



**HEAD OFFICE**  
General Shehu Musa Yar'Adua House,  
7/9 Bank Road, PMB 2180, Kaduna.  
Tel: 062-245140-9  
Website: <http://www.habibnigeriabank.com>  
E-mail: [info@habib-bank.com.nig](mailto:info@habib-bank.com.nig)  
RC. 50750  
Habib Nigeria Bank Ltd.  
An Affiliate of  
Habib Bank Ltd., Pakistan  
51 branches across the country.  
*...the bank with a difference*

**THURSDAY COLUMN**  
Nick Dazang on:  
**How not to ruin the FCDA**  
Page 5

**STAR INTERVIEW**  
I am the problem of my critics  
-Gov. Abubakar Audu  
Page 17

**SUJUD FOUNDATION**  
**HIV/AIDS THERAPY**  
ADDRESS: 48 Dr Bala Mohammed Road, Off State Road or Off Sokoto Road, P.O. BOX 12383, KANO  
E-mail: [sujudfoundation@yahoo.com](mailto:sujudfoundation@yahoo.com)  
090-803322  
064-647118  
Complete therapy will not cost more than N50,000  
We will soon earn your confidence (Insha Allah)

# FG refutes coup rumour

The Chief of Army Staff (COAS), Major-General Alexander Ogomudia has refuted the report of an alleged coup scare in the country early this month.

By Hammeed M. Bello

ductive as "the report has attempted to paint the army in bad light."

General Ogomudia particularly upbraided a weekly news magazine which carried the story in its September 3, 2001 edition.

The army boss accused a section of the press of having "a hidden agenda" against the military and stated that it was the agenda which informed the publication of the "false and mischievous story to bring the military into disrepute."

The Army Chief described the report as "false" emphasizing that there was never a coup plot in the country.

The magazine had in its publication alleged that about 17 senior military officers had been arrested in connection with the coup scare.

He said there was no iota of truth in the report as published by the magazine, adding that it was counterpro-

The publication also al-

leged that the son of the President, an army captain training presently at the Junior Staff College, Jaji, was responsible for foiling the coup plot because he was the one who leaked it to the federal authorities.

The report did not, however, disclose the identities of those involved in the alleged abortive coup, an omission, the COAS argued, made the story "a mere speculation."

He also revealed that the son of the President, who allegedly foiled the coup, is currently undergoing studies outside the country. This, Gen. Ogomudia said, further exposed the coup story as "outright speculation."

While acknowledging that the press has a duty to inform the public, the army chief stressed the need for such information to be factual, as otherwise, it could endanger the security of the country.

He, therefore, urged journalists to always cross-check information with the Defence Headquarters in order to avoid dangerous speculation.



Chief of Army Staff, Maj. Gen. A.O. Ogomudia addressing the press on the alleged coup scare in Abuja... yesterday  
Pix Felix Onigbinde

## ANYIM - EGWU FACE-OFF

### Reps threaten state of emergency in Ebonyi

Senate refuses  
As the political crisis in Ebonyi deepens, the House of Representatives threatened yesterday to declare a state of emergency in the state following the assassination attempt on the Senate President, Pius Anyim.

By Henry Omonu and Reuben Yunana

from carrying out the assassination plot."

In a swift reaction to the assassination plot against the Senate President, the

The Senate has however, turned down a motion calling for a declaration of a state of emergency in the State.

The Senate President had on Monday night, through his special assistant on media affairs, Mr. Orji Ogbonnaya Orji, accused the Ebonyi State Governor, Dr. Sam Egwu of planning his assassination.

Anyim said in the statement that "paid agents have continued to put threatening calls, with deadly warnings that they have been fully paid to terminate my life any moment from now."

According to Anyim, the assassins have "made it clear that no amount of security around the President of the Senate will stop them

### ACF ends tour

The Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF) held a meeting of its Central Working Committee (CWC) yesterday to deliberate on the recently concluded tour of the 19 Northern states. The ACF had embarked upon tours of the region late last month to create awareness among community and opinion leaders on its activities and goals.

During the tour, the ACF constituted three delegations, headed by Alhaji M.D. Yusuf for the North Central; Chief Olusola Saraki, for North-West and Lt. General Jeremiah Useni, for the North East zone.

Yesterday's meeting,

By Ibrahim Dan Halilu, in Kaduna

which lasted for over three hours under the chairmanship of Alhaji M.D. Yusuf, was seen by most observers as a review session of the reactions the delegations received from

contd. on pg 2

### NUC orders closure of university satellite campuses

The controversy over the legality or otherwise of satellite campuses and outreach centres of universities spread all over the country has finally been put to rest as the federal government has ordered their immediate closure.

Addressing newsmen in Abuja yesterday, the Execu-

## 2003: Senate rejects use of ID card

Senate has rejected the presidency's proposal to use the National Identity card for future elections in the country saying the proposal is unwise and an invitation to chaos.

Conveying Senate's position on the matter to National Assembly correspondents yesterday, the Senate Committee Chairman on INEC, Senator O.A. Osunbor said it was necessary to make the clarification because of the anxiety generated nationwide as a result of the recent statement by the Minister of Internal Affairs, Chief Sunday Afolabi, that the Na-

By Reuben Yunana

tional I.D card would be used for future elections.

Speaking after the weekly federal executive council meeting, Chief Sunday Afolabi had also revealed that proposals to substitute

the National Identity with for the voters card would soon be submitted to the National Assembly for passage into law.

However, Senator Osunbor stated yesterday that Senate would throw out such a proposal if it is presented by the executive. "We

### Kano flood: Death toll now 45

There are strong indications that about five more people have died as a result of the flood disaster which submerged 60 villages in five local government areas of Kano State two days ago.

No fewer than 40 people were reported dead yester-

By Ahmed Shekarau, with Agency Reports

day and another 10,000 displaced after the flash flood swept away the villages.

Wire service reports indicated yesterday that it continued unabated and claimed five more lives to bring the death toll to 45.

The affected local government areas south-east of Kano, the state's capital city, are Wudil, Dawakin-Kudu, Kumbotso, Kuchi and Warawa.

Reports indicated that the over 10,000 displaced persons were taking refuge in primary schools in the local government headquarters.

"People are worried that

contd. on pg 2

## NEWS

**Coup** *Contd. from pg 1*

tions that may discourage foreign investors from coming to Nigeria.

Reacting to whether or not he was in touch with officers at the Staff College, Jaji, to ascertain their levels of involvement in coups, the COAS assured that he was aware of the activities of all officers under his command and could confidently say that there was no coup attempt as reported.

On whether the army

would take any legal action against the magazine the COAS said the matter was beyond the court, adding, however, that appropriate court action would be taken when necessary.

Gen. Ogomudia also reacted to recent media reports that the federal government has asked the army to handover the Dodan Barracks to the police, saying there was no vacancy at the Dodan Barracks. He revealed

that the only vacant place "is where the president used as office."

He pleaded with the civil society to spare the army undue castigation, so that it would ably perform its constitutional duty of defending the nation's territorial integrity.

He assured on the resolve of the army to embark on a vigorous training and retraining of its personnel to fit into the new dispensation.



L-R: The Minister of Justice, Mr. Musa Elayo, the Minister of State for Agriculture, Chief Chris Agbobu and the Minister of Sports, Mr. Mark Aku exchanging views during the Federal Executive Council meeting held at the State House Abuja... yesterday  
Pix: Kennedy Egbonodje

**2003** *Contd. from pg 1*

are in a democracy and operate by rule of law and not by rule of jungle," he stated.

"In view of the widespread apprehension generated by the pronouncement, it has become necessary to issue this clarification and to reassure Nigerians that voters cards to be issued by INEC during the forthcoming voter registration exercise is what will be used in future elections," the INEC committee chairman emphasised.

He explained that the Electoral Bill 2001 which is before both Houses of the National Assembly provides for the issuance of a voters card to every registered voter (section 7) which is to be used for voting (section 46).

Senator Osunbor who recalled that the INEC Chairman, Dr. Abel Goubadia had already cleared the air on the controversy, advised the

Department of National Civil Registration to take advantage of the expected large turn out for INEC voter registration exercise to carry out its own exercise.

"I want to reassure Nigerians that the Senate, indeed the National Assembly, will ensure that voter's card issued by INEC will be used in future elections. The forthcoming elections are too important for Nigerian's democracy for us to toy with by indulging in expensive experiment with the National I.D card which rather sadly, had suffered a chequered history and become mired in controversy," he said.

Senate's position comes against a recent statement by President Obasanjo that the National I.D. card would be used as a voter's card in the 2003 election.

the state governors or their deputies during the tour.

While some of the state governors were very diplomatic in their approach, others were down-to-earth in their criticism of the ACF delegations.

For instance, during a courtesy call on the Governor of Kaduna State, Alhaji Ahmed Mohammed Makarfi, the Saraki-led delegation was asked to strive to set up their own media to counter the propanganda of the Southern press.

Governor Makarfi stated then that the denigration of the Northern leaders is not only affecting them but the entire people of the region."

But Governor Joshua Dariye of Plateau State, was point blank in telling the ACF delegation, led by Lt. Gen. Jeremiah Useni, that Useni was told to his face that unless *Shariah* was dumped,

peace for over one year. According to him, the state governor, Dr. Sam Egwu had turned himself into a dictator, dissolved the state executive of the PDP and installed thugs in their place.

According to him, the governor also appointed thugs into his executive council and sponsored thugs to attack the state deputy governor and other notable Ebonyi indigenes, culminating in the recent mock "burial of Senate President Pius Anyim as shown on NTA.

Stressing that the face off between Egwu and the Senate President had reached an alarming stage, Osunbor urged Senate to pass a resolution condemning the action of the governor.

- Prevail on the police to investigate, arrest and prosecute the perpetrators of the mayhem in Ebonyi State and

- Prevail on the Senate through order 134 of Senate rules and call on President Obasanjo to apply section 305(3)(C,D) of the 1999 constitution by declaring a state of emergency in Ebonyi State.

**ACF** *Contd. from pg 1*

the Middle Belt would not be part of the ACF nor would it share the ideals of the Forum.

Though the ACF did not issue a communique after its meeting and none of its key officers agreed to speak to newsmen, *Daily Trust* learnt from a source close to the meeting that the issue of the appearance of the three former heads of state before Oputa Panel, which would resume session next month, topped the agenda.

Another issue, the source added, was the recent meeting in Kaduna of the *Afenifere* in Kaduna, and the ACF at which the former courted the understanding of the latter to move the nation forward.

"The ACF discussed extensively how to approach the *Afenifere's* positive gesture. This gesture is the first of its in the history of the country," the source explained.

Those in attendance at yesterday's meeting included: the Chairman of

the Central Working Committee, Alhaji M.D. Yusuf and the two other leaders of the delegations that toured the North.

Others were: Alhaji Ibrahim Coomassie, former Inspector-General of Police; Alhaji Sule Katagum, Alhaji Tanko Yakassai, Col. Hamid Ibrahim Ali, the Secretary-General of the Forum, Alhaji Muhammadu Gambo Jimeta, also former IG of Police; Col. Abdullahi Shelleng (rtd) and Alhaji Tukur Othman, former Managing Director of the *New Nigerian* newspapers.



Alhaji M.D. Yusufu

**Kano** *Contd. from pg 1*

Local leaders told *Reuters* yesterday that the flood followed torrential rains in the area last Saturday, which also resulted in a spillage after the Tiga and Challawa dams bursted and the Kano river overflowed late on Tuesday.

Though no actual value of property lost in the flood were yet to be reported, many of the victims who spoke to newsmen at the refugee camps said all their belongings were destroyed.

The chairman of Kumbotso Local Government, Alhaji Mannir Baba Dan Agundi, who expressed concern about the incident said: "It has caused serious hardship to the people."

He confirmed that the over 10,000 victims of the flood lost their mud and thatch homes, including many other property the val-

ues of which were not confirmed.

While soliciting for assistance to the affected communities, the chairman emphasised that "both state and federal governments should come to the aid of the victims immediately," to avoid the outbreak of epidemics at such refugee camps.

Meanwhile, *Daily Trust* learnt that the flood has already cut off Kunchi town, headquarters of Kunchi Local Government from contacts with neighbouring local governments in the state.

It will be recalled that officials of the Hadejia-Jama'are River Basin Development Authority recently warned the people residing along the banks of River Kano, of the imminent threats to the lives should the river overflow.

**NUC** *Contd. from pg 1*

the future of the nation is being sacrificed on the altar of economic gains being made in these centres rather than the sincere provision of good quality education," he said.

Prof. Okebukola said it was to address this problem once and for all that the federal government decided to close down the campuses and institutionalise a virile distance education programme organised around the National Open University.

The action of the commission according to Prof. Okebukola, is in response to the directive of the National Council on Education (NCE), the highest policy making body on education in Nigeria, which, in its 48<sup>th</sup> meeting held in Enugu last week, directed all universities operating satellite campuses to shut them immediately.

It would be recalled that the federal executive council, after its meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> November last year, had mandated the NUC to enforce the closure of satellite campuses by all universities in Nigeria.

In response to this, the commission had issued a six-month notice to all universities operating outreach centres to close them down. It is the universities' non-compliance with the directive that has prompted government's latest action.

To ensure compliance with the directive this time around, a task-force, headed by Prof. Placid Njoker has been constituted to oversee it.

"For the avoidance of doubt, the consequences of non-compliance with this NUC order are best avoided by the management of the universities and by students enrolled in programmes offered in these illegal satellite centres," the secretary said.

ALWAYS  
ADVERTISE IN  
THE DAILY  
TRUST

**Reps** *Contd. from pg 1*

House of Representatives passed a resolution not only to investigate the allegation, but also to declare a state of emergency in Ebonyi State if the need arises.

The position of the House followed the passage of a motion of urgent national importance on the alleged assassination attempt on Anyim moved by Rep. Tony Anyanwu.

Before the motion was debated yesterday, House Speaker, Ghali Na'Abba had expressed dismay at the dimension introduced into the Ebonyi crisis and described the assassination attempt on the Senate President as frightening.

Na'Abba warned that the House and indeed, the National Assembly would not fold its arms and watch as violence is introduced into politics, declaring that "a state of emergency will be declared on the state."

The Speaker who said he watched the report on the NTA network news, said "what I saw was frightening. To us, it is threatening to de-

mocracy. That sort of thing happening is quite serious.

"Attitude of state governors is bad. States in Nigeria should not be regarded as personal estates," Na'Abba said adding that the "basis of re-election should be performance. We will resist any attempt by any Nigerian to suppress competence.

"This game (politics) is all about that. It is the whole basis of politics," the speaker reasoned, even as he reaffirmed the readiness of the National Assembly to stamp out violence in the polity.

Even though its President that is being threatened, the Senate yesterday turned down a motion for the declaration of a state of emergency on Ebonyi State.

A motion sponsored by Senator Vincent Osunbor calling on President Olusegun Obasanjo to declare a state of emergency in crisis torn Ebonyi State was yesterday overwhelmingly defeated on the floor of the Senate.

Arguing the motion, Senator Osunbor lamented that the state had not known

# NEWS

## FG secures N1.5b World Bank loan for NEPA

Nigeria has received a \$100 million (about N1.5 billion) loan from the World Bank through the International Development Association (IDA) to improve long term power supply in the country.

The loan, described as interest free would be sunk into projects that would ensure reliable power supply, reduce distribution losses and increase long-term power supply in the country.

Briefing State House correspondents after the Federal Executive Council (FEC) meeting presided over by Vice-President Atiku Abubakar, the Minister of Economic Matters and Special Projects, Prince Vincent Ogbulafor, said government had already approved the splitting of NEPA into 28 different companies to handle power generation, distribution and transmission respectively.

Prince Ogbulafor who was flanked by the Minister of State for Power and Steel, Alhaji Murtala Aliyu disclosed that the amount

Stories by Suleiman Mohammed

has been split into three to take care of the vital sectors of power supply, namely distribution/transmission (\$85.69m), Institutional Development (\$12.34m) and Environmental Institution with \$1.7 million.

According to the Minister, the loan would further boost government efforts in ensuring steady power supply in line with the promise made by President Olusegun Obasanjo of achieving 4000 mega watts by December this year.

Giving details of the loan, the Minister of State for Power and Steel, Alhaji Murtala Aliyu, explained that the measure was aimed at re-enforcing the transmission system of power supply by NEPA, adding that a service charge of 0.75 percent was required for the loan.

According to him, when fully privatised, the power distribution and generation aspects of NEPA would be

handled by different companies, while government would maintain the transmission aspect for security reasons. "The transmission is the intercept between generation and distribution of power, and this involves the security of power supply. So, government will maintain it," he explained.

Alhaji Murtala Aliyu explained that government was desirous of achieving a steady power supply for the country, adding that so far, 26 out of the 79 power generating units in the country are fully operational, with a 2600 mega watts achieved.

Last week, the Director of the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE), Alhaji Nasir El-Rufai disclosed government intension to fully privatise NEPA next year (2002) when the electric power policy, legal and regulatory adviser jobs are fully completed.

The Federal Government has approved the establishment of a National Institute for Hospitality and Tourism, to boost the nation's tourism potentials towards generating foreign exchange.

Already, the Federal Executive Council (FEC), yesterday endorsed a draft bill for the establishment of the institute, subject to the approval of the National Assembly.

Briefing State House correspondents after the meeting, the Minister of Economic Matters and Special Projects, Prince Vincent Ogbulafor, said Nigeria is blessed with tourism potentials, which need to be exploited.

"There is the need to create an enabling environment for the operations of all institutions that are connected with harnessing these enormous tourism potentials," he said.

Prince Vincent Ogbulafor said for the purpose of effective utilisation of tourism

## Tourism institute underway

potentials in the country, there was need for an appropriate technique to be applied by professionals, saying that at in 18 months. He said this was to encourage the relocation of foreign embassies from Lagos



The Minister of Economic Matters in the Presidency, Prince Vincent Ogbulafor (right) and the Minister of State for Power and Steel, Alhaji Murtala Aliyu (left) at a joint press briefing on the outcome of the FEC meeting at the State House, Abuja ... yesterday. Pix: Kennedy Eghonodje

the moment, the nation lacks properly trained personnel for tourism.

Similarly, he said the meeting has approved the award of a contract for the installation of 11/0.415 KV permanent distribution network to individual plots within Embassy Zone, Central Business District, Abuja, amounting to N906.750 million. It is expected to be completed

to Abuja.

Also, the meeting considered and approved the provision of street lights at the Kano Eastern by-pass (Phases I & II), covering Zaria Road roundabout and Maiduguri Road at the cost of N395.289 million, awarded to Astac Nigeria Limited. It is expected to be completed in ten months.

# NEWS

## Nigeria worried about Israeli-Palestinian conflict

Nigeria has advised the Israeli and Palestine authorities to go to the negotiation table just as she expressed grave concern over the escalation of the crisis in the Middle East.

Vice-President Atiku Abubakar expressed Nigeria's position when he received a special envoy of the Israeli President, Amb. Ovadia Soffar, who brought a special message for President Olusegun Obasanjo.

He said Nigeria also condemned terrorism in whatever form and called on Palestine and Israel to go back to the conference table, rather than fighting.

According to the vice-president, Nigeria was greatly concerned about the deteriorating situation in the Middle East.

He told the special envoy that the message from the Israeli prime minister would be delivered to President Obasanjo once he returns from the state visit to China, and assured of Nigeria's readiness to be involved in any role demanded of her at

By Suleiman Mohammed

the peaceful resolution of the crisis, adding that it was on the basis of good relations between Nigeria and Israel that an ambassador was

recently sent to Israel.

The special envoy, Amb. Ovadia Soffar has told Vice-President Atiku Abubakar that he was in Nigeria to deliver a special message from his prime minister to President

Obasanjo.

He said Israel has great respect for Nigeria and had been enjoying a friendly working relationship with the country, stressing the desire for closer cooperation between the two countries.

The Israeli special envoy is on a tour of some

African countries ahead of the conference on racism, slated for this weekend in South Africa, where world leaders are expected to talk on the

escalating violence between the Palestinians and Israelis.

President Obasanjo is expected to deliver an address at the occasion.

## CBN warns states, LGs against reckless spending

Irked by the increasingly reckless spending by state governors and local government chairmen, the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has warned them to take proper measures that would check the trend.

The CBN Deputy Governor, Dr. Shamsuddeen Usman, who disclosed this on a British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Hausa service programme monitored in Abuja, maintained that governors and their chairmen have taken advantage of the recent increment in their monthly allocations by the Federal Government to invest huge funds on single projects.

He further expressed concern that despite the

By Mustapha Isah Kwaru

huge allocations received from the Federal Government, the governors and their chairmen are still seeking grants from the banks.

His words: "The amounts they are receiving are enough for them to use in carrying out

developmental projects.

"Once the price of oil falls, if adequate care is not taken, most of them would not even be able to pay their workers' salaries. This is because as at now, most of the local government chairmen and state governors spend 80 percent of their monthly allocation in paying salaries."

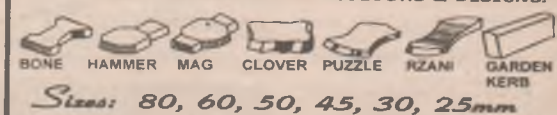
Dr. Usman then called on all the local government chairmen and state governors to set aside some funds to take care of any financial stress that may occur in future. He also advised them to avoid, as much as possible, projects that would entail squandering for loans from banks.



Joseph Sanusi

### DALTRADE GROUP OF COMPANIES

"LIDER" INTERLOCKING PAVING STONES  
FOR: PAVEMENTS PARKINGS DRIVE WAYS ROADS  
AVAILABLE IN VARIOUS COLOURS & DESIGNS.



Sizes: 80, 60, 50, 45, 30, 25mm

### "ACORE" EMBOSSED AMERICAN STEEL DOORS

Fire, Burglary, Noise and Termite proof.  
24-Gauge Embossed steel plate.  
Suitable for internal and external use  
Sizes: 75, 80, 90cm

Supplied with locks and metal frames

### SECURITY DOORS

Sizes: 70, 80, 90, 100, 120, 150, 180cm  
MUL-T-LOCK  
Made in Israel

### CLAROGLASS

DIMENSION: 19x19x8cm  
WEIGHT: 2.5kg  
PCS/SQM: 25  
COLOUR: Clear, Ambar, Sapphire, Blue, Green  
DESIGN: Various Designs.

- LAGOS: 16, Ilupeju By-pass, Ilupeju, Tel: 4966769, 4522140.
- ABUJA: Plot 525, Obafemi Awolowo Rd. Jabi, Tel: 5239657.
- KANO: 38, Ibrahim Taiwo Road, Tel: 633730, 633391.
- KADUNA: 2, Waziri Ibrahim Cresc., Abakpa GRA. Tel: 243172
- PH: Km 16, PH: - Aba Exp. Way, Link Advertising Building, Rumuokwurusu Town. Tel: 571626.
- BAUCHI: Jos Road, B/w Zanganda Hotel & Inland Bank Headquarters. Tel: 077-549971.

## NEWS

## CJ releases detained Libyan

A Libyan national held in detention for the past five years has finally regained freedom, following the Chief Judge of Niger State, Justice Jibrin Ndagiwo's order for his release.

The man, Mohammed Mansur, was detained by the police at the Minna Federal Prisons for alleged robbery even as no case could be established against him by the director of public prosecution in the state.

The chief judge, who was on the yearly tour of prisons in the state to decongest them, learnt of the inmate's plight and ordered his release accordingly.

The Controller of Minna Federal Prisons, Alhaji Labboi Ka'oje, drew the attention of the chief judge to the predicament of the alien who in the course of his detention, became deranged.

According to him, he had become a menace to other

From Kashim Sule, in Minna

inmates as a result of his insanity.

The controller told the chief judge: "My Lord, we have one inmate here who has been disturbing other inmates in custody as a result of his mental problem. In fact, my Lord, this man has been here for the past five years without being charged to court. He is so wild with other inmates that he has become a concern to us."



Chief Bola Ige

Moved by the sorrowful story, Justice Ndagiwo berated the police for confining a suspect in custody without the fear of Almighty God.

"You must put the fear of God in all your deeds on earth. If you detain suspects innocently, God will judge you according to your conscience. And you must be judged hereafter," the justice declared.

He, therefore, wondered why the suspects were kept in detention without establishing a case against them and warned that such an act of inhuman treatment must be avoided in the interest of justice.

The chief judge and member of his entourage, which included magistrates and area court judges, donated about N7,000 to the discharged inmate to ease his transportation to his home-country.

## FG poised to fight financial crimes

Worried by the rising trend of financial crime in the country, the Federal Government says it is making frantic efforts to reduce the trend drastically.

Dropping the hint in Calabar at the ongoing annual conference of the Nigeria Bar Association (NBA), the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, Chief Bola Ige, regretted that in recent times such trends of sophisticated financial crimes have always scared would-be investors in the country.

Declaring that there was every need to combat the crime in our society in order to give way for serious investors coming into the country to invest, the country's chief law officer, however, called for the total support of the members of the bar association to fight the menace.

Chief Ige also stated that

From Bassey Ita, in Calabar

it was time for NBA members to think positively about their roles in the court which he said is the temple of justice, advising that they take a new approach in their perception as members of the learned profession.

The minister regretted the delay in dispensing justice, emphasizing that so many case files were not attended to in courts.

He commended the Cross River State government for being the first to include non-indigenes in its free-legal services programme.

## FG rehabilitates facilities for ID card project

The Directorate of National Civic Registration (DNCR) has started rehabilitating its offices nationwide to ensure that the issuance of the national identity cards to eligible Nigerians, scheduled for early next year, was not marred by hitches.

An official source at the Ministry of Internal Affairs told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Abuja yesterday that the exercise involved the upgrading of facilities in all DNCR state offices, including thorough renovation of offices.

"We are making all our offices, which were hitherto in deplorable conditions, habitable and make them places where people can work and produce results," the source, which pleaded for anonymity told NAN.

The source further said that the renovation of the offices would be completed before the end of the year, while provision of facilities such as computers at the centres would start as soon as the exercise was

completed.

The source also said that the process of recruiting about 600,000 ad-hoc workers to be engaged for the issuance of the national identity cards, would start in October, adding that DNCR had started collecting applications from interested candidates.

"Though we have not advertised for the recruitment, some people have sent in their applications for consideration and we are going to screen and shortlist those qualified to work with us," the source added.

NAN also learnt that the Federal Government had begun the mobilization of human and material resources for the full implementation of the national identity card project.

"With the signing of the agreement between the Federal Government and SAGEM S.A. of France to formalize the contract, we are now mobilizing all the required human and material resources for the take-off of the project," the official said.

## Why Gov Adamu dissolved cabinet - Aide

The Nasarawa State government has explained that the recent dissolution of the state cabinet was not meant to witch-hunt any political group in the state.

The state government had last week dissolved the cabinet, an action which generated insinuations among politicians, particularly those in the opposing camp.

Clarifying why government decided to dissolve the cabinet, the Nasarawa State Director of Press Affairs, Mallam Rabi Abdullahi, told *Daily Trust* in Lafia that the action was aimed at injecting new blood into the system towards delivering democracy dividend to the citizens of the state.

According to him, "the cabinet shake-up has been in the pipeline for long, and this is not new in a democratic setting. It is part of the system."

Mallam Rabi Abdullahi denied reports that Governor Abdullahi Adamu had misunderstanding with some of the former commissioners, stressing that though as chief executive officer of the state, the governor has the right to hire and fire, "but in this case, there was nothing like witch-hunting or any misunderstanding with the cabinet members."

However, reports alleged that the governor was not satisfied with the activities of most of the former cabinet members, in addition to complaints received from the general public and the PDP

By Suleiman Mohammed

leadership in the state against some commissioners.

Meanwhile, anxiety has pervaded the state capital as speculations of the likely composition of the new cabinet rages on, with high expectation that no fewer than five of the former commissioners would be re-appointed.



### PUBLIC NOTICE STRIDES FOUNDATION

This is to inform the general public that the above named organisation wishes to register with the corporate Affairs Commission Abuja under Part "C" of the Companies and Allied Matters Act No. 1 of 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. Hon. Justice Abdulkareem Aruwa
2. Arch. Ibraheem Hussain
3. Mohammed Aruwa

Any objection to the proposed registration by any member of the public should be forwarded to the Registrar- General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Area 11, Garki, Abuja within 28 days from the date of this publication.

Signed  
MUHAMMED ARUWA

### PUBLIC NOTICE NIGERIA YOUTHS DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Notice is here by given that the above named Association has applied to be registered under PART C of the Companies and Allied Matters Act of 1990.

The Trustees are:

1. ITEKENA ABEL-TARIAH
2. MUNIR UMARU BABA
3. NASIR ISA KWARRA
4. GODDY NNADI
5. BODE AGBAOYE

Any objection to this Application should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Area 11, Garki, Abuja within 28 days from the date of this publication.

Signed  
MEMBER OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## WATCH OUT !

"Coming Out With A Bang"

As from Friday 7 September, 2001

## "TRUST TOURISM WEEKLY"

A four-page coloured Weekly Magazine on Tourism and Travels around the Globe in our *Weekly Trust* Newspaper.

Juicy Stories, Features, Events, Profiles on Tourism, Arts & Culture, Travels etc. (Very Informative, Educational & Entertaining)

You can't afford to miss this.

Book Your copy every Friday.

# That trip is unnecessary

**P**reparations are reportedly in top gear for members of the Kano State House of Assembly to embark on a two-week junket to the United States, Britain, Canada and some Far Eastern countries.

Apparently, the trip is to expose the "Honourable" members of the House to the practice of democracy in those countries. Each member of the House will receive \$6,400 as estacode for the period. A total of N90 million would be spent by the state government on the trip.

Already, prominent citizens such as Alhaji Tanko Yakasai of the All Peoples Party (APP), have mentioned that it is abnormal for all the members of the House to embark on a foreign trip. Alhaji Tanko is of the opinion that even in the earlier democratic experiments in the country, the procedure was that selected members of the relevant committees would be sent abroad for the purpose, rather than the entire House. Three members of the House have expressed opposition to the trip. They include Alhaji Abdullahi Yusuf Atta, representing Fagge constituency, Alhaji Abdullahi Gwarmai, the former Speaker, and Alhaji Abubakar representing Bichi constituency.

Interestingly, the idea of the foreign trip was initiated during the tenure of the former Speaker, who is opposed to the idea of the foreign trip now.

Daily Trust believes there is absolutely nothing wrong with the search for additional knowledge by a person or a group. This would expectedly lead to the enhancement of the nascent democratic structures at home, in this instance. Additional knowledge is always a welcome development in every instance, but to spend a whopping N90 million to sponsor virtually every member of the House, when resources are scarce, beats the imagination. Surely, a smaller number of Honourable members could be sent on the trip. Another question which arises now is in respect of the information which the Honourable members are in search of. It is true that such information is not available within the borders of Nigeria? Is it possible that such information could be accessed via the Internet too? In fact as one considers this matter, the borders around it become increasingly clearer, less complex, and overwhelmingly simple.

Throughout the country, there is evidence of waste and profligacy which is assuming alarming and even comical proportions. Meanwhile roads, hospitals, water supply, schools etc. are crying for attention. Unfortunately, the proposed trip, and the public uproar it has generated is uncomfortably close to some very dark periods in our nation's history, and everything should be done to avoid a retreat to the shadowy complexion of those untoward days.

Daily Trust feels that a cheaper and less scandalous method should be identified which would allow the honourable members the knowledge they do urgently need. Legislators are also supposed to stand as role models, and shining examples in all their activities. Members of the Kano State House of Assembly should remember the immortal expression which goes thus: *vox populi, vox dei* (the voice of the people is the voice of God).

A smaller number of legislators should be sent on the trip. The acquisition of knowledge certainly has nothing to do with numbers. Members of the House should listen to the voice of reason and avoid this squandermania.

## THURSDAY COLUMN

# How not to ruin the FCDA

By Nick Dazang

**T**he phenomenon of **job for the boys** is an age-old one anchored in political shibboleth and tradition. In the aftermath of an election, the president sets about forming his cabinet and authoring the inaugural/acceptance speech that enunciates, lucidly, his vision and the direction he intends to chart for his administration. Thereafter, he must come to terms with his party's bigwigs, mandarins and financiers. These, one way or the other, must be rewarded or compensated by being co-opted directly into government or where they may shy away from visibility, through their proxies.

The Obasanjo administration faithfully followed this pattern. After putting in place his government, he went out of his way to co-opt those who played active roles in bringing about his electoral victory. Whereas some were appointed into the cabinet, others were appointed to the boards of the numerous government parastatals and on part-time basis. And whereas some were lucky to be appointed to plum and money-spinning corporations, others were appointed to indigent ones.

It is a measure of how some politicians took their appointments that they organised parties to, in the popular parlance, "wash" these appointments. At the inauguration of the board of Aluminium Smelter Company (ALSCON) for instance, one potentate organised a carnival to greet his investiture. And while the inauguration went on, drummers and dancers had a field day, to the bewilderment of the management of the company which at the time was still grappling with working capital difficulties. Similar carnivals, made up of an accompaniment of goons and layabouts attended other board inaugurations. The carnival was thus not peculiar to, or restricted to ALSCON.

But if these carnivals, on the surface, were colourful entertainment and things of joy for those who were lucky to have been appointed, they were to provide an inkling and to give a foretaste of things to come. For no sooner had these boards been inaugurated than most of them - who ought to articulate policies for their corporations and to insist that these corporations comport themselves in concert with the policies - went haywire.

To appease their hangers-on and other dependents, most of them inundated their chief operating officers/chief executive officers with an avalanche of notes canvassing either for contracts or patronage. Well-heeled corporations such as the Nigeria Ports Authority (NPA), Nigeria Telecommunications (NITEL) became some of the chief victims. Their premises assumed the colouration of a bazaar. In fact, the pressure piled on the management of the NPA was such that the permanent secretary of the Ministry of Transport, which superintends over the affairs of the NPA, had to issue a paid statement calling for reprieve for the beleaguered NPA staffers. According to the permanent secretary, rather than do their work, at a point, NPA staffers spent about 80 percent of their time sorting out letters and notes brought by the wards/proxies of influential personages in the society. At the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), this writer has it on good authority that a board member has since commandeered a vehicle belonging to the company - which is not known to be a money-spinner or cash cow - and has converted it to his personal use. The upshot is that NAN, a poor cousin of such parastatals as NPA, NITEL or the NNPC, is further impoverished.

If these parastatals are coming under undue pressure from board members who are breathing down the necks of chief

executives and in some cases outrightly usurping their functions, the case of the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA) must stand out like a sore thumb. By the way, the FCDA has always been lumped with the Ministry of Federal Capital Territory (MFCT) for convenience, contrary to the vision of the Murtala/Obasanjo regime which wanted a separate FCDA to be charged with the development and building of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). With General Obasanjo's second advent to power, the MFCT and FCDA were split, an executive secretary appointed for the FCDA and a board subsequently appointed to supervise the executive secretary.

Since the inauguration of the board, however, its members have carried on like buccaneers, intent on running the FCDA aground. Consider: the chairman of the board, who flaunts his alleged and supposed proximity to the president, has since commandeered a wing of what used to be the engineering block to himself. He has also furnished it to his own taste and is reported to be on the verge of recruiting a special assistant and a personal assistant at the expense of the FCDA. In addition, when board members come to town, FCDA staff are at their wits' end trying to procure vehicles and other exotic appurtenances for board members who are in the habit of commandeering these vehicles for as long as they are in town. And whenever they come for board meetings, they stay for days on end, beyond the days slated for their meetings at the expense of the FCDA and they proceed, in the course of such protracted stays, on a spending spree that must make the profligate Sultan of Brunei green with envy. Meals are consumed with appetites that must rival old Gargantua himself. And telephone calls are made with a frequency that must task the staff of NITEL put together. Consider the facts: On May 21, 2001, one of the board members (staying at Abuja Sheraton, Room 0719) made a record 37 telephone calls at the cost of N26,650. The second day, May 22, 2001, the gentleman made 47 calls totalling N11,200. On May 23, 2001, this same gentleman had his laundry done at the cost of N19,020. This is not to add the sorties he and his "supporters" made to the bar and the restaurants. On June 6, 2001, this gentleman, a creature of habit, arrived for another board meeting and lodged in Room No. 0538. On the 14<sup>th</sup> June, he made 36 calls at the cost of N19,660 and he made seven sorties to the bakery shop!

Of course, this recklessness and binge is not peculiar to this gentleman. On 25<sup>th</sup> May 2001, another board member who put up at Abuja Sheraton in Room No. 0620 made 39 calls. There is yet another member who excels in making foreign calls. And on June 11, 2001, he lodged in Room No. 0765. Among his calls that day was a foreign one that cost N14,000. One can carry on *ad nauseam*.

It will certainly not be fair to globalise the FCDA's difficulties and the wantonness of its board members. Or to extrapolate or extend their sins to other boards. But with boards like those of the FCDA, which can be likened to a bull in a shop trampling upon every expensive china in its sight, it would be preferable if the CEOs of these parastatals carry on without any boards. This is because these boards acutely undermine the purposes for which they were constituted in the first place. Indeed, given the recklessness and hubris with which the board of the FCDA is carrying itself, this parastatal can only be pushed to a premature and inevitable ruination.

And whereas the irresponsibility of the board of the FCDA cannot, in all fairness be extended to all corporations, it is not out of place to suspect that similar brigandage is being



### LETTER OF THE DAY

#### Daily Trust, maintain your noble records

**P**lease endeavour to guard jealously your impressive records as one of the leading daily newspapers in the country.

As Nigeria is desperately searching for the way forward to its socio-political and economic problems, there is every need to redouble your efforts in informing and educating the public (as you have been doing) on their role in

realising the dream.

You are a source of encouragement and pride in these times when effective and efficient print media performance in a democratic setup. It is hoped that other media in the country would emulate your courage and objectivity.

May I use this opportunity to commend the deputy governor of Gombe State.

Barrister Joshua Lidani, for his general encouragement of self-reliance among the youths of Gombe State.

Barrister J. M. Lidani has been a symbol of peace and a role model whose contributions to the progress of Gombe State will continue to be appreciated.

Comrade Adamu Yayaji Gombe, Tudu Wada, Gombe, Gombe State.

visited on other parastatals either. This state-of-affair calls for a retreat of sorts where the responsibilities and limitations of board members should be clearly spelt out. Also, the government must put in place a mechanism to surveil the activities of these board members and where instances of recklessness occur, sanctions should be brought, remorselessly and instantly, on them.

Jobs for the boys, yes, but not jobs for brigands.

## Opinion

## The Nigeria Police: Before its ratification

By Joseph Aiyejoto

For the change of name to impact positively on not only the police but the society, at large, there is a need to completely overhaul the course and action of the institution itself.

During one of its recent meetings, the Federal Executive Council (FEC) approved the rechristening of the Nigeria Police Force to the Nigeria Police. If ratified by the National Assembly, this new name would become the nomenclature by which those in whose hands the security of civil society has been entrusted would be called.

Accordingly, the Minister of Transport, Chief Ojo Maduekwe, who explained government's position after the meeting, hinted that the decision was taken so as to strengthen the police to enable them meet the challenges ahead, and to pave way for the institution to be delivered from not only its paranoiac state but also to free it from the stigma of brutality and repressions that it has come to be noted for. In his words: "It (the new name) conveys the right message that we are now going to have a police formation that is not an occupation force and is not an instrument of colonial domination which sees itself as servants of the public." Indeed, the police have suffered a great deal in terms of its image in the time past. The toga of corruption, inefficiency, frustration, complacency loss of confidence and brutalities have always been identified with it. However, a change in name might not sufficiently suffice as a change in the *modus operandi* of the institution.

That the police have come of age in Nigeria is indisputable. From the colonial days when it was known as the Royal Force, not only its name has been changed but also its uniform. But the changes have not been able to salvage the image and operations of the police. If, therefore, we are to believe the words of Chief Maduekwe that: "This (the change in name) is not another cosmetic surgery, but a restructuring of the Nigeria police in order to deliver on the number one thing, that is, the basis for government, which is security," then, the government must take some concrete steps that will bring about a total turn around in the police. Though the issue of image laundering is very important so as to redeem its battered image, this should not in my opinion be given much priority as against the total overhauling of the institutional structure of the police needed at this point in time.

As the bill passes through the scalpel of the National Assembly, its Committee on Police Affairs should not fail to consider what they would finally present to the House in defence of the need to have the Force removed from the Nigeria Police. A change of name will definitely bring about a change in character and behaviour only when something is put in place. If the government would not want its efforts to be one in futility or if it would not want to witness a repeat of the events after the police uniform was changed (twice in less than 10 years), then, action must speak louder than words.

First and foremost, the welfare of the police must be catered for to boost their morale. The "we in you carry" and "bring your particular" syndrome on our roads and the "shake body" palaver in cases of arrests and detention can be avoided if the rank and file in the Police are given enough pay that would take care of their needs. To this end, their package should be sufficient to take care of their food, shelter and clothing. The extenuating circumstances in the nation whereby the rich and the highly placed in the society oppress the poor and the wretched of the earth should be considered with a view to bridging the gap and reducing the level of oppression and suppression in the society. The situation that permits an individual to use the police as a vessel of oppression should be greatly addressed and checked.

Besides, since the police are supposed to provide security for the people (lives and property), the security of their own lives should also be guaranteed by the authority of state. How can a man protect another man's life when his own is in danger? Their lives need some level of protection too. Apart from rewarding them handsomely for meritorious service, a form of life insurance policy should be established for them. Therefore, anti-violence and anti-crime gadgets should be provided for the police. They should also be given good communication apparatus that will enable them to be in constant touch with their formations so that in case of emergency, reinforcement can be provided at the appropriate time. The need for proper orientation and re-orientation should not be neglected as well. In fact, those already in the police should be re-trained in not only the art and act of combating crime and violence, but also in the aspect of sociology. Prospective policemen should be given proper training in the areas mentioned above. If need be, the number of months spent during their training should be increased in order to enable them acquire enough knowledge and understanding of the mechanisms of their calling or profession.

For the change of name to impact positively on the society, the government and members of the institution and the society itself must put all hands on deck to salvage not only the image of the police but also its operations. Even though it is called the celestial police, without a change of course and action, the whole exercise would turn out to be new music, old dance and the effort would definitely meet with stiff resistance and defeat, if the status quo is allowed to thrive. Therefore, whatever plans the government may have for a repositioned Police; intention should be merged with implementation.

Aiyejoto is a staff of Daily Trust.

## Of higher democratic dividends

By Alfred C. Njoku

The high rate words and expressions in English Language gain currency is enough testimony to the fastest growing status accorded the language. This is even more noticeable in a multi-linguistic situation like Nigeria where the language is for official use only. "Democratic dividends", as an expression, has gained currency as the civilian administration in the country is about to coast home midway into its four-year mandate.

The phrase was initially used by many of the current political office holders, especially President Olusegun Obasanjo while espousing the goodies that await Nigerians with the advent of a democratic order. Later, it became part of the daily vocabulary of the media when it dawned on all that the graveyard face of many a Nigerian during the military era might reappear if complaints of hard times were not made loud enough. Voters had no other option but to remind political office holders, always seen by the electors clad in flowing Senegalese *kaftans* and shoes polished to mirror radiance, of their electioneering promises, thus the demand for dividends of democracy, in form of the good things of life. What triggered off the clamour for democratic dividends was the high cost of goods and services, which shot through the roofs consequence of high exchange rate of the naira against major world currencies.

Obviously responding to the mood of the people at the time, state governments, in particular, mounted intensive campaigns to showcase their achievements in the areas of provision of social amenities, through earned and paid opportunities available in the media. Information commissioners swung into action as they granted interviews, espousing their governors' achievements since assumption of offices. They also conducted guided tours for newsmen to "safe" areas of their states for news hunts to verify the claims made. Absentee Commissioners returned to their areas to brief the people at the grassroots

Public office holders strive to prove provision of democracy dividends to justify their tenures, but derivable democratic gains are not difficult to identify

of efforts being made to turn the lime of the military era to lemonade.

Largely, media reports of developmental efforts of the civilian regime gave pass mark to majority of state governments and scored the government at the centre low. And as should be expected in a clime like ours, the Information Minister, Professor Jerry Gana cried foul over the not too impressive media reports of the efforts of the federal government since assumption of office. Initially, he accused the media of bias, but later withdrew the accusation apparently in realisation of absence of a well thought out information management of the Obasanjo administration. The minister with his team went to the drawing board, so to say, and came out with the on-going media tour of democratic dividend sites that dotted the nation's landscape as media reports are now revealing. It has now dawned on the Obasanjo administration that information management is more than the weekly briefing. No wonder Professor Gana has now abandoned the weekly routine for a more serious fieldwork.

As the on-going tours of the sites of "goodies" of democracy are being reported almost on a daily basis, it seems nobody acknowledges the intangible dividends of democracy, which Nigerians are already savouring, from inception of this civilian administration. In other climes they are referred to as higher dividends of democracy. They include the basic freedom of choice and dissent; freedom to be what you set out to be; the right to freely associate and canvass an opinion. Not left out is the freedom to publicly question (or circumvent government) and to demand good governance.

It is the higher dividend of democracy or the freedom of choice and dissent that embolden the likes of members of Oodua Peoples Congress (OPC); the Bakassi Boys; the Arewa Peoples Congress (APC) and the Egbesu Boys to now openly disagree with the power that be on issues dear to their hearts. If not for higher

democratic dividends the Labour-inspired protest against hike in pump-head price of fuel would have been forced down our throats. Thank God for democracy, only the three political parties registered by the military would have continued to lay claim to legitimacy. The fledgling political associations would have been sent underground.

Interactive sessions involving the rulers and the ruled are now the order of the day. It is part of the right of the ruled to question the ruler. The method being adopted, especially in some states could be faulted, but that such opportunity exists is gratifying. The monthly Presidential Media Chat should be seen in the same light.

These are the intangible dividends of our nascent democracy. And they are the true dividends that every democracy-loving Nigerians should cherish and defend. They are the pillars of a democratic order which when fully realised and appreciated could be used in assessing how democratic and responsive a democratically elected government is. It is the achievement realised in the area of intangible democratic dividends that will propel both the government and the people toward the realisation and appreciation of the tangible ones.

While it is excusable for people with the kind of unpleasant experience we had with the military to easily forget, it is unpardonable for a democratic government not to ingrain in the psyche of the citizenry those noble gains which make government of the people for the people thrives. America is today regarded as the bastion of democracy because of the higher democratic dividends, which the people will not exchange for other material benefits.

Sincerely, one hopes that the Obasanjo administration will put in place concrete programme of action that will promote basic democratic ideals, especially the concepts of freedom of speech and the right to publicly question those

in government. The freedom of the press, which the paid adverts of the motley crowd of Vote for Obasanjo and Atiku (VOA) campaigners are celebrating on the pages of newspapers, is just part of the freedom of speech. This reference is not to diminish the administration's modest achievement in the area of press freedom but much is yet to be done on this front. Suffice is to say that there is more to freedom of speech. Even Transparency International, the world's watchdog over corruption, holds that there is a world of difference between freedom of speech and freedom of the press. And I tend to agree. It is only when the man on the street can question those in authority including the civil servants on all aspects of governance that the polity will be better for it.

Equally of note is the effort of the Office of the Special Adviser to the President on National Assembly Matters in the sensitisation of the people at the grassroots level on the need for them to participate in legislative and governmental matters. It is gladdening that the office is aware of a basic fact: that the survival of democracy depends largely on the part of those in power in informing the people of their activities in government or office. The people should also be empowered to demand and question those overseeing affairs on their behalf. And this must have informed the on-going sensitisation of the electorate for their participation in legislative and governmental matters. It is instructive in one respect that the sensitisation began in the North-West geographical zone. This is the zone where the State Governors who are amongst the northern Governors accused by the Arewa elders for doing practically nothing to better the lots of the people since their assumption of office despite increase in state shares from the federation accounts.

It is only when government fully sensitise the people on all aspects of its programme that they can understand and empathise with those in power in times of difficulties.

Njoku wrote in from Abuja.

## A clash of the Titans?

By Emmanuel Gabari

Radio and television stations in Kano, owned by the state government have been rather remiss, on excuses of breaking down equipment. Things are however likely to liven up with the arrival of a new FM radio station in Kano.

The Kano State Broadcasting Corporation was established in the eighties. It houses both the AM and FM, but the FM is purely for the indigenous minds, and it became the toast of the people of Kano. They had vibrant, creative and innovative presenters and announcers. They also had quite a number of educative and entertaining programmes. Everyone was pleased with the performance of both the radio station and its crew.

We also had the then CTV 67 (now STV 67), the television wing of the Kano State Broadcasting Corporation. Even though their programmes were not too rich then, they were able to carry out their duties as a state-owned TV. NTA a federal TV station was also running alongside STV. So the people of Kano had two TV and two radio stations to rely on for news, entertainment, information advertisements, etc.

Things went on well for years, until recently, when they took a nosedive for the FM station in Kano.

First it was NEPA. There was always power failure and the FM station blamed their being off-air on this. Then NEPA started behaving well and the situation did not change at the station. Listeners would be enjoying a programme and before you know it, FM has gone off-air again. *Haba!*

It was quite offensive and annoying as well. Of late, the FM station has been heaping blames on its transmitter or transformer. The question most listeners are asking is: Can't these equipment be changed? How can a once vibrant radio station become so

indifferent and complacent about the needs of its listeners? Every TV/Radio station seeks to please its listeners, because they know that is where they get money from adverts and commercials.

Most pitiable are the announcers and presenters who after thorough researches, fact-finding and sleepless nights in gathering materials for their programmes; come to the studio only to discover the frequency being yanked off-air by an obsolete transmitter or transformer. It is quite frustrating.

NTA Kano is also guilty of this complacent behaviour. Imagine Kano people watching Network News at 9 pm only for the TV Station to go off 10 minutes into the programme. By the time they fix the generator or whatever technical problem, the newscasters would have been rounding up the programme.

Concerned listeners have made frantic efforts and several phone calls to the management of the station on the negative effect of these happenings on the station, nothing has changed. People have talked and complained seriously but the station has not bothered to listen.

Now, there is a new dawn in Kano. Ray Power 2 FM stereo is the latest thing to happen to radio lovers. They have proven to be a caring friend.

People are going through a lot in the struggle to survive and soothing music to ease their tension will be highly appreciated by them. Good music has a subtle but appealing force of calming frail nerves and putting a smile on a tired and depressed face.

I know the state broadcasting corporation will not find Ray Power 2 FM's presence in Kano funny. But ironically, this seems to be the fight of two elephants. It is just that the grass (that is the listeners) are not going to suffer, but will instead enjoy the pleasure of quality sound and good package from whoever wins.

We are watching and waiting. I hope it is not a case of 'winner takes all'.

Mr. Gabari is an employee of the Armed Forces Specialist Hospital, Kano.



## YOUR LETTERS

### Re: Herbal surgeon of Zaria

It was intriguing reading the above titled story in your sister paper, *Weekly Trust* of June 29 - July 5, 2001. If the story was carried by some tabloids in the Lagos-Ibadan axis, I wouldn't have blinked. But such stories coming from a reputable paper like yours is not just unfortunate but irksome and repugnant. It is disturbing to read such fairy tales like "ailment oozing out through the umbilicus" in this age when people are better educated and well enlightened.

I do not doubt the efficacy of some herbs/traditional medicines. But when it comes to invoking names and the umbilicus opens up and oozes the "ailment in liquid and mucus-like residue" one begins to wonder whether we are still in the dark ages when we could not differentiate the real from the imaginary. One does not have to be a scientist to know how the umbilicus looks like. So, to convince any sane person that the umbilicus really opens and something oozes out is like squeezing water out of a stone. If the title of the story was "Doctor Halima Turawa: the magician of Zaria" I wouldn't have written a rejoinder because we have seen magicians turn paper into money and chicken into goat. But we all know that this is *abracadabra* or what the Hausa call *rufa ido*.

One interesting aspect of the story was when the reporter said "during the period of taking the drugs, the ailment gradually

accumulates in one place. Thereafter the patient is ready for operation . . . and the ailment oozes . . ." You know these were the post-dinner folktales we were told when we were young. And even then we took the stories with a pinch of salt. And if I may ask why is it that in all patients reported, what oozes out of the umbilicus is the same irrespective of the ailment. One would have expected different strokes for different folks.

'Doctor' Halima was reported to have said that there is no ailment for which she does not have a cure. It is my belief that any mortal who makes such a statement is indisputably fake because

no mortal has the key to all the locks in the world.

Come to think of it, your newspaper has done a great disservice to the nation by 'advertising' something which is unproven and untested. The danger is that people with ailments that could successfully be treated the orthodox way may prefer to patronise 'the surgeon who operates without the use of the scalpel'. Worse still is that even women who cannot deliver through the birth canal may prefer to have their babies oozed out of the umbilicus, unscathed!

Your story is a sad reminder of what happened in Maiduguri during the tenure of Governor Buba

Marwa. One Hajiya Zulai claimed to have the panacea for all diseases, and when her clients were interviewed they all corroborated her powers to make the cripple walk, the deaf hear, the dumb talk and the leper regain his hands and feet. But the powers that be were not blind to this hanky-panky, and when the government presented genuine patients, the invocations could just not work and so the government barred her from her circus performance. Hajiya Turawa in my opinion is Hajiya Zulai reincarnate and so she does not deserve a place in your esteemed newspaper.

**Dr. M. B. Bukar,**  
Federal Medical Centre,  
P. M. B. 0037, Gombe,  
Gombe State.

### Let's have polo on video

I would like to appeal to the Nigeria Polo Association (NPA) to encourage the sale of polo games on video. It is not possible for many lovers of polo to attend tournaments, most especially young Muslim girls, as majority of the audience are male.

I love polo but it is difficult for me to attend such tournaments in my state, (Kano) because I will not be allowed at home to attend, even if I am allowed, I cannot feel comfortable to watch it because of the male audience and more so I am a shy person. So since I cannot attend and I love the game, I had to look for videocassettes of the game to buy, but surprisingly, I couldn't find them in the market.

I am therefore appealing to NPA to always make video or CD cassettes of tournaments available for lovers of the game who are not disposed to attend tournaments.

Finally, I will like to congratulate Mr. Aminu Alhaji and his bride (though I don't know her name). I caught the glimpse of the wedding tournament pictures printed in one of the editions of *Weekly Trust* and I have to say that I am one of the fans of Mr. Aminu Alhaji.

**Sis Nabeelah,**  
P. O. Box 731, Kano

### Welcoming the Yobe State Polytechnic in Geidam

The idea of establishing a polytechnic in the state at this material time is not a mean achievement, as the young state needs a more determined technological breakthrough to catch up with other states in the federation. Since there is no gainsaying that technology is the backbone of every development, the establishment and siting of the state polytechnic is a decision taken by the government in the right direction.

In addition to the establishment of the institution in the state, its location in Geidam clearly demonstrates this administration's commitment to spreading of development evenly across the state. This fact can be seen where Geidam, one of the four big towns in the state now has a state polytechnic.

Gashua has a college of education, Nguru has a college of legal and Islamic studies and Potiskum has a college of administration and business studies, a federal college of education (technical) as well as a federal government girls' college.

The choice of Geidam as the site for the state polytechnic in spite of all odds, is highly commendable.

May I however use this forum to appeal to the people of Geidam to be united in welcoming this great gesture from the government. All indigenes are expected to come forward and contribute in any way possible to the successful takeoff of the polytechnic in Geidam.

**Mutawalli Kachalla Barko,**  
P. M. B. 1060,  
Damaturu,  
Yobe State.

### Do a thorough job please

I am happy with the current investigation by the Katsina State House of Assembly, of local government councils in all the senatorial districts of Katsina State. My appeal is that the committee should be fair and just in the discharge of its assignment.

It is a well-known fact that from the inception of this administration to date, huge sums of money have been

allocated to the councils from the federation account, but there is nothing to show for the huge allocation at the grassroot level in terms of development or improvement of the standard of living of the local populace. Instead, the chairmen have ended up building houses for themselves and acquiring flashy cars.

It is in this light that I am commending the Katsina State House of Assembly for setting up the committee to investigate the spending of councils under its jurisdiction. I would therefore urge the committee to do a thorough job and bring the erring chairmen to book. Alhaji Mohammed Abdu, No. 5 Co-operative Super market Road, Off Mohammed Bashir Road, Daura, Katsina State.

### Re - State involuntary euthanasia

I read with deep sorrow the pathetic story of Miss Sharifat Abdulrahman now languishing in central prison, Kaduna in your edition of August 16, 2001.

However, I disagree with Shehu Sani's hypothesis on the prison authorities as well as the state for not releasing the convict simply because

she is now tested positive for HIV/AIDS. I expect Shehu Sani to assist the convict by contacting the Sujud Foundation at Kano for the treatment of the convict rather than pressing for her release which will be disastrous to the public.

What needs to be done is to assist in mobilising public-

spirited members of the society in footing the bill which is N50,000 for the complete therapy as advertised in the front page of *Daily Trust* of the same date.

**Ayuba M. Saidu,**  
P. O. Box 3448,  
Sokoto,  
Sokoto State.



# EDUCATION TAX FUND

## INTERVENTION IN EDUCATION SECTOR

### LIST OF YEAR 2000 RECONCILED PROJECTS IN THE BENEFICIARY INSTITUTIONS NATIONWIDE

AS AT 30 TH JULY, 2001

#### South-South/North Central Zones

S/N	STATE	INSTITUTIONS	YEAR 2000 ALLOCATION	RECONCILED PROJECTS	APPROVED COST LIMIT
1	AKWA-IBOM	University of Uyo, Uyo	20,000,000.00	i) 2nos. 500KVA Generator (Water cooled) ii) Contingency	19,950,000.00 50,000.00 <u>20,000,000.00</u>
		Akwa -Ibom State Polytechnic, Ikot-Osuru	10,000,000.00	i) Renovation of Lecturer's office block ii) Expansion of Medical Centre iii) Provision of borehole/tank	456,996.96 3,367,190.24 6,175,812.80 <u>10,000,000.00</u>
		Akwa -Ibom State College of Education, Afaha-Nsit	8,000,000.00	(i) Construction of 1no. six classroom block and staff offices (ii) Fencing of the College(1 <sup>st</sup> PHASE: 200 metres) (iii) Purchase of 1no. Sharp Copier	6,376,666.03 1,399,365.00 223,968.97 <u>8,000,000.00</u>
		Akwa -Ibom State College of Agriculture, Obio Akpa	5,000,000.00	i) Const/extension of Lecture hall Library ii) Const/extension of 1 blk. of 3 class/off iii) Const. of goatery & sheep buildings iv) Procurement of furniture: a) 15 no lecture's tables/ 3 chairs 18,900 b) 152 no student's desks/benches (3 scater 4,200)	966,108.30 1,186,856.00 1,895,135.70 283,500 638,400.00 <u>5,000,000.00</u>
		Maritime Academy of Nigeria, Oron.	5,000,000.00	i) Installation of 1 line Bourdex Digital Phone linked to Eket ii) Installation of 1 line Micro wave system linked to calabar iii) Installation of 2 lines Rural Phone system linked to Uyo	1,783,419.00 895,000.00 2,352,000.00 <u>5,000,000.00</u>
		Ministry of education (for Equipment for the Handicapped)	1,000,000.00	i) 1 no speech trainer ii) 1 no screening auditor iii) 1 no lister 7.5KVA gen set iv) 1 no computer (pentium/printer) v) 180 reams of Braille sheet at 1,500	180,000.00 230,000.00 200,000.00 120,000.00 270,000.00 <u>1,000,000.00</u>
		Ministry of Education (for Senior Secondary Education)	20,405,479.45	A. PURCHASE OF SCIENCE EQUIPMENT i) G.T.C., Abak (Biochem&Physics Equip) ii) G. T. C Ikot Akata Biochem/Physics Equip iii) G.T.C. Ewet B. 7 other S/S's v) SUPPLY OF FURNITURE vi) Supply of 3nos.computers to M.O.E. Uyo	1,384,950.00 1,384,950.00 1,384,950.00 9,694,650.00 4,755,977.10 1,800,000.00 <u>20,405,477.10</u>
		Akwa -Ibom State Primary Education Board	44,745,736.35	Rehabilitation / Renovation of Structures in the 31 LGEAS of the State: i) Group Primary School, Etebi Akwata ii) A.C.C Primary School, Awa Ubium iii) Primary School, Ibioto Ndon iv) Government Primary School, Uboro v) Government Primary School, Uko Uyumim vi) Methodist Primary School, Odobo, Okobo vii) Q.I.C Primary School, Okoyo viii) Government School, Ikot Ada Idem ix) Government School, Ukot/Mbak Uno x) St. Michael's Primary School, Eyo Nsek xi) Methodist Central School, Ibiaku Ntok Okpo xii) Methodist Primary School, Ibiakpan xiii) Lutheran Primary School, Owot Uta xiv) Nsit District School, Obot Idim Nsit xv) Methodist Primary School, Out Abiyam xvi) Government Primary School, Ikot Ibiok xvii) Government School, Ikot Amba/Ikot Ossom xviii) Govt. School, Uko Itak Edesi, Isong Inyang xix) Q.I.C Primary School, Ikot Edet xx) St. Silas Primary School xxi) St. James Primary School, Ibam Edet xxii) Primary School, Ishiet Erong xxiii) St. Peter's School, Ibiaku Issiet xxiv) Primary School, Ikot Ebok xxv) Samuel Spiritual Primary School, Ette xxvi) St. Patrick Primary School, Urua Inyang xxvii) Q.I.C School, Ibeno xxviii) Govt. Primary School, Ntiat xxix) Annang People's School, Obio Ndot xxx) Govt. Primary School, Ifa Atai xxxi) Annang People's School, Afaha Obong N/B: Altogether, 14 Schools have been substituted for new ones. (Grand total	1,445,000.00 1,445,000.00 1,445,000.00 1,445,000.00 1,445,000.00 1,445,000.00 1,445,000.00 1,445,000.00 1,445,000.00 1,445,000.00 1,445,000.00 1,429,000.00 1,429,000.00 1,429,000.00 1,429,000.00 1,429,000.00 1,429,000.00 1,455,063.00 1,455,063.00 1,455,063.00 1,464,403.00 1,455,063.00 1,424,822.80 1,455,063.00 1,455,063.00 1,455,063.00 1,455,063.00 1,455,063.00 1,428,731.85 1,455,063.00 1,428,731.85 1,428,731.85 <u>44,745,736.35</u>
				TOTAL ALLOCATION FOR AKWA-IBOMSTATE	114,151,215.80
2	BAYELSA	Niger Delta University, Wilberforce Island	250,000,000.00	i) Construction of Administration block ii) Construction of 12 units of 4 bedrm bungalow with studies at 15,710,918.84 iii) Contingency-professional fees	51,791,791.40 188,531,026.08 18,267,202.29 <u>250,000,000.00</u>



S/N	STATE	INSTITUTIONS	YEAR 2000 ALLOCATION	RECONCILED PROJECTS	APPROVED COST LIMIT
		Ministry of Education (for Senior Secondary Education)	20,405,479.45	Renovation: i) H/E Lab. Block @ SJGS. Amarata ii) Classrm blks. At NNGS, Nembe, GGSS Bassambiri & CSS Toru - Ndoro iii) Construction of Science lab. At GSS Foropah iv) Supply of 569 dual desks @ #4,400 each	3,456,589.50 6,521,784.95 7,923,505.00 2,503,600.00 <u>20,405,479.45</u>
		Bayelsa State Primary Education Board	11,547,286.80	RENOVATION: (i) SSI Ologoghe (ii) CPS 1&2, Sabagua (iii) CPS Koroama (iv) CPS Agoro (v) SGPS Onyuma SUPPLY: (i) 168 dual seats at SLS, Nembe (ii) 168 dual desks at CPS 1&2, Ekeremor (iii) 168 dual desks at SBPSI 1&2, Brass	1,573,141.65 1,777,016.90 1,897,499.90 2,331,014.62 1,751,014.62 739,200.00 739,200.00 739,014.00 <u>11,547,286.14</u>
		Bayelsa Special Project	1,020,050.00	A. Blind i) 3 no Perkins Braille at 95,000 each ii) 2 nos Typewriters (Carina II) 25,000 each iii) 4 nos Mobility canes at 1,000 each iv) 10 nos writing frames at 300 each v) 10 nos Stylus at 1,000 each vi) 10 nos Arithmetic Cubes at 100 each vii) 10 nos Drawing Set viii) 20 nos Drawing Sheets ix) 10 nos Cubarithm Board x) 4 nos Talking Calculator at 100 each xi) 2 nos Tape Recorders (V/Speed) 10,000 xii) 3 nos light braille sheet at 333.33 xiii) 20 nos heavy braille sheet at 150 each xiv) 5 nos Abacus at 500 each xv) 4 nos Braille Textbooks at 2,000 each xvi) 8 nos Games for the Blind at 2,000	285,000.00 50,000.00 4,000.00 3,000.00 10,000.00 1,000.00 1,000.00 200.00 10,000.00 1,000.00 20,000.00 1,000.00 3,000.00 2,500.00 8,000.00 <u>16,000.00</u> 415,700.00
		Bayelsa Special Projects	1,000,000.00	B. Deaf i) 20 nos Over projections at 4,000 each ii) 2 nos cassette recorders at 10,000 each iii) 2 nos transparencies at 5,000 each iv) 5 nos carina II Typewriter at 25,000 v) 6 nos Hearing Aids at 5,000 vi) 4 nos model for the Ear at 4,000 each vii) 12 nos Games for the Deaf at 1,666.66 viii) 2 nos Audiometer at 41,650 each C. Crippled i) 4 nos Wheel Chairs at 15,000 each ii) 2 nos Adjustable Crutches at 2,500 each iii) 4 nos Tricycle at 20,000 each iv) 2 nos Adaptable buildings at 2,500 each v) 10 nos Sewing machines at 5,000	80,000.00 20,000.00 10,000.00 125,000.00 30,000.00 16,000.00 20,000.00 83,300.00 <u>384,375.00</u> 60,000.00 5,000.00 80,000.00 5,000.00 <u>50,000.00</u> 200,000.00
				Total (A + B + C) - TOTAL ALLOCATION FOR BAYELSA STATE	<u>1,020,050.00</u> 282,972,816.25
3	CROSS-RIVER	University of Calabar, Calabar.	20,000,000.00	i) Construction of 600 seat pavilion ii) Drilling of borehole iii) Elevated water tank for faculty of Arts iv) Professional fees	16,266,361.88 1,861,125.00 1,596,161.00 276,352.12 <u>20,000,000.00</u>
		The Polytechnic, Calabar	10,000,000.00	i) Const. of a block of 4 crooms/lecture halls ii) Reactivation of 1 no. 584KVA Gen. Plant iii) Furnishing of Library iv) Rehabilitation of Medical Centre	6,397,650.00 1,110,150.00 1,089,000.00 1,403,200.00 <u>10,000,000.00</u>
		Federal College of Education, Obudu	8,000,000.00	i) 2 Toyota Hiace 15 seater buses 3,000,000 ii) 1 pentium 111PC 1,000,000,000 iii) 10 600VA Ups 30,000 each iv) 10 HP Laser Jet 1100 printers 60,000 v) 10 Jet scanner 50,000 each	6,000,000.00 1,000,000.00 300,000.00 600,000.00 100,000.00 <u>8,000,000.00</u>
		College of Education, Akampa	8,000,000.00	i) Extension of College Lib. / Computer Lab. ii) Construction of workshop (2 Bays)	2,740,026.60 5,259,973.40 <u>8,000,000.00</u>
		IBB College of Agriculture, Obubra,	5,000,000.00	(i) Const. of Academic staff blk. (27 rooms) (ii) Provision of electricity to Biology, Chemistry & Physics labs. (iii) Completion of Piggery house (iv) Renovation of large Ruminant (Cow) house	4,006,580.00 400,000.00 305,920.00 287,500.00 <u>5,000,000.00</u>
		Ministry of Education (for Equipment for the Handicapped)	1,000,000.00	A Item for the Blind i) 3 nos Braille machines 70,000 each ii) 5 nos portable typewriter 25,000 each iii) 5 nos tape recorder at 2,000 each iv) 10 reams of Braille paper at 5,000 each v) 30 nos collapsible mobility canes 5,000 vi) 30 nos writing frames at 300 each vii) 50 nos Abacus at 500 each viii) 30 nos Talking calculator at 100 each	210,000.00 125,000.00 10,000.00 50,000.00 150,000.00 9,000.00 25,000.00 3,000.00 <u>582,000.00</u>
				B. Items for the Deaf i) 20 nos Hearing Aids at 5,000 each ii) 5 nos Cassette Recorders at 5,000 each iii) 20 nos Anatomical model for the ear 4,000 iv) 3 nos carina II typewriter at 25,000 each C. The Physically Handicapped i) 8 nos Wheel Chair at 17,250 each	100,000.00 25,000.00 80,000.00 75,000.00 <u>280,000.00</u> 138,000.00
				Total (A + B + C)	<u>1,000,000.00</u>
		Ministry of Education (for Senior Secondary Education)	20,405,479.45	RENOVATION OF: (i) 3 classrooms at Apostolic Sec. Sch. Idong (ii) 5 classroom blk. At G.S.S Creek Town (iii) Classroom/Admin blk. At CSS Okuni (iv) 6 classroom block at G.C.S.S. Mfom (v) 6 classroom block at G.S.S. Obudu (vi) Classroom blk./staff room at C.S.S.Ekori (vii) 6 classroom blk. At C.S.S. Bandi	1,606,856.37 2,057,251.37 2,210,993.37 2,132,291.59 2,254,629.37 2,792,536.59 2,249,551.59

# TRUST INTERNATIONAL

AFRICA &amp; THE MIDDLE EAST

## Race conference:

### Activists to stage anti-globalisation protest

The eight-day World Conference Against Racism (WCAR) starting in Durban tomorrow has been turned into an opportunity for activists from all over the world to join forces in the fight against economic inequalities and globalisation.

This emerged on Tuesday in Durban where civil society organisations met under the aegis of the Durban Social Forum - a movement led by African National Congress stalwart Dr Fatima Meer and renowned anti-globalisation activist Denis Brutus.

The organisations have organised an anti-globalisation march tomorrow.

There was a strong feeling

## Rebels shun Sierra Leone peace process

Rebels in Sierra Leone said they were suspending co-operation in the peace process as a protest against the postponement of elections by the government.

President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah had said it was necessary to postpone elections due this year until the disarmament process that accompanies the current ceasefire was complete, because voters would not feel secure until this was done.

British troops back the elected government of President Kabbah and their presence is widely believed to be the only thing which stopped the rebels seizing power during attacks last year.

A spokesman for the Revolutionary United Front, Djibril Massaquoi, told the BBC that his movement wanted the immediate formation of a coalition government to be made up of all political groups, including his own.

The rebels are protesting at what they see as an attempt by the Sierra Leone Government to prolong its stay in power.

The rebel's statement is, potentially, a very dangerous development.

It is not yet clear what the rebels mean by "suspending cooperation in the peace process."

Mr Massaquoi stressed that his movement was not going to resume fighting.

But he was vague about whether his men would now stop giving up their guns as they have been doing under a United Nations-sponsored disarmament plan.

that the issue of reparations should feature high on the agenda of the conference at Tuesday's meeting held at Kingsmead Stadium.

Speaking to Sowetan Brian Ashely of Jubilee South Africa said the issue of reparations must be seen in the context of continuing economic inequalities between the countries that were colonised and their colonisers.

Ashley said as part of reparations, debt that the developing world owed the International Monetary Fund should be cancelled.

"The form of reparation that we are calling for includes economic, ecological and historical reparation," he said.

"It is not the south that owes the north, it is the other way round," Ashely said.

Ecological reparations entailed addressing the theft of land from indigenous people by their colonisers and the abuse of the land for financial gain at the expense of sustainable development, Ashely said.

The National Land Committee's Andile Mngxitana said the issue of the landless could not be divorced from racism.

In South Africa, for example, through colonialism and apartheid, the indigenous people were robbed of their land and the legacy remained today when the landless were mainly black.



Grace Arach, 20, talks about her ordeal of five years as a captive of the Ugandan Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in Kampala, Uganda, during a conference aimed at demolishing barriers to education for African girls.

## Ivory Coast postpones reconciliation talks

A proposed political reconciliation meeting in the Ivory Coast has been postponed for a month.

The last two years have seen levels of political and ethnic violence unprecedented in Ivory Coast with at least 200 people killed.

President Laurent Gbagbo announced earlier on Tuesday that he had invited all the main political figures in the country to a national reconciliation forum on September 7.

But the swift decision to postpone it until October 9 suggest that the talks could already be foundering and turn into major embarrassment for the president.

Government officials said they would give the reasons for the delay at a press conference.

The leaders invited include ousted president, Henri Konan Bedie, former military ruler, General Robert Guei and opposition leader, Alassane Ouattara.

However, none of the three has yet confirmed he will attend and reports say that it is possible that this is the real reason for the delay.

The main opposition leader Alassane Ouattara, has implied he will not come unless a ban on his standing for political office is lifted.

Former military ruler, Robert Guei, has been vague, about his intentions, and there are also question marks over the attendance of former President

Bedie.

Over the past two years Ivorian politicians have been subject to mounting criticism from world leaders, and human rights groups alike, for the way in which ethnic violence has been encouraged.

Meanwhile, the New York-based group Human Rights Watch has accused the security forces of targeting northerners and muslims, seen as supporting opposition leader Alassane Ouattara in last year's elections.

The report, "The New Racism" was released ahead of the United Nations World Conference against Racism, which opens in South Africa Tomorrow.

## Palestinians fire Jewish settlements in Jerusalem

Bullets and mortar bombs have hit a Jewish settlement on the edge of Jerusalem overnight despite an Israeli army thrust into a nearby Palestinian-ruled town that was intended to silence such shooting.

Israeli troops had re-occupied parts of the West Bank town of Beit Jala early Tuesday to try to end months of firing on the Gilo settlement, which Israel terms a neighbourhood of Jerusalem.

The United States, Israel's staunchest ally, called for Israel's withdrawal from the town near Bethlehem.

In the Gaza Strip, Israeli tanks and bulldozers rumbled into the Palestinian-ruled Deir

Peter Takirambudde, head of HRW's Africa Division said: "The World Conference should condemn the Ivorian leaders who have promoted intolerance based on ethnic and religious differences."

"Africans have often been the victims of racism but they can also be perpetrators," he said.

The group said that more than 200 people were killed in the past year, while others were tortured, raped and arbitrarily detained.

It called this "state-sponsored violence," saying that the paramilitary police, or gendarmes, were largely responsible.

## 'Missing' Besigye resurfaces in US

The Ugandan opposition leader who was reported missing by his family more than a week ago said he fled to the United States.

Kizza Besigye said on American radio that he left because he felt in danger from the government of President Museveni.

The mystery surrounding his disappearance has been dominating Uganda's newspapers.

Dr Besigye is a former ally of Mr Museveni, but stood against him in presidential elections in March this year.

Police declared him a missing person last week and speculation as to his whereabouts has been dominating Kampala's newspapers.

Mr Besigye told *Voice of America* radio that he wished to remain politically active, but gave no date for any return to Uganda.

"I left on the evening of Friday (August 17) and I did so mainly because I felt that my security was quite compromised and in danger," he said.

A presidential spokesman told AP news agency that Mr Besigye's claims that his life was in danger were a "figment of his imagination".

"Since his official opposition to the ruling movement's politics, nobody has killed or injured him. For whatever reason, he has gone where he wants to be."

Mr Besigye has repeatedly complained of harassment at the hands of the security services.

Mr Besigye's wife, parliamentarian Winnie Byanyima, said that she had been warned that treason charges were being prepared against her husband and that the security forces had stepped up their surveillance recently.

After losing the election in March, Mr Besigye went

to court to challenge the results on the grounds that the state had used force, intimidation and violence, but he lost the case.

Since then, the security forces had twice prevented him from leaving Uganda.

Uganda's media said that Mr Besigye drove into Kenya before flying into South Africa, before catching a South African Airways flight last Friday to New York.

At least six of his supporters were reported to have fled with him.

The State Department said he has asked to see US officials.

## US retaliates Iraqi attack on plane

The United States said that its fighter planes have struck two military targets in southern Iraq.

Tuesday night's attack was part of continuing efforts to degrade Iraq's recently improved air defences, the Pentagon said.

A spokesman denied that the raid was in direct retaliation for Baghdad's claim on Monday that Iraqi forces had shot down an unarmed US reconnaissance aircraft.

Pentagon sources have, meanwhile, confirmed that charred wreckage found near the southern city of Basra is almost certainly that of the Air Force Predator drone which went missing.

But they said that it remained unclear whether the aircraft was attacked or went down on its own.

"Hitting one of those drones is not a lot to boast about. If it was shot down, the Iraqis probably did it with anti-aircraft guns and not a missile," said one official, who asked not to be identified.

Iraq, however, is in no doubt about what happened and has been celebrating the shooting down of the plane.

Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz said the incident proved Iraqi air defences had become more advanced in spite of sanctions, something Washington said that it is worried about.

The government press was also in jubilant mood.

"Iraqi skies are a death zone for the enemy," said *Al-Jumhuriya* newspaper.

State television had earlier broadcast pictures of what it said was the mangled wreckage of the plane with American markings.

If confirmed, it would be the first aircraft the Iraqis have shot down in the 10 years since Western planes began enforcing the two "no-fly" zones in northern and southern Iraq.

Iraq, which does not recognise the zones, said hundreds of people have been killed and many more injured in raids which were routinely carried out by the US and Britain.

# TRUST INTERNATIONAL

# World Report

## Japan refuses to extradite Fujimori

The Japanese Government has said it will not extradite Peru's former President, Alberto Fujimori, despite a decision by the Peruvian Congress to charge him with murder and crimes against humanity.

A spokesman for Japan's foreign ministry said Tokyo did not extradite Japanese nationals, and that there was nothing more to say at this point.

Japan has been consistent in its support of Mr Fujimori since December when his Japanese citizenship was confirmed.

Japan and Peru have no extradition treaty.

"The Japanese Government has not changed its stance," a Japanese foreign ministry spokesman was quoted as saying by the AFP news agency.

"There is nothing new to say about Mr Fujimori at this point."

But the BBC correspondent in Tokyo said that international pressure could force Japan to reconsider its position.

Mr Fujimori fled to Tokyo last year to escape corruption charges after his intelligence chief was secretly filmed handing out bribes.

Peru's Congress has voted unanimously to charge the disgraced former president with murder and other serious crimes.

The charges against him stem from an official investigation in Peru which says

it found evidence that Mr Fujimori authorised army death squads as part of a strategy to fight left-wing rebels in the early 1990s.

The charges, including murder, inflicting serious injury and kidnapping, relate to the killing of 15 party-goers in Lima in 1991 and nine university students a year later, allegedly by a paramilitary death squad.

The former president is alleged to have authorised the crimes and afterwards congratulated those involved.

The murder charges are the most serious against Mr Fujimori to date - so far he had only faced charges of abandonment of office and dereliction of duty, which carry a maximum two-year prison sentence.

The death squad allegedly run by Mr Fujimori's former intelligence chief, Vladimiro Montesinos, gunned down 15 people at a barbecue at a Lima tenement building in 1991.

They also kidnapped and executed nine students and a professor at La Cantuta University in 1992.



An Albanian guerrilla fighter plays a flute as he sits among his comrades who wait to hand over weapons at a collection point set up in a house in the village of Brodec.

## Albanian rebel leader marks conflict's end

The leader of the ethnic Albanian rebels has said that the armed struggle in Macedonia is finished.

As NATO troops began the third day of the operation to collect weapons from his

National Liberation Army, guerrilla leader Ali Ahmeti said the new task is to make sure the peace process holds.

Ahmeti said the Macedonian government and the country's ethnic Albanian minority must "continue to live together."

Ahmeti, who rules his forces from the tiny mountain village of Sipkovic, has agreed to let his forces hand over its weapons to NATO troops in a mission set to last 30 days.

NATO began Operation Essential Harvest on Monday during which, several hundred weapons, mines, mortars and thousands of rounds of ammunition were surrendered.

But the operation is not without controversy.

Macedonian Prime Minister Ljubco Georgievski has said that the rebels retain 60,000 weapons, a claim dismissed by Ahmeti.

"I think this is all a political campaign," said Ahmeti. "Their greatest fear is that they will lose position."

According to the disarmament plan, Macedonian security forces and ethnic Albanian rebels are supposed to withdraw from positions where they are in close contact.

But in Macedonia's second-largest city, Tetovo, about 200 angry Macedonians blockaded a road used by the military on Tuesday in an attempt to prevent the army from withdrawing heavy weaponry from its positions.

Many Macedonians fear that without the army's protection, they could be attacked by the rebels.

"We made this barricade to prevent soldiers from pulling out," said Snezana Krstevska, 56, a Macedonian from Tetovo.

"We will never leave and they can pass only over our dead bodies."

## NATO scribe inspects peace operation process

NATO Secretary-General, George Robertson has visited Macedonia yesterday to inspect "Operation Essential Harvest", the alliance mission to collect weapons from ethnic Albanian guerrillas in the former Yugoslav republic.

Robertson faced skepticism from members of the Macedonian majority, who doubt that the 3,300 arms NATO aims to collect is anything like the rebels' full arsenal and question whether the guerrillas will hand in any of their best weapons.

Antonio Milososki, the Macedonian government spokesman, said on Tuesday that the operation should be renamed "Museum Harvest" as the weapons collected would be

nothing more than museum pieces.

NATO officials insist comments like those by Milososki, an ally of outspoken Prime Minister Ljubco Georgievski who heads a cabinet divided between hawks and moderates, do not reflect the views of the mainstream.

They point out that the mission, which began on Monday and is scheduled to last 30 days, is being carried out at the invitation of the Macedonian government as part of efforts to stop the country sliding into civil war.

The tense situation in the country was underlined just hours before Robertson's visit as a blast thought to have been caused by a bomb went off at a primary school for ethnic Albanians in a suburb of the Macedonian capital Skopje early yesterday.

## DIPLOMATIC Suite

## Congo: That peace may reign

By Musa Aliyu

Matonge, a district in the heart of Kinshasa, the Congolese capital, is enveloped in a sombre mood reminiscent of the series of wars Congo has witnessed since independence in 1960. Everywhere is simply quiet, solitary and full of fears of the unknown. It, in a nutshell, symbolises Congo in its entirety: a land where even the mighty have crashed to tiny bits with great consequences for the people.

The Democratic Republic of Congo has witnessed so much misery in the four decades of its independence. Its troubles began no sooner than it gained independence. An army mutiny had taken place and almost simultaneously Katanga, its mineral-rich province attempted to secede. It barely rattled out only to plunge into a more devastating crisis. Patrice Lumumba, the first Prime Minister, had been murdered by soldiers loyal to defence chief, Joseph Mobutu. The ensuing crisis culminated in a civil war that for many months sought to tear Congo to shreds.

Joseph Mobutu who later became Mobutu Sese Seko and who also renamed the country Zaire will best be remembered for the many roles he played in dragging Congo to the brink. Apart from the fact that he imposed military dictatorship at the expense of democracy, Mobutu institutionalised corruption, poverty and worst of all perfectly implemented western agenda by forging an alliance with the US in the cold war era.

His unflinching disregard for financial transparency and accountability earned him the reputation - "moving bank in a goatskin hat." He was said to have diverted public funds to personal accounts and became much richer than his country. But for the likes of Mobutu Sese Seko, Congo with all its resources has no business being humbled by poverty and want.

## The truth is that peace in Congo is from all indications elusive. But it is also true that Joseph Kabila's ascendance to power has to some extent kept the country considered as Africa's third largest together.

One man who came with lots of promises, fought and wrested power from Mobutu's hand was Laurent Desire Kabila. A graduate of political philosophy from the French University and briefly a close companion of the South American revolutionary, Ernesto Che Guevara, Kabila never lived up to expectation. The euphoria that saluted his victory over Mobutu's army soon faded out with his failures increasingly manifesting. His only success, a relative peace, was short lived. Guevara himself had many years earlier dismissed him as a poor revolutionary with an overbearing weakness for women and drink (alcohol). Thus, Kabila by his poor performance did not disappoint the late Guevara nor those who doubted him from the onset.

A new war initiated by his one-time friends, Rwanda and Uganda, supporting indigenous rebels took over Congo. Some five years after celebrating his enthronement, Congolese once again were confronted with the reality of not only lamenting the drift but also to mourn another of their leaders' death. Exactly like Lumumba, Laurent Kabila had been assassinated. Although in his case, one of his guards was responsible.

The truth is that peace in Congo is from all indications elusive. But it is also true that Joseph Kabila's ascendance to power has to some extent kept the country considered as Africa's third largest together. Joseph may be a reluctant, quiet and not so charismatic leader as his critics are wont to say, but in fairness to him he inherited Congo in tatters.

Joseph, a war lord himself, has his neighbours, Zimbabwe, Angola and Namibia to thank for helping to keep the rebels in check. Now he is heading for a landmark feat. Reason is that for the first time since hostilities resumed, all the warring parties have had the chance to come to a round table talk. With them were opposition political parties and civil society representatives. Together they sought to forge ahead, recognising their common need to keep Congo's future alive.

Hopefully, the Gaborone parley may have marked the end of Congo's griefs and perhaps could act as the final seal against the killings, starvation and abject poverty our brothers in Congo have gone through. We may as well behold the new dawn, the long-awaited totem; The Botswana peace initiative.

## Taleban probe of group for spreading Christianity continues

The Taleban authorities in Afghanistan have said that their investigation into alleged proselytising by foreign aid groups is not yet over - three weeks after they detained eight foreigners on charges of spreading Christianity.

Taleban spokesman Abdul Hai Mutmaen told Reuters that although the first important phase was now over, it did not mean the investigation was completed.

The eight foreigners - two Americans, two Australians and four Germans - have denied spreading Christianity.

Foreign diplomats who visited them in detention said they appeared to have been well-treated.

It was the first time they had been visited by consular representatives since their detention. Two American women among the detainees were also seen by their parents.

Mr Mutmaen said the outcome of the Taleban probe into alleged proselytising might not be known soon.

He said investigators were still looking into a possible link between Shelter Now International - which the eight foreigners worked for - and other foreign aid groups.

He also indicated that no decision had been reached yet on what punishment the detained aid workers might face.

The diplomats who visited them say the Taleban have agreed to allow them further visits to the detention centre in Kabul.

They have also asked for permission to monitor the legal process involved in connection with any plans to try the aid workers on charges of promoting Christianity.

Sixteen Afghans were also arrested with the foreigners and there is concern that they may face harsher punishments under the Taleban's strict interpretation of Islamic law.

Under the law, the foreigners face a short prison term followed by deportation for the crime of trying to persuade an Afghan to renounce Islam.

But the law for Afghans stipulates death for anyone who converts as well as for the person who instigated the conversion.

Continued from page 9		YEAR 2000 ALLOCATION		RECONCILED PROJECTS		APPROVED COST LIMIT
S/N	STATE	INSTITUTIONS	YEAR 2000 ALLOCATION	RECONCILED PROJECTS		APPROVED COST LIMIT
				SUPPLY OF TECH. EDUC. EQUIPMENT TO:		684,600.08
				(viii) Tech. Education board		1,084,617.46
				(ix) Ajessor technical College		1,554,917.40
				(x) Okpashi Technical College		692,617.46
				(xi) Clement Ebiri Technical College, Obudu		1,084,617.46
				(xii) Regiaka Technical College, Obudu		<u>20,405,479.45</u>
		Cross-River State Primary Education Board	25,981,395.30	Renovation of School Blocks at 17 in State:		1,443,410.85
				i) Ren. of 5 Clrms at Govt. P. Sch, Itigidi, Abi		1,443,410.85
				ii) Reh/Ren. of PCN P/S, Iko Ekperem 3 clrm		
				iii) Reh/Ren. of 5 clrm blk at Holy Ghost Primary School, Ikot Ede Odo		1,443,410.85
				iv) Production of 124 sets teachers tables/chairs for 13 Pry Sch. Bakassi		1,443,410.85
				v) Ren. 4 clrm of Pry School, Ikanda		1,443,410.85
				vi) Ren. of 2 clrm blk at PCN Sch, Abini		1,443,410.85
				vii) Ren. of 3 clrm Primary School, Ntamante		1,443,410.85
				viii) Ren. of 6 clrm blk at Housing Estate P/S		1,443,410.85
				ix) Ren. of 5 clrm of Apostolic P/S, Idang St.		1,443,410.85
				x) Ren. 4 clrm/office of P/S Etomi		1,443,410.85
				xi) Ren. of 5 clrm/store of PCN P/S Ikom		1,443,410.85
				xii) Ren. of 4 clrm of Central P/S, sankwalla		1,443,410.85
				xiii) Ren. of 6 clrm of Holy Child Convent School, Ofodua		1,443,410.85
				xiv) Ren. 6 clrm/office at St. Theresa's Primary School, Kakum, Ipong		1,443,410.85
				xv) Ren. of 3 clrm/office of Primary School, Ikot Okon Abasi		1,443,410.85
				xvi) Ren. of 4 clrms.office, libraries at St. Ben's Primary School, Igoli, Ogoja		1,443,410.85
				xvii) Ren. of 5 clrms at St. Pius Pry Sch, Nko		1,443,410.85
				xviii) Ren. 8 clrms at St. Joseph's P/S, Okuku		<u>1,443,410.85</u>
						<u>25,981,395.30</u>
				<b>TOTAL ALLOCATION FOR CROSS RIVER STATE</b>		<b>98,386,874.75</b>
4	DELTA	Delta State University, Abraka	20,000,000.00	NOT YET RECONCILED		1,500,000.00
		Petroleum Training Institute, Effurun, Warri	5,000,000.00	i) 1 no. Bench top A/C demonstration		60,000.00
				ii) 1 no. Refrigerator unit		400,000.00
				iii) 4 nos. Drafting table		30,000.00
				iv) Computer software for Engineering Drawing		10,000.00
				v) Wet & Dry bulb Hydrometer		1,000,000.00
				vi) 1 no. 400-500 Amps Diesel Water Cool Lincon Machine		
				<b>PROCUREMENT:</b>		661,000.00
				i) 6 nos. computer / accessories		165,000.00
				ii) 3 nos. HP Deskjet 895 @55,000 each		174,000.00
				iii) 3 nos. A/C @58,000 each		1,000,000.00
				iv) Library books		<u>5,000,000.00</u>
		Delta State College of Education, Agbor	8,000,000.00	(i) Construction of a block of 9nos. lecturers' offices		6,797,985.42
				(ii) Renovation/Rehabilitation of students' centre		718,940.00
				(iii) Provision of recreational facilities for the students' centre		<u>483,074.58</u>
						<u>8,000,000.00</u>
		Delta State College of Education, Warri	8,000,000.00	Construction of a block of offices in the School of Vocational Studies		8,000,000.00
		Federal College of Education (Technical) Asaba	8,000,000.00	Purchase & Installation of Ino. 350KVA generator		8,000,000.00
		Delta State College of Agriculture, Ozoro	5,000,000.00	(i) Purchase / Installation of a 500KVA Transformer		4,827,574.00
				(ii) Procurement of Library books		172,426.00
						<u>5,000,000.00</u>
		Ministry of education (for Equipment for the Handicapped)	1,000,000.00	NOT YET RECONCILED		
		Ministry of Education (for Senior Secondary Education)	20,405,479.45	Rehabilitation of:		2,905,500.00
				(i) Agbor Tech. College blk. A & B		2,929,959.14
				(ii) Burutu Grammar Sch.		2,915,068.49
				(iii) Mosogar Sec. Sch.		2,915,068.49
				(iv) Oghareki Sec. Sch.		2,938,910.68
				(v) Okpara Boys Sec. Sch.		2,891,226.30
				(vi) Issele Uku Tech Coll.		<u>2,909,746.35</u>
				(vii) Otibio Grammar School		<u>20,405,479.45</u>
		Delta State Primary Education Board	36,085,271.25	Construction / Supply of pupils' dual desks / benches in 25 Primary Schools in 25 LGEAS of the State:		1,440,000.00
				i) Aniocha North 360 nos at 4,000 each		1,440,000.00
				ii) Aniocha South 360 nos at 4,000 each		1,440,000.00
				iii) Bomadi 360 at 4,000 each		1,440,000.00
				iv) Ethiope East 360 4,000 each		1,440,000.00
				v) Burutu 360 4,000 each		1,440,000.00
				vi) Ethiope West 360 4,000 each		1,440,000.00
				vii) Ika North East 360 4,000 each		1,440,000.00
				viii) Ika South 360 4,000 each		1,440,000.00
				ix) Isoko North 360 at 4,000 each		1,440,000.00
				x) Isoko South 360 at 4,000 each		1,440,000.00
				xi) Ndokwa East 360 at 4,000 each		1,440,000.00
				xii) Ndokwa West 360 at 4,000 each		1,440,000.00
				xiii) Okpe 360 at 4,000 each		1,440,000.00
				xiv) Oshimili North 360 at 4,000 each		1,440,000.00
				xv) Oshimili South 360 at 4,000 each		1,440,000.00
				xvi) Patani 360 at 4,000 each		1,440,000.00
				xvii) Sapele 360 at 4,000 each		1,440,000.00
				xviii) Udu 360 at 4,000 each		1,440,000.00
				xix) Ughelli North 360 at 4,000 each		1,440,000.00
				xx) Ughelli South 360 at 4,000 each		1,440,000.00
				xxi) Ukwani 360 at 4,000 each		1,440,000.00
				xxii) Uvwie 360 at 4,000 each		1,440,000.00
				xxiii) Warri North 360 at 4,000 each		1,440,000.00
				xxiv) Warri South 360 at 4,000 each		1,440,000.00
				xxv) Warri South-West 360 at 4,000 each		<u>36,085,271.25</u>
				<b>TOTAL ALLOCATION FOR DELTA STATE</b>		<b>111,490,750.70</b>
5	EDO	University of Benin, Benin city	20,000,000.00	NOT YET RECONCILED		
		Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma	20,000,000.00	NOT YET RECONCILED		
		Federal Polytechnic, Auchi	10,000,000.00	Construction of Phase I of the School of Environmental Studies.		10,000,000.00
		Edo State College Of Education Ekiadolor	8,000,000.00	(i) Purchase of Steyr Tractor & Slasher		4,900,000.00
				(ii) Provision of modern language Laboratory		2,000,000.00
				(iii) Rehab. & Expansion of computer centre		600,000.00
				(iv) Rehabilitation & Expansion of Health Centre		<u>500,000.00</u>
						<u>8,000,000.00</u>

S/N	STATE	INSTITUTIONS	YEAR 2000 ALLOCATION	RECONCILED PROJECTS	APPROVED COST LIMIT
		Edo State College Of Agriculture, Igboriakhi	5,000,000.00	Construction of a block of four classrooms	5,000,000.00
		Ministry of Education (for Equipment for the Handicapped)	1,000,000.00	i) 4 nos perkins Brailier ii) 60 nos writing ferme at 550 each iii) 12 nos tape recorders 5,000 each iv) 20 nos collapsible mobility canes 2,000 v) 60 nos stylus at 150 each vi) 3 nos overhead projector 60,000 each vii) 20 nos talking calculator 1,500 each viii) 8 nos typewriter (cavina II) 30,000 each ix) 24 nos hearing aid 2,500 each x) 25 reams of Brailier sheet 2,000 each	260,000.00 33,000.00 60,000.00 78,000.00 9,000.00 180,000.00 30,000.00 240,000.00 60,000.00 50,000.00 1,000,000.00
		Ministry of Education (for Senior Secondary Education)	20,405,479.45	(i) Procurement of workshop tools & Equip students benches at Benin Tech. College (ii) Rehab. of Elect. Workshop & Procure. of elect. F/ Stud. bench. at Igarra Tech. College (iii) Procurement of Students furniture repair of electrical fittings at Afuze Tech. College (iv) Renovation / Rehabilitation of Schools in 9 S/S in the State	2,000,000.00 1,600,000.00 1,000,000.00 15,805,478.78 20,405,479.45
		Edo State Primary Education Board	25,981,395.30	i) Ren. of 7 clrm Ogun Pry Sch. Ekpedo ii) Const. of a blk of 3 clrms/off Imiava Primary School, Imiava iii) Ren. of 6 nos clrm Osele Pry Sch Okpekpe iv) Ren. of 6 nos clrm and 6 nos students Azama Primary School, Jattu v) Ren. of 8 nos clrms. 4 stores block A&B at Usobua Primary School, Otuo vi) Const. of a new block of 3 clrms/office at Owere Primary School, Uhoromora vii) Ren. of 10 nos clrms/office Eko-Ojemen Primary School, Ewu viii) Ren. of 10 nos clrms/office Efadion Primary School, Uromi ix) Ren. of 10 nos clrms/office block A&B Okaighben Primary School, Ewohimi x) Ren. of 7 nos clrms Ujoelen Pry Sch. Ekpoma xi) Const. of a new block of 3 clrms/office Idumeka Primary School, Igueben xii) Ren. of 8 nos clrms/offices Eweka Primary School. Use xiii) Ren. of 5 nos clrms Akugbe Pry School, Oka xiv) Const. of 5 nos clrms from existing DPC level 8 an attached office Aruosa Primary School, Benin-City xv) Ren. of 5 nos clrms/office Adolor Primary School. Ohezenaka xvi) Ren. of 6 nos clrms. 6 nos stores Ise Primary School, Utekon xvii) Ren. of 6 nos clrms block A&B Okokpon Primary School, Okokpon xviii) Ren. of 6 nos clrms, 6 nos stores Okeze Primary School, Okhuaihe	1,304,146.00 1,950,072.00 1,284,640.00 1,140,675.00 1,400,131.00 1,950,072.00 1,415,911.30 1,317,307.00 1,351,137.00 1,472,723.00 1,950,072.00 1,121,281.00 786,618.00 2,059,064.00 1,218,478.00 1,476,336.00 1,194,522.00 1,588,210.3 25,981,395.3
				<b>TOTAL ALLOCATION FOR EDO STATE</b>	<b>110,386,874.75</b>
6	RIVERS	University of Port-Harcourt, Port-Harcourt	20,000,000.00	Construction of 4nos. 4-bedroom semi-detached staff houses	20,000,000.00
		Rivers State University of Science & Technology, port-Harcourt	20,000,000.00	NOT YET RECONCILED	
		Rivers State Polytechnic, Bori	10,000,000.00	Construction of 2nos. block of six-classrooms @#5 million each.	10,000,000.00
		Rivers state College Of Education, Rumuolumeni	8,000,000.00	i) Purchase of 10 nos. Computers ii) Equipment / furniture for Computer center iii) Classroom furniture iv) 15 nos. Olympia Typewriters v) 1 no. Ignis deep freezer vi) 5 nos. Sharp Fridges	2,400,000.00 1,000,000.00 2,000,000.00 1,989,000.00 60,000.00 200,000.00 8,000,000.00
		Federal College of Education (Technical) Omoku	8,000,000.00	Procurement of equipment: i) 10 nos. computers with accessories for the computer centre @#240,000 each ii) 23 nos. Manual typewriters @#35,000 each iii) 1 no. brand new 504 station wagon (new) for T/P supervision iv) 10 nos filing cabinets (4 drawers) for exam at 20,000 each v) 6 nos 1.5HP A/Cs (National) at 55,000 each vi) 5 nos Electric typewriters at 70,000 each vii) procurement of electric kiln (for fine arts dept)	2,400,000.00 805,000.00 2,600,000.00 200,000.00 330,000.00 390,000.00 1,315,000.00 8,000,000.00
		Ministry of Education (for Equipment for Handicapped.)	1,000,000.00	Item for the Blind i) 24 nos Talking Calculator at 1,850 each ii) 6 nos tape recorder at 35,000 each iii) 10 reams of drawing sheet at 3,500 each iv) 11 nos new gen mathematics at 6,500 each Item for the Deaf v) 5 nos JVC Video at 35,000 each vi) 5 nos JVC TV Fseves at 42,810 each vii) 1 no mono cassette duplicator viii) 20 nos Joy of singiaing at 2,660	44,400.00 213,000.00 35,000.00 71,500.00 175,000.00 214,000.00 286,950.00 53,200.00 1,000,000.00
		Ministry of Education (for Senior Secondary Education)	20,405,479.45	CONSTRUCTION OF: (i) 5 clrms @GSS Gwara (ii) La. @ GSS Ataba-Andoni (iii) 3 clrms @GSS, Opkoro-Epeya (iv) 4 clrms @CSS, Ido (v) 4 clrms @Mgbuosimini (vi) 4 clrms @GTC. PH. (vii) Workshop blk. @GTC, Ele - Ogu RENOVATION OF: (i) 3 clrms @ GSS, Ndoni (ii) 7 clrms @ Nsoni (iii) 5 clrms @ CSS, Igbo-Etche Supply of 80nos. 3 sdeater desk to GTC, PH	1,997,460.00 2,000,000.00 2,000,000.00 2,000,455.00 2,642,965.50 2,000,000.00 2,452,109.95 1,664,815.00 1,296,290.00 1,893,080.00 2,452,109.95 20,405,479.45
		Rivers State Primary Education Board	33,198,449.55	Provisions of school furniture into: i) CPS, Ogonokom, Abual/Odual LGA ii) FMSC Ebililagh. Kugbo iii) CPS Okporomini. Ahoada East iv) State School, Ochiba v) State School. Upatabo, Ahoada West vi) State School. Ikodu-Ekpeye vii) State School. Abissa, Akuku-Toru viii) State School. Obonoma ix) CPS, Ataba, Andoni x) CPS, Ajakajak xi) St. Michael School II, Buguma Asari-Toru xii) Govt. School, Bonny	620,000.00 620,000.00 620,000.00 620,000.00 620,000.00 620,000.00 620,000.00 620,000.00 620,000.00 620,000.00 620,000.00 620,000.00

# BUSINESS DAY

## FG raises N4b from auto levy

By Ahmed Shekarau

The Federal Government has raised about N4 billion from the two percent National Automotive Council (NAC) levy imposed on automobile assembly plants and accessory firms operating in the country.

The Minister of Industry, Chief Kola Jamodu, who disclosed this at the 1st Nigerian Automotive Investors Forum Tuesday in Abuja, stressed that the automotive council has proposed to the government, the setting up of an Auto Development Fund (ADF).

Jamodu, who was represented by the Minister of State in the Ministry, Mr. Lawrence Nwuruku, said the ADF when operational, "would make loans available to bonafide stakeholders in the automobile industry at concessionary interest rates."

These loans, Chief

Jamodu emphasised, would enhance the productivity and capacity of the stakeholders in the country.

The minister also disclosed that NAC, in conjunction with the Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON) has proposed for the setting up of an Auto Test Centre which would address the perennial problem of low patronage of locally manufactured auto parts in preference to imported ones by auto assemblers in the country.

He also spoke on efforts to produce an affordable made-in-Nigeria car through the provision of research grants to tertiary institutions in the country to conduct studies in that direction.

The minister said it is a general consensus among all stakeholders that "the

Nigerian auto industry is sick, and requires urgent "surgical treatment" if it must play its role in the current effort to move the nation's economy forward.

In his remark, the Senate President, Senator Anyim Pius Anyim, noted that the forum was timely, particularly in view of the problems hindering the successful take-off of the

nation's industrial sector.

Anyim, who was the special guest of honour at the forum, tasked the participants to identify all problems facing NAC, assuring of the National Assembly's support in promulgating any legislation that would enhance the growth of the automobile industry if sent to it by the council.



Kola Jamodu, Industry Minister

## CBN boss identifies bane of SMEs

From Ibrahim Dan Halilu, in Kaduna

Poor access to finance has been identified as the major bottleneck hindering the attainment of the full potentials of the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Nigeria.

The Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (Domestic, Monetary and Banking Policy), Dr. Shamsuddeen Usman, stated this at a one-day workshop on Small and Medium Industries Equity Investment Scheme (SMIEIS), held in Kaduna on Tuesday.

Dr. Usman, whose keynote address was delivered by Alhaji Ibrahim Garba *mni*, a director in the agricultural finance department of the CBN, noted with great concern that despite their enormous contribution in employment generation, the small and medium industries contribute only 10-15 percent of the nation's manufacturing output.

The deputy governor said the workshop was organised to create awareness on the equity investment scheme as a source of finance for the small and medium industries to address the problem.

He further identified inadequate and inefficient infrastructure, extreme bureaucracy, lack of incentives to promote the sector, multiplicity of taxes and levies from the three tiers of government as other factors militating against the development of the sector.

Dr. Usman who buttressed his claim with figures, stressed that the poor condition of the small and medium industries was made worse by the dormant status of the finance institutions charged with the responsibility of financing the sector.

"The situation is now made worse because most of the development finance institutions (eg NIDB, NBCI, NERFUND, NEXIM) have not been functional as expected for some years now, while externally sourced finance are no more forthcoming," he noted.

According to the deputy governor, the SMEs have found it difficult to access fund from the conventional banks and the capital market, because the banks were not willing to take the risk associated with such enterprises.

## Expert predicts another 'blow out' in Nigeria's banking industry

President of All Africa Media Inc., a U.S.-based communication and financial outfit, Mr. Armadou Mahatar has said that there will be another "blow out" in Nigeria's banking industry.

Mahtar, who was speaking with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in

Abuja on Monday, said, however, that unlike in the past when a shake-up in the sector led to a distress and the collapse of many banks, the blow out would force the institutions to focus on specific areas of national development.

He noted that at the moment, most banks in the country operated consumer banking, but added that the institutions could make more money by engaging in corporate banking.

"Consumer banking empowers the individual while corporate banking empowers institutions and generates wealth," he said.

Mahtar stressed however, that the country would not reap maximum benefits from corporate banking until the basic economic and political frameworks, had been established, adding that the basic parameters were lacking when merchant banking, which he said, shared the same philosophy as corporate banking, was introduced in the country. Mahtar, equally warned that

the outcome of the 2003 elections would be a determining factor in the Nigerian economy, saying: "everyone is watching. People have been talking about the polls since last year."

He said that after the elections and with the stabilisation of the democratic process, banks would have to re-organise and introduce new products to be able to survive.

Mahtar also said that the Nigerian banking industry would derive huge benefits from the African Union, going by the country's population and size.

"If I were a Nigerian, I would push my government to facilitate the actualisation of the African Union," the Senegalese, who is also involved in a programme to create a new image for Africa, said.

He also said that the banking industry must acquire new technologies to meet the challenges of modern banking.



Joseph Sanusi, CBN Governor

## Professor Ango wants commodity markets enhanced

The goal of revitalising the agricultural sector may not be realised until the problem of commodity marketing facing small scale farmers is addressed.

The Presidential Adviser on Food Security, Professor Ango Abdullahi, made this observation while addressing farmers in Abeokuta as part of his nationwide tour to introduce new schemes put in place by the Federal Government to boost farmers' income.

The adviser explained that the existing free market system leaves farmers at the mercy of market speculators.

His words: "The existing free market system, notwithstanding its various attractions, leaves our largely illiterate and disorganised farmers at the mercy of collusive exploitation by better organised middlemen and market speculators who usually succeed in creating a buyers' market both for domestic and export commodities."

The former Vice-Chancellor of Ahmadu Bello University (ABU) Zaria stated that to arrest the situation the Federal Government has set up three multi-commodity development and marketing companies to be partly owned by government and farmers in the country.

According to Abdullahi, "the committee identified marketing as one of the major problems facing Nigerian farmers. It observed that if necessary machinery are put in place there will be increase in agricultural productivity. The increase in output cannot be sustained without an efficient marketing arrangement which must

From Olumide Bajulaiye, in Abeokuta

guarantee good remuneration for farmers."

He explained further that the initial share capital of each company shall be N500 million dividend into 80 million shares of N10 each. "This implies that farmers will pay N900 million while federal government will pay N600 million from the on-set of the companies," he said.

## DN Meyer boss doubts success of interest-free banking

The Managing Director of DN Meyer Plc, a subsidiary of Dunlop Nigeria Plc, Mr. Mohammed Yinusa, has expressed doubt over the success of interest-free banking in the country. In an exclusive interview with *Business Day*, Mr. Yusuf believed interest-free banking will not be of any help to the Nigeria industry.

He further explained that interest-free banking will not work in a capitalist economy such as ours where the banks can only be motivated by the amount of benefit they can get from

From Bose Musari, in Lagos

investing their money.

While answering questions from our Industry Correspondent, Mr. Yinusa further stated that "we'll have to restructure the economy if interest-free banking must work."

The DN Meyer boss supported the government's privatisation exercise as one of the measures that could stabilise our economy if continued.

Classifying privatisation as positive, Mr. Yinusa said, "It should continue." He also urged the government to further help in checking fake products to ensure the survival of the nation's industries.

He also urged that more jobs be created while workers remuneration should be increased.

Speaking on the proposed hike in NEPA tariff, the DN Meyer boss said it would be positive and affordable as "it is unlikely to be higher than the money we spend in buying diesel," he said.



Adamu Ciroma, Finance Minister

## Nigeria's trade missionaries default - World Trade Centre

By Abubakar Ibrahim

Members of trade missions to foreign countries in search of markets for Nigerian goods and services only pursue their businesses, thereby ironically creating markets for foreign goods in Nigeria.

This observation was made by the Nigerian representative at the World Trade Centre, Mr. John Adeleke at the Abuja Trivex Week 2001, a trade, investments promotion exhibition and seminar which commenced on Monday.

He blamed the situation on inadequate knowledge of sources of business information especially as it relates to bilateral agreements between Nigeria and other countries so as to enable Nigerian businessmen explore avenues to balance trades.

Mr. Adeleke said the solution was to identify organisations that are trade and investment promoters, which according to him, were found in the public sector, though they also play the role of regulators.

He cited public sector organisations like the Cocoa Research Institute, Raw Materials Research and Development Council, Universities, Federal Office of Statistics, Nigeria Investment Promotion Council, Securities and Exchange Commission, Nigeria Tourist Board, Export Processing Zone (EPZ) authorities among others.

However, he stressed that Nigerian embassies and high commissions abroad "have to see themselves as trade and investment promoters, adding that criteria for posting a diplomat to any mission should be his or her ability to attract investment."

The World Trade Centre representative frowned at the situation where Joint Commissions between countries stopped at signatories without practical results on ground, which he blamed on "little information about contents of bilateral agreements which could ginger Nigerian businessmen into action."

# BUSINESS DAY

## Mobil to build N1b filling stations

From Samson Ojo, in Lagos

Mobil Oil Nigeria Plc, has budgeted one billion naira investment for the construction of filling stations in Nigeria.

The Chairman/Managing Director Mobil Oil Nigeria Plc, Mr. John Pototsky disclosed this at the opening of the Mobil retail outlet, at Lekki expressway, in Lagos recently.

According to him, Lagos State is one of Mobil Oil Nigeria's key markets and where it plans to continue to invest. Said he: "In 2001, Mobil Oil Nigeria's investment budget for filling stations is almost one billion naira. We plan to spend 85 percent of that amount in Lagos State."

Mr. Pototsky explained that Mobil Oil Nigeria Plc wants to continue to work together with Lagos State

government to expand the number and the quality of Mobil filling stations, for the ultimate convenience of all Nigerians.

The Mobil managing-director, disclosed that for the past one and a half years, he has watched the oil industry in Nigeria and it has witnessed positive changes, which have led to an improvement in the quality of life of Nigerians, and have also led to additional investment and development.

Among these positive changes, according to Pototsky, are the Global Systems for Mobile Telecommunications (GSM), and improvements in electricity supply and rural construction among others.

On the company's mission, Mobil Oil Nigeria, which has recently changed its name to Exxon-Mobil after it has merged with the latter, the managing director, Pototsky said: "We want to be part of Nigerian's development and future. As they say in the financial markets, we are "bullish" in Nigeria."

## Trade fair complex to enhance KACCIMA's revenue

The multi-billion naira Kaduna Trade Fair Complex is to be maximally utilised all-year round to generate revenue for the State Chamber of Commerce.

The President of the Kaduna Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (KACCIMA), Alhaji Munnir Ja'afaru gave the hint in Kaduna recently.

Alhaji Ja'afaru who was guest at the Kaduna NUJ correspondents' forum, said the chamber intends to hold seminars, conferences and exhibitions so that the fair complex would not be lying idle.

"We intend this time around to make use of the complex all year round," the KACCIMA president assured.

He said that an agricultural fair to be sponsored by the 19 northern states and their local government councils, would soon be hosted at the fair ground.

The president added that the purpose of the fair was to promote the agricultural potentials of the region and

From Ibrahim Dan Halilu, in Kaduna

bring to light the danger of dependence on foreign countries for our food needs.

The chairman of the Nigeria Export Processing Zones Authority (NEPZA), who frowned at the food importation policy of the government, said the Kaduna fair will no longer be a bazaar where manufactured goods are displayed and sold to public.

He disclosed that his chamber in collaboration with other stakeholders had travelled to the Middle East, where they held discussions on possible investment potentials of Nigeria with business communities in Syria, Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon.

"Very soon a delegation from each of these countries will be coming into the country.

In addition to these efforts, the president said that the chamber would soon embark on visits to all states in the country to sensitise them on the need to revive the Kaduna International trade fair by participating in the annual event.

## New industrial policy underway

By Ahmed Shakarau

The federal government is working out modalities for the formulation of a new industrial policy which would enhance the nation's drive towards industrial development.

While declaring open a two-day workshop for stakeholders in the industrial/manufacturing sector of the economy Tuesday in Abuja, Vice President Atiku Abubakar stated that "the formulation of a credible and sound industrial policy for the country will go a long way in reducing significantly the

cornerstone of this administration's economic reform effort," stressing that such workshops will enhance the participation of all stakeholders in the process.

The workshop, which was organised by the National Council on Privatisation (NCP), will among other objectives examine the industrial and trade policies of the Federal Republic of Nigeria within the context of the new policy environment, and review the roles of the various

stakeholders with a view to enhancing their participation in the process of formulating and implementing the proposed policy.

Delivering the vote of thanks at the occasion, the Director General of the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE), Malam Nasir Ahmad el-Rufai, who is also member/secretary of the NCP tasked those in the private sector of the economy to support the government's drive towards the development of the nation's economy.

## Akande wants FG to publish revenue accruals

Governor Bisi Akande of Osun State has said that there was the need for the federal government to make it a constitutional duty to disclose in full, all revenue accruing to the federation account.

In a statewide broadcast to mark the 10th anniversary of the creation of the state on Monday, Akande said the measure would help to ensure probity and accountability in the country.

He stated that the measure was necessary in the new democratic dispensation as the country was no more under a military administration.

The governor, who criticised the federal government for "sitting on the over one billion dollars from the excess crude oil sales account," said the government was compounding the suffering of the common people in states and the local councils.

"The federal government has impoverished the local governments through illegal deductions which make most of them earn meagre or zero allocations; this situation has left many local councils unable to pay salaries or pursue development programmes," he said.

The governor, however, promised the people of the state that he would construct more roads and provide potable water, electricity and housing in the rural areas this year.

"The rehabilitation of urban roads and the provision of other amenities will continue this year, while

grammar schools will be staffed with adequate number of teachers in mathematics, english language and the sciences, he promised."

"I bring to you all a message of hope, a message of peace and tranquility, and a message of God's prosperity," Akande added.



Vice President Atiku Abubakar

current unemployment rate that has been estimated to be at 50 percent."

The Vice President, who was represented by his Special Adviser on Economic Matters, Dr. Hamilton Isu, stressed further that as another strategy for long-term growth and development of the economy, "the proposed industrial policy should be able to address lingering problem of capacity utilisation of our manufacturing sector."

The nation's capacity utilisation is currently estimated by experts to be at 34 percent.

Vice President Atiku Abubakar therefore tasked the participants at the

## Bora, new Volkswagen, gains acceptance

From Bose Musari, in Lagos

The new Bora, Volkswagen of Nigeria's newest addition to the auto market is steadily gaining acceptance in Nigeria.

It seems to have gained acceptance among the nations auto buffs as it is becoming more visible on the roads.

The Bora's growing performance in the market may obviously be due to its attractive features.

Undoubtedly, the Bora is a combination of elegance, sportiness and high level of quality for which Volkswagen is known.

Powered by three different petrol engines ranging from 74kw (100bhp) to 110kw (150bhp) and diesel engine ranging from 66kw (90bhp), 81kw (110bhp) or 85kw (115bhp) versions. Besides the new

Bora radiates a powerful charisma and arouses customers' curiosity at glance.



Lawrence Nwuru, Industry Minister of State

Its direct injection technology offers unparalleled economy in respect of fuel consumption and all engines of the Bora radiate a powerful charisma and across customers' curiosity at glance.

Its direct injection technology offers unparalleled economy in respect of fuel consumption and all engines fulfil the Bora 2 standard emission value. The car overtakes its competitors talking about safety and driving comfort which are two essential aspects a buyer will always look out for in a car.

The Managing Director of VON, Chief V. C. Onwuchekwa in a chat with *Business Day* auto market revealed that the Bora is fitted with full size airbags for the driver and front passenger, disc brakes at the front and rear, an electronically regulated anti-lock braking system (ABS).

It also contains an electronic brake pressure distribution (EBD) and an electronic stability programme (ESP) all designed to ensure maximum safety he explained.

## Access Bank's share capital now N2b

From Bright Ewulu, in Lagos

The shareholders of Access Bank Plc have approved its management's plans to increase the paid up share capital from N600 million to

N2 billion.

The chairman of the bank, Mr. Ayo Oni said at the bank's Annual General Meeting (AGM) last week in Lagos that Access Bank will raise the sum from the capital market.

The sum, according to him, would be split between a right issue and public issue to allow both the bank's shareholders and others to benefit.

The bank's management also declared a share bonus of N150 million to qualifying stakeholders in the ratio of one share for every four shares held.

Furthermore, Oni revealed that Access Bank contributed the sum of N11.6 million representing 10 percent of profit before tax for the financing and promotion of small scale industries in Nigeria.

On the financial result for

the year, Oni stated that it was the combination of branch expansion and staff costs that increased its operation costs astronomically.

According to him, this "accounted for the significant increase in administration expansions which at N701 million was 85 percent above last year's figure of N383 million."

Access Bank's gross earnings and operating income spiralled by 33 percent and 32 percent respectively from N1.2 billion to N1.6 billion and N0.8 to N1.1 billion.

However, profit before tax which stood at N116 million and the net profit which recorded N78 million fell by 30 and 40 percent respectively from previous years performance.

The bank's deposit is currently at N4.8 billion while its loans and advances is tagged at N2.7 billion.



Vice President Atiku Abubakar (l) in a convivial mood with Chairman of the Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Commission, Engr. Hamman A. Tukur, at the opening of a National Seminar on New Strategies for Revenue Mobilisation at State and Local Government Levels... recently in Abuja. Pix: Kennedy Egbonodje.

**O**ne striking thing among your achievements is that educational development is very dear to you. What is your policy in this regard and what informs your interest in the educational development of Kogi State?

Thank you very much for that question. I was motivated to place emphasis on the educational sector by the mere fact that if you think education is expensive then think about the alternative to it. Illiteracy is responsible for much of the immorality in our society. Once you are educated, then you have the confidence to speak anywhere in the world. That was at the back of my mind, and the fact that the former Kabba province provided all the educated persons in the north not too long ago, is also very significant. I saw it as a glory that we must strive to relive. I felt that if you wish to educate the people, then you have given the society everything. Otherwise, you have not done anything, and it will be catastrophic.

**During your first tenure in 1991, you established the Kogi State Polytechnic, now you have established the Abubakar Audu University. Was it the same motivation that inspired you in both instances?**

Yes, it was the same motivation in both instances. It has been in my mind right from youth that there is no alternative to education. It opens your horizon, widens your mind to see things from another persons point of view, and it broadens your knowledge about life. This is because an uneducated man is a closed man. He is as good as lifeless, and he doesn't even know what is happening around him. So, it would be totally impossible for him to know something that happens outside his vicinity. In 1992, besides the establishment of the state polytechnic, the students of that institution enjoyed automatic scholarships and bursary and allowances were paid to indigenes of the state in universities throughout the country. We identified six secondary schools and redesignated them as special science secondary schools in the state. We bought books and distributed them free of charge to all the students in every nook and cranny of the state. This initiative began a long time ago. It did not just begin yesterday.

**One distinguished son of Kogi State has criticised the recent change in the name of the university. Can we know what motivated the change? We do know that the students of the university appealed to you and you turned them down, and they went and appealed to the representatives of the people. May we know what motivated your acceptance of this change?**

I won't say it is an acceptance as such, except somebody doesn't know the law. When the students met me, they sold the idea to me. Of course I said no, no, it will look selfish on my part. But they did not stop there. They went to the State House of Assembly and the House of Assembly is constituted of the P.D.P. and the A.P.P. A.P.P. has

13 members and P.D.P. has 12 members. The members of the house of Assembly unanimously agreed to embrace the idea irrespective of party leanings or ethnic differences. This is the same House of Assembly that I had a lot of misunderstandings with last year. The state House of Assembly said there was the need to change the name because of what I have



**His Excellency, Audu Abubakar Governor of Kogi State.**

done in the university. That university serves as a model to the entire country now. You see various governors have been coming. The Ondo State governor came here and saw the university, and he could not believe what he saw. I was made to understand by the former Minister of Industries, Dr. Ayu, that the Benue State governor went quietly on his own to see the much talked about university, and said there was nothing greater than that among the tertiary institutions he has seen in the country. So the students were merely demonstrating their gratitude like mature people. They are students and I thought they were being immature. They have demonstrated that they are more mature than we thought. When the Bill was passed, there was a constitutional stipulation which indicates that whether I signed the Bill now or I sign it within 30 days, it becomes a law and is enforced. If three million people gather and say that they want to give you an honour and a dissenting voice says no, and you the recipient of the honour turn it down, it will be stupid. Nobody in his right senses would do that. After all the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, was named after Ahmadu Bello, right from when the foundation was laid. The founder of the university, Sir Ahmadu Bello was hale and hearty, and he was the premier of the northern region, at that time and the university was named after him. He established a stadium in Kaduna. The stadium was also

named after him when he was still alive. Many precedents have been set. If you talk about the military era there is the Abacha Barracks in Abuja and it came into being while Abacha was still alive. There is the Babangida Barracks and he is still alive today. We are all living witnesses to all these things. The distinguished senator who was speaking has a street

named after himself here. He named a street after himself in Benin. One of the longest streets in Benin was named after himself when he was the military governor of the then Bendel State. So what was he talking about? Maybe he was trying to attract cheap publicity to himself. I don't see any sense in what he was doing anyway. That is exactly the contention of three million people in Kogi State.

**Two years into your administration it looks as if you have created an island. Why is it that other states could not emulate you?**

I can only speak about myself. I am not in a good position to decide the priority of a group because what is important to me might not be important to you. I felt that developing our state is paramount because in spite of our education, in spite of our contribution to the development of Nigeria, we have remained perpetually backward for a long time. Now that God in his infinite mercy has placed our own destiny in our own hands, we must work assiduously and diligently to fulfil our task.

**Have you?**  
Well, in the spirit of federalism, every state is autonomous and you can't tell somebody what to do with his money because it is his personal property. If you get your salary, you might like to buy shoes or cloth. Others would buy cement to lay the foundation of a house. Some will use the same money to marry, and some will use it to buy a new car. I don't know

# I am the problem

*A tender focus on education is central to the vision of Prince Ab interview with Jibril Daudu, Editor, and Durosini Irojah, Nig vances in education in Kogi State with a special focus on the AB projects, roads, housing, electrification efforts in the state, and the Excerpts:*

what people prefer in their own states. Since I don't go round, I don't know that some states are backward. I think they are struggling to do something similar to what we have done or perhaps, a slightly different thing in their various states. At the end of the day, they will have a good legacy to bequeath to their successors.

**We understand that some foreign governments and foreign universities have accepted to be part of the training programme of the Abubakar Audu University in such a way that before the students graduate from a four, five or three years course, they would spend one of the years in the sponsoring university that is in partnership with yours. How did you achieve that? Do you have such partnership with other universities?**

We have two things that we proposed for the Abubakar Audu University, which has not been in existence anywhere in the country. The first one is the exchange programme. I worked abroad for many years and I have a lot of contacts in Britain and America. That is why my own style of doing things is different from the rest. I use my contacts very well. As soon as we established the university, I went abroad and made contacts with various universities, that this is what we are proposing, and they were impressed by the idea, including some members of the international community. Today, we have exchange programmes arranged with Wilberforce University in the U.S.A., Howard University in Washington, and two others. Recently, seven Professors from four different universities in the U.S. came to give lectures to our students and to realign the curriculum here with the standard around the world. It was also agreed that our final year students would spend one year at those foreign universities. The essence is that once you graduate from this school you are marketable anywhere in the world. Some certificates in the country are as good as worthless when taken abroad. They will ask you to run an induction course for two years in addition to what you have done in Nigeria. Perhaps you might have spent five years in the university in Nigeria. So it means that our standard is low. When these Professors came, they went through the curriculum and examined their books, and said that our standards could still be improved. Now, they have updated the curriculum to harmonise with what is obtainable in U.S.A. and we have every cause to be happy with that. It is going to be a continuous event, an annual event. Every summer, Professors would come to this university to give lectures. As I

said earlier at the end of the day when the university is to graduate its final year students, they would have to go to America to spend an extra year. People have been talking about defection by the students. We do not anticipate that the students will defect because if you spend three or four years here, and you go and spend one year there, you have to come back before getting the certificate, and you can't afford sacrificing three or four years just because you want to stay in America. That is one of them. The second aspect is that when we start turning out students, we have arranged to visit employers of labour to show them the curriculum and the regular activities at this university, and allow them to see the remarkable difference in the university system we are running in Nigeria. We hope that every year, different employers of Labour should visit the university to interview students whose courses are relevant to their organisations. There is no need turning out a large mass of students into the labour market and you don't care for them. We will take the responsibility of going round employers of labour, and imploring our graduates to go there because that is what is happening abroad. In most of the reputable universities you see employers of labour going to interview final year students, and secure the good ones to work for them. If the system works well abroad, I don't see why it can't work here, because our people are equally as good as the white men. I don't see anything that makes an African inferior to a European.

**In 1991 or 1992, there was a lot of talk about developing**

**a water system for Lokoja. Unfortunately that project doesn't seem to have commenced. Can we know what is responsible for this?**

In 1999 we started a new arrangement and for your information we have secured companies in Israel, Turkey and America, which are coming together to establish a waterway for us. Some barges will be bought. The water hyacinth will be cleared to improve navigation on our river, so that most of the equipment coming will be automatically transported from the port of disembarkment in Warri and Lagos, and it will

**The speed with which on in the state is allowing opponents to criticise them any chance to go and blackmail us. The omitted that we have criticisms are being made ing too fast and the c we are going.**

cross by the river to Lokoja. In this context, so many meetings have been held, so many companies have been registered. The joint venture is between private investors in Kogi State and some investors abroad. Our Confluence Beach Hotel will fully take-off when all facilities are in place.

**You have spent a lot of money on roads. The roads we drove on were as good as the ones in Abuja, but what about the nature of water supply?**

We have commissioned 25 buses for the inhabitants of Lokoja metropolis. We did not stop there, we also made sure that water supply in the metropolis has increased with enough chemicals supplied for the purpose. When we came in, we used to see children and women roaming about with buckets on their heads looking for water. Those that are living within the coastline were dying everyday as a result of drowning incidents. We recognised that problem imme-





Interview

# of my critics — Gov. Abubakar Audu

**Abubakar Audu, Governor of Kogi State. In this interview, Editor, Daily Trust, he comments on the administration of Abubakar Audu University. He unfolds on water supply and the possibility of creating new local governments.**

immediately and sought to put an end to it, and the solution is the construction of a borehole. That is not a permanent solution. There is a federal government rehabilitation programme for the greater Lokoja water works. It is going to cost the federal government about half a billion naira, and approval has already been given. The contract has been awarded, and it is in the process of commencing. As a temporary measure, we have provided a borehole, and water chemicals, and increased the output of water to the consumers around Lokoja metropolis so that they will have enough water to drink.

**A development is going on in Lokoja. This makes our critics very angry. We have not given them a chance to go back to the electorate. These critics have now addressed me very well. The critics are angry because we are moving forward. The critics don't know where**

**Can you comment on the proposed Kogi Cement Factory?**

We have gone far with the arrangement for the Kogi Cement Factory. In this respect, before the end of this month I will be in Washington. You will appreciate, that this cement project will cost 250 million and expansion will cost 100 million dollars. However, it is a joint venture between the Kogi State government, and a company in Israel and another in the U.S. Unfortunately when the facility is approved and utilised, it is not going to be a matter of cash placed at the disposal of the Kogi State government. Whatever is approved is tied to goods and services to be procured only in America. The bank will send out tenders, to various people supplying machinery and plants. They buy direct from them and send these to us here. They would send their personnel to come and assemble the machines and establish the factory for us. Part of our own

subscriber's equity will be committed to working capital. The question of money going to wrong hands does not arise at all, except people haven't got a clear picture as to how this business operates. You don't expect banks in America to give you cash worth \$258 million and allow you to manage it. They are not as foolish as that. We have already got the report of the viability and profitability of the project. The feasibility study has already been undertaken. A grant of \$750,000 was given to us in this regard. The production strength of the cement factory would be 5000 tonnes daily, and there are enough raw materials for that production capacity for another 50 years.

**The federal government has taken over your general hospital in line with the policy of federal medical centres in states and teaching hospitals. What is the state government doing in this respect?**

They have come to help us run a proper hospital and we feel they would do it well. We are watching them and we are always interested in what is going on so that the syndrome of drug shortages and the tendency of turning the place into a mere consulting clinic would not arise. As an interim measure if not for funds, we would have established our own hospital.

**Yesterday when we went round we saw many new houses, and there have been some complaints on why the houses were given to the commissioners on an owner-occupier basis. Can you comment on this?**

The people complaining are either ignorant or they are very

malicious. Otherwise I said before, that even here, we have a university named after some respected leaders, and the leaders named it after themselves when they were still alive. That one does not require any act of parliament. In our own case, the parliament had to endorse it, and it became a law because whether or not I sign it within 30 days, it becomes a law, so why won't I sign it? Similarly they say why are commissioners on an owner-occupier basis. I think these people have not read the circular from the Revenue Mobilisation Commission that any public officer that is occupying a house must be given the option of buying it, except for a situation where he declines. At this point you look for another person to buy it. In our case, there are willing buyers so we have not done anything wrong. This is the new requirement. The only exception is that I cannot buy as a governor, the deputy governor cannot, the chief judge and the speaker cannot purchase also. We are implementing what has been passed to us as a legitimate instruction.

**We observed that there is peace in Kogi State. In the two years of democracy, we have witnessed cases of riots and conflicts in different parts of Nigeria. But it is all quiet and peaceful in Kogi State.**

Kogi State is lucky to have a leader that does things that help to reap the dividends of democracy. Before we came in, salaries were not paid for six months and people were dying of hunger in Kogi State. There was no electricity because government was not paying their bills. Telephone lines were cut because the past military administration did not see the rationale for having telephones. Most of the houses looked so dilapidated and even big rats had taken over most of the buildings. Within a period of two years, there have been changes. In most of the states in the north, it is only Kogi that pays a minimum wage of N6,000.00, while others pay between N4,500 to N5,000.00. It doesn't mean our allocation is higher. You must know that some problems that have occurred in Nigeria were motivated by people who felt that democracy will not benefit them. All the crisis in the recent past were instigated by some rich Nigerians with a view to crippling democracy so that the military would come back. During Abacha's time some people went and packed tonnes of money and travellers cheques from the Central Bank. He was doing it in complicity with people around him.

**We would like you to give us the details of the state electricity project. One community gave you four votes but that was the first community to which you extended electricity.**

This is to show you that politics has changed from the politics of punishing your neighbours and of vindictiveness. We don't believe in that. I believe that if you hate me, I



don't have to hate you also. I will bring myself to you and show you my true colours and tell you that I love you. This is preferable to being antagonistic towards you. That is the best way to woo somebody to your side, rather than being hard and subjecting that person to torture. The village you are talking about is Araronigbede. It was the first place we commissioned our rural electrification project. Today they love us more than before.

**One problem that is unresolved in Lokoja is the problem of electricity supply, although NEPA has promised to provide a 24 hour service by December. What is your observation on this matter?**

Electricity brings a lot of comfort because if the weather is hot, you would not be able to stay here and conduct this interview. If the whole place is full of mosquitoes, you won't find it comfortable. Electricity is as important as life itself. In recognition of that, we don't have money to establish an independent power supply, but we don't just cross our fingers and say we are poor, because I believe it is dangerous for one to advertise his poverty. I made contact with a company in America, and they have ac-

cepted to give us a grant of \$30 million, and we are the only regional government in the whole of Africa that have gone to that extent. We have an agreement with them that they will stay and manage the power supply plant at least for 30 years. By December, all the arrangements would have been concluded, and this time next year Kogi State would have an independent

power supply system.

**Do you have plans to create more local governments in Kogi State?**

I have plans to create local governments. We want all the districts created before 1958 to metamorphose into full-fledged local governments. We can easily remember that all the provinces before 1958 metamorphosed into states. The traditional rulers are only making a request for upgrading, so we don't have plans to create new titles. When we came in, we heard of traditional titles created unconstitutionally. There was a clamour that those irregular appointments should be quashed, and we obliged the people and later cancelled all of them and made a general review.

**Last week you issued suspension notices on some lecturers at the Kogi State Polytechnic. What actually happened?**

The Polytechnic was established in 1992-93 but that was not the polytechnic I had at the back of my mind. I had discussions with the management of the Ajaokuta Steel Complex in areas where they require assistance. We took statistics of those things. We have the largest industrial installation in the

sentiments and various tendencies. The problem is a recurring one, and it always involves Igala and Igbira students. Apart from the problem at the institution, the Igbira and Igala never had any misunderstanding. We felt that to solve the problem, we must first of all sack all the teachers who had a hand in it. They are supposed to know the character of their students but if they are biased, then they have nothing to offer. The cause of the crisis rests on the shoulders of the teachers. We asked them to go away and reapply, and we will take those that are good. The bad ones cannot be relied on as leaders.

**There is a beautiful five-star hotel in Kogi State. We wonder why the government should make a five-star hotel a priority?**

The essence is that our effort to generate revenue locally has always been hitting the rocks. Our locally generated revenue is the smallest in the whole country, that is between eight to nine million naira annually. If we have something like that, it is going to beef up our effort at locally generated revenue. Tourists will also come to see the historical relics such as the European cemetery here, and some people came all the way from Germany, Belgium, Britain, and Switzerland to Lokoja, to pay respect at the graves of their grand fathers. So we felt that for the sake of the economy it is good for us to have a five-star hotel, and as investors and tourists also come around here, it is significant to have such a good hotel available.

**Is your Excellency distracted given the criticisms you are getting from the outside?**

The speed with which development is going on in the state is alarming. This makes our opponents to criticise us. We have not given them any chance to go back to the electorate and blackmail us. Those critics have now admitted that we have done very well. The criticisms are being made because we are moving too fast and the critics don't know where we are going.

**Yes, it was the same motivation in both instances. It has been in my mind right from youth that there is no alternative to education. It opens your horizon, widens your mind to see things from another persons point of view, and it broadens your knowledge about life. This is because an uneducated man is a closed man. He is as good as lifeless, and he doesn't even know what is happening around him.**

cepted to give us a grant of \$30 million, and we are the only regional government in the whole of Africa that have gone to that extent. We have an agreement with them that they will stay and manage the power supply plant at least for 30 years. By December, all the arrangements would have been concluded, and this time next year Kogi State would have an independent

whole of the West African sub-region. In Ajaokuta, in our own state here, we must make arrangements to provide them with cheap labour. That was why I established the polytechnic. By the time I left, the polytechnic grew out of size. There have been incessant crisis there such that in early 1992, about two students were killed by the police. It had to do with tribal



Continued from page 13		YEAR 2000 ALLOCATION		RECONCILED PROJECTS		APPROVED COST LIMIT
S/N	STATE	INSTITUTIONS	YEAR 2000 ALLOCATION	RECONCILED PROJECTS	APPROVED COST LIMIT	APPROVED COST LIMIT
				xiii) CPS, Amalgamated	620,000.00	
				xiv) State School, Asemebo-Ama, Degema	620,000.00	
				xv) State School, I & II Tombia	620,000.00	
				xvi) CPS, Agbonchia, Eleme	620,000.00	
				xvii) State School, Ekporo	620,000.00	
				xviii) State School, Oduoha-Emohua	620,000.00	
				xix) State School, Umudiogha	620,000.00	
				xx) State School, Nih, Etche	620,000.00	
				xxi) State School, Obite	620,000.00	
				xxii) CPS, B-Dere, Gokana	620,000.00	
				xxiii) CPS, Yeghe	620,000.00	
				xxiv) St. Paul's School, Ogbodo, Isiokpo	620,000.00	
				xxv) State School, Aluu	620,000.00	
				xxvi) CPS, Buan-Ken, Khana	620,000.00	
				xxvii) CPS, Lorre & CPS Teka-Sogho	620,000.00	
				xxviii) CPS, Rumueme, Obio/Akpor	620,000.00	
				xxix) CPS, Okoronodo	620,000.00	
				xxx) UPE School I, Omoku	620,000.00	
				xxxi) St. Martins School, Ogu/Bolo	620,000.00	
				xxxii) State School, Bolo	620,000.00	
				xxxiii) St. Mary's S.S. Kalio-Ama, Okrika	620,000.00	
				xxxiv) O.T.S Ogoloma	620,000.00	
				xxxv) State School, Eberi, Omuma	620,000.00	
				xxxvi) State School I, Ofeh	620,000.00	
				xxxvii) State School, Kalama Opobo/Nkoro	620,000.00	
				xxxviii) State School, Nkoro	620,000.00	
				xxxix) central School, Oyigbo	620,000.00	
				xl) CPS, Obeakpu	620,000.00	
				xli) UPE, Abuloma Port Harcourt	620,000.00	
				xlii) State School, Orogbum	620,000.00	
				xliiii) CPS, Botem, Tai	620,000.00	
				xliv) PSL, Kira	620,000.00	
				xlvi) Renovation of 8 clrm block at PS Kananga Ndoni, Ogba/Agherman	2,886,820.70	
				xlvi) Renovation of clrm at Teka Sogho	1,791,628.85	
					<u>33,198,449.55</u>	
				<b>TOTAL ALLOCATION FOR RIVERS STATE</b>		<b>120,603,929.00</b>
7	PLATEAU	University of Jos, Jos	20,000,000.00	(i) Provision of MS2 for Dept of GeoMining	6,200,000.00	
				(ii) Solar Power for Library	6,200,000.00	
				(iii) Rehab. Of overhead tank at student's village	1,000,000.00	
				(iv) Rehab. Of Open Air Theatre	2,500,000.00	
				(v) Provision of Ino. borchole for Naraguta hostel	1,600,000.00	
				(vi) Provision of Furniture for Medical Sciences	1,400,000.00	
				(vii) Furnishing of Computer Centre extension	<u>1,100,000.00</u>	
					<u>20,000,000.00</u>	
		Plateau State Polytechnic, Barkin-Ladi	10,000,000.00	(i) Construction of Ino. blk. Of 2 classroom at the Jos campus	5,490,992.92	
				(ii) Production of 120 classroom chairs, Lectures' office tables & chairs	406,482.00	
				(iii) Procurement / installation of a 160KVA Generating set	<u>4,102,525.08</u>	
					<u>10,000,000.00</u>	
		Plateau State College Of Education, Gindiri	8,000,000.00	(i) Construction of Ino block of 5 classrooms	6,849,905.00	
				(ii) Furnishing of above	1,100,095.00	
				(iii) Contingency	50,000.00	
					<u>8,000,000.00</u>	
		Federal College Of Education, Pankshin	8,000,000.00	(i) Construction of Sports Complex	7,185,964.00	
				(ii) Supply of biiks to College Library	814,036.00	
					<u>8,000,000.00</u>	
		Federal College Of Veterinary & Medical Laboratory Technology, Vom	5,000,000.00	(i) Furnishing of Medical Science Laboratory	2,000,000.00	
				(ii) Procurement of Equipment for Virology and Microbiology Classes	<u>3,000,000.00</u>	
					<u>5,000,000.00</u>	
		Plateau State College Of Agriculture, Garkawa	5,000,000.00	(i) Renovation of laboratory	1,075,000.00	
				(ii) Renovation of Library	817,450.00	
				(iii) Procurement of equipment for fine arts dept.	<u>3,107,550.00</u>	
					<u>5,000,000.00</u>	
		Federal College Of Animal Health & Production Technology, Vom	5,000,000.00	(i) Procurement of 5nos. (Compaq, Pentium III)	1,550,200.00	
				(ii) Furnishing of newly completed academic lecture, Exam hall and College Library	<u>3,449,800.00</u>	
					<u>5,000,000.00</u>	
		Federal College Of Forestry, Jos	5,000,000.00	(i) Purchase of Ino. Peugeot 504 pick-up	2,068,500.00	
				(ii) Purchase of Ino. Perkin generator (60KVA)	1,749,062.80	
				(iii) Construction & erection of 40,000 litres capacity steel tank	<u>1,182,437.20</u>	
					<u>5,000,000.00</u>	
		Federal College Of Land Resource Technology, Kuru	5,000,000.00	(i) Renovation of 4 nos. classroom block.	1,840,063.50	
				(ii) Extension of existing block from 4 nos. classrooms to 5 nos.	2,742,436.50	
				(iii) Provision of 250 NBTE standard furniture @ #2,750.00 each.	<u>687,500.00</u>	
					<u>5,000,000.00</u>	
		Ministry of education (for Equipment for Handicapped.)	1,000,000.00	(i) Ino. of 16mm Movie projector	81,600.00	
				(ii) Ino. Opaque projector	67,200.00	
				(iii) Ino. Overhead projector	108,800.00	
				(iv) Ino. slide projector	81,600.00	
				(v) Ino. movie screen	40,000.00	
				(vi) 1 packet of transparency copy	10,880.00	
				(vii) Ino. 21" Colour TV	34,000.00	
				(viii) 8nos. butterfly sewing machine	87,000.00	
				(ix) 10nos. Olympia typewriter	300,000.00	
				(x) 3nos. Knitting machine	102,000.00	
				(xi) 6 roll of sewing material	15,000.00	
				(xii) 1 packet of transparency film	10,880.00	
				(xiii) Ino. video recorder	20,400.00	
				(xiv) 8 packets of wool	5,760.00	
				(xv) 6 packets of thread	600.00	
				(xvi) 2 packets of tape	400.00	
				(xvii) 2nos. neatening machine	16,320.00	
				(xviii) 1Inos. curring scissors	17,560.00	
		Ministry of education (for Senior secondary Education)	20,405,479.45	Construction of 2no. classrooms at:		
				(i) Govt. Sec. Sch. Wase	1,539,884.03	
				(ii) Govt. Sec. Sch. Kantana Kanam	1,448,840.71	
				(iii) Govt. Sec. Sch. Sabongida	1,539,884.03	
				(iv) Govt. Sec. Sch. Mista Ali Bass	1,443,503.59	
				(v) Govt. Sec. Sch. Mangu Mangu	1,448,840.71	
				(vi) Govt. Sec. Sch. Zandi Jos	<u>1,443,503.59</u>	
				(vii) Govt. Sec. Sch. Wenev	1,443,503.59	
				(viii) Govt. Sec. Sch. Tarango / Bokkas	1,448,840.71	
				(ix) Govt. Sec. Sch. Kurwi Qua'an	1,539,880.03	
				(x) Supply of 3 sets of Computers to GTC Bukuru	1,020,544.00	
				(xi) Construction of Lab. Furniture at GTC Bukuru	339,174.00	
				(xii) Construction of 469 Dual Desks	1,641,500.00	

S/N	STATE	INSTITUTIONS	YEAR 2000 ALLOCATION	RECONCILED PROJECTS	APPROVED COST LIMIT
				(xiii) Supply of Chemistry Equipment (xiv) Supply of Injection Moulding Machine to Compressor moulding machine GSPEC. Jos	876,536.46 <u>2,506,416.00</u> <u>20,405,479.45</u>
		Plateau State Primary Educatio Board	24,537,984.45	Renovation / Rehabilitation of Structures in (i) LEA Sch. Kpasho (ii) Lea Sch. Zakarek (iii) LEA Sch. Gora (iv) LEA Sch. Doug (v) LEA Sch. Shen (vi) LEA Sch. Ampang West (vii) LEA Sch. Kwande (viii) LEA Sch. Ra-hoss (ix) LEA Sch. Mockat Construction of a block of 2 classrooms m (x) LEA Sch. Kukut (xi) LEA Sch. Zakbai (xii) LEA Sch. Baitep (xiii) LEA Sch. Garyang (xiv) LEA Sch. Tukur (xv) LEA Sch. Langang (xvi) LEA Sch. Limpang (xvii) LEA Sch. Mai Rana (xviii) Contingencies	1,710,557.10 1,047,710.69 997,710.69 1,235,267.25 926,886.69 1,012,822.26 1,357,460.05 930,224.68 1,098,804.87  1,325,267.25 1,325,267.25 1,325,267.25 1,325,267.25 1,325,267.25 1,961,400.88 1,325,267.25 667,332.96 <u>24,537,984.45</u>
				<b>TOTAL ALLOCATION FOR PLATEAU STATE</b>	<b>116,943,463.90</b>
8	NASSARAWA	Federal Polytechnic, Nassarawa	10,000,000.00	(i) Procurement of Equipment for the Dept. of Electronics (ii) Supply & Installation of 150nos. 5-seater lecture theatre seats @19,740.50 each (iii) Construction of a block of twin 2 bedroom bungalow for staff	3,038,925.00 2,961,075.00 <u>4,000,000.00</u> <u>10,000,000.00</u>
		Nassarawa State College Of Education, Akwanga	8,000,000.00	Construction of Ino. Administrative block of offices	<u>8,000,000.00</u>
		Nassarawa State College Of Agriculture, Lafia	5,000,000.00	(i) Purchase of Anatomy & Physiology Equipment (ii) Renovation of Shendam Hostel Block D (iii) Repairs of Steyr Tractor Model 8075 (iv) Repairs of Plough no.5618 (v) Repairs of Ridger no.17767 (vi) Repairs of Harrow no. 0607 (vii) Repairs of Harrow Tractor Trailer (viii) Purchase of Irrigation Equipments	2,369,800.00 316,429.00 224,930.00 97,689.00 140,242.00 47,164.00 43,720.00 <u>1,490,028.00</u> <u>5,000,000.00</u>
		Ministry of education (for Equipment for Handicapped.)	1,000,000.00		
		Ministry of education (for Senior secondary Education)	20,405,479.45	Renovation & Rehabilitation of: (i) Science Lab @ Govt. Coll. Doma (ii) Examination Hall @ Govt. S/S. Gitata (iii) Examination Hall @ Govt. Coll. Wamba (iv) Examination Hall @ Govt S/S. Gudi (v) Science Lab @ Govt. S/S (vi) Science Lab @ Govt. Technical College, Assakro	7,099,992.00 2,305,310.00 2,320,310.00 1,668,945.00 2,563,005.00 4,447,917.45 <u>20,405,479.45</u>
		Nassarawa State Primary Education Board	18,764,341.05	(i) Construction of 1 blk. Of 2 clrms at Keana Central Sch. (ii) Doma East Pry. Sch. (iii) Guku Toni Central Sch. (iv) Gidan Gambo Pry Sch. (v) Ungwan Rimi Pry Sch. (vi) Toto North LEA Pry. Sch. (vii) Kanje LEA Primary Schools Renovation and Rehabilitation of Structures at: (i) 4classrooms at CMS Gudi & Kurmin Tagwaye (ii) 4 classrooms at Ajara Central Sch. Ave. (iii) 4 classrooms at St. Peters' Keffi (iv) 3 classrooms at Kafar Kudu Pry. Sch. (v) 4 classrooms at RCM Deddere Pry. Sch. (vi) 4 classrooms at Gunduma Pry. Sch.	1,534,843.58 1,534,843.58 1,534,843.58 1,534,843.58 1,534,843.58 1,534,843.58 1,534,843.58  1,697,020.26 1,412,388.66 1,103,299.87 1,148,663.01 1,319,200.92 1,399,863.27 <u>18,764,341.05</u> <u>63,169,820.50</u>
				<b>TOTAL ALLOCATION FOR NASARAWA STATE</b>	<b>63,169,820.50</b>
9	BENUE	University of Agriculture, Makurdi	20,000,000.00	(i) Procurement of furniture / equip. for 5 labs.@ Coll Of Animal Science & Fisheries (ii) Procurement of furn. / Equip. at the Univ. 's health center.	15,000,000.00 <u>5,000,000.00</u> <u>20,000,000.00</u>
		Benue State University, Makurdi	20,000,000.00	(i) Conversion of dilapidated Assembly hall to 800 seater Auditorium (ii) Supply of 600nos. Theatre chairs @#6,500 each	16,100,000.00 <u>3,900,000.00</u> <u>20,000,000.00</u>
		Benue State Polytechnic, Ugbokolo	10,000,000.00	(i) Purchase of 5nos. Computers (Pentium II) with accessories (ii) Construction of a block of 4 classrooms (iii) Supply & Installation of 200KVA Perkins Generator (iv) Construction of Generator House	650,000.00 4,000,000.00 5,026,006.52 <u>323,993.48</u> <u>10,000,000.00</u>
		Benue State College Of Education, Katsina-Ala	8,000,000.00	(i) Renovation of maintenance unit/HOD Tech. Education Block (ii) Renovation of power house (iii) Purchase of Copier, Duplicating machine & Electrical Typewriter (iv) Renovation of Apa Hostel block (v) Renovation of Fine & Applied Arts dept. block with an extension of 4-room office	1,330,724.40 1,223,818.60 1,885,000.00 1,610,248.00 <u>1,950,200.00</u> <u>7,999,991.00</u>
		Benue State College Of Education, Oju	8,000,000.00	(i) Furnishing of Home Econs. Block. (ii) Fencing of College frontal lobe (iii) Library books (iv) Fire Extinguisher (v) Building of a block of 4 classrooms (vi) Supply & Installation of computers (vii) Instructional materials	698,789.00 1,532,790.00 364,400.00 273,500.00 4,105,010.00 520,000.00 <u>505,511.00</u> <u>8,000,000.00</u>
		Akpoin Oishi College Of Agriculture, Yandev	5,000,000.00	(i) Construction of a block of classrooms (ii) Construction of implement shed.	2,179,066.00 <u>2,820,934.00</u> <u>5,000,000.00</u>
		Ministry of education (for Equipment for Handicapped.)	1,000,000.00	(i) Ino. Perkin Braille Machine (ii) 2nos. Portable typewriters (iii) 5nos. radio cassette recorder	200,000.00 100,000.00 30,000.00

## NEWS

## ETF releases N8m to FCE Gusau

The Federal College of Education (FCE), Technical, Gusau, Zamfara State, has received the sum of N8 million as allocation from the Education Tax Fund (ETF) North-West zone to enable it complete the uncompleted projects in the institution.

Provost of the college, Hajiya Amina Abubakar, disclosed this while briefing newsmen who were on a familiarization tour of federal establishments in the state.

Hajiya Amina explained that the college still lacked so many infrastructure, which had made it impossible for it to completely move to its permanent site.

She said because of the absence of such basic infrastructure, especially in the area of accommodation, "many students are still hanging around, but with this allocation from ETF, at least four blocks would be completed and they will be comfortably accommodated."

From Salisu Zakari Maradun, in Gusau

According to her, the shortage of accommodation was not unconnected with the introduction of the Sharia legal system in the state, which has made it impossible for male and female students to be accommodated in the same block, stressing that efforts were being geared towards the completion of the uncompleted projects in the college.

Commenting on the



Prof. Borisade

## Gov Osoba warns political aspirants

Governor Olusegun Osoba of Ogun State has warned all political aspirants in the state not to condone any act of political violence.

Osoba gave the warning on Monday at the re-opening of the Abeokuta South Local Government Secretariat, which was forcefully closed down early this month following a violent clash between two factions of the Alliance for Democracy (AD) in the area.

The governor, who was represented by the acting governor, Alhaji Adegbeniga Kaka at the Ake Complex of the council, disclosed that the re-opening of the complex was necessary after the warring factions had promised through a communiqué to bury their hatchet and allow peace to reign.

His words: "The state government had directed the state executives of the party to wade into the crisis. They had met the warring parties and well-meaning people including the Alake in-council, where both parties decided to bury the hatchet and promised to uphold peace in the council area."

While regretting the clash which led to the destruction of the council secretariat, Governor Osoba noted that "August 2 witnessed the rude disturbance of the peaceful political atmosphere that had prevailed in Ogun State

From Olumide Bajulaiye, in Abeokuta

since the inception of this administration."

The state helmsman then promised to "continue to water the germinating seed of our nascent democracy in Ogun State, which we inherited from our forefathers, most especially Chief Obafemi Awolowo," adding that "any act of lawlessness or any act of disturbances whatsoever would not be tolerated in the conduct of our political life."

## Protect rights of citizens, FG urged

The Federal Government has been called upon to protect the rights of all Nigerians to enjoy citizenship rights enshrined in chapter 4, section 4 (1-3) of the 1999 constitution.

The call was made by participants at a two-day workshop on "Violent Ethno-Religious Conflicts in Northern Nigeria and Future of Democracy in Nigeria," organised by Human Rights Monitor in Kaduna.

A communiqué issued by the workshop participants last Thursday, urged government to ensure that all citizens of Nigeria are allowed to enjoy their rights of citizenship without discrimination of any kind.

It further recommended the entrenchment of transparency, accommodation and patriotism in the management of resources just as it called

financial position of the school, the provost explained that though the Federal Government had released money to the school, it still need more in order to be able to continue with all the articulated programmes and projects embarked upon for the growth of the institution.

## Co-ordinator commends UBE's success in Sokoto

The Sokoto State Government has been commended for the efforts been made toward the successful implementation of the Universal Basic Education (UBE) programme in the state.

This commendation was made by the Acting (UBE) National Co-ordinator, Alhaji Aliru Aliyu Tambuwal, during a courtesy call on the acting governor of the state, Alhaji Aliyu Magatakarda Wamakko, in his office last week.

The co-ordinator explained that the team were in the state to see stakeholders in the UBE programme and to brief them on what the UBE is all about, more importantly its philosophy, concept, problems and expectations.

He said their mission was among other things, to assess the journey made so far in respect of the UBE scheme that was launched recently in the state, adding that the team was highly impressed with the commitment of the state on the preparation towards the implementation of the scheme.

From Ibrahim Dan-Haliru, in Kaduna

on the National Assembly to pass the freedom of information bill to provide easy access to information on government's books.

While attributing most ethno-religious conflicts in northern Nigeria to elite manipulations to attain power and economic gains, the participants called on civil society organisations to intensify efforts at enlightenment campaign on politics and democracy at the grassroots.

The participants noted that government have not shown serious concern for violent crises of ethnic and religious nature, and urged government to publish and implement the white papers and recommendations of previous panels of inquiry into violent conflicts in the country.

The 10th year anniversary celebration of the creation of Kebbi State scheduled to hold on Monday was stalled on financial ground

Daily Trust gathered that many government agencies that used to celebrate such anniversary could not do so due to the fact that their monthly subvention was not released to them.

A situation that forced many government activities to a halt. In the same vein, many agencies could not run the affairs of their ministries effectively following the cash squeeze.

## Financial inadequacy stalls Kebbi 10th anniversary

From Kabir Dogon Dagi, in Birnin - Kebbi

Consequently, the celebration, which used to attract people from within and outside the country including the neighbouring Niger and Benin Republics, was suspended

However, no statement was made by the government as regards the suspension, but Daily Trust reliably gathered that all the committees set up for the preparations toward the cel-

ebration were asked to halt further plans sometime last week.

The information committee could not explain convincingly the reasons behind the postponement. A cross section of people interviewed by Daily Trust expressed their displeasure over the postponement.

A civil servant, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said "even during the period of the military such celebrations used to hold. Therefore I see no reason why a democratically elected government could not host such a momentous occasion."

The postponement, according to a trader, Malam Abdullahi Yakanau, might not be unconnected with the absence of the state governor, Alhaji Muhammadu Adamu Aliero, currently on the president's entourage to China.



Gov. Aliero

the state.

The acting co-ordinator assured the acting governor that the Federal Government would complement the efforts of the state in that direction.

Speaking earlier, the acting governor of the state, Alhaji Aliyu Magatakarda Wamakko, said education was the main priority of the present administration and that in line with this philosophy, the state government has been according education the necessary attention it deserved even before the advent of the UBE scheme.

He promised the acting co-ordinator that the state would not relent in its effort on education and called on the Federal Government to redeem its pledges in this regard.

## NGO drills wells in Katsina State

Gidauniyar Jihar Katsina, a non-governmental organisation (NGO) has begun massive drilling of wells across the state to reduce the problem of potable water shortage.

The Director-General of the organisation, Alhaji

From Hassan A. Karofi, in Katsina

Dauda Suleiman Karofi, disclosed this to Daily Trust in Katsina.

He said the organisation has over the years assisted the state in rural water supplies by digging thousands of wells.

This year, he said, the work will consist of wells that will be dug in rural areas where water shortages had persistence.

He stressed that the organisation did not direct any of its works to acquire any assistance from the benefiting communities except moral contribution that could enhance their work.

The DG revealed that the fund would do everything possible to provide potable water to the remaining areas where their presence was not yet felt.

The Director-General further revealed that comprehensive ways to tackle pressing socio-economic problems affecting various communities in the state would be followed to complement government's efforts in the provision of social infrastructure in the state.

Alhaji Karofi urged communities to rally round the organisation so that meaningful development could be achieved in the state.



Gov. Bafarawa

The communiqué also called on journalists to exercise social responsibility and high sense of professionalism in reporting

ethno-religious conflicts by avoiding sensational headlines and fabrication of the stories.

## FG to establish TV sub-stations in Gombe

The Federal Government is to establish threetelevision sub-stations and one F.M. Radio station in Gombe State, the Minister of Information and National Orientation, Prof. Jerry Gana, has said.

Speaking during a courtesy call he paid on Governor Abubakar Hashidu of Gombe State in continuation of the national media tour, Prof. Gana said plans for the take-off of the three NTA sub-stations in the three local governments of Kaltungo, Akko and Funakaye were already at advanced stage.

He said the establishment of the media outfits in the

From Abdullahi Dutse, in Gombe

state is in keeping with the Obasanjo administration's drive to keep the governed abreast with government's policies and programmes in order for them to also participate in nation building.

Prof. Gana explained that the media tour is intended to give journalists first hand information on the various achievements recorded by the three tiers of government in the two years of democratic governance and to relay these achievements to Nigerians and the international community to enhance the credibility of democracy.

# INSIDE POLITICS

## Lagos Afenifere/AD condemns Tinubu over N40 billion debt

Lagos chapter of Afenifere and the Alliance for Democracy (AD) have described as embarrassing the discovery that the administration of Governor Bola Tinubu of Lagos State is indebted to the tune of N40 billion.

A statement signed by Abiola Ifeotuwa Sappor said it was wrong for the state government to take loans at an interest rate of 30-40 per cent and using it to finance non-profit yielding projects.

According to the statement, the actions of Governor Tinubu were not in tandem with the manifesto of the AD.

The statement: "One wonders the prudence or shrewdness in applying short-term loans in tending long term projects. This is apart from the fact, that, Lagos State had under the administration of progressives been a lender to poor and needy states.

From Bright Ewulu, in Lagos

"It is particularly disturbing when viewed against the flagrant use of the scarce resources of the state. Contracts are awarded at highly inflated prices, cheap image laundering and funding of unproductive projects," the statement read.

The group also condemned the governor's

refusal to duly pay state workers laid off earlier in the year while those in service are not fairing better as salaries are not paid when due.

They pilloried Tinubu's financial management capacity, adding that from all indication the repayment of the loans will stretch beyond his administration.

According to the statement, it was the belief of

Afenifere that the fortunes of Lagosians would have improved if the governor had implemented party policies and programmes.

Sappor told Daily Trust in a chat that the recent media reports suggesting that Ganiyu Dawodu faction of AD was not invited to a peace meeting with the Tinubu faction was false.

According to him, the said meeting was meant for Afenifere leader Chief Abraham Adesanya and had noting to do with Lagos AD. He said therefore, the case of not inviting Dawodu does not arise.

## Yorubas least developed politically -Olunloyo

From Yinka Oladoyinbo, in Ibadan

Former Governor of Old Oyo State, Chief Victor Omololu Olunloyo, has affirmed that the north is the most politically advanced part of the country.

He also condemned the Southwest for the primitive nature of its political structure, saying that the region is the least advanced and backward in terms of political revolution.

Olunloyo made the remark during the opening lecture marking the press week of the

correspondents chapel of the Oyo State Council of Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), held at the press centre, Iyaganku, Ibadan.

According to him, "the Yorubas who occupy the Southwest part of the country have excelled in almost all fields on earth, but it is still the most primitive politically."

He further stressed that the primitiveness of the Yorubas manifest in the formation and development of their political parties, which he said had been hinted to the Southwest and also built only on the structure of the Action Group (AG).

The former governor, said that the north which had been at various times called various names by ignorant leaders and ignorant people in the country, "are the most organised set of people that have always been willing to reach out to other parts of the country in order to advance the country."

Olunloyo, however, noted that unless the Southwest begins to ruminate and find a lasting solution to this malady, the region may not move forward, adding "but we have never considered the fact that we are not politically organised."

He also said that the north which other regions, especially the Southwest is complaining about, has developed its politics along the Arewa which encompasses the whole north and had been reaching out to other regions in Nigeria.

Apparently very bitter about the political structure of the Southwest, he said "if you don't claim to be an Awoist, you can't win election, there are some peoples who are insular, who want to remain inside and another set who want to reach out to our brothers across the Niger, we must learn how to reach out otherwise this politics of exclusion would continue to affect us."

## Keep off Niger-Delta region, group warns Obasanjo campaigners

From Wisdom-Uduak Patrick, in Port Harcourt

The South-South Peoples' Conference (SSOPEC), a non-partisan pressure group has warned pro-Obasanjo and Atiku Abubakar for 2003 campaigners to stay out of the Niger-Delta region.

In a statement issued in Port Harcourt yesterday and signed by its national chairman, Chief (Dr.) Harold Dappa-Biriye and made available to Daily Trust, the group stressed that, the

According to the statement, "ever since, we have remained loyal to his (Obasanjo) administration and not once displayed any act of insubordination" for that matter, "it observed.

The statement declared further that, the group was in full support of the rotational presidency as was demonstrated by the support of the South-South people in the 1999 presidential election with an overwhelming three percent votes of total votes cast in the country.

Chief Godson Briggs who read the statement on behalf of Chief Dappa-Biriye said, however, that the demand should not be seen as a prejudice to the office and persons of President Obasanjo and his vice, Alhaji Atiku Abubakar.

According to the statement, "ever since, we have remained loyal to his (Obasanjo) administration and not once displayed any act of insubordination" for that matter, "it observed.

The statement declared further that, the group was in full support of the rotational presidency as was demonstrated by the support of the South-South people in the 1999 presidential election with an overwhelming three percent votes of total votes cast in the country.

According to Chief Godson Briggs, who spoke to Daily Trust, his group has reached out to all the groups that matter in the country like the ACF, Afenifere, Ndigbo Forum to pressure them to zone the presidency this time around to the South-South.



Gov Tinubu

## Gemade opposes independent candidacy

The Peoples Democratic Party Chairman, Engineer Barnabas Gemade, declared last Saturday that his party does not support the idea of an independent candidate.

The national chairman who said this while fielding questions at the Minna presidential lodge, said the reason for his party not supporting the idea was that Nigeria is not strong enough to adopt such an idea.

He pointed out that advanced countries which practise such electoral system had evolved over a long period of time, such that they were now sorry to adopt it.

According to him, Nigeria being a society going through metamorphosis, those seeking for election can do so under the existing parties. "If they can't take shelter under the existing ones they should wait until new parties are eventually registered so that they can join them," he added.

Engineer Gemade maintained that there was no way for those campaigning for independent candidacy and their agents.

He termed those seeking independent platform to garner votes as "trouble makers" and urged them to join existing parties or the new parties to be registered as they will be properly accommodated.

In an apparent opposition

to such idea, he said: "If they are bent on seeking office through independent platform, they are advised to go back to their respective houses and rule their house holds," the national chairman vented.

## PDP chieftain berates Ige over control of South-West

From Olumide Basulaiye, in Abeokuta

Frontline politician and a senatorial aspirant in Ogun State, Chief Alani Akinde, has described as "noise" the recent report credited to the attorney-general and minister of justice, Chief Bola Ige, that PDP stands no chance in the South-West come 2003 elections.

Chief Alani Akinde made the statement in Ilaro, Ogun State while addressing party faithfuls from Ogun West senatorial zone, maintaining that "PDP can not keep off the South-West because we are the most popular party in the South-West."

Reacting to Ige's statement, Chief Akinde who is also the director-general of G-39, a coalition of Obasanjo campaigners added that "Ige

is only making noise. He knows that AD is finished.

"AD is completely finished in the South-West, there is no two ways about it. Ige is not making any point on that. PDP is the party to beat, because we are for the people. By the next election I can assure you that PDP will capture everything in the South-West."

Chief Ige, had last Monday in Akure declared that contrary to beliefs in some quarters, PDP has no



Chief Barnabas Gemade

chance in Yoruba land.

"PDP has no place in Yoruba land. Alliance for Democracy (AD) would sweep all states in Yoruba land and other states too," he was quoted as saying.

Justifying why Obasanjo's performance would ensure victory for the party come 2003, Chief Akinde said following the implementation of people oriented projects in various parts of the country which are beneficial to be people, the PDP, he added "stands a good chance."

## Kaiama communities pass no confidence vote on LG boss

From Abdul Laro, in Ilorin

The people of Kaiama community in Kwara state have passed a vote of no confidence on the suspended chairman of

Kaiama local government council, Alhaji Mohammed Madugu Haliru just as the legislative arms of the council has served him a notice of impeachment.

Efforts by the state governor, Alhaji Mohammed Lawal at ensuring an amicable settlement of the crisis failed as the people of the community vowed not to have Alhaji Haliru back to his office for alleged non-performance.

At a crowded press conference in Ilorin on Tuesday, the spokesman of the National Association of Kaiama Community, Alhaji Umar Shero said the suspended chairman's chapter had been closed.

He said the council's legislators who suspended the chairman had the blessing of the whole Kaiama community, "since they acted at the instance of the communities that voted them into office.

"His removal is informed by all his activities which are greatly inimical to the wishes of the Kaiama community and those sojourning outside Kaiama."

Alh. Shero explained that the success of the suspended chairman at the polls in 1999, was through the will of the generality of Kaiama people, who gave him overwhelming support despite the fact that he came from the minority party in the area, the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

"It is, therefore, the same source of his success (Kaiama Community) that have now resolved to remove him due to this ineptitude, arrogance, disrespect to leaders of thought of the society and non-performance in all spheres of governance," the spokesman stated.

He said the offences of the suspended council boss against the community were so heinous that they could not be overlooked for the betterment of Kaiama.

He alleged among others that the embattled chairman collected N500,000 from the council's coffers to perform the lesser hajj last year, which he later shelved but refused to return the money to the council's purse, allegedly disbursed funds to students to the tune of N6.7 million which was not true and that he inflated the cost of constructing the council's secretariat complex from N37 million to N82 million.



Gov Mohammed Lawal

## Senator warns Nigerians against new political associations

From Yinka Oladoyinbo, in Ibadan

Against the backdrop of the emergence of new political associations jostling for registration in the country, Nigerians have been warned to be cautious of associations that are being bankrolled with stolen funds by retired generals and their cohorts.

Vice chairman, Senate Committee on privatisation, Senator Peter Adeyemo representing Oyo South senatorial district, gave the advice while answering questions from pressmen at the correspondents chapel forum, Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) in Ibadan.

Senator Adeyemo maintained that in as much as the constitution allows for freedom of association, Nigerians, especially the masses should be wary of the intrigues of the new political associations, that are

springing up, saying that the masterminds were all out to take the country back to the dark age.

According to the senator, the nation's nascent democracy needed to be stabilised and therefore, should not be jeopardised with the registration of new political associations, an action he alleged could lead to the truncation of the nation's hard earned democracy.

On the tenure of local government chairmen, he said that the National Assembly does not have the power to create and legislate for local governments and cannot therefore, fix the tenure of local councils functionaries.

Senator Adeyemo said since the 1999 constitution

under which the present democratic dispensation came into effect prescribed a three-year term for local government chairmen, the status quo be maintain and that council elections be held next year.

He further argued that the constitution should not be altered in favour of the agitating council chairmen, saying "if the law is charged, you will be robbing the electorate to elongate the tenure of the local government chairmen."

It would be recalled that the local government chairmen under the umbrella body of the Association of Local Government of Nigeria (ALGON) has been clamouring for a four-year tenure in line with what obtains at states and federal levels.



S/N	STATE	INSTITUTIONS	YEAR 2000 ALLOCATION	RECONCILED PROJECTS	APPROVED COST LIMIT
				School, Alloma (iv) Rehabilitation of Hostel block at Govt. Secondary School. Alloma (v) Conversion of Science block to classroom block at CMMML. Anyigba Rehabilitation of: (i) Assembly hall at CMMML. Anyigba (ii) Laboratory blocks at Govt. Science Secondary School. Ogaminana (iii) Assembly hall at AAAMC. Okene (iv) Introtech workshop at AAAMC, Okene (v) 3 blocks of Hostel at GSS. Egbe (vi) Science block at GSSS, Koton - Karfe (vii) 2 blocks of 2 classrooms at GSSS, Lokoja (viii) Construction of VIP toilet at AAAMC Okene	1,803,204.65  1,363,142.02  1,921,012.80  1,948,169.42  1,127,597.10  1,775,030.89  1,526,707.35  1,306,142.87  1,351,523.67  460,000.00 <u>20,405,479.45</u>
		Kogi State Primary Education Board	30,311,627.85	(i) Supply of 9,950nos. dual desks / benches to P/S in the State @#3,000.00 each (ii) Contingencies	29,850,000.00 461,627.85 <u>30,311,627.85</u>
				<b>TOTAL ALLOCATION FOR KOGI STATE</b>	<b>117,717,107.30</b>
11	<b>KWARA</b>	University of Ilorin, Ilorin	20,000,000.00	Construction of Gymnasim hall	20,000,000.00
		Federal Polytechnic, Offa	10,000,000.00	(i) Construction of Computer centre	10,000,000.00
		Kwara State Polytechnic, Ilorin	10,000,000.00	Construction of a Lecture Theatre	10,000,000.00
		Nigerian Army School of Education, Ilorin	8,000,000.00	(i) Construction of NCE lecturers' office complex (ii) Furnishing of the just completed multi-purpose hall, 4 blks. Of 2 classrooms each & NCE lecturers' office (iii) Consultancy/Contingency	6,200,000.00 1,000,000.00 800,000.00 <u>8,000,000.00</u>
		Kwara State College Of Education, , Ilorin	8,000,000.00	Construction of Administrative Block Building	8,000,000.00
		Kwara State College Of Education (Technical) Lafiagi	8,000,000.00	(i) Procurement of computers / accessories for Computer centre (ii) Construction of an Admin. Blk. (iii) Procurement of equipment for the TE dept (iv) Supply of books for the Library (v) Procurement of Typewriters (vi) Purchase of 4nos. Microscopes for Science Lab. (vii) Consultancy	1,600,000.00 4,000,000.00 1,000,000.00 420,000.00 500,000.00 240,000.00 240,000.00 <u>8,000,000.00</u>
		Kwara State College Of Education, , Oro	8,000,000.00	(i) Construction of 4clrm blk (ii) Rehab. Of Lecture hall/staff offices (iii) Supply of furniture to clrms/ staff offices	4,910,090.00 2,767,000.00 322,910.00 <u>8,000,000.00</u>
		Ministry of education (for Equipment for Handicapped.)	1,000,000.00	NOT YET RECONCILLED	
		Ministry of education (for Senior secondary Education)	20,405,479.45	NOT YET RECONCILLED	
		Kwara State Primary Education Board	23,094,573.60	CONSTRUCTION OF A BLOCK OF 3 CLASSROOM AT: (i) Aboto - Oja LGEA School, Aboto (ii) Ilesha Baruba Central LGE3A School (iii) Community LGEA School, Batakpan (iv) Muslim LGEA School Eruku (v) Abata Baba Oyo LGEA school Ilorin (vi) Nursery / Primary School Baboko Markt (FOMWAN) (vii) LGEA School, Oloworu (viii) Kpada - Tako Primary School, Patigi RENOVATION OF A BLOCK OF 3 CLASSROOM AT: (i) Asa LGEA School, Otte Oja (ii) LGEA Primary School, Jimba Oja (iii) ECWA LGEA School, Oro Apo (iv) C & S School, Sabo -Oke, Ilorin (v) LGEA School, Oha - Isse (vi) Isale Maliki LGEA Primary School (vii) OHAISA LGEA Primary School, Ilorin South (viii) Muslim Primary School, Arandun (ix) Community LGEA School, Iwo - Isin (x) LGEA School, Guye Doko (xi) ECWA United Primary School, Shao (xii) J.NMI Community LGEA School, Ilofa (xiii) Nawarudeen LGEA School, Offa (xiv) AUD LGEA School, Ijagbo (xv) Muslim Community LGEA School, Ira (xvi) LGEA Pry Sch. K/AMA (xvii) LGEA Pry Sch. Adeta	1,000,000.00 1,000,000.00 1,000,000.00 1,000,000.00 1,000,000.00 1,000,000.00 1,000,000.00 1,000,000.00 1,000,000.00 76,321.00 1,000,000.00 1,000,000.00 1,000,000.00 1,000,000.00 1,000,000.00 1,000,000.00 1,000,000.00 1,000,000.00 328,740.00 1,000,000.00 1,000,000.00 1,037,713.95 <u>1,084,092.90</u> <u>23,094,573.60</u>
				<b>TOTAL ALLOCATION FOR KWARA STATE</b>	<b>168,500,053.05</b>
12	<b>NIGER</b>	Federal University of Technology, Minna	20,000,000.00	NOT YET RECONCILLED	
		Niger State Polytechnic, Zungeru	10,000,000.00	(i) 250KVA Perkins Generator (ii) Installation & Construction of Power house (iii) 3nos. Photocopiers (iv) Rehab. Of 3no. blks. Of academic buildings	4,740,540.00 1,357,954.48 1,094,705.52 2,806,800.00 <u>8,000,000.00</u>



# HABIAT (Housing and Environment)



## FHA allocates Gwarimpa II estate to civil servants

Success may at last shine on federal civil servants and individuals who have been in search of accommodation as the Federal Housing Authority (FHA), has directed the allocation of houses to beneficiaries at the sprawling FHA Gwarimpa II residential estate, Abuja.

The movement to the estate was announced by the Managing Director/Chief Executive of FHA, Engr. Ibrahim Mustapha while handing over a 3-bedroom flat to the Nigeria Police at the Phase II Gwarimpa Estate. The 3-bedroom flat is to be used as a police station.

According to him, the FHA has concluded arrangements for the commencement of movement to the estate by December this year, adding that about 50 percent of the houses at the estate are already occupied by civil servants and promised that the FHA is committed to its tenet of providing decent houses to the teeming population.

Said he: "Our mandate in the Federal Housing Authority (FHA) is to provide accommodation to our teeming customers. But we also take



Chief Tony Anenih

## FMBN assures Nigerians on NHF

The Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria (FMBN), has reassured Nigerians of its determination to succeed in making the National Housing Fund (NHF) achieve the purpose for which it was established.

The Managing Director of FMBN, Alhaji K.M. Bichi gave this assurance at a one-day seminar on NHF scheme, organised by the Ministry of Works and Housing in conjunction with the FMBN and a private organization, Vision Veritas Limited in Owerri, Imo State.

He explained that the bank has put in place a system which is ready and able to meet the housing aspirations of all NHF contributors who want to access the NHF loan facility.

The managing director called on Nigerians to embrace the scheme as it is presently the surest way of acquiring and owning a house in Nigeria,

adequate measures in ensuring the security of lives and properties in all our estates."

The Authority, said Engr. Mustapha, has decided to "seek for the establishment of a police post in Gwarimpa II estate. Renovate and furnish a 3-room apartment for the Nigeria Police post at

the cost of N1,055,021.82 and N467,600 respectively in Gwarimpa II estate; provide a utility vehicle and stationeries for ease of operations by the post personnel."

The FHA boss explained that the security of Gwarimpa community transcends the level of readiness of policemen and other security agents, adding that it needs the cooperation of all, who

would volunteer useful information that will enable the police to combat crime effectively.

Consequently, he tasked the residents of the estate to be eternally vigilant and complement the work of the police to make the estate safe to live in.

Receiving the keys to the station, FCT commissioner of police, Mr. Dika Bwala, lauded the FHA's effort, saying that it was the first time a federal parastatal has contributed in alleviating the plight of the Nigeria Police.

## Abuja master plan:

### "Let professionals handle distortion"

As the government struggles to revert Abuja to its original master plan, a Real Property Consultant, Mr. Joshua Eldhude Festus, has advised the government to contract the programme to reknown chartered estate valuers to ascertain the cost effects of the illegal structures inherent in the FCT.

Mr. Festus spoke to *Daily Trust* against the backdrop of a recent statement credited to the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Chief Ufot Ekaette that the Federal Government would ensure that the Abuja master plan is implemented without any alteration.

According to Mr. Festus, the original master plan of the Federal Capital Territory was "grievously distorted" by past military regimes, particularly during the late Gen. Sani Abacha government where land was indiscriminately allocated to individuals without any recourse to the original plan of the city.

As he explained, Abuja, based on its original plan is supposed to be a model city in the world but unfortunately it is now gradually taking after Lagos.

"The past government has grievously distorted the master plan in Abuja and the government that destroyed the master plan was the government of the late Gen. Sani Abacha and Jerry Useni. "They not only allocated a plot of land where it was originally supposed to be motor parks; they allocated even where it was supposed to be a sewage park.

"So, today, you find the cost effect of it. Because where it was supposed to be a park, you allocated a filling station; that is why you have all these unnecessary holdups; and blockage of all these sewage lines."

Mr. Festus also supported the demolition of all illegal structures in the FCT as a leeway. However, he explained that such demolition should be accompanied by compensation.

"The only way is to demolish all these illegal structures.

"But the government should take the bull by the horns. Agreed that you were misdirected, we are sorry, we are going to pay you what you spent on the structures, based on the open market capital valuation by using a strictly pre-shifted cost implication.

"Then we would pay you, based on these evaluations, and let them go out and demolish the structures. We would set a deterrent for other governments to follow, so that if the next government comes; even if the house belongs to his father, it should be demolished."

However, the chartered surveyor was not comfortable with the coordination of the exercise by surveyors from the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA) because of what he alleged as their inability to be fair in their assessment.

Consequently, he advocated that the government should allow private individual property developers and valuers in practice to handle the job for them under consultancy.

Meanwhile, the Federal Government said it is determined to ensure that the Abuja master plan is implemented without any alteration.

The government, in a statement signed by Eric Teniola, Director of Press in the office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Chief Ufot J. Ekaette stated that the present administration would not entertain a situation where the master plan would be distorted.

## An estate should last 40 years - Chartered Surveyor

An estate valuer and chartered surveyor, Mr. Joshua Eldhude Festus, has said that a well maintained estate should have "a minimum of 40 years life span."



Mr. Joshua Eldhude Festus

Mr. Festus, who is also the Resident Partner of Okotie and Company, Estate Surveyors, Chartered Surveyors and Valuers and Real Property Consultants, said in an interview with *Daily Trust* that, "to manage an estate requires the services of a seasoned and specialized estate valuer who can handle all the technicalities requisite in estate management."

According to him, managing of an estate transcends the current practice of "letting and buying of an estate," but involves "things that have to be done by professionals, which requires a thorough planning."

However, the chartered surveyor explained that there is a great disparity in the maintaining of an office complex, shopping mall and a duplex.

In maintaining a duplex or a detachable house - residential houses - he said is always entrusted to tenants who furnish them to their taste including the planting of flowers, and added that there was the need to change the paintings after seven or ten

years.

The idea of either painting afresh with a different colour or repainting in the same colour is to provide the structure an added life and for purposes of beautification, he added.

But in managing a shopping mall or an office complex, he explained requires "the rendering of common services which ranged from the maintenance of a lift if it is available, clearing of the compound, providing security to the building and what have you."

However, Mr. Festus said, "if you are talking of facility management, then you're digressing a little into an area whereby you have to advise your client, who is the owner of the property on the need for insurance; so that there would not be either under insurance or over insurance of the property."

"A building has effective management of an estate is the only way to keep that property to command the open market rent; and command that open capital market value, he declared.

But when there is poor management, expiration; obstruction and corrosion occur frequently and this is the evidence of neglect.

Averagely in Nigeria, he said, if the property is well built and at the point of construction, good fabrics are used, averagely a good estate is supposed to last for 40 years.

"A minimum of 40 years, which is to say at the end of 40 years, there will either be the need to demolish or improve the nature of the structure, which might have become unfashionable.

"Like in those days, if you go to the west, you see old-fashioned room and parlour structures they are now being converted to detached houses or block of houses.

"So, it could be fashionable. But naturally, a well built estate will command at least a 40 years life span. However, in western countries, in Europe, you will find good estates lasting for 50 years. So, that is the position," the chartered surveyor added.



A building under construction. An expert says that it could last 40 years if properly managed.





# HABITAT

(Housing and Environment)



## Delta demands EIA report on River Niger

The Deputy Governor of Delta State, Chief Benjamin Elue, has demanded a copy of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) carried on the lower Niger River before the proposed dredging of the River Niger takes place in October this year.

The deputy governor made the demand last week when the Minister of State for Transport, Alhaji Isa Yuguda, paid him a working visit in Asaba the state



Isa Yuguda, Minister of State for Transport

Stories by Tashikalmah Hallah

capital.

Also, the demand was coming in the wake of the abduction of three staff of Intercontinental Port Limited by some irate youths who were protesting against the exercise. Intercontinental Port Limited had earlier been contracted in respect of the dredging of the River Niger.

According to the Deputy Governor, a studied copy of the Report by the state government would help in enlightening the people of the state about the importance of the dredging, and also douse the tension generated in the area following the deployment of working equipment by Intercontinental Port Limited.

Mr. Elue explained that the communities had misconstrued the dredging to be an oil drilling activity, forms of which had devastated their environment and paralysed aquatic life in the past.

The deputy governor, while thanking the Federal Government for taking pains to study the possible impact

of dredging on the environment, added that if there had been opposition before, it was because of the apprehension over what had been happening in the past.

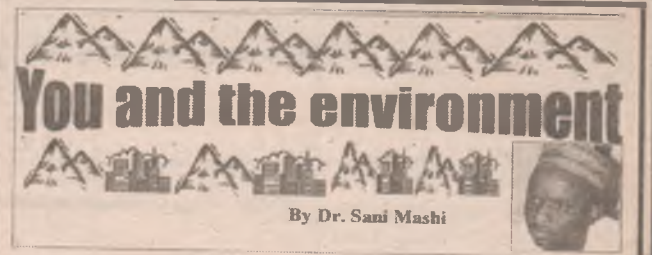
Chief Elue while assuring the minister and his entourage that the Delta State Government "would do everything possible to see that the project is not disturbed in anyway," however, appealed to the management of Intercontinental Port Limited to liaise with the state government in ensuring the early completion and success of the project.

Earlier, the Minister of State for Transport, Alhaji Isa Yuguda, had prayed the Delta State Government to prevail on the communities to provide a conducive environment to enable the dredging company, Intercontinental Port Limited, to commence work, pointing out that the Federal Ministry of Environment, and the report of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) team had shown that the project have no negative impact on the area.

Alhaji Yuguda stated that because of the urgency required in completing the dredging project within a record time, the Federal Executive Council (FEC) had vested the Ministry of Transport with the responsibility of ensuring that work commenced immediately in the interest of Deltans and Nigerians.

He emphasised that the Federal Government attached an "overwhelming importance to this huge economic investment that it directed my ministry to liaise with Delta State Government and all stakeholders in order to examine the possibility of resolving the communal interference in the dredging project."

A statement signed by Greyn Anosike, Chief Press Secretary to the minister, Alhaji Yuguda was accompanied by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Transport, Mr. John Hirse, the Managing Director of Nigeria Ports Authority (NPA) Malam Bello Gwandu, Director of Planning and Research, Mr. Godwin Loma, as well as the General Manager of the dredging firm, Mr. Eshel Pesti, on the visit to the deputy governor. They also inspected the dredging facilities in the state.



## The activities of Shell in the Niger Delta

Few weeks back, the Shell Petroleum Development Corporation (SPDC) busied itself with publishing in virtually all the national dailies in Nigeria what it chose to describe as its major achievements in recent time, and what it intends to do in the next couple of years. The publications were as usual, replete with rosy remarks on how it (Shell) has been contributing towards the growth of Nigeria's economy. One thing that even the ardent critics of the giant Dutch multinational oil company cannot deny or contest, is the fact that over 80 percent of the national income derived from external oil sales is due to the activities of the SPDC. In short, it is reasonable to argue that without Shell, the national economy is in great danger. This unfortunate, but factual situation, has placed the company at a vintage position over even the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC).

Of the various claims by Shell, one that I particularly become worried about is their achievements and future plans on environmental protection in the region where the company operates, that is the Niger Delta. As is well documented, the Niger Delta is one of the most notable and important units of the tropical rain forest region of the world. This region is considered as the most important area where several varieties of plants, animals, insects and other living species are found. Estimates have it that up to 70 percent of the plant species that are known in the tropical rain forest region as their main home. In addition, 85 percent of the known 25 million animal species are found in the region. It is against this background the world over, that a major concern on what is happening in the tropical rain forest is emerging. In Nigeria, activities of SPDC among others, are considered as the main source of threat to the millions of plants and animal species that inhabit the rain forest region of the country. The way they do that can be simplified as follows:

- They clear plant cover to enable them gain access to prospective drilling sites. In consequence of this, millions of plants and animal species that depend on the plant are forced to disappear;
- While drilling for crude oil, they create a situations where oil is spilled not just around the drilling site, but within the large area that surrounds it. These spills pollute, water and even the built environment.
- As the oil is drilled, gas that is held-up inside the oil well is released, in the form of flames called gas flares. The flare glow as long as the oil is drilled. In the night, insects get attracted to the flames, and in this way they get killed. Killing the insect implies that some important components of the area are being lost. Insects, as is known, play a very significant role in a process called pollination, without which crops can never be produced.

If SPDC is not operating in the Niger Delta, there is no way such problems could result. Historical evidence exists to prove that the people of Nigeria were resourceful farmers and fishermen. With such problems, the people cannot effectively farm nor catch, neither could they cultivate enough farmlands in an economically profitable manner, enough fish. Consequently, many of them now remain jobless, so many are homeless, yet several others are now hopeless. If SPDC is to be sincere, they must consider overcoming such problems as their primary responsibility, not that of the Nigerian government. Reason for this is simple, without Shell, there would be no such problem. No wonder that several people hold the opinion that the coming of Shell to the Niger Delta is not only a disaster but a curse.

In their adverts, which I referred to at the beginning of this article, Shell mentioned two things which it consider as the major things it has done to protect the Niger Delta environment, and what it intends to do. In the first place, it claimed that most of their equipment and facilities were certified as being friendly to the environment. Second, that they hope to end gas flaring by the year 2008. It is apparent from these that SPDC, despite the enormous struggles of organisations like the MOSOP, which seek to protect the Niger Delta environment, considers environmental rehabilitation and good management to be someone else's responsibility. As such, the best they could do is to render some form of assistance.

Fortunately we now have a Ministry of Environment at the federal level. It is thus a task of the Federal Government to now redefine its relationship with the SPDC so that the company is made to know that its huge profits are not to entirely or largely be repatriated to Europe, but be used in rehabilitating and developing the environment of the Niger Delta. It is clear to everybody that if the oil dries up tomorrow, Shell will shortly withdraw from the Niger Delta and relocate elsewhere. The Ministry of Environment should start assuming a more serious role. Laws should be made to empower the Minister of Environment to at anytime, if it is so convinced, order SPDC to suspend its operations in the Niger Delta. It can even give them a quit notice. Situation such as this can make them to be more responsive and more responsible in their activities. However, it is to be cautious enough to do that. We must have a capability to take over from SPDC if they are forced to quit. This is possible since technology, after all, is no magic.

Dr. Sani Mashu, writes from the Department of Geography, University of Abuja.

## FG inaugurates committee on 'super prep-com'

As part of the global campaign aimed at checking coastal and marine environmental degradation, the Federal Government has inaugurated a 21-man committee for a partnership conference on the African process for the development and protection of the coastal and marine environment.

The committee, technically known as "Super Prep-Com" is to consider concrete action proposals to alleviate environmental problems, based on the recommendations of its preparatory committee established to that effect.

In a keynote address at the occasion, Minister of Environment, Alhaji Muhammad Kabir Sa'id explained that the committee is a response to a resolution by the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

According to the minister, the importance of the ocean and sea to life on the planet cannot be overemphasised, adding, "as we are aware, the oceans cover 70 percent of the earth's surface and are active components of the global biosphere."

Chairman of the committee and Minister of State for Environment, Dr. Imeh Okopido, explained that the OAU's resolution seeks to endorse the generous offer of the Federal Government in its capacity as the President of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN).

According to him, coastal regions around the world face increasing

demographic and economic pressures. The coastal areas of many African States face serious coastal management problems, especially since degradation of coastal environments in many areas is causing a decline in the quality of life of local population.

Dr. Okopido also explained that the "Super Prep-Com" conference scheduled to hold in Abuja in February 2002, will help sub-Saharan countries to achieve sustainable management of their coastal and marine environments

and resources.

Specifically, he said the project will: Identify areas, sites or living resources of regional and global significance that are suffering measurable degradation (ie hot spots);

- \* determine the sources/causes of this degradation and the associated scales of impact (national, regional and global) to provide a basis for calculating incremental costs at regional and extra-regional scales;
- \* identify areas, sites and resources of regional

significance that, although not currently degrade, are threatened with future degradation either because of the sensitivity of the system/body or the magnitude of the activity posing threat; and

- \* determine, through causal chain analysis, the fundamental socio-economic causes of the damage or threat posed; and design a programme of intervention addressing problems of regional priority that may be presented to the partnership conference.

## Abuja Environmental Protection Board plants 60,000 trees

In its bid to make Abuja look like one of the garden cities of the world, the Abuja Environmental Protection Board (AEPB) has planted more than 60,000 trees in the city this year, its Acting Director, Mr. Francis Ayande, said last week.

Ayande, told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) that while it was the expectation of Nigerians that the new capital city should look like one of the garden cities of the world, he, however, regretted that "our behaviour of course does not justify that expectation."

The director, who spoke in Abuja, said that the board was doing its best to beautify the city by not only planting trees but also ensuring that the municipality was kept clean at all times.

"What we are now trying to do is what should have been done currently in the development of Abuja," he said, adding that "if we do not

was a reflection of the administration's commitment in that direction.

While calling for the co-operation of the residents of Abuja to help in maintaining a healthy environment in the city, Ayande said public enlightenment programmes were being put in place to educate members of the public on good habits, especially against the attitude of littering.

On sewage pipeline burst, the director expressed regrets that part of the problem was due to the attitude of the people who caused the pipe to block.

"Abuja was in a terrible mess as far as sewage problem is concerned. But since the past two and half years we have embarked upon an extensive public enlightenment campaign on the use of the central sewage system," he said.

"Each time we have a blockage, you will not



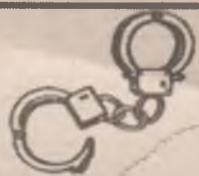
Mohammed Sa'id Kabir, Minister of Environment

Continued S/N	from page 23 STATE	INSTITUTIONS	YEAR 2000 ALLOCATION	RECONCILED PROJECTS	APPROVED COST LIMIT
		Federal Polytechnic, Bida	10,000,000.00	(i) Renovation /Rehabilitation of burnt studio for Architecture (ii) Purchase / Installation of a new Transformer at the new Complex (iii) Conversion of existing Prep-classrooms to 10nos. staff offices	4,342,228.65 5,044,595.35 631,176.00 <u>10,000,000.00</u>
		Niger State College Of Education, Minna	8,000,000.00	(i) Construction of 2nos. block of 3 classrooms (ii) Supply of 14nos. Computer Sets with accessories (iii) Contingencies	5,692,299.50 2,271,500.00 36,200.00 <u>8,000,000.00</u>
		Federal College Of Education, Kotangora	8,000,000.00	(i) Construction of 10 academic offices (ii) Construction of a block of 3 classrooms (iii) Fencing of Works Dept. Building (iv) Consultancy / Contingency	1,481,800.00 2,020,315.50 3,873,647.40 624,237.10 <u>8,000,000.00</u>
		Federal College Of Wildlife Management, New Bussa	5,000,000.00	(i) Electrical Installation / Renovation of Animal Production Building (ii) Rehabilitation of 3no. Lab. / Construction of Lab. Table (iii) Supply of Laboratory Equipment / Furniture	851,760.00 1,148,240.00 <u>3,000,000.00</u> <u>5,000,000.00</u>
		Niger State College Of Agriculture, Mokwa	5,000,000.00	(i) Procurement of 10nos. computers / Accessories for the Computer Centre (ii) Renovation of Home Economics Complex (iii) Renovation of the Physics Lab. & staff room (iv) Contingencies	2,846,800.00 992,289.10 1,147,030.50 13,880.40 <u>5,000,000.00</u>
		Federal College Of Freshwater Fisheries Technology, New Bussa	5,000,000.00	(i) Construction of food Processing Laboratory with fittings (ii) Construction of Bakery House (iii) Construction of Food Quality Analysis Laboratory (iv) Preliminaries & Contingencies	1,738,670.00 1,251,690.00 1,709,640.00 300,000.00 <u>5,000,000.00</u>
		Ministry of education (for Equipment for Handicapped.)	1,000,000.00	<b>BRILLE TEXTBOOKS</b> (i) 36 copies of English (Pri. 1 - 6) (ii) 36 copies of General Science (1 - 6) (iii) 36 copies of Social science (1 - 6) (iv) 36 copies of Religious studies (1 - 6) (v) 4nos. Speech trainers (vi) 2nos. Perkins Braille machine (vii) 10nos. Portable tape recorder (viii) 4nos. typewriter	20,000.00 20,000.00 20,000.00 20,000.00 605,000.00 130,000.00 45,000.00 120,000.00
		Ministry of Education (for Senior secondary Education)	20,405,479.45	<b>Govt. Hill-Top Model Sch</b> (i) Construction of Intro-Tech Workshop (ii) Supply of 4 sets of computer & accessories (iii) Supply of 193 sets of furniture @#4,000 each <b>C.S.S. Boko</b> (iv) Construction of 1no. blk. Of 4 classrooms (v) Construction of 1 blk. Of 8 VIP toilets (vi) Supply of 4 sets of computers / accessories (vii) Supply of 192 sets of furniture @#4,000 each <b>GJSS, Ibbi</b> (viii) Construction of 2nos. blk. of 4 classrooms (ix) Construction of 1no. blk. Of 8 VIP toilets (x) Supply of 4 sets of computers / accessories (xi) Supply of 192 sets of furniture @#4,000 each	3,853,987.50 920,000.00 772,000.00 3,221,482.00 909,522.98 920,000.00 768,000.00 6,442,964.00 909,522.97 920,000.00 768,000.00 <u>20,405,479.45</u>
		Niger State Primary Education Board	36,085,271.50	Construction of a blk. Of 2 clrms in (i) Makwagi Pry Sch. Agaie LGA (ii) Ibrahim Tanko Pry Sch. Bida LGA (iii) EKKan Pry Sch. Lapai LGA (iv) Daga II Pry Sch. Bosso LGA (v) Korokpa Pry Sch Paikoro LGA (vi) Pissa Pry Sch. Borgu LGA (vii) CPS Auna, Magama LGA (viii) Dukku Pry Sch., Rijau LGA <b>Rehab./ Renovation of Structures in</b> (i) 2 Blk of 5 clrms, Bokusarki PS, Gurara LGA (ii) 1 Blk of 6 clrm, Pro AA Kure PS C/Chaga LGA (iii) 1 Blk of 6 clrm, Dandauda PS, Munya LGA (iv) 1 Blk of 6 clrm, H/Dallatu PS, Suleja LGA (v) 2 Blk of 4clrm, Kuserki/Zara PS, RafiLGA (vi) 1 Blk of 2 clrm, Kawo Ugeri PS, Rafi LGA (vii) 2Blk of 6 clrm/jagwari PS, Tafa LGA (viii) 2 Blk of 4 clrm, Wana PS, Shiroro LGA (ix) 1 Blk of 2 clrm, Kasabu PS, Agwara LGA (x) 1 Blk of 2 clrm, Jijima PS, Agwara LGA (xi) 1 Blk of 2 clrm, T/Kawo PS, K/Gora LGA (xii) 1 Blk of 2 clrm, D/Fadama PS, K/Gora LGA (xiii) 1 Blk of 2 clrm, G/Lioji PS, Mariga LGA (xiv) 1 Blk of 2 clrm, Wamba PS, Mariga LGA (xv) 1 Blk of 2 clrm, Daja PS, Mashegu LGA (xvi) 1 Blk of 2 clrm, A/Kaboji PS, Mashegu LGA	1,380,000.00 1,380,000.00 1,380,000.00 1,380,000.00 1,380,000.00 1,380,000.00 1,380,000.00 1,380,000.00 1,436,560.00 1,400,972.00 1,416,212.00 1,395,966.20 985,206.00 458,419.00 1,441,313.00 1,395,966.20 675,838.00 882,815.00 695,838.00 746,815.00 859,968.00 583,815.00 499,789.00 498,566.60

S/N	STATE	INSTITUTIONS	YEAR 2000 ALLOCATION	RECONCILED PROJECTS	APPROVED COST LIMIT
				(xvii) 1 Blk of 2 clrm, T/Kawo PS, Mashegu LGA (xviii) 3Blk of 5 clrm, Gekun PS, Wushishi LGA (xix) 2 Blk of 3 clrm, Gbrasu PS, Edati LGA (xx) 1 Blk of 2 clrm, Nagaya PS, Edati LGA (xxi) 3 Blk of 6 clrm, Edozhigi PS, Gbako LGA (xxii) 1 Blk of 2 clrm, Kashe PS, Katcha LGA (xxiii) 1 Blk of 2 clrm, Alikusu PS, Katcha LGA (xxiv) 1 Blk of 4 clrm, Mafoko PS, Lavun LGA (xxv) 1 Blk of 2 clrm, Yakudi PS, Lavun LGA (xxvi) 3 Blk of 6 clrm, UPE J/North PS, Mokwa LGA (xxvii) Provision of 1385nos. pupils double seater desks @#2,000.00 each (xxviii) Provision of 176nos. Teachers' table & chairs @#3,000.00 each (xxix) Contingencies	444,637.00 1,444,542.00 1,064,961.00 364,324.00 1,443,250.00 694,705.43 696,638.72 923,398.40 519,173.10 1,445,588.00 2,770,000.00 528,000.00 1,999.80 <u>36,085,271.25</u>
				<b>TOTAL ALLOCATION FOR NIGER STATE</b>	<b>128,490,750.95</b>
13	FCT	University of Abuja, Gwagwalada	20,000,000.00	(i) Renovation of laboratories. Administrative offices. Library, store roads & parks (ii) Acquisition of office furniture & equipment (iii) Purchase of 6nos. duplicating machines (iv) Purchase of 6nos. IBM Typewriters and Olympia manual Typewriters (v) 2nos. Xerox Photocopiers with 4nos. Xerox machine model 214 PCSDF (vi) Contingency	10,179,743.00 2,622,800.00 1,425,000.00 628,000.00 3,720,349.00 1,424,108.00 <u>20,000,000.00</u>
		Federal College Of Education, Zuba	8,000,000.00	NOT YET RECONCILED	
		Ministry of education (for Equipment for Handicapped.)	1,000,000.00	NOT YET RECONCILED	
		Ministry of education (for Senior secondary Education)	10,202,739.73	(i) Supply of 240nos. single seater class room furniture at GSS Bwari (ii) Supply of 240nos. single seater classroom furniture at GSS Rubochi (iii) Const. of a block of 4 clrs at GSS, Gwagwalada	1,771,234.92 1,771,234.92 <u>6,660,269.89</u> <u>10,202,739.73</u>
		FCT Primary Education Board	8,660,465.10	(i) Completion of 1no. block of 2 classrooms in AMC, Gwagwalada & Kwali Area councils @#1,295,546.70 ea. (ii) Completion of 1no. block of 2 classrooms in Bwari, Abaji & Kuje Area Councils @#1,154,263.95 ea. (iii) Provision of 12 sets classroom furniture(240 pupils seat, 12nos. cupboards, 12nos.teachers' tables/chairs @#105,000.00 per set. (iv) Contingencies	3,886,640.10 3,462,791.85 1,260,000.00 51,033.15 <u>8,660,465.10</u>
				<b>TOTAL ALLOCATION FOR FCT</b>	<b>47,863,204.83</b>

Signed:

**ETF Management,**13/15 Azores Street, Off Aminu Kano Crescent,  
P.M.B. 361 Wuse II, Abuja



# Crime & Punishment



## 62 contractors sue FHA

The Federal High Court sitting in Abuja yesterday granted leave to one Alhaji Ya'u Isah, a Lagos based businessman cum contractor to sue the Federal Housing Authority (FHA), on behalf of himself and 61 other contractors handling the construction of FHA houses in Lugbe, Abuja.

By Uwem Umo

contractor leave to sue the FHA on a representative capacity following a motion ex-parte moved on behalf of the contractors by a Lagos based lawyer Mr. Bala Ibn Na'Allah. Moving the motion ex-parte, Mr. Na'Allah said it was brought before the court pursuant to order 12 rule 1 sub rule 1 and rule 8 of the Federal High Court civil procedure rules.

Also joined in the suit as

defendants are the Minister of Works and Housing and the Attorney-General of the Federation.

In their particulars of claims, the 62 contractors are demanding for specific performance of their contract with the FHA on the current reviewed rate of the contract, an order directing the FHA to withdraw the letter terminating their contract dated August 13, 2001 and to also bear the cost of the litigation.

In the suit with number FHC/ABJ/CS/305/2001, the contractors claimed that the FHA awarded them a contract dated July 18, 1994 for the purpose of building various housing project at a site called Lugbe in Abuja.

In the 18 paragraph affidavit, the contractors claimed that FHA defaulted in meeting its financial obligation to them by way of prompt payment of their valued works.

The contractors also claim that the FHA in agreement with them upwardly reviewed the contract vide a letter dated November 16, 1995 but that while they were on site, the same FHA took a

unilateral decision to terminate their contract in total disregard of the terms of agreement entered into between them and the authority.

Meanwhile, the judge has ordered that all the defendants be served with the court summons and fixed September 17, 2001 for further mention of the case.



Chief Tonny Anenih

Police operatives at the Ports have devised a new method of arresting "wharf rats" with a view to reducing crime.

The Assistant Commissioner of Police, Port Harcourt Command, Mr. Hilary Opara said in a chat with *Daily Trust* that henceforth, photographs of the accused persons and offences committed will be conspicuously displayed publicly in the court as well as the particulars and address of their sureties.

This according to the commissioner would curb stealing and pilfering adding that he adopted a similar system in Bayelsa State where he was transferred from and it really worked. "Today, crime rate has reduced considerably in that state," he said.

According to Opara the practice where suspected

## Police adopt new method of arresting "wharf rats"

From Tokunbo Oloke, in Lagos

criminals are charged to court and still find their way back to the Ports after their bail and commit the same offence will soon stop.

The police chief however stressed that communication gadgets required for the proper monitoring of the ports and guns for their operations are still being expected.

Also, he promised that more police officers are still being expected at the Port command to increase the present strength which he described as the "best but still inadequate".

ACP Opara therefore urged the operators and port users to cooperate with the police to reduce crime at the nation's sea ports.

## Cultism: Two students arrested over campus attack

Two students of the University of Ilorin are now in police custody over last Friday's gun attack on the mini-campus of the institution.

From Abdul-Laro, in Ilorin

Meanwhile, the UniIlorin ASUU chairman, Dr. Taiw Oloruntoba Oju has said that the matter must be handled by the government with urgency and seriousness.

In a statement in Ilorin, the ASUU chairman said a culture of fear and intimidation parades the University which he described as a dangerous trend saying the youths and other members of the university community must be protected.

Informed sources at the campus and the Kwara State Police Command confirmed the arrest of the two suspected cultist at the mini-campus.

Gunmen suspected to be cult members struck at the weekend and shot an unidentified student in what sources described as a vengeance mission but they got the wrong target.

On the fateful day, a Honda Civic with registration number Kwara AJ 66 LRN owned by the son of a top police officer in the state police command, Kunle, known as "Coolio" by friends was vandalised by the gunmen.

Kunle narrowly escaped death as he abandoned his car to buy some sticks of cigarette while his friend also suspected to be a cult member was shot and injured.

The rampaging cultists who were all masked are said to be members of the Black Axe confraternity while Kunle is suspected to be a member of the Eiyi group.



Prof. Borishade, Educ. Minister

## Man bags 54 months for forgery

The Chief Magistrate Court, West of Mines Jos, has sentenced an 18 year old boy, Chukwu Emeka residing at No. 65 Mohammed Wada Street, Jos to 54 months imprisonment for alleged theft and forgery of a cheque to withdraw the sum of N20,000 from an account in Diamond Bank Limited, Jos.

From Buhari Bello, in Jos

delay.

He disclosed that the law empowered the chief magistrate court under section 157 (1) of the Criminal Procedure Code (CPC), to conduct summary trial of any accused person who pleaded guilty to a charge brought against him before the court.

The allegation which the police made against the accused was that on August 10, one Olumuyiwa A. Olukoya of Diamond Bank Limited, Jos branch, arrested the said Chukwu Emeka and Kingsley Godwin and brought them to the police station 'A' Division of the state command in Jos.

The complainant was said to have informed the police that the two accused persons conspired and stole a cheque leaf with number 3430741, dated August 9, 2001 belonging to one Bala Muhammad.

He also informed the police that the suspect went to the Bank and attempted to withdraw the sum of N20,000 from the account of one Chijoke Ezegwu.

During interrogation, the accused pleaded guilty to the offence and informed the court that immediately after his dismissal from the force, he engaged in stealing for the past 8 years as a result of unemployment.

When the case came up for hearing before chief magistrate, Mrs. Phoebe Longhoom, the accused person admitted the allegations made against him.

Based on the admittance of guilt to the three count charges of conspiracy, theft and forgery under sections 97, 288 and 304 of the penal code, Inspector Emmanuel Mbatrorum who had announced appearance for the prosecution called on the court to conduct a summary trial on the accused without

should please contact Mr. Lambert Oparah, National Human Rights Commission, Plot 800, Blantyre Street, Wuse II Abuja. Telephone: 09-5239550, 5238656, 5239394 or contact the nearest Police Station. A handsome reward awaits whoever recovers the items.

## MISSING DOCUMENTS

A briefcase containing various documents including original copies of Graduate and Post Graduate Certificates, vehicle particulars, identity cards, cheques books etc. have been reported missing in Abuja.

Anybody who comes across the missing items

## NBA president dragged to court

As lawyers across the country gather in Calabar under the umbrella of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), 2001 annual general conference, Mr. O.C.J. Okocha (SAN), NBA President has been dragged before an Ikeja High Court over the NBA proposed constitutional amendments containing a provision to increase the practising fees for lawyers.

From Adelanwa Bamgboye, in Lagos

*Daily Trust* gathered that with the contentious increase in the practising fees, lawyers who are 1-4 years at the bar who used to pay N200 will now pay N1,000, 5-9 years will pay N3,000 instead of N400.00 and 10-14 years will pay N5,000 instead of N750.

It was further gathered that those with 15 years experience at the bar and above will pay N10,000 instead of N1,000.

Honourable Benchers will pay N20,000 while Senior Advocates of Nigeria (SAN) will also pay N20,000 instead of N2,000.

In a 19 paragraph affidavit in support of the suit deposed to by one Adekunle, he stated that if the contentious practising fees increase is effected by way of constitutional amendment, it was capable of affecting all the applicants adversely.

He stated that in order to prevent the early detection of

such provisions, the NBA/NEC has kept the proposal as a closely guarded secret.

According to the plaintiffs, the proposed increase in the practising fees is beyond the reach of an average lawyer.

The plaintiff claimed that they have not derived any benefit directly, or otherwise from the NBA or its officers since the commencement of their term.

They said further that the exorbitant practicing fees amendment, if it sails through will restrict the choice of counsel to those who are able to pay the contentious fees which according to them will be to the detriment of an average lawyer.

According to the plaintiffs, the said increases are grossly unreasonable, unfair, unwarranted, unjust, oppressive and unjustifiable taking due cognisance of the state of the nation's economy.

No date has been fixed for the suit yet.

## Police trail Kano market thieves

The Kano Police Command has thrown its dragnet within and outside Kano metropolis to fish out the gang of armed robbers that raided Kofar Ruwa market on Tuesday. The robbers carted away cash and property worth about N7 million.

From Jamila Nuhu Musa, in Kano

attacks. He explained that all the security men in the market were rounded up and locked in a shop.

"We continuously heard gun shots throughout the operation but we did not know who or what they were shooting at," he stated.

The Kano State Police spokesman DSP Muhammad Auwalu, told *Daily Trust* that the gun shots were actually an exchange all of fire between the robbers and the police from Gwammaja police post who had responded to the distress by residents.

He refuted allegations that police in the area refused to respond, adding that the robbers layed ambush along Gwammaja road to stop police from getting to the mar-

ket where building materials and spare parts are sold.

Governor Musa Kwankwaso had to break up an executive council meeting to visit the scene of the robbery. This was after the traders had a protest to the Government House to tender their grievances on the state of security in the state.



Gov. Kwankwaso



# PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PDP)

## POWER TO THE PEOPLE

National Secretariat: Plot 1970, Michael Okpara Street, Wadata Plaza, Wuse Zone 5, Abuja. Tel: 09-5232569, 5233429 Fax: 09-5231299

### PDP 3RD ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION PROGRAMME

#### Friday, 31st August 2001

a. Special Juma'at prayers in mosques nationwide. In Abuja, Vice President Atiku Abubakar will attend the prayers.

**Time:** 1.30p.m. prompt  
**Venue:** National Mosque, Abuja

b. Presidential Dinner

**Time:** 7.00p.m.  
**Venue:** Eagle Square, Abuja

#### Saturday, 1st September, 2001

#### **National Symposium:**

**Topic:** PDP: Sustaining the Peoples Mandate  
**Chairman:** Chief Solomon D. Lar  
**Guest Speaker:** Dr. Alex Ekwueme  
**Discussants:** \* Dr. Bode Olajumoke  
 \* Prof. Ango Abdullahi  
 \* Mrs. Julie Nwariaku  
 \* Dr. Shettima Mustapha  
 \* Prof. Jerry Gana  
 \* Prof. E.C. Osamor  
 \* Sen. Ibrahim Mantu

**Venue:** International Conference Centre, Abuja (African Hall)

**Time:** 10.00am

#### Sunday, 2nd September 2001

Inter-denominational Church Service to be attended by President Olusegun Obasanjo; PDP National Chairman, Chief Barnabas Gemade and other top party leaders.

**Signed**

**BARRISTER VENATIUS IKEM**

*National Publicity Secretary.*

# THE ABDULSALAMI'S LEGACIES

- \* Abdulsalami, the moving spirit behind a successful implementation of the transition to civil rule in Nigeria.
- \* The only Military officer who refused to engage In dirty Military Politics.
- \* The Second General and Head of State to relinquish power voluntarily to a democratically elected government in Nigeria.
- \* The amiable General and Head of State who struggled and restored the good image of Nigeria.
- \* The Leader who helped to strengthen African faith in moral superiority of democracy and the inevitability of its triumph.
- \* The Giant who built the foundation for a new era for Nigeria. An era of peaceful coexistence and hope. A foundation built on solid truthfulness for the greater future of Nigeria.



**GENERAL ABDULSALAMI A. ABUBAKAR**  
Former Head of State, Federal Republic of Nigeria

- \* The man who provided the moving spirit from total insecurity and fear to hopefulness.
- \* The Elder Statesman who led Nigeria to the promise land.
- \* Abdulsalami, the great, whose leadership style, mission and vision will remain indelible in the annals of the history of Africa.
- \* Yes, here is a man who inherited a crises-infested nation; a crippling national economy with unenviable status in international arena, yet he recorded a brilliant and uncontroversial chain of successes.
- \* The Man who ushered in the democratic dividend Nigeria is reaping today.
- \* Retired, yet not tired. He is still using his status as an Elder Statesman, Internationally recognized figure to further foster common cooperation that would engender our economic, social, and political status in the global arena.
- \* Ignore attempts by "Drowning Men" and Mudslingers to drag his humble name into the mud.

**SIGNED**

**FRIENDS OF ABDULSALAMI A. ABUBAKAR  
FROM NIGERIA AND ABROAD.**



# SPORTS



## Aku goes tough on newly constituted associations

A strong indication emerged yesterday that there is going to be a total break from the administration of various sports associations from what it obtains in the past, as the Minister of Sports and Social Development, Ishaya Mark Aku, has threatened to enforce discipline in the various associations.

Speaking with *Trustsports* immediately after the inauguration ceremony at Nicon Hilton Hotel, Abuja, the minister said the idea of the chairmen flexing muscles with their secretaries would not be tolerated in this dispensation.

"My administration will not condone indiscipline especially from my staff part of who are your secretaries. In the same vein, I will not encourage unbridled expression of power by members of the board especially on issues of financial management," he charged.

Aku, however, discouraged the chairmen from running their respective associations as private enterprise. "It has come to my notice that some previous chairmen held association funds in their personal accounts. I want to believe that this kind of practice ended with the out-going associations administrations."

From Babs Oyetoro, in Lagos

He stressed that the ministry has fashioned out operational guidelines for the administration of the associations adding that the essence of this is to streamline the workings of the associations to ensure efficiency and effectiveness.

He warned the associa-

tion chairman from canvassing for or accepting the hosting of international championships without clearance from the ministry. "While we should encourage the hosting of championships in Nigeria, it is important for the associations to be adequately prepared for such hosting particularly as it has inter ministerial implications."

## AFN seeks way forward

Despite the string of poor results recorded by the athletes recently and in the international meets, the Athletic Federation of Nigeria has remained focused and committed to its programmes.

Speaking with *Trustsports* yesterday in Abuja, AFN scribe, Caleb Gidado, said the poor outings recorded by the athletes in the recent time serve as blessing in disguise to the federation.

Gidado maintained that the athletes poor outing had compelled the federation to return to the drawing board in order to fashion out a way forward for athletics in Nigeria.

"I saw the problems coming immediately after the just concluded Africa re-

gional zone II championship held in Lagos, where Nigeria faulted in the sprints to the amazement of all sports followers in the country," he said.

He explained that there was little he could do to effect any meaningful impact as the World Championship was very close then adding that the World Championship too was an eye opener to the federation.

The former Nigeria Cycling Federation scribe hinted that the associations has submitted its recommendation to the ministry of sports saying that this recommendation would form part of the blueprint for the resuscitation of athletics in the country.

He promised that the preparation for the Commonwealth Games would start in earnest.



From father to son: Ambassador Zakari Ibrahim, the Talba Katsina presenting the Talba Cup to the captain of Katsina Maidabino, Ibrahim Zakari Ibrahim at last year's Katsina Polo Tournament.

## Kano Rima eyes Gen. Hassan Cup

### Polo

By Ismaila Umaru Lere

Unstoppable Kano Rima looks very much on course to winning the prestigious Gen. Hassan Cup at this year's Katsina Polo Tournament.

After two memorable victories against Kano Continental and Kano Yakasai, the group ticket is no longer a big goal for the Ghassan Kamal-led squad. The coveted silverware is what really matters.

But before gunning for the title, one more battle would need to be fought. The optimistic foursome-Kamal +0, Kabiru Dantata +2,

Mamuda Shehu +2, Madugu Dantata +1 - will trade tackles with Katsina Masanawa in the afternoon's star match.

On paper, at least, Rima seem clear favourites, but the Kanawa know quite well that in polo term, the word "favourite" does not hold especially in a game where dramatic twists and turns are almost permanent features.

Rima will be relying heavily on their horse power and inspirational play of Mamuda Shehu and the energy and finishing of Kabiru Dantata.

The home team - Katsina Masanawa with everything to play for, have strength in depth to cause some few problems or shatter Rima dreams of reaching the Cup final. With such talented players as Ibrahim Babangida +2 and Aminu Gagare +2 supporting Shehu Lawal Kaita +1 and Bishir Mangal +1 upfront, there will never be a dull moment.

Genuine success in the Ni-

gerian Cup has eluded Kaduna Maidabino. Once again, they are made to play second fiddle to Kaduna El-Amin. But their game this evening at the Usman Nagogo Polo Ground against Kano Titans will solicit a lot of interest as the Dikko Ladan squad aims to retain the Royal Cup for the second consecutive time.

As usual, Dawule Baba is expected to be the playmaker with Babangida Hassan pushed deep into defense. The attack, spearheaded by Ladan and Abba M. T. Usman need to be sharp and stealthy to break Kano Titans's defensive resolve.

Maidabino possess the quality and brains to churn-out a result in this tie, but they have been sluggish and inconsistent which has heavily affected their title aspirations.

Meanwhile, the other game in the Gen. Hassan Cup will see Kaduna AKA squaring up with Ghana Accra I for the stream "A" spoils.

## Roddick overpowers Dosedal

American teenager Andy Roddick overpowered experienced Czech Slava Dosedal in the first round of the US Open.

Roddick, 18, hit 16 aces on his way to a 6-4 6-1 6-2 victory at Flushing Meadows.

"I just wanted to get out there, put some balls in the court in the first set and I started rolling in the second and third. I felt good," said Roddick.

Earlier, Pete Sampras reached the second round with a comfortable victory over Julien Boutter.

The 10th seed won in straight sets but needed two tiebreaks to see off the talented Frenchman in the Arthur Ashe Stadium.

In round two, Sampras, who was runner-up at Flushing Meadows last year, will play Brazilian Andre Sa.

Sampras's Wimbledon conqueror, Roger Federer, was another seed to progress.

"I still feel I'm one of the strong favourites, even though the year has been disappointing," said Sampras after the match.

The 20-year-old Swiss player, who is seeded #3, beat Germany's Lars Burgsmuller 6-4 6-4 6-4.

Australian fourth seed Lleyton Hewitt came through in straight sets against

### Tennis

Magnus Gustafsson, playing in his last Grand Slam event.

But fifth seed Juan Carlos Ferrero had to go the distance with Arnaud di Pasquale.

The Spaniard had to serve to save the match in the fourth set - he did so and overwhelmed the tiring di Pasquale in the tiebreak.

Ferrero then raced through the final set 6-0.

Eighth seed Sebastian Grosjean became the highest seed to fall so far.

The Frenchman, playing his first tournament after a six-week lay-off with an ankle injury, was beaten 6-4

6-3 6-4 by Argentine Mariano Zabaleta.

Russia's Yevgeny Kafelnikov made hard work of beating Michel Kratochvil, of Switzerland, 1-6 6-1 5-7 6-4 6-4.

Hicham Arazi had a real battle to see off Agustin Calleri of Argentina.

The 28th-seeded Moroccan led by two sets to love but ended up being taken to five sets.

No such problems for the number 25 seed, Spaniard Albert Portas, who beat Cristiano Caratti of Italy in straight sets.

Frenchman Nicolas Escude was another three-set winner, the 31st seed beating

Hyung-Taik Lee of Korea.

Eleventh seed Alex Corretja, of Spain, beat Raemon Sluiter, of the Netherlands, was made to work for his 7-6 (7-4) 6-7 (4-7) 6-4 6-2 victory.

Other seeds safely into the next round include Sweden's Thomas Johansson and American Jan-Michael Gambill.

Fourteenth seed Johansson beat German Puentes, of Spain, for the loss of just five games.

Gambill, seeded 20, beat 1993 runner-up Cedric Pioline in straight sets.

America's Todd Martin dispatched compatriot Mike Russell 6-4 6-4 7-5.

## Man Utd in triple blow

Manchester United have suffered a triple setback in their hunt for a replacement for Jaap Stam.

PSV Eindhoven, Parma and Valencia have let the Premiership champions know that they intend to hold onto key defenders Kevin Hofland, Fabio Cannavaro and Roberto Ayala.

On Tuesday, another possible Old Trafford target, Real Madrid's Ivan Campo,

said he wanted to stay in Spain.

It means that United boss Sir Alex Ferguson will have to place his faith in 35-year-old Laurent Blanc, with the deadline for Champions League signings just 48 hours away.

Old Trafford chief executive Peter Kenyon has already indicated that the French World Cup winner will sign for the club in the next 48 hours.

Hofland has already re-

jected a move to Old Trafford - and the signs are that the 22-year-old Dutch international will do so again.

His father, who is also the player's agent, insists he will not leave PSV before next summer.

He told The Sun newspaper: "We have agreed with PSV that Kevin would, at least, play two seasons in Eindhoven."

"After the current campaign, Manchester United or any other club could make PSV an offer."

United have also been warned off making a move for Cannavaro.

Parma president Stefano Tanzi said: "We are not going to sell Cannavaro to anyone."

"A number of top Italian clubs have attempted to buy him but they received the same answer as everyone else - no."

Valencia are also determined to hold onto Argentine ace Ayala, inserting a £38m buy-out clause in his contract that is

designed to ward off any interest from United.

## English FA headquarters ransacked

Police have begun investigating a break-in at the Football Association's new headquarters.

There are fears thieves may have stolen computers containing confidential information on players, including their home addresses and phone numbers.

Scotland Yard refused to discuss details of what was missing.

But a spokesman said computer equipment was

taken from offices in Soho Square, central London.

The break-in was discovered on Tuesday morning by an employee returning from the Bank Holiday weekend.

The FA moved to Soho Square in October last year from its home of 70 years at Lancaster Gate.

It later sold the Lancaster Gate premises, which were smaller, for £7.25m.

No-one at the FA was immediately implicated in the break-in.



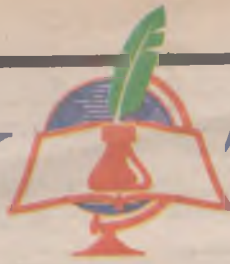
Sampras



of Katsina Masanawa in action at Katsina Polo Tournament last year.

This Space  
Is for  
Sale

DAILY TRUST



This Space  
Is for  
Sale



# More trouble for WAFU Cup

West Africa's troubled regional competition, the WAFU Cup, has run into more controversy just a month before the newly-designed event is due to start.

The Confederation of African Football has threatened to cancel the tournament because of rules which protect the African Cup of Nations.

WAFU officials are expected to meet CAF president Issa Hayatou in Yaounde this week to try to save the event.

The event, which began in 1977, was relaunched this year as an eight-nation tournament, similar to Southern Africa's Cosafa Cup, in a bid to save its future.

In recent years, the old WAFU Cup, which involved club sides had been constantly embroiled in problems.

Last year's competition ran into trouble when Togo decided they could not host the semi-finals as planned.

The final matches were never completed.

The previous year also ended in dispute when the winners were never paid their prize money. They then refused to take part in last year's event.

Earlier this year there was also doubt that the new event would proceed because most of the 16 member states had failed to pay their subscriptions, while the organisation was still searching for sponsorship.

The event has been

By Ismaila Umaru Lere  
scheduled for the end of September but CAF is concerned that several of the teams involved have also qualified for the more prestigious continental event.

Moreover, the WAFU Cup will be played in the same month that the Nations Cup draw is held in Bamako.

The three-man WAFU

delegation led by its Executive Secretary Aka Malan say they were optimistic of convincing Mr Hayatou to give the sub-regional tournament a chance.

The draw for the event was made last week and will see Nigeria, Togo, Mali and Cape Verde meet in Group A, and Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast, Gambia and Senegal in Group B.



Andy Roddick returns the ball against Sjeng Schalken of the Netherlands during the final match of the Legg Mason Tennis Classic in Washington.



Kaduna Maidabino forward, Abba M. T. Usman in action at the Katsina Polo Tournament last year.



Real Madrid's French player Zinedine Zidane, center, is fouled by Valencia's Uruguayan midfielder Gonzalo de los Santos, right during the opening match of the new Spanish soccer season, Valencia, Spain on Saturday.



Issa Hayatou, CAF President

## Strands of Fate: written & illustrated by Bulama Mustapha

