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TUESDAY COLUMN

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SPORTS

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17 varsities may forfeit ETF allocations - report

Seventeen universities may lose their allocations from the Education Tax Fund (ETF) for the execution of projects in the 2000 and 2001 sessions, following their inability to complete those they started in 1999, according to a report.

The ETF was set up by a decree in 1993 to be funded from two percent of after-tax profits of private companies operating in the country, to complement government's funding of the educational system.

Under the ETF funding system, a beneficiary institution must justify the use of previously disbursed funds before it can receive further disbursements.

The report, released by ETF recently showed that the University of Nigeria, Nsukka (UNN), University of Lagos, University of Ibadan and Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, led the pack of institutions which had not completed projects they started in 1999.

Also on the list of defaulting institutions are University of Benin, Obafemi Awolowo University, University of Maiduguri, Federal University of Technology, Minna, Federal University of Agriculture, Umudike and University of Ado-Ekiti.

Similarly, Enugu State University of Science and Technology, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Lagos State University, Delta State University, Rivers State University, Ambrose Alli University, LAUTECH, Ogbomoso, and Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, have failed to justify the use

contd. on pg 2

I was detained because of Shariah

- Yakubu Musa

A Katsina-based Islamic preacher, Sheikh Yakubu Musa Hassan has said that his arrest and detention for 27 days was because of the implementation of the Shariah legal system in the Northern States.

He also disagreed with speculations that the arrest by security operatives was due to his connection and involvement with some foreign countries.

Sheikh Musa, who spoke at the First National Convention of the National Council for Shariah in Nigeria (NCSN) held in Kaduna a few days after his release from detention, maintained that Shariah was central in his

From Ibrahim Dan Halilu,
in Kaduna and Ahmed
Shekarau

detention saying that the first question the State Security Service (SSS) in Katsina asked him was what his opinion was on Shariah and its implementation in the country.

"I want to stress at this convention that the first question the SSS asked me was on Shariah. But hypo-

crites are saying that my detention was not because of Shariah," Sheikh Musa said, adding that "no matter the fire power and intimidation by any government, no matter how powerful, the attempts to stop Shariah would certainly fail."

He called on Muslims to use their votes in the next election to protect the trust God has placed on them by electing good and God-fear-

ing Muslims as their leaders.

"Even if we are only five Muslims in a local government or in a ward, we should vote for a Muslim."

He warned Muslims not to cast their votes for a non-Muslim, as doing so would amount to dumping Shariah

and Islam.

"No amount of deception, monetary gratification, politicking, threats or intimidation will change this fact," he stressed.

Sheikh Yakubu Musa, declared that "for a Muslim, the choice between his religion and his state is a clear one and every Muslim knows that."

contd. on pg 2

Obasanjo signs six agreements with China

By Hammeed M. Bello

President Olusegun Obasanjo yesterday signed six major agreements to boost trade and economic relations between Nigeria and China.

The President who is on a four-day state visit to the Peoples Republic of China held talks with his Chinese counterpart, President Jian Zemin, after which they signed the bilateral cooperation agreements.

The agreements include a memorandum of understanding on cooperation, reciprocal trade and investment protection agreement, memorandum of understanding on communications and a frame

contd. on pg 2



Minister of Economic Matters in the Presidency, Prince Vincent Eze Ogbulafor (r) exchanging views with Dr. Umaru Dikko (middle) while the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF) Obong Ufot Ekaette (l) looks on during the National Workshop on Contract Tendering in Abuja... yesterday.

Pix: Felix Onigbinde

Auto crash: Five more bodies recovered

Five more bodies have been recovered from the submerged luxury bus that plunged into River Chiromawa on Sunday. This brought to 15 the number of bodies so far recovered.

The bodies, including that of a woman, were removed from the wrecked bus after it was lifted out of the river with the help of a police crane.

Chairman of Luxury Bus

From Musa Umar Kazaure,
in Kano, Mustapha Isah
Kwaru, in Abuja and
Buhari Bello, in Jos

Drivers Association (LBDA) in Kano, Mr. Linus Odike, told *Daily Trust* that the body of the driver was yet to be found even as he confirmed that the bus conductor and police escort were among the survivors. He explained that efforts were being made to confirm the exact number of

passengers in the bus from the company's office in Lagos.

The bus was lifted from the river at about 8 p.m on Sunday and the five bodies were removed and taken to the Murtala Mohammed Hospital, Kano, morgue.

The leader of the fishermen, who led the rescue operation, Mallam Adamu Tiga, told *Daily Trust* that more

contd. on pg 2

Nasarawa police kill four robbers

Nasarawa State police command has shot dead four members of a robbery gang who allegedly robbed the former ECOMOG Commander, Retired Maj-Gen. John Inienger.

Displaying the bodies of the suspected robbers at the Lafia divisional police office before a crowd, the state Police Commissioner, Alhaji Umaru Suleiman, told journalists that the suspects were gunned down yesterday.

According to him, the robbers met their doom at about 7 a.m. along Makurdi-Lafia road, adding that they had earlier robbed Inienger at Akwanga, about five kilometres from Lafia, shot his driver and snatched his jeep.

The commissioner, who described the suspects as one Chadian and three Nigerians, added that when they

contd. on pg 2

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NEWS

Shariah *Contd. from pg 1*

It would be recalled that the cleric was arrested and detained for over four weeks by security operatives on allegations that he kept some foreigners in his house.

The Katsina-based Islamic scholar who had prior to his arrest reacted to the implementation of *Shariah* law by Katsina State government, was alleged to have made some provocative statements against the Katsina State government.

About three weeks after his arrest and detention however, several Islamic groups, including some human rights groups condemned his detention without trial for over four weeks, viewing it as a breach of his fundamental human rights and the rule of law.

First in the line of such groups to react to Sheikh Musa's detention was the council for the implementation of *Shariah* in Nigeria, whose president, Dr. Ibrahim Datti Ahmed threatened the federal government in a statement, to release the cleric of the association reacts by taking "necessary steps that would lead to his release."

Also commenting on the is-

sue, Mallam Ibrahim Adam Kasuwar Barci warned that the continued detention of Malam Yakubu Musa was a breach of the constitution which says no man should be detained for more than 24 hours without trial.

Kasuwar Barci also alleged that the Katsina-based cleric was detained for a misinterpretation of his comments over the implementation of *Shariah* in Katsina State and not in connection with the discovery of some foreigners in his house.

Meanwhile, a human rights organisation, the Network for Justice had also instituted a suit at the Federal High Court in Kano, challenging the continued detention of the learned Islamic leader.

Though the case, brought before Justice C.C. Owagwuga of the Federal High Court in Kano could not be heard on Monday, August 20, when it was initially fixed for hearing, was however released on bail and further hearing on the matter has been scheduled for September 5, 2001.

Legislator's murder: Police arrest three

From Wisdom Uduah Patrick, in Port Harcourt

The Rivers police command has arrested three suspects in connection with the assassination of a member of the Rivers State House of Assembly, Hon. Monday Ndor, last weekend.

The Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) Rivers State Command, Dr. Uche Mike Chukwuma, told *Daily Trust* yesterday that the arrest of the three followed a tip-off.



Gov Odili of Rivers State

who survived gave his name as Ahmed Musa.

The broken down lorry (DAF), with registration number XA 397 RYM, was loaded with fertilizer at the time of the incident.

One Dantata Abubakar, a passenger who was being conveyed on the motorcycle is also lying critically ill at the Pankshin General Hospital.

A staff of the hospital, Mr. Stephen Gongur, confirmed that the taxi victims' bodies were at the mortuary while that of the motorcyclist has been claimed by his relations and buried according to Islamic rites.

The unit commander of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) in the area, confirmed the incident but declined further comments, saying he is yet to be properly briefed on the incident.

At the Pankshin Divisional Police Station, Superintendent of Police, Mr. Sabo, told *Daily Trust* that the police had to solicit assistance from men of the local government health department to give the remaining burnt bodies a mass burial as no one has been able to identify or claim the corpses.

Ndor was a member.

The police spokesman refused to disclose the identities of the suspects, saying such a disclosure was capable of stalling investigations.

Chukwuma said a new police boss, Mr. Bamidele Thomas, took over yesterday from Mr. Mathew Ekwuemu, who has been transferred to the police headquarters,

Abuja.

The PPRO stated, however, that the removal of Mr. Ekwuemu has nothing to do with the state of insecurity in Rivers State.

It will be recalled that Hon. Monday Ndor, a lawmaker in the state, was shot dead by unknown gunmen last weekend in his residence at Rumoula area of Port Harcourt.

Kerosine explosions:**Senator Abubakar apologies to victims**

Appearing yesterday before the Senate ad-hoc committee probing the importation of adulterated petroleum products in 1998, former Managing Director of Pipeline Products Marketing Company (PPMC) and now a Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Alh. Haruna Abubakar, apologised to victims of the 1998 kerosene explosions even as the victims demanded a N1.522 billion compensation.

By Reuben Yunana

Senator Abubakar, who blamed the then military head of state for the importation of the toxic products and the ensuing spate of domestic explosions recorded nationwide between 1995 and 1998, said the apology was necessary since he was at the helm of affairs at the PPMC during the period.

His words: "It is really pathetic. I feel awfully sorry

and until God takes my life, I will continue to say "I am sorry" to these people. It does not matter if I was directly responsible for their condition or not since I was the managing director of PPMC at the material time."

The Senator, was managing director of PPMC from November 1995 to June 1998.

According to him, the PMS, with offensive odours, was imported by a German firm, Wintershall Oil AG.

He said when the product was found to be adulterated, he set up a panel to look into the matter which led to 13 PPMC staff losing their jobs.

However, in his own submission Managing Director of the Independent Inspector's Societe General DC surveillance Mr. Rod Greenall put the whole blame on the PPMC.

The chairman of the victims, Okonkwo Vincent Nwachukwu said between January to March 1998, 38 deaths were recorded in Abuja all from kerosene explosion.

According to him, his victims are maimed and would each need N7.5 million for plastic surgeries in Germany.

Varsities *Contd. from pg 1*

of funds they received in 1999, until they had completed projects for 1999.

An official told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Abuja today that if by the end of September, the affected institutions failed to reconcile their accounts for 1999, they would have to forfeit their allocations for 2000.

"The fund no longer wants a situation where projects lie uncompleted. We have to go over to 2001," the official said, adding that in addition to forfeiting the allocations for last year, the institutions would not be allowed to participate in the current year's programme

until they had completed projects for 1999.

He stressed that institutions which had not completed their projects for 2000 must complete them before participating in the 2001 intervention programme of the ETF.

Since 1999, the ETF has allocated more than N22 billion to beneficiaries, with each university expected to get N43.5 million in 2001.

In 1999, each university received N15 million and last year, every institution was allocated N20 million for the execution of projects.

Obasanjo *Contd. from pg 1*

work agreement on petroleum industry cooperation.

At the opening of the talks which was preceded by a colourful welcoming ceremony for President Obasanjo at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, President Zemin described Obasanjo as an old friend of China.

He subsequently declared his readiness to work with Obasanjo to strengthen and expand trade and economic relations with Nigeria.

Earlier, President Obasanjo had called for greater efforts to address the imbalance in trade between the two countries. "If all the trade is one way, the balance of trade will be too much in your favour. This will not be in the interest of good friendship," he said.

While urging members of his delegation and the Nigerian community in China to imbibe the Chinese virtues of discipline and dedication to duty, Obasanjo also noted that China has consistently maintained an annual economic growth rate of over eight percent for the past 15 years.

Obasanjo charged the Nigerians to emulate the national discipline and orientation which had made the "China Miracle" possible.

President Obasanjo also assured members of the Chinese business community that his administration would continue to evolve and implement measures to promote transparency and create a level playing field for all in its determination to attract greater direct foreign in-

vestment into Nigeria.

President Obasanjo who arrived China on Sunday is expected to return to Nigeria on Thursday.

Nigerian delegation to the talks included the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Alhaji Sule Lamido, Commerce, Alhaji Mustapha Bello, Transport, Chief Ojo Madueke, Communications, Alhaji Mohammed Bello, Water Resources, Alhaji Muktar Shagari, Minister of State, Navy, Mrs. Dupe Adelaja, the Chairman of the Nigerian Communications Commission, Alhaji Ahmed Joda, the Chairman of Defence Industries Cooperation of Nigeria, Brigadier-Gen. Mohammed Marwa (rtd) and the Chief Economic Adviser to the President, Dr. Maguus Kpakol.

Auto crash *Contd. from pg 1*

bodies are expected to be found downstream, as most of the dead could have been swept away by the raging tide.

Unconfirmed reports revealed that some bodies were discovered near Tiga Dam site and taken to local health clinics in the area.

At the Murtala Mohammed Hospital, *Daily Trust* correspondent discovered that six of the victims have been treated and discharged while others with serious injuries are still on admission.

According to a British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Hausa service programme monitored in Abuja, one of the local fishermen, who took part in the operation, Abba Malam Sarkin Ruwa, said it is impossible to recover the entire bodies as the river could have swept them far away from the scene of the accident.

Commenting on the accident, an official of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Malam Kabiru Yusuf Nadabo, refuted media re-

ports that the accident was caused by punctured tyre.

He blamed the accident on human factor as investigations have revealed that the driver, who was reportedly sleeping, lost control and hit the bridge, thus causing the tyre to burst.

Meanwhile, six persons were confirmed dead in a ghastly auto accident involving a motorcycle, a Peugeot station wagon and a lorry along Pankshin federal highway in Plateau State. The deceased were burnt beyond recognition.

According to eye witnesses, the incident occurred when the motorcycle, with registration number QA525 DNG, decided to park behind a broken down lorry on sighting an on-coming taxi only for the vehicle on top speed to hit the motor cycle from behind. The taxi, with registration No. AA132 BN caught fire immediately.

Daily Trust gathered that the taxi had six passengers of which five were consumed in the fire. The sixth victim was the motorcyclist. The lucky occupant of the taxi

Nasarawa *Contd. from pg 1*

discovered that Inienger's jeep was not speeding to their taste, they abandoned it and snatched a Toyota vehicle from another victim in Lafia.

He said they were arrested at Kadarko and Sarkin Noma suburbs of Lafia, following a tip-off, adding that upon interrogation, they con-

fessed having robbed Inienger and other victims in their nefarious activities.

Umaru, who cursed the dead suspected armed bandits saying "may their souls not rest in peace," while displaying their bodies to the public, warned armed robbers to stay away from Nasarawa State, as the state

would not be conducive for them to practice.

He said some vehicles and walkie-talkie, which they used in intercepting police information, were also recovered. The police commissioner also ordered that six other robbers, previously arrested be charged to court with immediate effect.

NEWS

Sharia will remove insecurity - Buhari

Former Head of State, Gen. Muhammadu Buhari (rtd), has said the acceptance of Sharia and its practice will remove insecurity in Nigeria.

Gen. Buhari told participants at the first national convention of the National Council for Sharia in Nigeria (NCSN) held in Kaduna last weekend, that the practice of Sharia is not the biggest fear of Nigerians.

Said he: "The biggest fear of Nigerians is not Sharia but the monster of moral, physical and material insecurity."

Explaining further, Buhari said the moral insecurity means the inability of persons to behave according to their conscience for fear of extra-religious or belief consequences.

He referred to the physical insecurity as the failure of the state to guarantee the basic things for the welfare of life and the safety of properties of its citizens.

According to Buhari, the third aspect of insecurity is the material one which makes people go to bed wondering if there would be

From Ibrahim Dan-Halilu, in Kaduna

something to eat the following day.

"Now, the acceptance of Sharia and its practice will God-willing, remove all those three insecurities," Buhari emphasised.

The former PTF chairman said rather than deny muslims their rights, it is good for governments at all levels to encourage Sharia and muslims to live according to its injunctions.

Buhari said as the report from Zamfara State has indicated a reduction in crime rate, it is just the



Gen. Muhammadu Buhari (rtd)

beginning of the good things to come for all Nigerians if Sharia was practised wholeheartedly.

He called on muslims in Nigeria to educate their followers not to be afraid of Sharia as it was a legal opportunity given to them by God.

He urged them, therefore, to accept Sharia and educate non-muslims not to fear anything about Sharia application.

He noted that the task of educating non-muslims about Sharia would be made more difficult because of external forces working against the rights of muslims.

The former Head of State urged muslims to make the sacrifice of persuading their fellow country men who are non-muslims to accept the rights of muslims to Sharia.

He pledged his total commitment to the propagation of Sharia in Nigeria, adding: "Whether we are quoted rightly or wrongly, wherever we have the opportunity to speak about what our constitution allow us to do within our country, we will not stop to air our minds."

Beneficiaries of the Education Tax Fund (ETF) will receive N9.8 billion for the execution of projects in the 2001 intervention year, officials told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Abuja at the weekend.

The ETF is funded from two percent of post-tax profits of private companies, and is intended to complement the funding of government-owned education institutions in the country.

Officials said that the management of the fund had already dispatched letters of allocations to

ETF allocates N9.8b to projects this year

prospective beneficiaries, requesting them to send project proposals for consideration.

They said each university will get N40 million, while polytechnics, colleges of education and monotechnics would get N20 million, N16 million and N7.5 million respectively. Each state Ministry of Education will get N40 million and every state primary education board will receive N2.8 million on behalf of every local government area in its area of authority, officials

said.

The fund has also allocated N20 million to each inter-university center, including the National Mathematical Centre, Abuja, the Nigeria French Village, Badagry, and the Nigerian Language Academy, Abuja.

Although the fund has not made any provision for special projects, it plans to spend money on library development, with N5 million allocated to the National Library of Nigeria and N3.5 million to every state library board.

Under the library projects, officials said each university would get N3.5 million, polytechnics, N1.5 million each and colleges of education, N1.125 million each.

Meanwhile, the fund has disbursed N100 million or 40 percent of N250 million it pledged as assistance to the Bayelsa government for the establishment of the Niger-Delta University. Officials said the fund would release the remaining sum once the state government showed evidence of the use of earlier disbursements.

Media tour unconnected with politics - Ghana

The Minister of Information and National Orientation, Prof. Jerry Gana, has refuted the allegations making the rounds that the ongoing media tour by his ministry to the various states of the federation is connected with Obasanjo's campaign for re-election in 2003.

The minister, who was speaking on a British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Hausa service programme monitored in Abuja shortly after his arrival in Gombe State, maintained that "the issue of the media tour came up when the Federal Government received complaints of poor performances by the state

and local governments nationwide.

Due to this, he said, the Federal Government organised the tour under the Ministry of Information and National Orientation to visit all the states in the country in order to see first-hand the projects so far executed by the state governors and their chairmen.

Gana disclosed that democracy "can only have meaning to ordinary Nigerians if elected leaders improve their living standards."

He added: "Based on our assessment, the governors of the states we have so far visited have executed various developmental projects, including the provision of potable water, good roads network, improvement of educational standards, provision of medical facilities among others."

2003: Elect only pro-Sharia leaders - muslims urged

As the 2003 elections draw nearer, the Council for the Implementation of Sharia in Nigeria, has urged muslims in the country to elect only those who would protect and ensure the full implementation of the Sharia legal code in the country.

The chairman of the council, Dr. Ibrahim Datti Ahmed, according to a British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Hausa service programme monitored in Abuja, said this at a seminar organised in Kaduna entitled: "Sharia and its outcome in Nigeria."

Dr. Ahmed, when asked whether the position of the council would not create disunity among Nigerians in the 2003 elections, said the

By Mustapha Isah Kwaru

decision was applicable to both muslims and non-muslims.

His words: "This would not cause any disunity. When Obasanjo assumed

office, how many muslims were killed at various clashes in the South-West. But because the president is from their region, nothing was done to arrest and punish the perpetrators of such killing."

Islamic university gets two committees, raises N120m

Two key advisory committees, academic and finance, for the Katsina Islamic University project have been inaugurated with a call on muslims to pull resources together to make the project a reality.

Inaugurating the committees in Katsina, the Emir of Daura, Alhaji (Dr.) Muhammadu Bashar, noted that the Islamic university project should be a thing of joy and pride to all muslims irrespective of their nationality, geography and

From Abdu Labaran and Hassan A. Karofi, in Katsina

race.

The emir, who is also one of the patrons of the project, urged Nigerian muslims not to allow the toil of the initiators of the Islamic university to be in vain, asserting that "the project can only attract the support and sympathy of outsiders if we show unalloyed commitment to it."

Alhaji Bashar commended the moral and material support being rendered by the state

government and some notable individuals, adding that their commitment to the project has become worthy of emulation by all well-meaning muslims.

The academic advisory committee has 12 members, with Prof. Danjuma Maiwada of the Bayero University, Kano, as chairman and Hon. Justice Musa Danladi Abubakar of the Katsina High Court as secretary. Other members include Prof. Ibrahim Na'iyu Sada, Dr. Abdullahi Garba Faskari, Dr. Haruna Abdu Kanta, Retired Grand Khadi, Ahmad

Muhammad Bata-garawa and Alhaji Ahmed Umar Daura, Provost Isa Kaita College of Education, Dutsinma. The rest are Alhaji Murtala Dalha Kanka, Rector, Hassan Usman Katsina Polytechnic, Katsina, Alhaji Ahmed Hassan Dutsinma, Shiek Ibrahim Abu Gambarawa and Sheikh Sulaiman Isa Maiwaduwa.



Prof. Borisade

CHANGE OF NAME
I formerly called UWA NDUBUISI AGBARA now wish to be known and called UWAOMA PAUL NDUBUISI. All documents bearing my former name remains valid. For public notice.

NUT seeks increased federal allocation for UBE

The Nigerian Union of Teachers (NUT) has applauded the report of the National Revenue Mobilization Allocation and Fiscal Commission, which allocated seven percent for the purpose of funding basic education in the country even as it has called on the National Assembly to increase it to 10 percent so as to cater for that purpose.

In a statement in Abuja, signed by its Secretary-

By Ikenna Emeka Okpan

General, Chief J.K. Nwachukwu, the union said the gesture by the commission was a welcome one as it demonstrated government's commitment to the success of the Universal Basic Education programme.

"The union is pleased to note that due recognition has been accorded education as a principal tool of social evolution and development, as exemplified

by the Federal Government's Universal Basic Education (UBE) programme, to warrant being given a first charge consideration on the federation account," the statement said.

Noting that the separation of allocations to local governments from that of teachers will end the issue of zero allocation, the union expressed optimism that councils will have more money to develop their areas.

However, the union stated that seven percent was not enough as it encompasses all aspects of basic education, including the first three years of secondary education.

"The provision of seven percent may, therefore, in the strong opinion of the NUT, be most inadequate to meet the demands of the basic education throughout the country," the statement added.

PUBLIC NOTICE
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The general public is hereby informed that the above named organization has applied for registration under the Companies and Allied Matters Act No.1 of 1990
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6. Danladi Dogara - Member
Any objection to this registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission, PMB 198, Area 11, Garki, Abuja within 28 days from the date of this publication.
Signed:
IBRAHIM D. DANLADI KEFFI
Secretary, Joint Committee

NEWS

African nations can resolve their differences – Obasanjo

President Olusegun Obasanjo has said that African countries were capable of resolving any differences among themselves in the spirit of cooperation, brotherliness, harmony and good neighbourliness.

The president was speaking in Abuja, at the weekend to the outgoing President of Sao Tome and Principe, Mr. Miguelanjos Trovoada, who paid a farewell visit to Nigeria.

He said the belief outside Africa that ethnic, religious and inter-tribal conflicts were intractable could no longer hold water because Africans had faced and resolved several disagreements among themselves and would continue to do so.

Using the Nigeria and Sao Tome case as an example, President Obasanjo pointed

out that Mr. Trovoada had played a most significant role in resolving previous difficulties, without any foreign intervention, resulting in the peace, harmony and cooperation now existing between the

two countries.

The president said Africa and Nigeria in particular would miss the outgoing leader, though his experience would continue to be utilized even in retirement. He wished him a pleasant rest.

SSS arrests pipeline vandals in Kogi

The directorate of State Security Service (SSS) in Lokoja, Kogi State, have arrested three suspected vandals siphoning AGO (diesel) from a vandalized NNPC pipeline at Osara village, near Okene.

The NNPC's efforts to stabilize the supply and distribution of petroleum products across the country had witnessed pockets of vandalism in the recent past.

The Director of SSS in Lokoja, Mr. Obiajulu

Amaechina, told a team of NNPC officials and some



Gaius-Obaseki

journalists at the weekend, that the directorate got a tip-off about the activities of the vandals from a vigilance group policing the pipeline.

He added that the area was put under intense surveillance which paid off with the arrest of the three suspects.

Amaechina explained that the vandals destroyed the pipeline, which was pumping AGO from Warri Refinery (WRPC) to Kaduna Refinery (KRPC), with a heavy metal and connected a hose to the damaged pipeline from one end and to a tanker from the other end.

The director said that the suspects had made useful statement to the directorate confirming their involvement in the

Nigeria to host women conference

She said the conference/ expo will be a prelude to the Africans in the diaspora conference (Africando) 2002, which is scheduled for Miami, Florida in the United States from 9th-13th May, 2002.

Mrs. Aliyu stated that at the Abuja conference, which is a collaborative effort with Africans in the diaspora

(Africando) and friends of Africa in the political and economic spheres, the role of women in the new African Union will be addressed.

NAWE made its debut in April 1993 with the objective of facilitating the formation of Federation of African Women Entrepreneurs (FAWE). FAWE was formed in June, 1993 to enhance the promotion of the economic activities of women



Hajiya Aisha Ismail

from mere income-generators to substantial contributors to national economic development.

"The full potentials and energies of African women can be harnessed and channelled towards national developmental goals of their various countries through trade, commerce and manufacturing on the platform of FAWE, which NAWE is a member and also its elected president," Mrs. Aliyu stated.

Don't ignore violence on women – WRAPA scribe tells police

The Secretary-General of Women's Rights Advancement and Protection Alternative (WRAPA), Hajiya Saudatu Mahdi, has called on the police to change their attitude of indifference towards assault on women and children in order to curb violence against women in the country.

She made the call at the unveiling ceremony of the billboard prepared by WRAPA on violence against women at the weekend in Abuja. She also attributed the behaviour of the police to the existing loopholes in the laws of the country.

Hajiya Saudatu stated that the police should start taking assault cases against women more seriously instead of "telling the women to go and settle it at home because it is family affairs."

"There are existing loopholes in our laws such that the offence of assault on a woman or child is condoned as long as it does not get to certain dangerous extents. The provisions of some laws make it a small offence to assault a woman and a big one to assault a man," she lamented.

The secretary-general further added that the billboard which carried the symbol of a man pursuing a woman with a whip and a crying child pulling the gown of the man, has been chosen as a logo to "say no to violence against women no matter what," by WRAPA to

sanitize the family and the whole society.

The message on the billboard covers the general prevalence of violence, the effects of such situation on the children who witness these scenes between their parents and the need for restraint by all parties and the fulfilment of each other's rights and obligations.

Hajiya Saudatu thanked the management and entire staff of the National Hospital

Yobe obtains N2.5b loan for housing

The Yobe State government has obtained a \$19 million loan for the construction of 102 units of houses in the state.

Governor Bukar Ibrahim of Yobe, who made this known at the weekend, told Minister of Information and National Orientation, Prof. Jerry Gana, and his national media tour team, that six housing units would be built in each of the 17 local government areas.

He said the government also planned to build another set of 500 housing units in the state capital, Damaturu, adding that the project would commence in October. The governor said the loan was obtained at a very minimal interest rate from the American government and would be repaid in 10 years.

for assisting and supporting WRAPA by giving free medical treatment to the victims brought to them by WRAPA and for the good relationship that exist between them.

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DAILY TRUST

EDITORIAL

Respect
Aikhomu's rights

Last week former vice-president, Vice Admiral Augustus Aikhomu (rtd.) was barred at the Murtala Mohammed International Airport, Lagos from travelling abroad to attend a social function by State Security Services (SSS) officials. His passport was also reported to have been seized in the process.

In response to the incident, the SSS issued a statement in which it claimed that "Vice Admiral Aikhomu was aware of an outstanding security investigation which he had stalled deliberately; without any regard for due process, the respected retired admiral considered that it was more important to travel abroad for a social event than to respond to security enquiry". He was also alleged to have on several occasions refused to honour invitations by the Edo State director of the SSS to clarify certain allegations and that he was reported to have told the state SSS boss, on one occasion, that he would not honour the invitation.

Dr. Usman Bugaje, special adviser to the vice president on political affairs also explained that Admiral Aikhomu was prevented from travelling "because of comments he made concerning the registration of new political parties by INEC". He was said to have threatened that if his political association, the United Nigeria Democratic Party (UNDP) was not registered, it would make the country ungovernable.

If Admiral Aikhomu indeed made such a statement, then such blatant disregard for constituted authority in a democratic dispensation is, to say the least, regrettable. And all the more so when perpetrated by a former number two citizen whose actions and utterances are expected to demonstrate respect for the rule of law and should in all instances serve as an example to serving public office holders and Nigerians as a whole.

The former military vice-president has, however, denied knowledge of any ongoing investigations in which he is expected to offer any explanation and has refuted allegations that he made statements which constituted a threat to national security and sees the SSS action as an infringement on his right to free movement and association. Pressure groups like the Civil Liberties Organisation and the National Association of Nigerian Students as well as human rights activist and lawyer, Gani Fawehinmi (SAN), have expressed concern over such human rights violations which were a hallmark of past military regimes and must not be tolerated in the present dispensation.

The one time vice president as a citizen of Nigeria has a right to free movement, speech and association and we believe it is the police and not the SSS that have the right to arrest or interrogate anyone that is suspected of breaching the law or any act detrimental to national security. Besides, courtesy demands that a person of Aikhomu's status deserves to be treated with some dignity. Except of course the authorities want us to go back to the infamous days of military dictatorship. Aikhomu may have been associated with those dark days, but in the present era we defend his right not to be molested by the state.

Much as we commend the stand of the SSS in affirming that nobody is (and not be seen to be) above the law, we think the secret service organ has overplayed its hand. In our nascent democracy we do not believe that individual rights should be abridged for such nebulous accusations as "anti-democratic activities".



TUESDAY COLUMN

Nnamani's idea of Nigeria

By Aminu Iyawa

Iyawa faults Governor Chimaroke Nnamani's case for a conference of "ethnic nationalities" pointing out that politicians, not the media, need reorientation to jettison their excesses.

Governor Chimaroke Nnamani of Enugu State is one of the few politicians that the Fourth Estate of the Realm has high regard for. This may be, because of his understanding of the workings of the Nigerian Media, or it could be because of his training as a medical doctor, whose profession demands courtesy and simplicity while dealing with patients. Whichever it is, he certainly was the toast of journalists over the weekend that gathered at the State House Kawo, Kaduna, where he was the guest lecturer at the maiden press week, organised by the state chapter of the Nigeria Union of Journalists, (NUJ).

Because of the impression I had of him, I had missed two or three appointments to make room for the occasion. From what I heard and read about him, I put up an image of a brilliant, true nationalist; a patriot with a heart larger than the nation itself; a leader who built himself a constituency that transcends the boundaries of our geographical divide and whose vision for Nigeria is a solid, united, progressive country.

The paper he delivered, titled: "The Nigeria Idea: can the press sustain the nation's interest?" however left me dumb founded. His idea of Nigeria is not any different from the views held by most politicians from the South, who use the "national question" as a means of arousing sentiments to hype their popularity, especially with the on-going craze with second-term syndrome.

In an attempt to lure the psyche of true patriotic citizens who do not feel that the answer to their problems is holding a national conference, Governor Nnamani quoted President Olusegun Obasanjo, who in 1994, sent a missile to the then head of state general Sani Abacha that: "Nigeria is a country perpetually potentially great, almost permanently in crisis, regularly threatened with disintegration, prolongingly plundered and mismanaged, forever talking about democracy but retreating from democracy."

By his interpretation, Obasanjo's statement is still valid and in fact, "the Nigeria Idea" a three word cliché that he repeated twenty-one times in the cause of the presentation, describing the nation's current status as "period of interlude." A temporary arrangement, if you will, that must eventually be defined at a round-table of "ethnic nationalities" that make up the country.

The implication of the governor's stand is that the country is just wasting its time and scarce resources on our elected members of the National Assembly, since the decision of the supposed members of the national conference will supersede that of the legislature. And by extension, should the conference fail, (and fail, it will), since the agitating "ethnic nationalities" have already made up their minds on the outcome, the end result will be the parting of ways, to put it mildly.

Despite the seeming struggle by the Enugu State chief

executive to manipulate history, blaming the colonial administrators, quoting Thomas Jefferson and Winston Churchill in order to boost the propaganda, he failed to convince me that the problem with Nigeria is its set up, and not lack of accountability and good governance.

For starters, our politicians still behave not differently from the military. Otherwise, the Governor would not have come to the occasion all the way from Enugu, with almost his entire cabinet, scores of special advisers, not to mention the fleet of cars, all of which is a great strain on the peoples coffers and a clear sign of lack of accountability.

Also, from the president down to local government chairmen, it is a fashion to be accompanied by uniformed orderlies. In the case of the president, vice-president and state governors they sit side by side with their aides de camp (ADC's), instead of personal assistants or secretaries as is obtained in other democratic countries. In fact, you will never see a uniformed (or even civilian) aide standing behind the U.S. President or the British Prime Minister while delivering a speech or conducting a function, as opposed to what is the practice here.

While Governor Nnamani expressed the need for the Nigerian press to reorient itself in order to support democracy, it is indeed, the politicians who need reorientation from their current military life style and culture of clamour for more power through the establishment of terror, militia-groups to serve their clandestine purposes, where state apparatus will not fit.

The recent clash between members of the Oodua Peoples Congress (OPC) and the Nigeria police in Lagos State only highlights the gravity of the situation, which put in plain language, was a clash between the Lagos State government and the Police. This is so, because the OPC is allegedly under the pay-roll of Governor Bola Ahmed Tinubu who at various times publicly accorded them legitimacy, just as has been the case with the Bakassi Boys and Governor Orji Kalu of Abia State.

"The Nigeria Idea" therefore, can be hardly the right idea for solution to the nation's problem as advocated by Governor Nnamani. The solution lies squarely with the governing elite whose idea of democracy is spending, spending and spending, when the people hardly square a meal and lucky graduates get employed as militia.

While President Olusegun Obasanjo came on hard on local government councils, accusing them of doing little to justify the huge amount of subvention they have been getting, a closer look will show that state governance are worse. Only a handful of them will pass a real audit test. For the majority, they will only have renovated buildings and coupons of overseas return tickets to show as their measure of success and contribution in office.

All of them are guilty of abusing their executive privileges, particularly through excessive travels and protocol activities. They exploit their legislative houses to the fullest, thereby crippling their ability to oppose anything from the executive, on behalf of the people.

Those are the problems that are inimical to the sustenance of good democracy that we need to work on with all hands on deck. "The Nigeria Idea" is an elitist thing which ardent accountability should take care of.

FEDERAL MEDICAL CENTRE BIRNIN KUDU**BIRNIN KUDU JIGAWA STATE****NOTICE OF INTERVIEW**

The below listed candidates are hereby invited to attend interview at the Conference Hall of the Centre as shown below:-

Group A.**Departments:** Physiotherapy, Lab Science, and Radiology**Date and Time:** Tuesday 11th September, 2001

All Candidates should report at the Federal Medical Centre Birnin Kudu, by 8.30am for a written examination

S/No.	Name of Candidate	State of Origin	Address	Post Applied
1.	Sani Abubakar Danbatta	Kano State (Danbatta)	C/o Ministry of Health & Social Welfare P.M.B. 3061	Principal Physiotherapist II
2.	Azubike Obed Chukwuma	Anambra (Adazi Enu)	C/o Physiotherapy Unit Federal Medical Centre B/Kudu	Physiotherapist
3.	Lamina Sikiru	Lagos (Ajegulle Apapa)	Physiotherapy Dept. M.M.S.H., PMB 3200, Kano State	Senior Physiotherapist
4.	Sule Sallau Yakubu	Kano State	C/o Saminu I. Bala Department of Mathematics Faculty of Science, BUK PMB 3011, Kano State	Physiotherapist
5.	Rasheedah Zibiri Adebola	Lagos State (Mushin)	Nigeria Air Force Base Hospital PMB 2104, Kaduna	Physiotherapist I
6.	Zubairu Usman	Jigawa State	C/o Physiotherapy Dept. University of Maiduguri	Physiotherapist
7.	Ganiyat Abiodun Owolabi	Lagos (Osogbo)	C/o Dr. Bulango Umar, Chief Medical Director General Hospital Kazaure	Physiotherapist
LABORATORY DEPARTMENT				
1.	Yakubu K. Jibrin	Kano State (Kano City)	C/o Dr. Mohd., A. Iya AKTH, Kano State	Senior Lab. Scientist (Micro)
2.	Edmund A. Megna	Imo State (Emii)	Shekon Laboratory 28A, Burma Road, Sabon Gari, Kano State	Senior Medical Lab. Sci. (Microbiology)
3.	Uhugbu Anthony A.	Abia State (Umuahia South)	Excel Clinic/Diagnostics, 41 Onitsha Road, Sabon Gari, Kano State	Senior Lab. Scientist (Micro/Bio)
4.	Marian Ekpenga	Edo State (Nassarawa)	Laboratory Department, Jahun General Hospital Jigawa State	Medical Laboratory Tech. II
5.	Mercy Edoze	Edo State (Esan South-East)	No.11 Edo Avenue Off upper Mission Road Benin City	Medical Lab. Scientist II (Micro)
6.	Bem Lim Benz	Benue State (Gboko)	C/o Mr. Franco Akie, Omega Bank (Nig) Plc., 18B Post Office Road PMB 3131, Kano State	Medical Lab. Technician
7.	Ojo Oyekunle	Osun State (Ile-Ife)	No.10 Ilare Street Ile-Ife, P.O.Box 821, Ile-Ife	Medical Lab. Scientist II (Chem path)
8.	Ibrahiim Abdu Bako	Kaduna State (Zaria)	C/o Department of Medical & Health Service, Ministry of Health PMB 3066 Kano 14A Ahmadu Bello Way Kano	Snr. Medical Lab. (Chem, path)
9.	Nasiru Inuwa	Jigawa State (Birnin Kudu)	C/o Sabitu Nasalla Pharmacy Department FMC, Birnin Kudu, Jigawa State	Medical Laboratory Scientist
10.	Saifullahi Musa	Jigawa State (Ringim)	C/o Hadejia General Hospital	Medical Lab Scientist
11.	Shehu Jafaru	Kano State	C/o Murtala Muhd Specialist Hospital Kano	Medical Lab Scientist
RADIOLOGY DEPARTMENT				
1.	Francis M. Abuah	Anambra State (Onitsha)	C/o George Obi, P.O.Box 1697, Sabon Gari, Kano	Principal Radiographer
2.	Olaiwon Sulaiman (Mr)	Oyo State (Eruwaibrapa)	C/o Muslim Corpers Associations of Nigeria, 3A Zoo Road, Behind Dangi Pharmacy, P.O.Box 4715, Kano	Higher Medical Radiographer
3.	Lawan Yahaya Tahir	Kano State (Ririwai)	C/o Sani Yahaya, HMB Head Quarters Post Office Road, Kano State	Sen. Radiographer
4.	Zainab Mohammed	Kano State (Dala)	C/o Haruna Abubakar, Old., MOW, OLD Secretary, Dutse, Jigawa State	X-Ray Tech.

Group B.**Departments:** Works & Services and Health Records**Date and Time:** Wednesday 12th September, 2001

All Candidates should report at the Federal Medical Centre Birnin Kudu, by 8.30am for a written examination

S/No.	Name of Candidate	State of Origin	Address	Post Applied
1.	Haruna Ndagi Abdullahi	Niger State (Agai)	C/o Engr. Bello Sulaiman, Habib Bank Nig. Ltd. Head Office Estate Unit Kaduna, Kaduna State	Mechanical Engineer
2.	Yusuf Marouf Adewale	Kwara State (Offa)	C/o Mr. Abdulraheem Giwa, Dept. of Textile, Science & Technology ABU Zaria	Mechanical Engineer
3.	Aminu Muhammed Rano	Kano State (Rano)	C/o Usman Tsoho Kano Federal Medical Centre Birnin Kudu	Technical Officer (Mechanical)
4.	Yusuf Alh. Umar	Kano State (Gumel)	P.O. Box 11002 Kano	Quantity Surveyor
5.	Abdullahi Muhd Kakale Gumel	Jigawa State (Birnin Kudu)	C/o Sani Dangambo Min. of Information Jigawa State	Mechanical Engineer
6.	Aliyu Muhammed	Borno State (Biu)	C/o Mohammed Zarah Ali Computer Service Dept. Nig. Depreit Insurance Corporation Central Business district P.M.B. 284, Garki Abuja	Higher Technical Officer (Electrical)
7.	Musa Abdu Tamburawa	Kano State	C/o Ahmad Garba Tamburawa, Department of Marketing School of Management Studies, Kano State Polytechnic, Nassarawa Kano	Works Superintendent
8.	Bashir Magaji	Jigawa State (Birnin Kudu)	C/o Muhd Sulaiman, Jigawa State School of Nursing, Birnin Kudu	Works Superintendent
9.	Idris Katun	Kwara State (Patigi)	C/o Salihu Usman, Nigerian Sugar Company Estate Department, PMB 65, Jebba-Bacita Kwara State	Quantity Surveyor
10.	Sale Sani	Jigawa State	C/o Engineer Ibrahim I. Ahmed, FMC Birnin Kudu	Senior Technical Officer (Mech)
11.	Muhd Gazzali Munir	Kano State (Municipal)	C/o Building Department, Ministry of Works & Housing, Kano. PMB 3068 Kano	Quantity Surveyor
12.	Hassan A. Adamu	Kano State (Tarauni)	C/o Dr. Abdulhamid I. Dutse, AKTH, Kano	Technical Officer (Mechanical)
HEALTH RECORDS DEPARTMENT				
1.	Umar Faruk Abubakar	Katsina State (Katsina)	Department of Health Records, Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital, PMB 3452	Principal Health Record Officer
2.	Samuel Enebe Anthony	Kogi State (Ogaminana)	C/o Mr. Babatunde Ayilegbe, Medical Records Department, AKTH Kano	Health Records Officer I
3.	Salawu Idris Asuku	Kogi State (Okene)	C/o Maimunat Sulaiman, Premier Clinic, No.8PT 1st Avenue Gyadi-Gyadi Court Road, Kano	Health Records Officer I (Statistics)
4.	Odeyemi Oluwatoyin Abiodun	Lagos State (Mushin)	C/o Ministry of Health Jigawa State	Health Records Officer I

Group C**Departments:** Accounts and Audit**Date and Time:** Thursday 13th September, 2001

All Candidates should report at the Federal Medical Centre Birnin Kudu, by 8.30am for a written examination

S/No.	Name of Candidate	State of Origin	Address	Post Applied
1.	Lawan Isyaku	Jigawa State (Gwaram)	C/o Rabiya Musa (NO) FMC B/Kudu Jigawa State	Senior Accountant
2.	Dahiru Hamza Tukur	Kano State (Takai)	Kapital Insurance Company Ltd. No 116 Hadejia Road Kano	Senior Accountant
3.	Usman Katuka Bida	Niger State (Gbako)	C/o No. 20 Kano Rd. Kaduna North, Kaduna State	Senior Accountant
4.	Abdulwahab Alh. Garba	Jigawa State (Birnin Hausa)	C/o United Bank for Africa PLC. Kano(Main) Branch Kano, P.O. Box 635 Kano	Accountant
5.	Aminu Abdulaziz	Katsina State	Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital, Kano	Senior Accountant
6.	Ja'afar S. El-Ansar	Kano State (Dala)	Kano Chamber of Commerce, Industry Mines and Agriculture, PMB 10 Zoo Road Kano	Executive Officer (Accounts)
7.	Mahmud Sadauki	Kano State (Gwarzo)	C/o Internal Audit Department ABU Teaching Hospital Kaduna	Accountant I
8.	Benjamin Gambo Bugu	Adamawa State (Michika)	Ministry of Federal Audit Abuja	Assistant Accountant
9.	Mohammed A. Gambaki	Bauchi State (Katagum)	C/o Sulaiman Umar Abdul CABS Azare PM B 028 Azare	Higher Executive Officer (Accounts)
10.	Wada Adamu	Jigawa State (Birnin Kudu)	C/o Kofar Fada Qaurters, No. 35 Birnin Kudu	Executive Officer (Accounts)
11.	Ibrahim Babani	Jigawa State (Hadejia)	C/o Ibrahim A.M. State NYSC Secretariate Dutse	Accountant II
12.	Rabiu Usman Gumel	Jigawa State (Gumel)	C/o Gyadi-Gyadi Quarters, Kano Fed. Inland Revenue Service Local VAT Officer PMB 3050 Kano	Senior Accountant
13.	Abdulkarim Mohammed	Jigawa State	C/o Board of Internal Revenue Gumel, Jigawa State	Executive Officer (Accounts)
14.	Muhammad Bala	Jigawa State		Higher Executive Officer (Accounts)
15.	Tijjani Abba A.	Jigawa State (Miga)		Executive Officer
16.	Abubakar Muhd. Karaye	Kano State (Karaye)	C/o Habu Umar Gumel, Yasakai Quarters Kano	Higher Executive Officer (Accounts)
17.	Auwalu Yunusa Makama Kano	State (Danbatta)	C/o Kano State Housing Corporation Zaria Road, Kano	Senior Accountant
18.	Usman Sale Kano	Kano State	C/o Tijjani S. Abdullahi Bichi A.I.B. Bank Jos	Higher Executive Officer (Accounts)
AUDIT DEPARTMENT				
1.	Suleiman Balarabe	Jigawa State (Gwaram)	C/olsa Balarabe Isa School of Management Studies Kano State Polytechnic	Auditor
2.	Isma'ila Mohd Mijinyawa	Kano State	C/o Dr. M.S. Mijinyawa, Dept. of Medicine AKTH PMB 3452 Kano	Auditor II
3.	Aishatu Isah	Gombe State (Billiri)	C/o Suleiman Umar Abdul CABS, Azare, P.M.B. 28 Azare Bauchi State	Higher Executive Officer (Audit)
4.	Abdulmalik Yusuf	Jigawa State (Birnin Kudu)	C/o Dr. A.I. AKTH, Kano	Auditor II
5.	Abdullahi Zakari Suleiman	Jigawa State (Kafin Hausa)	C/o UBA Plc, P.O.Box 635, 4B Bank Road Kano	Higher Executive Officer (Audit)
6.	Abdulhamid Abdullahi Ghanzaki	Plateau (Kanam)	C/o Hon.Sa'adu Ayuba Chairman, Birnin Kudu, Jigawa State	Auditor II
7.	Dauda Isa Dutse	Jigawa (Dutse)	C/o Dr. Abdulhamid I. Dutse, AKTH, Kano	Audit II

Group D.**Departments:** Medical Social Welfare, Environmental Health and Dental**Date and Time:** Friday 14th September, 2001

All Candidates should report at the Federal Medical Centre Birnin Kudu, by 8.30am for a written examination

S/No.	Name of Candidate	State of Origin	Address	Post Applied
1.	Ibrahim Maikudi	Jigawa State (Hadejia)	C/o Aminu Adamu Kano State College of Arts Science and Remedial Studies, P.M.B. 3145	Medical Social Welfare Officer
2.	Abdul-Rahman Muhd Nura	Nassarawa State (Toto)	C/o Mohd. Bashir, Union Bank of Nig. Plc, Kaduna Road, Kaduna State	Assistant Medical Social Welfare
3.	Sualiman Lalha	Jigawa State Birnin Kudu	No.46 Zarenawa A. Birnin Kudu Jigawa State	Assistant Medical Social Welfare
4.	Yusif Hussain	Borno State (Municipal)	Lamusawa Nigeria Ltd. (Pharmacy Division) P.O. Box 1474 Maiduguri Borno State, Nigeria.	Medical Social Welfare Officer
5.	Ahmed Damba	Jigawa State (Kaugama)	Barrister Ali Sa'ad Birnin Kudu, 24 Alu Avenue, Nassarawa G.R.A. Quarters Kano	Assistant Medical Social Welfare
6.	Dalhatu Muhammed Shinkafi	Zamfara State (Shinkafi)	C/o Ibrahim Aliyu Kaura Namoda, Deputy Governors Office, Gusau, Zamfara State	Assit. Medical Social Welfare Officer
ENVIRONMENTAL H. DEPARTMENT				
1.	Ahmed Ibrahim Chigari	Kano State	C/o Kode Twon D/Kudu Local Government Kano State	Environmental Health Officer
DENTAL DEPARTMENT				
1.	Dr. Omotoso Oyewole	Osun State	C/o Chief Johnson Akinlade, P.O.Box 10053 Marina Lagos	Dental Officer

2. Candidates should please note the followings:

- Candidates are required to come along with both original and photocopies of all their credentials,
- Ensure that all their referees have sent in their references on them before the interview.
- Candidates are responsible for their accommodation and transportation in respect of attending the interview
- Candidates are required to submit four (4) Passport Photographs.
- Candidates are required to purchase and fill formal application forms at a cost of N200.00 before the interview. (Payments are to be made at the Accounts Department of the Centre)

Signed:

A.M. Sulaiman
Assistant Director of Admin
For: Medical Director

Opinion

Travelling governors

By Idang Alibi

In search of the fabled "foreign investors", Alibi argues that some governors rule their states from abroad but the investors remained elusive.

During the breakdown of the year 2001 budget of one of the states of the federation the state's Director of Budget revealed that in the year 2000, the Governor spent N1.4 billion on official travels.

Given the fact that the propensity of our chief executives in wrong-doing seems to increase in direct proportion to their days in office it is only to be expected that the Governor is likely to spend about two billion naira this year on travels both domestic and external.

We have on our hands today state chief executives who love travelling so much that it is fair to simply label them "Travelling Governors". It is as if these Governors have itching legs and buttocks which is why they take off on any journey whether home or abroad, at the slightest provocation.

The president of this club of travelling chief executives is, without doubt, Governor Saminu Turaki of poor Jigawa State. This man loves overseas travels so much that his people complain that he rules the state from abroad. His state House of Assembly was forced to adopt a motion the other day "banning" him from further travelling abroad for any reason.

Immediately after Chief Achike Udenwa was sworn-in as governor of good old Imo State, he took to the foreign circuit. Imorites were forced to observe that they have seen a Weeping Governor before but that it looked like it was now their lot to have a travelling governor. This rebuke appears to have curbed Udenwa's love for jetting out.

Since coming to power, some governors in the South East have decided that one of the ways to industrialise their states is to pursue agribusiness, especially plantation agriculture. Ironically, this noble idea has become an albatross on their states. It has now become a ready excuse for them to jet out to Malaysia and other East Asian countries, at the click of a button.

Some of them have travelled to Malaysia so many times over this oil palm plantation business that it will be correct to describe them as Malaysian Ambassadors to Nigeria. In fact they love the East Asian Tiger countries so much that they ought to be awarded a medal by these countries as a "Friends of the East".

To express his frustration with vice-chancellors of federal universities who were very fond of jetting around the world while their schools were boiling, former award-winning Minister of Education, Professor Alio Babatunde Fatunwa, promptly labelled them "VC 10". They were named after that famous long distance aircraft the D.C. 10. With that apt description, Fatunwa tickled the imagination of a good number of Nigerians. We perhaps need another Fatunwa to name these governors after the latest and fastest jet aircraft. May be, they can be called "Concorde Governors".

What is the good reason, and the real reasons, for the rather frequent trips? The good reason which the governors all put forward to justify their foreign trips is that they go to persuade foreign investors to come and invest in their state. It is however known to all of us that estacode is one of the real reasons why they jet out so often.

Foreign trips have also become a very convenient tool to use to reward political supporters or to recruit political antagonists to the Governors' sides. That is the explanation for why when our Excellencies are checking out, they carry with them a large entourage as if they are going to arrest the foreign investors and bring them in. Some of these eminent governors are true descendants of Mansa Musa, one of our ancestors who went to Mecca with a large entourage.

The so-called economic diplomacy by the governors is a stuff of which scandals are made. It is simply the use of good money to chase phantom money. What have been the economic or social dividends of this economic diplomacy? How much Naira worth of foreign investments do they secure for their states to justify the whopping amounts of money they spend on travels?

In case they do not already know it, the governors should be told that even if they make foreign capitals their home, not many foreigners will agree to come here because we have not sufficiently made our places investor-friendly.

In fact, any serious-minded and honest Nigerian knows that most of the things the governors go to look for abroad abound here. Some, or all, of the agricultural seedlings which they travel frequently to Malaysia for can be sourced from International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA) in Ibadan or at the Nigerian Institute for Oil Palm Research (NIOPR) in Benin.

As I am writing this, I have before me the interview granted a *Friday*, the *Sunday Newspaper* reporter by the permanent secretary, of the Department for International Development (DFID), a United Kingdom agency, Sir John Veckler. On the issue of what will drive Nigerians to prosper, Sir John said: "I will say depending on estimates by Nigerians themselves is the answer".

"What do domestic investors do with their money?" he queried. "Do they save the money? Do they build supermarkets at the end of the road or do they put the money in a Swiss bank account?" he further asked. He hit the nail on the head by saying, "that attitude of putting money in Swiss bank accounts should change". (See *Thisday*, *The Sunday Paper*, June 10, 200, page 11).

Mr. Alibi, a former member of the Daily Times Editorial Board, lives in Abuja.

Re - Rimi and political morality

By Aminu Sa'ad Beli

Rimi cannot perform effectively under a leadership adjudged to be opportunists or mediocres but an astute politician whose presidential aspirations should be taken seriously.

Although politics, in the partisan sense, is not yet a game I play, nor is Alhaji Muhammadu Abubakar Rimi a person I met more than once in my life; somehow, I feel strongly the urge to rejoin the bottom liner Louis Odion's article on this exemplary politician in the *ThisDay* (20th July, 2001).

However, I must say it here that, actually, ideologically I fell out with Rimi, since he fell out with Malam Aminu Kano.

Let me then start, by acknowledging that, an opinion is an entitlement, but then, so is reacting to it.

The logic may therefore follow, that, although Louis Odion is entitled to all his opinions, I wish to say, opinions characterised by superficiality and blind sentiments, often end up in intellectual embarrassment and futility.

A seeming truth as it is, Rimi may appear to be exploiting the political influence of his late mentor, Malam Aminu Kano, at the same time upholding Marxism as his classical school of thought, yet by any interpretation or dialectical standardisation, he is a rare pragmatic achiever, a person gifted with charisma, enduring leadership capacity, outpaced, probably, only by the Premier of the Northern Region, Sir Ahmadu Bello Sardauna of Sokoto, and his counterpart of the Western Region, Chief Obafemi Awolowo, all of blessed memory.

These natural qualities are not debatable, if really Odion knows who and what is Alhaji Abubakar Rimi. Before going into that, let me first take on the criticisms levelled against Rimi, as contained in the article in question.

Actually, Rimi to the honest ardent belief of his immediate constituency, is a ready made leader, whom Nigeria of today wants and needs, essentially to put in place the needed infrastructural facilities, effect and implement the evasive institutional reforms and give the Manpower, the timely focus most needed.

In other words, Rimi like late Sardauna and Awolowo, has so served and convinced his people about his altruism, that, he will forever insouciantly deliver his constituency during any election.

To the people of Rimi's immediate constituency the attitude

he so exhibited, only embodied a consistency and altruistic principle.

However, Rimi may sometime feel betrayed by his people, for not massively coming to his rescue when he was prosecuted and jailed by the Buhari regime, but over the years, he remains the prime mover of any major progressive development of his constituency.

This may explain why he continues to command the political respect of his people, a strong impetus or basis on which he is comfortable to launch his presidential aspiration.

Needless to say, there are only a handful of politicians like him in the country who can dream of basking in such a supportive atmosphere. Majority of the big names in Nigerian partisan politics, are not even able to deliver their wards.

Abiola would not have been sure of even delivering his own immediate constituency, had not the likes of Rimi in the north like late Shehu Musa 'Yar'Adua, employed their great political acumen to penetrate the seeming impregnable set up.

Now, my own little understanding of Rimi, informs me that, he cannot perform under others, especially under leaders whom he adjudged opportunists or mediocres.

In whatever way one may judge Rimi, he is a born leader and a principled and independent follower.

Rimi is therefore, a leader whose capacity is so enormous, that, giving him ministerial or departmental political appointment is no more than an interregnum awaiting the real challenge to crop up.

The enormity of his capacity was manifested in among others, the ease with which he transformed the former Kano State into the then most potential industrialised state in the whole of Africa.

How he provided every nook and corner of that vast land area with motorable roads, electricity, pipe-borne water, and the peasant farmers with adequate agricultural input, was unbelievable.

My last caution to critics like Odion, is that, they should beware that Rimi has offended many vindictive institutions, which will use the unsuspecting writers to destroy him, and by so doing stand in his way to the loftiest corridor of the nation's power, and which by all implications, represents a total deprivations against the "... Talakawas of Nigeria".

Aminu is of the Kano state Radio Corporation, PMB 3014, Kano.

YOUR LETTERS

NCC deserves kudos not blame

I would like to congratulate the board, management and staff of Nigeria Communication Commission (NCC) on the successful launching of the Global systems for Mobile Communication (GSM) operations in Nigeria.

There is no denying the fact that NCC has performed creditably well from the bidding process, which was conducted in a most transparent and efficient manner - to the final roll out. They not only worked with tremendous energy, but also exhibited the highest sense of patriotism by ensuring that the deadline for the rollout was met.

I must particularly commend the inspirational leadership of Engr. Ernest Ndukwe, the chief executive of NCC, who worked tirelessly to ensure the country realised her dream of joining the rest of the global community through the GSM services. And for that singular achievement, he has endeared himself to Nigerians.

It is however very sad to note that rather than being commended for such a remarkable achievement, some people have been condemning him on the pages of newspapers over the tariffs for the GSM services (which they consider too high) recently announced by the operators. But such write-ups are either selfishly motivated or borne out of ignorance by those who

are not well informed about what GSM operations is all about.

In any case, how can someone in his right senses call for the resignation of the NCC boss simply because the operators decided to recoup their huge investment at the shortest possible time by charging high tariffs? The fact that NCC has licensed the operators does not mean that it should dictate to them on what fees to charge for their services.

Besides, when we are

comparing the cost of GSM services with what is obtainable in some other countries, we should also look at the cost of investment and the prevailing business environment. For instance, whereas it cost only \$10 million to obtain a GSM licence in South Africa, it cost a whopping \$285 million for GSM licence in Nigeria which is approximately N29 billion. Given this scenario of huge cost of investment in Nigeria, the inconsistent government policies and unstable business

climate in the country can anyone really blame the operators for being anxious to recover their investment?

But my interest here is not really to defend the operators because I know they have the capacity to do so. I am only concerned about the mischievous activities of some individuals who felt they could rubbish the impeccable image of Engr. Ernest Ndukwe, who has every reason to walk tall for his remarkable achievement.

Alhaji Abdullahi Adamu, 25, Pankshin Street, Jos, Plateau State.

BUK ASUU's unkind cut

When, sometime last year, the senate of Bayero University, Kano (BUK) agreed to introduce a special re-sit programme for the 1999/2000 academic session in order to reduce carry-over and spill-over cases in the university, every student and the entire university community applauded the administration of Professor Musa Abdullahi, the vice-chancellor for its concern for the students and their parents who would want to see their wards graduate from the school.

Five hundred naira was charged for the first two credits load and two hundred naira for any additional credit load course that a student would take in the programme. This money was for the procurement of examination materials, supervision of the examination and subsequent marking of the scripts.

Having written the first and second

semester re-sit examinations in August 2000 and January 2001 respectively, the hopes of all affected final-year students became high as they expected to be part of the next NYSC orientation camp (on passing the examination).

Those students have just missed the recently concluded orientation exercise as their scripts are yet to be marked after about five months of the examination despite the exorbitant charges they incurred for the "special" exam.

Whether or not ASUU was on strike, the results of these poor students ought to have been prepared if justice and fairness was rightly followed.

This is most unfair.

Yakubu Ahmad, C/o P. O. Box 24, 171 U/Gano Street, Karkasara Qtrs, Kano.

TRUST INTERNATIONAL

AFRICA & THE MIDDLE EAST

Mbeki declares Cape Town disaster area

President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa has declared the flood-ravaged city of Cape Town a disaster area.

The South African Defence Force has been working with aid agencies and the South African

authorities to try to relieve the plight of thousands of people who have had their homes inundated by the rains.

The worst-hit spots are the desolate flat areas around Cape Town airport.

Shanty homes, where hundreds of thousands of the city's poorest people live, stretch for mile after mile on the outskirts of the city and have been flooded by the torrential rains.

The conditions are truly miserable. Many people have nowhere dry to sleep and their homes are surrounded by pools of water turned green by sewage.

A disaster management committee has been established and some help is now getting through.

Sand has been brought in to keep the water at bay and hot meals are being provided by the Red Cross and Salvation Army.

Humanitarian workers have moved some of those in the worst affected areas onto higher ground, but this will mean moving people onto disused rubbish dumps and the city authorities are fearful that it will only increase the threat of disease.



Woman making her way to safety in Cape Town

Amnesty demands Habre's extradition

Human rights organisation Amnesty International has called on the Senegalese Government to hand over the former leader of Chad, Hissene Habre, so that he can be put on trial for crimes of torture.

Mr Habre has spent the last decade in Senegal after being overthrown by the current Chadian President Idriss Deby in 1990.

Torture victims and human rights organisations have campaigned for Mr Habre to be put on trial in Senegal.

But the Senegalese legal authorities say they cannot judge him.

Senegal's President Abdoulaye Wade said he wants Mr Habre to leave the country, but has not said when this should happen.

Amnesty International has just held its international council meeting in Dakar and received a strong tribute from Mr Wade for its human rights work over the past 40 years.

Amnesty International says that Hissene Habre committed serious human rights abuses during his eight years in power, and that the former ruler of Chad must be brought to court.

Amnesty has written to President Wade urging him to hand over Mr Habre to a government or international body which can put him on trial.

Chadian torture victims and human rights activists have carried out a long campaign against Mr Habre.

They have provided extensive documentation on alleged abuses carried out by the Chadian security forces, acting under his authorisation.

But the campaign received a serious setback in March when a Senegalese court ruled that Senegal's legal system had no jurisdiction over past events in Chad and could do nothing with Mr Habre.

President Wade backs that view, but told the BBC in April that he wanted to end Mr Habre's exile in Senegal and had asked him to leave.

Israeli helicopters destroy Palestinian police station

The cycle of violence in the Middle East has continued with fresh Israeli attacks on Palestinian security targets.

Israeli Apache helicopters have destroyed a police station in the West Bank town of Tulkarm and tanks have shelled Palestinian police checkpoints near Ramallah.

At least four Palestinians are reported to have been injured.

The raids followed the death of an Israeli motorist shot as he stopped at a Palestinian shop near Tulkarm.

The BBC correspondent in Jerusalem says the weekend's violence in which 11 people died has reduced the prospect of high level talks about a possible ceasefire.

Egypt and Jordan have accused the US of failing to curb the escalating violence between

the Palestinians and Israelis.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak warned that if the US continued to hold back, security in the whole region would be jeopardised.

"The situation requires America take a stand. If the Americans hesitate, it is dangerous for the region, for our interests and even for the Israeli people," he said.

Both Egypt and Jordan have peace agreements with Israel.

US President George W. Bush made clear on Friday that he believed the burden for starting the peace process in the region lay with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

"If the Palestinians are interested in a dialogue, then I would strongly urge Mr Arafat to put 100 percent efforts into stopping the terrorist activity, and I believe he can do a better job of doing that," he said.

Political leaders in Jordan say the remarks constituted an "encouragement" to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to "pursue the escalation" of violence.

"We fear that the American

responsibility declarations throw responsibility for the violence on the Palestinians," said Jordan's Information Minister Salih Kallab in a statement.

In retaliation for two Palestinian attacks on Saturday, including a raid on a military post that killed three soldiers, Israel launched a series of attacks on Palestinian security targets.

F-16 fighter jets destroyed targets in three towns in Gaza and the West Bank.

Israeli tanks and bulldozers also penetrated into the Palestinian-ruled areas of Rafah, destroying three security posts including the main command headquarters.

The air raids were followed up by further Israeli shelling of Palestinian security targets on Sunday.

A 14-year-old Palestinian boy was the youngest victim of the weekend's violence, killed in the north of the Gaza Strip when he was hit by Israeli tank fire, Palestinian officials said.

On Sunday, an Israeli driver was shot and killed by a Palestinian gunman just across the line from the West Bank.

Al Megrahi is not guilty of Lockerbie bombing —Acquited co-accused

The man cleared of the Lockerbie bombing has protested the innocence of the man found guilty of the atrocity.

Al Amin Khalifa Fhimah told a newspaper that he was "totally convinced" that Abdelbaset Ali Mohamed Al Megrahi was not guilty.

The two Libyans stood trial for the murder of the 270 people who died when Pan Am Flight 103 came down at Lockerbie in 1988.

Mr Fhimah was found not guilty of the bombing at a special Scottish court in the Netherlands in January, but Al Megrahi was convicted and jailed for life.

The Crown Office announced on Thursday that he had been granted formal leave to appeal that conviction.

And on Friday, *The Scotsman* newspaper published a report of an interview with 44-year-old Mr Fhimah, who called for his friend to be freed.

He told the paper: "I'm happy that the truth came out as far as I'm concerned.

"I hope that the same thing will happen soon to Mr Megrahi and I will see him back in Libya.

"I am totally convinced he is innocent. I hope the appeal judges study this case carefully."

Mr Fhimah said he was angry that the families of some of the American victims were pursuing him for civil damages through the US courts in a lawsuit.

And he said he believed it was an "accident" that the plane exploded above the Scottish town.

"Whoever was planning to bomb the aircraft, he didn't know where the aircraft would come down," he said.

"Scotland was involved by chance.

"The Scottish people became the victims by accident. You are dealing with a plane that was flying all over the land. I know this as an airline official."

Al Megrahi, 49, lodged notice of his intention to

appeal against conviction in February, and his legal advisers lodged the full grounds for the appeal several months ago.

A judge made the decision that the appeal should go ahead.

The grounds for the appeal are not being made public, but Al Megrahi's defence team is likely to challenge evidence of Maltese shopkeeper Tony Gauci.

Earlier this month Al Megrahi's lead defence lawyer, Dr Ibrahim Legwell, said he was confident the Libyan would soon be freed.

English barrister Michael Mansfield QC and US human rights lawyer Alan Dershowitz are also involved in the fight to free Al Megrahi.

The appeal, which will be heard at Camp Zeist in the Netherlands like the original case, will be considered by five judges

UN envoy hosts talks on Western Sahara

A fresh attempt is being made to find a solution to the long-running dispute between Morocco and the Polisario Front over the Western Sahara.

The United Nations special envoy to Western Sahara, James Baker, is hosting three days of talks at his ranch in Wyoming in

the United States.

A BBC correspondent says it is hoped the informal setting will help win over the Polisario Front, which in June rejected Mr Baker's proposals to give the disputed territory autonomy, rather than independence from Morocco.

The Polisario movement's main international backer, Algeria, is also taking part in the talks, as is Mauritania, which borders the Western Sahara.

Morocco which gave its qualified support to the autonomy proposals is not attending.

Sudan jails Tunisian spy

A court in Sudan has sentenced a Tunisian national to 15 years in prison after finding him guilty of running a spy network and fabricating evidence that Sudan was in league with Islamist terrorist groups.

The man, Ali bin Mustafa Hamed, was accused of passing on false information to the United States by way of the

Tunisian embassy in Khartoum.

Four Sudanese nationals have also been given lesser prison terms. The trial has been a severe embarrassment to Tunisia.

The court case began three weeks ago when the Sudanese prosecutor stated that Ali bin Mustafa Hamed had confessed to collecting information about the Sudanese security forces and handing it to a contact in the Tunisian embassy.

There were further allegations that Hamed had passed on what the Sudanese authorities insist was fabricated information about Sudanese links with the Saudi-born dissident, Osama bin Laden, as well as Islamist militants from Algeria and Egypt.

TRUST INTERNATIONAL

World Report



Men digging the grave for remains of the businessmen

Balloon blaze kills six in France

A hot air balloon burst into flames in eastern France early on Sunday morning, killing all six passengers as their relatives watched from the ground.

The balloon, which had taken off from the town of Albertville in the Savoie region, was making its descent to nearby Clery when it struck a 20,000-volt power line.

Laurent Moiron, a fire captain for a regional emergency squad, said investigators were still trying

to determine whether the collision had caused the fire. He said some witnesses had reported seeing flames shooting from the balloon before it hit the power line.

"In either case, the basket of the hot air balloon caught fire, causing the balloon to resume its climb," Mr Moiron said.

The fire caused the balloon's gas canisters to ignite, police said, resulting in a mid-air explosion.

Police said the victims, five adults and a teenager, had burned to death. Two bodies were found on the ground, while a search was on for the remains of the four other victims.

Mr Moiron said firefighters had gone to the scene, but it was too late to save any of the passengers.

The victims' families were in a state of shock after witnessing the accident and were taken to a crisis centre at the Albertville hospital.

Hot air balloons are said to be popular tourist attractions in the region.

Brazil arrests six for burying businessmen alive

Brazilian medical examiners have determined that six Portuguese businessmen found murdered last week were buried alive.

The six dead men were identified as Manoel Joaquim Barros, Joaquim Fernandes Martins, Vitor Manuel Martins, Joaquim Silva Mendes, Antonio Correia Rodrigues and Joaquim Manoel Pestana da Costa.

Francisco Simao, medical examiner for the state of Ceara, said that two of the men found interred beneath a beach bar near the state capital Fortaleza had been shot and the others strangled and beaten.

But all six were alive when they were buried under the bar's concrete floor.

The authorities have arrested six people in

connection with the murders, one of whom originally picked the businessmen up at Fortaleza airport.

A police spokesman said the six, who include four security guards, had confessed to robbing and killing the businessmen.

Portuguese national Luis Miguel Miltao Guerreiro is also under arrest along with his Brazilian wife Maria Leandro Cavalcante.

Mr Guerreiro was caught on film by security cameras at Fortaleza's international airport as he met the six businessmen on 11 August.

He had become acquainted with them after the daughter of one of the businessmen personally recommended him to them.

The BBC's Sao Paulo correspondent says the killings appear to have been premeditated.

One of the men arrested along with Mr Guerreiro told police that he had been paid four dollars to dig the hole for the bodies two days before the actual murders.

Another man showed police where he had buried the dead men's luggage and mobile phones in a separate hole near the club.

Mr Guerreiro, the 31-year-old owner of the beach club, already had a criminal record in Portugal.

He was sentenced there to six years in prison in 1996 for robbery although apparently he served only one.

Police said he had been using the missing men's credit cards and had already spent more than \$10,000.

They added that they were looking for Mr Guerreiro's brother-in-law, whom they believe is also involved in the crime.

Detectives stumble on mass grave in Bosnia

Forensic investigators in Bosnia Herzegovina have uncovered a mass grave believed to contain the remains of 19 people killed by Serb forces in the first month of the Bosnian war.

The bodies were lying at the bottom of a deep pit near the southern town of Nevesinje, around 20 km from Mostar.

Between 20-30,000 people are still missing after the war, which ran from 1992 to 1995.

Bosnia's terrain is pitted with mass graves, but few people know where they are. Many of those who do know are the ones responsible for the killings.

They are reluctant to come forward, fearing indictment by the UN War Crimes Tribunal.

The mass grave near Nevesinje is believed to contain the bodies of 19 Muslims executed by Bosnian Serb forces in July 1992, shortly after they took control of the area around the southern city of Mostar.

Investigators began exhuming the site after a tip-off from an elderly Muslim man who said he was the only survivor.

The bodies lay at the bottom of the pit in a remote area, which is flooded for much of the year.

However there may be more than one group of people buried there.

One official said an item of clothing had been provisionally identified by a family who said it belonged to their 16-year-old son.

And there was other evidence to indicate that a family of five might also be buried there.

Not all the remains could be retrieved. Those that have been recovered will go for DNA analysis.

Experts will match blood and bone samples against those provided by the families of the missing.

Finding the mass graves is critical if the families are ever to receive any answers.



Guerreiro.

NATO collects weapons from Albanian rebels

NATO has started collecting weapons from ethnic Albanian rebels as planned despite failure to agree on the number of arms at stake.

But hours before the operation got under way, the Macedonian Government put forward a new set of demands.

An advisor to the Macedonian president told the BBC that at the end of the exercise, the Macedonian security forces expected to be able to reoccupy territory held by ethnic Albanian rebels.

And the alliance's peace-building efforts were further overshadowed by two bomb blasts.

The first explosion in a hotel left two Macedonians dead. A second outside the Albanian embassy in Skopje on Sunday night is not thought to have claimed any casualties.

Nationalist Macedonian Prime Minister Ljubco Georgievski called for retaliation over the first blast which was

blamed on ethnic Albanian rebels.

NATO officials and the Macedonian Government have been debating for two days how many weapons the guerrillas should hand over in the 30-day operation.

Mr Georgievski described the figures as "laughable and humiliating for Macedonia", declaring the real number to be at least 70,000.

But NATO General Gunnar Lange, said: "This is not just a gesture.

"The path will not be easy but the alternative is clear, the alternative is war."

Observers say the latest blasts prove that there are clearly those in Macedonia who are not interested in peace at this moment.

The hotel stood in an area where both Macedonians and ethnic Albanians have their homes. The building itself belonged to Macedonians and the two hotel staff who were killed were Macedonians.

Police say they are investigating the second blast, which took place in Skopje's Sever district.

State-run radio also reported exchanges of gunfire between security forces and rebels north east of the capital, Skopje.

The collection of weapons is a key part of an agreement designed to end months of conflict in the Balkan state, exchanging the surrender of arms for amendments to the constitution benefiting the country's ethnic Albanian minority.

The government also wanted to see the swift return of Macedonians forcibly displaced from their homes estimated at 40-50,000 people and the release of all prisoners.

But ethnic Albanian rebels boosted the peace process with the release of eight prisoners - two soldiers and the rest civilians, including an American citizen.

BUSINESS DAY

Yobe plans to privatise coys

The Yobe government plans to privatise all its companies next year, except its proposed fertiliser blending plant, Governor Bukar Ibrahim said at the weekend in Nguru.

Briefing the Minister of Information and National Orientation, Professor Jerry Gana and his national media tour team, Ibrahim said some of the companies to be privatised include the Nguru oil mill, the Yobe flour mill, the government printing press and the state hotels.

He said the privatisation exercise was to make the companies viable and self-sustaining.

The governor said the Nguru oil mill, resuscitated last year at N30 million had been abandoned since 1982, adding that because of its poor management, the company had never operated beyond 25 percent of its installed capacity.

He said that at the moment, the company was capable of producing 256 tonnes of groundnut oil every year.

The team had earlier inspected the government's nursery for gum arabic seedlings, where Ibrahim announced that the state government between last year and this year, had planted 10 million of the seedlings for export purposes.

Also inspected were the new laterite Damaturu ring road project being constructed at N16.5 million, the Ministry of Works office complex being built at N14.7 million, infrastructural development at government secondary school, Babangida, in Tarmuwa Local Government area at N29.28 million and the Tarmuwa Boarding Primary School.

The governor said that the state government planned to build two of such boarding primary schools in each of the 17 local government areas, as part of efforts to promote educational development at the grassroots.

He said 68 blocks of classrooms were also being built in the state by the federal government for the implementation of the Universal Basic Education (UBE) scheme, stressing that both the local and state governments were giving every support to the federal government for the success of the scheme in the state.

Gana commended the state government for the priority attention being given to the education sector, saying that by doing so, the administration was giving the people a major dividend of democracy.

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) last week recorded the lowest treasury bills sales since the year began. On the whole, the apex bank sold about N7.6 billion worth of bills. This performance was approximately a 50 percent fall from previous week's record of N14.4 billion, a performance which may not be a surprise to close watchers of the money market.

CBN sells lowest treasury bills in 2001

Both the OMO auction and the primary market's performances dropped in last week's transactions as the

From Bright Ewulu, in Lagos

amounts posted, were arguably the lowest performance in the last eight

months. The OMO auction recorded the sum of N600 million while its primary market counterpart achieved N7 billion in totality. Even though the auction received bids equalled the amount sold. Of the N15 billion bills that was on offer in the primary market, only about 49 percent of it was disposed.

There are however, indications that the CBN may bring on its "certificates" to test the waters of the liquidity situation. But some experts believe that may not lead to mopping up of excess liquidity as the cost of money cannot be said to be lowering.

The tone yields of the primary market securities stood at 18.8 percent while that of the OMO auction or

secondary market is 17.7 percent.

The Central Bank's stipulated minimum rediscount rate remains at 18.5 percent. However, it is the view of some experts that it may be high time for the CBN to lower the discount rate.

The Centre-Point Merchant Bank Plc. helmsman, Chief Denis Odife recently posited that the economy is never aided by high rediscount rate. Giving example with Ghana, he said back in the 1990's when he visited Ghana and found that their rediscount rate was above 25 percent he told them that the economy was finished.

Odife in a recent interview urged the CBN to lower the rediscount rate so that the nation's investment climate could be allowed to flourish.

Senate to check GSM charges

The Senate President Chief Anyim Pius Anyim, has disclosed that the National Assembly would check the problem of high rates and charges already announced by two of the three approved operators of Global System for Telecommunications (GSM), ECONET and MTN.

Chief Anyim made the disclosure at the Murtala Mohammed International Airport, Lagos, while briefing newsmen late last week.

According to a Voice of America Hausa programme monitored in Abuja, the Senate President maintained that the rates charged by ECONET Wireless and MTN are too high, according to him, most Nigerians could not afford to pay the amount and that would hinder them from enjoying the new telecommunications system.

He said that it has become necessary for

By Mustapha Isah Kwaru

members of the National Assembly to take proper measures in ensuring that the charges are made affordable to all Nigerians.

It would be recalled that ECONET fixed N15,000 as connection fee, N4,000 monthly charges and a deposit fee of N10,000, among others. While the MTN has announced N20,000 as connection fee, N4,000 monthly access and N40,000 as deposit.

Also commenting on the recent measure taken by security agents to stop the former Vice President, Admiral Augustus Aikhomu (rtd) from travelling abroad, Chief Anyim stated that the senate would conduct proper investigation to identify the reasons why federal government directed the State Security Service (SSS) to prevent the former vice president from his foreign trip.



Joseph Sanusi, CBN Governor

Niger Insurance nets N113m profit

Niger Insurance Plc, one of the leading insurance companies in the country has declared a profit before tax of N113,214,000 from its activities last year. This shows an increase of 41 percent from its profit before tax of N80,232,000 in 1999. The insurance firm, whose profit after tax in the year under review stood at N100,700,000, an increase

By Ahmed Shekarau

of 41 percent from the N71,664,000 profit after tax as at the end of 1999, declared a total sum of N72 million as dividend to be shared to its shareholders. This is against the N35 million dividend recommended in 1999, or a 106 percent increase.

These disclosures were made in the company's

report presented at its 31st Annual General Meeting (AGM) held in Abuja last week.

Out of the total amount of N72 million declared as dividend, 18 kobo will be paid per share of 50 kobo held by each shareholder.



Prisca Soares, Niger Insurance Chairman

Presenting her report at the occasion, the chairman of the Board of Directors of Niger Insurance Plc, Ms Prisca M. G. Soares disclosed that in spite of the competitive and diminished market opportunities in the year under review, the gross written premium of the company increased by 39 percent from N526.1 million to N732.7 million.

The company's net premium also rose from N448.8 by 43 percent to N642.6 million. Investment income grew from N181.1 million to N262.3 million.

The company's board proposed an increase in its authorised share capital from N200 million to N250 million. This, the board chairman explained, was necessary to show Niger Insurance Plc's clients and potential clients "a strong shareholders' fund position."

The chairman also stated the firm's determination to improve its present performance by consolidating on the gains of its enhanced capital base, better marketing plans and its enhanced information technology, as well as the much expected stable political environment in the country.

..as Uzor urges FG to review tariffs

As apprehensions trailed the newly introduced charges for the Global System for Mobile Telecommunications (GSM), the federal government has been called upon to intervene in the interest of Nigerians.

Speaking on the charges announced by MTN and ECONET, a

By Suleiman Mohammed

business mogul and Chairman of GOCUZ Nigeria Limited, Dr. Obima Uzor told state house reporters in Abuja that it would be wrong for government to allow the GSM operators to take Nigerians for granted.

He argued that if the GSM fee could be pegged at \$13 covering all tariffs

in South Africa, there was no justifiable reason why the rate should be higher in Nigeria, since the same organisation introduced the system in both countries.

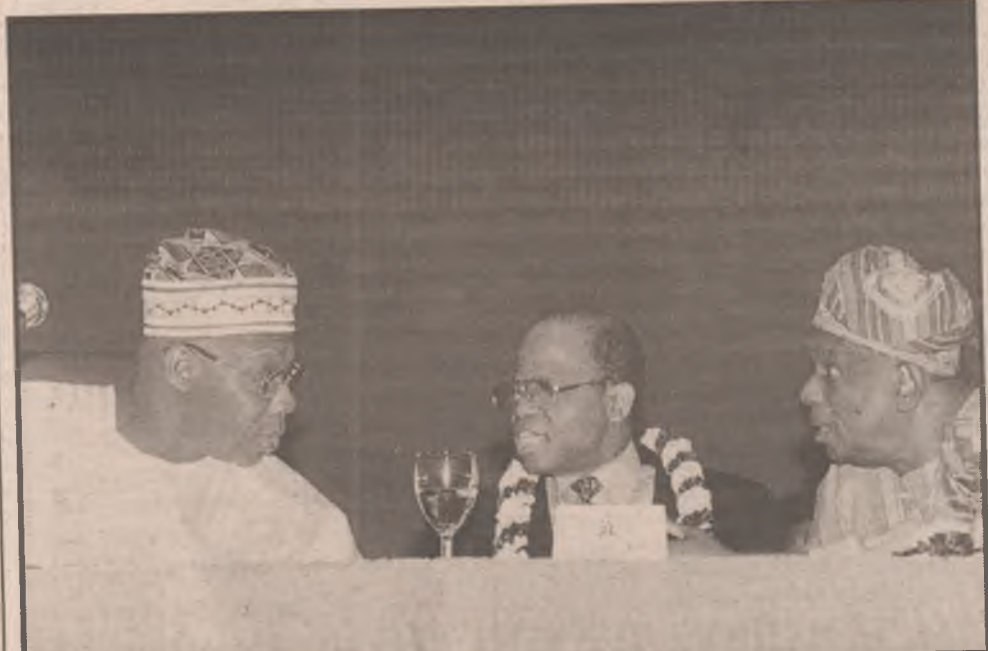
He called on Nigerians not to patronise the GSM companies, as a sign of protest and urged government to have a second thought over CIL,

which he argued has indigenous touch.

Dr. Uzor however expressed confidence on the federal government's ability to address the issue, despite the autonomy granted the Nigeria Communication Commission (NCC) which regulates operations of the companies.

He also commended President Obasanjo for efforts towards restoring steady power supply in the country, adding that Nigeria would be grateful if the 400 megawatts target was achieved by December this year as promised by the president.

According to him, Nigerians are tired of experiencing interrupted power supply and bad communication system saying effective power supply and communication system are major hallmarks of development.



L-R: President Olusegun Obasanjo, Special Guest of Honour, the CBN Governor, Dr. Joseph Sanusi and the Governor of Ondo State, Chief Adebayo Adefarati discussing during the launching of small and medium scale industries equity investment scheme... recently in Abuja. Pix: Kennedy Egbonodje.

BUSINESS DAY

Sudan joins OPEC

Sudan is to join the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) on observer status, the country's Minister of Energy and Mining, Dr. Award Ahmed Al-Jaz, has announced in Khartoum.

He said in a press statement that the invitation to join was extended to Sudan alongside Egypt and Equatorial Guinea and that Sudan has accepted the offer. The minister described OPEC's decision as a recognition of Sudan's oil

By Kevin Ebele Adinnu
economic potentials and lauded the important role played by OPEC in the global economy.

Dr. Al-Jaz seized the opportunity to confirm the good quality of Sudan's oil which is already in the global market.

He added that applications submitted by different international companies to participate in oil exploration in northern and southern Sudan is increasing in number.

The minister had last week announced that Sudan plans to more than double its current production level of 200,000 barrels per day to 450,000 within the next five years.

The government is encouraging investors to explore for oil in the central northern, eastern and western parts of Sudan.



President Al-Bashir of Sudan

...exports oil to Kenya

Kenya says it will import oil from Sudan under terms of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) which include the waiver of import duty on the product.

Both Kenya and Sudan are members of the COMESA, a regional group working for the removal of tariff barriers, obstacles and restrictions that reduce trade efficiency among its members.

The Kenyan "Daily Nation" newspaper quoting the Kenyan Foreign Affairs Minister, Mr. Chris Obure, in a statement to the country's parliament, as saying that since the oil industry has been liberalised in the country, importation of oil has become a private sector affair and all oil firms are at liberty to import oil from Sudan under the COMESA rules.

The decision was made after a meeting between the

Kenyan President, Mr. Daniel Arap Moi, and the Sudan Peoples Liberation Army (SPLA) leader, John Garang.

Over three weeks, public debate had raged on whether Kenya should import oil from Sudan and the debate had sparked off a series of reactions in both Sudanese and Kenyan press.

In another development, the Sudanese Secretary-General of the Ministry of Energy and Mining, Mr. Hassan Muhammad Ali al-Tawn, has announced that Sudan plans to more than double its oil production by the end of 2005, from the current level of about 200,000 barrels per day to 150,000 bpd.

Mr. al-Tawn who spoke at a conference of the ruling National Congress Party, said that the government was also trying to attract investors to explore for oil in central, northern, eastern and western Sudan.

Shippers council boss charges importers on trade groups

Nigerian importers have been urged to protest any trace of surcharge levy from any foreign trade group in the maritime sector.

The Managing Director Nigerian Shippers Council, Mr. Adebayo Sarumi gave the charge following the recent action of the Europe-West African Trade Agreement (EWATA) clamping surcharge on Apapa and Tin Can Island ports over port congestion.

Immediately, according to him, the Nigeria Shippers Council responded by protesting to the secretariat of the group in London drawing their attention to the

From Tokunbo Oloke, in Lagos

fact that what was happening in Lagos ports was no congestion but backlog of containers which the federal government has been addressing with all vigour.

In this case, said he: "We are happy to note that some of the members of the group trading in the Nigerian ports namely Maersk-Scaland, Safmarine and PSO Nedlloyd responded positively by not implementing the imposition of the surcharge," he said.

Sarumi however saw this development as a positive sign of cooperation and partnership with the federal government of Nigeria.

Tropical Commercial Bank elevates staff

In line with its current efforts aimed at restructuring, enhancing service delivery, and re-focusing it in bracing up to emerging challenges in the industry, Tropical Commercial Bank Plc has elevated two management staff into position of higher responsibility.

The board of directors of the bank announced the approval of the elevation in a press release signed by Muktar Abdullahi for Acting Head (Corporate Affairs) and made available to *Business Day* recently.

The elevated staff are Alhaji Murtala Sanusi formerly Principal Manager (Branch Operations) who becomes Assistant General Manager (Operations) and Malam Abba Dandago who becomes the new Head of Corporate Affairs Department in acting capacity.

The new AGM Operation, Alhaji Murtala Sanusi was born on April 12, 1958 in Madobi, Kano State. He was educated at Rumfa College, Kano and Bayero University. He holds a BSc (Hons) Degree in Accounting and a Masters in Banking and Finance.

Murtala Sanusi commenced his career with the Kano State Government in September, 1984. He joined Central Bank of Nigeria in December, 1984 and served variously with the

From Aliyu M. Suleiman, in Kano

apex bank's Kano branch, foreign operations and Bank Examination Department between 1984 and 1996.

He moved over to Intercity Bank Plc in January 1997 from where he teamed up with TCB Plc in August of the same year as Manager (Accounts). He becomes a principal Manager in 1999 and was Head of Finance and Accounts before his deployment to head the branch operations department.

Meanwhile, the new Head of Corporate Affairs, Malam Abba Dandago 42, is a seasoned professional with a rich and diverse background, an Alumnus of Bayero University, Kano. He holds a B.A. Ed. degree and post graduate diploma in management and is currently pursuing an MBA programme.

Malam Abba is a member at various professional institutions and bodies, he is the current Chairman of the Nigerian Institute of Public Relations, Kano State chapter.

Before he joined Tropical Commercial Bank Plc as an Assistant Manager in 1992, he had worked with the University Press Limited as a Senior Editor from 1982 to 1988, and Radio China International, Beijing from 1988 to 1999 as an Editorial consultant.

FG sets up panel on port decongestion

President Olusegun Obasanjo has approved the constitution of an eight-man Panel on Port Decongestion to be headed by Alhaji Aliko Dangote, it has Chief J. F. Familusi, representing inspection agents; Mr. A. K. Haliru, representing Nigerian Customs; Mrs. O. A. Demuren, representing CBN and Mr. Steve Oronsaye as members.

Others members are Dr. Joe Nwaorgu, Chief (Miss.) Joy Emordi and Mrs. M. F. Mmakwe, Office of the SGF who will serve as secretary.

Its terms of reference are amongst others to examine all factors that have

contributed to the current congestion at the ports; to advise on the enforcement machinery that, will ensure the speedy evacuation of all imported goods lying at the Nigerian ports, and to advise on the measures to be put in place to ensure adherence to all government approved guidelines and procedures that will facilitate speedy clearance of goods.

The panel will be inaugurated by the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Chief Ufot Ekaete today, 28th August, 2001 at 12.00 noon, in the SGF's Conference Room, 11th Floor, Federal Secretariat, Abuja.

FG raises alarm on washing away moles

The Federal Government has raised alarm over the rapid deterioration and washing away of the moles at the harbour entrance to the Lagos ports.

Alhaji Isa Yuguda, Minister of State for Transport expressed the fear over the weekend, lamenting that unless immediate action is taken, big ships would be taking big risks entering and authorising in any Lagos ports.

Alhaji Yuguda, who is also chairman, Harbour Moles Committee, noted that east and west moles were constructed in the first decade of the last century (1907) to protect the port harbour from the adverse consequences of the waves and the environmental forces generated along the west coast as well as keep open a safe and well defined approach channel for ships moving in and out of the harbour.

Moles are concrete structures made up of armour stones and are laced at right angles to the coastline to protect the harbour from the attacks of waves and keep open, a safe and well-marked approach channel to the Lagos harbours.

The minister also explained that the moles have served the desired

purpose of providing the necessary calm area for safe navigation of ships and facilitation of other operational activities.

The shelter basin he continued, encompassed Apapa port, Tin Can Island port, Roro port, Container Terminal, Continental Shipyards, Petroleum Wharfs, Atlas Cove Oil, Tanker Jetty and Nigerdock.

Alhaji Yuguda had been informed that the dangers arose from a combination of factors reigning from old age, lack of adequate maintenance and exposure to an unprecedented level of storm attacks and a progressive scour hole and that a significant damage was inflicted on the west mole, heading to the collapse of approximately 90 metres along the breakwater head.

The minister was however, optimistic that federal government would take urgent steps to avoid a catastrophe at the Lagos waters.

He said, it was battering that past governments in Nigeria allowed such monumental structures to collapse due to elemental battering and added that the importance of east mole to safety navigation and traffic control along the Lagos approach channel was of international significance in

Minister bemoans security lax at ports

Security agencies in the country have been alerted on the existence of alleged undesirable elements who operate and live in the harbour moles on the high sea.

The Minister of State for Transport, Alhaji Isa Yuguda who undertook a fact-finding trip to the sea at the weekend to ascertain the extent of damage to moles expressed shock at the existence of a large number of people who live under the moles.

He noted the contributions of the squatters to the damage done on the

By Tashikalmah Hallah

moles and their possible roles in the high crime rate being fought in Lagos State.

Alhaji Yuguda was shocked to learn that telephone lines were extended to the suspected miscreants who live on high sea and described it as one of the highest abuse to the nation's security profile.

He said it was inconceivable that Nigeria's security operatives lacked facilities to understudy activities of illegal operatives on the sea—a major gateway into Nigeria from the waters.

The Minister said it was certainly not in national interest that individuals would follow the harbour moles—more than 3000 metres into the high sea to build structures with telephone facilities.

Alhaji Yuguda implored the Commissioner of Police, Port Authority Command, Mr. K. Z. Dauri who was on the trip, to examine the risks posed to Nigeria by the squatters and immediate appropriate measures.

The minister explained that it was important that all squatters under the moles were dislodged pointing out that it was wrong for people to always create the impression that Nigeria was a country where everything was possible.

He warned that the federal government would deal decisively with organisations or agencies that encourage or tolerated the human habitation on the high sea adding that the government would not abandon its responsibilities of ensuring safety of all shipments through the sea and on land at all cost.

Meanwhile, Alhaji Yuguda has expressed satisfaction at the situation at the Lagos ports following the gradual restoration of sanity on the congested ports.

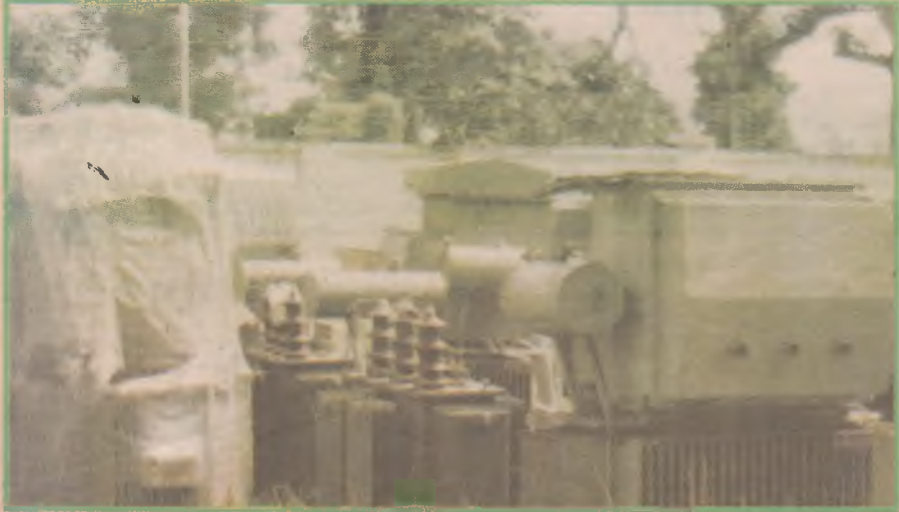
He said it was instructive that a government with political will was in place to insist that the right thing must be done at all time no matter whose ox was gored.



Isa Yuguda, Minister of State for Transport



Commissioning Electricity Project at Ihitte-Atta in Ikeduru L.G.A.



Electric Transformers acquired by Government for rural electrification project.



Palm Oil Storage facility at ADAPALM



Foundation laying ceremony at the Aboh-Mbaise Juducial Division of the Ministry of Jus tice.



Governor Udenwa inspecting some hospital equipment



Two years of Achike Udenwa

The situation Governor Achike Udenwa met on May 29, 1999 was turning Imo State around. Here are some



The Palm Fruit cooker at Adapalm Oil Mill, Ohaji being lifted by Crane.



Governor Achike Udenwa presents a 40KVU Genset to the Comptroller of Prison Service chem for use at Owerri Prison



Deputy Governor's Lodge at New Owerri started and completed by Governor Achike Udenwa Administration



Completed and Commissioned Units of Imo State Mass Housing Programme, Redemption Housing Estate at Obinze/Aru



Owerri-Aru-Ohaji-Egbena Road Constructed and Asphalted by Chief Achike Udenwa's Administration.



...a's Redemption in Imo State

...as 'sordid and frightening' but after two years of redemption he is one of the views and visions of that task...



Commissioning of water project at Umuihim-Oki, Ehime Mbano L.G.A.



Governor Achike Udenwa commissions a water project in Mgbidi



Governor Achike Udenwa cutting the tape to commission the New Ibc Am Transmitter



Imo State Public Health Laboratory completed commissioned by Achike Udenwa Administration



Imo State Secretariat Complex under construction at New Owerri, along Owerri - P/Harcourt Road



The Governor inspecting palm nursery for the Palm to Palm Agricultural Project.



View of the Adapalm Plantation at Ohaji, Imo State



Front view of Adapalm Oil-Mill at Ohaji, Imo State rehabilitated by Chief Achike Udenwa's Administration.



Adapalm Official demonstrating the function of Machines at the uncompleted refinery



The Palm Oil Chamber at the Adapalm, Oil-Mill Ohaji.

SUPPLEMENT

TWO YEARS OF ACHIKE UDENWA'S

REDEMPTION IN IMO STATE

Being text of an address by His Excellency Chief Achike Udenwa, Executive Governor of Imo State, to Imo leaders of thought on July 21, 2001 in Owerri on The occasion of two year anniversary of his administration.

It is my great pleasure and honour to welcome you distinguished Imo sons and daughters to this important meeting. To a reasonable extent, this can be rightly described as Imo Stakeholders Meeting.

I summoned the meeting so that as stakeholders, we can appraise the journey so far within two years of our nascent democracy, collectively, strategise on present challenges and share with you my vision of the Imo I intend to bequeath to posterity.

I must thank you profusely for finding time to honour my invitation. Your enthusiastic response to my call, as ably demonstrated by your presence here today, is a reaffirmation of our collective commitment to the well being of our State.

What the large turn out today shows is that as leaders, our deep patriotic attachment to our State is not about to wane. I thank you again for this encouragement and support.

As a democrat, and one who has championed strict adherence to the norms of true democracy, I believe that leaders are ultimately accountable to the electorate. This meeting, therefore, is also a stock-taking exercise of sorts, in fulfillment of that accountability principle.

To appreciate where we are today, it is necessary to take a quick dash-back to recent history. On Friday, June 11, 1999, I addressed Imo people in a maiden broadcast as the third Executive Governor of Imo State. I was two weeks old then as Governor.

You will recall that in that broadcast, I presented a sordid and frightening picture of what I met on the ground on assumption of office. Apart from a mind-burging debt burden of N10b (Ten billion Naira), which I inherited, I also inherited several months of unpaid salary arrears. As at that date, most of our urban and intercity roads were hardly motorable.

Hospitals, schools and industries were at various stages of morbidity. Indeed, it could be said without much ado, that as I spoke on that fateful day of June 11, 1999, practically nothing was working in the State. But I remember that I also assured you that I was equal to the task of turning Imo round.

I made specific pledges during that maiden broadcast and with your permission, I will recall just the essential ones. I promised that to address the frightening unemployment problem in the State "some of our ailing commercially viable enterprises such as Adapalm, Avutu Modern Poultry, the Imo Concorde Hotel, the Standard Shoe Industries, etc" would be revitalized. I also promised to commence the rehabilitation of State roads and to prevail on the Federal Government to rehabilitate federal roads in the State. Above all, I pledged to be fair to all and to distribute amenities evenly to all the zones.

Respected leaders of Imo State, two years after, you will agree, based on the evidence on the ground, that I have kept faith with these promises. Let me elaborate: Concorde Hotel, as you well know, has bounced back to its rightful place as the best Five Star Hotel in the East. It cost my administration over three Hundred Million Naira to bring that hotel back to life. Adapalm has also been revived and the Company is now back to production.

Negotiations have reached advanced stages between the State Government and foreign Technical Partners to revitalize Avutu Modern Poultry, Obowo, and Standard Shoe Industry, Owerri. In no distant time, both Companies would also

bounce back to life. Perhaps, I should add that by revitalizing these industries, we have saved so many jobs, thereby alleviating the acute unemployment situation in the State.

In respect of the huge salary arrears inherited by my administration, I am glad to report to you that the ugly monster has been tamed. We cleared the arrears of salaries and pensions owed civil servants, staff of parastatals and teachers, within the first six months of my stewardship. This gulped a

3. Relief Market Uratta-Egbu Road;
4. Mbari-Ekwema Crescent-Uratta Road Junction;
5. Chukwuma-Nwoha-Egbu Road;
6. Umuguma General Hospital Housing Estate Road;
7. Orji Mechanic Village Road;
8. Nekede Mechanic Village Road;
9. Orlu-Urualla-Osina Akokwa;
10. Mgbidi-Oguta Road;



His Excellency Chief Achike Udenwa
Executive Governor, Imo State

whopping sum of N800m (Eight Hundred Million Naira.) The nagging issue of arrears of gratuities owed pensioners is progressively being addressed.

It is also on record that since my becoming governor of Imo State, workers, even with enhanced wages, now receive their pay promptly and regularly. I will add here that this era of my administration remains the first time in recent history that workers are hardly owed salary arrears. This feat has been accomplished even with the very lean resources at our disposal. It is a statement of fact that workers are happier today than they were two years ago!

We have attacked the sorry state of our road network with every energy and enterprise at our behest. I am proud to report to you that many roads across the State have so far been rehabilitated and asphalted. So far, over N2.6b has been spent on road construction alone. Roads either completed or where work is on-going include:

1. Cherubim- Junction Ikenegbu
2. Aladinma, Owerri Club Road;

11. Owerri-Avu-Ohaji-Egbema Road
12. Amaraku-Ugiri-Umuelemai Road
13. Okwudor-Awo-Omama Road
14. Mgbidi-Okporo Road.
15. Aboh-Mbaise-Itu Ezinihitte Road;
16. Nkwogwu-Eke NglJru Road;
17. Eke-Atta- Ikembara- Inyishi Road
18. Ulakwo-Umuneke-Nkwoala Eziamma Road;
19. Umunumo-Orieagu-Nsu Road;
20. Obollo-Umueze-Afor Oru Road;
21. Ihioma-Ihitenansa-Amaruru Road;
22. Orlu Urban Roads (16 in all);
23. Okigwe Urban roads (11 in all);
24. Naze-Nekede-Ihiagwa (FUTO) Obinze Road;
25. Imo State University internal roads (5 in all)
26. Pedestrian Bridge across Owerri-Orji Road, by FSP International School.
27. Egbada Road.

No less than 48 roads are involved.

We have also embarked on a deliberate re-engi-

neering of the Imo economy to make her more private sector friendly, and productive. Between May 31 and June 2, 2000, we held the first Imo Economic Summit where stakeholders brainstormed on industrial development options for the State.

Through private sector friendly investment policies, we have been able to attract a good number of private investments into the State. These include Mr. Biggs, the biggest fast-foods multi-national corporation in the country, Standard Trust Bank, All States Trust Bank, Citizens Bank (on-coming) and Owerri Motel Plaza. It is obvious that the presence of these firms will further alleviate our unemployment problem.

Besides, the massive road, housing and other projects embarked upon by my administration have greatly added to the number of seasonally employed workers in the State. These projects have also brought other multiplier benefits to the economy, which has undoubtedly made the Imo economy more vibrant and productive today than it was two years ago.

I will like to remind this august gathering that for twenty-five (25) years, the Imo Civil Service had no befitting Secretariat. Government work was and is still carried out in makeshift ramshackle buildings reminiscent of the win-the-war structures of the Biafran era.

It is a matter of great surprise that previous administrations failed to appreciate the urgent need to reverse this inglorious label. I am sure you will be delighted to hear that even with our scarce resources, we have taken the bull by the horn to restore the dignity and glory of our State as one of the oldest in the federation.

As I speak with you today, ten well-conceived structures, each housing three floors, are rising with incredible rapidity along Port Harcourt Road, New Owerri. These structures, when completed, will constitute the new Imo State modern Secretariat Complex, which will house our civil servants. I can assure you that by the time we meet again, about this time next year, our civil servants would have moved into the Secretariat Complex. This project is at a cost of N1.4 billion.

Distinguished Imo sons and daughters, our Redemption Housing Estate at Avu/Obinze, has been recommended by President Olusegun Obasanjo as a Model to other States. It was conceived by my administration to tackle residential accommodation problems especially for the low-income earners. The Estate is planned to accommodate 150 houses. Already 50 houses have been completed and commissioned. The second phase of the project will be extended to Orlu and Okigwe.

I will like to add that soon work will commence on the low-density estate in New Owerri. As soon as actual work commences, many of us will have an opportunity to own our own homes in the estate at affordable rates. When I assumed office two years ago, the problem of irregular water supply especially to our urban dwellers was very debilitating. To alleviate the problem, I have beefed up the Owerri regional water scheme through the installation of necessary facilities at the Otamiri Headwork.

My administration has also extended water supply to prefab area of Aladinma Housing Estate, Owerri. In the same way, I have provided water for the people of Orlu Urban through the relaying of pipeline from the Elevated Water Tanks at Amaifeke and at Eluama Orlu. Government has also rehabilitated the Okigwe Urban Water Scheme.

TWO YEARS OF ACHIKE UDENWA'S RE-DEMPTION IN IMO STATE

Continued from Page 14

As you know, our water project is not restricted to urban areas as we have rehabilitated water schemes in semi-urban areas and rural communities. The communities include: Mgbidi, Eziana Obaire, Umuozu, Ubomiri, Umuchieze in Ahiazu Mbaise, Umunanku and Umukagu in Ehime Mbano, Isiebu Umuduru in Isiala Mbano, Umuozu in Nwangele, Archingali in Obowo. We also took over seventy-nine water projects from various Local Governments in Imo State for completion and effective management. Indeed, several rural water projects have been completed in several parts of Imo State. Just recently, an agreement to 20 communities spread across the three zones of the State. Many more communities are scheduled to benefit under the phases II and III of our rural water programme.

I have mapped out a pragmatic electrification programme in the urban and rural areas. So far, 58 high capacity transformers have been distributed to rural communities in the three zones of the State. In addition, my administration embarked on complete electrification in many communities spread across the three zones in the State, -

I also note, with a sense of fulfillment, that presently constructing of a total of six 7.5 MVA NEPA injection substations in Onitsha road industrial layout, Owerri is on-going. The same goes for Nwaorieubi in Mbatoli Local Government Area, Okigwe Urban, Orlu Urban and Urualla in the Ideato North Local Government Area. In addition, we recently took delivery of 60 transformers of different capacities for our new rural electrification programme.

As you and I know, education is the biggest industry in Imo State. Sadly, this strategic industry was allowed to rot under the military. My administration came into office prepared to tackle the numerous problems that bastardized the glorious education standards that made Imo proud in the past. Our huge wage bill notwithstanding, we have accomplished the following among others in the education sector:

1. Cleared huge backlog of arrears of teachers' salaries;
2. Completed New SPEB Secretariat at cost of N79.5m;
3. Recruited 320 teachers in Science-based and other core subjects;
4. Cleared 11 months salary arrears owed to staff of Michael Okpara College of Agriculture, Umuagwo;
5. Cleared arrears of salary owed to staff of Alvan Ikoku College of Education, Owerri;
6. Donated buses to the three State-owned and two Federal tertiary institutions in the State;
7. Renovated/rehabilitated 270 schools in the State;
8. Introduced computer education in the State School System and commissioned 101 computers for this;
9. Paid retirement benefits to primary school teachers who retired in 1991, 1992 and 1993;
10. Started UBE ahead of Federal Government. Distributed N33m worth of UBE materials to schools;
11. Due to enabling environment for learning, Junior Engineers Technicians and Scientists of the State (JETS) came first in the National Mathematics Competition. Also more SS students now pass their Examinations.

In addition, bursary awards totaling N5.16 million has been given to Imo State students in the Law School, Abuja, while scholarships have been awarded to 2,430 handicapped students of Imo State origin in various institutions within and outside the State. Equally note worthy is the fact that over N1 billion has so far been released to the three tertiary institutions as subvention. In no distant time, a new scholarship programme for our students in higher institutions will be launched.

As you may recall two months ago, during the celebration of my two years in office, I launched the school bus scheme. Under the scheme, seven buses were provided which now ply the major towns At the same period, I also launched a motorcycle loans scheme for our 'Inaga' operators and soft loans for our artisans and traders as part of our Poverty Alleviation Programme.

I want to reiterate that the focus of our redemption programme in the health sector is on

the rehabilitation of dilapidated infrastructure and equipment as well as ensuring availability of quality medical personnel. In this respect, we have so far rehabilitated and renovated the Aboh Mbaise, Okigwe and Orlu General Hospitals. We have also, relocated the Owerri General Hospital from the Okigwe Road Secretariat to its permanent site along Umuguma road, New Owerri. Similarly, contracts have been awarded for the rehabilitation of Mbieri, Ihitte Uboma and Amiri General Hospitals.

Over N350 million has been invested by this administration to refurbish existing equipment and install new transmitters for Imo Broadcasting Corporation (IBC) radio and television. We have also spent over N20 million to reactivate the Imo News-

We have continued to pressurize the federal government to digitalize our telephone system. It is indeed regrettable that our State, in this Internet and Web age of the 21st Century, has remained the only State created in 1976 that still operates the analogue telephone system. With such stone-age telephone technology, modern investors in the global village of today's business world will hardly see any reason to invest in Imo.

We are, however, hoping that our relentless pressure on the federal government will soon produce positive dividends. I understand that we may have digital telephones before the end of the year.

We are also making efforts to expand our elec-

port from their sweat. Why then should it be taken over and abandoned?

My dear people of Imo, there is a task for our leaders; there is a task for our generation, that task is to persuade the relevant authorities to make Imo airport functional. You should join the government in our unrelenting effort in this direction.

I took over an Imo State that was prostrate, I took over a State that was barely alive, a State where virtually every sector was grounded. Today, I feel truly delighted to note that our State is bouncing back to life again. I am happy to note that by whatever standard we apply, one fact is undeniable: Imo is far, far better today than I met her. With every sense of modesty and humility, I consider this a noteworthy feat indeed.

Yet, I am aware that we can, and should, do more. One thing we must do urgently is to expand our revenue menu and base. As I said earlier, federal allocation alone can only continue to take us round the same old vicious circles of poverty and unemployment.

You should indeed wonder how we have been able to accomplish the much we have with the paltry monthly allocation we receive from the federation account. On the average we receive N773 million monthly from the federation account. Out of this N676 million is spent as monthly wage bill, including subventions to scheduled parastatals and tertiary institutions. From this also we incur an average monthly overhead of N30 million as well as an average monthly transfer to capital vote of N70 million.

If you add an average monthly internally generated revenue of about N40 million, we are still left with nothing for capital projects. And how can a State develop without embarking on capital projects. Should we continue in this hand-to-mouth financial trauma, then we need a prophet to tell us that Imo will not see the rays of growth in the next 100 years.

This shows that we have only one option; to facilitate private sector investment in the State: My fervent desire to expand frontiers of private sector investments in the State recently took me to London, where I met with international investors and Imo indigenes in the United Kingdom. Let me use this opportunity to express my profound gratitude to Imo indigenes in the United Kingdom who packaged that meeting.

It may not be wrong to say that Imo is one of the most neglected States in our country today. Ours is about the only oil producing State in the country without an oil related industry to show for it. Ours is the only State where poverty-stricken indigenes built an airport through self-help efforts and it is taken over and grounded. Ours is the only State 25 years old that operates an analogue telephone system.

My dear good people of Imo State, the message, in my view, is clear: Our destiny is in our hands! If we are hoping on anybody to develop Imo State for us, we may wait till "thy Kingdom come". We should resolve even more and today, to lift our State from her age-long shakeles of neglect and underdevelopment.

By the time I finish my tenure as Governor of Imo State, I expect with your support, that Imo would have become a bubbling private sector-driven economy. By the time I finish my tenure as Governor of Imo State, I expect, with your support, to have touched on each of the 305 electoral wards in the State. I promise that each will feel the impact of either a good road network, an electricity project, portable water or a rehabilitated school. What you can be sure, from the evidence on the ground, is that I keep my promises and I intend to keep this one!

I will like to use this forum to appeal to us as leaders to ensure that in whatever we do, the interest of the State is placed above all other interests. This State belongs to all of us and we should join hands to make it the model for other States.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, I thank you very much for your time. I thank you for patiently listening to me. I will like to congratulate all of us as Imo leaders for together we have made Imo healthier than she was when we took over two years ago.

I wish you safe journey back to your respective homes. Thank you and God bless.



His Honour Engr. Ebere Udeagu
Deputy Governor, Imo State

papers Limited. These investments are to ensure that our people at the grassroots are properly informed on government programmes and other events around them.

Esteemed leaders of Imo State, you will agree with me that we have kept faith indeed. Today, Imo is clearly far better than she was when we took over governance. As I have often said, the only motivation for me in governance is my desire to serve my people honestly, truthfully and to the very best of my ability.

My administration is unambiguous in its mission and vision, which I reiterate to wit: To turn Imo State around from a public sector federal statutory allocation dependent State to a private sector driven one. This much I laid out in my Mission Statement to the good people of the State.

I stand to be corrected, but I hold it to be true, that Imo's survival is to be found in a private sector led industrial machine.

Mindful of this fact, my administration is relentlessly enacting enabling environments for its actualization. This explains our emphasis on the development of the Owerri Industrial Layout. We are determined to ensure that the requisite industrialization facilitators are in place there in no distant time. Such facilities will include light, telephone, access roads and water. As you will agree, the two most crucial factors there, light and telephone are not within the list of State government's responsibilities. However, we are not daunted.

tricity supply sources. During my recent trip to China, we held preliminary discussions with a firm that is showing interest in investing in the energy sector in the State.

My government is also embarking on the construction of a regional market in Orlu as part of our efforts at re-directing the State economy to private sector dominated. We envisage that with a functional regional market in Orlu, level of commerce in the State will improve tremendously which will boost economic activities... The regional cattle market in Okigwe is also designed to facilitate the vibrancy of the private sector in the State. When the market is commissioned, which will be soon, the positive pay-off for the Imo economy will become manifest.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, you will agree that the task of developing Imo is such a Herculean one that cannot be left for government alone. As stakeholders, you should join in this fierce battle to rescue Imo from the inglorious of poverty, neglect and backwardness to the limelight of industrial growth and development.

As you will readily recall, all of us contributed to build Imo airport. Our dream was to have an international cargo airport, which will boost commerce in the State. Sadly and incredibly, the federal government took over this airport without compensation and has inexplicably refused to make it function. It is on record that Imo people are the only people in our nation that have built an air-

NEWS

District head makes case for hajj operation

The district head of Tudun Wada, Zaria, in Kaduna State, Dr. Bello Abdulkadir, has appealed to well-meaning Nigerian muslims to join hands with the Federal Government to ensure smooth pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia, rather than engage in unnecessary criticisms and castigation of officials or carriers.

Abdulkadir, who was reacting to a publication titled "Hajj 2001 independent report" written by a non-governmental organisation (NGO) called the Hajj Monitors of Nigeria (HAMON), said the appeal had become necessary in view of the fact that the HAMON report did not represent the general views of Nigerian muslims or stakeholders in the 2001 hajj operation.

"We appeal to well-meaning Nigerian muslims who wish to contribute toward successful Hajj operations to always be objective and constructive in their criticisms and suggestions on ways to improve the operation," he said.

The traditional ruler, who

was head of medical team and co-coordinator-general for Kaduna State Pilgrims Welfare Board for more than eight years, frowned at alleged attempts to distort the 2001 hajj airlift exercise.

He also condemned the hajj 2001 screening of carriers exercise carried out by the National Hajj Committee (NHC), saying the results of the 2001 hajj operation rubbished the rating of the carriers by the NHC.

He enjoined HAMON officials and other commenta-

tors on the annual hajj operations to involve all airlines, who might have participated in the hajj airlift exercise, so that views could be shared on how to improve future operations in the country.

Abdulkadir also urged all those allegedly accused of one wrong or the other not to be discouraged from extending their hands of fellowship in the conduct of future hajj operations for the sake of Islam and humanity in general.

122 FEDPOLY, Idah students renounce cultism

One hundred and twenty-two students of the Federal Polytechnic, Idah, Kogi State, have renounced cultism, saying they were intimidated into joining cults.

At a recent ceremony witnessed by muslim and christian leaders from Idah community of the polytechnic campus, some of the students narrated the crimes they had committed as cultists.

"Before I confess, I would beg my dear colleagues to please forgive me

for unleashing terror on them while I was a cult member, Olu



Prof. Borisade, Min. of Edu.

The Minister of Information and National Orientation, Prof. Jerry Gana, said in Damaturu at the weekend, that the level of insecurity resulting from banditry in the north-east region was intolerable.

Speaking at a "people's forum", the minister said unless something drastic was done, the much anticipated development occasioned by the present democratic atmosphere would be in jeopardy.

He stated that apart from scaring away prospective investors, the wave of armed robbery had deprived people of their rights to free movement, stressing that a solution must be found to

Wave of banditry worries Gana

this problem. The minister promised to present the problem to President Olusegun Obasanjo when he returned to Abuja.

Gana, however, explained that members of the public, traditional rulers and community leaders must cooperate with the security agents to overcome the problem.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reported that in the past one week, armed bandits had intensified their activities in Yobe and Borno States.

Meanwhile, journalists on tour of the 36 states of the federation said Yobe State government "did well in some areas" but performed poorly in other areas.

Alhaji Nasiru Abdul of the New Nigerian Newspapers, representing NUJ President, Smart Adeyemi, made the assessment at the forum on behalf of his colleagues.

He told the gathering, comprising Gov. Bukar Ibrahim, traditional rulers and some prominent personalities that there was the need to extend some development projects to other parts of the state.

He specifically mentioned Gashua and Nguru towns, which, according to him, ought to have benefitted from road rehabilitation efforts.

The journalists, however, commended the governor's policy on education and for maintaining a simple disposition and style of leadership.



Prof. Jerry Gana

Yobe govt approves soft loans for self-help projects

The Yobe State Government has approved the procurement of basic equipment and materials to the tune of N16 million for distribution to rural communities as soft loans toward community self-help projects.

This was disclosed by the Commissioner for Integrated Rural Development on the occasion of distribution of soft loan items to some selected beneficiaries to mark the 10th year anniversary of the creation of Yobe State.

The commissioner added that community development has its primary functions of mobilisation and sensitising of the general populace for community development participation on meaningful and viable self-help projects with the view of reducing over-dependence on the government.

He said this was to be achieved through economic empowerment and other

From Hadiza Abba Musa, in Damaturu

measures deemed fit to provide the rural communities with means of self-employment, thereby contributing positively to the development of the state and the nation at large.

Items procured include 40 grinding machines, 273 sewing machines, 10 vegetable grinding machines, 22 water pumping machines, 170 bundles of roofing sheets and other building materials such as cement, nails and timbers. The equipment are to be equitably distributed among the 17 local governments in the state.

The state governor, Alhaji Bukar Abba, urged the beneficiaries to ensure that

equipment being released are carefully handled and maintained to ensure their longevity.

He also called on them to strive hard to start the repayment process after the expiration of the moratorium period, so that the amount of money expended on the equipment can be recouped to enable government purchase more equipment.

Governor Bukar stressed the need for regular meetings of the board of small scale credit scheme to enable it to be more resourceful and to consider and approve request for small scale loans in the state.

Similarly, the board should speed up its loan recovery mechanism, so that loans are recovered in time.

ANCOPSS holds congress in Sokoto

The 44th Annual National Conference of All Nigeria Conference of Principals of Secondary Schools (ANCOPSS) is to hold in Sokoto from 27th - 31st of August, 2001.

According to a press release signed by the publicity secretary of the organising committee, Malam Ahmed S. Fada, issues relating to the development of secondary education in the nation as well as a conferment of award on the Sokoto State Governor, Alhaji Attahiru Dalhatu Bafarawa, are among events that will take place during the congress.

From Abdulfatai Abdulsalami, in Sokoto

He further disclosed that two papers would be presented during the occasion, with the theme: "Education as a mechanism for social reconstruction: The Nigeria experience," by Professor Aminu Salihu Mikailu, Vice-Chancellor of Usman Danfodio University and "Community Participation for a successful Universal Basic Education (UBE)" to be presented by the Provost of Shehu Shagari College of Education, Sokoto, Dr. Hamza Maishanu.

Gov Akume condemns computerisation of PDP membership

Benue State Governor, Mr. George Akume, has condemned the decision of the People Democratic Party (PDP) to continue with the computerisation of its membership.

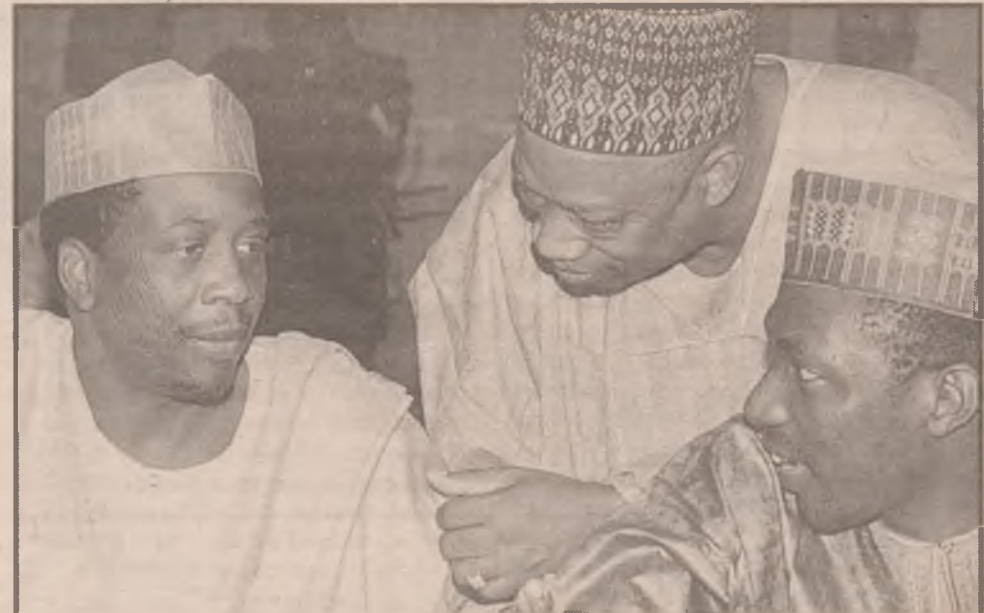
The governor, who arrived Makurdi last Saturday from the United States, warned that the decision of the National Secretariat of the party to computerise its membership was an attempt by some few individuals to deny people of party membership. Mr. Akume, who declared

From Mike Elaigwu, in Makurdi

his intention to re-contest the year 2003 governorship election, said he was prepared to vacate his seat, provided the primary election of the party was free and fair. He warned the leaders of the party who capitalise on the computerisation plan to cause chaos in the state branch of the party to be cautious of their actions as "posterity would not forgive them if there is confusion during the forthcoming elections," he said.

While condemning the computerisation exercise which has pegged the membership to 500 members per ward, Mr. George Akume called on the party leadership to allow interested persons to register with the party irrespective of their interests.

It will be recalled that the state chairman of the party, Chief Michael Iduma, while briefing newsmen at the end of their meeting which was held at the Banquete Hall of Government House, Makurdi recently, said the state chapter of PDP had agreed on the computerisation of the party's membership.



Nasarawa State Governor, Alh. Abdullahi Adamu (middle) exchanging views with his Sokoto and Kaduna States counterparts, Attahiru Barafawa (left) and Ahmed Makarfi respectively during a NEC meeting in Abuja...recently. Pix: Kennedy Egbonije



Gov. Bukar Abba



INSIDE POLITICS

ID Card: Ali pleads with Northerners

Amidst divergent views on the necessity of using the National Identity Card for the next elections, national chairman of the All Peoples Party (APP), Alhaji Yusuf Ali, has called on Northerners to participate fully in the scheme or risk the dire political consequences.

Alhaji Yusuf Ali, who stated this at a news conference in Gombe on Sunday, said it was clear that there is a hidden motive in the resolve of the Federal Government to use the national identity card for electoral purposes instead of the voters' card.

He wondered why the Federal Government was adamant in its resolve to link two issues so obviously different, pointing out that while the voters' card is meant for only citizens of voting age, the national identity card is for all Nigerians irrespective of age.

"Since they have decided on the matter, the best that Northerners can do is to get

From Abdullahi Dutse, in Gombe

fully involved and ensure that they have both cards before the 2003 polls," the party chairman said.

The chairman, who was in Gombe State to receive decampers from the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Akko and Yamaltu/Deba Local Government Areas, urged Northern politicians to keep aside their political differences and jointly embark on a massive enlightenment campaign to sensitise their people on the



Yusuf Ali, APP chairman

need to obtain the national identity card when the scheme begins.

Alhaji Yusuf Ali said the call for Northerners' mobilisation became imperative because, according to him, they have in the past ignored such schemes or treated them with levity, warning that "we cannot afford that now. The stakes are just too high."

Commenting on the state of the nation, the party

chairman lamented that "Nigerians have allowed people who have been in government since independence to continue to run our affairs, forgetting that they were the ones who pushed us into crises, poverty, hunger and unemployment in spite of the fact that Nigeria is not short of honest and dedicated citizens."

The chairman said it was unfortunate that such people are usually afraid of taking the risk of going into politics and urged them to sacrifice by coming out to contribute to the growth and development of the nation.

Gombe Assembly probes LGs

The Gombe State House of Assembly has directed its committees on local government and public accounts to investigate allegations of gross misappropriation of public funds levelled against the 11 local government councils in the state.

This followed an interim report presented to the House, by the state Auditor-General for local government with reference number ALG/OFF/S/1 and dated April 20, 2001.

According to the report,

rampant cases of outstanding payment vouchers which negated the laid down financial rules and regulations as well as payments made without relevant supporting documents in complete disregard of the financial memoranda section (14.4) occurred in all the council areas.

The councils were also accused of making payments without pre-auditing as stipulated in section 14.10 of the model financial memoranda, while hundreds of payment vouchers were unreceipted the report said, adding that "one cannot rule out the possibility of fraudulent activities in such payments."

Specifying areas of financial mismanagement by the local governments, the Auditor-General's reports indicted five local governments of Akko, Balanga, Dukku, Nafada and Shongoni in the area of expenditure.

For over-stated cheques, Billiri, Funakaye, Gombe and Keltungo Local Governments were indicted while seven local governments were accused of miscellaneous irregular payments; namely Balanga, Funakaye, Gombe, Kaltungo, Kwami, Shongom and Yamaltu/Deba.

The two committees mandated to investigate the matter were given one month within which to report its findings to the House.

The resolution to probe the councils followed the adoption of a motion moved by the Chairman, Committee on local government and chieftaincy affairs, Alhaji Yahaya Bello, who cited section 128(1) and (2) which empowers State House of Assembly to conduct investigations of such nature.

2003: Adeleke warns against rigging in South-West

Former civilian governor of Osun State, and Chairman of Nigeria Export Promotion Council (NEPC), Alhaji Adetunji Isiaka Adeleke, has threatened that any move by governors in the South-West states to rig the 2003 elections would result in massive shedding of blood.

Alhaji Adeleke issued the threat in an interview with *Daily Trust*, in his country home, in Ede, Osun State.

He accused the Alliance

for Democracy (AD) governors in the South-West of not practicing the tenets of democracy.

The NEPC chairman disclosed that Governor Bisi Akande of Osun State stopped an advert by the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) on the state television after it has been paid for and in its place ordered the use of Alliance for Democracy (AD) adverts.

Alhaji Adeleke, who expressed fear that the AD governors in the South-West may manipulate the establishment of State Independent Electoral Commission (SINEC) to rig during the 2003 elections, however, warned that "if only adverts do you think will happen during the 2003 election. We will shed blood, if they think they will come over, impose or rig election through SINEC, a lot of people will die," he said.

Speaking further, he disclosed that his political structures are still firmly on

ground in Osun State, adding that PDP will sweep the polls in the South-West come 2002 local government elections "I tell you, we will surprise them, let them make it free and fair apart from that, blood will flow," he warned.

Asked to assess Governor Akande's administration, Alhaji Adeleke declared that the administration in Osun State was nothing to write home about, condemning the retrenchment of workers in the state as "unnecessary and senseless."

According to him, Governor Akande can conveniently pay civil servants in the state without any retrenchment. Said he: "How can Akande be receiving N800 million a month as revenue allocation, with a wage bill of over N300 million and yet still retrench workers?"

The former governor who declined to confirm whether he will vie for the 2003 gubernatorial election in the state, when asked, simply said, "when the time comes, I will be able to tell."

Rep urges passage of social welfare bill

Rep. Lynda Chuba-Ikpeazu (APP-Anambra), has said that the greatest challenge facing the National Assembly after its current recess, will be the passage of the social

welfare bill.

The bill, which seeks to establish social benefits for children, the unemployed, the aged and indigent widows, is currently at the committee stage at the House of Representatives.

Chuba-Ikpeazu, who introduced the bill as a private member's bill, said it was aimed at making Nigerians have a direct feel of democratic governance, adding: "at the moment, Nigerians are yet to feel the dividend of democracy."

"In fact, they do not yet know why they invested in democratic governance and the bill is aimed at achieving that."

She said that one of the

greatest achievements of the present administration would be the establishment of a social welfare system for the citizens with the enactment of a law.

Chuba-Ikpeazu described the social welfare programme sought by the bill, as an integrated project, saying that with the programme, government would set up a reliable data bank for the National Identity Card Scheme.

She said that the system could be funded with five per cent of the consolidated revenue fund, adding that it was unreasonable that while many Nigerians could hardly afford a living, a few people had a large natural resource to waste.

The lawmaker further said that it was regrettable that while the children of the Nigeria elite enjoyed such benefits sought by the bill in other countries, they did not want Nigerian children to do so in their fatherland.

"What have you given anyone to ask for patriotism and sacrifice from them?" she asked, adding that every citizen must be given a sense of belonging before he could be required to make sacrifices.

She said that majority of the people did not know what the bill is about, but promised that with the assistance of NGOs, the people would be educated to support it.

"Once the people get to know what the bill is about, it will be difficult for anyone to oppose it," Chuba-Ikpeazu said.



Speaker Ghali Na'Abba

PDP chieftain condemns automatic ticket for members

Achieftain of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Ambassador Yahaya Kwande, has condemned the party's national chairman, Chief Barnabas Gemade, for announcing the endorsement of all elected party members for a second term.

Ambassador Kwande, who was speaking at a PDP rally in Niger State, maintained that the idea is totally against the tenets of democracy.

He said people should be allowed to decide on who gets a second term or not.

His words: "I am against this idea. The people who voted are yet to witness any

By Mustapha Isah Kwaru

achievement by these elected leaders. There is still more time for 2003.

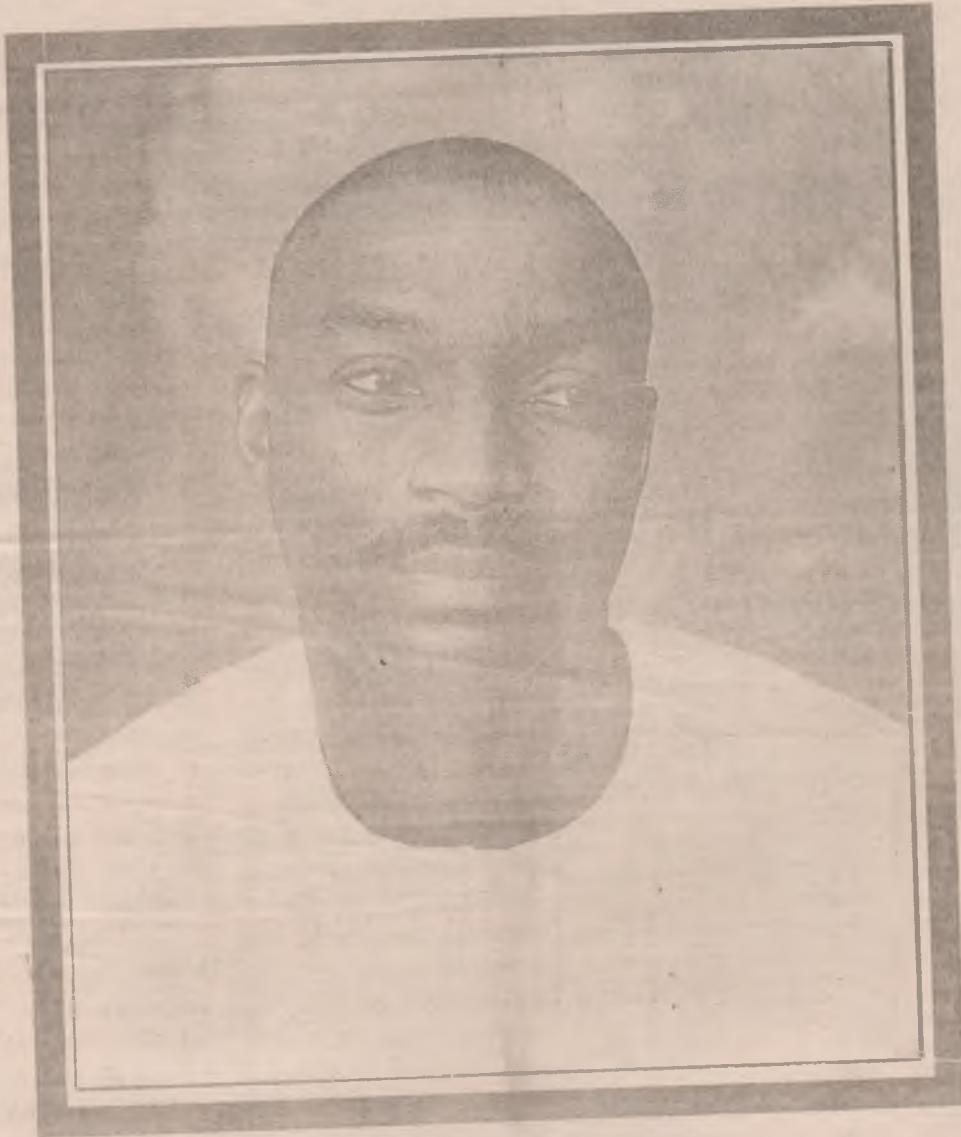
"So, this issue should be put aside until the expiration of their tenure and at that time, they can account for what they did in improving the living standard of their people."

He, therefore, described those agitating for automatic ticket for the officials as "their enemies," as according to him, the idea is only applicable to military rule.

"We are not in military regime now, so you can't force people to elect anybody against their wish," he said.

Inna Lillahi Wa'inna Ilaihir Rajiun

The entire Management and Staff of Albarka Air Services regret to announce the passing away to glory of our Cabin Crew Staff, Ibrahim Y. Balami on Wednesday, August 22nd, 2001 after a brief illness. He was aged 35 Years.



IBRAHIM Y. BALAMI
Aged 35 Years

He has since been buried according to Muslim rites

May the Almighty Allah grant the Balami family the fortitude to bear this irreparable loss.

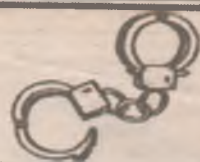
Memorable Quote:

"I came to Albarka out of my personal admiration and love for the Chairman and wish to be a contributing factor in the unavoidable growth of this Airline... also pray that we all should be able to put the company's corporate interest above our personal interest, feelings and prejudices."

IBRAHIM Y. BALAMI - 1966 - 2001

Rest in Peace

Signed: Management



Crime & Punishment



Two lawyers, four others arraigned over N4.5 million land deal

By Uwem Umo

Two Abuja based legal practitioners and four others have been arraigned before an Abuja Chief Magistrate court on an allegation of criminal conspiracy, forgery and cheating. Barrister Alabi Anthony and Barrister Eric I. Egwurube both of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), Abuja branch appeared before Chief magistrate Muhammad Kolo for allegedly conspiring with one Bassey Inyang of Bwari Area Council, Victoria Inumah of the Federal Capital Development Authority and Markus Iliya Balewa to forge a certificate of occupancy (C of O).

According to the police First Information Report (FIR), were alleged to have forged the C of O in the name of Best Mark Nigeria Limited



Engr. Abba-Gana

to cover a parcel of land along the Kubwa expressway.

The police prosecutor, told the court that the forged C of O was fraudulently presented to one Chief Yisa Braimoh, the chairman and Chief Executive of Broadway Hotel, Garki, Abuja, as genuine and dishonestly sold the purported piece of land to him at the cost of N4.5 million.

The police further told the court that Chief Braimoh paid for the land through a bank draft for N2.65m and a cheque to cover the balance of N1.85 million.

All the money transactions were said to have been done in the name of Best Mark Limited while the first accused person, Bassey Inyang allegedly cashed the money on behalf of the company.

All the accused persons pleaded not guilty to the charges.

However, counsel for four of the accused persons, Mr. Johnson Ebong made an oral application for the bail of the of the accused persons citing relevant sections of the criminal procedure code (CPC) and the 1999 constitu-

tion to support his application including the fact that the accused persons will not jump bail, interfere with police investigation or commit further offences while a responsible surety will take them on bail.

Mr. Moses Ofeoshi counsel representing Barrister Alabi Anthony also upheld the submissions of his colleague while one of the lawyers standing trial, Mr. Eric Egwurube elected to represent himself from the dock and plead for his bail.

However, prosecuting police officer, Mr. Danjuma Etubi objected vehemently to their release on bail adding that police were yet to conclude investigations.

The matter was stood down while the presiding chief magistrate ordered the police prosecutor to fetch him the case file from the investigating police officer.

After about one hour and the file was brought to the magistrate, he persued through its contents and eventually ruled that bail for the accused persons was premature.

He ordered that the accused persons be remanded in prison custody while application for their bail should come by way of motion.

The case was adjourned to October 18, 2001 for further mention.



Minister of Police Affairs, Chief Steven Akiga reviewing a turn out of guards at the headquarters of zone 7 Police Command, Makurdi during a recent tour of the zone

Three in court for house breaking, theft

Three men have been arraigned before an Abuja Upper Area Court for alleged conspiracy, house breaking and theft.

The offences are contrary to section 97, 348 and 289 of the panel code.

According to the prosecuting police officer, Mr. Ijafu Bukar, one Alhaji Abubakar Muhammad of No. 3A Eyadema Street, Asokoro, Abuja reported at Garki Police Station that one August 1, 2001, the three accused persons broke into his building and stole items estimated

at about N4.5 million.

The three accused persons Umar Gambo 25, Abubakar Modu 29 and Abacha Yalade 20 all of them security guards protecting the property of Alhaji Abubakar Muhammad at plot 1141, Garki II Abuja.

Among items purportedly stolen are four Samsung brand air conditioners, seven rolls of Rug carpets, two two typewriters, four change over switches and distribution board and four cartons of special fittings.

The property allegedly stolen were mostly household fittings and accessories which the accused persons carted away after breaking into the house through the window.

The three accused persons pleaded not guilty

while the presiding area court judge, Alhaji Aliyu Abdulrahman granted them bail in the sum of N200,000 each and adjourned the matter to September 27, 2001 for further mention.

Meanwhile, four traders from new Panteka have been arraigned in the same upper area court for allegedly receiving the stolen items from the three accused persons.

Ibrahim Usman, 34, Inuwa Alhassan, 42, Mikalu Sani 20 and Balarabe Ibrahim were dragged before the court for being in possession virtually all the items stolen from Alhaji Abubakar Muhammad.

They all pleaded not guilty and were granted bail in the sum of N100,000 each with equally adjourned to September 27, 2001.

Five persons to appear in court for contravening youth law

Five youths in Delta are to be arraigned before a magistrate court for contravening provisions of a new law prohibiting youth activities in the state.

The state police commissioner, Mr. John Ahmadu made the disclosure in Asaba while receiving copies of the new law from the state attorney-general and commissioner for justice, Prof. Amos Utuama.

He said the suspects were arrested within the last couple of weeks after the law had been promulgated.

He said the trial of the five youths would be a test of the new law, adding, "we want to see how it goes."

The police boss charged other states in the country to emulate Delta in the promulgation of laws to regulate youth activities, saying some actions of youths in parts of the country had become inimical to development and threat to peace and order.

He cautioned youths in the state to be wary of persons who might want to enlist them in unlawful associations, warning that the law would not spare any offender.

He explained that it was the desire of government to

attract investment to the state but regretted that unwholesome activities of youths had continuously discouraged potential investors.

Earlier, the justice commissioner had explained that any person who belonged to any unlawful group or recruited any persons into such a group had run foul of the new law.

He said offenders of the law would be subjected to summary trial in a magistrate court, adding that an offender would be liable to seven years jail term.

He said the law was packaged to ensure speedy trial of suspects and gave the assurance that the government would assist the police with necessary technical know-how, including training of officers in prosecution processes.

Worried by the spate of violent activities of youths in the state, leading to the loss of many lives and property and disruption of the business of many companies, Gov James Ibori, last year initiated a bill to prohibit youth activities.

The bill was passed by the state legislature last month.

Popular textile dealer nabbed for robbery

A mother of five, who the police in Cross River say earns income by financing robbery operations, has admitted to unknowingly harbouring stolen electronics.

The middle-aged woman, the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports, was paraded before newsmen on Friday in Calabar with 10 other suspects as having been arrested in connection with recent major armed robbery incidents in the state.

She claimed while answering reporters' questions that a television set, a video compact disc player and a portable electricity generator which the police recovered in her house were collaterals.

Her neighbour's son, she said, gave the items as security for a N20,000 loan after she had been made to believe that they all belonged to his late father.

The suspect, a popular textile trader at Mbukpa market in Calabar, who also claimed to be married to a

serving magistrate, said that several persons had witnessed the loan transaction "which should have fetched N10,000 interest."

Speaking on the arrest of the suspects, the Cross River Commissioner of police, Mr. Thomas Seeimu stressed that many anti-crime operations were carried out through the co-operation and assistance of members of the public.

Seeimu said that among the suspects, was a gang of thieves who killed one Mr. Theresa Peter Egbenyi on July 22 along Abakalaki-Itigidi road after robbing at gun-point, the occupants of a commercial vehicle in which she was travelling.

The alleged leader of the gang, whose leg was bleeding from gun shot wounds however, denied robbing Egbenyi's vehicle, informing the reporters, however, that he "only specialised, two years ago, in buying and selling in Lagos.

Police arrest robbers

The police in Lagos have arrested a gang of armed robbers who were returning from an operation at the weekend.

The gang was arrested by a joint patrol team made up of police and military personnel led by Captain Alli M. following a tip-off.

According to police sources two members of the gang were nabbed one Sunday Ossa and Ola. In the process Ola was said to have attempted to escape and was shot dead.

A search was carried out on the victims and one single barrel gun cut to size with eight live cartridges were recovered.

In a similar development, members of a gang of robbers were arrested with the help of the residents of Ipaja.

But in the process, the police claimed that suspects took to their heels and they were shot dead.

Police sources further revealed that anti-robbery squad attached to Oko Oba Police Station led by Inspector Israel Abiodun took out two armed robbery suspects namely Uchedi and Paul

From Adelanwa Bamgboye, in Lagos

Adesina to Iganda area of Lagos where other robbers were suspected to be hiding in order to arrest them.

Incidentally, the police ran into the robbers ambush where they (the robbers) opened fire on them in a bid to free their man.

Confirming the incident, Victor Chilaka, Lagos Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), said during the exchange of fire, the two robbers who were escaping were gunned down.



Mike Okiro, Lagos Police Boss



WHO report 2000, not our assessment – Nwosu

The recent World Health Report on the state of the health sector has been described as an assessment of the military as the data used for the assessment was gathered before 2000 and in fact does not reflect the true position of the health sector in the country.

Giving the clarification in Abuja recently, the Minister of Health, Prof. Alphonsus Nwosu, noted that the Obasanjo administration had made great strides in the health sector, especially in the area of immunization against child killer diseases and primary health care.

He observed that the ten percent achievement in immunization which was used in the WHO report referred to the period before the Obasanjo administration, adding that the country had achieved 40 percent immunization before he took over the helm of affairs at the

Stories by
Ikenna Emeka Okpani

ministry. According to him, a recent survey by the World Health Organisation puts the immunization level in Nigeria at 68 percent. President Obasanjo had directed the ministry to achieve 80 percent level of immunization before the end of this year.

In a related development, WHO, said that Nigeria has met its standard in

accountability. This was revealed by the organisation's Auditor in Africa, Mr. Mehmet Sahin when he paid a courtesy call on the Minister of Health, Prof. Nwosu in his office.

The envoy expressed delight at the way WHO's grant to Nigeria was spent, saying this has beefed up the confidence of the organization in the polio eradication effort of the country.

Mr. Sahin congratulated Nigeria for meeting the

WHO standard for transparency and accountability, and expressed optimism that the country will meet the target date it set for itself for polio eradication.

In his response, Prof. Nwosu expressed satisfaction with the development, observing that the country has met WHO standards in accountability. He said that

the federal government's drive towards transparency and accountability was paying off.

He assured the envoy that all Nigerians were committed to accountability in all facets of our public life. Prof. Nwosu observed that the WHO 2000 report was not a reflection of the present situation in the health sector, adding that by the time the 2003 WHO report is published, every Nigeria will be proud of the achievement of this administration in the health sector.

He commended the management and staff of the National Programme in Immunization (NPI) for their prudence and transparency which has brought honour to Nigeria. Prof. Nwosu hoped that WHO's satisfaction with Nigeria's transparency and accountability will boost WHO's activities in the country and commended President Olusegun Obasanjo for his unflinching support to the NPI activities in the country.



Prof. A.B.C. Nwosu

Task force on control of fake laboratory consumables underway

A task force on the control of fake laboratory consumables in our markets and our ports will be constituted soon. This, the Minister of Health, Prof. Alphonsus Nwosu, said will rid our hospitals of quacks and fake laboratory

consumables.

Speaking with the executive members of the Association of Medical Laboratory Scientists of Nigeria led by the President, Dr. Anthony Emeibe, who paid him a courtesy call, Prof. Nwosu observed that results got from the use of such fake laboratory consumables will not only be deceptive but has the capability of jeopardizing the health of Nigerians.

He assured the association that government will ensure the appointment of enough experts on the task force so that its impact will be felt.

Nwosu noted that Nigeria was a dumping ground for all kinds of medical equipments, adding that the task force will work in collaboration with the equipment standardization committee of the ministry.

Earlier in his speech, the President of the Association of Medical Laboratory scientists

of Nigeria, Dr. Anthony Emeibe, lamented that a number of the HIV and typhoid kits in the country are all fake and sub-standard and therefore, called for a regulatory body to control the importation and marketing of these and other laboratory consumables in Nigeria.

Last week, the association held a scientific conference and workshop with them, "Our environment, health and the medical laboratory scientist in Abia, Abia State.

Earlier in a letter written to the minister of health and made available to Daily Trust, the association requested for the establishment of a National Laboratory Quality Assurance Agency under the leadership of a medical laboratory scientists.

This agency, according to him shall certify the efficacy of all laboratory kits, reagents, chemicals and consumables in Nigeria; institute regular mandatory external quality assurance programmes for all public and private medical laboratories; ensure port control of laboratory consumables and confiscate and destroy any such fake products in Nigeria.

Secondly, the association wants the federal government to establish an Institute for Biomedical Laboratory Consumables Research and Development which shall be tasked with the local production of laboratory reagents, kits, chemicals and cost effective methodologies for laboratory investigations and diagnosis and streamline standard operating procedures for various laboratory investigations.

Furthermore, the association also wants the health ministry to facilitate the amendments of Decrees 58 and 59 of 1968 and 1999 respectively setting up the regulatory council for medical laboratory science practice in Nigeria with the power to set up judicial tribunals to apprehend, prosecute and

FG moves to contain sale of fake drugs

In its renewed bid to stop the circulation of fake and adulterated drugs, the Minister of Health, Prof. Alphonsus Nwosu, has announced government's intention to undertake a periodic publication of batch numbers, names and descriptions of fake drugs in circulation.

This, he said will empower Nigerians to determine the genuineness of any drug which they buy instead of just going to the market to buy drugs without information about the fake drugs.

The minister, who spoke in his office when the Director-General of NAFDAC, Dr. (Mrs.) Dora Akunyili called on him, displayed about seven adulterated products which were part of over 30 adulterated products identified and documented for circulation to media houses.

Prof. Nwosu advised Nigerians to examine whatever product they wish to buy as it was important that they do so to avoid purchasing adulterated drugs.

The minister observed that manufacturers of fake drug produce them in batches, adding that government will publish all the batch numbers of fake products so that people who wish to patronize such products will look at the batch numbers before purchase.

He explained that this process will result in a lack of

income for the culprits engaged in this business.

Among the products displayed at the minister's office were fake and genuine Ranferon blood tonic 200ml; Nivaquine syrup; and Heinz salad cream, all placed in juxtapose.

The minister noted that the fake bottle of Ranferon blood tonic with number Br. 111000 had a red cap with

"Ranbaxy" printed on it while the genuine one had an orange metal cap with the word "Ranbaxy" printed on the top and sides and also etch on the rim of the cap.

The fake Heinz salad were two different types and clearly different from the genuine ones while the fake ones were higher and watery, the genuine was thick.

PSN, NAFDAC on collision course

The Lagos State branch of the Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria (PSN) may be on collision course with the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) if a quick intervention is not made by the federal government.

The chairman of the Lagos State branch of PSN, Mr. Funso Fakuluyo, who said this at the official opening of this year's pharmacy week in Lagos at the weekend threatened to seek court intervention to stop the construction of the wholesale drug markets in the geo-political zones of the country.

Mr. Fakuluyo who described this move as illegal and unlawful, called on the segments of the leadership of pharmacists and stakeholders to bring what he described as the NAFDAC hierarchy which seems bent on derailing and threatened to seek legal intervention, if changes are not witnessed in the months

From Bose Musari, in Lagos ahead.

The PSN chairman argued that building a drug market would be reaching section 1(1) of Decree 91 of 1992 law that empowered the Pharmacists Council of Nigeria (PSN) to regulate and control pharmacy and which does not allow to bring at pharmacies within a 200 metres radius to each other.

Oyo releases statistics on infant mortality

No fewer than 20 percent of infant mortality in developing countries is as a result of diseases that would have been prevented through the use of vaccines.

Oyo State Commissioner for Health, Dr. Gbola Adetunji who gave the statistics last week also said that over 60,000 women of child bearing age die of maternal tetanus disease across the developing nations of the world, including Nigeria.

Dr. Adetunji said this at a press conference on the multiple antigen campaign of the national programme on immunization at the conference room of the state

By Yinka Oladiyinbo, in Ibadan

Ministry of Health, state secretary in Ibadan.

The commissioner however, stressed that in order to put paid to these unnecessary disabilities and deaths, the government needs to strengthen the routine immunization activities so that all eligible members of the population are provided with immunization services regularly.

Dr. Adetunji while highlighting the essence of the multiple antigen campaign, said it is a simultaneous administration of antigens at different anatomical sites to afford children between age 0-5 years the opportunity of making for the backlog of immunization which were missed.



Photo: Nedy Egbemalle



Health

AIDS: Silent leaders help the virus to spread

In a rundown bus park in central Lagos, a man with a microphone begins a petter of jokes that gathers a small crowd. He pulls one man from the mass and asks him if he has AIDS. No, is the reply. Does your girlfriend? No, again. How do you know? Laughter and an embarrassed admission that the man does not know. Do you have other girlfriends? The man says he can't answer because his girlfriend is nearby. Do you use condoms? No, says the man, he prefers "skin to skin". He is then invited to take off his trousers and show his manhood to the world. The crowd howls. "Alright, I'll have to do it myself," says the man with the microphone. He reaches into a bag, pulls out a dildo and straps it to his waist. When he turns back to face the crowd, the bus park is uproar.

For the Society for Family Health (SFH), a Nigerian AIDS-education project, this is success. People are listening. The man with the microphone shows a condom, and tells you how cheap they are and how they can save your life. Questions from the crowd repeat how horrifyingly little Nigerians have been told about the virus. Does it really exist? How do you get it? Is there a cure? Many believe it is caught from lavatory seats or spread by with craft. Thousands seek cures from bogus "doctors", or evangelical churches.

The latest, probably inaccurate, survey, taken in 1999, said that even then 2.7m of Nigeria's 120m people were infected with HIV. Almost nobody had foreseen the catastrophe. While AIDS was ravaging much of the rest of the continent, it spread more slowly in West Africa, and was diagnosed later. The reason is not clear. Some think it has to do with the HIV strain prevalent in West Africa. Others believe that male circumcision—relatively less common in parts of Africa—slows the virus spread.

as in many African countries, frank talk about sex and AIDS is taboo in Nigeria. As late as 1997, Fela Kuti, a popular musician and the brother of a former health minister, was telling Nigerians that AIDS did not exist. In August that year Mr. Kuti died from an AIDS-related illness. For many Nigerians, threat made it real for the first time.

The government admits that AIDS is now widespread, and says the epidemic has reached the explosive stage when it breaks out of high-risk groups such as prostitutes and migrant workers into the population at large. In some areas the infection rate is already 21 percent. Nigeria may overtake South Africa as the country with the most AIDS cases in the next two years.

But Nigerians are not being warned. In Uganda, President Yoweri Museveni saw that education was the best way of combating the spread of the disease and

launched a noisy campaign that broke through religious and cultural taboos to talk openly about sex. An explicit radio programme called "Straight Talk" encouraged women to protect themselves by taking responsibility for their health and their relations with men. As a result, Uganda's rate of HIV infection has fallen.

Being honest:— Straight talk is what Nigeria, like much of the rest of Africa, has not got. Though most Nigerians now know that AIDS is connected to sex, public-education campaigns are coy. They talk about the dangers of sharing needles or razor blades, not about safe sex. All surveys, however, show that HIV's spread in Nigeria by sex. In March a radio advertisement alerting the young to the danger of unsafe sex, prepared by SFH

and government ministries, was taken off the air after the advertising-standards body objected to its explicit language. The strength talking had to be toned down.

Religion also plays a part. Christian and Islamic leaders object to the open discussion of sex. The fact that Nigeria creates something like 250 different ethnic groups creates a minefield of conflicting cultural values and practices. And many Nigerians, like other Africans, fear being corrupted by what they see as loose western morals. As a result, only 80 million condoms are expected to be used this year in Nigeria: on average, not much more than two per couple. Most couples do not use them at all.

One Lagos-based radio station, Rhythm FM, has

begun its own campaign, broadcasting hourly anti-AIDS messages. Private initiatives of this sort show up how little the government is doing. The government's AIDS action plan looks well thought-out—but so far remains only a plan. President Olusegun Obasanjo, elected in 1999, has talked much about doing something about AIDS, but has actually done precious little.

South Africans argue about government support for anti-retroviral drugs for AIDS sufferers. That issue is not yet on the agenda in Nigeria. Even if it were, the state of Nigeria's civil service would hinder any action. Government in Nigeria has for years been moribund. Reviving it will take too long for most AIDS sufferers to notice.

— Culled from the Economist

Patent medicine dealers arrested in Lagos

No fewer than seven members of the Lagos State Medicine Dealers Association, Mushin Branch, have been arrested by the State Task Force on Fake/Counterfeit Drugs and Unwholesome Processed Foods over allegations of selling fake drugs.

Addressing newsmen on the recent wave of attacks on his clients by the Task Force, lawyer to the medicine dealers association, Mr. Festus Keyamo said that no inventory was taken of drugs that were carted away.

According to the lawyer, "the Lagos State Task Force on Wednesday August 8, 2001 raided some pharmaceutical shops in Lagos State, carted away drugs regarded as "Fake" sealed up these shops,

From Adelanwa Bamgboye, in Lagos

arrested the dealers and went on air to make numerous allegation against these dealers.

The patent medicine dealers who have been in business for more than 20 years claimed that no doctor has ever complained of drugs bought from their outlets which have been sealed.

According to the lawyer, the government must find other means of detecting "fake" drugs instead of the present sweeping assumption that those who are not pharmacists must be selling "fake" drugs, and those who are pharmacists must be selling genuine drugs.

The lawyer said further that the problem of fake drugs goes beyond this

uncoordinated action. He added that government should direct its efforts to other areas.

Meanwhile an application has already been filed for the bail of those arrested.



Musiliu Smith, Police IG

Year 2001 national immunisation day results out

The national programme on immunisation is fast securing gains as the results of the first and second rounds of the year 2001 National Immunisation Days (NIDs), has been declared.

This declaration was made by the Minister of Health, Professor A. B. C. Nwosu who was represented by the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry, Alhaji Shehu Suleiman at the information workshop on global Alliance for Vaccines and



Professor Nwosu, Health Minister

By Victor Akobundu

Immunisation (GAVI) in Abuja last week. According to the minister, the results of the first round NIDs involved children 0-59 months immunised with OPV, as 39,336,382 and children 6-59 months given vitamin A, 29,600,588.

While in the second round of the NIDs, a total of 39,146,808 children under 5 years were immunised with the oral polio vaccine which therefore stabilised the coverage targets at the more acceptable level of 39 million plus.

The minister further stated that with the introduction of the house-to-house approach in 1999, the effectiveness of the NIDs has resulted in a marked decline in the spread of the polio virus nationwide.

"Let me state here that the federal government is committed to routine immunisation as much as she is working towards the complete eradication of polio

injection with the rest of the world, he said"

Meanwhile, a National Strategic Plan which covers the period 2001-2005 is to enhance implementation and ensure communist ownership as well as employing strategies for the reduction of morbidity and mortality of preventable diseases.

Earlier in his remark the chairman of the NPI, Professor Idris Mohammed said in order to bridge the existing gap in immunisation in the developing countries the Federal Government of Nigeria reached out to a global body with the aim of reducing vaccine preventable deaths.

He commended GAVI for its support in making immunisation services accessible in these countries. He said with the support of GAVI and other partners NPI will expand immunisation activities, and introduce new vaccines such as HBV and HIS, and improve safety injection methods.

Nature's Pharmacy



With Zainab Ujudud Shariff

Zee's Family First Aid Kit

Today we continue our series on herbs and their uses. The column features Thyme, Aloe Vera etc. and the reader is drawn once more to the values and benefits of nature.

Thyme: Contains: B-complex, Vitamins, Gum, Iron, silicon, Thymol etc.: Thyme eliminates gas and relieves fever, headache, and mucus. It Possesses strong antiseptic properties and lowers cholesterol levels. It is good for respiratory problems, liver disease, and eliminates scalp, itching and flaking caused by candidiasis. It is a worm expeller, and carminative, destroying fungal infections such as athlete's foot and skin parasites such as scabies, and lice. For bronchial infections use one ounce of Herb-steeped in one pint of boiled water. Also strain and sweeten with honey. The tincture is prepared by suing four ounces of thyme to a part of alcohol or essential oil and can be applied on to the affected part.

Turmeric: This is a Blood purifier. It protects the liver against man toxins, heals wounds, relieves pains, in the limbs, and inhibits platelet aggregation, while also lowering cholesterol. It reduces fever and nose bleeding, and regulates the menstrual cycle. A teaspoon of powder + a teaspoon of almond oil to a cup of warm milk, take 1-2 cups daily for above ailments.

Aloe Vera: This herb heals burns and wounds. It also stimulates cell regeneration, and it is an astringent. It also contains emollient, antifungal, antibacterial, and antiviral properties. When taken internally it soothes stomach irritation. It is a good laxative, and it promotes healing. This herb is very useful in skin and digestive disorders, and it delays the symptoms of ageing. It Estrogenic properties i.e. vitalising and tonic for women. A teaspoon of aloe vera, alone or combined with tumitic root taken daily for 30 months regulates liver function and a relieves pre-menstrual syndrome. The powder form is known to be the best laxative and liver stimulant.

Dose: Gel or liquid take 2 tablespoons 3 x daily in juice for powder take 1/2 to 1 teaspoon 3 x daily. Generally, the gel is used in maintaining beauty. It prevents wrinkles, and it is used in hepatitis. It can be used to treat liver problems and constipation. As a remedy for piles take a teaspoonful of powder to a pint water, add 2 tea spoonful of boric acid to prevent - mixture from souring (N-B: do not take if pregnant or nursing).

Lemons: It is an Antiseptic, and it is a for blood purifier, excellent liver stimulant, dissolves uric acids and toxins. This is a lemon is a good remedy in malaria, and it bile, suitable in cases of rheumatism, rickets, and gout. Useful in uterine bleeding, in pregnant mothers and helps to build strong bones in the child. Nourishes the brain and nerve cells due to its potassium content. The calcium content confirms its use to strengthen bones and teeth and it helps in the formation of plasma. It is useful in asthma, gas, fevers. Use in sore throat—dilute 1/2 cup juice + 1/2 cup of water and use as gargle. When slice of lemon is tied over a cone overnight it will greatly relieve pain. For asthma take a tablespoon of it Lemon juice one hour before each meal. For liver, take one lemon in a glass of warm water every morning. A teaspoon of Lemon juice in 1-2 cup of water relieves heartburn. Lemon juice is a refreshing drink. For rheumatism one or two ounces of Lemon juice diluted and taken 3 x a day one hour before meals at bed time. In her excessive menstrual bleeding—use about 3-4 lemons daily 1 lemon in a glass of cold water x 3-4 times. Excellent remedy for colds, influenza, fever. yoghurt add Lemon juice drops to milk will curdle it. Soya bean milk + lemon juice will make soybean cheese can be use as alternative to vinegar. To remove ink stains, fruit stains, rub lemon juice to the affected area, cover with salt and put in the sun. A quarter teaspoon to a cup of tepid water is good for eye infections. For discharging ears use half teaspoon raw juice to one and half teaspoons of tepid water—Use raw juice externally for aches, sores, toothache, and ring worm.

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SPORTS



Katsina Polo 2001

El-Amin brush aside Maidabino challenge

By Ismaila Umaru Lere

It was heart breaking start for Kaduna Maidabino in their opening group match of the Nigeria Cup contest on Saturday at the Usman Nagogo Polo Ground in Katsina.

Despite astonishing display of gallantry and stoic determination, the Maidabino squad comprising Dikko Ladan +1, Abba M. T. Usman +1, Dawule Baba +4 and Babangida Hassan +4 with a total handicap of plus 10, lost 7-4 to the superior fire-power of Kaduna El-Amin consisting of Bello Buba +5, Aminu Alhaji +1, Ibrahim Mohammed +4 and Mohammed Babangida +3.

The Maidabino side, which started the gripping encounter with three-goal advantage by virtue of inferior goal aggregate, succumbed to the wizardry of Bello Buba, who churned out two early goals and the aggressive Ibrahim Mohammed tormenting the Maidabino goalmouth.

Though the experienced Dawule Baba and effervescent Babangida Hassan succeeded in keeping the marauding duo momentarily at bay, the twosome combined effectively with Aminu Alhaji and mentor Mohammed Babangida to increase the tally in the second and third chukka of the game.

The Maidabino team, cheered on by the Katsina crowd, spirited a goal

through Dikko Ladan after squandering several scoring opportunities.

With three points in their kitty, El-Amin now look forward to consolidating the gains in their second game this afternoon against Kano Titans, who narrowly lost to 5-6 to arch-rivals, Kano MG White on Sunday, while Maidabino yesterday evening engaged Kano MG White. The result of that game will have strong bearing on the final standing of the quadrangular competition.

Other games played over the weekend saw Kano MG Black whitewashing Kano Jakara 8-2 and Katsina Kangiwa overwhelming Katsina Gobarau 6-2^{1/2} in the Talba Cup, while Kano Rima walloped Kano Continental 5-1 in the Gen. Hassan Cup competition.

The competition for Ahmadu Coomassie Cup witnessed an excruciating contest between Kaduna Fine Aluminium and Bauchi Hinterland with the former winning 4-3.

NFA holds seminar on hooliganism in Kano

By Patrick Andrew

The Nigeria Football Association, NFA, will hold a pre-season seminar on hooliganism in Kano next month.

The NFA board chairman, Dominic Oneya, revealed when the Kano State Commissioner of Information, Youth, Sports and Culture, visited the Glass House to present a draft of N3.8m pledge made to the Super

Eagles.

Oneya said that the seminar would focus specifically on the evils of hooliganism in football with a view to dissuading any such further acts of unsportmanly conduct.

The NFA boss noted that Kano had been notorious for acts of hooliganism until recently when the culture of sportsmanship has been imbibed by the people.

The seminar will attract the key stakeholders in the same including supporters

clubs and officials of all clubs in the country.

The one-day seminar, Oneya said, will cover all aspects of soccer hooliganism as well as repositioned the minds of all stakeholders on the need to exercise the spirit of sports morality.

The commissioner promised the backing of the Kano State government, stressing that the sports loving people of Kano would assist in any way possible to enlighten the people on the adverse effect of hooliganism.

Ajax upset Feyenoord

Ajax Amsterdam upset archrivals Feyenoord with a 2-1 victory on Sunday in the first classic match of the Dutch season, finishing the game with 10 men.

Tunisian defender Hatem Trabelsi was sent off in the 69th minute for his second bookable offence, five minutes after setting up the opening goal.

Trabelsi's cross from the right found Zlatan Ibrahimovic unmarked, and the Swedish substitute had no problems finding the net.

After the goal and the sending-off, Feyenoord went on the attack in search of the equaliser, but in the 82nd minute Ajax doubled their lead.

Rafaël van der Vaart picked up a loose ball on the left, moved unchallenged into the box and beat Feyenoord goalkeeper Jerzy Dudek with a low shot.

Feyenoord scored a consolation goal four minutes into injury time when Jon Dahl Tomasson found the net from close range.

With the victory, Ajax, who many experts had written off

as title contenders after missing out on the Champions League and drawing their first match of the season, sent out a clear message that they are still a force.

Feyenoord striker Pierre van Hooijdonk said Ajax's victory was deserved.

"We are not a dream team, we can also lose," said the striker who recently joined Feyenoord from Benfica.

Ajax have played two matches and dropped two points.

Feyenoord have dropped three and champions PSV Eindhoven five after losing 3-1 at Willem II Tilburg on Saturday.

Striker Mariano Bombarda scored twice for Tilburg to end PSV's 35-match unbeaten run in the league.

Twente Enschede, who beat Roda JC Kerkrade 3-0 on Saturday, top the standings with seven points from three matches.

Vitesse Arnhem also have seven points from three games but are second on goal difference. Feyenoord dropped to third with six points.

Winning starts for Juve, Inter

Juventus and Inter Milan got off to winning starts on the opening day of the Italian championship, while Chievo celebrated their first ever game in Serie A with a shock 2-0 win at Fiorentina.

But there was disappointment for Lazio, held 1-1 at home by newly-promoted Piacenza, and AC Milan, who had to come back from two goals down to earn a 2-2 draw at Brescia.

Champions AS Roma begin their title defence later on Sunday (1830 GMT) at Verona and out of the contender's for their crown it was Juventus who made the best first impression.

French striker David Trezeguet and Alessandro Del Piero both scored twice as Juventus brushed aside Serie A newcomers Venezia 4-0.

Trezeguet opened the scoring in the 10th minute with a fine header from a Cristian Zenoni cross and added his second just a minute later with a well-timed volley.

Del Piero added the third with a delightful, curling free-kick on the stroke of halftime and then hit the post seconds later.

The Italy international wrapped up the win 10 minutes from the end with a back-post header after substitute Marcelo Salas picked him out with a pinpoint cross.

Inter's 4-1 win over Perugia was by no means as comfortable as the result suggests.

Sierra Leone striker Mohammed Kallon, making his full debut for Inter, opened the scoring with a header in the 20th minute and then doubled Inter's advantage just before the break with a shot on the turn.

Greek striker Zisis Vryzas pulled a goal back for Perugia in the 61st minute and the visitors piled on the pressure in the later stages with Fabio Grosso hitting the post.

But Grosso then brought down

Christian Vieri the opportunity to celebrate his return to the Italy squad by converting the spot kick.

Vieri then added his second and Inter's fourth from close range in injury time.

Chievo, who are based in a tiny suburb of Verona and have risen from the amateur ranks, added to the problems facing cash-strapped Fiorentina, who were forced to sell goalkeeper Francesco Toldo and midfielder Rui Costa this summer.

Goals from Simone Perrotta and Massimo Marazzina gave the new boys a historic 2-0 win in Florence, while Fiorentina's Enrico Chiesa compounded his side's misery by missing a second half penalty.

Rui Costa had a miserable debut for his new club AC Milan — he was stretchered off and taken to hospital after falling badly under a challenge and injuring his arm in the 26th minute.

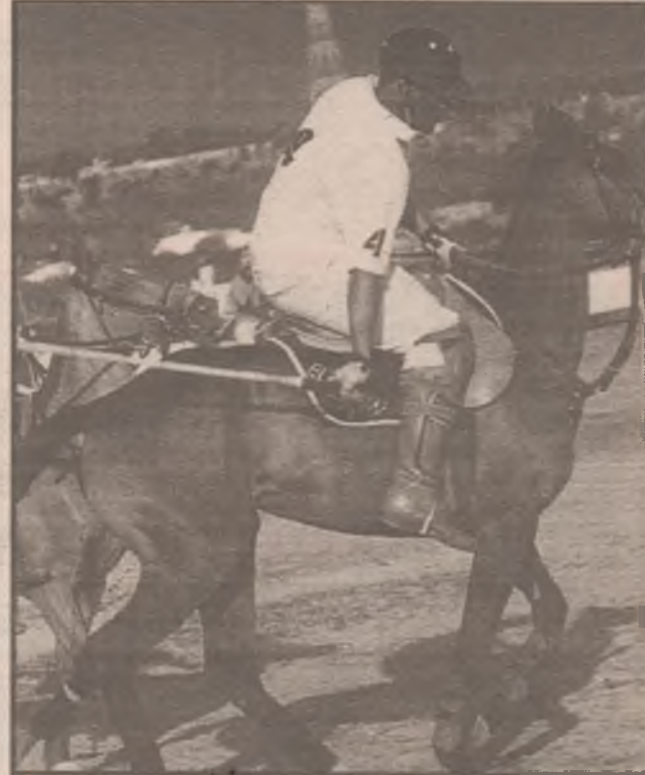
Ten minutes later Milan fell behind when Brescia's Albatian striker Iglé Tare headed home a cross from Pole Marek Kozminski and four minutes after that the pair combined for a carbon copy second.

But Milan fought back after the break with a Christian Brocchi strike and then an Andriy Shevchenko penalty after Cosmin Contra had been tripped by Kozminski.

Lazio's Argentine striker Claudio Lopez put the Serie A champions ahead two minutes after the break against Piacenza, whose debutant Brazilian Francolino Matuzalem equalised in the 61st minute.

Lazio announced after the game that they had signed Dutch international defender Jaap Stam from Manchester United on a four-year deal.

English coach Roy Hodgson saw his new club Udinese fight back from 2-0 down at home to Torino thanks to second half goals from Roberto Muzzi and Roberto Carlos Pavon, while Udinese were held to a 1-1 draw at Lecce.



Mentor's touch: Mohammed Babangida of Kaduna El-Amin in action during the Minna Polo Tournament. He spearheaded his team's victory over Kaduna Maidabino on Saturday.

Katsina Polo 2001

Today's fixtures

Time	Cup	Teams	
12.00pm	Coomassie	Kano Magwan	Vs Katsina Danmama
1.00pm	Coomassie	Jos Lord Rabs	Vs Yola Yelwa
2.00pm	Talba	Kano MG Black	Vs Kaduna ICN II
3.00pm	Gen. Hassan	Katsina Masanawa	Vs Kano Continental
4.00pm	Gen. Hassan	Kaduna ICN I	Vs Kaduna AKA
5.00pm	Nigerian	Kaduna El-Amin	Vs Kano Titans

Results

Kano MG Black 8,	Kano Jakara 2	(Talba Cup)
Katsina Kangiwa 6,	Katsina Gobarau 2 ^{1/2}	"
Katsina Kangiwa 8,	Ghana Accra 3 ^{1/2}	"
Kano Rima 5,	Kano Continental 1	(Gen. Hassan Cup)
Kaduna Kawo 1,	Kaduna AKA 2	"
Kano Yakasai 3,	Katsina Masanawa 2	"
Kaduna El-Amin 7,	Kaduna Maidabino 4	(Nigerian Cup)
Kano Titans 5,	Kano MG White 6	"

5 Nigerians to get ATP points

Five Nigerians have been listed on the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) ranking, following their impressive performance at the just concluded six-legged three-nation International Tennis Federation (ITF) Men's Satellite Circuits, rounded off on Saturday at the National Stadium, Lagos.

Briton's Iain Smith, the Chief Referee of the Circuit told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) at the closing ceremony of the final leg that the five Nigerians notched up the points to get the listing on ranking from just the single events of the Circuit.

The five Nigerians are: Sunday Maku, three points, the two Jegede brothers, Sunday and Rotimi —two points and one point respectively.

U.S.-based Ganiyu Adelekan and Gabriel Otu, also secured a point each.

Smith however, said that he could not say what their current ranking would be but stated that the rankings were subject to ATP verification and approval.

The Chief Referee described the Circuit as a cheap means for Nigerians players to acquire ATP points, stressing that while other foreign players have to pay flight tickets, accommodation and feeding, the Nigerian Players only needed to travel to two West African Countries to get the points. All ATP ranked players commended the initiators of the Circuit saying that what they could not get outside the country due to lack of funds was what they could acquire with less spending at home.

Adelekan said that more ATP points were held to a 1-1 draw at Lecce.

Tennis

I can earn more money because I'm now more at an advantage as an ATP ranked player.

He said he hoped to get back to his U.S base to intensify his training after taking part in the N500,000 Governor James Ibori Cup Tennis next month in Asaba, the Delta capital. Jegede, also a U.S-Based player said that he was motivated by Malian Mohammed-Sekou Drame, winner of four of the six legs in the Circuit because as a black man, he mustered all efforts to prove that "what a white man can do, a black man do even better."

"I've been able to acquire more skills and experience through this tournaments and which I can assure will guide me in my future endeavour," said Rotimi Jegede.

For Sunday, it had all been an easy ride in the past when they just played among themselves but now faced with foreign challenges, they had all realised they still had a long way to go.

"Beside, this is our career, gaining more points is better than winning cash prizes." He said adding, "more points now, more money later."

Maku called for help which he said should be in form of sponsorship and attachments to good tennis coaches.

NAN reports that the first leg of the Circuit was staged in Lagos about six weeks ago, the second leg then followed a week later in Lome, Togo, while the third and fourth legs were held in Accra, Ghana.

The players then returned to Lagos for the fifth and sixth legs, tagged He



Abba M.T. Usman of Kaduna Maidabino goes for the ball during the Lagos Polo Tournament.

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NFA reorganisation Aku, Oyelade at loggerheads



Real Madrid's French striker Zinedine Zidane, right, tries to block Deportivo la Coruna's Joan Capdevila during the final of the Teresa Herrera soccer tournament in La Coruna, Spain.

Sports Minister, Ishaya Mark Aku and the ministry's Permanent Secretary, Mr. T. Oyelade, are at daggers drawn over the planned overhaul of the NFA.

Both are diametrically opposed to each other on the bases of the methods and techniques being used to reorganise the football secretariat.

Whereas Aku wants all heads of departments removed and replaced by non-civil servants, the permanent secretary has insisted on strict observation of civil service rules and regulations in the matter of replacement and redeployment of staff.

Aku has been constant on the plan to overhaul the management of NFA secretariat to inject administrative and technical vibrancy in the running of football in the country, a development that would sweep away all top management civil servants in the NFA set up.

The minister believes that unless the management of the NFA secretariat largely composed of civil servants whose penchant for bureaucracy is said to be a critical obstacle to effective administration of football are removed, the perennial maladministration and absolute dependence on government funding will not abate.

However, the permanent secretary, on the grounds of government plans to reposition the NFA for effective administration of football has objected to Aku's avowed intention to kick-out all top management civil servants in the Glass House, stressing that repositioning should be done in strict observation of procedures.

Oyelade also opposed plans to remove the staff some of whom are not of the sports ministry. He sought to know where the non-staff of the min-

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istry that would be affected by the overhaul be posted.

Former Sports Minister, Damishi Sango, had sought and got permission to reorganise the top management of the NFA secretariat even as the authorised recruitment of 35 staff recruited last September.

Meanwhile, three sports journalists, Messrs Michael Obi, Chris Eseka and TodaySports publisher Paul Bassey are alleged to be gunning to fill positions in the NFA.

While Obi wants to head of marketing unit, Eseka, the

manager of former Super Eagles technical adviser Jo Bonfrere, wants to lead the public relations and protocol units while Bassey is vying for the international department.

TrustSports learnt the trio had written to the Sports Minister indicating interest in the various positions even as they canvassed for exclusion of civil servants from the top echelon of the NFA.

Aku has never hidden his disdain for the leadership of the NFA board and secretariat for being bereft of mercantile drive and enterprise.



Grant Waite of New Zealand reacts to his missed birdie putt on the 11th hole in the second round of the 83rd PGA Championship.



Martina Hingis, of Switzerland, reacts to losing a point to Monica Seles during their semifinal match at the estyle.com Classic, in Manhattan Beach, California, USA.

Strands of Fate: written & illustrated by Bulama Mustapha

