi Government House and installed their puppet, Otunba Adebayo Alao-Akala, amidst tight security provided by armed mobile policemen drafted from a neighbouring state.

The 32-member House of Assembly had been divided along the lines of G18, Adedibu's loyalists and G14, those loyal to Ladoja. While the Speaker Adeolu Adeleke leads G14, his deputy who was elected on September 15, 2005 the day the House last sat as a united entity, Hon. Oluyemi Taiwo assumed the leadership of G18. The dingdong which commenced on December 13 eventually led to the impeachment of the governor last Thursday.

The impeachment of Governor Ladoja by 18 members of the state House of Assembly was the culmination of the 24 months bither political battle between Ladoja and Adedibu for the soul of Ibadan, the largest city in West Africa. With the successful impeachment of Ladoja, Oyo State becomes the second state after Bayelsa where the impeachment weapon was deployed to remove a democratically elected chief executive.

The first to be removed through impeachment was Governor Dieprieve Alamiyeseigha of Bayelsa last December. As if to underscore the relevance of political godfathers in the country's body politics, Alhaji Adedibu has proven to be a stronger godfather than others across the country who tried in vain to remove their errant godsons whom they installed as chief executives of their respective states.

Even the strongman of Kwara politics, Olusola Saraki, failed in his bid to remove the former governor of the state, Mohammed Lawal, but he could only prevent him from coming back to office in 2003 general elections which saw his son emerging as the governor.

Ladoja's road to political obscurity began later in 2003 when Alhaji Adedibu accused him of running the state without consulting others who assisted him in his journey to the Agodi Government House. The strongman of

By Olumide Bajulaiye, Correspondent (Lagos)

Ibadan politics was vehement in his attack, accusing the former governor of forgetting all those who worked for his success at the polls in the sharing of political offices.

During the electioneering campaigns that ushered in the in current Republic, Adedibu was to be with the All Peoples Party APP now All Nigerian Peoples Party. It was however clear that he was comfortable with working for the joint Presidential candidate of the APP and the AD in 1999. He had worked against Olu Falae during the presidential campaigns of the aborted Third Republic, when he supported the late Gen. Shehu Musa Yar'Adua in 1992.

It was not long he found himself into the Peoples Democratic Party PDP and regained his kingmaker role.

Throughout the first part of the last administration in the state Adedibu found himself in the opposition party in the state, as the AD had won the governor's seat in the 1999 election. But it was obvious that Adedibu would play a key role in the emergence of the PDP in the state, having played similar roles in the state's affairs post Second Republic.

Adedibu was the kingmaker even during the military regimes that ruled the nation between 1984 and May 1999. He also played the kingmaker role during the process leading to the annulled June 12 1993 elections as well as the disputed presidential primaries held before the annulled election.

Governor Lam Adesina who ruled the state between 1999 and 2003 had to keep Adedibu away from his government.

Prior to the gubernatorial primaries which saw the emergence of Ladoja as governorship candidate in 2002, it was full of troubles for the PDP in Oyo State. The party had then been evenly split between Adedibu and Alhaji Yekeen Adejo, the former Deputy National Chairman of the party. Before the primaries, there was a serious tussle over the control of the party in the state. Adedibu and Adejo could not immediately agree on who takes the leadership position.

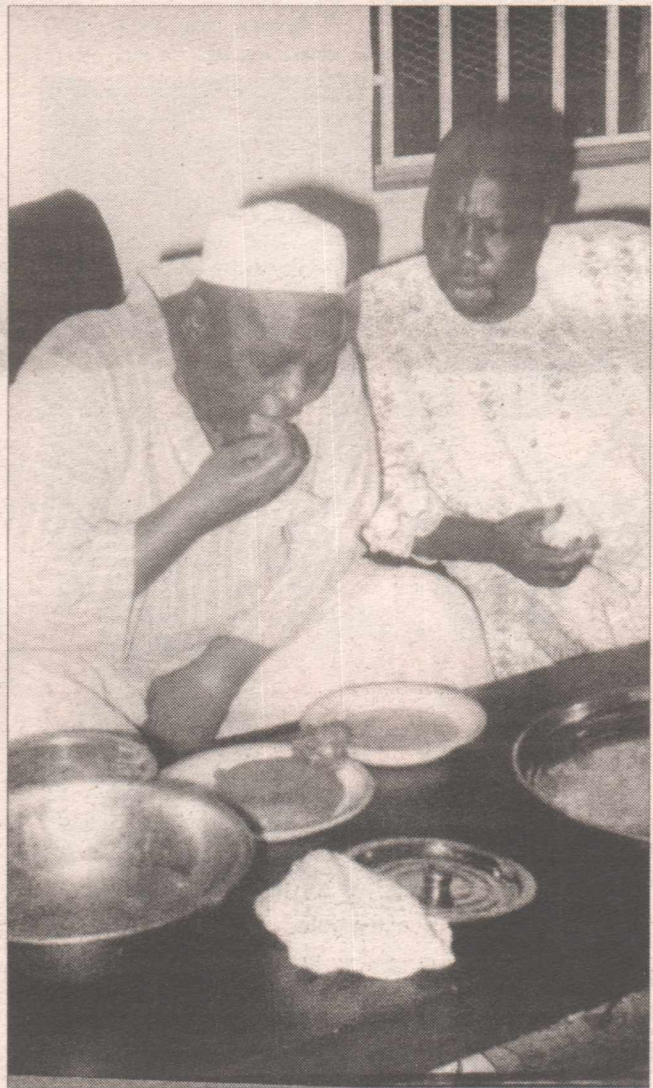
The state congresses had to be taken to Abuja where a state executive committee loyal to Adedibu emerged. That done, the primaries for the election of the governor was made easy. Adedibu had to deployed his machinery to ensure victory in favour of Ladoja, ahead of Adejo, who had contested for the same post in the last three election in the state and lost.

The romance between Adedibu and Ladoja did not last. Barely a week after the

Ladoja was sworn-in in 2003 the bad blood started brewing over the sharing of the goodies of electoral victory.

It was said that the strongman wanted to appoint commissioners into

exaggerated, he was graceful enough to admit that Adedibu contributed a lot to his political victory. Many political watchers, however, believed that Ladoja could not have won the state's gu-



Chief Lamidi Ariyibi Adedibu, the proponent of Amala politics.

key positions and get his loyalists into major parastatals. The two forces managed to work together and evolved a state cabinet which was in place till May 2005. Ladoja, in an attempt to shake off Adedibu's heavy yoke sacked the pro Adedibu cabinet and installed his own men.

According to Alhaji Adedibu, "Ladoja is eating alone and has forgotten all those party men who toiled night and day to ensure his victory". Adedibu thereafter drew the battle line and vowed that the governor would not be allowed to run for a second term because he is not a team player.

The Ibadan-based politician withdrew his support for the administration and mobilized aggrieved members of the party against the governor.

Prior to this bad blood between the governor and his estranged political godfather, not a few in Ibadan believed that the former rode to office on the back of Adedibu, popularly referred to as the Alaafin of Molete by the who's who in Ibadan politics. Adedibu had also claimed that he single-handedly made it possible for Ladoja to become governor of the state at the expense of other top Ibadan indigenes.

Even though Ladoja has described Adedibu's claim as

bernatorial election without the support of Alhaji Adedibu.

This was why keen watchers of political development in the state viewed Alhaji Adedibu's political venom against the ex-governor as an evil omen that will blow the state no good.

In one of his allegations against Ladoja, Adedibu said the agreement he had with governor was that he Adedibu would be the leader of the party in the state while the governor would concentrate with administratering the state, which Ladoja disregarded and went on to assume the leadership of the party as well as the state.

In his response to this, Ladoja said, "there was no agreement. The only agreement was that I was going to serve the people of the state". On Adedibu's claim that he was marginalized, Ladoja said Adedibu always told his supporters not to accept appointment from his government.

Perhaps the last straw that broke the camel's back was the assassination attempt on Alhaji Adedibu in August 2005 and the killing of his political associate, Lati Olaniyan popular called Lati Oshogbo by unidentified people. Even though Adedibu held the governor responsible for these dastardly acts, Ladoja's camp

denied it and accused his detractors of trying to cause chaos in the state.

Chaos indeed engulfed the state later as supporters of Adedibu and the former governor engaged in series of violent attacks, destroying properties worth millions of naira.

At that point, the duo appeared to have reached a point of not return in their battles. Several reconciliations, including those held at the instance of President Olusegun Obasanjo, the PDP and the other South West governors, all to no avail.

The gulf between the two camps widened during the party re-registration exercise last year. Majority of Ladoja's men were deregistered, while parallel congresses were held by the camps during the ward, local government and state congresses of the party.

With the firm directive from the leadership of the PDP that its followers must go the way of the President, it was clear that reconciling Adedibu and Ladoja was going to be a futile effort. Adedibu is a loyalist of President Olusegun Obasanjo, while Ladoja prided his trade with the Vice President Atiku Abubakar. It was learnt that efforts by the south west governor to let Ladoja retrace his steps and join the mainstream of the party was treated with levity by Ladoja, thus the gulf continuously widened.

Three months before the impeachment, the sitting of the State House of Assembly had been held in abeyance. The governor's men had caused the mace to be kept with the police commissioner in the state to stave off a meeting of the House. Eventually a majority of the lawmakers were able to retrieve the mace but the sitting turned into confusion.

Their attempt to sit inside the assembly complex was rebuffed by 13 other lawmakers who were loyal to the governor. After a scuffle between the two groups, the G18 relocated to the D'Rovans Hotel, where they pronounced the impeachment notice and announced the indefinite suspension of seven members of the House including the Speaker.

The governor did not initially take the impeachment procedure serious. There were legal battle raised by his men. The fact that the speaker was on the governor's side serve as morale booster for him and his supporters. Thus Ladoja refused to answer to the charges raised by the G18 and on December 22, the group proceeded to pass a motion mandating the state Acting Chief Judge, Justice Adeniran Afolabi to constitute a seven-man panel in accordance with dictates of Section 188 (5) of the 1999 Constitution.

There was confusion in

the city of Ibadan on that day when the lawmakers loyal to the governor resisted attempt by the G18 to take over the assembly. After a five hour gun battle the G18 with the support of the anti-riot policemen were able to enter the complex where they conducted a 45 minutes sitting to pass the motion.

The pro-impeachment lawmakers had perfected their act with the indefinite suspension of seven of pro-Ladoja on the strength of order 42 rule 9 of the House. Since the G18 had the mace and the keys to the complex it was incumbent on the CJ to succumb to the motion.

And so on January 4, the seven man panel headed by Chief Bolaji Ayorinde SAN was inaugurated. The panel immediately invited all stakeholders. The G18 group was well represented while the G14 was busy fighting the constitution of the panel. There were court cases attempting to stop the panel from sitting, attempts were also made to stop the House from impeaching the governor. But an Ibadan High Court declined jurisdiction in the matter, thus clearing the way for the pro-impeachment lawmakers to carry on.

Early last week there was clear indication that the governor was on his way out. By Friday 7th the panel had concluded hearing the case of the G18 and was ready to listen to the governor. But his lawyer, Yusuf Alli SAN went before the panel to protest. The governor was supposed to appear on Monday the 10th in defence, again his men did not turn up. They merely went their to question the composition of the members, whose credibility they doubted. After an exhaustive drama at the venue of the panel sitting, the panel gave a verdict rejecting the objections.

The panel chairman later gave the governor up to 6pm that Monday to defend the allegations against him, his failure to do so meant that the case was closed. A last minute efforts by South West governors who led Ladoja to President Obasanjo could not save the governor. Obasanjo was said to have told them to forget his intervention.

To buttress his stand the president on Wednesday when he visited Pa Emmanuel Alayande on his 96 birthday told the old man to inform the former governor that the only honourable thing to do was for him to resign.

The governor did not heed the advice and on Thursday, member of G18 concluded the impeachment process by pronouncing the him impeached. His deputy Otunba Christopher Alao Akala was immediately sworn-in as the substantive governor.

# SPORTS

## Stage set for FIBA World Championship

The draw in Tokyo on Sunday has set the stage for the FIBA World Championship 2006 in Japan. The make-up of the 4 groups determined the match schedule for the first 5 game days of the most competitive basketball event in the world. In presence of team delega-

tions from five continents and many dignitaries, the draw was conducted in the Prince Takanawa Hotel in Tokyo. Basketball legends such as Dino Meneghin from Italy, and Jean Jacques Conceicao, one of the best ever African players from Angola, were drawing the lots. "The draw was extremely

well organized and we had a perfect show," said FIBA Secretary General Patrick Baumann. "We did not expect anything less from the Japanese Organising Committee and we are sure that the championship will be organized with the same precision and care for the detail." On 19th August, the open-

ing day of the FIBA World Championship, Olympic champion Argentina will play against France in Group A. Host Japan will meet European vice-champion Germany in Group B whilst in Group C Lithuania will play against Turkey. In Group D the USA will try to take revenge for their 92-73

Olympic opening game loss against Puerto Rico. The draw brought no big surprises and FIBA's goal to have geographically balanced groups was fully reached. A look at the groups demonstrates again, that the 2006 edition of the FIBA World Championship will be the most competitive ever. In Group A the Olympic champion Argentina will meet the defending World Champion Serbia & Montenegro and European bronze medal winner France whilst in Group B superstars Pau Gasol from Spain and Dirk Nowitzki from Germany will try to enter the Eight Finals in top positions. In Group C European champion Greece will face fierce com-

petition from Lithuania, Brazil, Turkey and Australia. A lot of experts view Group D as the most competitive with basketball super power USA and Olympic silver medalist Italy. Traditional powerhouse Puerto Rico and emerging countries China and Senegal will all give their best to reach the Eighth Finals. The teams will play against each other in the preliminary phase in four groups of 6 teams. The 4 top teams from each group will then qualify directly for the Eighth-Finals, Quarter-Finals, Semi-Finals and Finals. All the games from the Eighth-Finals to the Finals will be played on a one-game elimination basis.



The draw for the FIBA World Basketball Championship billed for Japan later this year took place in Tokyo on Sunday.

## 'Senegal has come of age'

Don't expect Senegal's players to ask Team USA's stars for their shoes at the FIBA World Championship 2006 as the Angolans did at the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona. "We're past asking people for their shoes," Senegal international forward Makhtar N'Diaye said to PA Sport, when asked about his team's Group D match-up with the United States. "We know them guys in the NBA. We have guys in the NBA, too." Among their NBA contingent is Los Angeles Clippers reserve center Boniface N'Dong, voted the top player at the FIBA Africa Championship in the summer 2005 when Senegal captured a silver medal.

The seven-foot center was a tower of power for the Senegalese, who eventually finished second best to Angola. Another Senegalese big man who could end up travelling to Japan is the Dallas Mavericks' seven-footer, DeSagana Diop. N'Diaye, who plays for French Pro B side Levallois, admits Senegal know they won't have the best of chances against the Americans. But the game, and the tournament as a whole, is going to be a huge boost for Senegal's basketball development. "Everybody wants to play against the US so it will be a great experience, especially for our young players," N'Diaye said. "It will be good for Senegal basketball. The game will be shown all over the rest of the world. And they will have players out there proving the USA is the best. But we have nothing to lose." N'Diaye played college basketball in America, first for the Michigan Wolverines and then, after transferring, at North Carolina. He has been a journeyman pro Europe and has turned out for his country on numerous occasions. N'Diaye was in the team that finished runner-up to Angola. N'Diaye, who lives in North Carolina in the close-season, had wanted to be drawn against France in Group D instead of the US. "I would have preferred France to the US," N'Diaye said. "I was really looking forward to seeing them in the group." N'Diaye may want to be careful what he wishes for. It could be a blessing that France are not in Group D because with Tony Parker, Boris Diaw and the Pietrus brothers - Florent and Mickael - in the French side, Les Bleus have one of the most exciting teams in international basketball. Instead, Senegal have, in addition to the United States, Italy, Slovenia, Puerto Rico and China. "We could maybe sneak in a win against Italy or Slovenia," N'Diaye said. "We have a better chance in those games than against the United States. China will be strong with Yao Ming and company. And we all know Puerto Rico." Simply getting out of the first round will be a big accomplishment. "That's a wishful goal," N'Diaye said. "But if we can dream, let's dream about getting out of the first round."

## Awojobi confident of progression

Nigeria forward Tunji Awojobi is confident his team will make it through to the next stage of the 2006 FIBA World Championship - even if it's by the skin of their teeth. The D'Tigers were drawn alongside Argentina, France, Venezuela, Serbia & Montenegro and Lebanon in Group A during Sunday's draw in Japan. Serbia & Montenegro - or Yugoslavia as they were then known - and Argentina were first and second in the last World Championship in Indianapolis and are likely to be favourites to claim the top two spots in the group. However, the remaining two qualifying spots are up for grabs with France and Venezuela both having realistic hopes of making it beyond the first hurdle. Awojobi also believes the D'Tigers are in the mix, although he admits it is likely to be as the last-placed qualifier in the group. "If the fourth team goes through, I think we'll be fourth," he told PA Sport. "We will go through, but it will be tough. We have the athletes and the team work. I think we're going to surprise the world. They're not going to be counting on us." Awojobi, who plays for Israeli club Maccabi Ironi Ramat Gan, insists he is not daunted about facing any of the other

By Ismaila Umaru Lere, Assistant Editor, with Agency Reports

teams in their group but singled out two-time defending champi-

ons Serbia & Montenegro for special praise. "When you play teams like Argentina or Serbia & Montenegro or France, you're playing against NBA teams. All

those teams have four or five NBA players at least. We have to be ready for them," he said. "Serbia & Montenegro are a pillar of basketball. They play great basic basketball and team

ball. And they have some of the best players in the world. To compete against them you have to practice and play without mistakes. They feed off your mistakes."

## Serena survives after Venus tumbles

Venus Williams was knocked out of the Australian Open on Monday and her sister Serena was lucky not to suffer the same fate on a dramatic start to the first grand slam of the year. Tenth seed Venus made her earliest grand slam exit in five years when she fell to little-known Bulgarian teenager Tszvetana Pironkova 2-6 6-0 9-7 in the first round while Serena struggled to keep her title defence alive with a battling 6-3 6-7 6-2 win over unseeded Chinese player Li Na. "I just couldn't pull my game together. I don't know what happened," a dejected Venus said at a news conference. "I was in good form but I just somehow fell off." The American sisters both came into the tournament with question marks about their fitness but Serena said her biggest problem against Li was mental. "Everyone chokes, I choked today," she said. "I just lost it basically, I didn't do what I needed to do." Venus was the biggest casu-

alty on an action-packed opening day at Melbourne Park that saw eight seeded players eliminated. The men's draw lost two seeds. Former Australian Open finalist Carlos Moya lost in five sets to Andrei Pavel and big-serving American Taylor Dent fell to Guillermo Garcia-Lopez. The women's draw lost ninth seed Elena Dementieva, who was beaten by Germany's Julia Schruoff, as well as Tatiana Golovin, Ai Sugiyama, Anabel Medina Garrigues and Klara Koukalova. Argentina's Masters Cup champion David Nalbandian, one of just four men to beat Roger Federer last year, survived a tough scrap with Thai qualifier Danai Udomchoke to win 6-2 6-2 1-6 6-7 6-1. His Davis Cup team mate, eighth seed Gaston Gaudio, had a much easier time against Razvan Sabau, strolling into the second round when the injured Romanian pulled out in the second set. "It's not the best way to start but it's good always to win,

the score doesn't matter," Nalbandian said. World number one Lindsay Davenport had a short first day, crushing Australian wildcard Casey Dellacqua 6-2 6-1 in less than an hour, while Maria Sharapova and Justine Henin-Hardenne also made light work of their opponents. "I feel like I'm ready for the challenges," said Davenport, Australian Open champion and runner-up to Serena Williams 12 months ago. Sharapova showed few signs of the shoulder injury that threatened to wreck her campaign as she breezed to a 6-2 6-1 first-round win over Sandra Kloesel while 2004 Australian Open champion Henin-Hardenne beat Marta Domachowska 6-2 6-1. "That's one of the first times I played a match without feeling anything," Sharapova said. "I don't expect it to be that like for the whole tournament so I'm very happy I got through that one without any pain." Pironkova, playing in her first grand slam match, showed no sign of nerves or being inti-

mated by the power of Venus, frustrating her opponent by tenaciously running down every shot she played. "I have know (about) Venus for a long time from the TV when I was a little kid," Pironkova said. "I always loved her game. "But when you go on court I am a professional player, so I should not think about (the fact) that she was kind of my idol before."



Serena Williams

# SPORTS

## Barca victory overshadowed by Eto's spitting shame

Barcelona opened up a seven-point gap at the top of the Spanish first division with a 2-1 win over relegation-threatened Athletic Bil-

bao. However, the game was overshadowed by the post-match comments of Athletic coach Javier Clemente who referred to

Samuel Eto'o as having, "descended from trees." Clemente was incensed that Eto'o, the Spanish first division's top scorer and the reigning Afri-

can Player of the Year, had spat at one of his players towards the end of the game, but his words were viewed as a racist slur. Goals from Ronaldinho and

Lionel Messi responded to the early shock of going behind after 16 minutes from a header by Athletic's Fernando Llorente and extended Barca's winning streak to

12 league games. The Catalan club's impressive lead over the rest of their rivals at the end of the first half of the Spanish season was helped by second-placed Osasuna losing 2-0 at Valencia on Saturday.

Athletic came out fighting at the Nou Camp and silenced the Barca faithful when Llorente was left unmarked to head home a Francisco Yeste cross from wide on the right flank.

A huge upset started to look on the cards with Barca looking second best for much of the first half until Ronaldinho levelled from the penalty spot seven minutes before the break.

The two-time World Player of the Year got his 12th goal of the season after Athletic defender Fernando Amorebieta was judged to have handled the ball.

Messi then hammered home the winner six minutes after half time from just inside the six yard box.

Nevertheless, it was an unimpressive performance from Barca, and the night ended on a negative note when Deco was sent off for pulling Carlos Gurpegui's hair after a clumsy challenge from the Athletic midfielder.

In the accompanying melee, Eto'o was seen to spit at Athletic defender Unai Exposito.

Real Madrid got their first league win at home since Juan Ramon Lopez Caro took over from the sacked Wanderley Luxemburgo with a 4-2 victory over Sevilla, helped by a Zinedine Zidane second-half hat-trick.

Jose Maria Gutierrez opened the scoring after just seven minutes but Sevilla got back into the game when Luis Fabiano equalised five minutes after the break.

The Brazilian picked up the ball on the edge of the area after Real goalkeeper Iker Casillas could only parry away the ball from an initial shot by Daniel Alves.

Zidane then quickly put Real back in the driving seat with two goals in three minutes, the first a penalty after Aitor Ocio had brought down Julio Baptista.

Ocio got one back for the visitors seven minutes from time but Zidane, having his best game of the season, completed his his scoring spree three minutes into injury time.

Bottom club Alaves pulled off a shock 2-0 away victory at high-flying Deportivo La Coruna.

Australian international John Aloisi headed Alaves in front after 21 minutes, connecting with a long pass out of the midfield by Jandro Castro.

Equatorial Guinea international Rodolfo Bodipo then added Alaves' second shortly after the break, blasting home an Aloisi cross from just inside the area.

Alaves' hero though, was their Argentine goalkeeper Constanzo, who pulled off a series of first-rate saves to give Carlos Oliva a winning start to his career as coach.

Oliva was the assistant of the previous coach Chuck Connors but took over at the helm on Monday when the club sacked his predecessor.

"At this moment, I'm in heaven," said Oliva, who admitted he could not have imagined his career as a first division coach would start in such a fashion.

"There has been many times when I've thought about what we should do and how to execute such a plan, and today was the day," added Oliva, whose team travel to Barcelona next Sunday.

Another surprise came when Racing Santander beat Villarreal 1-0 despite having to play most of the second half with only nine men.

Racing's Sergio Matabuena headed home a Raul Martin cross midway through the first half for the only goal of the game, before Pablo Alfaro and Pablo Pinillos got their marching orders.



Inter Milan's Nigerian striker Obafemi Martins, left, celebrates with teammate Adriano of Brazil after scoring against Cagliari at the San Siro stadium, Milan on Sunday

## Del Piero inspires Juventus again, AC Milan lose

Alessandro Del Piero maintained his record-breaking form when he struck the winner in Juventus's laboured 1-0 win over Reggina in Serie A on Sunday.

The striker, who hit a hat-trick in midweek against Italian Cup rivals Fiorentina to surpass Giampiero Boniperti as the club's all-time top scorer, netted just before halftime to maintain Juve's 100 percent record at home.

The result gave leaders Juventus 52 points from 19 matches, 10 points ahead of second-placed Inter Milan, who edged out Cagliari 3-2.

AC Milan slipped back one place to third on 40 points after losing 1-0 to AS Roma in the Italian capital.

Fiorentina remained fourth, also on 40 points, after the division's leading scorer Luca Toni broke his recent goal drought to hit the target twice, including a stoppage-time winner, in a 2-1 victory over Chievo Verona.

Reggina had taken just three points in their previous eight away games and were expected to offer little resistance to the Italian champions.

Juve started brightly with David Trezeguet volleying against the post, but Reggina's confidence grew as Carlos Paredes and Giacomo Tedesco flashed shots narrowly wide of Gianluigi Buffon's goal.

In the end it was 31-year-old Del Piero who came to Juve's rescue.

The Italy international ran on to Trezeguet's chip and lashed the ball past keeper Nicola Pavarini to take his tally for the club to 186.

In the second half, Zlatan Ibrahimovic missed a great chance to extend Juve's lead when he scuffed the ball wide

from close range.

Inter Milan endured a similarly nervy afternoon at the San Siro stadium.

Roberto Mancini's team failed to score in either of their matches this year against Siena and Parma but seemed well in control as they went 2-0 up in the opening 15 minutes against Cagliari.

Brazilian striker Adriano was involved in both goals, first pumping forward a long ball for Obafemi Martins to score on the break before tak-

ing advantage of a great run and cross by Javier Zanetti to tap in at the far post.

Cagliari pulled one back through Mauro Esposito in the 20th minute but Andrea Capone's foul on Adriano early in the second half allowed the Brazilian to restore Inter's two-goal cushion from the penalty spot.

Inter's hopes of a trouble-free finale were dashed in the 81st minute when David Suazo's free kick deflected off Walter Samuel to beat keeper

Julio Cesar.

The win moved Inter above city rivals Milan, who suffered their fifth away defeat of the season in Rome.

Milan's strike partnership of Andriy Shevchenko and Alberto Gilardino had notched up eight goals between them in their previous three Serie A matches, but struggled to wriggle through Roma's defence.

Clarence Seedorf almost put Milan ahead with a long-range effort that flew just wide

early in the second half.

At the other end defender Cristian Chivu wasted a good chance to give the home side the lead when he opted to pass instead of taking a shot from close range.

Roma grabbed the winner in the 81st minute. Midfielder Mancini — playing his first Serie A game after a two-month injury layoff — picked up Francesco Totti's pass on the edge of the area and fired in a shot that deflected off Jaap Stam to beat Dida at his near post.

## Election to FIFA c'ttee to dominate CAF congress

A battle for influential places on FIFA's all-powerful executive committee is expected to dominate proceedings at the Confederation of African Football Congress, which opens in Cairo on Tuesday.

Two of Africa's four seats on the FIFA executive will be decided upon by the 52-nation CAF, who will see their

ranks increased by one when the Comoros Islands are formally inducted as members.

Five candidates are standing for the two seats with the top two in the poll joining the FIFA committee in 2007.

Outgoing committee member Ismail Bhamjee of Botswana is standing again but under much pressure to retain his seat, having lost a

bitter battle for the CAF presidency to Issa Hayatou two years ago.

Mali's Amadou Diakite is not standing again after not being nominated by his country's football authorities.

Instead the new president of the Mali Football Federation, former African Footballer of the Year Salif Keita, is up for election.

The two favourites are Nigerian Amos Adamu, a veteran sports administrator, and Ivory Coast's Jacques Anouma, whose energetic leadership of his country's football federation has been part of the success of the Ivorian team's qualification for a first World Cup finals appearance later this year.

The other candidate is South African Football Association president Molefi Oliphant, who also has a chance if the congress is persuaded to choose members from different geographical regions of Africa.

Africa has two other members on the FIFA executive. Hayatou, from Cameroon, is automatically a FIFA vice-president by virtue of being leader of African football and Tunisia's Slim Chiboub won election two years ago.

The congress will also hold elections for three posts on the 12-member CAF executive committee.

The congress is traditionally held before the start of the African Nations Cup tournament which get underway in Cairo on Friday.

## Mido predicts Egypt-Cote d'Ivoire African final

Tottenham striker Mido predicted he and his Egyptian teammates would face off against Cote d'Ivoire in the African Nations Cup final next month in Cairo.

"I think Egypt will play Cote d'Ivoire in the final," Ahmed 'Mido' Hossam told the Egyptian weekly Al-Fajr published Monday.

Spurs' inspirational 22-year-old voiced his optimism that Egypt had the skill and the determination to make up for failing to reach the World Cup finals in Germany later this year.

"We have to dream and be

optimistic, there's no point in crying over spilled milk," said Mido, adding he was confident that the Pharaohs could lift a fifth African trophy on February 10.

He nevertheless described the Ivorian squad — spearheaded by Chelsea striker Didier Drogba — as "the best prepared team on the continent".

Commentators in Egypt have been criticising the Egyptian line-up and predicting it would struggle to go beyond the group stages

while many have put their money on Cote d'Ivoire to lift a second continental trophy.

But Mido banked on the home advantage to defeat Egypt's rivals.

"Playing the cup at home in front of our fans will make a tremendous difference. In addition, we have a very strong team that can win any competition," he said.

Seeded Egypt will first confront Cote d'Ivoire on January 28 in a very competitive group A, which also includes Morocco and Libya.

The other seeded nations are Cameroon, holders Tunisia and Nigeria.



# MEDIA TRUST LTD.

**Presents**

## 3RD TRUST ANNUAL DIALOGUE

- Topic:** → CORRUPTION: The Trouble With Nigeria  
**Speakers:** → Malam Nuhu Ribadu, Gen. Ishola Williams (rtd) and Professor Attahiru Jega  
**Date:** → Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2006  
**Venue:** → Ladi Kwali Conference Centre, Abuja Sheraton Hotel & Towers, Abuja  
**Time:** → 10:00 a.m. Prompt

### PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

- |     |                |   |  |
|-----|----------------|---|--|
| 1.  | 9.00-9.15 am   | - | Participants and invited guests arrive   |
| 2.  | 9.15-9.25 am   | - | Arrival of speakers, discussants, chairman of the occasion (Major Gen. Garba Ali Mohammed (Rtd) and chief launcher (Alhaji (Dr.) Aliko Dangote con.) |
| 3.  | 9.30 am        | - | Arrival of Royal father of the day (HRH Alhaji Sulu Gambari, <i>Emir of Ilorin</i> )   |
| 4.  | 9.40 am        | - | Arrival of chief host, Chairman, Abuja Municipal Area Council (Hon. (Dr.) Zaphaniah B. Jisalo)   |
| 5.  | 9.50 am        | - | Arrival of Special Guest of Honour, Chief Ken Nnamani, Senate President, Federal Republic of Nigeria   |
| 6.  | 9.55 am        | - | Arrival of Speaker, Fed. House of Reps (Alh. Aminu Bello Masari) and All State Governors National Anthem   |
| 7.  | 10.00 am       | - | Opening prayers  |
| 8.  | 10.10-10.20 am | - | Introduction of guests by MC   |
| 9.  | 10.20-10.30 am | - | Welcome address by the Chairman Board of Directors of Media Trust Limited  |
| 10. | 10.30-10.40 am | - | Opening remarks by the chairman of the occasion  |
| 11. | 10.40-10.50 am | - | Remarks by the Chief Host, Hon. (Dr.) Zaphaniah B. Jisalo  |
| 12. | 10.50-11.00 am | - | Remarks by the Special Guest of Honour, Chief Ken Nnamani  |
| 13. | 11.00-11.10 am | - | Book review by Abubakar Sanusi   |
| 14. | 11.10-11.30 am | - | MC announces launching of book by the Chief Launcher, Alhaji Aliko Dangote & Co-launchers  |
| 15. | 11.30-11.50 pm | - | MC announces book sale to audience   |
| 16. | 11.50-12.10 pm | - | Presentation of first paper  |
| 17. | 12.10-12.30 pm | - | Presentation of second paper   |
| 18. | 12.30-12.50 pm | - | Presentation of third paper  |
| 19. | 12.50-1.20 pm  | - | Comments and Questions on the papers presented   |
| 20. | 1.20-1.30 pm   | - | Vote of thanks by Alhaji Isiaq A. Ajibola, Executive Director, Media Trust Limited   |
| 21. | 1.30 pm        | - | Closing prayers  |

**THIS SERVES AS INVITATION TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC.**

Signed:  
 Management  
 09-5235787, 5236054,  
 08033202211, 08033202210

# SPORTS

## Gov reopens NFA Secretariat

The NFA Secretariat which has been under locks and key since December 29 following the elections into the new NFA Executive Committee was reopened even as a new Electoral Committee was inaugurated at the board of the Secretariat yesterday.

Acting NFA scribe, Fanny Amun, announced yesterday that the government has conceded to the request for the

By Patrick Andrew,  
Asst. Head Sports Desk

reopening of the secretariat to allow for skeletal services until situation returns to normal.

Amun, however, said only 22 staff are to form part of the team that would perform the skeletal services, noting that entry and exit into the secretariat will henceforth be after due screening by the security personnel.

The secretary, who listed the 22 staff that will work for the mean time in the Glass House, said the government had to sealed off the office to guarantee the safety of lives and property, adding there was increasing public dissent against the leadership of Nigeria football following certain development within the period.

According to him, the acting heads of department of

finance and administration, marketing, international, Osawure Oyemwense, Lawrence Katke and Alizo Chuks are to resume for work. Others are Barnabas Zoro, who will take charge of the Public Relations and Press, Emmanuel Anyanbumi is to oversee the female department, Okey Obi, the legal unit; while Eno Akpan, Celestine Aneemeje, John Adelowo, Enebi Achur and others complete the list.

Following the re-opening of the NFA Secretariat, the first function performed was the inauguration of the new Electoral Committee set up at the instance of the NFA Extraordinary General Assembly held in Abuja on January 6.

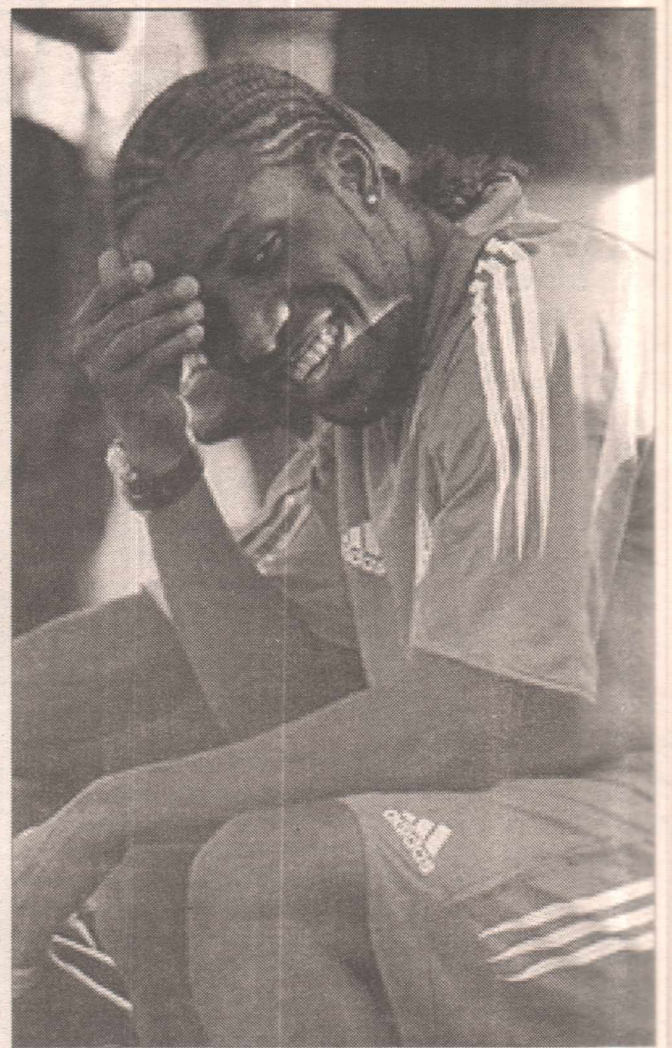
The inauguration was conducted by the Chairman of the stakeholders meeting that called the congress on January 6, Barrister Amanze Uchegbunam in company of

seven others representing the six geopolitical zones and the club owners.

While inaugurating the seven-member committee, the congress charged the members to come out with guidelines that would not disenfranchise aspirants, adding that the problems which led to the new arrangement was a family one that must not be stretched to a ridiculous level to the detriment of football.

In the acceptance speech, the Chairman of the committee and former NFA Secretary - General, Mustapha Kadiri, assured of judicious execution of the assignment for the good of Nigeria football. "We won't let you down".

Charles Ojugbana is the secretary of the committee that has Danladi Bako, Ganuiju Majekundumi, Teddy Isiadinoso, Alhaji Babayo Shehu and Prof. Onje Gye-Wado, who were absent as members.



Okocha looking optimistic ahead of the Nations Cup

## Obafemi's goal delights Eguavoen

Super Eagles boss, Augustine Eguavoen, has said that he is delighted at the current form of Inter Milan of Italy whiz kid Obafemi Martins.

Martins hit the back of the net in his club's Serie A match Sunday to send a visibly delighted Eguavoen drooling here in Faro: "First of all, I want to say a big congrats to the boy over his goal," Eguavoen told Nigeriansportsonline.com in a chat Sunday night.

"Martins ability in front of goal is never in doubt. We all know this guy will bury any chance giving to him in the right place.

"Of course, I'm delighted for him and now he has to return to camp and concentrate on Egypt where I pray like everybody that he is injury free and has a nice tournament.

"I have no doubt in my mind that our boys are all in good form and I'm convinced we'll do the nation proud in Egypt."

Martins, Nwankwo Kanu and Joseph Yobo are all scheduled to hit Eagles Faro camp on Monday.

## Eagles to play FC Cologne

Coaches of the Super Eagles are set to have their wish for the team to play a friendly match before they depart from their training camp in Faro, Portugal, fulfilled with German side, FC Cologne, in line to play them on Wednesday.

The Augustine Eguavoen led coaching

crew have been frantically seeking for a test game for the Eagles after the final 23-man squad for the Africa Nations Cup was named on Tuesday, January 10.

A proposed friendly against the Egyptian national team was canceled because the Eagles were not ready.

Now, after it looked like no team could be got to play the Eagles in Faro, a game against German side, FC Cologne, who are in Portugal on a mid-season training camp, was all but concluded.

A top official of the Eagles told Nigeriansportsonline.com on Sunday:

"The problem with having the game with Cologne had been a convenient date for both teams.

"They wanted the match on Wednesday. Since we would be leaving for Egypt on Thursday, the coaches felt that the players wouldn't have enough rest before flying.

"We proposed Tues-

day, but then the Cologne people said that they already were going to have a game tomorrow, Monday, and so can not take another match the very next day.

"The way it is we are going to shift ground and play on Wednesday, but then make it quite early, so that the players would have enough rest before we fly out on Thursday."

The Eagles flight out of Faro is at 9am on Thursday, January 19.

Late Sunday afternoon, Eagles coordinator, Summonu Bello Osagie, was away to where Cologne were camped, about 30 kilometres from the Eagles Ria Park Hotel, to put finishing touches to arrangements regarding the friendly match.

## NFL hold elections Jan 28

Elections into a new board of the Nigeria Football League (NFL) will hold in Abuja 28 January, with a former Secretary-General of the Nigeria Football Association (NFA), Alhaji Sani Toro to head the Electoral Committee.

According to the programme for the polls disclosed to Kick Off in Abuja at the end of the NFL board meeting late Friday night, board chairman Oyuiki

Jackson Obaseki said after studying the statutes and realizing that the powers to organize the polls lie with it, the board decided to go on to release a

programme of events that will lead to the emergence of a new board.

"The sole responsibility of organizing the elections lies with the board and not the club owners as previously believed erroneously. Moreover, the new league season

will start soon and we get this out of the way now", he explained.

Obaseki further disclosed that the polls will have a nine-man committee to be headed by Ahmed Sani Toro a former secretary-general of the NFA and currently a member of the House of Representatives.

The committee is to have a member each from each of the country's six geo-political zones; while the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and the State Security Service (SSS) will produce one member each. Emmanuel Adesanya, Acting Head of the Technical Department of the Nigeria Football Association (NFA) will serve as their Secretary.

"We have done it this way because we want the elections to have credibility. In addition, the NFA secretariat will oversee the elections", stated Obaseki adding that the elections are going

Naira.

According to the programme of events, all of which will take place in Abuja, the Electoral Committee will be inaugurated on Monday 16 January, while Guidelines for the elections will be released by the Electoral Committee 18 January.

Collection and Return of Nomination Forms will take place between 18 January and 22 January, while the clearance of candidates will hold by the Committee will hold on 26 January.

The NFL Congress is slated for 27 January at Ibro Hotels, venue of the elections also, with the Congress slated to receive the final report of the outgoing board and then dissolve it same day. The elections and inauguration of the new board follow at the same venue the following day.

The NFL Chairman then went on to indicate his intention to return to the board

## Galadima awaits CAF invitation

Chairman of the Nigeria Football Association, Ibrahim Galadima has said that he is waiting for the Confederation of Africa Football (CAF) to officially invite him as Nigeria's representative at the 25th edition of the Cup of Nations taking place in Egypt.

Galadima whose re-election as the NFA Chairman was purportedly voided by the

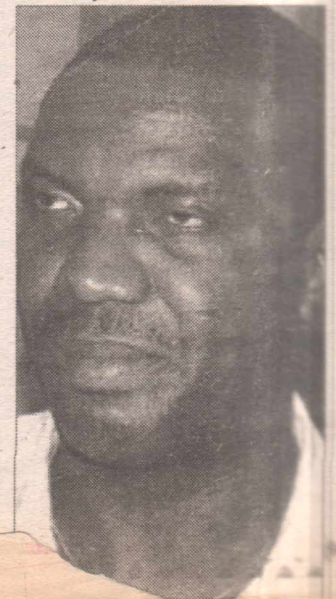
Football Stakeholders in their meeting in Abuja on January 6 maintained to Kick Off that he remains the chairman of the country's FA.

According to him, "CAF as a responsible body will do a responsible thing to invite me for the Cup of Nations in Egypt as it is the tradition. They know I am still the chairman of the FA here."

Galadima further told said

that he has been in touch with the players and officials of the team in their camp at Faro Portugal despite the crisis facing the FA.

"I have been in contact with the players and officials, and I have always told them to do their best for their fatherland despite the problems we have presently. Their response has been encouraging," he to.



## Daily Trust Hotlines

- \* Are you a victim of armed robbery attack?
- \* Have you been involved in an accident or been a witness to it happening to others?
- \* Do you have a touching personal experience you want to share?
- \* Call us on these numbers let the world read your story.

News Room

08039686854 and 08056418945

Advert

08033202211 and 08033209894

# DAILY TRUST

## TUESDAY COLUMN

Tuesday, January 17, 2006

## EDITORIAL

### Another 2-billion-dollar loan?

When the news first broke that the federal government was seriously looking for someone to lend it two billion US dollars to enable the Obasanjo Administration embark on "a comprehensive development of Nigeria's railway system", we could hardly believe it. If any other government, under any other leadership except that of Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, had even joked with the idea that Nigeria should embark on another foreign borrowing spree right now, there would have been no cause for alarm, because we would have safely assumed that it was just flying a ridiculous kite or something. But for an administration led by this same president to be seriously contemplating taking another foreign debt at this particular time is indefensible.

During his first coming as military dictator between 1976 and 1979, it was this same Obasanjo who took a loan of the same magnitude [2 billion dollars] before he quit power and left Nigeria to bear the burden of the debt albatross around its neck up till today. The more we tried to pay off that debt of thirty years ago, the more we sank into the deadly quicksand of debt servicing and amortisation of the principal, which kept on ballooning until it became a crushing load of more than 30 billion US dollars. It took the return to power of Chief Obasanjo and his unmatched skill in diplomacy and high-wire begging to get our foreign creditors to forgive us 18 billion dollars of the accumulated debt, in exchange for our immediate payment of 12 billion dollars to regain our national freedom from the Paris Club alone.

The most painful thing about that debt which we entered into three decades ago is that nobody, not even succeeding national administrations after the Obasanjo military regime, seems to know how the debt mushroomed over the years, in spite of all the annual payments in interest and principal repayment which we kept on making to our creditors. And nobody has been able to satisfactorily point to what we did with the loans which we are now paying back through our noses, and some of which has now turned our nation into a notorious beggar country, complete with a huge national begging bowl. But our successive governments assured us that we do indeed owe the money and this Obasanjo administration tells us that we would deserve to be hanged and quartered if we refuse to seize this glorious partial debt forgiveness opportunity to buy ourselves out of bondage, and we are just now facing the bitter realisation that we must pay for what we did not eat.

For this same leader to be now contemplating going to borrow another two billion dollars, ostensibly to use in developing our railway system (whatever that means), is therefore like waving a red flag in front of a pain-maddened bull. We have not yet even finished paying the 12 billion dollars which they say that we owe the Paris Club, yet this same Obasanjo who obviously does not fear putting Nigeria into debt [even though we hear that he hates being indebted himself, as an individual] is already warming up to lead us into becoming collective debtors again!

When *Daily Trust* sought clarification from the Federal Ministry of Finance as to why Nigeria, with 27 billion US dollars in foreign reserves and a past experience with foreign debts such as we have had, should be going around looking for someone else to enslave itself financially to, what we got in response from Mr. Paul Nwabuike, the minister's special assistant for information, was a lot of mumbo-jumbo to the effect that owing is quite often a virtue, even if you have your own money to buy something with. His argument was too esoteric and too full of juju economic theories for us to grasp.

Well, not having been World Bank vice presidents like our finance minister nor military dictators like our incumbent president, we cannot authoritatively fault their expert opinion or advice. But since they will both soon go away and leave us with the frightening burden of paying back the debt (which would probably have grown a hundred-fold in another ten years), we humbly suggest that they do not once again tie us to a new set of foreign creditors before they depart. To paraphrase President Obasanjo himself, who can we expect to come and lead us out of the debt trap again in another twenty or so years, unless we have to bother him to come out of retirement yet one more time, to lead us out of the wilderness?

No, thank you most emphatically. After May 2007, we would rather not have Obasanjo as our leader ever again, no matter how adept at getting loans and then getting debt relief or forgiveness he may be. Another 2-billion-dollar loan? Perish the idea!!

## The shame of a nation (2)

By Ujudud Shariff  
ujushariff@yahoo.co

We stopped last week, at the point where we were advocating for the involvement of the military in Hajj operations especially in the areas of organizing and airlifting of the pilgrims to and from Saudi Arabia.

Given our historical experience, it is crystal clear that the ad hoc arrangements we have been operating can no longer work. The Air Force should be saddled with the responsibility of procurement of the airplanes as well as the transportation of the pilgrims. In fact, as the pilgrims have started



Late Sa'adatu Rimi

coming back home, the Air Force should be directed to coordinate their smooth return journeys. We should minimize the national humiliation by ensuring that our citizens are not abandoned at Jeddah Airport due to lack of adequate planes to bring them back or some poor logistics. The entire hajj operation should be treated as a national emergency and no one should sleep until the last pilgrim is safely brought back home.

In fact, the crisis of procuring planes for hajj operations has made us to think over the liquidation of the Nigeria Airways as well as the formation of Virgin Nigeria. It is indeed a big shame that Nigeria does not have a national carrier that it could actually call its own. Thus, considering the whole crises afflicting the Nigerian aviation sector, it is time to now reconsider this embarrassing situation of lack of adequate good planes in the country. Because of its high cost, our private sector cannot afford to purchase new planes but go for only old ones. In this regard, it is our conviction that government should be buying the planes and leasing them to the private operators if we cannot establish a national carrier like most nations of the world. This is our only guarantee of having good and adequate planes to take care of our needs. As it is only the federal government that has the resources to purchase big and new planes to take care of both our domestic and international obligations. It really makes one hide his face in shame that every year, we roam the world over seeking for planes to convey our pilgrims usually at the eleventh hour.

Also in organizing the annual pilgrimage, the federal government as we said earlier should gradually divorce itself from direct involvement in hajj affairs. The matter should be left with the states to supervise the collection of the fares and selection of the airlines as well as securing accommodation in Saudi Arabia and other welfare service. We believe the private sector should gradually take over the operations as already some organizations have started. As with the lesser Hajj where airlines travel agents have

began providing tour packages to convey the pilgrims and where the involvement of government is minimal, they should be encouraged to improve their services. Government should only monitor the activities of the private operators to ensure that people are not duped. It is a big national disgrace to every year see the Mallam Aminu Kano International Airport turned into a refugee camp during the lesser hajj especially during the month of Ramadan as travel agents abandon their passengers. Government should be alive to its responsibilities by protecting its citizens from whatever abuse. With a little planning and effective supervision many of the lapses would be taken care of.

Meanwhile, government should set up a judicial commission of enquiry to investigate the failures of this year's hajj and those responsible. Whoever is responsible should be punished to serve as deterrence.

The Technical Committee on Hajj should be disbanded and the members dismissed "with ignominy and immediate effect".

This brings us to the need to organize a presidential retreat on Hajj for experts and stakeholders to critically examine all the issues and proffer solutions. I am not sure of the workability of a National Commission on Hajj which bill is before the National Assembly bearing in mind the endemic corruption that has eaten deep into our souls. Unless the functions of the proposed commission are fundamentally supervisory to ensure compliance of the airlines and other operators, the commission should not be involved in airlines selection as the present Technical Committee on Hajj or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. As we stated earlier, these and related functions of logistics should be vested on the Nigerian Air force. It is only the general overhaul of the hajj operations that would save our people the annual agony they pass through in their desire to perform their religious obligation. It is also the adoption of the recommended measures and their effective implementation that would save Nigeria from continuously being a laughing stock in the international community.

### WHO KILLED SA'ADATU RIMI?

The news of the brutal assassination of Hajiya Sa'adatu Rimi, the wife of former Kano State Governor, Alhaji Mohammed Abubakar Rimi hit us on Saturday morning while attending the 40th anniversary of the assassination of the former Premier of Northern Nigeria, Alhaji (Sir) Ahmadu Bello, the Sardauna of Sokoto. It was a great shock to say the least as I saw her only a few days ago. The shock was not so much of her death but in the sadistic manner in which she was murdered: slaughter!

Our greatest concern is whether she was the actual target or her husband who traveled to Kaduna the previous day for the Sardauna anniversary. If Alhaji Rimi was the actual target, the next question is WHY?

Was the murder politically motivated? If it were, the police should be advised to start looking at the PDP especially the Third Term prophets bearing in mind the interview he granted the *NEWSWATCH* magazine last week and his position as one of the opposition leaders that left the PDP and formed the Movement of the Restoration and Defense of Democracy (MRDD). At the same time, they should not overlook the wrangling within the Kano Chapter of the PDP. The fundamental issue is to determine the motive and those likely to benefit from the death of Rimi. So if we take the murder as politically inspired, we will then assume that the assassins having missed their target, they butchered the poor woman in order to send a message to her husband to probably get him to shut up. If this were so, they are greatly mistaken. At 65, Rimi is a fulfilled man as God has given him almost everything a man could ask for: a good wife, children, grand children, good name and reputation, education, millions of admirers and supporters, relative comfort and you name it. Thus, no matter how, Rimi cannot be gagged or made to capitulate before anybody.

But even if the murder were not politically related, the police should have no problem identifying the murderers. But unfortunately, this is a nation where similar high profile murders were hardly solved. We are still waiting for the murderers of the late Attorney General and Minister of Justice, Chief Bola Ige as well as those of Harry Marshall and Chief A. Dikibo and many others. It would appear that the murder of Mrs. Rimi is one murder too many and the Nigerian Police must find her killers as the consequences for not doing that are better imagined.