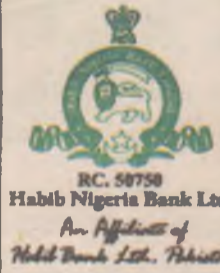


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STAR FEATURE

Wind of
change in the
prisons service

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DEATH OF BOLA IGE

His last moments

Facts began to emerge yesterday on how the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of the Federation, Chief Bola Ige, was murdered inside his residence at the Bodija Estate in Ibadan, the Oyo State capital, on Sunday night.

Some residents of Akinlabi Sanda Close, the street on which the late minister's house was

Omisoré shuns presidential summon

Osun State Deputy Governor, Chief Iyiola Omisoré, yesterday, failed to turn up for the emergency meeting summoned by President Olusegun Obasanjo over the crisis in the state and the assassination of Minister of Justice, Chief Bola Ige.

Although Governor Bisi Akande attended the meeting with a Federal Government delegation which comprised President Obasanjo, Information Minister, Professor Jerry Gana; Internal Affairs Minister, Chief Sunday Afolabi; Presidential Chief of Staff, General Abdullahi Mohammed; the deputy governor was conspicuously absent and no reason was given for his action.

Confirming the deputy governor's absence, Professor Jerry Gana revealed that "for obvious reasons," two separate presidential jets were sent to Ibadan to bring the governor and his deputy for the high level security meeting with the president.

Asked what the government would do if the deputy governor failed to turn up for the meeting, Gana said, "he will definitely come."

Following is the dialogue that ensued between Profes-

Contd. on Pg 2

By Mustapha Isah Kwaru, in Abuja, Olumide Bajulaiye, in Abeokuta and Abdul Laro, in Ilorin

situated at No. 8 gave sketchy details of his last moments.

According to them, the minister was in his happy mood earlier in the afternoon on the fateful Sunday as he was sighted playing with one of his grand daughters and that one of his children, Dupe, was also seen in the house.

They added that the assassins might have trailed the minister from outside as he was seen driving to his residence at about 9 p.m. and that his car was followed by

Contd. on Pg 2



Late Chief Bola Ige

Emotions, grief envelope Ibadan

Emotions and grief enveloped Ibadan, the Oyo State capital, as news of the assassination of the Minister of Justice and Attorney-General of the Federation, Chief Bola Ige, spread through the ancient city yesterday.

The No. 8, Akinlabi Sanda Close, Bodija, residence of the late minister was jampacked with sympathisers, political associates and top government officials from Oyo, Osun, Ekiti, and



Gov Lam Adesina of Oyo State

From Yinka Oladoyinbo, in Ibadan, with Agency Reports

Ogun when *Daily Trust* called at the place by 10 a.m.

Governors Lamidi Adesina of Oyo State; Olusegun Osoba, Ogun; Adebisi Akande, Osun; and Niyi Adebayo, Ekiti, were the early callers at the late Bola Ige's residence. The leader of the *Afenifere*, Chief Abraham Adesanya, had also called at the place.

They expressed shock, grief and disbelief at the news of the death.

The governors and the *Afenifere* leader went into a closed-door meeting and people were barred from entering the left wing of the twin-duplex of the late minister's house where the meeting was held.

At the Oyo State Secretariat, Agodi, Ibadan, civil servants expressed shock and disbelief at the minister's death while the death was being discussed with disbelief.

Contd. on Pg 2

Obasanjo puts off visit to Zimbabwe

President Olusegun Obasanjo, yesterday, cancelled his one-day official visit to Zimbabwe, following Sunday's assassination of the Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Chief Bola Ige, by unknown assailants.

The Nigeria High Commissioner to Zimbabwe, Ambassador Wilberforce Juta, told newsmen in Harare, yesterday, that President Obasanjo was "constrained" to suspend the visit given the stature and importance of the deceased, not only in the present administration but also in the international legal arena.

Amb. Juta reiterated Nigeria's commitment to the peaceful resolution of the Zimbabwean land issue and expressed the hope that the visit would be rescheduled to hold in a "not-too-distant date."

The Southern Africa correspondent of the News

FG deploys troops to Osun State

The Federal Government has ordered the deployment of troops to Osun State in the wake of Sunday night's assassination by gunmen of Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Chief Bola Ige (SAN).

A decision to this effect was taken at an emergency security meeting yesterday presided over by President Olusegun Obasanjo.

The troops' deployment, which will be done in close collaboration with the Osun State government is designed to return the volatile Osun State to normalcy as a result of the tension that has gripped the area following the minister's murder.

The meeting, which had in attendance Vice-President Atiku Abubakar, Deputy



President Obasanjo Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reported that hundreds of Zimbabweans comprising government officials, political and traditional leaders had already assembled at the Harare International airport to welcome President Obasanjo.

Obasanjo was scheduled to hold talks with Zimbabwean President, Robert Mugabe, on the implementation of the Abuja land agreement brokered by the Federal Government in September.

By Reuben Yunana

Senate President, Ibrahim Mantu; Minister of State (Justice) Musa Elayo, Inspector-General of Police, Musiliu Smith, also took other drastic measures aimed at restoring peace in the state.

For instance, Osun State

Contd. on Pg 2



Gov Bisi Akande of Osun State

NEWS

High Commission staff express shock over Ige's assassination

Staff at the Nigeria High Commission in London have expressed shock at the assassination of the Federal Attorney General and Justice Minister, Chief Bola Ige.

Some of the staff, who declined to be named, told NAN, yesterday, that they received the news with disbelief and shock.

Describing it as frightening, they expressed the fear that such acts were capable of igniting a series of sectarian violence that could threaten democracy in the country.

A senior staff of the commission, who also pleaded anonymity on grounds that the Federal Government was yet to issue

an official statement on the incident, said some people were behaving as if Nigeria was still under military rule.

"What is the difference between a civil democracy and a military regime if assassins can walk into people's residence and kill them?" he asked, adding: "if

a minister can be gunned down in his house, what is the fate of ordinary citizens?"

He expressed the hope that the Federal Government of Nigeria would take all the necessary measures to ensure that the culprits are brought to book.

In his reaction, the President of the Nigeria National Union (NNU) in the UK, Dr. Eyo Inameti, described the assassination as "appalling," adding that the incident called for a review of security measures by the government of Nigeria.

"The government must

pay attention to security situation and tackle wide ranging security issues in the country," he said.

He further said all institutions charged with the responsibility of maintaining law and security, including the police and the judiciary,

must be firm and steadfast in their duties.

He stated that the minister's murder was not only an attempt to intimidate people from holding or expressing their opinions, but also a threat to the nascent democracy in the country.

OPC poised to protect the Yorubas

Following the assassination of the Minister of Justice and Attorney-General of the Federation, Chief Bola Ige, on Sunday, founder of the ethnic militia group, Oodua Peoples Congress (OPC), Dr. Fredrick Fasheun, yesterday declared the readiness of his group to take over the security of lives

From Olumide Bajulaiye, in Abeokuta

and property of the Yorubas.

While reacting to the assassination of Chief Bola Ige on Sunday night in Ibadan, Dr. Fasheun said OPC was expected to call an emergency meeting yesterday "where some measures will be taken towards defending the Yoruba people."

His words: "We are not going to fold our arms and allow our prominent sons and daughters to just be slaughtered like that.

"When OPC meets, we shall discuss the *modus operandi* and strategy to provide security for our sons and daughters, whether the Federal Government likes it or not.

"Since the Federal Government is incapable of providing security to lives and property, we don't want to be celebrating the deaths of our illustrious sons. Enough is enough."

Describing the incident as sad, Fasheun lamented that a person of the calibre of Chief Bola Ige could be killed easily just like that,

"given his array of body guards, security aides around him. It is very sad."

Fasheun said that OPC had raised an alarm sometime ago that there was a hit list, "but people did not take us serious thinking that we were just crying wolf. But the most charismatic Yoruba politician has now been gunned down, so who is at fault?"

Speaking further, he said: "this government has been characterised by insecurity of lives and property. This was why OPC came offering a hand of assistance, but government rebuffed us. We know OPC would have provided security for its sons and daughters and those living within its areas of operation."

When asked if the death of Ige has any political undertone, the OPC boss said it might have to do with the crisis in Osun, adding that "it has the hand of Esau and the voice of Jacob.

"I had always believed that fifth columnists were operating among the Yoruba people and I am sure they are still operating."



Dr. Fredrick Fasheun

PDP postpones press conference

By Sani Babadoko

The World Press Conference, which was supposed to be addressed by the National Chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Chief Audu Ogbeh, yesterday was postponed due to "unforeseen circumstances."

The postponement of the press conference scheduled for 11 a.m. at the National Press Centre, Radio House, Abuja was announced in a PDP press release and observers believe it was not unconnected with the assassination on Sunday night of the Justice Minister and Attorney-General of the Federation, Chief Bola Ige, in Ibadan.

Political reporters who were at the venue to cover the event were given the terse press release signed by the Personal Assistant (Media) to the PDP Chairman, Mr. Sam Nwaobasi, which reads: "We regret to inform the press and the general public that the World press conference by the National Chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Chief Audu Ogbeh, December 24, 2001, at the National Press Centre, Radio House, Abuja by 11 a.m. has been postponed due to some unforeseen circumstances. A new date for the press conference will be announced later. We sincerely apologise for any inconvenience arising from this development."

Troops

Governor Bisi Akande and his deputy, Iyiola Omisore, were summoned for a crucial meeting in Abuja with President Obasanjo.

The president who was billed to travel to Zimbabwe for an official engagement had to cancel the trip when he learnt of Ige's death at 1 a.m. yesterday.

A statement from presidential spokesman, Tunji Oseni, said government was considering other far-reaching measures both at federal and state levels to

Ige's murder: AD calls for Gusau's resignation

The Alliance for Democracy (AD) yesterday in Abuja, called for the removal of the National Security Adviser, Aliyu Gusau, following the assassination of the Minister of Justice and Attorney-General of the Federation, Chief Bola Ige, in Ibadan on Sunday.

The Assistant National Secretary of the party, Malam Umar Farouk, told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) that "if the Attorney-General of the Federation is not safe, then the life of the president is equally not safe."

He added: "The death of Chief Ige is not just a loss to AD, but a great loss to the entire nation."

Farouk urged the Federal Government to urgently set up a commission of inquiry, in conjunction with the police and the State Security Service, to bring anyone linked to the murder of the former minister to book.

He advised party supporters and other citizens in the south-west to remain calm and avoid any emotional reaction to the incident.

The flag of the party was flown at half mast at the national headquarters as a mark of mourning when NAN visited there.

Three members of the National Assembly, Reps. Adamu Fanda, PDP-Kano; Deji Amusu, AD-Ogun and Ibrahim Zailani, the Chairman of the House of Representatives Committee on Justice, Human Rights and Legal Matters, condemned the murder of Ige and called on the security agencies to fish out the culprits.

Fanda, who described the murder as barbaric, heinous, unwarranted and inhuman, said it portends a severe threat to the country's young democracy.

Contd from Pg 1

reassure the people of Ekiti State through the lessening of tension.

"No effort will be spared to bring the situation in Osun State under control. Citizens of the state are advised to preserve the harmonious relationship that had existed between communities in the state," the statement said.

According to Oseni, government is determined to bring to an end the culture of violence in the country particularly in the South-West.

Omisore

for Gana and State House correspondents at the briefing.

Question: According to our information, the governor and his deputy were supposed to attend the meeting. Why did the deputy governor not turn up?

Answer: The deputy governor and the governor were supposed to have come together for the meeting but up till the time I am addressing you now, the deputy governor is yet to come although an aircraft has been sent. We are still expecting him. But what Mr. President wanted to see them about certainly could be delivered to them individually. So the president has already had a meeting with the governor and will have a similar meeting with also meet with the deputy governor when he arrives.

Question: The Federal Government has deployed troops to parts of Oyo and Osun States. What are the details of this exercise?

Answer: It's certainly not in order for me to give the kind of deployment situation of the armed forces and the

Contd from Pg 1

police in terms of the numbers involved and where they are located. But it's very important to confirm that directives have been given by Mr. President as Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces to the Chief of Defence Staff and Service Chiefs to ensure that we have adequate military presence in strategic locations to ensure adequate police presence and ensure people do not engage in reprisal killings.

Question: But what reasons were given for the deputy governor's absence?

Answer: You see, separate aircraft were sent to bring the governor and his deputy and given the situation on the ground I think that was wiser.

Question: What happens if he fails to turn up?

Answer: He will definitely come.

Professor Gana further said the Federal Government has directed the police to fish out those behind the cold blooded murder of Chief Bola Ige so that they can be brought to justice.

Last moments

another one in an interval of about five minutes.

"What we heard next were sounds of gunshots and that was all," one of the neighbours volunteered.

Other sources said that immediately the assassins gained entry into the expansive residence, they asked the members of his family who were present at the time, including his son, Muiyiwa, in one of the rooms before they proceeded into his bedroom and rained bullets on him.

Help did not come early until relatives including Funso, one of his daughters, who came for a visit raised alarm.

Daily Trust also gathered that the ongoing strike by the nurses at the University College Hospital (UCH),

Ibadan, did not help matters as the deceased had to be rushed to the Catholic Hospital, Oluyoro, where he gave up the ghost at about 9.15 p.m.

It was learnt that Chief Ige had earlier taken his elder brother, George, to the same hospital for treatment around 7 p.m. and on returning home, he was said to have given his consent to his security operatives to go for their dinner. The assassins struck shortly after.

Muiyiwa, who yesterday announced his father's death in his capacity as the eldest son, said the assailants were six in number and that they pumped bullets into the left side of the minister's chest.

The gunmen left the house without taking anything.

Emotions

pean tour and headed straight for the home of the slain minister in Ibadan.

In a statement he personally signed, he announced that a dusk to dawn curfew had been imposed in his state from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. until further notice.

Akande said, "I received with utter shock the news of the sudden death by assassination of Chief Bola Ige (SAN). I cannot find words to express how devastating this news must be to the people of Osun State in particular and the entire country at large.

"To this end, a dusk to dawn curfew is hereby imposed throughout Osun State.

"Movement of persons and vehicles is therefore, prohibited from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. until further notice," Akande added.

Governor Akande, who had been engaging in a running battle with his deputy, Otuba Iyiola Omisore further revealed that he had

spoken with President Olusegun Obasanjo, saying that the two had agreed that "this tragic event calls for calm and sober reflection."

In the same vein, Oyo State Governor, Alhaji Lam Adesina, while reacting to the gruesome murder of Chief Ige said "this is a disastrous political development, the full repercussions of which nobody can predict.

"However, one thing is certain for now. Those who murdered Uncle Bola did it with the intention of escalating the tension that already subsists in certain areas. They also did it with the intention of pulling back the political gains of the Yoruba race," Adesina added.

"I was there moments after he was shot and the bullets that pierced through his heart were meant to silence the truth but I assure my good people that the truth will not only be unfolded, it will also unfold another chapter of our eventual triumph," the grieved governor said.

NEWS



The Minister of Solid Minerals Development, Mr. Kanu Agabi (R) and the Minister of Science and Technology, Professor Turna Isoun (L) discussing before the Federal Executive Council meeting held at the State House Abuja . . . recently.
Pix: Kennedy Egbonodje.

Archbishop Jatau scores civilians low

The Catholic Archbishop of Kaduna Archdiocese, the Most Rev. Peter Jatau, has said that the new civilian government has failed to make a good impression on the country's national life in the sphere of corruption. Jatau, who stated this in his 2001 Christmas message in Kaduna yesterday, expressed regrets that things seemed even worse than ever before. "Many government officials in low and high places still wallow shamelessly and without restraint in corrupt practices. The high level of corruption among highly-placed Nigerians is accompanied by its twin sister, indiscipline," he said.

The archbishop stressed that for the country to make progress and move forward, the people must impose severe penalties on corrupt and undisciplined officials in low and high places.

Atiku in Adamawa for daughter's wedding

Vice-President Atiku Abubakar has arrived Yola, the Adamawa State capital, for his daughter's wedding scheduled to hold on Friday, December 28 at Lamido Adamawa's palace.

From Abdullahi Tasiu Abubakar, in Yola

The vice-president arrived Yola Airport on Monday evening, accompanied by top government functionaries and aides.

He was received by Governor Boni Haruna and other dignitaries in the state before proceeding to his hometown of Jada, a one-hour drive from the state capital, in preparation for the ceremony.

It is being organised as a society wedding to be graced by over 20 governors, ministers, foreign dignitaries and

top government officials. The programme of events, made available to *Daily Trust* in Yola, shows that the ceremony begins with "Mother's Night" at Yola Presidential Lodge and ends with "Luncheon Party" at International Conference Centre, Abuja, on Saturday, December 29, 2001.

This is the first time the vice-president is giving out his daughter, Halima (Dubu), to another man, Ibrahim Ahmed Yakubu, for marriage.

Friends and political associates of the vice-president are turning the wedding ceremony into a big event, with major roads in Yola being repaired and streets being decorated.

The mother of the bride, Amina Titi Atiku Abubakar, the bride's stepmothers, many relations and their friends are also in Yola for the ceremony, which some people predict may be turned into a political event.

Electoral Act: I am ready to fight Obasanjo -Na'Abba

The Speaker of the House of Representatives, Alhaji Ghali Umar Na'Abba, has declared that he is ready to battle President Olusegun Obasanjo for the controversial Electoral Act to be reviewed in accordance with the interests of Nigerians.

By Mustapha Isah Kwaru
lawmaking is to ensure that anything which is not in the interest of the country is repudiated.

The President has written to me on the Electoral Act and I distributed copies of his

letter to the various members who unanimously opposed it, I told the Senate President, Anyim Pius Anyim, that the Act would prevent the registration of new parties, therefore, the House of Representatives wouldn't agree with it. Instead of the Act to be re-

turned to me it was passed to the president without my knowledge."

He asserted that the House was making arrangements to repudiate the controversial aspects of the Electoral Act.

Alhaji Na'Abba who was speaking on a British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Hausa Service programme monitored in Abuja yesterday maintained that the Electoral Act would prevent the registration of new political parties, which is against the rights and interests of the people of the country, saying "I am not afraid to encounter any crisis with the president in my effort to protect the interests of people who voted for us and we must not do anything against their wish. That is our duty."

When asked to comment on why he didn't ensure that the Electoral Act was not passed into law, the speaker said: "I am not responsible for any law, rather the house is, and there are some criteria to be followed before making any law. My role in

Nigeria-born U.S. city mayor to be inaugurated Jan. 12

The inauguration of the Nigeria-born mayor of East Cleveland, USA, Mr. Emmanuel Onunwor, for a second term has been scheduled for January 12, 2002.

In a bitterly fought mayoral contest on November 6, Onunwor, 43, who hails from Rivers State, captured 70 per cent of the votes to defeat his opponent.

"Oh! God have mercy; it was a very filthy campaign. My opponents were just hitting me from all corners but we prevailed in high num-

bers", the mayor said in an interview with the North America Correspondent of the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) on Friday.

Onunwor was first elected mayor of East Cleveland, a city of 27,000 people in 1997. Then, the city suffered from high rates of crime and unemployment, rundown neighbourhoods and a drug problem. During his first four years in office, Onunwor was able to reduce crime by 25 per cent, introduce job training for the young and inspire enough confidence to attract 21 new businesses to the city.

"Within four years, we have repaired and paved 47 streets; unheard of," he said, adding that his administration also started new housing projects that would serve as catalyst for more new homes in the city.

While these achievements speak for his ability to win a landslide in the election, Onunwor, who is an associate minister of East Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Cleveland, attributed his electoral success to God.

"God has always led me and the work that I do, I do it to uplift his name," he explained. Asked what lessons Nigerian politicians, already angling for a second term in 2003, could learn from his experience, Onunwor said it was important for them to know that they have to work for the people.

"They must make sure they do the work that will benefit the masses and I hope the masses would also look

into that and stop voting people because they were given money.

"Vote people who are really doing something to try to turn life around," he advised. In his first term, Onunwor bonded with the people, going out on dangerous streets to speak with the youth and the drug vendors to know why they were engaged in such activities. From these interactions, he developed such programmes as job training and drug counselling and treatment, he said. The mayor noted that Nigerian politicians who have done well should be allowed time in the next election to bring some stability while those who had failed should be shown the way out. In his second term, the mayor plans to establish a business link between his city and Nigeria and also develop a municipal governance project through which people would be tutored on the running of government at local levels.

Road accident claims 10 lives

More than 10 people died on the spot along the Enugu-Umuahia expressway on Sunday, when a mini-bus rammed into a soft drinks distribution van, the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports.

An eyewitness told NAN that the accident occurred at

the Awgu junction in the Aninri Local Government Area of Enugu State, when the commuter bus conveying passengers from Enugu to Awgu hit the van, killing all its occupants.

According to the eyewitness, the distribution van was said to be crossing the junction without knowing that the

fully-loaded bus was speeding along the highway.

NAN learnt that when the accident occurred, some people at the scene set the van ablaze, while the driver took to his heels to avoid lynching.

When NAN visited the scene, the van was still in flames, while more than six corpses could be spotted.

Eleven shops razed in Funtua market fire

Eleven shops were at the weekend gutted by fire at Funtua market due to an electrical spark, eyewitnesses said.

The witnesses told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) that the fire, which started at about 7.40 p.m. inside a perfume and cosmetics shop, could not immediately be contained as firemen could not gain easy access to the area due to the overcrowded access routes.

Sambo I. Sambo, the District Head of Funtua, who visited the scene and commiserated with the victims, appealed to the state government to give the market a facelift. "We will try our best to ensure that this market is upgraded and provided with boreholes, taps and access roads to forestall future fire incidents", the district head said.

NEWS

Jigawa's Internet broadband takes off in March

In spite of intense criticism, the Jigawa government says its Internet broadband project is still on course as it has the potential to positively transform the state in all spheres of development.

The Secretary to the State Government (SSG), Alhaji Ibrahim Hassan, said at a forum in Dutse at the weekend that some of the project's network would become operational in nine weeks.

He said that critics of the project were ignorant of its potentials in changing the face of the state and the nation's socio-economic landscape. The SSG said the equipment required for the take-off of the project was received in Dutse in October through Aminu Kano International Airport.

The final design of the project had been completed, Hassan said, adding that other components needed to bring it on stream would

soon be brought in by the technical partners.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that work on the complex housing the facilities has remained abandoned with less than 40 per cent of it completed, while the Dutse



Governor Turaki of Jigawa State. independent tower supply scheme, expected to provide uninterrupted power to the project, is yet to take off. Hassan, however, said that a number of institutions

including the World Bank, Union Bank, Bank of the North, and governments of 18 northern states and Akwa Ibom have indicated interest in the project.

It is the fastest way of educating the society," he said, explaining that the net would reduce government spending tremendously and ease red-tapism.

The SSG said those all-educational institutions, hospitals, government officers and related offices in the state would be hooked to the network, hospitals

services and inter-government relations.

These are technological leaps that are so advanced. I don't expect the ordinary person to understand that it can do for him," he said.

Critics of the project have accused the state government of using it to siphon public funds and also argue that it has no meaning to the majority of the people, 90 per cent of whom are said to be illiterate with no access to basic amenities such as water and health care services.

Ghali Na'Abba trains 301 Kano indigenes

Three hundred and one (301) Kano State indigenes that have acquired various vocational trade skills sponsored by Alhaji Ghali Umar Na'Abba have been presented with certificates and gifts.

Making the presentation over the weekend at Tahir Guest Palace in Kano, the speaker of the House of

From Jamilah Nuhu Musa, in Kano

Representatives said that the gesture was part of his contributions to the dividends of democracy.

He solicited the co-operation of the people towards advancement of democracy, which he described as leadership with true representation of the populace.

Alhaji Ghali Umar Na'Abba enjoined other well-meaning individuals in the society to initiate programmes for the betterment of the society.

Also speaking during the occasion the majority leader of Borno State House of Representatives, Alhaji Mohammed Wakil, commended Ghali Umar Na'Abba's foresight in this regard.

Alhaji Mohammed



Speaker Ghali Umar Na'Abba observed that the speaker enjoys respect and love in his home state and attributed this to his good leadership qualities.

In his own address the director of Sani Abacha Youth Centre where the participants were trained, Alhaji Abubakar Isa, said they that had undertaken various training, including knitting carpentry, computer operation, weaving, motor-mechanic amongst others.

Youths on rampage over ritual killings

An angry mob in Hadejia went on rampage over the weekend, setting a police station ablaze and the house of a district head, protesting high rate of ritual killings in the area.



Musiliu Smith, Police IG

The youths who had been grumbling over the rate of ritual killings and the indifference of the authorities to check the trend, went violent when a ritual killer was caught in Guri, a village near Hadejia, while attempting to cut the head of a house wife, Malama Hauwa.

Narrating her ordeal to *Daily Trust* in Hadejia, Malama Hauwa explained that she was attacked on her way home by two men on a motor cycle. One of them twisted her arms back and the other tried to strangle her with a cable.

"I saw them coming

From Yusha'u Adam Ibrahim, in Kano

towards me. I therefore asked them to stop but they refused. One of them twisted my arms back and the other strangled me with a cable from there I fell down," she said.

An eyewitness told *Daily Trust* that around 8:30 p.m. he saw a mob at the police station demanding for the arrest of the ritualists but the police refused.

As a result, they started stoning the police station and

later set it ablaze. From there, they moved to a district head's house and burnt it to ashes along with two courts.

In a telephone conversation, Jigawa State Police Commissioner, Mr. A. S. Adewoyi confirmed that the suspects has been charged to court for attempted murder.

Mr. Adewoyi who further explained that the district head of Garun Gabas was not linked with the murder. He said that no life was lost during the riot.

Women urged to mobilise for 2003

Women have been asked to mobilise for active participation in the 2003 general elections.

A frontline woman politician in Kano State,



Aisha Isma'il, Minister for Women Affairs.

From Jamilah Nuhu Musa, in Kano

Hajiya Laila Buhari, gave the charge over the weekend in Kano at a reception she organised for women to commemorate the end of this year's Ramadan.

She maintained that for long women have been politically sidelined and enjoined them to contest all political positions alongside their male counterparts and stressed the need for women to register with the PDP.

Remarking separately in their speeches, PDP women leaders from Kebbi, Jigawa, Zamfara, Katsina and Sokoto States, described Hajiya Laila as suitable for any political office in view of her track records.

More than 1,000 amputees received artificial limbs through the Oyo State government in the last five years, the Commissioner for Women Affairs Community Development and Social Welfare, Princess Muibat Kilani, has said.

Speaking to newsmen shortly before flagging off this year's International Day of Disabled Persons at the weekend in Ibadan, the commissioner said an Indian philanthropist, the late HR. Kabra, provided artificial limbs through the state government to better the lot of disabled persons in the state.

Kilani, who described the present administration in the state as being in the forefront of championing the cause of the disabled persons in the country, said the state government was happy to join all people with disabilities all over the world in celebrating yet another important day for the disabled.

Highlighting the contributions of the state government to the development and welfare of disabled people, the commissioner noted that Oyo State had the largest number of special schools in different parts of the state while some are still springing up.

Kilani also said that the state government established a community based rehabilitation programme aimed at training disabled persons within the community and from which about 250 disabled persons were acquiring skills towards self-reliance.

According to her, the state also has vocational

1,000 amputees get artificial limbs in Oyo

training facilities at the rehabilitation centre for the disabled, Moniyai, the Nigeria training school for the blind, Ogbomosho and the community based vocational rehabilitation programme for the disabled at Samonda.

"The state government is committing a lot of money into the care of the disabled, particularly in payment of salaries of special teachers and maintenance costs of these institutions," he said.

The commissioner said that grants-in-aid were given to various organisations regarding the disabled, while a number of their members were sponsored to locally, national and international conference when occasions demanded.

Kilani also noted that the state government, through the Ministry of Education, was providing bursary allowance to people with disabilities in tertiary institutions in various parts of the country.



Governor Lam Adesina of Oyo State.

Assembly asks Yobe to standardise public schools

The Yobe State House of Assembly has adopted a motion calling on the state government to improve learning facilities in public schools in order to raise their academic standards.

Moving the motion on the floor of the House yesterday, Alhaji Sani Mohammed Ibrahim from Nguru Central Constituency observed that learning conditions in public schools "are a far cry from what obtains in private schools which force many parents to take their children to the private schools."

Alhaji Sani added that unless the situation is quickly remedied, it might lead to the collapse of the public school system.

The legislator also urged that religious instructions, needed to nurture children to responsible adulthood, are largely lacking both in quantity and quality at the private schools and the government has a responsibility to revive

From Abdullahi Bego, in Damaturu

public schools to give the children the opportunity to grow up as responsible adults.

Alhaji Sani added that he was working on another motion, which if passed, would bar public officers from sending their children to private schools.

He said this would be a big boost to the public schools, which need to be repositioned for optimal efficiency.



Governor Abba Ibrahim of Yobe State.

News Focus

NIGERIANS MOURN IGE

John Omo-Ikhirodah
 An old time political associate of the late Ige from the first republic, Mr. John Omo-Ikhirodah has lamented the killing of Chief Ige, saying "the incident is shocking," and expressed the hope that it will not bring about the quick death of democracy in the country.

"He was a very strong pillar that stood out brilliantly for democracy and his assassination is capable of sending us to political oblivion before the next century," he said.

Prophet Okpere

A cleric, prophet E. Okpere Okpere of the Holy Deliverance Mission in Benin, said "if a man of Ige's stature could be killed, just like that, the nation is in trouble," adding that Nigerians must learn to play civilised politics."

Dr. Alike

Ex-secretary to the Edo State government, under the defunct SDP, Dr. Clement Alike, called on the federal government to wake up and do something about internal security that was fast getting out of control.

"For the nation's chief law office to just die like that, portends danger and a bad omen for the country," Alike said.

Jonah Jang

The former Governor of Benue and defunct Gongola States, Air Commodore Jonah David Jang has described the assassination of the Minister of Justice and Attorney-General, Chief Bola Ige, as a serious blow to the government.

Reacting to the news of the unfortunate and brutal killing yesterday in Jos, Air Commodore Jang said it is high time the government reconsiders its security network to check such act.

He said for the Attorney-General of the Federation to be assassinated with all the security men around him and his house, "I want to say that it is time government looks at the issue of security.

"Honestly it is not the best that a minister who is supposed to have personal security men around him can be assassinated under such circumstances."

Continuing, Jang said, "generally people have been talking about the problem with our security and we can never say it has been the best because of the crisis going on in different parts of the country.

Yahaya Kwande

The chairman, Board of Directors, Nicon Insurance Plc, Ambassador Yahaya Kwande, has said that the assassination of Chief Bola Ige was a great setback to the PDP government under President Obasanjo.

He described the late minister as someone who has helped PDP greatly and also called for an immediate investigation to uncover the killers.

PLSG

The Plateau State Government has expressed deep shock over the death of the Attorney-General of the Federation who they described as a courageous lover of democracy.

A press statement issued in Jos yesterday and signed by the Director of Press Affairs to the governor, recalled the intellectual and literacy skills of the deceased "which he effectively employed to better the lot of his country men."

Wada Nas

"The death of Chief Bola Ige, the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of the Federation, through assassination in Ibadan, is a sad loss to the nation, and indeed a profound tragedy for several reasons.

"Apart from the sad events of the Nigerian civil war, Bola Ige is the only serving minister that ever died through assassination in the history of the country. This tells us a lot about the level of insecurity to life and property in the country.

"A few days before his sad death, the former Attorney General was said to have been attacked, by some people in Ife, on grounds that he was involved in the deepening crises between the governor and his deputy in his native Osun State."

By his death, those who assassinated him, have robbed the Yoruba people of a second Awolowo, a man who thought, felt and worked for his people first before any other thing else.

Gen. Ishola Williams

The President of Transparency International in Nigeria, retired Lt. Gen. Ishola Williams, described the death as shocking and dumbfounding.

Williams said: "I am still trying to recover from the shock. Its dumbfounding. I need to reflect while waiting for the details.

"It's terrible and it does not augur well for the 2003 elections," He stressed the need to adopt measures to reduce violence.

Gani Fawehinmi (SAN)

Lagos lawyer and human rights activist, Chief Gani Fawehinmi, described the assassination as a return to the events of the early sixties in the Western Region where might and jungle justice prevailed.

He described the assassination as one of the saddest and darkest events in the country, saying that it could throw the south-west into chaos and crisis and would affect the political life

of the country negatively. "It's a throw-back to 1962/64/65," Fewehinmi said.

He urged President Olusegun Obasanjo to ensure safety of life and property, saying that "since May 29, 1999, when he assumed office, blood-shedding and blood-letting have characterised his tenure."

The activist said that those responsible for the killing must be fished out and dealt with according to the law and as quickly as possible.

Guild of Editors

As Nigerians remain con-founded by the assassination of the Minister of Justice and Attorney-General, Chief Bola Ige, on Sunday in Ibadan, the President of the Nigerian Guild of Editors (NGE), Mrs. Remi Oyo, has described the act as tragic for the country's young democracy.

"The assassination of an attorney-general of our country portrays danger to our nascent democracy," Oyo said yesterday in Lagos.

Stressing the NGE's faith in peace, Oyo said: "We in the guild have always advocated peaceful resolution of political differences that will move the nation forward. Violence never solves any problem but creates more problems."

She added: "We must re-dedicate ourselves to peaceful co-habitation among all ethnic groups in the country. Nigerians should re-dedicate themselves to principle of democracy.

NLC

The Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) has expressed shock and outrage over the assassination of Bola Ige, Minister of Justice and Attorney-General.

NLC's General Secretary, Mr. John Odah, said in a statement that the congress calls on President Olusegun Obasanjo to immediately summon a meeting of the National Council of States to discuss and map out strategies to stem the wave of violence in several parts of the country.

"For now, we call on the Inspector-General of Police to put all available hands and resources into the investigation of this murder and ensure that the culprits are made to face the full weight of the law," it stated.

"The congress unequivocally condemns the killing and regards the perpetrators and their principals as the enemies of democracy and humanity," the statement said that everything should be done to ensure that dialogue rather than violence was used to settle political squabbles.

Olabode George

Chief Olabode George, deputy national chairman of the PDP in the South-West,

has described the assassination of Chief Bola Ige, Minister of Justice, as a great loss to the country.

George told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) on phone yesterday in Lagos, that the Federal Government should do everything possible to bring the perpetrators of the act to book.

He condemned, the crisis in Osun, especially the feud between Gov. Bisi Akande and his deputy, Chief Iyiola Omisore, which, he said, was a threat to democracy.

Wahab Dosunmu

Senator Wahab Dosunmi, former AD member, who de-camped described Ige's assassinations as sad.

"I am shocked. It is not good for Yoruba land and Nigeria. It is unfortunate that this has happened in Yoruba land within the same political family," he said.

Senator Dosunmi urged the Federal Government to be firm in the handling of Ige's death. He said the perpetrators must be brought to book.

Jim Nwobodo

Chief Jim Owobodo described as "unbelievable" Chief Ige's death.

"I can't believe it. God forbid. Bola Ige dead? This is the beginning of the end. It is sad. This is not good for Nigeria. I'm speechless. Why should Ige be killed? His death is a huge loss to Nigeria. It shows the extent of insecurity in the country."

Senator Dalhatu Sangari

Senator Dalhatu Sangari (Taraba South) has described the killing of Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, Chief Bola Ige, as a most unfortunate incidence capable of truncating our nascent democracy.

Bearing his mind on the incidence, Senator Sangari said it was sad that Ige died when the nation needed his services most.

"It reminded one of the pre-colonial era when violence was used as a tool of setting socio-political problems. It is most unfortunate and not a healthy development at all. No peace loving Nigerian would support this kind of thing," the Senator said.

J.K.N. Waku

Senator J.K.N. Waku (Benue North West) called for the arrest of the Osun State governor and his deputy since according to him, they were responsible for creating the situation that led to the killing of the minister.

He also called on President Olusegun Obasanjo to declared a one-week of national mourning and also set up a judicial commission of inquiry to unravel the circumstances surrounding the late minister's death.



Late Chief Bola Ige

Justice ministry calls for calm

By Uwem Umo

As the entire nation mourns the demise of the Attorney-General of the Federation (AGF) and Minister of Justice, Chief Bola Ige SAN, the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice, has appealed for calm particularly in Oyo and Osun States where Chief Ige once served as governor.

Addressing a press conference in Abuja yesterday, the Minister of State for Justice, Mr. Musa Elayo Abdullahi called for calm and expressed the hope that the Nigeria Police and other security agencies would track down the culprits so as to ensure that they are brought to justice.

While commiserating with President Obasanjo and the family of the deceased, he also reiterated government's determination to track down the culprits.

Mr. Abdullahi described



Mr. Musa Elayo

Chief Bola Ige as a hardworking, honest and transparent man who led the Justice ministry by example and expressed regret that he will be greatly missed.

He said he received the news of the death of the minister at about 1:00 a.m. on Monday night and was able to speak with the first son of the late minister at about 4:00 a.m.

Answering reporters' questions, he said late Chief Bola Ige never restricted himself to any particular assignment because he regarded every job as important as the other.

According to him, the late Justice minister was very interested in the reform of Nigeria's criminal justice system and review of the laws of the federation.

He also pointed out that late Chief Bola Ige (SAN) also took seriously the case between Nigeria and Cameroon over the Bakassi peninsula particularly at the world court at the Hague and personally attended the sessions whenever the case came up.

The Minister of State who said he was on vacation briefly added that the late Justice minister had asked him to stand in for him on January 4, 2002, when the French Ambassador to Nigeria would be paying the minister a courtesy call.

Opinion

Who is 'international community'?

Events that created 'World' Wars One and Two and their consequences necessitated the creation of the United Nations. Like the name has shown, the idea was to unite all the nations of the world and among others ensure that there was peace and humanity is no longer threatened. By every stretch of imagination, the idea was very laudable. But in practice what we seem to have now is the opposite of what was intended in 1945.

The events of 1918-1945 led to the death of about six million Jews and the ones that were left became scattered. Some of these surviving Jews found themselves in the land of the Palestinians. The moment they got there with their level of sophistication, the position of the Palestinians has increasingly been threatened and "Mr. International Community" has always sanctioned it. Any UN resolution that seeks to condemn the wicked state of Israel is vetoed by the USA and

By Ordue Akase Gerger

Britain.

It is an act of terrorism for North Korea, India, Pakistan, Iraq, Libya, Iran, etc, to have any kind of weapons that are not sanctioned by the USA and Britain. The reverse is the case when Israel acquires the most deadly weapons known to mankind. America and Britain do all these in the name of "International Community". What or who is this person or body? Has the UN now been replaced by 'International Community'? Now, Israel is killing the people of Palestine and the latter's offence is that they have the guts to oppose the illegal and inhuman seizure of their land by the terrorist State of Israel. Many people have erroneously introduced religion into this conflict. The dispute simply centres on land. There are Muslims in Israel and there are a few Christians in Israel. Benjamin Netanyahu, supposedly a Christian, breached the

Biblical injunction of *Thou shall not kill* by murdering the Palestinians. We must all remember that before one is an Israelite, a Palestinian, a Muslim or a Christian, he/she must first of all be a human being.

When 'International Community' says George Bush should rig elections in America and he does, the USA is still seen as the model of what democracy should be and the USA is still qualified to classify some countries as rogue states. No one takes these rogue states to the UN and establish their guilt. Afghanistan has been destroyed by the USA and Britain on mere suspicion. The UN has up till now, not commented. Kofi Annan has been busy doing the work of an errand boy. Now USA has killed Afghans and destroyed their country further, and is threatening to attack Somalia and Baghdad. USA has divided Iraq into two: one side is a no-go area for Baghdad, a sovereign state! No one is now talking.

US had attacked Libya and Sudan over frivolous excuses. Somebody should tell these election manipulators and shameless rogues masquerading under the cover of 'International Community' that the natural law of sowing and reaping has not been and cannot be altered. No matter the amount of support the USA gets, the fact remains that evil does not stand. Truth does. And like the old, wise Nelson Mandela has rightly said, an attack on Iraq would be a disaster for USA (*ThisDay* 5/12/2001 p7).

The world wishes to have peace and the West should know that they have the key to our much-needed peace. The people of Palestine are entitled to a state as a right. The West should also know that if they continue with these atrocities, they will merely be hastening the collapse of their Criminal American Empire.

Gerger is of 11, Agera Sena Street, Gboko (Central), Benue State.

Liyel Imoke on the cross

By Dominic Kidzu & Ento Edako

Leo Tolstoy was taken with the idea that the masses always find just the right leader to address the crisis of the age. Such leaders always show up at the right time to bear witness to the tragic economic and social miasma of their native land and mobilise the brightest and the best in the country, to move beyond the pieties of "we shall overcome".

Senator Liyel Imoke, the president's special adviser on utilities may well be one such man. It is on his young shoulders that President Olusegun Obasanjo placed the task of providing uninterrupted electricity supply to power the nation's domestic and industrial machine, as executive chairman of NEPA Technical Board. The mandate: Raise electricity generation and supply from 2,500 Megawatts to 4,000 Megawatts in 21 months. A huge task for a huge man!

The contracting engineers, Independent Power Projects companies, suppliers, advisers, consultants, staff, party bigwigs, *et al* have all had their turn of Imoke's time and attention. Whenever he had returned from office at two am, the domestic staff are happy for an early night!

It has been long, painful and gruelling work in an environment of hostile countrymen, asinine public policy commentators and sardonic columnists. When he announced that 4,000 MW was achievable by the end of the year, the press jeered, politicians hooted, professional critics guffawed while pessimists committed suicide in advance. Last week, with the commissioning of Egbin Thermal power plant, NEPA for the first time ever reached a generating strength of 3,200 MW. When the Afam and Ughelli stations, already nearing completion of repairs, join the network, the target 4,000 MW would not only have been achieved, but surpassed.

Imoke's tenure at NEPA will always be a watershed to be recalled. Recalled not because of itself, but because of what it adds to the future standard of man and country. He himself, we are sure, will recall those long nights - in order to escape from the tedium of the day, while regaining the thrill of yesterday. These memories should imbue him with the excitement of the combat without its danger and anxiety.

We believe, as did John Quincy Adams, that the great object of civil government is the improvement of the conditions of those who are partners to the civil contract. And that governance is the provision and implementation of general rules for the maintenance of law and order and of infrastructure services designed to assist people to achieve prosperity through their own efforts, provided there is no coercion of the individual. A stable power industry will not only secure the social entitlements of citizenship but will also fire the spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship, all of which can lead to the elimination or amelioration of poverty among the masses of our countrymen.

President Obasanjo's government is, sadly, as much on the cross as Liyel Imoke. In spite of public oration and grandstanding, government has not delivered in real terms. While the people know the president and his henchmen, the president sees himself as the possessor of a mind which is fully convinced of the everlasting righteousness of its own performance, surrounding this conviction with a halo of shimmering rhetoric. And so it is on NEPA that this government hopes to hang its heart! Now you see why Liyel Imoke is on the cross!

If there is discordance between his speech and the president's, there should be no surprises. The president's zeal to meet the December 31st deadline is without a doubt. Nor is Imoke's sense of honesty and candour. In between, there is a fine line of silver that bears hope for all. Truth is that enormous resources have been committed to NEPA by the president, but the infrastructure decay of over 30 years is not just going to disappear on a politician's wish. The 4000 MW target will surely be met, but uninterrupted power supply to the whole of Nigeria is still a long way off.

Just turned 40, a Senator in the Abacha days and a high wire power player; it is to Liyel Imoke that Donald Duke owes his electoral victory and continued grip on power in Cross River State. Today, he stands clearly at the head of the political triumvirate in the state -together with Donald Duke, and PDP state chairman, Sonny Abang. With a flourishing consultancy business and a first class department store in Lagos, the young politician has helped many to go to school, learn a trade or a vocation, so that today in Cross River State, his name will always redound to what is good and progressive.

Although his father was thrice a minister in the First Republic, Liyel does not have the carriage of aristocracy, only the convictions of his own historical responsibility to his country and its peoples. It is often said by friends and foes, that the reason Liyel is hard to see is because he does not make a promise he cannot keep. And since most pilgrims who troop to his Wuse II home to see him want a piece of the NEPA action, he cannot see them all because he has no patronage to distribute.

If NEPA becomes a success today, it will be to the glory of the youth of this country. A generation statement that the redemption of this country lies in the hands of the youths: that the wisdom of Solomon has nothing to do with the age of Methuselah. Even after NEPA, Liyel will still get tough assignments. With his flaming intelligence, hard work, dedication and loyalty, it cannot be otherwise.

Kidzu and Edako live at Plot 800 Blantyre Street, Wuse II, Abuja.

FRSC: Reducing the carnage

By Nnamdi K. Cos-Ukwuoma

The Federal Road Safety Corps has come a long way. Under successive leadership of tested hands and it has performed excellently in the reduction of carnage on our highways. In pursuance of efforts to sustain and build on this success, the Inspector General of Police soon after merging of the corps with the police force reiterated his commitment. He had repeatedly assured the corps of total co-operation of the Nigerian Police Force. He has been able to clear initial misconceptions occasioned by the merger.

Now, having been smoothly integrated into the operations of the force, the corps has demonstrated excellence. The Inspector General of Police overwhelmed by the extraordinary understanding among the corps and their commitment noted on one occasion, "I hope you will continue to maintain this attitude of excellence in discharge of your duties. I also note with satisfaction that general discipline in the corps as well as the comportment of officers and men while on patrol appear to be improving tremendously." He further stated that these developments have to a large extent inspired his leadership to do everything possible to ensure that the corps is encouraged.

Indeed, the merger in time has proved to be a point of inspiration towards higher excellence as against belief in many quarters that the police force would swallow the corps. Despite the merger, distinct operational modes and refined attitude to work and good human relations have continued to appreciate. The almost two-year-old merger has seen areas of inspiring support by the Inspector General of Police. Some officers of the corps have had relevant manpower development courses; massive rehabilitation of existing vehicles and ancillary equipment for the corps has taken place.

New patrol vehicles, rescue equipment, ambulances and others to enhance operations have been acquired. The most cheering news is the proposed corps night patrol in conjunction with the Federal Highway Patrol which expectedly will provide security backup for the patrolmen who by law do not carry firearms. The initiative is intended to check excesses of drivers at night, especially luxury bus drivers, in view of the increasing preference of commuters to travel at night despite its attendant risks.

All these achievements would not have been possible without an articulate, able and committed leadership at the head of the Federal Road Safety Corps Department, who translates the stated vision of the Inspector General to evolve a Federal Road Safety Corps of the Nigeria Police to realistic implementative actions is a seasoned technocrat, and professional of no mean stature. Abba Kyari Wakilbe, an engineer and Fellow of the Nigeria Society of Engineers started his career, which has spanned more than three decades, in 1970 with the North-Eastern State government as a mechanical engineer.

This saw him to the Chad Basin Development Authority

as a pioneer engineer rising to become the chief mechanical/electrical engineer in 1979. He acted as general manager and chief executive of CBDA at which period he successfully defended the 1982 budget of the organisation at the National Assembly of the 2nd Republic.

Transferring his service voluntarily to the Federal Civil Service Commission in April 1982, as chief mechanical engineer in the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing, he was appointed federal controller of works and housing for Benue State between 1983 and 1988. During this period, reactivation and completion of many federal government abandoned projects including rehabilitation of over one thousand units of vandalised federal low cost houses were undertaken.

Thereafter, he was promoted to assistant director in charge of the mechanic division of the engineering services directorate where he maintained the ministry's plants and vehicles where about 1,768 drivers were under him. In 1991, he was transferred to the Presidency and deployed to the Federal Road Service Commission, Gbagada as pioneer director of technical safety with duties which included the absorption of Vehicle

Inspection Officers (VIO)/(RTO) as well as expanding the activities of the Federal Road Safety Commission nationwide.

No doubt, having successfully discharged his daunting duties and maintained excellence, he rose to become Assistant Corps Marshall in charge of operations nationwide. He co-ordinated the movement of the commission to Abuja soon after he became Deputy Corps Marshall and Director of Logistics and Supply in 1996 from where he took over all activities of the commission from the then Acting Corps Marshall in February 2000 and handed over to the Inspector General of Police as occasioned by the merger. He has been at the helm of the organization as Deputy Corps Marshall reporting to the Inspector General of Police.

In consideration of his excellent achievement profile, the federal government recently conferred on him the prestigious award of the Nigerian national honour of Officer of the Order of the Niger (OON) This latest honour indeed will go a long way in encouraging leaders in different facets of public service to dedication and excellence, thus proving that our Nigeria is a country that recognises values of hard work, merit and patriotic inputs into the system, especially in this era of Campaign for National Rebirth. These credentials are indeed inspired by hard work, commitment and honesty.

Wakilbe is indeed a worthy model of commitment and industry for the younger generation of Nigeria to emulate.

Cos-Ukwuoma works with Defence Times International.



YOUR LETTERS

That timely decision by Wada Nas

It is heartwarming to hear the pleasant news that shrewd politician, illustrious son of the North and indeed patriotic Nigerian, Alhaji Wada Nas will venture back into partisan and active politics after about three years in the sideline. More comforting is the fact that he is joining the opposition All Peoples Party (APP). Of course, by all standard, this is a timely and astute decision by this highly esteemed and principled politician who knows his political onions.

Having been at a vantage position to look critically and dispassionately the political developments across the country, it is apparent that Wada Nas felt it compelling to uncoil out of his shelf and offer himself for services as a means of

achieving some level of sanity into politics and politicking in this country.

It is my candid belief that in Nigeria today, we need credible politicians like Wada Nas in the murky terrain of Nigeria's fledgling democracy to play a visionary role that can anchor the fast drift in the nation's entire life. The growing rate of insecurity, alarming increase of poverty and unemployment in Nigeria is posing a serious threat to Nigeria's continued survival as a sovereign entity. With people like Wada Nas in opposition party, we are sure to get a credible and resolute opposition necessary for the growth of this nascent democracy. Additionally, his re-entry into active politics will certainly give inspiration to clean and promising

Nigerian youth who have for long, been deliberately denied a frontline role in politics.

Nas's track political record in the defunct NEPU (where he was an active member and later member House of Representatives); National Republican Convention (NRC) (where he was Chairman of Katsina State chapter); and lately, Minister of State for Education and Special Duties Minister stands him out towering above most, if not all politicians in this country. He has demonstrated a consummate sense of honesty and patriotism in his public service.

Alhaji Wada Nas, has, overtime proved himself to be a consistent and principled politician who should at this trying time be en-

couraged to not only aspire to be the leader of All Peoples Party (APP) but the President of this great staggering nation.

All well meaning Nigerians who have been following the trend of politics in this country, and particularly Wada Nas' comments on topical national issues will attest to his neutrality, objectivity and high sense of nationalism that deserves to be a leader in active service

and not an observer. Perhaps, if he were actively involved in active politics since the beginning of this dispensation, we may not have been in this seemingly messy situation.

Permit me, therefore, Alhaji Wada Nas to welcome you back to partisan politics and to wish you success in your obvious attempt to salvage Nigeria's democracy and save Nigeria's follower-ship from the shackles of selfish

rulership.

May I also congratulate the entire members and leadership of APP and indeed, the entire Nigerian masses for having a visionary and humble personality at the center stage of the nations' political terrain. I am sure we shall meet a bright light at the end of the dark tunnel.

*Abdulra'uf Lere
No. 3, Kakaki Street,
Angwan Rimi, Kaduna*

Kogi, the most peaceful state

When President Olusegun Obasanjo visited Kogi State last year on an official visit, he said at a civic reception held for him at Lokoja township stadium that Kogi State is the most peaceful state in Nigeria.

Since the creation of the state in 1991, no single crisis had been recorded with ethnic or religious groups of any kind. This could be attributed to the understanding of various groups of people living harmoniously in the state and the tolerance they have for each other.

Kogi State, created from both Benue and Kwara States, comprises the three

major tribes of Igala Epira and Okun of Kabba who have been living with other minority tribes of Oworo, Nupe, Kankanda, Hausa, Bassa-Nge, Bassa-Komu and other pockets of other tribes living peacefully and respecting each other's beliefs and culture. The three major religions of Christianity, Islam and traditional religion respect each other and sometime adherents intermarry among themselves and visit each other's place of worship to celebrate with each other.

Muslim and Christian brothers are always seen in joint businesses without discrimination or bias.

Also, credit must go to the present governor of the state, Prince Abubakar Audu for ensuring that his administration did not discriminate against any religion, tribe or section.

The people are honest in dealing with any business partner and open minded and helpful. Hence their dogmatic approach in ensuring to the development and progress of their state and Nigeria as a whole.

The case of River Niger and River Benue as a confluence is a clear indication of their unity and togetherness.

*Bala Nayashi lokoja,
No. 1, Edward Lane,
Lokoja.*

Religious and ethnic crises

Kindly allow me space in your widely read newspaper to air my views on some of the causes of religious intolerance and ethnic clashes in Nigeria.

As a concerned citizen of this country, however, I believe, and the rest of Nigerians too will similarly believe that the following are the causes of religious intolerance and ethnic violence in our dear country.

Lack of adherence to religious teachings and elders' Advice: Followers of the two major religions, especially the youth of nowadays, have completely refused to adhere to and obey what our religions are teaching us and have refused to give regard to elders' advice that we should live peacefully and harmoniously with one another. These teachings and advice are heard through the right ear but it passes away through the left.

Some Nigerians do not want peace for the country:

It is very surprising that the federal government is yet to legalise the use of guns and ammunition in the country, but whenever crisis erupted, you will see the youth with live guns and ammunition which I believe are supplied by the engineers of crisis.

Another cause is lack of tolerance: It is a pity that we call ourselves Nigerians but yet we cannot tolerate each other even in the wake of little misunderstanding or disagreement. Why must we not forgive one another whenever we have a misunderstanding or disagreement?

Federal government's role: This is the most serious problem that brings about recurrence of religious and ethnic chaos in recent years. It is a situation whereby after the crisis, the state government will set up a panel of inquiry to investigate the remote and immediate causes of such crisis, but after the completion of the assignment, the recommendations

of the white paper are not usually approved by the federal government

State governments' role: This is a situation whereby the report of the panel of inquiry or tribunal presented to the federal government for approval is approved and the state government did not see to it that it is implemented.

In conclusion, I must emphasise that the government should be the final authority to coerce people to live peacefully with one another because people are not always ready to live in peace and harmony. Therefore, judgements of any tribunal must be approved and implemented by the federal and state governments. If this is done, religious or ethnic violence or crises will be drastically reduced to the barest minimum if not totally eradicated.

*Saidu Yusuf,
P. O. Box 10633,
Kano.*

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TRUST INTERNATIONAL

AFRICA & THE MIDDLE EAST

Tanzania criticized over air traffic control

Clare Short has publicly criticised the government over its decision to give Tanzania the go-ahead to buy a controversial £28 million air traffic control system from a British manufacturer.

Speaking about losing last week's cabinet battle to block the deal, the Minister for International Development told the BBC that the government had a moral duty to put concern for the world's poor above commercial interests.

She said the purchase of the system was a waste of money for a poor and indebted country, although the Tanzanian President, Benjamin Mkapa, has said his country needs it to ensure air safety.

She warned that the sale by British Aerospace could still be blocked by the World Bank, which claims the system is too expensive and the cash would be better spent on education and health.

The minister stressed the government's commitment to social justice, but said if it believed in it at home, it had to believe in it internationally.

An export licence to allow BAE Systems to sell the system to the Tanzanian Government was granted on Thursday, after a heated cabinet meeting, which reportedly left ministers split on the issue.

The government was immediately condemned by Oxfam and backbench MPs, while defence experts questioned the cost of the system when a £7 million version would have been adequate.

The deal is opposed by a number of ministers, including Chancellor Gordon Brown, and several charities.

They claim the system will add to Tanzania's debt burden just as Western nations - led by the UK - are attempting to relieve it. Britain has written off £100m of the country's debts.



Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat salutes during the Palestinian national song during his visit to the Palestinian education ministry in the West Bank town of Ramallah ... Sunday.

Peres charts new peace plan

Israeli Foreign Minister, Shimon Peres, has drafted an interim peace plan for a Palestinian state and presented the proposal to Palestinian leaders, Israel's biggest newspaper reported on Sunday.

Prime Minister, Ariel Sharon's office dismissed the report as fiction. A statement issued by Palestinian Information Minister, Yasser Abed Rabbo, said the reported proposals fell far short of the state Palestinians envisioned.

Despite the cold water poured on the purported plan, its apparent leak to the newspaper suggested that senior leaders from both sides may be looking past Israeli-Palestinian violence now in its 15th month towards a permanent peace deal.

The *Yedioth Ahronoth* daily said Peres had proposed the establishment of a Palestinian state on 42 percent of the West Bank and most of the Gaza Strip not later than two months after the interim deal is signed, followed by talks on a final accord.

Palestinians have demanded a state in all of the West Bank, including Arab East Jerusalem, and Gaza Strip.

Peres, a dove in a coalition government led by the right-wing Sharon, declined to comment extensively on the report, telling Israel's *Channel One* state television: "There is no agreement."

"As for the terms (of the purported plan), one could only wish these terms would be accepted. It would benefit peace and the State of Israel," Peres added.

Abed Rabbo, referring to the patchwork of territory now under the control of the Palestinian Authority, said in the statement that the reported plan would only "transform the names of the cantons and isolated areas from an Authority to a state."

Palestinians would "remain under a de facto occupation, but under an illusive cover called a 'state.'"

Yedioth Ahronoth published on its front page that what it said was a photograph of one of the pages of the peace proposal which it said Peres drafted with Palestinian parliament speaker Ahmed Korei, also known as Abu Ala.

Abu Ala was not immediately available for comment.

The plan, as reported in *Yedioth Ahronoth*, listed four main points:

Bush signs bill on Zimbabwe

President George W. Bush has signed into law the Zimbabwe Democracy Economic Recovery Act 2001 which, among other penalties, slaps personal sanctions against President Mugabe, members of his cabinet, his service chiefs, and the immediate family members of all these senior officials, for crimes against humanity, reports from Washington said.

Earlier this month, *The Standard* reported that Bush was expected to sign the Bill before the end of the year, after it was passed by the US House of Representatives on 4 December.

Friday's signing of the Bill by Bush puts paid to any hopes Zimbabwean authorities had that the US president would defy the advice of the House of Representatives and refuse to sign the Bill into law. It also means that the cash-strapped Zimbabwean government wasted a great deal of money, estimated to run into millions of US dollars in a futile campaign to persuade US politicians to reject the Bill.

The government hired the influential former Atlanta Governor, Andrew Young, and the obscure Coltrane Chimurenga-led December 12 Movement to spearhead a campaign against the Bill.

Said Bush: "My administration shares fully the Congress' deep concerns about the political and economic hardships visited upon Zimbabwe by that country's leadership. I hope the provisions of this important legislation will support the people of Zimbabwe in their struggle to effect peaceful

democratic change, achieve economic growth and restore the rule of law."

While the Bill is widely viewed as progressive, the government has conducted a concerted media misinformation campaign through its outlets telling Zimbabweans that the Bill was targeted at punishing Zimbabwe.

However, the legislation calls on the US government to lobby for international economic aid to Zimbabwe if change occurs in the country.

Under the new law, the United States will oppose any new international credits or debt relief for Zimbabwe. The Bill provides that when the Zimbabwe government meets certain political conditions, such as: restoring the rule of law; conducive pre-election environment; equitable, legal and transparent land reform; good faith to end the war in the DRC; and civilian control of the military and police, the US would initiate an economic recovery policy.

Furthermore, the Zimbabwe Democracy and

Economic Recovery Act of 2001 will double the funding for democracy programmes in Zimbabwe and it calls for US support for election observers to the parliamentary and presidential elections. The Bill also urges President Bush to consult with other nations on ways of implementing visa restrictions and other targeted sanctions against those most responsible for political violence and the breakdown of the rule of law in Zimbabwe.

But Bush expressed reservations about these provisions, saying he felt they undermined his foreign affairs authority. "I will construe the provision as being subject to my exclusive authority to negotiate or vote in international financial institutions," said Bush.

At last week's annual Zanu PF conference in Victoria Falls, war veterans threatened to unleash havoc if the Democracy Bill was signed into law.

Trial of Egyptian Islamists begins

The trial of 22 members of the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood, including eight university professors, accused of leading or belonging to an illegal organisation opened in Cairo's military high court yesterday.

Three of those arrested at the beginning of November are accused of having "led or

run an illegal organisation whose goal is to suspend the constitution," defence lawyer, Abdel Moneim Abdel Maqsood, told the *AFP* news agency.

Eight others are accused of "running" the same organisation, while the remaining 11 are accused of belonging to it.

Egypt has cracked down on Muslim militants since the events of 11 September, with some 260 suspected militants arrested in the past months.

The accused face jail terms which under the Egyptian penal code could mean up to life imprisonment.

However, Mr. Maqsood said that, for political reasons, prison sentences in trials of members of the Muslim Brotherhood are generally between three and five years.

He said that in preparing the case the prosecution accused the group of having "exploited events in Palestine and Afghanistan to incite students and citizens to rise up against the authorities."

The Muslim Brotherhood, despite technically being a banned organisation, remains one of Egypt's most prominent, and vocal, opposition groups, with 17 members of the organisation holding independent seats in the 454-seat parliament.

Israel resists international pressure on Arafat

The Israeli Government is resisting international pressure to reverse its decision to ban the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, from travelling to Bethlehem to attend the town's annual Christmas festivities.

The United Nations, the European Union and the United States are all involved in efforts to encourage Israel to change its mind.

But an adviser to Ariel Sharon told the *BBC* that the Israeli cabinet had made its decision and would stick by it.

The Israeli security cabinet voted to ban Mr. Arafat from going to Bethlehem until Palestinian attacks on Israelis stopped.

The Palestinian leader said he would visit the town of Jesus' birth "even if I have to go there on foot".

His guard of honour has been parading in Bethlehem, still preparing for his arrival.

Israel said he will be turned back if he attempts the journey.

The midnight mass is held at Saint Catherine Church in Bethlehem, next to the Basilica

of the Nativity, and Mr. Arafat would have to cross Israeli territory to reach the West Bank town from his base in Ramallah.

Mr. Arafat, who has attended the Christmas mass every year since Bethlehem was handed over to the Palestinian Authority in 1995, said he is determined to go to the service, regardless of the Israeli ban.

Belgium, which holds the EU presidency, had called on Israel to lift the ban.



Yasser Arafat

Deaths mar vaccinations in Algeria

Algerian authorities have suspended all vaccinations of infants after the deaths of seven children following measles inoculations.

An Algerian health ministry statement said the seven babies died within an hour of receiving the vaccinations in the village of Oued al Abtal in the western Mascara region.

About 30 other babies aged between three and 18

months, who were inoculated at the same clinic, were rushed to a hospital in the small city of Tighenif, but have since been allowed to return to their homes.

Algerian scientists have begun an investigation into the infant deaths.

Algerian press reports quoted doctors as saying that the children had been injected with two types of vaccine, which might have passed their expiry dates.

TRUST INTERNATIONAL

World Report



Argentina's interim President, Adolfo Rodriguez Saa laughs during the swearing-in ceremonies for his new ministers at the Government House in Buenos Aires. From left are: Interior Minister, Rodolfo Gabrielli, Foreign Minister, Jose Maria Vernet, Rodriguez Saa, and Labour Minister, Oraldo Britos.

Australia halts Afghan asylum seekers

Australia has suspended the processing of claims by asylum seekers from Afghanistan.

Immigration Minister, Philip Ruddock, said that with the Taliban no longer in power and a transitional government in place in Kabul, the applications for asylum should be delayed while more information was sought about the situation.

Mr. Ruddock said many Afghans detained in Australia could no longer claim asylum out of fear of the Taliban.

"One suspects that if people's claims were simply as they've been put - a fear of the Taliban, a young man

concerned about being conscripted - if that's the nature of the fear, then that fear is no longer well founded and the claim for refugee status wouldn't arise," he said.

Correspondents said about 2,000 Afghan asylum seekers currently held in Australian detention camps on the mainland and on Pacific islands could be repatriated.

"It's what happened in relation to the people from Kosovo, it's what happened in relation to the people from East Timor. The UN will be making arrangements for people to be returning home," Mr. Ruddock said.

Most arrived in Australia

by illegal ferry from south-east Asia, with the help of people smugglers.

They are being held in detention camps on the mainland, the remote Indian Ocean territory of Christmas Island and the Pacific island state of Nauru.

'Terror suspect is British'

A man being detained by the FBI after attempting to detonate explosives on a flight from Paris to Miami is believed by UK police to be British.

The suspect, who boarded American Airlines flight 63 in Paris alone and without luggage, was overpowered by flight attendants and passengers during the mid-air drama.

Officials in Britain were contacted by their US counterparts after they discovered the man - thought to be aged 27 - held a British passport issued in the name of Richard Reid in Belgium three weeks ago.

A spokesperson for Scotland Yard said: "We as a police force believe this man is a British citizen."

However, it is not certain whether the passport carried by the

Two killed in Indian-Pakistani clash

India has said that two of its border guards have been killed by Pakistani troops in a clash in the disputed territory of Kashmir.

Pakistan, meanwhile, has accused the Indian authorities of kidnapping and torturing one of its diplomatic staff at its high commission in Delhi.

The latest incidents come as tension remains high between the two countries following an attack on the Indian parliament which Delhi blames on Pakistani-based militants.

India is insisting Pakistan closes down two militant groups it blames for the attacks.

An Indian spokesman said the soldiers were attacked while on patrol about 40 kilometres south-west of the city of Jammu.

"The troops were on a routine patrol along the international border when Pakistan border guards opened fire killing two Border Security Force (BSF) personnel," an official of the BSF told the Reuters news agency.

He said three other Indian guards were wounded in the attack.

suspect was valid, false or stolen and other reports have suggested he is of Sri Lankan descent.

A foreign office spokesperson said: "We are treating this matter very seriously and we stand ready to help with any investigations."

It is understood that an airline stewardess spotted the man trying to set fire to his shoe about three hours into the flight.

As cabin staff attempted to restrain the 6ft 4in man he became violent, resisting and biting one woman flight attendant.

Passengers joined in the struggle and he was eventually subdued and sedated by two doctors on board.

The Boeing 767, which was carrying 185 passengers and 12 crew, was then diverted to Boston's Logan airport and escorted in to land by two F-15 fighter jets.

Taliban ambassador seeks asylum

The former Taliban ambassador to Islamabad, Mullah Abdul Salam Zaeef, is reported to have sought political asylum in Pakistan.

Mullah Zaeef became the best-known public face of the Taliban during the US-led campaign in Afghanistan, giving regular news conferences broadcast around the world.

Pakistan was the last

country to have diplomatic relations with the Taliban, before its fall from power.

"I have applied for asylum and I am waiting for a reply from the Pakistan government," Mr. Zaeef told Reuters new agency from the Pakistan city of Quetta.

He said he was only seeking temporary asylum: "I don't feel it's the right time to go back to my

country yet," he told Reuters.

Following the 11 September attacks on New York and Washington, Pakistan became the only country still to recognise the authority of the Taliban in Afghanistan.

Mr. Zaeef, who is 34, provided a line of communication with his isolated and reclusive leaders.

His press conferences were regularly packed with international and national journalists.

ODD WORLD

Fortune telling business booms in Thailand

The economic woes that have dogged Thailand since 1997 have not dented the business of one industry — fortune telling.

Thai Farmers Research said Tuesday its latest poll showed 80.8 percent of Bangkok residents have visited fortune tellers, with an estimated annual spending of \$22.8 million (about N2964m) and an average of two visits a year.

It said more than 60 percent of the 1,132 surveyed Bangkok residents were visiting fortune tellers as often, or more often, than before the crisis.

"During the recession, many businesses in Thailand have been severely hit, but the fortune telling business has maintained its robustness and popularity among Bangkok residents," the firm said in a statement.

A third of the surveyed respondents said they spent at least 500 baht per visit — three times the minimum daily wage.

Work-related issues were the most popular topic discussed.

Man escapes Xmas stress in rented bunker

A British man is heading underground behind blast proof doors and 10-foot-thick concrete in a bid to escape the stresses of a family Christmas.

Colin Wood, a 30-year-old financial services worker, has coughed up \$430 (about N55,900) to spend two weeks alone in a decommissioned nuclear bunker in Essex east of London.

He has even foregone traditional Christmas fare — opting instead for a frugal diet of processed luncheon meat known as Spam, baked beans and tap water.

"He certainly seems to be a little bit disillusioned with Christmas," bunker owner Michael Parrish told Reuters.

"I gather it's like being in prison without the exercise hour or worse because you can't look out of the prison bars at the sun or the moon," he added.

Wood was one of 50 would-be bunker dwellers who bid at Internet auction site to hire the site where even Santa is unlikely to venture.

Why adults bed-wet in Hong Kong

Over 60,000 adults in Hong Kong wet their beds and a quarter of them bed-wet every night mainly because of work problems, a survey showed Friday.

While the sufferers made up only 2.4 percent of adults aged between 16 and 40, the survey found that more than half of them wet their beds three or more nights a week.

The survey by the Chinese University of Hong Kong of 8,500 people showed that sufferers were most likely to wet their beds when choosing a job and or when they were worried about work performance.

Most also did not have tertiary education, it found.

"Very few people knew how to manage the problem, and less than half of the affected individuals have tried some form of therapy or sought medical assistance," the survey said.

Hong Kong is facing its second recession in four years and many face the prospect of job cuts or being laid off.

N910 million lottery prize unclaimed

Someone's luck is about to run out.

Texas lottery officials on Wednesday said a winning lottery ticket sold in June and worth \$7 million (about N910m) is set to expire because no one has cashed it in.

They urged lottery players to search their homes, cars and clothes for the ticket.

"If that ticket doesn't show up by midnight, this becomes a Cinderella story — and it's not the good part where she gets to go to the ball, but the part where the magic ends at midnight and her carriage turns back into a pumpkin," said Lottery Commission Executive Director, Linda Cloud.

The ticket was sold June 23 at a liquor store in Humble, Texas, north of Houston, with the numbers 10-12-16-25-29-41. Under state law, winners have up to 180 days to collect.

The purchase of the ticket coincided with the arrival of Tropical Storm Allison, which flooded southeastern Texas with nearly three feet of rain.

"With everything that was going on, maybe they forgot they bought it," lottery spokeswoman Leticia Vasquez said.

NEWS

Briefs

Abeokuta

Armed robbers at the weekend invaded the Ifo-Akinside Waterworks Intake at Papalanto in Ogun State, carting away mechanical and electrical items valued at about N2 million.

According to a release issued by the Acting General Manager (Admin and Corporate Affairs), of Ogun State Water Corporation, the robbers numbering 12 arrived the waterworks at about 3 a.m., Saturday tied up and thoroughly beat the six security guards and operation staffers on duty before commencing their operations.

Jos

A staff of Plateau State House of Assembly (PLHA), Mrs Sarah Shut, who has had her two legs amputated at the University of Jos Teaching Hospital (JUTH) has appealed to the state government, the state House of Assembly and philanthropists to come to her aid to enable her acquire artificial legs.

Lagos

A coalition of Human Rights, bodies, non-governmental and civil society organisations, acting under the umbrella of Transition Monitoring Group (TMG), has called on the National Assembly to call off its Christmas vacation to enable it deliberate over the Electoral Act which has generated a national debate.

Abuja

The Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) Abuja chapter, has congratulated Nigerians on the successful celebration of this year's *Ed-el-fitr* Muslim festival without any reported religious crisis in any part of the country.

Uyo

Akwa Ibom State Governor, Victor Obong Attah, at the weekend presented a budget proposal of N59.891 billion for the 2002 fiscal year to the state House of Assembly in Uyo for consideration.

Bauchi

Bauchi State plans to establish blood-screening centres in all general hospitals in the state in an effort to check the spread of the HIV/AIDS.

The Commissioner for Health, Prof. Iyasu Mohammed, said at the weekend at the take-off of a public enlightenment campaign on the disease in Bauchi that counselling units have also been established in the hospitals.

The Sokoto State governor, Alhaji Attahiru Bafarawa, has said the judiciary should be allowed to decide the case of the convicted adulteress, Safiya Tungar-Tudu, the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports. A NAN correspondent in Sokoto quoted Bafarawa as saying: "I am yet to see the judgement officially."

Exchanging views with members of the Correspondent Chapel of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) Sokoto on Saturday, the governor said: "Since the case is in the court, the law should

Judiciary should decide fate of Adulteress - Bafarawa

be allowed to take its due course.

"The Sharia appeal court, Sokoto, has already suspended the death sentence passed on Safiya by the Gwagwalada lower Sharia Court," Bafarawa explained.

"According to Islamic law, Safiya is as free as everybody, and nobody has ever arrested her," he added.

The governor said Safiya would have to report to the court periodically and would be required to come back after delivery, adding that on reporting after delivery, she was still entitled to a two-year grace period before any sentence could be carried out.

Said the governor: "In spite of the international and domestic hue and cry

about Safiya, the appellate court should be allowed to decide her fate."

Bafarawa urged all those lambasting the state government on Safiya's sentence to acquaint themselves with the provisions of the Islamic Sharia code.

Safiya Tungar-Tudu, who has since been delivered of a healthy baby boy, was sentenced to death by stoning some months ago by the Gwagwalada Sharia Court for an alleged adultery.

Unsatisfied with the judgement, she appealed

against the case in the Sharia appeal court Sokoto where the case is still pending.

Her case has been a cause for concern for the Federal Ministry of Justice as well as human rights activists both at home and abroad.



Gov Attahiru Bafarawa

20-year-old Qu'ranic reciter wins N4m

A 20-year-old, Malam Fadlu Sabilu Kura, who represented Nigeria in this year's Dubai International Holy Qur'anic Recitation Competition, has emerged winner of the competition.

A press release signed by the National President of the Holy Qu'ranic Reciters Organisation of Nigeria, Malam Rufa'i Gabari, issued in Kano on Sunday, said Kura won the first position in the competition by beating competitors from 77 countries across the world.

The winner, who hails from Kura local government area of Kano State, was given 250,000 Darhams (N4 million) by the Governor of the United Arab Emirate (UAE) as an award for his success in the

competition. According to the release, the Minister of Defence of Yemen has promised to sponsor Kura for university studies in Islamic courses.

Waddah Yahay Yamani, from Yemen and Mohammed Munawa, from India, won the second and third positions during the competitions.

The Dubai International Holy Qur'anic Recitation Competition, which is

conducted annually, was initiated in 1997.



Gov Kwankwaso

Zeb Ejiro sent to prison

Lagos Chief Magistrate Court at the weekend ordered that a Lagos-based artiste and film producer, Mr. Zeb Ejiro, be remanded at the Ikoyi prisons for allegedly defrauding a businesswoman of N2

million.

Zeb Ejiro (45), who was earlier nabbed by the police at the Force Criminal Investigation Department (FCID) Alagbon Annex over the allegation, was released to his brother on the condition that he would be produced anytime the police needed his attention.

But when the brother, Peter Ejiro Alagbon, was called upon to produce Zeb, he could not as the suspect had jumped bail. Peter Ejiro was subsequently charged to court, to show cause why he should not forfeit his bond to the government.

Specifically, Zeb Ejiro was alleged to have, with intent to defraud, obtained the N2 million by false pretence from one Mrs. Princess Nchekwube. The offence is punishable under section 1(a) and 1(3) of the advance fee fraud and other fraud related offences decree No 13 of 1995 as amended.

When the charge No A/201/2001 was read to the accused, no plea was taken from him by Chief Magistrate Ayo Odugbesan who ordered that he be kept at the Ikoyi prisons till February 6, next year.

Benue bans picnics for security reasons - SSG

Picnics and beach parties have been banned in Benue State this festive season, NAN reports.

The Secretary to the State Government (SSG), Mr. Bartholomew Oche, announced this at the weekend after the State's Security Council meeting.

It would be recalled that the state is still undergoing a 12 p.m. to 5 a.m. curfew, arising from the recent students demonstration in Makurdi, over soldiers' reprisal attacks on villages in Logo, Ukum and Katsina-Ala local government areas of the state.



Gov George Akume

LG awards N64m road contract

Contract for a N64 million township road has been awarded by the Damboa local council of Borno, State.

Signing the contract at a ceremony at the council secretariat at the

weekend, the chairman, Alhaji Lawan Kabu, said the development would address the problem of bad roads affecting Damboa town and facilitate its transformation. Kabu urged the contractors to execute the job according to specification and within the stipulated time limit.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the seven kilometres road contract, awarded to Kube Nigeria limited, is expected to be completed in three months.

The N64 million contract is the highest contract so far awarded

by any council in Borno State.

In another development, the chairman of Bama local government area of Borno State, Alhaji Modu Mustafa, has accused the state Ministry of Works of abandoning a N11 million road contract awarded to it by the council.

Making the accusation during the recent tour of the local government by Governor Mala Kachallah, Mosu, who appealed for the governor's intervention for the contract to be executed, said the council has paid the ministry the entire contract fee.



Gov Mala Kachallah

Wind of change in t

Over the years, conditions in Nigerian Prisons have been steadily declining, but recently efforts have been made to improve the penal system, with the commissioning of two modern prisons at Minna and Ile-Ife. Victor Akobundu, our reporter, went on a trip to these new prisons, and wrote this revealing report on the Nigeria Prisons Service.

The standard prison system apart from reforming, rehabilitating, and resettling offenders, provides that prison inmates have the right to life, access to basic health care delivery, and other forms of humane treatment. But the nations prison system for a long time, has grappled with efforts to ensure that the system meets with the requirements of international standards. All earlier efforts to meet with the standard prison requirements were frustrated, as the nation's prisons retained their colonial structures and facilities. Prison projects were uncompleted and abandoned, and limited cell accommodation inadvertently gave rise to the problem of congestion.

The issue of congestion in prisons was therefore identified as the major problem confronting the nations prison administration, prevalent notably in jails within the urban areas, where crime ratios are heavy with delays in the trial of criminal cases, leading to a high rate of persons awaiting trial.

Statistic show that prisons in the country

are congested at the rate of over 58%, with awaiting trial persons accounting for over 6% of the total prisons population.

This development moroso creates a chaotic situation among inmates as it aggravates health problems, thus giving rise to communicable diseases, and high incidences of tuberculosis patients, psychiatric inmates and drug users etc.

To this end the prison service as part of its prison modernisation commitment and drive to enhance the right to life, as well as to ensure good health for offenders, made comprehensive Health Care Delivery in prisons, its priority. As the Comptroller-General of Prisons, Alhaji Ibrahim Jarma stated recently, his goal at the inception of office in 1996 was to reduce the mortality rate among inmates.

In his words: "Through improved feeding and enhanced sewage system, the rate reduced by over 75% by the year 2000. Furthermore, Rule-22 (2) of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rule for the treatment of offend-

ers provides thus "...when hospital facilities are provided in an institution, the equipment, furnishings, pharmaceutical supplies shall be proper for the medical care and treatment of offenders..."

The Prison Service embarked on a number of laudable projects, which included the establishment of Prisons Reference Hospitals. A Project, which it considered a useful venture and a step forward in its march toward civility.

According to the Prison boss it was imperatives to establish the Prison Reference Hospitals given the stage of development attained by the prison service, and the rise in prison population.

It was therefore against this background that the prisons service deemed it necessary to establish Reference Hospitals across major prisons in the country, the first being in Lagos commissioned in 1994, and Kaduna followed suit in 1999. Not relenting in its efforts and the priority for all major prisons across the country to have a reference hospital, the prisons service this year com-



Chief Sunday Afolabi (JD), Hon. Minister of Internal Affairs being assisted by the Comptroller-Ge. at the commissioning of the new Medium Security Prison, Ile-Ife, Osun State.

missioned the third in Bauchi, and the fourth at Ilesa, Osun State, while plans are underway to establish another in Kuje within the Federal Capital Territory, (FCT), Abuja.

The 20-bed, Bauchi and Ilesa Ultra-modern Hospitals which were commissioned on the 8th and 20th of November, respectively, by the Internal Affairs Minister, Chief Sunday M. Afolabi (J.P) have identical structures and fa-

cilities, and are equipped with state of the art medical equipment, to provide basic health care services to prison inmates, staff of the prisons service, and members of their families.

According to the Deputy Comptroller-General of Prisons (DCG) Medical and Health Services, Dr. G.A. Oloyede, with the prevalence of tuberculosis cases among prisoners, efforts were made in respect of equipping the

X-ray departments with facilities worth millions of naira, for an early detection of the disease in affected inmates.

The Nigeria Prisons Service in its effort to modernize the penal institution, and to ameliorate the psychological and emotional trauma experienced by inmates, therefore decided to replace the old prison facilities, of which 79 per cent have been in existence from the colonial days, and could no longer support the full demands of the contemporary penal philosophy on the treatment of offenders. Owing to certain constraints in the past, initiated



Walls of the New Minna Medium Prison



The watch tower of the New Ile-Ife Prison, commissioned recently by the Honourable Minister of Internal Affairs, Chief S.M. Afolabi

Feature

The Prisons Service



Comptroller-General of Prisons, Alhaji Ibrahim Jarman

enhances the scope of the prisons service in handling the problem of prison congestion, and gives room for proper classification of prisoners in the various prisons. This enhances the goal of treatment and rehabilitation of offenders. It encourages the prospect of good penal practices in Nigeria, and the observance of the rights of prisoners.

It is indeed against this backdrop that the prisons service embarked on the commissioning of the completed medium security prisons project. With the go ahead given by the erstwhile administration of General Abdulsalami Abubakar in 1999, to commence work on abandoned prison projects, so far, 14 new medium security prisons have been commissioned. Recently the 15th and 16th 160-bed medium security prisons were commissioned at Ile-Ife and Minna on the 19th and 26th, November respectively, and the prison service has reiterated its resolve to commission the rest before the end of the year.

prison projects were abandoned for over two decades. Following the proposal for the construction of 47 new prisons in 1981, 37 additional prisons were constructed.

However, the present administrations resolve to complete all abandoned prison projects nationwide, is a clear indication that it has reaffirmed its commitment to support meaningful prison ventures, and making reformation and rehabilitation its principal prison policy. Recently, the Comptroller-General of Prisons spelt out the benefits which include, among others, giving room for proper classification of prisons, which en-

The ultra-modern 160-bed medium security prisons commissioned recently at Ile-Ife and Minna have striking qualities and better facilities, which differ in quite significant ways from the dilapidated prison facilities of the past. Apart from having environments conducive for the better training and treatment of offend-



The Prison Reference Hospital, Bauchi

ers, it has facilities such as single cells, fitted with toilets, general cell workshop for the training of inmates, conference rooms, close circuit television monitors, stores and administrative offices.

Unlike the old prison facilities, inmates will no longer eat in their cells, as there is a dining area to serve that purpose. These are also fitted with gas cookers, and provided with firewood in case of gas failure, as well as a standby water supply system through a borehole, which is an alternative to regular water supply.

As the Minister of Internal Affairs noted at

The ultra-modern 160-bed medium security prisons commissioned recently at Ile-Ife and Minna have striking qualities and better facilities, which differ in quite significant ways from the dilapidated prison facilities of the past. Apart from having environments conducive for the better training and treatment of offenders it has facilities such as single cells, fitted with toilets, general cell workshop for the training of inmates, conference rooms, close circuit television monitors, stores and administrative offices.

the commissioning of these new medium prison projects, it was imperative to equip these prisons with these

facilities, given the fact that with inmates now exposed to reformatory activities ranging from counselling, interview-

ing, religious and vocational training etc, adequate space therefore is required to enhance their effective co-ordination.



Entrance to the New 160-bed medium security prison Minna.



Dignitaries inspecting facilities at the newly commissioned Minna New Prison

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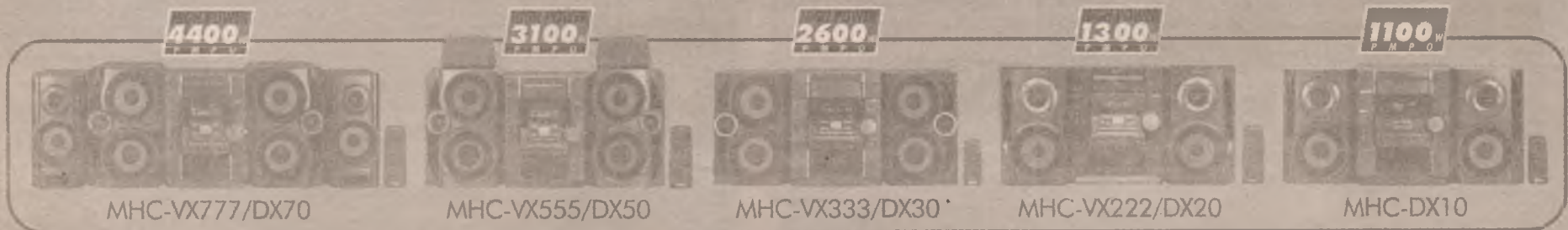
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BUSINESS DAY

CBN mops N32bn excess liquidity

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has mopped a sum total of N32.9 billion from circulation through the money market last week.

A breakdown of the figures within the period under review showed that the sum of N7.6 billion was mopped through the open market operations (OMO) auction, while N25.2 billion was mopped by way of the primary market auction.

This is higher than the records of the previous week when about N13 billion was mopped from circulation.

However, the major highlight of changes recorded in the week under review was the return of the OMO auction to its usual 21 days maturity period instead of the 14 days maturity of previous week.

Also, CBN repaid the

From Bright Ewulu, in Lagos

total sum of N9.6 billion to investors even as its net sales was N1.9 billion in respect of the OMO auction.

For primary market, its repayment to investors totalled N20.2 billion with net sales of N5 billion. The OMO auction will mature on January 11, next year and the primary market deals will mature on March 21, 2002 as it has a 90 days maturity lifeline.

The true yield of the OMO auction stands at 20.2 percent whereas that of its counterpart in the is 21 per cent. The range of bid rates of the latter is between 19 and 20.4 per cent while the former is between 19.4 and 20 per cent.

The Minimum Rediscount Rate (MRR) still stands at 20.5 per cent.

However, if the speculations are the industry is anything to go by, indications are that the apex bank may soon reduce the MRR in order to make the economic environment more amenable to the real sector of the economy.



Joseph Sanusi, CBN Governor.

According to sources, this is as result of pressure being mounted on the apex bank by operator in the productive sector who allege that the CBN policies seem to favour the money market over the capital market.

The board, management and staff of Bank of the North Limited (BON) have commended the bank's Managing Director, Shettima Mohammed Bulama over his recent conferment with the national award of the Officer of the Order of the Niger (OON).

BON staff commend Bulama over award

By Ahmed Shekarau

The Shettima Kuwam of Borno was among 7 Nigerians and three foreigners that were conferred with the OON by President Olusegun Obasanjo, last week Tuesday in Abuja.

According to a statement signed by Malam Baffa Bur Mohammed, BON's Principal Manager Public Relations, Bulama's award was in recognition of his "outstanding contributions to the banking sector and the nation at large."

The statement further stated that the BON MD is credited for his astute management of Bank of the North to profitability and subsequently positioning the bank as a leading player in the banking industry.

Bulama, whose banking career spanned almost three decades, joined BON in 1976 as the Branch Accountant of Maiduguri main branch and rose through the ranks to become the bank's managing director in 1995.



Shettima Mohammed Bulama

Real Estate dominates trading at NSE

Turnover of 119.1 million shares worth N1.03 billion was recorded last week in 5971 deals, compared with 54.9 million shares valued at N705.7 million traded in 7227 deals on the exchange previous week.

Transactions this week were only in the Equities Sector as the Federal Government Development Stocks Sector and the Industrial Loans/Preference Stocks Sector were inactive.

Trading in the equities sector was highest (measured by volume) in the Real Estate subsector, which accounted for 43 million shares worth N191.4 million shares worth N295.8 million. Last week the Banking Subsector led, followed by the conglomerates subsector on the activity chart.

Price Movement: The Nigerian Stock Exchange All-Share Index rose by 0.60 per cent to close the week at N10897.37. The index had dropped by 0.48 per cent last week.

Cadbury Nigeria Plc led the week's price gainers, as it gained 157 kobo to close at N30.67 per share followed by Julius Berger Nigeria Plc with an increase in share price of 111 kobo to close at N44.01. Other price gainers in the top ten bracket are: WAPCO Plc (110 kobo); Guinness Nigeria Plc (105 kobo); Totalfinal Nigeria Plc (100 kobo); Ashakacem Plc (90 kobo); First Bank Nigeria Plc (60 kobo); DN Meyer Plc and National Oil Company Plc (50 kobo apiece); FSB International Bank Plc (48 kobo); Union Dicon Salt Plc (32 kobo) and Afribank Nigeria Plc (29 kobo).

Agip Nigeria Plc led on the price loser's chart, losing 190 kobo to close at N33.05. Other price losers in the top ten bracket include: Flour Mills Nigeria Plc (65 kobo); Unilever Nigeria Plc (58 kobo); Royal Exchange Assurance Plc. (50 kobo); UBA Plc (49 kobo); Berger Paints Plc. (26 kobo); P. Z. Industries Plc (20 kobo); NAL Merchant Bank Plc., John Holt Plc. (19 kobo apiece); UNIC Insurance Plc (17 kobo); Vitafoam Nigeria Plc., AIICO Insurance Plc.

(15 kobo apiece).
Company reports from NSE

Guaranty Trust Bank Plc: Unaudited results for the third quarter ended 30th November 2001 show gross income of N7.8 billion as against N4.7 billion in the comparable period of 2000. Profit after tax stood at N1.5 billion compared with N824.6 million in 2000.

Okomu Oil Palm Company Plc: Unaudited results for the nine months ended 30th September 2001 show a turnover of N892.9 million as against N616.8 million in the corresponding period of 2000. Profit before tax stood at N255.9 million compared with N50.8 million in 2000.

ENPEE industries Plc: Unaudited results of the half-year ended 30th September 2001 show a turnover of N941.7 million as against N797.0 million in the corresponding period of 2000. Profit after tax stood at N13.9 million compared with N7.5 million in 2000.

Daily Times of Nigeria Plc: Audited results for the year ended 28th February 2001 show a turnover of N160.7 million as against N168.6 million in 2000. Loss after tax stood at N359.9 million compared with N197.4 million in 2000.

First Registrar disburses N43m dividend

A total of N43.24 million has so far been disbursed by first Registrar Nigeria Limited to shareholders as dividend previously returned as unclaimed.

The company's Managing Director and Chief Executive, Mr. Bayo Olugbemi made this known in a statement. According to him, of the above stated amount, N23.24 million was disbursed to shareholders at the Kaduna shareholders forum organised by the company. While N20 million was disbursed at both the Port Harcourt and Kano forums earlier held this year.

He stated that the company's board recently approved that following series of complaints by stakeholders concerning

unclaimed dividend warrants and share certificates, First Registrar Nigeria Limited organised shareholders forum whereby it provided answers to these complaints.

The forum, according to him, attached such notable shareholders like Alhaji Inuwa Moro, chairman Kaduna Shareholders Association, Col. Abdul One Mohammed (rtd), Prince Olayemi General Secretary of Jos and Kaduna Zonal Shareholders Association.

Others included, Managing Director of Express Portfolio Limited, Mr. Solomon Boro and Alhaji Yahaya Gusau

According to him, the amount disbursed includes individual and returned monies in respect of first bank unipetrol.

Belo-Osagie backs new CBN lending policies

Chairman of United Bank for Africa Plc. (UBA), Dr. Hakeem Belo-Osagie has said that the new Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) guidelines on public sector lending will save the nation from the straits of bank industry distress.



Hakeem Belo-Osagie, UBA Boss.

Belo-Osagie who stated this in a lecture at the monthly meeting of the Finance Correspondents Association of Nigeria (FICAN) said the guidelines were introduced for other positive reasons.

According to him 'these purposes include to "draw the attention of banks to the quality of their growing exposure to the public sector, and thus seek to reflect this quality in the statement of their financial condition."

"Set in motion a mechanism for reducing their exposure to the public sector, thereby containing the adverse implications of the unrestrained fiscal operations of states and local government," he said.

The UBA chairman added that the reason behind the guidelines include to send warning signal to banks to prevent widespread distress in the industry due to public sector borrowings

and stem the near monopoly of public sector in the credit market.

Going further, he intimated that if the guidelines are effectively implemented they would enhance the nation's economic stability as excessive expenses on the part of the various governments will lessen, thereby improving the Nigeria economy.

Moreso, he stressed that it would make more funds available to the private sector in the form of loans, but added quickly that the CBN needs to reduce MRR,

...as Ogbu condemns the policies

The Managing Director Chief Executive Officer of Eurocomm Securities Limited, Mr. Uchenna Ogbu has taken a swipe on the recent policies of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), saying that some of her monetary policies inhibited the development of the Capital Market.

Ogbu who intimated this in a lecture entitled "Capital Market Operations in Privatised Economy" during the end of year lecture of the capital market Correspondent Association of Nigeria (CAMCAM) stated that by encouraging high interest rate the CBN makes the money market more appetising than the capital market.

He stated that an interest rate as much as 20.5 per cent that its not surprising that investors and financial organisation find the money market more attractive.

Going further, he posited that it was the apex bank's policies that is responsible for the fact that bank loans attract as much as 45 per cent, adding that at such a rate that the much harped support for small and medium scale industries (SMI's) is a "Pipe dream"

treasury bills and CBN certificate rates to adequately achieve this purpose.

Another potential effect of the new guidelines on public sector lending, Belo-Osagie said, would positively save the CBN from "worries about the exchange rate which has come under pressure at times from the adverse spending behaviour of states and local governments.

"Ofcourse, a fresh round of distress, however mild, would constitute a cost to tax payers and prompt macro-economic instability," he said.

since most of such companies will find it hard borrowing at such a rate.

According to him if the medium rediscount rate is pegged down, the lending rate will fall and the capital market will become more attractive tot the average investor.

On the privatisation programme, he posited that so far the cove investors and monies individuals have seemingly hijacked the scheme and did not allow stockbrokers and other operators i the capital market to pay expected roles.

It was his hope however, that the next phase of the programme will see the mass of Nigerians getting involved in the entire exercise.

To enhance the programme in the next phase he called for some change in some of its aspects in order to eliminate lope holes.

Said he, "Besides, existing shareholders in some of the companies currently quoted on the exchange who applied for shares under the programme have had their monies returned without interest after failing to secure the little they bedded fore. Core investors are however having a field day."

BUSINESS DAY

Nigerian Stock Dealings (NSE) Price List as at yesterday (24/12/2001)

COMPANY	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE	DEALS	VOLUME	VALUE
TUP	5.00	5.00	0.00	6	9,000	45,000.00
AFPRINT	0.82	0.83	0.1	4	10,051	8,382.33
AFRIBANK	9.00	8.71	0.29	18	93,466	616,575.86
AGIP	33.05	33.00	0.5	39	120,472	4,008,140.27
AGLEVENT	1.00	0.96	0.04	2	100,000	96,400.00
AHICO	2.99	2.99	0.00	1	5,000	14,950.00
AP	19.34	19.34	0.00	10	8,756	169,341.04
ASHAKACEM	21.99	21.99	0.00	12	31,294	169,418.26
BATA	0.38	0.38	0.00	1	45,325	17,223.50
BERGER	2.59	2.50	0.09	10	33,000	85,043.64
CADBURY	30.67	30.20	0.47	72	190,904	5,641,023.64
CFAO	2.80	2.80	0.00	1	3,000	5,641,023.88
CAPALBETO	8.10	8.10	0.00	2	254,867	8,400.00
CCNN	3.07	3.07	0.00	1	125	2,064,584.70
CFAO	3.51	3.50	0.01	5	21,819	383.75
CHARTERED	4.35	4.35	0.00	4	29,750	76,393.69
CMB	0.95	0.95	0.00	2	674	129,412.50
COOPBANK	1.90	1.90	0.00	6	55,800	640.30
DNMEYER	10.50	10.00	0.50	11	45,413	108,930.00
DUNLOP	3.52	3.35	0.17	11	157,521	464,930.00
ENAMELWA	3.52	3.52	0.00	1	20	530,491.84
EVANSMED	1.53	1.55	0.02	2	8,933	70.40
FIRSTALUM	1.52	1.52	0.00	8	215,500	13,706.15
FIRSTBANK	24.60	24.00	0.60	133	631,916	327,560.00
FLOURMILL	15.10	15.80	0.70	32	95,298	15,191,359.87
FSB	8.98	8.54	0.44	35	500,848	1,496,656.40
GCAPPA	4.55	4.55	0.00	2	9,751	4,301,203.92
GROMMAC	0.47	0.49	0.02	2	5,000	44,367.05
GUARANTY	6.65	6.60	0.05	47	875,429	2,442.00
GUINNESS	33.80	34.50	0.70	38	99,126	5,746,546.25
HALLBANK	3.79	3.70	0.09	2	9,300	3,362,411.16
GL	4.22	4.22	0.00	1	500	34,500.00
MB	1.03	1.07	0.04	30	1,490,573	2,110.00
NCAR	1.60	1.53	0.07	1	5,000	1,497,131.14
NLANDBANK	1.09	1.15	0.05	5	30,010	7,650.00
BERGER	44.01	44.01	0.00	2	500	33,935.65
JOHNHOLT	1.91	2.00	0.09	15	76,868	22,005.00
ASACO	1.64	1.64	0.00	1	3,000	147,567.88
LAWUNION	1.54	1.51	0.03	1	6,000	9,060.00
LEVBROS	27.02	26.61	0.41	70	499,302	13,541,776.91
MANNYBANK	1.30	1.30	0.00	3	39,850	51,805.00
MOBIL	65.05	64.00	1.05	18	23,580	1,527,361.60
MORISON	3.26	3.27	0.00	1	4,555	14,849.30
NAL	3.51	3.40	0.11	22	8,323,974	28,700,484.74
NB	35.10	33.54	1.56	66	271,249	9,345,235.04
NBC	26.00	26.60	0.60	34	56,320	1,483,833.45
NEM	0.52	0.50	0.02	1	1,163	581.50
NESTLE	64.03	63.00	1.03	18	39,035	2,481,012.95
NIGERINS	4.33	4.33	0.00	3	5,000	21,650.00
NIGERINS	2.17	2.17	0.00	4	11,900	25,623.00
NIWICABLE	27.50	27.90	0.40	18	9,458	262,731.78
NOLCHEM	1.45	1.45	0.00	2	500	725.00
ORIENTBANK	2.22	2.28	0.06	10	7,005	15,821.40
OWENABANK	1.24	1.30	0.06	5	22,500	28,740.00
PREMINTS	0.96	0.96	0.00	1	23,150	22,224.00
PRESTIGE	2.15	2.10	0.05	1	2,000	4,200.00
PZ	10.70	10.50	0.20	27	157,751	1,660,101.90
ROYALEX	4.50	4.40	0.10	1	500	2,200.00
SAVANNA	0.96	0.93	0.03	4	54,300	53,325.00
COA	2.65	2.65	0.00	1	140	371.00
KBEECHAM	2.05	2.05	0.00	4	6,000	12,300.00
EXACO	63.10	60.65	2.45	11	6,011	377,334.10
UTB	2.18	2.18	0.00	1	6,400	13,952.00
TOTAL	67.00	67.00	0.00	9	12,940	867,379.00
JAC-PROP	4.65	4.45	0.20	22	247,224	1,110,827.80
JACN	3.89	3.70	0.19	32	359,638	1,354,678.06
UBA	10.51	10.90	0.39	43	98,120	1,059,668.07
IBN	24.91	24.91	0.00	57	162,213	4,040,725.83
INIC	1.63	1.56	0.07	11	8,383	13,010.85
NIONDICON	16.32	16.32	0.00	5	2,100	34,282.00
UNIPETROL	50.00	50.01	0.01	18	11,550	577,550.72
INEL	4.00	4.00	0.00	5	13,320	53,280.00
ITB	3.25	3.10	0.15	9	305,000	961,100.00
ITC	0.99	0.99	0.00	4	13,007	12,876.93
VITAFOAM	4.35	4.40	0.05	8	28,757	126,017.55
WAPCO	23.00	21.90	1.10	16	26,950	603,757.00
WEMABANK	3.45	3.40	0.05	30	185,309	639,100.62
TOTAL				1,171	16,325,983	118,330,562.63

Nigerian Stock Dealings (NSE) Gainers/Losers as at yesterday (24/12/2001)

Gainers			
COMPANY	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE
FLOURMILL	15.10	15.80	0.70
GUINNESS	33.80	34.50	0.70
NBC	26.00	26.60	0.60
NOLCHEM	27.50	27.90	0.40
UBA	10.51	10.90	0.39
JOHNHOLT	1.91	2.00	0.09
PREMBREW	1.24	1.30	0.06
OWENABNAK	2.22	2.28	0.06
VITAFOAM	4.35	4.40	0.05
INLANDBANK	1.09	1.14	0.05
IMB	1.03	1.07	0.04
EVANSMED	1.53	1.55	0.02
GROMMAC	0.47	0.49	0.02
UNIPETROL	50.00	50.01	0.01
AFPRINT	0.82	0.83	0.01

Losers			
COMPANY	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE
TEXACO	63.10	60.65	2.45
NB	35.10	33.54	1.56
WAPCO	23.00	21.90	1.10
MOBIL	65.05	64.00	1.05
NESTLE	64.03	63.00	1.03
FIRSTBANK	24.60	24.00	0.60
DNMEYER	10.50	10.00	0.50
FSB	8.98	8.54	0.44
AFRIBANK	9.00	8.71	0.29
UAC-PROP	4.65	4.45	0.20
PZ	10.70	10.50	0.20
UACN	3.89	3.70	0.19
DUNLOP	3.52	3.35	0.17
UTB	3.25	3.10	0.15
NAL	3.51	3.40	0.11
ROYALEX	4.50	4.40	0.10
HALLBANK	3.79	3.70	0.09
NERGER	2.59	2.50	0.09
UNIC	1.63	1.56	0.07
INCAR	1.60	1.53	0.07
PRESTIGE	2.15	2.10	0.05
AGLEVENT	1.00	0.96	0.04
LAWUNION	1.54	1.51	0.03
SAVANNA	0.96	0.93	0.03
NEM	0.52	0.50	0.02

Summary of Transactions

	OPENING	CLOSING	% AGE CHANGE
MKT. CAP.	644,561,008.09	637,758,154,683.38	-1.06
INDEX	10,897.37	10,782.35	-1.06

DEALS	VOLUME	VALUE	No. OF COMPANIES
1,171	1,632,983	118,330,562.53	77

Source: NSE, Abuja Area Office

NSE market capitalisation closes at N637.76bn yesterday

Trading reports collected from Abuja Area Office of the Nigerian Stock Exchange yesterday indicated that a total of 16.33 million shares valued at N118.33 billion in 1,171 deals were traded on the floors of the Exchange.

There were no transactions in the Industrial Loans/Preference Stocks sector and the Federal Government/Development stocks sector.

Price Movement:

The Nigeria Stock Exchange All-share Index closed at 10,839.08 a decrease of 0.06 per cent. The index opened at 10,897.37, while the market capitalisation closed at N637.76 billion, a decrease of 0.06 per cent, it opened at N644.56 billion.

The bears led on the floor yesterday with a total of 26 companies losing and 15 companies gaining in their share prices.

Gains were recorded in the Food/Beverages & Tobacco, Breweries, Petroleum Marketing, Banking, Conglomerates, Industrial/Domestic Products, Healthcare, Construction and the Textiles sub sectors.

Flourmill Plc and Guinness Plc led the price gainers, as they appreciated by 70 kobo each to close the day at N15.80 and N34.50 per share respectively, followed by NBC Plc which appreciated by 60 kobo to close at N26.60 per share.

Other price gainers include Nolchem (40 kobo); UBA (39 kobo); Johnholt (9 kobo); Prembrew and Owenabank (6 kobo apiece); Vitafoam and Inlandbank (5 kobo apiece); IMB (4 kobo); Evansmed and Grommac (2 kobo apiece) and Unipetrol and Afprint (16 kobo apiece).

Losses were recorded in the Petroleum Marketing, Breweries, Building Materials, Food/Beverages & Tobacco, Banking, Chemical & Paints, Real Estate, Conglomerates, Automobile & Tyre and the Insurance sub sectors.

Texaco Plc. led the price losers, dropping by 245 kobo to close at N60.65 per share, followed by NB Plc, which lost 157 kobo, to close at N33.54 per share.

Other price losers include WAPCO (110 kobo) Mobil (105 kobo); Nestle (103 kobo); Firstbank (60 kobo); DNMEYER (50 kobo); FSB (44 kobo); Afribank (29 kobo); UAC-Prop and PZ (20 kobo apiece); UACN (19 kobo); Dunlop (17 kobo) and UTB (15 kobo).

This space is for sale



Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution, Abuja.

Pix: Felix Onigbinde

Recall sacked staff, commission tells peace institute

● House Committee indicts DG

The Public Complaints Commission has requested the Director-General of the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (IPCR), Dr Sunday Ochoche, to recall the 42 staff he sacked even as the House Committee on Cooperation and Integration has picked holes with the exercise.

In a letter to the institute's D-G dated December 5, 2001 the Commission advised that he recall the staff and adopt the proper administrative procedure for a rationalisation exercise.

"Your good vision to over-haul the system is not questionable but the modalities adopted should be reviewed," the letter signed by Mrs I. T. Onyeyili for the Chief Commissioner stated.

In its own report on "alleged gross abuse of power and unlawful termination of

By Kevin Ebele Adinnu

tee on Cooperation and integration in Africa called on the minister to authorise the review of the exercise.

According to the report, the D-G unilaterally terminated the appointments of the 42 staff, as there was no evidence to show that the departmental directors participated in the decision to terminate.

The report observed that there was no set criteria on the staff evaluation carried out, as there appeared to be some inconsistencies making it difficult to ascertain the basis for the termination exercise.

The report adduced thus: "Staff with 1st degree in fine arts was retained while those with B.Sc and M.Sc degrees in either Public Admin or Political Science or other social sciences were sacked.

"In the Protocol dept, the only staff with professional Journalism qualification was sacked and others not so qualified were retained.

"The director of Finance and Administration who was not requested to submit (sic) any staff evaluation had about 16 of

his 27 or so staff terminated.

"A staff (sic) with HND (Accts) having not more than three (3) years post qualification experience was retained as Assistant Director while those with over ten years post qualification experience in relevant fields such as Political Science, Public Administration, Law etc. were said to lack the capacity to be retained as either deputy or assistant directors and were terminated.

"There was only one professional staff in the legal department while lawyers with about ten (10) years post call to bar experience were terminated.

"Seconded or transferred staff and those inherited from the Sanni (sic) Abacha Foundation for Peace who were not necessarily on probation.

"Finally, none of the Directors made recommendation for the termination of the appointment of their staff in the evaluation reports submitted to the DG. Rather, they recommended on-the-job training and capacity building, proper re-orientation, and the creation of a conducive working environment."

The House committee recommended "[t]hat the petitioners withdraw their legal suit forthwith in order to pave way for the Hon. Minister's intervention and preserve the image of the Institute.

"That the Hon. Minister, as relevant Authority, authorizes (sic) the suspension of the current exercise and directs (sic) a general review.

"That the review of the

exercise should have clear criteria and participation of the management of the Institute to ensure transparency and enhance the integrity of the process.

"In the course of the review, particular note should be taken of staff on secondment to the Institute.

"In the course of the review, cognisance should also be taken of the fact that this administration is desirous of providing employment..."

The sacked staff have

France offers to train Nigeria Police

By Uwem Umo

The French government has reiterated its willingness to cooperate with the Federal government in the training and manpower development of the Nigeria Police.

The new French Ambassador to Nigeria, Mr. Jean-Marc Simon, made this pledge in Abuja over the weekend when he paid a courtesy visit to the Minister of Police Affairs, Mr. Steven Akiga, in his Office.

The French ambassador who was accompanied by the French Police attaché to Nigeria, said the French government was ready to help train some Nigerian policemen particularly in French language and other aspects of policing, including forensic skills and

finger printing and hand writing analysis.

Responding, the Police Affairs Minister said the Nigerian government was ready to work in collaboration with well meaning and friendly nations to improve the standard of the Nigeria Police.

He called for a close working relationship particularly with the International Police (INTERPOL) to fight international advance fee fraud, crime, drugs, women and child trafficking, among others.

Mr. Akiga expressed delight for the courtesy call and expressed the hope that the French ambassador, who is barely a month old in Nigeria, would find the country refreshing.

He pledged the willingness of government to cooperate with the French government in bringing international crime to the barest minimum and expressed gratitude for any future assistance from France.



Akiga

Thousands leave Abuja for Christmas

By Ikenna Emeka Okpani, Tashikalmah Hallah and Habiba Adamu

Despite increasing financial resources by citizens a mass movement of residents of the federal capital Territory to their respective homelands for the Christmas and New Year celebrations.

Apart from the observable high traffic in Abuja roads in the past few days there is heavy movement of residents of the FCT as noticed in many motor parts within the FCT.

This is however not without increases in the normal transport fares charged to the various part of the country.

Visits to the Karu Motor Park by Abuja Trust in the past two days showed that transport on every route has increased by at least 60 per cent. A trip from Abuja to Jos for instance, which used to cost N500.00, is now N800.00.

The transport cost from Abuja to Yola which was N1,500 at the park increased to N2,000 as at Saturday. Also, N1,200 is now charged for a trip to Bauchi which used to cost commuters N800.00, while it now costs N2,200 to Maiguguri as against the previous N1500, just as a trip from Abuja to Kaduna is now N600, against the previous N300.

Following the withdrawal of many intra-city commuter buses from the Nyanya-Mararaba road, transport fares to the eastern part of the country have also increased.

Similar increases were noticed at the Zuba Park, where a trip to Lagos by taxi increased from N1,400 to N2,000 and jumped from

N800 to N1500 by bus.

At the Idu Motor Park on Saturday and Sunday nights, thousands of people were seen negotiating prices to travel to the eastern part of the country.

This is in spite of the more than 100 per cent increase in the transport fare.

A trip to Obollo - Afor, Orokam, Otukpa and Enugu which used to cost N450 now costs between N900 and N1200.

The mass exodus has expectedly reduced traffic in major parts of the city as many junctions which used to be jammed with vehicles, now have reduced traffic flow.

Many of the satellite towns have also been depleted. Noted for its dense population, Karmo is now quiet in contrast to the former hustle and bustle at the bus stops.

YEAA is a pro-democracy group
— Daniel Kanu
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Abuja Trust

Interview

YEAA was a pro-democracy group - Daniel Kanu

Those who are familiar with the pro-Abacha self-succession political campaign tagged, "Youths Earnestly Ask for Abacha" (YEAA) that embarked on multi-million man march in Abuja, certainly know Daniel Kanu, the youth who provided the vibrant leadership the campaign required. In this interview with Hammed M. Bello of Abuja Trust, Daniel Kanu comments on the essence of YEAA, its sponsorship, the military, current political situation, his political plans and more. Excerpts:

You were the leader of a pro-Abacha youth movement called, "Youths Earnestly Ask for Abacha" (YEAA), which promoted the self-succession bid of the late General Sani Abacha. What were the principles of YEAA?

Well, it was a pro-democracy organization but it is a bit late to start talking about what YEAA is about because we are now in a new era.

But what prompted you into the movement?

It was my desire to do the right thing for the country; my desire to participate and partake in nation building.

What were you specifically asking for then?

Like I said, it is a bit late to start talking about what YEAA was about, we should be talking about the new dispensation and how we can help in moving the country forward.

Why I asked is because people feel no matter how good a military leader is, he can never be a good civilian leader but you people were asking for Abacha to continue as a civilian leader then. Why do you think a military man could be a better civilian leader?

Well, I think General Obasanjo was also a military leader, so basically what we were preaching then is happening today, and he is doing a good job. I think a former military officer can equally rule as a civilian.

You featured prominently in the media during the Abacha regime but in the recent times there seems to be some coldness. Why the coldness?

Daniel Kanu

party was not registered, I joined forces with the PDP, and all my people were asked to join the PDP. I am sort of one of the founding members, if you can say that, of PDP.

The principles of PDP, was it in line with what the youths were earnestly asking

for during Abacha or is there any similarity between the PDP and YEAA?

I think every party and everyone that participates in the politics of this country is trying to help move the country forward, so inasmuch as PDP was trying to take over the leadership of the country to ensure that Nigeria is united, to ensure that the country progresses, they believe in the same fundamental principles that I believe in. As long as they are trying to move the country forward, we do believe in the



"I am a silent member of PDP" - Daniel Kanu Pix: Hammed M. Bello

same thing. That is not to say that PDP and YEAA are the same thing. One is a political party and the other a pressure group.

When the activities of YEAA was vibrant, people were questioning the legitimacy of a pro-democracy group that was clamouring for the continuation of a military

you look into what we stood for, we stood for a civilian government coming in place. We stood for Abacha to come in as a civilian president, not as a military president. If you do read about all we did in the past, you will see that we were advocating democracy. We were just like any other pro-democracy group in the country. Where we differ was we were supporting a military man which is what we have in place today - a former military officer ruling and he is doing a good job. I think we should talk about how we can move the nation forward and how we can alleviate poverty and help our people come out of the plight that we currently have.

You mean you didn't have any form of sponsorship from Abacha to pursue the activities of YEAA?

I think you are moving too far back history and I don't want to double into that.

Now, talking about democracy, do you think President Obasanjo government is ruling by the principles of PDP; what is your assessment of Obasanjo's performance?

General Obasanjo is doing his best and there are people who will always disagree with whatever decision you make being a former military man or a civilian president. All he can do is to do his best and leave the rest to God. But as far as the principles of the PDP is concerned, at this time, he is seen as the symbol of PDP. So I guess whatever principle we uphold is what PDP stands for at this moment.

You are from the Igbo extraction. Sometime ago, a section of the Igbo community had cried of marginalisation by this government especially in terms of appointment, what is your observation on this?

Well, to put in simple terms, we can stand to gain more from the present administration.

Last year, we noticed your presence at the Armed Forces Remembrance Day and launching of the Emblem, this year we noticed your presence too. What special interest do you have

in the celebration?

Well, I am very patriotic to recognize heroes; the men and women that fought for this country in different world wars, the civil wars. Not only should we recognize fallen heroes, but there are heroes that are still living but their plight currently is not favourable. I like to come out each year to remember those who fought for the country and those that are still living. So it is a sort of a ritual; it is not just this year or last year, it is something I have always done.

What makes you have special interest in the course of the military, for example, because you seem to have a soft spot for the military?

The military is the strength of the nation and a nation that does not recognize the presence of its military is not a nation. United States is the strongest nation in the world based on its military so, for Nigeria to be reckoned with in Africa and the world as a whole, we do have to continue to support our military irrespective of what some people feel about the military or certain individuals in the military that they are aggrieved with, we still have to remember and respect the men and women who protected our sovereignty.

You are a youth leader, what efforts are you making towards the empowerment of the youths in this country?

Well, I played my role in the past and I continue to play quiet role to ensure youths participation. It is not an easy battle, it is not something that one person alone can do. However, I am currently the President of the Association of Body Builders of Nigeria. Our main objective is to ensure that the youths participate in sports, more especially body building, to recognize those that have attained certain level in terms of training their body and maintaining themselves because I believe that a strong mind comes from a strong body or a strong body makes a strong mind. It takes a lot of discipline to be a body builder and I think if we can get young men and women to be into sports, we can make a difference.

What message do you have for the youths in this regard?

Stay focused, stay dedicated and don't give up.

What are your political aspirations for the future?

I will be in active politics in the next dispensation but, contesting, I have not decided yet.

"If you look into what we stood for, we stood for a civilian government coming in place. We stood for Abacha to come in as a civilian president, not as a military president."

Well, it is not a matter of coldness. I have been a silent member of the PDP in the past and still I am a member of the PDP. But I am starting to come out to be more active in the party.

We have three major political parties for now - the PDP, APP and AD. Why did you join the PDP, what peculiar quality do you find in the party?

There are people of like minds, a lot of friends that are members of the PDP. Back in the days when they were registering parties, when my

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on behalf of the Board of trustees,
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and its teeming members and admirers
worldwide wishes to heartily felicitate with
all Christians on the occasion of the
commemoration of the Birth of Christ.

May the significance of this occasion offer us
an opportunity for sober reflections on our
norms and values so that together
we can build a greater Nigeria.

**Merry Christmas
and a
Prosperous New Year**

Hon. (Barr.) VENATIUS IKEM
National Publicity Secretary

POWER TO THE PEOPLE



Tips

How to get that 'slim-line'

What to avoid

Avoid too much salt which holds the water in the body. Only the cook should salt the food. Also avoid spices, coffee, tea, sugar, cream and cigarettes as these increase the appetite. Avoid beer, wine, gin and whisky, as alcohol has a high calorie content. One gram of alcohol produces 7 calories (energy), one gram of fat produces 9 calories, one gram of protein produces 4.4 calories and one gram of carbohydrate produces 4.1 calories.

Do not trust slimming drugs

Medicine alone will not do it. Very few cases really need medicine to reduce. In such cases there is the so-called endocrine fatness due to the disturbance of the hormonal balance in the body. This may be caused by low function of the pituitary or thyroid gland, or by reduced hormonal production after the menopause in both men and women. After the hormone test or metabolism tests, you can trust the medicine prescribed by the medical doctor. The drugs that curb the appetite are amphetamine and Dexedrine and they are dangerous because they can make you an addict. They might be prescribed, however, for a person going to a great social function who needs help in controlling his appetite.

In the case of constipation use a bulk formatting product without calorie value, but try to avoid cathartics or laxatives. You may use one tablespoon of mineral oil at bedtime as a neutral lubricant.

Do not lose too fast

To build determination to lose within three or four weeks all we have gained in three or four years in ridiculous and dangerous. Reducing weight fast should be performed under the supervision of the doctor, who will allow you to lose between 3 and 5 pounds a week. Losing even one pound a week. Losing even one pound a week is really much more sensible. Weigh yourself at the same time of the day.

Exercise -but do not exhaust yourself

Moderate exercise is very good, but do not allow yourself to become exhausted for then you lose control over yourself. Always get your meals on time; portion the servings and never take a second helping. Self-control is very important. Sometimes you need it in order to avoid the company of people who are hearty eaters, because it is easy to fall into temptation in good company. I heartily suggest exercises such as pushing yourself back from the dining room table in time and throwing your head from left to right when the potatoes and gravy are passed. You must, however, develop and conscientiously follow a regular physical fitness programme tailored to your individual need.

Get an appetite for other things

Try to get an appetite for other things than food. We must admit that fat people are very social minded. They love parties or small gatherings where tempting delicious food is in abundance. They like card playing, TV, cars - they love to listen to music enter into conversation, but you never see them out hiking or golfing or playing tennis. They do not frequent the places where body energy is needed. People need to get an appetite for other things, such as hard work, athletics, cycling and attendance at health clubs. Take a walk every day - at least a mile, preferably four-of one hour's good walking.

Conclusion

Make these changes permanent and effective in harmony with, and with the support of, the other members of your family.

Culled from a Guide to Family Health

The superstitious may die early

Chinese and Japanese Americans with heart disease appear to be at greater risk of dying of a heart attack on the 4th day of the month, a number that is deemed, 'unlucky' in China and Japan, researchers report.

"This effect is not evident in white Americans, nor is it evident in Chinese and Japanese Americans who die from causes other than chronic heart disease," according to the report published in the British Medical Journal for

December 22/29.

The findings "are consistent with the hypothesis that cardiac mortality increases on psychologically stressful occasions," Dr. David P. Phillips, of the University of California at San Diego in La Jolla, and colleagues report.

Upon learning that some Japanese and Chinese Americans avoid the number 4 and deem the 4th day of every month as unlucky, the researchers set out to learn if heart attacks peaked on

that day, each month.

In the study, the team examined computerised death certificates of more than 200,000 Chinese and Japanese Americans and more than 47 million white Americans. The death certificates contained cause of death information and whether or not the person suffered chronic heart disease.

"On the fourth (day) of the month, cardiac deaths were significantly more frequent than on any other day of the month (for

Japanese and Chinese Americans), and were 7% higher than the average for the rest of the week," the authors write.

This jump in risk "do not seem to occur because of changes in the patient's diet, alcohol intake, exercise or drug regimens," according to the report.

Interestingly, Phillips and colleagues note that the word for "four" sounds very similar to the word "death" in the Japanese and Chinese languages.

In their study, Phillips and his team term the phenomenon "the Baskerville effect" because in the novel "The Hound of the Baskervilles" by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, the character Charles Baskerville dies of a heart attack that is induced by extreme psychological stress.

"The Baskerville effect exists both in fact and in fiction and suggests that Conan Doyle was not only a great writer but a remarkably intuitive physician as well," they write.

The investigators also note that there is no such increase in heart attack-related deaths seen on the 13th of the month among white Americans. This may be because there is no injustice link between the number 13 and death, the authors speculate.

Combined twin deliveries on the rise -study

The number of women who give birth to twins by a combined vaginal and caesarean-section delivery has increased dramatically over the past 20 years, researchers report.

Their study of more than 1,100 twin births delivered over 20 years found that these "combined deliveries" tripled between 1980 and 1999 to just over 6% of women from 2% of women who gave birth to healthy twins. At the same time, elective caesarean deliveries rose to 21% from 11%, while vaginal twin deliveries declined to nearly 57% of women from nearly 63% of

women.

Caesarean deliveries for the second twin was eight times more likely when the delivery time exceeded 60 minutes after the first twin was born, and twice as likely when the baby was breech, or feet first according to the report in the December issue of Obstetrics & Gynaecology.

The proper course of treatment in this case is controversial, although the second twin could be delivered vaginally, with the help of instruments to guide the baby through the birth canal if the baby is breech. Increasingly, however, these second twins are being delivered by caesarean.

It is not clear why the rate of combined deliveries

has increased but the trend is associated with more complications for the mother, including infection, longer hospital stays and the risk of having an emergency general anaesthetic, explain Dr. Vidia L. Persad and colleagues from the University of Halifax in Nova Scotia, Canada.

They suggest that relaxing the uterus with drugs, or uterine tocolysis, can help doctors to deliver breech babies vaginally.

"A more proactive approach to uterine tocolysis as an adjunct to (using instruments to deliver) the second twin in...breech presentation could reduce the need for caesarean delivery," Persad and colleagues conclude.

Experts advocate environmental management for Malaria control

By Ikenna Emeka Okpani

Experts in the Roll Back Malaria programme who converged at Minna recently for a three-day National Train the Trainers workshop have risen from the meeting with a call for proper management of the environment to improve vector control in the war against Malaria.

The workshop among other things, recommended that there was need to review the present public laws in Nigeria to properly review the new global strategies on Malaria control in line with Environmental management.

The need for more training for Environmental Health Officers at the State, and the Local Government levels, was emphasised in a communique made available to newsmen at the

end of the workshop.

The participants who agreed on the introduction of Environmental Education (E.E) in the curriculum of secondary schools, sought for the reintroduction of Environmental Sanitation at National, State and Local Government levels.



Min. of Health, Prof. A.B.C. Nwosu

The communique also stressed the need for urgent sensitisation of opinion leaders at the community levels, on the need for Environmental control of Malaria Vectors noting that there has been a focal shift from space spraying in the Malaria endemic areas to more productive control efforts, directed at reducing and destroying the breeding sites of mosquitoes.

Earlier, the deputy governor of Niger State who also doubles as the commissioner of Health in the state, Dr. Shern Zagbaya lamented that Malaria still remains the major cause of morbidity and mortality in Nigeria.

He disclosed that the State Government is planning to enter into partnership with a swiss pharmaceutical company,

(SWISPHA), on the implementation of Roll Back Malaria Strategies.

Dr. Zagbaya disclosed that plans are underway by the state to give free malaria treatment to children under five years and pregnant women.

In a keynote address presented on her behalf by Mrs Olapeju Osoyobor, the Director of Public Health, Dr Mrs Edugie Abebe said that Malaria was endemic in all the 36 States of the Federation, including Abuja.

Of major concern in the Roll Back Malaria Programme which she said was the high rate of Malaria resistance to available anti-malaria drug.

She advocated the use of bednets and care for our environment as more practical measures in the control of Malaria.



Goodwill Games scrapped

The Goodwill Games have been scrapped as a result of media giant AOL Time Warner's cost cutting.

Media mogul Ted Turner created the multi-sport games after the Olympic boycotts of the 1980s.

They were aimed at promoting peace and



brotherhood by bringing together top athletes from countries such as Cuba, the former Soviet Union and the United States.

But Turner lost operational control of the games after he sold Turner Broadcasting Systems to Time Warner in 1996.

He has since publicly voiced regrets about that deal.

After the completion of Time Warner's merger with AOL early in 2001, Turner was said to have been pushed to the sidelines.

Most significantly, he even lost control of Turner Broadcasting when Jamie Kellner took the helm.

Turner's Goodwill Games, which were first held in Moscow in 1986, have reportedly lost about \$150m.

The last of the games,

held this year in Australia, drew a sharply lower prime-time audience than the 1998 games held in New York according to AOL Time Warner.

Therefore the world's largest Internet and media company - looking to cut costs amid the current economic slowdown - have scrapped the event.

Kellner, brought in to head Turner Broadcasting earlier this year, said: "Turner Broadcasting remains fully committed to major sports properties as a big part of who we are and what we do."

"However, after reviewing the business of the Goodwill Games, we determined that our viewers will be better served by reallocating the resources necessary to pull off the Goodwill Games into other sports opportunities."

It has been reported that AOL Time Warner is nearing a deal with America's National Basketball Association.



Washington Freedom's Mia Hamm dribbles the ball in front of New York Power's Nel Fettig during the first half at Mitchell Field in Uniondale, N.Y., in this May 27, 2001 photo. Hamm was honored Monday Dec. 17, 2001 as FIFA's best player of the year, the first time the soccer organization has given such an award to a woman.

Kashima Antlers crash out of Emperor's Cup

Holders Kashima Antlers, who clinched a second straight J-League championship this month, went out of the Emperor's Cup at the quarter-final stage after going down 4-2 at Cerezo Osaka on Monday.

Midfielders Nobuki Hara and Yoon Jong Hwan both scored twice as Cerezo, relegated to the Japanese second division this season, pulled off the day's biggest upset at Nagai Stadium, one of Japan's venues for the 2002 World Cup.

Japan strikers Takayuki Suzuki and Atsushi Yanagisawa twice brought Kashima back on level terms, but Hara profited from some sloppy defending to restore Cerezo's one-goal advantage in the 62nd minute.

Yoon then gave Cerezo some breathing space five minutes later, scoring from the penalty spot after the South Korean had been fouled by Antlers captain Yutaka Akita.

Cerezo will meet Urawa Reds, who came from a goal down to beat JEF United Ichihara 2-1 in Sendai, in Saturday's semifinals.

At Tokyo Stadium, a double from substitute Akira Ito helped second division Kawasaki Frontale to a 3-0 win over Tokyo Verdy, formerly neighbours of Frontale before their pre-season change of address.

Frontale will face a big test in the semifinals, where they face Shimizu S-Pulse, who beat Gamba Osaka 2-0 thanks to goals in each half from Kohei Hiramatsu and Takuma Koga.

Ahly gets easy start

Egypt's Al Ahly have been handed a relatively easy first round draw in next year's African Champions League.

The newly-crowned African kings start the defence of their title in March, against the winner of the preliminary round tie between Ethiopia's Electricity Corporation and Oserian Eastac of Kenya.

Victory in that game would give the Egyptians a chance of reaching the last eight via a possible confrontation with El Merreikh of Sudan or Uganda's Sports Club Villa.

Ahly's victory over South Africa's Mamelodi Sundowns in last Friday's final means that there will be a strong Egyptian presence in 2002 Champions League.

Four-times champions Zamalek are also thanking their gods after being given an easy first round game.

They will meet the winner of the preliminary round fixture between the Patriotic Army of Rwanda and Eritrean side Hintza.

In the African Cup Winners Cup, champions Kaizer Chiefs of South Africa should have no problems with first round opponents USFT of Madagascar.

But the CAF Cup champions JS Kabylie of Algeria have been given a first round bye and will open their campaign in April's second round.



Miroslav Klose, left, Cassio Soares Lincoln, 10, and Nigerian player Taribo West, center, of 1.F.C. Kaiserslautern, and Brazilian Ferreira Adhemar of VfB Stuttgart, right, fight for the ball during their first division soccer match in Kaiserslautern, western Germany...recently.

800m champ, McIlroy goes extra mile

James McIlroy is spending the festive season far from his native Larne.

McIlroy, who celebrates his 25th birthday over the Christmas period, will be at a training camp in Florida with several other athletes also coached by London-based Alan Storey.

The Northern Ireland man linked up with Storey, at the end of last summer after producing another disappointing season.

McIlroy is continuing to search for the formula which launched him to a remarkable debut campaign in 1998.

The Larne man, then running in an Irish vest, finished fourth in the European Championship Final in Budapest and produced a world-class season's best of 1:45.32.

A year later after the early part of his 1999 season had been affected by illness, McIlroy split from his coach

Sean Kyle. Shortly afterwards, the 800m stunned Irish athletics bosses by declaring for Britain.

UK Athletics seemed to have landed a man who would be capable of restoring at least some of the flagging fortunes of British middle-distance running.

But while McIlroy did make the Olympic semi-finals in Sydney 12 months later, in truth his last two seasons have been a tale of underachievement.

McIlroy was coached by the late Kim McDonald for a few months after leaving Sean Kyle.

However that didn't work out and he then headed back to his native Larne where his father John guided his fortunes for close to 18 months.

But McIlroy's failure to qualify for this year's World

Championships in Edmonton signalled the obvious necessity of a further rethink.

BBC commentator Brendan Foster pointedly said after McIlroy was beaten by little-known Neil Speaight at this year's AAA's Championships that the Northern Ireland man needed to "sort out his coaching situation".

Moving to Storey's training group in London was an obvious step.

Storey has impeccable coaching credentials and helped restore Sonia O'Sullivan's fortunes after she had split with Kim McDonald.

The English coach is promising McIlroy a tough Christmas even though they will be training in sunny Florida.

"Christmas day is a normal training day," insists Storey.

"Up at seven o'clock, have a cup of tea, rehydrate, do some stretching and then out the door at 7.30.

"It will go on as normal during the day.

"There will be no re-runs of Morecombe and Wise, there will be no Christmas carols and we won't be listening to the Queen's speech," says Storey adopting his best scrooge-like manner.

McIlroy, however, made no complaint.

"It has to be done. I have to get away and get some training in," agrees McIlroy.

"From an athletics point of view, it will be just another day.

"The training won't change very much but that's what's required if you want to be in good shape come the summer time".

Neil Gamester, who has been training with McIlroy three-times a week in recent months, feels the Northern Ireland man is set for a good 2002.

"James is a really, really good runner," says Gamester.

Briefs

Australian Open

Sydney Olympics bronze medalist, Arnaud Di Pasquale, has been given a wildcard for next month's Australian Open, organisers said on Monday.

Di Pasquale and world number three junior, Marion Bartoli, received the French wildcards under a reciprocal arrangement with the French Open, Australian Open officials said.

Thorpe

England batsman, Graham Thorpe, has been told he has until Boxing Day to declare his availability for the one-day tour to India next month.

Chairman of selectors, David Graveney, told BBC Radio on Monday that the December 26 deadline would give him the "right sort of time span", to allow the England party to plan ahead.

Bucks

The Milwaukee Bucks were without Ray Allen but still had enough fire power to shot down the Spurs and end San Antonio's 10-game winning streak by claiming a 101-91 victory on Sunday.

With backcourt scorer Allen sidelined by injury, the other two members of the Bucks' "Big Three" stepped up. Sam Cassell scored a season-high 33 points on 13-of-19 shooting and Glenn Robinson was 15-of-26 for 30 points.

Giants

The New York Giants marched 96 yards to score the game-winning touchdown with 20 seconds left to beat the Seattle Seahawks 27-24 on Sunday and keep their playoff hopes alive.

Giants quarterback, Kerry Collins, capped the long drive with a seven-yard touchdown pass to Ike Hilliard. Collins completed 30-of-47 passes for 338 yards in leading the NFC champions to their second last-minute win in a row following last week's victory over Arizona.

Avalanche

The Colorado Avalanche returned to familiar territory on Sunday by reaching the top of the Northwest Division after taming the Minnesota Wild 6-3.

Rookie Brian Willsie scored his first two goals in more than six weeks and linemate, Scott Parker, had three assists as the Avalanche (21-13-4-0) climbed one point ahead of Edmonton into first place.

Milosevic

Parma striker, Savo Milosevic, who has been linked with a move to English Premier League side Blackburn Rovers, would prefer to stay and help his struggling club retain their Serie A status. "I would prefer to stay in Italy than join Blackburn," Yugoslav international Milosevic was quoted as saying in British newspapers on Monday.



SPORTS



Loyola Marymount forward Greg Lakey (5) blocks the shot of Southern California guard Desmon Farmer (33) during the first half on Saturday, in Los Angeles, USA. USC won 81-67.

Aku apologises to NFA board

By Patrick Andew

Exchange of brickbats and palpable distrust that had characterized the working relationship between the NFA board and the Sports minister, Ishaya Mark Aku, may have been laid to rest following the latter's apology to the board, last Thursday.

The Minister, who admitted that his lackadaisical disposition towards the board was hinged on the briefs he had received last April on resumption in the Sports Ministry, apologized to the board members for any untoward

The other salient issue that engaged their attention was the current administrative and personnel restructuring of the NFA.

The Minister and the board have had no love lost over issues bordering on the administration of football and the seriousness of the board to formulate and engender the implementation of poli-

The Minister, met with the board in Lagos last Thursday where he held crucial meeting with members on such issues as the Nations and world cups championships.

cies capable of advancing the course of football.

Whereas members have often accused Aku of high handedness and disregard to the board, the minister had severally berated them for being lackey and without administrative focus.

But with the apology, Aku an apostle of transparency, may have turned a new leaf with a view to creating a conducive atmosphere for the board to assume its new role in the planned new dispensation.

Aku had reiterated that the reorganization of personnel in the NFA Secretariat was intended to give fresh breath and create the needed avenue for football to be administered along entrepreneurial principles and focus.

Consequently, Aku, *Trust Sports* gathered appealed for co-operation in the efforts to reposition the NFA to meet the government's planned to divest of funding of the game.

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Aku

Eagles assemble Dec. 27

The Super Eagles foreign legions are expected to converge at the Gate way Hotel, Ota on December 27 to begin camping for the Nations cup.

The Eagles, most of whom have expressed unrestrained willingness to resume

camping on schedule, were previously billed to begin preparation today.

But acting NFA scribe, Mr Patrick Okpomo, countered Chief Coach, Shuaibu Ahmodu's directive for the Eagles to assemble today on the ground that the players would not respond but would rather gather with their families to celebrate the Xmas yuletide.

Okpomo though contacted the Eagles who corroborated his position and agreed to reciprocate the gesture by endeavouring to honour the new resumption date for the camping.

Already, no fewer than 27 of the Eagles had been specific on their arrival dates even as the NFA was positive that all would meet the deadline for resumption of the camping.

Acting NFA imagemaker, Bola Oyeyede, said none would miss the deadline and confirmed that neither Chelsea management nor Arsenal's have given negative response to the request to released both Celestine Babayaro and Nwankwo Kanu.

"By their silence, the NFA assumed and correctly so that the players would be released to join their colleagues to prepare for the Nations Cup and then take part in the friendly matches arranged for the Eagles against the Pharoahs and the Elephant", he said.



Hayatou, CAF boss

Given FIFA's announcement that its new World Cup rotation system will begin with Africa in 2010, the Moroccan media argued that their federation had blundered by not submitting a bid for 2006.

Their two main rivals for the 2010 World Cup finals, Egypt and South Africa, have made it clear that they intend to use the 2006 finals to market their World Cup credentials.

CAF extends deadline

The Confederation of African Football (Caf) has extended the deadline for 2006 Nations Cup bids to March next year.

In a move that will engulf CAF and its Cameroonian president Issa Hayatou in controversy, countries now have until March 31 to submit

their bids. The continental body justified their decision by saying that it was meant to give Algeria, Egypt, Gabon and South Africa a chance to complete their files.

These four countries submitted their bids well before the expiry of last November's original deadline.

CAF said the 2006 hosts will now be chosen in September next year and not during the Nations Cup finals in Mali.

Despite CAF's insistence that the move is meant to benefit the four nations whose bids they have already received, speculation is rife that the decision is tailored to suit one specific country - Morocco.

The Moroccans, despite long declared intentions to stage the 2006 finals, curiously failed to meet the November deadline.

The Moroccan Football Federation then found itself under intense pressure from fans and the media after it was revealed that they had missed the boat!

Christie wants separate stadium

Former Olympic champion Linford Christie has urged the Government to abandon plans to include athletics in the proposed new national stadium at Wembley.

The idea was mooted after plans to build a new athletics stadium at Picketts Lock were scrapped because the project was too expensive.

The embarrassing fiasco cost London the opportunity of hosting the World Athletics Championships in 2005.

But former sprinter Christie believes athletics deserves its own arena, rather than share facilities with football.

"Athletics and football in this country don't mix," said the 1992 100m Olympic gold medalist.

"The disappointment is that we haven't got a national stadium where we could host the World Athletics Championship.

"Football stadiums in England do not have an athletics track around them, so athletics needs its own stadium and football needs its own stadium."

When asked about his preferred location of a new national athletics stadium, Christie suggested the stadium named in his honour in west London.

"The Linford Christie stadium is a huge place, right in the middle of Wormwood Scrubs," he said.

"It must be a good couple of miles round and there is ample car parking space. Ideally, I would like to put it there."

Week two Proleague results

Div I			
Yobe Stars	1	Gombe Utd	1
Insurance	1	Plateau Utd	1
Pillars	2	Warriors	1
Rangers	1	Nationale	0
NPA	1	Sharks	0
Sunshine	2	Tourists	0
Lobi	3	Jigawa	1
Enyimba	1	Gabros	0
Div IIA			
Dolphin	1	Union Bank	0
Athletico	0	Igbino	0
Air Safety	1	NITEL	1
Ebonyi	2	Bayelsa Utd	1
Bandel Utd	2	Delta Utd	1
Div IIB			
Ranch	1	Adamawa Utd	0
Katsina Utd	2	BCC	1
Mighty Jet	2	Tornadoes	1
Bida Lions	0	Raiders	0
Black Stars	1	Zamfara	0
Kogi Utd	1	NEPA	0
Wambai	0	Kwara Utd	0

Okocha eyes Premiership

After four seasons at French club, Paris St Germain (PSG), Nigeria's Austin "Jay-Jay" Okocha has set his sights on the English Premiership.

Talking exclusively to BBC Sport Online at PSG's training camp at St Germain-Laye, Okocha said that playing in England has

always been on his mind. "I've given it (playing in England) very serious thought. If I get the right offer, I would move there without hesitation."

The Super Eagles midfielder has one year left on his contract with PSG. He joined the French outfit from Turkish club, Fenerbahce, for US\$17m in 1998.

Okocha says he has had a "turbulent" time at PSG, especially after confidential details of his US\$1.8m annual salary were leaked to the press.

"It's unbelievable. I was really disappointed that my personal issues were published in newspapers. This only creates problems among players.

"It appears as if my time here at PSG has come to an end and I should seek a transfer," Okocha lamented.

Although Okocha has won the Nations Cup (1994) and Olympic title (1996) with Nigeria, success in Europe has been elusive.

"I'm very ambitious and would like to win something in Europe. This is my last season with PSG and I hope to win something."

For now, though, winning the 2002 Nations Cup in Mali is his immediate target.

"If we fail to win the Nations Cup I shall be very disappointed. We're still the team to beat in Africa."



Austin Okocha in action for Paris St Germain. Okocha will join his mates in Ota, to begin camping for the Nations Cup fiesta on Thursday.

This space
is for
sale

EDITORIAL

Reconsider stand on MTS

Last week the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) truncated the dreams of the embattled analogue mobile licensee, Mobil Telecommunications Services (MTS) of flagging off its operations. The NCC Executive Vice-Chairman, Engr. Ernest Ndukwe told a gathering of media executives in Abuja that MTS cannot offer the analogue mobile services because "the Enhanced Technology Access Communications System (ETACS) Spectrum (Frequency on which it is supposed to operate) is full".

What this implies is that since MTS has no frequency to operate on, the licence earlier issued to it has been technically withdrawn.

The MTS was issued a licence to offer analogue mobile telephone services using ETACS in 1993, even before the NCC came into being. The licence was however revoked last year on the ground that the frequency spectrum allocated to it for operations by the Ministry of Communications had been withdrawn.

Following a clearance from the communications ministry on the frequency issue, MTS applied and got NCC's approval on revalidation of its licence to offer the analogue mobile services in August this year.

In a dramatic turn of events, however, the NCC last month suspended MTS from carrying out its operations, asking it to go back to the Ministry of Communications to sort out the frequency issue. This smacks of some conspiracies particularly because two of the Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) operators, Econet Wireless and MTN Communications Nigeria, had risen against the revalidation of the MTS analogue licence, apparently for the competitive edge the ETACS services may give MTS above them.

But what is even more worrisome is the declaration last week by the NCC chief executive that the frequency spectrum on which MTS is to operate is full. This declaration, coming barely three weeks after President Olusegun Obasanjo ordered the communications commission to take over management of the nation's frequency spectrum for proper management and accountability, is particularly disturbing because, the initial obstacles to the MTS licensing process were presumed to result from bureaucratic bottlenecks within the ministry.

That the NCC itself is turning round to say the spectrum is full is not just a conspiracy against MTS, but against the millions of Nigerian telecommunications consumers who are denied access to enhanced telecoms services. Already, the nation's teledensity is currently put at 0.61 Direct Exchange Lines (DELS) per 100 inhabitants, which is far short of the minimum average of 1.0 DELS per 100 inhabitants recommended by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) for sub-Saharan Africa.

Again, access to the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) services offered by Nigerian Telecommunications (NITEL) has recently been approximated to be limited to only 25 percent of Nigeria's land area.

The current situation in the telecoms sector, therefore coupled with the recent experiences of consumers of the GSM services being offered by Econet and MTN, and the attendant consequences of NITEL's inability to effectively commence the GSM operations, leaves the nation's populace with very expensive but poor quality telecommunications services.

This makes it imperative for the Nigerian Communications Commission to reconsider its recent pronouncement in the interest of the nation, because a licence for MTS would further enhance telecoms services in the country.

Daily Trust believes that doing that would boost the earlier credibility built by the commission in January during the GSM licensing process and thus, attract more foreign investors to come and partake in the process of developing Nigeria's telecoms sector.

Not only that, we believe that the NCC should invite the bidder that was next to Communications Investments Limited (CIL) during the January 19th GSM licensing round to take up the provisional licence won by CIL, since it has declared that it was not going to reverse its earlier decision to annul the licence, as according to Engr. Ndukwe, "CIL's case was not a question of late payment but non-payment at all".

We believe the fourth GSM licence should not just lie waste since our original intention was to license four GSM operators to create room for competition and usher in an era of efficient and affordable telecommunications services in the country.

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TUESDAY COLUMN

Federalism and resource control

By Tunde Ibinola

The demand for resource control by some people from the ethnic nationalities in the mineral oil producing areas has, expectedly, generated a heated debate on the issue, especially in the print media. Take a copy of any national daily and you are likely to come across an argument either for or against the matter. Many of the arguments put forward by both sides seem not intended to clarify issues but to appeal to sentiments. One has heard at least one person from the oil producing areas say that only 100 percent control of "our resources" is acceptable. Some proponents of "resource control" have been calling for "true Federalism," implying that what presently obtains in Nigeria is not federalism, or at least not the "true" one.

On the other hand, one has heard some people from the opposing side saying something to the effect that ethnic nationalities in the oil producing areas cannot claim ownership of the oil because it is a gift of nature which was deposited much long before those ethnic nationalities established themselves in the areas. Some of the opposition would further argue that the oil wells in the area were "developed" with "groundnuts and cotton money".

A brief description of the historical background of the issue may here be necessary. From the time of British colonial conquest, all the ethnic nationalities that today make up Nigeria, those of the oil producing areas inclusive, among many other things, lost their sovereignty and the control over their land, which control was assumed by the British crown. The British thus assumed the rights over the minerals in the land. Royalty that accrued from the exploitation of the minerals went to the British colonial government.

At independence, rights over minerals were transferred by the British to the Federal Government of Nigeria. However, at that time royalty from minerals that was collected by the Federal Government was remitted to the governments of the regions in which the mines were located. There was, therefore, 100 percent application of principle of derivation to proceeds of minerals. This principle applied not only to proceeds of minerals, but also to income taxes and import duties. For instance, taxes collected from producers of groundnuts and cotton in the Northern Region, cocoa and coffee in the Western Region and palm, produce in the Eastern Region were retained by each of those respective regions. It is therefore not true to say that groundnuts and cotton money was used to develop the oil wells. Enough of such fallacies.

The initial investment in exploration and production of oil was made by multinational oil companies (they have since recouped their initial investments several times over). Oil production greatly increased in the post-civil War period. Coincidentally Nigeria was then being ruled by, a military junta. By executive fiat (the legislature and the constitution having been suspended) the military changed the revenue allocation formula. Instead of using the principle of derivation, oil revenues became paid into the Federation Account and disbursed there from on the basis of need, equality of the states, population and land mass.

We thus arrived at the present situation where oil revenue (royalty and petroleum profit tax) accounts for more than 70 percent of federally collected revenues. Disbursement of these revenues is according to the following formula: 48.5 percent goes to the Federal Government; 24 percent goes to all the states in the federation, 20 percent to all the local governments; 3 percent goes to the oil producing states and the rest goes into some special accounts. The 1999 constitution stipulates that not less than 13 percent of the oil produced should be distributed among the oil producing states, but one does not think that it has been implemented yet. Due to these arrangement states and local governments are no longer self-financing as the regions were. They all rely on their monthly allocation of oil manna from the Federation Account to meet their numerous needs. Meanwhile, the oil producing communities are complaining of marginalisation and neglect. They reportedly suffer lack of infrastructure. Their farmlands and streams are polluted by oil spillage (some self-inflicted) and their youths are pushed by unemployment, poverty and ignorance to the brink of open rebellion.

What to do? Our answer to this question must be based on our understanding of what a federation is, what are its objectives, costs and benefits. The *Advanced Learners' Dictionary* defines federation as a "political system in which a union of states leaves foreign affairs, defence, etc. to the central government but retains power of government over some internal affairs". This definition is wide enough to fit into any type of political system in which like ours there are many semi-autonomous units. What is important is to focus on the costs and benefits of this type of system. We will recall that this system is not new to Nigeria and indeed the whole of Africa. Most of the large kingdoms and empires in the pre-colonial period were federal in structure. The most important benefit of this arrangement to the individual village or district was that it provided a mechanism for collective defence against external enemies. If a village or district were attacked, it would expect the overall ruler of the kingdom to summon the assistance of the other districts to defend the area attacked. In entering such a union, the individual village or district relinquished part of its autonomy and resources to the central authority. Thus the village or district head handed over part of the taxes he collected to the overall ruler.

That was the cost. It was therefore a case of *quid pro quo*.

The costs and benefits of old are still relevant to modern Nigeria. Were any part of Nigeria, say, the oil producing areas, to face external aggression today, somebody from another part of Nigeria could be drafted by the Federal Government to fight and die defending the particular area. This is something the advocates of resource control must not forget. In a world full of international predators our federalism gives us much more brawn to protect ourselves than would have been the case if each area were to rely only on itself.

And that is not the only benefit; there are many more. A federation is not only a political community, but it is also an economic community. As such it is expected to encourage the free movement of personnel, goods and services among its political units and geographical zones. That is why various state governments do not collect customs duties on locally produced goods, especially agricultural products, as they are daily moved across the boundaries of the states. If for instance, the northern states or the middle belt states or the south eastern states were to collect duties on all the heads of cattle, yams and palm oil, respectively, as they are transported to other states, they might annually rake in more than what they receive from the Federation Account. The other states to which these products are transported can be regarded in this instance as beneficiaries of the duty-free movement of goods within the federation, goods which, other things being equal, would have cost consumers in those other states more if duties had been collected on them by governments of the producer states. The oil producing states whose land is not particularly suitable for agriculture and who depend on their more hinterland brothers for food supplies, would in this example be considered as beneficiaries of the federal system. This is another point which advocates of resource control must not forget. In the running of a federation there are always certain unquantifiable gains and losses which are either enjoyed or forborne by the constituent states, but which are overlooked in the spirit of common brotherhood. Were each state to insist on collecting its pound of flesh, the federation would eventually unravel.

The federal government is presently trying to review the formula of revenue allocation from the federation account. The government is proposing that 40 percent of the revenue should go to the federal government (down from 48.5), 31 percent should go to the state governments (up from 24 percent), and 16 percent should go to the local governments (down from 20 percent). This leaves 13 percent, which one believes the government intends should go to the oil producing states as stipulated in the constitution. This proposal by the federal government is quite courageous, seeing that the government is willing to reduce its own share. But it does not go far enough in addressing the resource control matter because of the following reasons.

First, the 13 percent which the government intends should go for derivation to the oil producing states is not enough. The constitution says that the minimum that should go for derivation is 13 percent. This means that a higher percentage could go for derivation. This is necessary in order to give people a higher stake in the utilisation of their resources.

Second, there is the mistaken belief that whatever is allocated to oil producing states on the basis of derivation will trickle down to the man in the street. This may not always be the case. All state governments exhibit an urban bias in the allocation of resources. It is therefore not difficult to imagine many rural communities in the oil producing areas not feeling the impact of the amount allocated for derivation. There is need to consider allocating such funds also to local governments in the oil producing areas.

Third, we should address the resource control matter not only from the side of revenue allocation but also from revenue collection. Custom duties, value added tax (VAT), and corporate income tax are all federally collected and allocated without reference to derivation. Mining royalty is federally collected with 13 percent going for derivation. Personal income tax is collected and retained by the states. This implies 100 percent derivation for it. All these modalities for tax collection and revenue allocation are neither logical nor consistent.

Let us not forget, important as oil is to Nigeria, it is not the most important resource. Oil is simply the main revenue earner because other sources of revenue are left untapped. The most important resource is the mental and physical labour of the people, without which nothing can be produced. And so there is no logical reason why mining royalty should accrue to the Federation Account, while personal income accrues to state governments. Apart from motor park and market charges nothing accrues directly to the local governments which is supposed to be closest to the people. This arrangement breeds laxity on the part of state and local governments and indifference on the part of the citizenry. What, therefore, needs to be addressed is not just the control of mineral resources, but the control of all resources land, labour and capital. As already discussed above, in a federation no section can hope to control all its resources. The issue is as to what percentage of all these resources - proceeds of land, labour and capital - is to be appropriated by the local government and the state government, what percentage should be appropriated by the central government and what percentage should be shared with other states. These percentages must be determined with reference to the relative functions of the local governments, state governments and the federal government. Just as these tiers of government have to share responsibilities, they also have to share the resources and their share should be commensurate with their responsibilities.

Ibinola is of the History Department, College of Education, Azare.