

# DAILY TRUST

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## Obasanjo gives deadline for privatisation of NITEL

By Suleiman Mohammed

President Olusegun Obasanjo has ordered that the privatisation of NITEL must be concluded by the end of September this year.

Speaking at a meeting with members of the National Council on Privatisation, President Obasanjo said that the Federal Government considered the successful privatisation of NITEL and the power sector as vital to its programmes.

The successful completion of the privatisation of the two sectors, he said, would send "clear and firm signals to local and foreign investors on the seriousness of the country's commitment to the programme."

"We all must accept that privatisation is a policy that has come to stay and it will be vigorously pursued," the President said, stressing that it was for that reason that a time limit was set for the conclusion of the programme.

"This time limit will not be exceeded," he warned.

"You have to work together on this," he told members of the council which was led by Vice President Atiku Abubakar. Obasanjo also reiterated his earlier warning that all stakeholders and government departments involved in the programme must work in harmony.

Issues identified as possible obstacles to the speedy and successful privatisation of NITEL, including the question of licensing a second national carrier, joint venture partnership for NITEL's GSM licence and the debt issue between the government and NITEL, were resolved at the meeting.

# Resource control is meaningless - Bala Usman

Renowned history teacher at the Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria, Dr. Yusuf Bala Usman, has described advocates of resource control as a bunch of ignorant and unpatriotic Nigerians, who are fighting a meaningless cause.

In the paper he delivered yesterday at a one-day symposium in honour of the

From Musa Kazaure and Aliyu Sulaiman, in Kano

late Malam Aminu Kano titled: "Ignorance, Knowledge and Democratic Politics in Nigeria", Bala Usman also condemned northern governors for "blindly" following their southern counterparts in the struggle for resource control.

"Instead of studying our geology, ecology, history,

economics and constitutional as well as legal development, the governors resorted to the same cheap politics of claiming sovereign rights for their states.

"Blindly" confronts the blind, and the country's politics sinks into a welter of baseless tribalist and racist claims at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century," he said.

He pointed out that the political activities in the areas.

Irate youths were said to have blocked the only major road to Wase through Langtang wielding clubs, sticks, machetes and harassing motorists.

The chairman of the local government, Mr. Yusuf

contd. on pg 2

survival of democracy in Nigeria could only be assured if the country spawns homegrown ideas.

"We must build our political theory, political principles, political research, political training and political

practice as the foundation of the legacy of politics of human values, deeply imbued with the quest for knowledge and the dissemination of knowledge committed to the betterment of all human beings," he said.

Dr. Bala Usman described

contd. on pg 2

## 5 killed in Plateau

Five persons are believed to have been killed in a communal clash which erupted last week in Nasarawa village in Wase Local Government Area of Plateau State.

Daily Trust learnt that the clash between the Bogghom and Taroh speaking communities, also led to the destruction of houses, vehicles and other property estimated at about N2.5 million.

Daily Trust gathered that the clash broke out from a dispute over a farm land when a Taroh tribesman who was picking mangoes on the land was ordered out by a Bogghom man. This led to a heated argument which resulted in a physical combat and which attracted other

From Buhari Bello, in Jos

tribesmen from both sides.

It was further gathered that the fighting spread to Langtang North and Kanam local government areas, homes to the Bogghom people, paralysing commer-

## FG to implement ASUU agreements

The Federal Government took a step yesterday to break the ice in the crisis in the university sector caused by the current strike by the Academic Staff Union of University (ASUU), by setting up a committee to implement resolutions between the government and the union.

Inaugurating the committee in Abuja, the minister of Education, Prof. A.B. Borishade, explained that the step was in pursuance of resolutions reached at the reconciliation meeting between the government and ASUU, brokered by the National Assembly last week.

contd. on pg 2

## Armed robbers attack Gemade

Valuable party documents and cash roughly estimated at about one million naira were carted away by daredevil armed robbers who attacked the national chairman of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), Chief Barnabas Gemade.

The robbery incident which took place in broad-

By Ibrahim Modibbo,  
Political Editor

day light (about 12noon) near Ozalla junction, along Okigwe-Enugu road last Sunday saw Gemade's convoy of seven cars falling into a well-laid ambush by the seven-man robbery squad.

Recounting his experience at a press conference in Abuja yesterday, Chief

contd. on pg 2



Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, Mr. J. Dennis Hastert (fifth left), President Olusegun Obasanjo and members of the US Congress, Mr. E.D. Johnson (third left) and Mr. Sherwood Boehert (extreme right) at the Presidential Villa, Abuja, yesterday. US Ambassador to Nigeria, Mr. Howard Jeter is at the background.

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## NEWS

Nigeria to get 11 million telephone lines by 2006 — *Arzika*

The Federal Government has concluded plans to establish about 11 million telephone lines in the next five years, Communications Minister, Alhaji Muhammadu Arzika, has said.

Out of this number, five million would be fixed lines while the remaining six million would be mobile telephone lines.

A statement by the Director of Press in the ministry indicated that the minister disclosed the figures recently in London in a keynote address he delivered at a summit on "Opportunities in Mobile and Fixed Lines Telecommunications in Nigeria."

Nigeria requires additional 500,000 telephone lines

By Emmanuel Ande



Alh. Mohd Arzika

to meet the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) prescribed minimum standard of one telephone line for 100

persons.

He added that the immediate requirements for meeting both the established and suppressed demands were over three million direct exchange and about 200,000

cellular lines.

According to the minister, an established six billion US dollars or more would be required in terms of investment to provide immediate service requirement. He said the present NITEL installed

capacity of 800,000 lines has become grossly inadequate.

In order to attract the massive investments required in the sub-sector, the minister explained that the Federal Government had dismantled all bottlenecks asso-

ciated with investment in the country.

To this effect he explained that two legislative acts, the Enterprises Promotion Decree and the Foreign Exchange Control Act, have been repealed.

## Obasanjo gives recipe for Nigeria's African leadership

By Suleiman Mohammed

Political stability and economic prosperity have been identified as pre-requisites for Nigeria to regain her leadership role in the African continents." President Olusegun Obasanjo has declared.

"Democracy has a very important attraction for our people because we have tried other forms of governance. But our people also want de-

mocracy dividends. In addition to greater freedoms which come with democracy, they also want tangible results." President Obasanjo said yesterday while conferring with American congressmen at the State House, Abuja.

According to the President, his government was determined to regain the nation's image and her leadership role through positive improvements in the lives of Nigerians, "so that they do not become disenchanted."

He told the delegation led by the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, Mr. Dennis Hastert, that greater American trade and investment in the productive sectors of the Nigeria economy would help democracy to take firm roots in Nigeria.

He thanked members of



President Obasanjo

the US congress for the recent passage of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), which, he said Nigeria would take advantage of. President Obasanjo said Nigeria would welcome American investments in its oil, gas and solid minerals sectors.

He then urged the congressmen to support Nigeria in her quest for debt relief, saying "we have to move for-

ward in such a way that debt repayments will become less important, and trade and investment more important in our relations."

He also reiterated Nigeria's commitment to peace-making and peace-keeping in Africa because, according to him, peace and security must be the basis and foundation of development on the continent. He added that Nigeria would continue to work for genuine integration and cooperation amongst African countries.

Earlier, the US Speaker, Mr. Dennis Hastert had expressed satisfaction with the leadership of President Obasanjo, saying they would do everything possible to promote democracy in Nigeria.

Mr. Hastert asked for more cooperation between Nigeria and the United States, and expressed the desire to promote the fight against HIV/AIDS and drug trafficking.

Borisade said that the action was "in furtherance of my earlier position on the need to sift out the aspects of the resolutions reached on December 18, 2000, which could be realistically implemented in the immediate/short run."

He urged the committee to critically study the documents and identify aspects that could be implemented immediately and work out the implementation strategies.

The Minister also urged the committee to liaise with the committees of the National Assembly, the Ministries of Education and Labour and Productivity, as well as the National Universities Commission (NUC), Pro-chancellors and University Vice-Chancellors to keep them abreast with steps toward the implementation.

He also advised the committee to take other actions that would ensure the restoration of confidence and mutual trust between the government and ASUU, stress-

## FG contd. from pg. 1

ing, "you have been assigned to take action that should impact positively on the academic future of our children as well as the overall educational development of our great country."

The minister hoped that ASUU would respond positively to the intervention of the National Assembly and other stakeholders in education by calling off its strike in the interest of students and parents.

Responding, the chairman of the committee and Minister of State for Education, Alhaji Bello Usman, promised that they would take the assignment seriously in the interest of education.

"We are aware of the anxiety of students and the concern of parents as well as other stakeholders in the education sector," Usman added.

Members of the commit-

tee include the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Mr. Geoffrey Enukorah, the Director of Higher Education, Dr. Peter Abdu, and the Director of Finance in the ministry, Dr. Haruna Sanusi.

Also in the committee are the Executive Secretary of NUC, Prof. Munzali Jibril, the Legal Adviser in the ministry, Mrs. E. D. Uche and the Chief Press Secretary to the Minister, Mr. Okon Bassey.

## 5 contd. from pg. 1

Wase. Efforts to get police comments proved abortive as the Public Relations Officer was said to have accompanied the State Police Commissioner on an assignment outside the state.

Reliable sources at the state police command however, confirmed the killings, saying some policemen from the mobile force had been despatched to the affected areas.

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## Resource control contd. from pg. 1

the late Malam Aminu Kano as one who practised politics with the interest of building a just and egalitarian society.

"All these types of bankrupt politics taking place

now, are what the legacy of Malam Aminu Kano emerged to challenge, oppose, and overcome," he stated.

According to him, Malam taught his followers "to always ask why, and say no to policies that oppress them".

In a message to the occasion, Vice-President Atiku Abubakar had extolled the virtues of the late Malam Aminu Kano describing him as a man who was consistent and dedicated in his struggle for the liberation of the masses of Nigeria.

"The mere mention of Malam Aminu automatically invokes the portrait of selfless service, the portrait

of the ordinary people, the struggle against abuse of power and struggle against bad governance", he declared.

Vice President Atiku said Malam Aminu Kano distinguished himself from many of his contemporaries by his sincerity of purpose and unwavering commitment to his ideals.

He noted that Malam single handedly championed the cause of the *talakawa*, saying, "the ideology of democratic humanism which guided his politics sought to advocate the masses and to generally our people not only to know what is right, to do the right things and to uphold righteousness".

The chairman of the occasion, Alhaji Yusuf Maitama Sule, *Danmasanin Kano*, said Malam Aminu was a special creature who

emancipation of the downtrodden.

He said throughout his life, Malam was treating his followers the way the Fulani herdsman treats his cattle

In his remarks, the vice-chancellor of Bayero University, Kano (BUK), Professor Musa Abdulfatih, had described the late Aminu Kano as a fiery and fearless nationalist leader who left an indelible imprint in the political landscape of this country.

"He fought for our independence and resolutely opposed British imperialism and its neo-colonial legacy in the heydays of indirect rule. He fought for the enthronement of true democracy in governance and for the emancipation of the peasantry from the shackles of colonialism," he said.

State governor, Alhaji Rabiu Kwankwaso said Aminu Kano devoted the larger proportion of his life to the fight against the oppression of the masses.

The governor, who described himself as a political nonentity compared to people like Malam, however promised to build on the legacies of the Malam.

Personalities that attended the symposium at the Bayero University, Kano include former Head of State, General Muhammadu Buhari; ACF leader, Alhaji Sule Katagum; former Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Alhaji Aminu Saleh; former vice chancellor of BUK and ambassador to Libya, Prof. Dandatti Abdulkadir; the Foreign Affairs Minister, Alhaji Sule

## Robbers contd. from pg. 1

Gemade said that his convoy was returning to Abuja after attending the funeral of Pa Uzodima in Imo State and shortly before Ozalla where the Nigerian Law School is situated robbers armed with submachine guns opened fire about 200 metres from the point of their operation.

He said "the robbers who had already robbed about 10 cars including a luxurious bus immediately opened fire, spraying bullets rapidly." He said the mobile policemen in the convoy had to return fire for fire, but as their bullets were exhausted, "we had to retreat fast".

"After about 30 minutes of the retreat to safety we thought things had cooled down believing that the robbers might have run away. So, we turned round and came back, only to meet them opening fire again. In the course of making a u-turn, one of our cars belonging to my Political Adviser, Chief Jack Tilly-Gyado, had its engine knocked after reversing for about 2.5km and the robbers ransacked the car and carted away valuable documents and cash", he said.

The chairman who conducted pressmen round the bullet-ridden car said more

through the dash board of the pilot car, broke the metre compartment and damaged the steering wheel. He said nobody sustained any serious injury.

Gemade who described the robbers as men "on top of the world" rather than "men of the under world" said "we thank God for His mercies and we praise Him for His miraculous deliverance of His children at times like this".

When asked of his immediate reaction to the attack, Gemade said, "I felt highly disappointed on what should have been a pleasurable ride that suddenly turned into a nightmare as hoodlums standing right in the middle of the road, felt accomplished by spraying sporadic bullets in all directions. It is amazing."

The chairman who told journalists that he has reported the matter to the police at Okigwe and Owerri Police Command has however, disclosed that he was not yet certain as to whether arrests were made or not.

Meanwhile, hundreds of party stalwarts and sympathisers have been thronging in the residence of the chairman to commiserate with him over the robbery incident.



NEWS

## CAN calls for dialogue on Sharia

The Bauchi State chapter of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), has called for a dialogue between the association and state government, "to clarify major issues before the implementation of the Sharia legal system" the Chairman, Rev. Dauda

Marafa, has said. Addressing newsmen in Bauchi as part of activities to mark the Easter celebration, Marafa said "the present effort being intensified to amend relevant portions of the state penal system to pave way for the commencement of Sharia, would not only be unacceptable to Christians

but also adherents of other religions.

"If Sharia is intended to cleanse the society, the Christians, too, are interested in having a decent society and we demand the introduction of customary courts to try cases of non-Muslims, in accordance with the provisions of the law."

He argued that there was the need to establish customary courts since Christian marriages had been classified as customary in the constitution.

He urged Christians to be law-abiding and to pray for continued peaceful co-existence in the state, stressing that the association was awaiting government's response prior to the implementation of the Sharia legal system.

Gov. Ahmadu Muazu signed the Sharia implementation bill in February this year, while a three-month extension was granted for the implementation committee to advise and conclude modalities for system to commence.

## Zamfara governor justifies N500m Islamic hotel

Gov. Ahmed Sani of Zamfara State has defended the building of a N500 million Islamic hotel in Abuja by the state government.

The governor, accused of misplacing the state's priorities at an international Islamic workshop in London, told the Europe correspondent of the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) that the hotel was being established to generate revenue for the government.

He said Zamfara, like many other states, depended solely on funds from the federation account to execute



Gov. Ahmed Sani

their development programmes and argued that if additional revenue sources were not explored, there could come a time when revenue from the account might be inadequate for development purposes.

Sani said that as a unique project, the Islamic hotel would provide an opportunity for people to stay in an environment devoid of alcohol, women of easy virtue and other vices.

Stressing his readiness to accept useful suggestions and criticisms, the governor warned the people against "undue criticisms" and advised them to find out the true situation of things before making any accusations.

He explained that his actions and policies of his government were not just for the people of Zamfara but for the entire

Muslims in the country and asked them to call him to order if he deviated from the right path.

On the impact of Sharia in Zamfara, the governor said that -in less than two years of its adoption, the Islamic legal code had changed the way and manner people conducted themselves.

Sharia had made them to be "more alive to their duties and responsibilities to God and fellow human beings," he said. The governor also said that the changes he introduced in the education sector had made students to be genuinely interested in education, rather than see it as an avenue to acquire certificates.

A monthly bursary allowance, he said, was being paid to indigenes of the state in tertiary institutions ranging from N1,000 for those doing remedial studies to N5,000 for those studying medicine or science.

Sani also said that the state government had increased the feeding money per student in secondary schools and pledged to provide amenities and infrastructure needed by the people.

## NEPA anxious on Enron project —Mousa-Booth

The National Electric Power Authority (NEPA) is anxious to see the American company, Enron, begin to supply electricity to Lagos state from its independent power plant at Egbin.

Assistant General Manager for Public Affairs in NEPA Mohammed Mousa-Booth said insinuations making the rounds that NEPA was out to frustrate the project, on which Enron had already spent 600 million dollars, was "sheer blackmail."

In its campaign to combat power outages, the Lagos state government entered into agreement with Enron last year for the latter to supply 90 megawatts of electricity to the state from April this year.

Enron was to increase supply to 270 megawatts by August from barges it would mount on the Lagos lagoon.

In the eve of the march 12 inauguration of the plant, however, Minister of Power and Steel, Segun Agagu dismissed it as illegal, saying it did not conform with international standards.

NEPA and the Federal Government had also been locked in a battle with Enron and Lagos state government since conception of the project.

The Federal Government contended that tariff to be charged by Enron was exploitative and also doubted its purpose on the project.

The Lagos state government, however contended that the government at the centre was only out to frustrate its project to score cheap political points.

Moosa-Booth said that all that NEPA set out to do was "purely on national interest." "Standards," he said,

"must be respected. — I have gone to the site and they have gone quite far.

"No one wants to stop that kind of project. It should be implemented religiously. We won't compromise standards,

He explained that NEPA's stand on the take-off of the

Enron project was necessary to "protect the national grid," and ensure that it was not exposed to "great danger." Electricity to be supplied by Enron was planned to be fed into the national grid and, consequently, sold to consumers by arrangement with the Lagos state government.



L-R: President Olusegun Obasanjo, Vice President Atiku Abubakar, Chairman, National Privatisation Council and Malam Nasir El-Rufai, Director-General, Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) at a meeting in the State House, Abuja. . . yesterday. Pix Kennedy Egbonodje.

## Gwoza executes N10m project

Communities in Gwoza Local government area of Borno State have executed projects worth N10 million in the past two years, the area's community development officer, Malam Uthman Idris, has said.

He told newsmen in Gwoza at the weekend, that the projects include the rehabilitation of 10 roads, four schools, six wells and drain-

ages as well as the construction of three earth dams and a police post.

He commended the Gwoza local government council, under Alhaji Kamselum Ibrahim, for its financial support to the communal efforts and appealed to the state government to assist communities who engaged in self-help projects.

He noted that for the past

six years, the state government had not sent any assistance to communities who engaged in self-help projects in the area and that assistance from the state government would go a long way in promoting the much-needed grassroots development.

The area community development officer said that an invitation had been sent to the state commissioner for

co-operative and community development, who is also the State deputy governor, Alhaji Abubakar Jatau, to visit Gwoza and inaugurate the 15-kilometre Ngoshe-Sama road, constructed recently through communal effort.

He explained that the invitation was to let the state government see and appreciate the commitment of the people so that it could also assist in developing the area.

Also commenting on self-help projects in the area, the Gwoza Local government chairman, Alhaji Kamselum Ibrahim,

Commended the people for their determination to complement government efforts.

He assured the people that the council would continue to assist any community that engaged in communal projects and appealed to the state government to also assist such communities.

## LG sinks 56 wells in Borno

In its effort to check the problem of potable water facing border communities in Gwoza local government area of Borno, the Local Government Council has sunk 56 wells and a borehole, the chairman of the council, Alhaji Kamselum Ibrahim, has said.

Speaking in an interview with the news agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Gwoza on

pealed to the state and Federal Governments to complement the efforts of the council in providing social amenities to the people, said that a water tanker was also made available to distribute water to them.

Ibrahim said that about 11 communities were residing along the border with Cameroon in the area, adding that the local government had been trying within its

means to provide them with the needed services.

He commended the peaceful and cordial relationship between the communities and their neighbours in Cameroon over the years and urged them to maintain the relationship.

On the problem of flood affecting Gwoza town, Ibrahim said a N3.5 million culvert and drainage contract had been awarded by the council to check the problem.



Gov. Mala Kachalla



## NEWS

## Nothing mysterious about museums, says Eluyemi

Contrary to widespread fears and suspicions that some of the artefacts in Nigerian museums carry spiritual auras and serve some religious functions, the chief executive of national commission for museums and monuments, Dr. Omotosho Eluyemi, yesterday said that such fears were unfounded.

Speaking with correspondents in Abuja, the chief executive argued that the mysteries surrounding museums were mostly created by people who had inhibitions for antiquities.

"We contribute to the mystery that mysterious things exist in the museums. In the past we have had cases of recorded deaths but I do not think it was the materials that caused that," he said, adding that "the possibility cannot be totally ruled out."

Eluyemi emphasised that art works differed from antiquity in several ways, "art work is different from antiquity, not because antiquities are more mysterious but they

have more age and man grows wiser with age," he argued.

He further stressed that 'all objects of antiquity have their own history to tell and our duty is to explore history to the maximum and relate it to the public. The message in the antiquity has more depth and meaning than the message of an artwork because antiquity is an embodiment of history.

The chief executive said that arrangements had been concluded to ensure that the N2.6 billion national museum of unity takes-off this year. He said the museum would be very significant in relating the history of Nigeria to Nigerians and visitors who come from other countries.

"Every foreigner would want to visit two places as soon as he enters the country, the theatre and the museum. It is in the theatre you will see the living culture of the people while the

museum will show you the history and civilisation of the people," he said.

Eluyemi told newsmen that the centre for national museum of unity would be built between the Christian ecumenical centre and the national Mosque in Abuja considering the importance of the project in the growth of Nigeria.

## Pension bill ready for second reading

A bill seeking to establish a national pension board is being given a second reading before the national assembly, the sponsor and member of the House of Representatives, Alhaji Bala Ka'oje, has said.

He told newsmen in Birnin Kebbi at the weekend that the bill sought to ensure that a civil servant, on retirement, received all his entitlements without delay.

He said the bill would also address the issue of in-

adequate remunerations for pensioners, adding that, at the moment, the take-way package was not adequate.

Ka'oje said that he had also sponsored another bill that sought to include primary school teachers as part of the pension scheme to

## Sawaba, others launch "Rimi 2003" posters

Twelve thousand naira was realised at the official launching of the posters of former civilian governor of Kano state, Alhaji Abubakar Rimi, tagged "Rimi for president - 2003," held in Zaria, Kaduna state, at the weekend.

A News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) correspondent in Zaria, who witnessed the event, reported that the chief launcher of the "Rimi for president - 2003," posters, who was also a former minister of petroleum, Alhaji Umaru Dembo, gave the high-

est amount of N5,000 through a cheque he sent to the occasion. NAN reports that the launching, which was initially slated for the Kongo conference hotel Zaria, was shifted to the faculty of arts lecture theatre of the Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Samaru campus, for unknown reasons.

NAN also observed that the occasion, allegedly boycotted by prominent politicians and citizens, however, attracted large number of praise-singers and political thugs who almost turned the

gathered into a boxing arena, which led to the arrest of some of the thugs by ABU security men for public disturbances.



Alhaji Abubakar Rimi gathering into a boxing arena, which led to the arrest of some of the thugs by ABU security men for public disturbances.

Speaking at the occasion, a retired First Republic politician and woman activist, Hajiya Gambo Sawaba, appealed to all lovers of Abubakar Rimi nationwide to forgive him of his political blunders in the past and support his new political ambition of becoming the next president of Nigeria in 2003.

She, however, vowed to curse all those political office holders allegedly misappropriating government funds in their trust if they refused to stop such habit.

NAN reports that Sawaba co-launched the Rimi posters with N500.

## FCE Zaria inaugurates computer centre

He expressed appreciation to the contractor, Alhaji Yusuf Samaru, for a job well done and urged other contractors to emulate him, noting that in spite of the inflationary trends in the country, he had refused to demand for an upward review of the contract sum.

Earlier, Samaru said it was not in his character to demand for unnecessary review of contract sums when executing projects concerning the development of education in the country.



Prof. Borishade Receiving the computer centre's keys from the contractor, who handled the project through the director of works, Hajiya Uwani Suleiman, the provost of the institution, Alhaji Aliyu Shika, commended the contractor for executing the project according to specifications.

He said that the college would graduate its first set of National Certificate of Education (NCE) in computer education this academic session and charged all those interested in computer literacy to enrol for either certificate or NCE programmes in computer education.

Shika announced that about N8.9 million was needed to equip the centre with modern accessories and facilities for smooth operation

## Rep. calls for probe of indicted members

A member of the House of Representatives, Alhaji Bala Ka'oje, representing Bagudo/Sur federal constituency in Kebbi state, has enjoined the house to investigate its members indicted by the Senator Idris Kuta's reports and to punish those found wanting.

Reacting to the senate acceptance of the Kuta's report, Ka'oje told newsmen in Birnin Kebbi at the weekend that the same treatment dished out to the former senate leadership, should be extended to the House of Representatives members indicted by the report.

He said that those indicted should be handed over to the police and the

anti-corruption commission for prosecution, if the nation was to be ready for good governance.

He criticised the poor handling of the Kuta report in the national assembly, but expressed happiness that sanity had finally prevailed and that it would give the assembly the opportunity to check excesses of the other arms of government.

Ka'oje explained that he would sponsor a bill at the National Assembly aimed at checking the excesses of the nation's leaders in siphoning the nation's wealth abroad.

He accused some state governors of transferring huge amounts of money abroad on a monthly basis, describing the act as shameful



### TENDER NOTICE CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA NIGERIAN TREASURY BILLS

Notice is hereby given by the Central Bank of Nigeria that 91-day Federal Government of Nigeria Treasury Bills amounting to N121,956.885 million will be issued by an auction-based system on Thursday, 26/04/2001.

Interested Authorized Dealers (Commercial/Merchant Banks, Designated Discount Houses and Brokers) are invited to submit tenders to reach the Public Debt Office, Central Bank of Nigeria, Lagos, not later than 1.30 p.m on Tuesday, 24/04/2001.

Each tender must be in multiple of N1,000, subject to a minimum of N10,000 per tender. Authorized Dealers are allowed to submit multiple bids and quote multiple rates. A tender may be for own account of Authorised Dealers or made on behalf of interested members of the public, who are advised to apply to their banks or Brokers for the Bills.

Tenders for the Bills should be submitted on the prescribed printed forms in duplicate and in sealed envelopes clearly marked "TENDER FOR BILLS". The result of the tender will be announced before the close of business on Tuesday, 24/04/2001. The Bank reserves the right to reject any tender in part or in full.

Allotment letters will be issued to successful tenderers on Wednesday, 25/04/2001. Payment in full for the amounts of the accepted tenders must be made to the Central Bank of Nigeria not later than 1.30p. m on the issue date 26/04/2001. This will normally be effected by direct debit to the accounts of the affected Authorized Dealers which should ensure that their accounts with the Bank are adequately funded for this purpose.

PUBLIC DEBT OFFICE  
CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA  
TINUBU SQUARE  
LAGOS.



DAILY TRUST

EDITORIAL

Death by Okada

Recently at the first year anniversary meeting of the Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF) in Kaduna the Emir of Ilorin and AFC Chairman, Alhaji Ibrahim Sulu Gambari urged governments at all levels to take urgent action to save Nigerians from the harvest of deaths, injury and maiming. He said this has characterized the use of commercial motorcycles (*Going or Okada*) as a popular means of transport in rural and urban areas. A similar call was made at the annual conference of the Association of General and Private Medical Practitioners of Nigeria (AGPMPN) in Markurdi, the Benue State capital.

The unofficial tagging of orthopedic wards in several hospitals and clinics as *Okada* ward which are reserved for victims of motorcycle accidents is sufficient evidence of the lethal nature of the phenomenon in our cities today. More disturbing is the number of *Okada* related deaths. Many promising lives and careers have been brought to a screeching halt by the unscrupulous use of this mode of transportation.

Figures from the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) which were made available at the Makurdi conference illustrate not just the seriousness of the problem but how it is getting worse by the day. The statistics from a four-year profile of accident cases in Benue state alone between 1997 and 2001 showed that 90 out of 268 accident cases in 1998 involved motorcycles. In 1999 the figure was 55 of 144 reported road accidents. Last year, 32 out of 74 accidents involved motorcyclists.

Considering that many accidents in our cities go unreported, the figures represents a small fraction of accidents that actually involve cyclists. So the full extent of the problem especially in larger metropolitan and commercial centers like Lagos, Kaduna, Kano, Ibadan and Port Harcourt, Onitsha and Abuja may not be captured by available statistics. Eye witness and anecdotal accounts gives an idea of the magnitude of the problem and what we are losing as a nation.

The frustrating aspect is that the prospect of improving the situation is bleak. In Surulere Local Government of Lagos state, for instance, an attempt to regulate their activities and ensure some measure of safety by requiring the *Okada* operators to wear crash helmets was subverted. The motorcyclists refused to comply with this way of protecting both the rider and passenger. They followed up with brash display of hostility to the bye law.

Brash display and lawlessness almost always characterized the conduct of these commercial motorcyclists on our roads. They are full of disdain for law enforcement agents and other road users. Very often they violently resist attempts to curb their excesses. With their brand of malevolent solidarity, riders are notorious for attacking any motorists involved in accidents with their members. The FRSC has also testified their propensity for jungle justice and utter contempt for traffic regulations. Not to talk of the massive urban pollution caused by the scrap contraptions in the name of motorcycles.

The use of motorcycle for commercial purposes is a relatively recent phenomenon. They became pronounced with the nation's worsening economic fortunes in the 1980s. The rise in unemployment and the near collapse of public transport system made it an attractive option for jobless school leavers. It is therefore, a legitimate way to survive the hostile economic climate. This does not however, excuse the of operators.

Governments at the various levels should act with dispatch to evolve strategies to protect the riders and their innocent passengers from the negative fallouts of the *Okada* operators. To minimize the fatalities and injuries, there is a need to restrict their operation to roads not accessible to other vehicles. They could be put to use in the suburbs to ferry passengers to the main roads.

There is also a need to make the operators and passengers comply with regulations that are meant to protect them. Although some people in certain parts of the country find it repugnant to wear crash helmets, it remains one of the most effective ways of protecting those who choose to use that mode of transportation.

Finally, *Daily Trust* believes an improved mass transit system hinged on expanded bus, rail and marine services will be the best antidote to the *Okada* related orgy of deaths and maiming.

WEDNESDAY COLUMN

Yar'Adua's death: Obasanjo and Buhari's selective interpretations

By Mohammed Haruna

Penultimate Saturday was the fourth memorial of the death of Major-General Shehu Musa Yar'Adua. Yar'Adua, as we all know, died in prison under suspicious circumstances. His very conviction for life, along with those of General Olusegun Obasanjo and others, on charges of plotting to overthrow General Sani Abacha, was seen by most Nigerians as merely political. As such, many people believed he was murdered in cold blood because, even in prison, he presumably posed an insurmountable obstacle to Abacha's self-succession agenda.

Before his death on April 7, 1997 Yar'Adua, without doubt, was one of the three main actors in the "June 12" crisis, the other two being Chief M.K.O. Abiola and of course General Ibrahim Babangida. There was, as it were, widespread belief that if Yar'Adua, incontrovertibly the most influential politician at the time, had stood up for Chief Abiola as the presidential candidate of the Social Democratic Party (S.D.P) that seemed headed for a resounding victory over the National Republican Convention, (N.R.C.) General Babangida would probably not have aborted the June 12, 1992 presidential election.

As events turned out, Yar'Adua demurred. The election was aborted and Chief Ernest Shonekan was installed as interim Head of State. However, Abacha, as the de-facto Number Two man in the new set up, kicked out Shonekan with more than a little encouragement from no less than Chief Abiola who seemed to believe, incredibly, that Abacha would risk his life for democracy as defined by Abiola.

Not only did Abacha do his own rather than Abiola's bidding, he preceded to put the Chief in jail for insisting on his "June 12" mandate. With Babangida and Abiola out of the way and Abacha apparently playing dumb, it seemed the presidency was Yar'Adua's for the asking. Soon enough, however, Abacha showed he was not as dumb as most people thought he was. One by one – collaborators and opponents alike – he dealt with those who underestimated him. Yar'Adua's price as an opponent turned out to be the ultimate price.

Not surprisingly, controversy has surrounded this price. While some people – and these include President Obasanjo and his Vice-President, Atiku Abubakar, who was Yar'Adua's protégé – believe Yar'Adua died for democracy, there are others who believe Yar'Adua was merely a victim of his vaulting political ambition.

This controversy manifested itself on the occasion of the third commemoration of Yar'Adua's demise penultimate Saturday, in the form of a debate about the meaning of pre-destination between President Obasanjo and Major-General Muhammadu Buhari, former Head of State and former chairman, Petroleum (Special) Trust Fund, PTF.

As someone who served Abacha as chairman of PTF, it is hardly surprising that Buhari seems to believe that Yar'Adua's death in the hands of the Abacha regime is not for as noble a cause as Abacha's opponents want the world to believe. Speaking on the occasion in question, Buhari said in effect that all the fuss about Yar'Adua's death is merely making so many mountains out of molehill. Yar'Adua, he argued, was predestined to die at the time and in the manner he did, and therefore, we should all put it all behind us instead of trying to make a recurring political capital out of it.

Oh yes, retorted Obasanjo, you may be right about predestination, but someone consciously carried out the evil act of murdering Yar'Adua and it is the duty of every decent person to persistently expose and punish the perpetrator(s) of such evil act.

The debate is interesting for two reasons. First, is the philosophy of pre-destination itself. Pre-destination and self-will seem clearly contradictory. Yet both Islam and Christianity enjoin their adherents to believe in both. But since the Good Lord cannot contradict Himself and since He enjoins good and forbids evil and has given us the sense to tell the difference between the two, no one should accept pre-destination as an excuse for committing evil.

For me, the way out of this seeming contradiction between pre-destination and self-will is to distinguish between deliberate and inadvertent wrong. If, on the one hand, I drive recklessly on a highway and eventually knock someone dead, it is obvious that I consciously set out to commit a wrong and as far as I am concerned, it is blasphemous to blame God for my act. On the other hand I can get on the highway, take every care against knocking anything off the road and yet kill someone. Clearly, this is pre-destination. The important distinction here is the intention, and in Islam, at least, actions are judged according to intentions.

You may do bad in spite of your intention to do good. This is not and cannot be the same as doing bad with clear intention to do bad. Obasanjo is quite right, therefore, to disagree with Buhari's position that we should bury the issue

of Yar'Adua's death. Forgive the death, yes but certainly not forget it. The pre-destination of Yar'Adua to die at the time and in the manner he did, cannot exonerate those who may have killed him for their alleged deliberate act since God gave them the faculty to tell between good and evil.

Apart from the philosophy of pre-destination, the other reason why the squaring off between Obasanjo and Buhari is interesting, is the rather selective nature of their interpretation of the word.

In the case of Buhari this selectivity is obvious in the way he still seems to hold a grudge against Babangida for taking over power from him (Buhari) nearly 20 years ago. In time, especially stemming from the deliberate policy of General Abdulsalami Abubakar to bring together all living former Heads of State during his brief tenure, this grudge seems to have reduced. The emergence of the Arewa Consultative Forum last years, whose patrons all five living former heads of state of Northern origin are, seems to have helped further to whittle down the animosity between the two of them. But from the interview Buhari gave *Theweek* last week, it seems the wound is yet to heal completely.

All indications are that it is Buhari more than Babangida who has held out against the total healing of the wound. The question, therefore, that Buhari may be asked is why is it right or necessary to bury the hatchet in the case of Abacha/Yar'Adua, but it is not right or necessary to bury the hatchet between himself and Babangida? Buhari may be justified to regard his ouster by Babangida as a deliberate act of betrayal. Surely, however, this feeling is subjective. In any case, Babangida's coup cannot be regarded as evil in the sense in which the alleged deliberate murder of Yar'Adua is. Furthermore, if he cannot forgive Babangida for the 1985 coup, what does he expect President Shehu Shagari to feel about the coup of 1983 that brought him (Buhari) to power?

As for Obasanjo, his selective interpretation is apparent from the way he seemed to blame the North, the Muslim North in particular, and punish it for Abacha's alleged crime against his (Obasanjo's) person but is reluctant, at best, to give the North credit for almost single-handedly putting him on the presidential seat. Instead of giving this credit, he is fond of saying that the North was merely the instrument of God in his electoral success. The North may have been God's instrument in fulfilling Obasanjo's destiny, but for him to be consistent in his interpretation of pre-destination, he must acknowledge that, as a deliberate act, the support the North gave him deserves to be appreciated.

To give the North credit for the support it gave him is not to say he should discriminate against other regions. What it does mean, as the governor of Niger State, Engineer Abdullahi Kure, said in his interview with *Tell* magazine last week, is simply that Obasanjo should not be seen, as seems to have been the case, as punishing the North for the perceived crimes of Abacha.

LETTER OF THE DAY

Buhari on corrupt regimes

The recent media chat with Maj. Gen. Buhari (rtd), former Head of State is quite revealing and I doff my hat for him for his sincerity and articulate posture.

Against the avalanche of criticisms on the late Gen. Abacha's regime, it is refreshing to see a one-time apostle of war against indiscipline, boldly coming out to state that the regime is indeed not the most corrupt. To boot, he challenged all those who may hold contrary views to prove him wrong.

Gen. Buhari's views cannot be wished away because he must have spoken from

residual knowledge of events, which may not necessarily be open to the public. His statement is categorical and calls for a thorough investigation.

Now that someone of the General's mettle has spoken on the late Gen. Abacha's regime in a different perspective, the onus is on the press to help in unraveling the most corrupt regime in Nigeria's chequered history. This information will be useful to President Obasanjo if he is genuinely interested in his probe of past regimes.

Usman Kume, Kume Pharmacy 61, Bompai Road, Kano



## Opinion

## Corruption on trial

By Yakubu Ozohu-Suleiman

President Obasanjo was not wrong in his observation that corruption has been the major problem bedeviling Nigeria's development. Like the HIV/AIDs, corruption is a Development Immuno-Virus (DIV) located in the nucleus of the Nigerian development cell and causing Acquired Development Deficiency Syndrome (ADDS), a situation in which the protein of development and growth of the Nigerian nation is constantly eaten up by some anti-development virus (DIV) which exist in human form.

As a matter of fact, development cannot be measured by the number or quality of glass houses or the network of bridges or even how much the government have been able to settle Julius Berger at various times to assemble bogus and complex offices to make the seats of authority more attractive. Development should, among others, be seen from the perspective of the standard of living of the people; how much has governance brought about positive changes in the living standard of the common Nigerian? How much is the common Nigerian capable of keeping himself away from the pangs of hunger.

Corruption is a culture that was learned over the years in Nigeria, and the belief of President Obasanjo is that anything learned can as well be unlearned provided by the power of our rationality as human beings, we discover it is retrogressive. The war against corruption must indeed be fought to the letter.

Corruption is any act or expression, verbal or non-verbal, written or unwritten that is intended to undermine the rules and regulations, the moral principles and ethics governing the conduct of an affair to the end that the person or parties involved achieve some selfish benefits.

Detecting an act of corruption would depend on one's ability to identify certain act as capable of, and intended as stated above. This is coupled with a deep understanding of the operational mechanism of corruption. Strong and productive acts of corruption are latent and therefore difficult to decipher. In a model, an act

of corruption begins with an intention (essentially selfish or bias) made by a first virus, the intender. From there it moves to instrumentality (a thing by means of which something is done) this could be money or any other thing depending on intention and channel. Then to the Message (i.e. crafting of intention into instrument) and then to channel (i.e. the route, which must be risk-absorbing and occupied by second virus). The message is received and then execution is carried out by the third virus. Finally, the result (the benefit of the act). Conspiracy for alteration of financial figures (overhead costs and contracts), unnecessary projects (physical and journeys), Delay in payment of salaries (at times). Ghost workers and Deprivations in employment, promotions and benefit and some other forms of corrupt-minded practices.

Many have argued that gratification is not an act of corruption because it is rooted in the African tradition; Africans are a very thankful set of people, and they do so mainly in form of gifts. This is true because most things are not obtained by merit in this part of the world. "Thank you" is not essential to anything obtained by merit let alone expressing it in the form of gift. Cherishable as gratification is to the African, it has been mystified into the conduct of public affairs under the call letter "kick-back".

Similarly baffling is the role that gender relations plays in corruption. Sex is paradoxically one place where lies a strong instrument for influencing results. We should be informed that no organised public affair, however minor, is too insignificant to the overall development of a society, and it is most desirable to the spirit of development that every bit of conduct capable of producing unnatural result be avoided. Move into the schools and you will see that sex is capable of making a female student graduate with very good result. Go to the employment sector and you will see that sex is capable of fetching for a woman a job or a contract, which she does not

merit. I don't mean to be chauvinistic and indeed this is where the menfolk have failed. Some men in positions of authority are too quick to smile and welcome women in need while they are often too busy or not even on seat to attend to fellow men except, of course, there is a prospect of certain corrupt material gains. The effort of the present administration to appoint more women into higher positions of responsibility is not unconnected to the need to throw more challenges to women where their male counterpart seems to have lost their sense of responsibility in our development process.

Another lag in the system, which encourages corruption, is what has been described as the "Nigerian factor". It includes such thing as deliberate and purposeless delay in execution of matters. In Nigeria, it is almost impossible for matters to observe protocols in genuine sequences within optimal timeliness and produce natural results. With this attribute of deliberate and corrupt-minded delay in execution of matters, one is almost forced to conclude that Nigeria is only theoretical with legislations and rule-setting in bureaucracies.

Another important factor underlying corruption in Nigeria is cheap availability of competent labour which has necessitated severe competition among many for few places. This is coupled with lack of back-ups for self-employment initiatives. The competition is so severe that those who already have their bottom on the seats of authority are never ready to compromise the future benefits of planting their children and relations around themselves. Bert Horselitz, an external observer explains in his "Assignment and Reward" theory of development that the African gets a position of public authority not because he merits it per se, but because of personal connections - "whom you know". Whereas this has serious consequences on development.

Poverty, indiscipline and poor social and economic rights are some other crucial factors affecting corruption in

Nigeria. As a matter of fact, the war against corruption cannot be fought smoothly amidst poverty. The present administration is quite aware of this, and that is why it has taken bold initiative towards poverty reduction.

Again, it is worthy of note that a larger proportion of the Nigerian citizens does not know its basic rights. Some of the few ones who knows allow emotions to override their reasoning; they concede these rights for some material benefits. Little wonder then that there have been violence all across the country. The wealthy ones who have some political scores to settle often channel them through the poor masses.

Nigeria should also know that the privatisation effort of the present administration has a direct bearing with the fight against corruption. The private sector, though not totally devoid of corrupt practices, is more emphatic on merit and more security conscious in the conduct of institutional affairs especially because of the zeal for prosperity common among owners of private institutions. Nigerians believe that there is an important difference between "my own" and "our own".

A very strong instrument that we need to fight corruption is democracy backed up with political will. It has to be in place because it is the only avenue through which we can question public conduct using judiciary as an arm of government.

The establishment of anti-corruption commission is a welcome development.

While suggesting that the commission intensify its public enlightenment programme and workers education on the evils of corruption and the legal penalties awaiting culprits, I wish to conclude that with a democratic environment, backed up with political will and sincere determination, the war against corruption shall be a victory for the compatriots.

Yakubu Ozohu-Suleiman, is of P.O. Box 1891, Garki, Abuja.

## Obasanjo and Hajj

By Abubakar Jika

The news jolted the Muslim Community. While some thought they did not hear or read the story well, others impute ulterior motives. The President, Olusegun Obasanjo was reported to have expressed disgust with the conduct of this year's Hajj operation.

The President was said to have expressed his misgivings to a delegation of Muslim leaders who went to visit him at Aso Rock. And the clincher: this government may probe the conduct of the Hajj Operation.

Many were taken aback by the apparent interest and zeal of Mr. President on a clearly sectarian issue. More so when he was not known as a zealous defender of Muslim or Islamic causes. Where did this zeal and interest emanate from? Could there be a hidden agenda or was he genuinely concerned? Those who ascribe hidden agenda to the new-found interest and zeal of Mr. President on the issue of Hajj are quick to finger the regime's increase in Hajj fares. The government was also quoted as planning to pull out of the Hajj operation. Was the President flying a kite, preparatory to its alleged plan to pull out of the Hajj issue?

Muslims still recall initial opposition of both the President and his Muslim Vice to the implementation of Sharia, the Islamic legal code by some northern state governments. It was when it became obvious that the governors cannot be browbeaten and the Sharia was recognized by the constitution that both leaders beat awkward retreats.

Perhaps the President, who is a Christian, could have had his flanks covered by his Muslim Vice. But he too appears to have intractable problems with his "Primary Constituency". Of course every other Nigerian knows that it is the North and Muslims that "donated" him so as to balance the Obasanjo ticket. Suffice to say the Hajj Operation has always been problematic. Indeed by Nigerian standards, this year's Hajj was relatively successful. For example, while the Airlines committed to returning all pilgrims by March 28, they were able to do this by April 4. A delay of only six days. Last year it was quite terrible. In fact the Saudi government had to intervene and Air freighted stranded pilgrims. It was quite scandalous.

Moreover, this year's Hajj delay was largely caused by NNPC, which failed to provide the much-needed Aviation fuel. Report from Kano, Maiduguri, Abuja and Sokoto indicated dearth of aviation fuel. How could the airlines operate without aviation fuel? We cannot fail to provide them with aviation fuel, only for us to turn around and condemn them. They cannot use water to fly, can they?

While the veracity of one airline accused of running away with millions of dollars paid as fares is being investigated, the Hajj officials quickly sorted out and found alternative to what could have been a huge scandal. Knowing the usual "Nigerian factor" of influence peddling, only God knows if the accused airline was not fostered on the operation by some higher ups. What could have given the airline, the brazen courage to have call off everyone's bluff? Of more importance to us is why is the President suddenly developing what many regard as undue interest on issues of concern primarily to Nigerian Muslims. If we remember only about 55,000 Nigerian Muslims participated in this year's Hajj. In fact the number is said to be less than that. Of these the bulk, over 50 percent are Northerners.

We all know the North does not feel enamoured of this regime. I suspect the feeling is mutual. So why the sudden interest on its affairs? There are many who believe that perhaps a ground is being watered for the much-expected withdrawal of the Federal Government from Hajj affairs. This favours the usual strategy of first disgracing a project and those associated with it, preparatory to displacing it. But we should be very careful here. Religion is quite sensitive and as difficult to manipulate as fuel and matches.

Indeed to many of us, Obasanjo has more serious issues and problems to contend. The Hajj matter concerned a paltry 55000 Nigerians. There are issues of mutual concern and interest to over 100 million Nigerians. We have issues of common interest and of which we believe this government is yet to even scratch the surface. Perhaps the government needs be reminded of these issues.

Among the problems facing President Obasanjo and which concerns over 100 million of his subjects are firstly, fuel scarcity. It is scandalous that Nigeria, the seventh largest producer of crude oil could not provide fuel for its citizens. It is an embarrassment that two years after a Mr. Know all is enounced at Aso Rock the problem has continued to defy all logic.

The second problem before Obasanjo is NEPA. Obasanjo had sacked all top Northerners calling shots there. His men, all southerners are now running the show there, Imoke, and Mukanjuola. NEPA just like refineries is now worse than Obasanjo met it. It is obvious now that incompetence has no ethnic affinity.

The third problem facing Obasanjo is growing mass poverty coupled with unemployment. He appears not to come to grip with these. His Poverty Alleviation Scheme, which was presided over by his man Friday Chief Anenih, after gulping billions of naira, has collapsed.

The fourth problem facing Obasanjo is education crisis. His UBE has remained a pipe dream. The Universities have finally closed down. Nobody knows when the Universities would ever reopen again. Lecturers are being threatened. Instead of talking with them, they are being talked down. The fifth problem facing Obasanjo is insecurity. Armed hoodlums now operate even in daylight. Nights are now nightmares. The Police, after collecting jeeps, are seeing cruising town, while marauders have a field day in the cities and high ways.

The real agenda of President Obasanjo has finally come to light. The Minister of state for Foreign Affairs, Chief Dubem Onyia was quoted to have declared that from next year the Federal government would divest completely from the conduct of pilgrimages. In a report published by *National Interest* it was "Gathered that the resolve by Federal Government to divest completely from pilgrim exercises may not be unconnected with agitation's by Nigerians that government favours some religions groups more than others".

Our message to Obasanjo and his Vice, who incidentally is a Muslim is that ever before there is an entity called Nigerian, we have been going on pilgrimages. Nobody can hinder us. No cost can stop us. Since the N700 million spent as subsidy is seen as a big deal and they prefer to spend these on sports and purchases of executive jets, we will not forget this when they come to seek our votes. If they ever do.

ABUBAKAR JIKA is of the Writers Collective Dept. of Mass Communications, Bayero University, Kano.

## Deregulation: Not a glorious dawn for Nigerians

By Isa Ali,

May I use this opportunity once again to draw the attention of his excellency, President Olusegun Obasanjo to the pending tussle between the Federal Government and the Nigerian Labour Congress over the deregulation of the petroleum sector. Must his excellency make deregulation crisis a seasonal phenomenon in Nigeria? Is it not too close a proximity to raise the demon of deregulation now? Can't his excellency create a room for respite?

With his excellency all-gedly coming out to have sanctimoniously said that "Whether Nigerians like it or not, deregulation must be a reality" on one hand, and the Nigerian masses coming out in mass to demonstrate against the nebulous plans of the government to deregulate their social security on the other, the fight might be more intensive if the government fails to reason with its people.

However, even his excellency has attested to the negative effects of deregulation at the PDP national convention in Abuja recently, where he said: "Deregulation of the petroleum sector would be fine-

tuned to minimize its adverse effects on the populace" (*New Nigerian*, April 2, 2001).

You don't be a Nigerian without learning that A B C is invariably followed by D, therefore, fine-tuned, a dog is a dog even if it cries baa and eat grass instead of meat. Deregulation is a two-faced demon that has nothing positive in stock for the Nigerian masses who constitute about 80% at the poll that saw his excellency to the seat of power.

His excellency should realize further that being the nerve-centre of our economy, the petroleum sector is invariably interrelated, interconnected and interwoven with other sub-sectors such as transport, water and electricity among others. So if the nerve center is deregulated and the sub-centres privatized, what would become of the under privileged beneficiaries especially when these beneficiaries constitute about 80% of the country's population? More importantly, his excellency should shun the idea of deregulating the petroleum sector in the best interest of Ni-

gerians - whether it is his personal idea, a partisan interest or the alleged IMF/World Bank's agitation to drive home their hook into the heart of our economy.

As a citizen, every Nigerian is entitled to the wealth of the nation, and with petroleum constituting about 90% of our national product, it must be subsidized to the affordability

of the most poorest in Nigeria. His excellency should know that "Dan Mai Waina ko yana dala yaci biyu" to understand why Nigerians should buy petroleum product at a take-away price- even when the government refuses to repair its refineries and decided to delve into importing the product from outside. The PDP body should equally contribute in this direction through positive and selfless advice to its ambassador (Obasanjo) in order not to rock the boat of the party for the 2003 elections through negative policies like deregulation etc.

In a nutshell, the way and manner by which the government wants to force Nigerians to embrace deregulation is contrary to democratic norms and values that guided the election processes of the executive and

legislatures to power. So any attempt by the government to run counter to the interest of its people could be safely termed as an aberration of constitutional democracy and by extension, dishonest breach of confidence to rub Nigerians of their right to the wealth of the nation. Conversely, if the government feels that it can use every resources at its disposal to force deregulation on Nigerians, let it do so with a sense of hindsight, deregulate and privatize everything including the air we take breath and let's see where it takes them - no one lives forever.

But if at this juncture his excellency felt undemocratically treated by this opinion, the government is at liberty to organize a similar voluntary rally like that of the NLC and let's see how many people it can get to the street in support of deregulation. If the government rally takes precedence over that of the NLC, then we cannot hesitate to vouch in support of the government. But where otherwise, we camp with the NLC, come what it may that is democracy.

Isa Ali, is of No. 2, Wulari Ward, Maiduguri.



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PRICES OF FOOD TO DROP NEXT YEAR  
— Obasanjo



YOUR LETTERS

**The masses and fuel hike**

It is most unfortunate that President Olusegun Obasanjo cannot just come with the right solution to check the persistent scarcity of petroleum products especially fuel since he took over the mantle of leadership.

Instead, what one hears and reads are plans to hike the prices of petroleum products and even the much sort after opinion of eggheads like Dr. Pat Utomi seem to support the idea. Though views may differ on this issue but the bottom line is that it is better said than imagined what the average Nigerian goes through to ensure his existence in this present

times, talkless of a hike in fuel price which will come with unimaginable hardship.

In the past, it wouldn't have been entirely wrong to point accusing fingers at the late Gen. Abacha for dragging the nation backwards but now, I believe otherwise. Let President Obasanjo make haste while the sun shines by employing some concrete efforts to solve the problems of fuel distribution which most discerning minds see as the biggest threat to the survival of Nigerians.

It is on record that even while Gen. Abacha reigned, the pump price of fuel was N 11.00 and the

black market syndrome had not taken its present disturbing dimension. President Obasanjo should genuinely put the common man's interest into consideration before the planned deregulation of petroleum products is effected.

However, I have great doubts if any programme will have the potentials of cushioning the adverse effects which the price increase will bring especially now that for over two years, President Obasanjo has not been able to alleviate poverty in Nigeria even though it is a cardinal programme of his administration.

*Dada Onyeche, 30, Chime Avenue, New Haven, Enugu.*

**Let the Pro. Eagles be**

I do not subscribe to the notion of substituting the professional Eagles with the home grown ones, and I do not advise the Eagles' technical crew to do so either, on the ground of the Eagles' failure to pick up the maximum points at Accra against a home-based Black Stars. Many up here believe that Eagles' non-performance was as a result of playing a hurriedly organized march with an amateur team that play anyhow.

This notwithstanding,

aside the fact that Ghanaian players are more patriotic than their Nigerian counterparts, Ghanaian league is also better managed, richer and more competitive than the sub-standard we call league here.

Also Ghana's ability to produce on many occasion, African club champions, puts her well ahead of Nigeria who is yet to produce a single African club champion. We have in the past fielded many home-based players but the result had

always been bitter, so it will certainly be the same now if we change the more experienced and matured Eagles with the half-baked ones who could get us no where.

Instead, we should call to camp as many young professional players as possible so that we could choose from the abundant talents we are blessed with.

Fielding a home-based Eagles against the likes of Ghana, Liberia and Sudan will only spell doom for our chances of qualifying for the 2002 soccer fiesta. The sooner we have a rethink the safer.

*Ali Liman Abubakar, Hayin Gada, Dutsin-Ma, Katsina state.*

**Re: Taraba needs true representatives**

I read with dismay, an article with the above title by one Babbajo Gidado Jarume in your edition of Thursday 29 March, 2001.

Ordinarily, such unsubstantiated write-ups should not elicit any response but I write to put the record straight.

It is common knowledge that since 1993 when the last civilian government was overthrown, no physical development took place despite the huge resources received by the various military regimes that presided over

the affairs of the state.

With the coming of the government of Rev. J.T. Nyame, however, the state capital, Jalingo is now wearing a new look. All the township roads have been tarred including the abandoned palace way. The presidential lodge has been completed and housing units were built and commissioned in the first 100 days of the regime.

The state government is now embarking on a water project aimed at providing a lasting solution to the water problems in the state

capital.

Also, the Taraba state Television project which was started by this government would be commissioned this year. The government has also embarked on rural electrification programmes under the 2001 budget. All these are indications of good governance.

Lastly, the writer is advised to do his homework very well before putting pen to paper on matter, concerning the state.

*Abubakar J. Jika, No. 1, Bishop Street, P. O. Box 503, Jimeta - Yola,*

**Well done, Kwankwaso but...**

The Kano State government has achieved a lot since its inception in terms of development.

The employment of over 1,000.00 youths in the state civil service, the supply of medical equipment to most hospitals in the state, renovation of roads, rural electrification and above all, the renovation and supply of educational materials to primary and secondary schools.

However, the entire

education sector needs a complete overhaul. For instance competent and qualified teachers and lecturers should be employed for all schools, more equipments are needed and above all parents need to be edu-

cated on the importance of sending their wards to school as this will go along way in reducing the illiteracy rate in the state.

*Mohammed Bashir Isah Dakata, Dakata Quarters, Kano.*

**Re: Media professionalism**

It is sometimes provoking to hear how one's religion, tribe, country, president or one's profession being lambasted by a lay-man because a fellow professional has done what is contrary to the ethic of the profession. One such case is the Nigeria's Information Minister, Prof. Jerry Gana. Being an academic Gana might have taught many students.

But why is Gana unmindful of the amount of disaffection his ministry have generated since he assumed office as

Information Minister. Especially on the issue of deregulation, to the extent that he seems to attract more disaffection than the author of deregulation (Obasanjo).

Prof. Gana should not allow misguided individuals to teach him his job. As the gate-keeper, he should be able to consider and control the amount of information that pass through him. He should know when to say what, at where and how.

*Alhaji Isa Ali, No. 2, Wuluri Ward, Maidyuguri.*

**The new population policy**

I would like to draw the attention of the National Assembly to a story with the above title featured in Daily Trust of April 2, 2001. The policy in question can hardly work within the Muslim community as it goes

contrary to the teachings of Islam.

Islam allows parents to marry their daughters out as soon as they reach the age of puberty. Moreso, Prophet Muhammad (SAW) whose teachings and practice we emulate

married Aishat at an early age. So, it will be unacceptable for anybody to impose a contrary law on us.

The lawmakers should concern themselves with passing law that will rid our societies of its many

vices like prostitution, gambling, robbery, etc, that abound herein.

They are also advised to seek clearance on matters like this from appropriate authority so as not to infringe on people's rights of worship.

*J.K. Danzaria, 2, Rigasa - Abuja Road, Kaduna.*



# Focus on Gombe State (Supplement)

## GOV. HASHIDU'S ADMINISTRATION: What People Say

### Saidu Dauda, Businessman, Billiri

"Governor Abubakar Hashidu has really touched the lives of our people. I have known him to be a man of principle, a patriotic Gombe citizen who loved peace. If you really want to see his effort you have to go to other local governments like Shela, Tori, Ba'anje, Tal, Landogor, Laushe Daji and Sigir. There you will see classrooms that have been abandoned for over 15 years, but he repaired them and the pupils are now comfortable in their

classrooms. We are really happy about that effort he



Saidu Dauda, Businessman, Billiri.

made in the field of education. As you can see here behind me, in Billiri

town, erosion has been a problem to our people here, and he built these drainages to stop erosion problem. But let me take this opportunity to remind the governor of the promise he made to the people of Fadan Sarkin Rangale and Lawala about the erosion that has eaten up our roads in that area. We saw the engineers who came and did the survey and up till now we have not heard from them again. Please he should not forget that work and the promise he made to those people."

### Baba Ajayi, retired civil servant, Kaltungo town

"I am here with my grandchildren, and I have been hearing what the governor is doing, though I have not gone out to see them. If it is true like they are saying in the radio, then we are lucky to have him as the governor, but I want him to increase our



Baba Ajayi, retired civil servant, Kaltungo town.

getting is too small. Let him also help to improve education. My son who is a teacher is always praising him (the governor) that he paid them all their entitlements, well that is good, I hope he will continue."

### Abubakar Musa, Politician, Jeka-da-fari, Gombe.

"We people of Jeka-da-fari are known supporters of Alhaji Abubakar Hashidu but he seem to have forgotten us. We have been seeing and hearing his efforts at bettering the lots of the people of many villages and areas in Gombe town

but no, far from it, but those good things that he is doing to other areas of Gombe he should also remember us especially in this year's budget, because we heard he is going to do a lot of projects in this year, we want to benefit from his projects."



Abubakar Musa, Politician, Jeka-da-fari, Gombe.

### Yakubu Tela, Civil Servant, Gombe town

"I am happy with Governor Hashidu's administration because he has made the civil servants happy. You see while other states are still quarrelling with their governor over the payment of arrears, we in Gombe don't have that problem. We get our

salaries on time and all other welfare packages.

Our hospitals are better than they were before he took over, you can also see the roads he is constructing in the villages. He has really tried in just about two years, I hope he will be able to sustain the tempo."



Yakubu Tela, Civil Servant, Gombe town.

### His Royal Highness, Alhaji Muhammed Baba Ahmed, Emir of Akko

"I would say Governor Abubakar Hashidu, Matawalen Dukku, is among the governors who made promises to their people during campaign and is trying to fulfil them. During his campaign I remembered him promising to create more Emirate in Gombe State and he has done that, and I am the evidence because this Emirate was created by him. Secondly, no matter your opposition to Abubakar Hashidu, you must give him kudos for what he has done in the area of security, because before he came to power, there was crisis in Gombe State, with those 'yan Kwanta-kwanta, the Udawas (Pirates), armed robbers all terrorising the citizens of the north-eastern states, including Gombe State.

In the area of social amenities and rural development, the governor has made tremendous progress. In this



His Royal Highness, Alhaji Muhammed Baba Ahmed, Emir of Akko

town Gumo, for the past seven years, we had no water in our borehole. So many efforts were made in the past to get water running in our taps but to no avail, but within one year of his administration he reactivated the water works and reticulation of the pipe more was done and now we have water flowing everywhere. The people of this town will never forget this.

On the issue of Sharia which some people seem to misunderstand the governor's intention, let me start by saying Sharia is not a new thing to us. It has been with us, more than 90 percent of our daily activities are covered by Sharia courts and the commencement of trial in those courts with the prescribed punishment on

stealing, adultery, drinking alcohol and son on. But you see, if you want to introduce a new thing that has not been in practice before, you have to be careful and do it gradually. But people seem to be in a hurry. If we do not prepare adequately for the implementation of Sharia, we will encounter the same problem that most of those states that say they are implementing Sharia are presently facing. You hear in the news always that the vices are still there in those states, that Sharia is not being implemented whole heartedly.

So to ensure we do ours well and without failure, we must ensure we avoid the pitfalls of other Sharia compliant states, we have to have the courts ready, the judges trained, the reference books procured and so on. I am appealing to people that we should take it easy, nobody is against the implementation of Sharia in Gombe State but we want to do a good job of it, so that when we begin ours, it will be a model for others to copy. So I am appealing to our people of Gombe State to give the governor a breathing space so that he can implement us the true Sharia not half-baked Sharia. That is my appeal."

*Focus on Gombe State continues tomorrow with a full interview of Governor Abubakar Hashidu*

### Hajiya Halima Idi, Housewife, Gombe

"The Governor is good but he has bad advisers who are asking him not to implement Shari'a for us. We, Muslim women have problem riding on Kabu-kabu (commercial motorcycles), it is against our religion for woman to sit close to a man that is not her husband the way it is done here in Gombe, but if he implements Shari'a he will buy buses for us women to separate us from the male. This is my only problem with



Hajiya Halima Idi, Housewife, Gombe

the governor, he should stop listening to those advisers

who are causing problem between him and his fellow Muslim brothers. I know that as a Muslim he cannot be against Shari'a, because anyone who says he does not want Shari'a is not a Muslim. That is my only comment about governor Abubakar Hashidu, the man is good at heart, but like we say in Hausa "idan kana da kyau kara da wanka", if he implements Sharia he will be more popular."

### Mallam Abubakar Siddiq, petty trader, Kumo

"Governor Abubakar Hashidu has tried really in these two years. Look at what he has been doing in the rural areas. In Pindiga for example he has constructed their road, look at the road from the Kaltungo Emir's Palace to Lalapido, he constructed it. The governor has also helped the unemployed through his poverty alleviation programme, many women now own sewing



Mallam Abubakar Siddiq, petty trader, Kumo

machines and are gainfully employed. Many youth have been given loans to start business, there is a friend of mine who benefited from that and he has set up a small shop selling provisions. And the governor said this is continuous which means more will benefit, and further more he is creating job opportunities for the youth. He is really trying."



In this country the conduct of elections is in the hands of a centralised authority, the Electoral Commission. Although it has branches in the Regions the Electoral Commission, as it exists now in this country, is a creature of the 1992 Constitution, article 43 which provides that there shall be an Electoral Commission which shall consist of a Chairman, two Deputy Chairmen and four other members all of whom shall be appointed by the President acting on the advice of the Council of State as provided by Article 70 clause 2 of the Constitution. This constitutional provision is reproduced almost *verbatim* in sections 1 and 4 of the Electoral Commission Act, 1993 (Act 451)

Under article 45 of the 1992 Constitution, the Electoral Commission is charged with responsibility for compiling a register of voters which it should revise in such manner as may be determined by law, to demarcate electoral boundaries for all elections and referenda and to undertake other matters generally related to the performance of their functions in the conduct and supervision of all elections whether national or local. These provisions are reproduced in section two of the Electoral Commission Act, 1993 (Act 451) where one other function is added, namely, the proper storage of election materials and where provision is made for the performance by the commission of such other functions as may be prescribed by law.

In relation to the necessity to combat or prevent election fraud the significant points to note about the Ghanaian Constitutional provisions relating to the Electoral Commission is firstly, the constitutional requirement that the chairman,

# How we stopped electoral fraud

- Speaker of Ghanaian Parliament

*The Open Society Initiative for West Africa, OSIWA, recently sponsored a conference on Combating Electoral Fraud in Ghana in collaboration with the Ghana Centre on Democratic Development, CDD - Ghana. The Speaker of the Parliament of Ghana, Peter Ala Adjetey, shared the Ghanaian experience with other participants drawn from countries in West Africa, including Nigeria.*

deputy chairmen and other members of the Electoral Commission shall be appointed by the President 'acting on the advice on the Council of State' and the further requirement in article 46 of the Constitution that in the performance of its functions the Electoral Commission shall not be subject to the direction or control of any person or authority. To further consolidate the independence of the Electoral Commission its expenses, including the salaries and allowances and pensions payable to or in respect of persons serving with the commission, are by article 54 of the Constitution, charged on the Consolidated Fund so that they will not be at the mercy of annual appropriations by Parliament and be subject to control thereby, however indirect or subtle.

It is contended by some that in view of the manner in which the members of the Council of State created by article 89 of the Constitution to counsel the President in the performance of his functions have in fact been appointed through the eight years that the Constitution has been in force, the council of State cannot be trusted to be such an independent body as to be able to offer independent advice to the

President with regard to the appointment of the Chairman, Deputy Chairmen and other members of the Electoral Commission who themselves would be independent and impartial in the performance of their functions in the conduct and organisation of public elections and referenda.

It has been suggested that a process of consultation involving registered political parties ought to be prescribed and undertaken in the process of appointing the Chairman, Deputy Chairmen and other members of the Electoral Commission. Some have even suggested, and indeed it would seem to be the practice in one neighbouring country, that the membership of the Electoral

Commission should be representative of the broad spectrum of political opinion and political parties in the country. Certainly these are contentious matters worthy of critical examination and are all designed to ensure that there is no fraud in elections.

There are of course other forms of fraud in elections, some of which are so manifestly crude that it is unnecessary to discuss them here further except to say that practices such as widespread bribery of the electorate by the offer of inducements of whatever nature or the sharing of money and goods or other valuable consideration, the use of so-called macho men to beat up opposing candidates or political opponents or to frighten them away from the polls, interfering with the work of officers of the Electoral Commission with regard to the conduct of elections, the use of armed personnel to terrorise or frighten the electorate and such-like electoral malpractices are to be roundly condemned and should find no place in any civilized democracy.

at the polling station to ensure that there is strict compliance with the electorate laws and regulations, can do to bring about a result which is a true reflection of the wishes of the people. As you know, these elections resulted for the first time in Ghana in one democratically elected government being replaced by another democratically elected government in an atmosphere of relative peace.

Unless the electorates are prepared to give what it takes to ensure that electoral fraud is combated or at best prevented; all talk of democracy would be a waste of time and stolen verdicts would be the order of the day.

***“Unless the electorates are prepared to give what it takes to ensure that electoral fraud is combated or at best prevented; all talk of democracy would be a waste of time and stolen verdicts would be the order of the day.”***



Former Vice President John Mills, lost the Dec. election to Kufuor. (AFP)



# TRUST INTERNATIONAL

AFRICA &amp; THE MIDDLE EAST



This ship sighted at Cotonou Port yesterday could be the 'Slave ship'.

(AFP).

## 'Slave ship' arrives without children

A ship suspected of carrying child slaves has arrived in the West African country of Benin, but there is no sign of the 200-plus children the authorities had said it was carrying.

Cabinet ministers, police, soldiers, journalists and United Nations officials crowded the dockside in the port of Cotonou for the arrival of the Nigerian-registered Etireno, which has been at the centre of an international search effort since it set sail from Benin

two weeks ago.

An official of the United Nations children's fund, UNICEF, who boarded the boat told the BBC there were some children on board but that their status was not clear.

The ship's manifest stated that only seven of those on board are children.

International arrest warrants had been issued for the crew of the Etireno on suspicion that they were smuggling children to work as slave labourers.

But a government minister in Benin is now

suggesting the authorities may have been pursuing the wrong ship.

Social Protection Minister Ramatou Baba Moussa said the Etireno had been confused with a second ship, whose name and current location were unknown.

Both vessels had been turned away from Gabon after attempting to dock with illegal migrants on board, she added.

The white, 200-foot-long ferry pulled into Cotonou port shortly after midnight

Dozens of women, a few men and a handful of children could be seen through the ship's passenger cabin windows.

Benin officials said they still needed to speak to the passengers and crew before they could explain the confusion about the suspected slaves' whereabouts.

Despite international efforts to curb the trade, child

slavery persists in West and Central Africa.

Human rights activists say the selling of children into slavery is still quite common in impoverished Benin, although it is officially banned.

They say parents are often tempted to sell their children for as little as \$15 in the hope that they may find work in richer West African states, usually on cocoa and coffee plantations.

Thousands of children between the ages of nine and 12 are thought to work on plantations in Ivory Coast, the world's top cocoa producer.

Anti-child labour campaigners say they are forced to work long hours, and are frequently subjected to physical and sexual abuse.

## Liberia freezes Sankoh's accounts

The authorities in Liberia have said they have frozen the bank account of the jailed Sierra Leonean rebel leader, Foday Sankoh, whose movement they are accused of backing.

They said Mr Sankoh's account, which held just five hundred dollars, was frozen to show that Liberia was complying with the United Nations Security Council's demands.

Last month, the Security Council threatened to place travel restrictions on Liberian officials and impose an embargo on diamond exports unless the country cut off all support for rebels in neighboring Sierra Leone.

It gave Liberia 60 days to comply. The U N accused Liberia of illegal diamond and weapons trafficking with Sierra Leone's brutal rebel

army.

Liberia denies the accusations.

### ... minister killed

Liberia's Youth and Sports Minister has died from gunshot wounds after the helicopter he was flying in came under fire in the troubled northern border region.

According to a government statement, the Minister, Francois Massaquoi, was bringing humanitarian supplies to the northern town of Voinjama, near the border with Guinea, when his helicopter was fired on as it came in to land.

The helicopter managed to escape, but Mr Massaquoi was badly wounded and was declared dead shortly after he arrived at a hospital in the central town of Gbanga. Fighting broke out late last year along the borders of Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone.

Guinea accuses Liberia of backing Sierra Leone rebels who have launched cross-border attacks along the frontier.

Liberia, in turn, has accused Guinea of backing dissident forces which are fighting government troops.

## Ghana arrests former finance minister

The authorities in Ghana have arrested the country's former deputy finance minister, Victor Selormey, for suspected illegal transactions last year involving nearly two-and-a-half-million dollars.

Mr Selormey was detained at Ghana's main airport outside Accra on his return from a private trip to Europe.

One alleged transaction involves a transfer of money from an export bank to a company which is alleged not to have existed.

A former trade and industry minister, Dan Abodakpiand, and two officials from the former administration have already

been questioned earlier this month.

The new government in Ghana has pledged to deal firmly with corruption.

Opposition party officials have condemned the arrest as vindictive.



Ghanaian President, John Kufuor

## Belgium tries Rwandan nuns for genocide

Four Rwandans, including two Roman Catholic nuns, went on trial yesterday in Belgium charged with taking part in the 1994 massacre of some 500,000 people in Rwanda.

It was the first time a civil court outside Rwanda tried suspects of the genocide.

The trial, which is expected to last up to six weeks, will focus on the killing of thousands of ethnic Tutsis hiding at a Roman Catholic convent and health centre near the southern town of Butare in late April 1994.

Consolata Mukangango, or Sister Gertrude, and Julienne Mukabutera, known as Sister Julienne Kisito, are suspected of having forced people to leave the convent, knowing they would be massacred.

The other defendants were Vincent Ntezimana, a university teacher, and

Alphonse Higaniro, a former government minister and member of the inner circle of the late Rwandan President, Juvenal Habyarimana.

The two men are suspected of inciting and organising large-scale slaughter in the region of Butare.

A 1993 law allows Belgian courts to hear cases of alleged human rights abuses against people living in Belgium, regardless of where the crimes were committed, the nationality of the victim or the nationality of the accused.

More than 170 witnesses are to be heard, including 50 from Rwanda, who will be flown to Belgium - Rwanda's former colonial ruler.

This is the first time a civil court outside Rwanda has tried genocide suspects, although a Swiss military tribunal did try one such similar case.

## Israel strikes Palestinian targets

Israeli helicopters have attacked the Palestinian security headquarters in central Gaza, just hours after a mortar attack on a southern Israeli town.

A Palestinian police officer said several missiles hit the headquarters of Force-17, an elite security unit.

Israeli troops also entered Beit Hanun, an area supposedly under full Palestinian control, destroying border police positions with bulldozers.

The Israeli offensive followed the firing of several mortar shells at the town of Sderot, 5km (three miles) from the Gaza border.

The Palestinian

Authority said its forces were not behind the attack.

There has also been more violence in the West Bank, where Israeli tanks fired at villages near the town of Bethlehem.

At least three Palestinians were said to have been injured.

A spokesman for Israel's Prime Minister Ariel Sharon warned of further retaliation for the mortar attack.

"We are unlikely to let it go as it is and deliberations are under way to decide what further steps should be taken to bring about the cessation of such hostilities," said Raanan Gissin.

A new round of security

talks between Israel and the Palestinians had already been cancelled.

The violence also casts a shadow over prospects for a Jordanian-Egyptian plan, brought to Jerusalem by Jordanian Foreign Minister Abdulilah al-Khatib.

The initiative is said to call for an end to violence by both Israelis and the Palestinians, the lifting of Israel's travel restrictions on Palestinians, an Israeli troop pull back and an end to the building of Jewish settlements in the Palestinian territories.

Mr Khatib discussed the plan with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Mr Sharon.

Mr Peres was non-committal after the meeting.

"I don't think it would be wise to reject it out of hand," he said.

"We have to study it. But we very much appreciate the very effort to douse the flames ... so that we will be able to return to the negotiating table."

Israeli officials have previously expressed reservations about the initiative.

Mr Sharon has said he will not resume political negotiations with the Palestinians until violence stops.



# TRUST INTERNATIONAL WORLD REPORT

## Ancient Roman wall collapses

A section of a third century wall originally built to protect ancient Rome from attack has collapsed after a heavy rain storm on Easter Sunday.

A six-metre high section of the Aurelian Wall between the two ancient gates of Porta Latina and Porta St Sebastiano was reduced to a pile of rubble on Sunday evening.

No-one was injured but thousands of tourists had earlier visited the site on the southern outskirts of the city.

An emergency session of Rome city council said the wall would be reconstructed but ruled the area would remain closed to the public until a detailed technical investigation had been carried out.

The last restoration of the section of the wall which collapsed took place 400 years ago.

Eugenio La Rocca, archaeological expert for Rome city council, said the collapse could have been caused by a variety of factors: "The rain probably had something to do with it but it cannot have been the only reason for the collapse. We'll need some time to find out the real causes."

The Aurelian Wall dates

back to the end of the third century, when Rome was threatened with invasion by barbarians from northern Italy.

The Emperor Aurelius ordered the wall to be built around a much larger area of the city than the previous walls of Rome.

Large sections of the wall, which surrounded the city are still in existence.

Six metres high and three and a half metres thick, it originally had guard towers every 30m or so.

Archaeologists who examined the damaged part of the wall said the workmanship was not perfect. It lacked mortar, proof that it was erected hastily to fend off an imminent attack.

The imposing walls of Rome had too many gaps to be effective, even in ancient times.

The city was sacked on several occasions by armies, which either broke through its many gates, or bribed their way in.



Firemen examining the collapsed wall on Monday.

(AFP)

## Taleban leader dies

A senior leader of Afghanistan's ruling Taleban movement, Mullah Mohammad Rabbani, has died of liver cancer.

Senior Taleban officials said that Mr Rabbani died in a Pakistan hospital early on Monday morning.

Mr Rabbani, 45, was the second most powerful Taleban leader after the supreme commander, Mullah Mohammad Omar, and head of the governing council of ministers.

Making an humanitarian exception to the air embargo, the United Nations flew his body to the southern Afghan city of Kandahar.

Among the Taleban rank and file Mullah Rabbani was known simply as Haji Mowin Sahib, or The Deputy.

An important military commander during the decade-long war against Soviet occupation in the eighties, he attracted many fighters to the Taleban cause.

He was among the original band of Taleban fighters who captured Kandahar in 1994 and then swept into the capital, Kabul, two years later.

Mr Rabbani had been seriously ill for several months and travelled to Pakistan frequently for treatment.

A strong supporter of the hardline Islamic rule which the Taleban have put in place in Afghanistan, there have been reports of differences between him and Mullah Omar.

Mullah Rabbani was believed to have ordered the execution of former Afghan President Najibullah, after the Taleban takeover.

Mr Najibullah, who had been living in the United Nations compound in Kabul since 1992, was dragged out and publicly hanged.

Mr Rabbani is to be buried in Kandahar, the headquarters of the Taleban regime.

## US to negotiate release of spy plane

A delegation of US officials is due in Beijing to begin talks on the recent mid-air collision between an American spy plane and a Chinese fighter jet.

The eight-member American team will demand the return of the EP-3 surveillance aircraft which was forced to make a crash landing on Hainan island following the 1 April incident over the South China Sea.

China has hailed fighter pilot Wang Wei, who has been presumed dead since his plane crashed into the sea following the collision, a martyr and given him the title "Guardian of the Air and Sea".

Talks are understood to be underway in his hometown of Huzhou to erect a statue in his memory.

The US team, led by deputy under-secretary of defence Pete Verga, has indicated it will be putting "tough questions" to the Chinese authorities when they meet on today.

The talks could set the tone of future US-Chinese

relations.

The US says it believes the accident was caused by the aggressive tactics of the Chinese pilot.

Crew members aboard the US plane said the Chinese jet flew so close it clipped one of their propellers.

White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said: "The agenda as far as the United States is concerned is to provide a clear, graphic explanation of the US view of the cause of the accident, and to discuss ways of avoiding similar accidents in the future."

China has made it clear it wants an end to the American reconnaissance flights, which have been suspended since the incident, but US officials said flights could resume as early as Thursday.

The 24-member crew of the spy plane returned home

to a heroes' welcome after being held on Hainan Island by China for 11 days.

They were released after the US said they were "very sorry" that the Chinese pilot had been lost, and that permission had not been granted to land in China.

Discussions have been underway within the American administration on whether the EP-3 flights should be escorted by US fighter jets while on reconnaissance missions.

But on Monday, American defence officials denied reports in the *Washington Post* newspaper that the aircraft carrier USS Kitty Hawk was on its way to the South China Sea for that purpose.

They said the vessel had by-passed the South China Sea and was heading to Guam for a scheduled air defence exercise.

## Venezuelan prison uprising ends

The authorities in Venezuela have said that an uprising by prisoners near

the capital, Caracas, has ended peacefully.

The inmates locked themselves inside the jail on Sunday with hundreds of visitors, in protest against transfers to other jails, as well as alleged mistreatment by prison guards.

But after officials threatened to storm the prison, in Tocuyito, the visitors left voluntarily.

Correspondents say jails in Venezuela have been relatively peaceful since the government released about seven-thousand inmates a year ago in order to reduce overcrowding. In a separate development, five women were reported injured in a riot in a women's prison in Guatemala.

## Castro celebrates revolution

The president of Cuba, Fidel Castro, has addressed tens of thousands of supporters on the fortieth anniversary of his declaration of socialist rule.

To loud cheers from the crowd, Mr. Castro referred on several occasions to the speech he made in 1961 on the same street corner in

Havana.

Then, he used the word socialist to describe the revolution that had brought him to power in 1959.

A day later, Cuban exiles trained by the American CIA landed at the Bay of Pigs in a failed attempt to overthrow Mr Castro's government.

## Separated twins fare well

Doctors in Singapore who separated 11 month old Siamese twin sisters six days ago have said they are happy with the girls' progress.

The twins, who were joined together at the tops of their heads, spent five more hours on the operating table on Monday, allowing surgeons to look at their wounds.

The sisters, Jamuna and Ganga Shreshta, born in Nepal, are reported to be opening their eyes and responding to voices, but are still feverish.

Dr Keith Goh, the neurosurgeon who

supervised the operation, said he believed the girls had a high chance of a full recovery as they had made it through the crucial first week after the operation.

However, he said there was still a possibility of brain damage, but it was too early to tell.

"The big 'if' is whether the skin heals and whether the infection overcomes them. We've crossed the period of brain swelling... that's not going to be a big issue now," said Dr Goh.

The girls are being kept heavily sedated in intensive care at Singapore Central Hospital to allow them t

Experts say infection is the greatest threat facing the infants after the traumatic operation.

The twins were joined at the top of their heads and shared the same brain cavity, causing them to face away from each other.

They had to be split to survive and have the chance of a normal life.

The operation to separate the girls was expected to last 36 hours, but in the end took more than 90.

During the operation, surgeons had to determine which part of the brain belonged to which girl to ensure they identified the correct speech and log centers.



Siamese twins, Jamuna, after the operation on April 10,



# CONGRATULATIONS



**ALHAJI ABDULLAHI UMAR**  
(WAZIRIN GWANDU)

On this occasion of your **Turbanning Ceremony**

By

**His Royal Highness Alhaji Al-Mustapha Haruna Jokolo**  
*The Emir of Gwandu and Chairman, Kebbi State Council of Chiefs.*

We wish you many more years of selfless service  
to Gwandu Emirate and the nation.

**MALLAM BELLO IBRAHIM GWANDU, MFR**  
(TURAKIN GWANDU)



# BUSINESS DAY

## Commodity Exchange Tussle: NSE, NSSA call for truce

The Director-General of Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE), Dr. Ndi Okereke-Onyuike and President of the Nigerian Shareholders Association (NSSA), Chief Akintunde Asalu have called for truce in the raging battle over introduction of commodity exchange in the country, saying that the nation needs a commodity exchange.

The dignitaries who spoke separately, maintained that such an exchange will help boost investment and enable investors tap into opportunities available in commodities.

On the controversy between First African Commodity and Features Exchange (FACOMEX) and Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the NSE D-G revealed that it was on the direction of SEC that the NSE signed an MOU with FACOMEX.

According to her, SEC

From Bright Ewulu, in Lagos

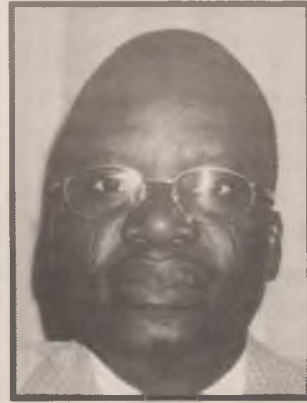
under Mr. Wale Adetunji had directed FACOMEX to sign an MOU with NSE as the last option to grant them a provisional license. This, she said, was the reason for the understanding.

She said, however, that shortly after Adetunji left SEC and since then FACOMEX had been unable to obtain the provisional licence as was the original agreement.

Asalu, in his position believes that the on-going controversy is unnecessary as the exchange in question is to the benefit of all Nigerians, saying that his fears are that SEC's know-how as to Futures and options is not very deep.

He, however, maintained that all those concerned in the brouhaha should get down to a table and reach a credible agreement as the exchange in question could

help develop the financial sector.



Suleyman Ndanusa, SEC D-G

It would be recalled that the SEC came out recently



Ndi Okereke, NSE D-G

to explain that it has not approved any company to set up a commodity exchange as being rumoured in some sections of the media, adding that any firm with such plans should make an equity deposit of N500 million in cash as asset among other requirements.

SEC later took an editorial advertisement in which it maintained its point that the press attacks on it was unwholesome, alleging that individuals behind such at-

tacks were sponsored.

*Business Day*, however, learnt from some credible sources that the finance ministry is already intervening in the brouhaha as the federal government was said to be interested in setting up a commodity exchange to further enhance its privatisation and deregulation policies.

The Minister of Finance, Malam Adamu Ciroma is said to be making efforts to understand the issues at point in order to settle it amicably.

## British Airways defends rejection of credit cards

The British Airways (BA) has explained its policy on credit card bookings from the UK to Nigeria which has been a subject of controversy in Nigeria.

Nigerians resident in the United Kingdom have accused BA of discrimination in the acceptance of credit cards and have vowed not to patronise the airline.

British Airways in a statement however explained that: "As a result of many incidence of fraud and need to protect our customers, British Airways, in conjunction with other European airlines does not accept credit cards over the telephone on some routes, in-

From Shakirat Abdulmajeed, in Lagos

cluding West Africa from London (Abidjan, Abuja, Accra and Lagos). However, we do accept credit card booking in person".

British Airways and other all members of the European Airlines Association have been operating the same policy since August 1998 on the advice of American Express and Visa.

"Most importantly, by British Airways and other airlines acting on the advice of the credit card companies, all card holders are safeguarded against the abusive use of their cards.

"Any passenger booking a ticket on any airline in the

UK to any West African destination will be subject to the same rules, whether the passenger is Nigerian, English,

American, Ghana or any other nationality," the statement maintained.



Tony Blair, British Prime Minister



President Obasanjo

## DHL floats new airline

DHL world wide express has announced the formation of a new airline to be based at DHL's East Midlands Airport in England.

The airline, which will be wholly owned by DHL International, will provide air express and logistics uplift from East Midlands for DHL's customers across the 119 countries in its Europe and African region.

The airline in a statement stated that the new airline will be responsible for the operation of 23 Boeing 757 SFS which form part of the total order of 34 B 757 0 200 SFS currently converted to special freighters by booking airplane services.

"DHL's European air transport will be responsible for the operation of the other 11 Boeing 757s, in addition to two B757 - 200 production freighters as well as the current DHL Europe and Africa fleet.

The fleet of new airline will be capable of approximately 100 flights per night across the Europe/Africa network".

"DHL's European air transport will provide all technical support for DHL's entire B757 fleet under the European Aviation JAR 145, including line, air-frame, engine and component maintenance," the statement

From Shakirat Abdulmajeed, in Lagos

added. Richard Soaver, Managing Director of DHL, Nigeria disclosed that the formation of the new airline is in part a response to increasing consumer demand in the Europe and Africa region, adding that it is also a strategic proactive response to future business growth.

DHL is the world's leading international air express company, accounting for 40% of international air express business.

It was founded in 1969 in San Francisco by Adrian Dalsey, Harry Hillblom and Robert Hynn.

## Africa seeks N4.25bn to revive coffee industry

The coffee industry in Africa needs at least 30 million U.S. dollars (more than N4.25 billion) in credit for five years to finance small-scale coffee production and revive the ailing sector, the *Eastern African Weekly* reported.

Delegates from an international workshop on coffee production in Nairobi were quoted as saying that coffee production in Africa had been declining consistently, with only 15 million bags (50 kg per bag) recorded last

year in comparison with 26 million bags in the previous year.

They said that African coffee was facing fierce competition from Vietnam and some Latin-American countries because Global Financial Institutions gave credit to farmers in those regions.

The delegates noted that one of the biggest obstacles to the coffee output was the lack of government support for the sector, adding that financial input in agriculture on the African continent had been declining since 1990s.

## FAAN embarks on audit of pensioners

The management of the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) has yesterday embarked on an audit of its pensioners all over the country to ensure that only those who are eligible receive their pensions.

According to a statement

made available to *Business Day*, the exercise, scheduled to hold between April 17 and 25 is to ascertain the exact number of pensioners and their present addresses.

"As part of this measure, no pension allocation will be released to any airport for the month of March 2001. All pensioners will be paid by crossed cheques issued from the headquarters".

Senior officers from headquarters are to issue these cheques directly to pensioners at the different airports on various dates by using files collected from the personnel department.

Pensioners are required to submit the following documents to the paying officials: Letters of engagement while in active service, letter of retirement, pensioners' identity card, bank pass book or evidence of current account (Re-bank A/C No. 7 January 2001 pay slip, if no passport photographs and they will also be required to fill and complete pensioners'

information card to be countersigned by the paying officer from the headquarters.

"Pensioners are advised to go to the nearest airport to them for this exercise as non-compliance may result

in the stoppage of the pension by the management of FAAN, the industrial launching presently being enjoyed in the organization and by extension the Aviation industry will evaporate.

## Habib Bank opens new branch in Abuja today

Vice President Atiku Abubakar will today in Abuja, officially commission a new branch office of Habib Nigeria Bank Limited, which is located at Plot 786, 5th Street, Central Business District, Abuja.

The new branch office, which is the bank's second office built to serve as its Corporate Headquarters is tagged: Bashorun MKO Abiola House. It is named after late Bashorun Moshood Abiola, who was a co-founder of the Bank.

Habib Nigeria Bank Limited is the only bank in Nigeria that currently operates an interest-free deposit account, side-by-side with

other normal commercial banking services.

The official commissioning of the Corporate Headquarters is expected to open-up business for the bank.



Vice President Atiku Abubakar



# BUSINESS DAY

## CBN ups banks' cash reserve requirements

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has reviewed upwards its Cash Reserve Requirements (CRR) and Minimum Rediscount Rate (MRR). The apex

**Stories from Bright Ewulu, in Lagos**  
bank increased its CRR from 11.0 percent to 12.5 percent which is tantamount to a 150 basis points

increment. While its MRR was reviewed upwards by 100 basis points to now stand at 16.5 percent.

The CBN which declared this in a statement

signed by Dr. O.J. Nnanna, its acting director of research, stated that the review owes to the need to put the economy in a better shape.

According to it, "the

measure was aimed at addressing the problem of liquidity surfeit in the banking system, which still persists.

The CBN maintained that "all Nigerian banks are

enjoined to strictly observe the new ratio as penalties shall be imposed for non-compliance to the directive.

It would be recalled that the Central Bank recently upped the CRR from 10.0 percent to 11.0 percent. Apparently, what this means is that banks' cash deposits with the Central Bank, expressed as a ratio of this total liabilities, certificates of deposits, promissory notes held by the non-bank public and other deposit items.

The reserve bank disclosed that it will continue to monitor and control developments in the financial system for better financial and macro-economic stability.

## Guaranty Trust Bank extends services to Gambia

Guaranty Trust Bank (GTB), in consonance with its continental expansion is set to extend commercial banking services to the Gambia, the bank's manager, commercialization and external affairs, Mrs. Joko Giwa disclosed.

She said in a statement that the bank received an infusion of \$30 million from two renown international organisations.

The statement main-

tained the bank's readiness to abide with the aims and objectives of the funds which are to be extended to Nigerian industries, adding that this is expected to give fillip to the overall economy.

Meanwhile, GTB has announced a profit before tax of N2 billion, an achievement which makes it the first second generation bank to record such sum as profit.

The bank's audit of financial statement for the year ended February 2001

showed an increase in the bank's gross earnings which rose 29 percent from N5.3 billion in the preceeding year to N6.8 billion in the current year.

In the period under review, the deposit liability grew by 56% to N24.1 billion from N15.5 billion posted last year. The shareholders funds also increased by 30 percent to N3.9 billion from N3.03 billion achieved last year.

According to the state-

ment, the bank's total assets appreciated 27 percent to N40.8 billion as at February 28 this year.

A year end dividend of N420 million is being proposed by the management to be paid GTB shareholders in addition to N180 million already paid to them during the year as interior dividend which brings earning per share (EPS) to stand at N100.



Joseph Sanusi, CBN Governor.

## ANCLA condemns composition of NPA's anti-corruption committee

The Association of Nigerian Licenced Customs Agents (ANCLA) has condemned the composition of the newly inaugurated members of the anti-corruption committee, set up by the Nigerians Ports Authority (NPA), describing it as a "farce and fraud".

Speaking to *BusinessDay* the ANCLA President, Alhaji Sanni Shittu observed that NPA had no moral justification to set up the committee, noting that the move was a ploy to scuttle the federal government's anti-corruption programme.

Shittu alleged that people who were loyal to the present management of the authority were appointed

**From Tokunbo Oloke, in Lagos**  
into the committee.

Reacting to the allegations, the chairman of the anti-corruption committee, Mr. Val Usifoh said the committee was not the making



Bello Gwandu, NPA MD.

of the NPA but that its formation was in line with the outcome of the communiqué in the last seminar on corruption in Lagos Ports, where all stakeholders in the industry were adequately represented.

"It is not controlled by NPA but they are host," he averred.

Usifoh stressed that his committee was not set up to work at variance with federal government's anti-corruption commission, adding that because its scope of operation does not extend beyond the maritime circle.

He stated that the committee has equally written to other ports in the country, asking them to forwards their problem to them with a view to solving them on and for all.

## Corruption is killing the Naira

Chief of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Chief Victor Obioha has warned that the havoc of corruption is partly responsible for the falling value of the Naira in the forex market.

Obioha who spoke to *Business Day* in Lagos, said the excessive pressure on the Inter-bank Foreign Exchange Market (IFEM) owes to the fact that corrupt politicians have found that it is easy and better to store their loot by converting it to dollars in readiness for the 2003 election.

He said this was responsible to the fact that the excess crude oil monies paid to the state, sometimes ago did not lead to overt liquidity problems as the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) had anticipated, rather than the impact of these federal government revenue distributions has always been felt on the foreign exchange markets.

The politician who is an economist by training, maintained that unless these unwholesome practices by public office holders in the local government, state and the federal level are curtailed, Nigerians may never enjoy the dividends of democracy.

He lampooned the powers that be for its lukewarmness as regards to corruption, saying as a result that the fourth republic is increasingly becoming the most corrupt in the annals of democratic practice in Nigeria.

On the needed foreign investment in flow, Obioha declared that the frequent political instability and violent eruptions should first be

tackled before we can expect foreigners to invest adequately in our country.

The Central Bank was found earlier last week to devalue the naira from N110.7 per dollar to N115.7 per dollar. Its reason being that demand for the currency (dollar) far outstripped its average 185 million dollars weekly to hit 254 million dollars.

Some analysts believe that efforts to effectively manage the situation will continually fail until the interest rate is drastically reduced to enable the productive sector borrow from the banks.

At the current, over 30 percent interest rate is

## — Obioha

intercommitted for the manufacturing sector to take loans, hence the bank's overt focus on the money market.



Adamu Ciroma, Finance Minister.

## Zenith Bank bags maritime merit award

Zenith Bank has won the year 2000 maritime merit award as the most outstanding customs duty collection bank in the country, having collected about N10.5 billion.

A release signed by the head, corporate communications, Mr. Tony Chiejuna, the bank claimed that the amount was the highest in the history of bank's duty collection in the country.

According to him, Zenith was appointed to collect customs revenue in 1999, by the end of the year, it had collected about N3.9 billion, and in the year 2000, it raked in N10.5 billion.

"This performance is indicative of the bank's penchant for professionalism, integrity, honesty, account-

ability and commitment to ideals and goals of the government in revenue collection. He added that the bank was jointly nominated for the award by the Central Bank of Nigeria and Nigeria Customs Service which underscores the need for maritime operators to know that Nigerian banks can be trusted to collect duty for the government because of their high level of commitment, honesty and professionalism to duty collection.

"The importance the various governments attach to taxes has been made manifest in the appointment of banks for duty collection," he stressed.

## Trading drops by 36.6m in shares worth N382.7m at NSE

Trading on the Nigerian Stock Exchange closed last week with 69.1 million shares worth N61.77 million changing hands in 6775 deals in contrast to 105.7 million shares valued at N1.999 billion that were exchanged in the preceding week in 8803 deals.

Transactions in shares quoted in the banking sub-sector accounted for the bank of the week's turnover. The subsector recorded a turnover of 35.6 million shares worth N271.2 million in 2803 deals. Conglomerates subsector followed with a turnover of 9.6 million shares valued at N87.2 million.

All the transactions within the week were in equities, as the Federal Government development stocks sector and the industrial loans/preference stocks sector remained inactive.

### Price movement:

The Nigerian Stock Exchange All-share index appreciated by 0.2% to close at 9363.87. The index appreciated previous week by 2.0%.

DN Meyer Plc led on the price gainers' chart during the week appreciating by 231 kobo to close at N13.13. Followed by Nigerian Breweries Plc and Julius Berger Plc with a gain of 148 kobo and 123 kobo, respectively.

Other price gainers in the top ten bracket last week include: BOC Gases Plc (118 kobo); WAPCO Plc (100 kobo); Agip (Nigeria) Plc (99 kobo); First Bank Plc (94 kobo); Longman Nigeria Plc (70 kobo); Cadbury Nigeria Plc (65 kobo); Union Dicon Salt Plc (40 kobo); Flour Mills Nigeria Plc and Nigeria Insurance Company Plc (37 kobo apiece); CFAO Nigeria Plc (30 kobo) and Chartered Bank Plc (23 kobo).

Union Bank Nigeria Plc led on the price losers' chart, losing 151 kobo to close its share price at N36.49. Lever Brothers Plc followed with a loss of 104 Kobo; Guinness Nigeria Plc lost 102 kobo, while Total Nigeria Plc, Mobil Oil Nigeria Plc and Beta Glass Plc (100 kobo apiece). Nigerian Bottling Co. Plc and Northern Nigeria Flour Mills Plc also fell by 86 kobo and 73 kobo respectively.

Other price losers in the top ten bracket are: Texaco (Nigeria) Plc (65 kobo); United Nigeria Textile Mills Plc (32 kobo); NCR (Nigeria) Plc (27 kobo); AIICO Insurance Plc, UNIC Insurance Plc, PZ Industries Plc and Berger Paints Plc (20 kobo apiece); Guaranty Trust Bank Plc (17 kobo); Royal Exchange Assurance Plc (14 kobo); WTN Plc and May & Baker Nigeria Plc lost 13 kobo and 12 kobo respectively.



# BUSINESS DAY

## Committee indicts Aviation parastatals for alleged fraud

The Minister of Aviation, Dr. (Mrs.) Kema Chikwe has been urged to terminate all existing banking relationships between the aviation parastatals and their bankers, as the bankers have allegedly colluded with the parastatals to defraud the system.

The committee on financial management of Aviation parastatals set up by the minister made the recommendation in its report submitted to the minister. It stated that bankers to all the aviation parastatals did not avail such parastatals professional advice in the management of their funds.

The committee which noted that there are continued loss of revenue by all the parastatals arising from lack of commitment and diligence by staff in their commercial department, recommended the immediate redeployment of some staff in order to curb the rising incidence of financial recklessness.

"A committed, commercially driven, sincere and responsible team should be put in place in all the parastatals to harness all available resources or revenue," the committee advised.

The committee maintained in its report that it "noticed a general lack of commercial sense bordering on

From Shakirat Abdulmajeed, in Lagos

irresponsibility and unprofessionalism in the handling of the various accounts by line officers in the parastatals."

The report signed by the committee Chairman, Ms. Evelyn N. Oputa also observed that almost all the parastatals, especially Nigerian College of Aviation Technology (NCAT), do not



Kema Chikwe, Aviation Minister.

have enough and well educated, qualified and experienced personnel to further the vision and mission of the administration in positioning the aviation sub-sector to be a key player in the global market.

The Committee also disclosed in its report that the commercial department of all the parastatals displayed an unusual low level of entrepreneurship, commitment

and ownership of national assets.

"The revenue generation potentials of the parastatals are not being fully exploited. Even where exploited, converted efforts were not made to collect the said revenue. FAAN, NAMA and NCAA already have high levels of receivable which have continued to build up," the report disclosed further.

It would be recalled that

the former Chairman of Nigerian Airspace Management Agency (NAMA), Chief Rochas Okorochoa was sacked by Obasanjo government for allegedly inflating the price of a radar contract.

Just last week Monday, the Director of Engineering of FAAN and two other officers of the parastatals were sent on compulsory retirement for negligence of duties.

### Three Nigerians to receive merit awards

From Rakiya A. Muhammad, in Lagos

Three Nigerians who have excelled in worldwide engineering feats are to receive the ARCO Nigerian Excellence in Science and Technology (NEST) award in London on April 27.

The awardees include professor Bath Nnaji recognised for developing the product modeller system (Prod-Mod-s) which is used in the design of aircraft surfaces and computer chassis, and his considerable works in Advanced Robotics, Dr. Henrietta Ukwu for the discovery of CRIVAN, a drug that reduces the virus load of AIDS patients to undetectable levels and significantly slows down the process of death in extreme cases, and Dr. Oviero Ovadje for his life saving invention, EATEST Machine



Honourable Minister of Commerce, Engr. Mustapha Bello, (MNSE) receiving a gift from Mr. Karel Synek of Czech Republic's Embassy in Nigeria, when the latter paid a visit to the Minister recently in Abuja.

## Expert warns on looming shortage of petroleum engineers

Fears have been raised over an impending shortage of intellectual capital in the petroleum industry with the current spate of low records of enrolment in petroleum-re-

lated university programmes.

President and Chief Executive of Landmark Graphics Corporation, Mr. John

Gibson who expressed the fears observed, "everybody out there wants a job in the energy industry. How many of you have recommended that your children pursue a degree in petroleum engi-

neering, geology or geophysics?"

Gibson warned that the workforce in the industry was rapidly ageing and that if nothing was done; almost two-thirds of the current knowledgeable workers could be lost in the next seven years.

The geophysicist lamented that despite the fact that most industry executives were aware of the looming crisis; they have not taken it seriously.

He therefore called for the development and enhancement of intellectual capitals so that the energy industry could be sustained.

The exploration expert also observed the need to implement new ways that would increase the productivity of existing exploration professionals through better workflow practices and integrated information system.

He was of the view that with innovations in knowledge, management, and new business models, in the age of the Internet, the energy companies of the future would reap greater benefits.

## Tranex MD calls for courier regulator independent of NIPOST

The Federal Government has been called upon to establish a supervisory body for the Postal sub-sector, similar to the National Communications Commission (NCC) to regulate the activities of courier service companies in Nigeria.

Making the call in Lagos in an interview with *Business Day*, the Managing Director of Tranex Courier Agency, Mr. Akin Ariola challenged the dual roles of the Nigerian Postal Service (NIPOST) as a courier service provider and supervisor of the sub-sector.

He observed that, such a body if established would regulate the activities of courier services companies to ensure fair play and healthy rivalry among the players, including NIPOST.

Ariola noted that the situation in which NIPOST is the supervisor of the courier industry and also a competitor, was an unhealthy for the development of the industry.

According to him, "Cou-

From Wisdom Patrick, in Lagos

rier Companies in the country are made to register with NIPOST with a fee, they pay annual certificate renewal fee and also pay commission whenever they make use of NIPOST's clearing hall."

Ariola said it would be beneficial to all stakeholders in the industry if government makes NIPOST a business venture and then create an agency to oversee the activities of all courier companies.

Earlier, the image-maker of Tranex, Mr. Richard Achukwu said at the opening of the new regional office of the company in Lagos that a number of products aimed at enhancing customers satisfaction have been introduced by his company.

These, according to him, include computerised billing system, which gives a customer the full details of transactions from pick-up to delivery. He added that the system was a self-checking mechanism, which ensures that invoices are sent with full delivery details to clients.

## Liberalisation enhances performance of Nigerian capital market -Experts

The on-going liberalisation of the Nigerian capital market has been declared as the only option that would enhance foreign investments inflow into the economy.

This was the summation of various experts at a two-day seminar organised by the Capital Market Correspondents Association of Nigeria (CAMCAN), in Lagos.

According to the General Manager, Group Public Affairs of Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), Mr. Ndu Ughamadu, the attention our capital market is currently attracting at global levels stem from the internationalisation efforts by the Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE).

He said that the impact of our capital market is more poignant now as a result of interests shown by international news agencies to it,

From Bright Ewulu, in Lagos

saying "this encouraging development contrasts with the situation before 1994 when detailed coverage of the market was limited to



Jibril Martins-Kuye, Minister of State for Finance.

only few national newspapers."

Also speaking at the seminar tagged: "Capital Market Reporting: The Challenges of Information Technology", Assistant General Manager, Research and

Information of the Nigerian Stock Exchange, Mr. Kene Okafor stated that the capital market will continue on its automation efforts to enhance efficiency.

According to him: "For markets seeking progress, they must be seen as employing information technology for better efficiency." He said that it is needed to enter global markets as it helps unify practices across the continent.

Malam Kabir Dangogo, Assistant General Manager, Corporate Affairs, Union Bank of Nigeria (UBN) maintained in his contribution that

there is need for better information management in our environment in order to enhance information flow.

Dangogo said because of the big role played by information today in business that the ability to effectively handle information impacts ultimately on the bottom line of business.



# Baro: The first Nigerian inland

Baro is a fishing community in Niger State and it is set in wooded country which promises to be good for hunting and farming. The inhabitants are Nupe, and there is a significant Hausa,

**By Tadaferua Ujorha**  
Igbo and Yoruba population. The Niger courses gently by, while fishermen pass along in their boats. The British realised the significance of Baro as a viable inland port, and they flocked to Baro in

great numbers, while also extending some development to Baro.

To get to Baro from Bida, you first travel to Agaie where you get a connecting vehicle. There you must wait for a while for the vehicle to

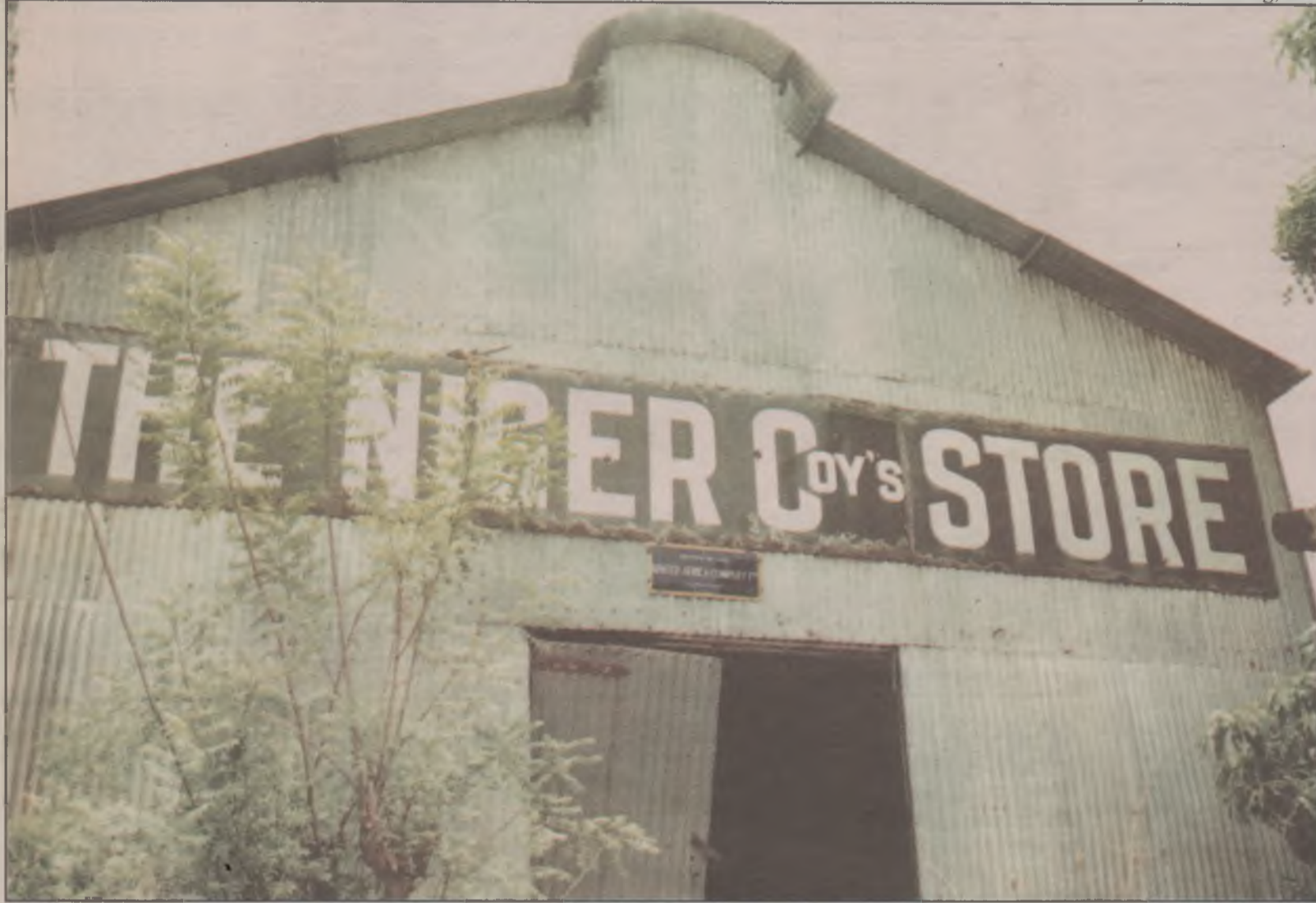
fill up. From Agaie you now head for Katcha, where it is possible to acquire an infinity of mangoes for a few naira. At Katcha, you proceed on an untarred road for many kilometres before you arrive at Baro. Of course, at Katcha

you wait for quite a while before the vehicle fills up, and then the car suddenly stops moving when you have hardly begun the journey.

There is a lot of pain as you journey to Baro. The road is dusty and winding, and

forms a little ring around the town. We later learnt that it is named 'Empire Hill'. This is the name the British gave the hill when they arrived at Baro. It seems that its previous name can no longer be remembered by the people. Upon the hill are an endless series of trees, some of which are slightly bent, and seem ready to topple over and crash into the valley beneath. The road passes by the side of the massive hill and to the right is a precipice. The reader can easily

dist... was... clos... abo... rive... whe... dire... whic... tow... whic... sun... look



Old store of the Niger Company at Baro



A dwelling at Baro



Steps leading to the old railways qua

imagine how we felt. Somehow, the undulating road wended its way to Baro, by neatly skirting the hill which now continued to expand into the

sourc... years... to Ba... situat

sometimes you would not see a pedestrian for quite a distance. If the driver speeds on the dusty winding road, you may panic a little, and this is quite natural, but there is hardly any sense in speeding upon an undulating and winding road.

There are streams and ponds at significant portions of the road too. There are bridges, and they look like carryovers from the colonial time. There are iron railings and a wooden 'floor'. At some of these bridges we saw that some of the wooden boards were being changed, and vehicles now had to utilise an alternative route which had been created at a site to the right of these bridges. After you have passed through this rough labyrinth of sorts, the vehicle climbs upwards somewhat and the journey proceeds again.

Finally, you get to Baro, after a journey which lasts for more than an hour, and gets very close to two.

Close to Baro, you observe a massive hill which



Railway line at Baro.



Feature

# Inland port (I)

When we finally rolled into Baro, it was to observe that houses here were built close to each other, while people went about their business quite happy with themselves. The town at Baro was not quite so far from where we were and we headed in that direction. We observed the old post office which stood at a strategic portion of the town. There was the old railway terminus which stood there silent and grand in the distance. The railway track stood by the river very eager to be of service. A



Hillside at Baro

Our guide mentioned that for about eight years now the trains have ceased to come to Baro, but there are hopes that the situation would be normalised shortly.



Pictures by Felix Onigbinde.

We were also shown a mansion on a hill in which the management of the railway service resided not too long ago. But the house has clearly seen better days as some of its structures have collapsed. Next, we went down to the river where we saw people washing clothes, bathing and fishing. We soon bumped into a fisherman who mentioned a number of issues relating to the river. He referred to a spot which is very deep, and dangerous for fishermen, and swimmers alike.

Also, there was a boat at the riverside which was grounded. We gathered that it had been lying there ever since it developed problems a little while ago. Soon, fishermen came along in a little canoe, and they mentioned that they had gone for a spot of fishing up the river. The movement of the boat as it glided along the river with the dark paddles going to and fro was a very fine sight. The River Niger describes a splendid arc at Baro. The waters pass in great and swift currents, while the distance from one bank to the next is quite impressive. Trees form a lovely cluster on both sides of the riverbank. The waters also expand into the distance against which one beholds a number of fishermen busy fishing. We also saw the Niger Company store which was used by the colonials to store the items they traded in. The store was a large complex made of zinc and it had clearly seen better days. It virtually sat upon the riverbank, and must have



The Post Office at Baro

been quite convenient in the days when the inland port flourished.

The waters here run deep and must have easily accommodated ships and boats, which abounded in the area when the inland port flourished. A fisherman pointed at a particular spot where the waters run deep, and which he advised swimmers to avoid. The port at Baro, can certainly be renovated such that it could re-enact the famous role it once played not too long ago.

We were also told that Sunday is the market day at Baro, and the riverside is a beehive of activity on the market day, fishermen come along with their catch and a great and eager crowd come along to make purchases.

Soon we moved along to visit other important spots in Baro. We were shown a series of finely positioned stones which rose high, and which seemed to hold the soil away from the railway tracks. Apparently the stones were knocked into shape, and placed by manual labour many years ago when the colonials flourished in the environment. There were also sheds nearby which officials of the railways used in servicing trains, and sundry other activities.

Soon our guide felt that it was about time that we met the chief of the village and he proceeded to guide us to the 'palace' of the former. He mentioned that the chief was elderly, and that he was pre-eminent in many areas. He said that the chief was not just the chief of the town but he was chief of hunters, farmers and medicine men. This naturally generated much

enthusiasm in us, and our strides became more agile, as we strode through Baro towards the hill beneath which the chief lived. Our

guide mentioned that the hill is called 'Empire Hill', and that Lord Lugard once lived at the 'great house' which was built on top of the hill. He said

that the British had a road built right up to the 'great house' and that we should climb the hill before leaving Baro.



A boat at Baro



The River Niger at Baro. Baro is a famous fishing village in Niger State



# Feature

## Again, grief and blood in Plateau State

From Buhari Bello, Jos

**K**undu village in Kwande district of Quan'pan local government area of Plateau state is a very fertile area and it is relatively peaceful. But there is always a slight unpredictability to its calm nature. On Thursday 4, April, both men and women including children were in great danger when some unidentified killers invaded the village in the early hours of the day.

Such killings have been happening in the neighbouring villages of Keana, Akiri and Awe in Nasarawa state, but recently, the village of Kundu erupted.

The people had all gone to sleep hoping to wake up and start the usual activities of the day not knowing that havoc was unfolding in their vicinity. In fact, it was a day the village played host to violence of an unparalleled type.

Kundu is located about 250 miles from the local government headquarters is about 100km to Lafia local government area of Nasarawa state and is a centre of farming activities.

Its fertile land is suitable for the production of various agricultural products and also attracts people, especially from the neighbouring states of Nasarawa and Benue state to settle for farming activities.

So, when the fracas unfolded on



Scene of violence at Kundu

the fateful day, prospective farmers and others had come and settle down for this year's farming season were being indiscriminately killed. As at the last count, over 3,000 people had fled their houses only to become refugees in the neighbouring villages of Bakin Ciyawa, and Kwande in Plateau state, while several others ran to Awe, Kcana and Doma in Nasarawa state.

About 24 people were shot dead

and some roasted to death when their houses were set ablaze. Several families perished when their houses were torched and enveloped in a flame which flickered its tongue to the sky for about 1 hour.

The invasion of Kundu village which no doubt sent shivers down the spines of the residents now made it a ghost town. When *Daily Trust* visited the area a week ago, it was discovered that corpses were scattered in the village.

Uncertainties agony, pains and expectations were seen on the faces of both the bloody victims and their families, especially those who came from their hideouts to received the council chairman who visited the area.

An unofficial at the refugee camp told *Daily Trust* that many corpses might have been lying in the bushes.

A visibly worried chairman of Quan'pan local government, Dr.

Chindo Dafat who visit the scene on Tuesday 10, 2001 on his official visit after the incident said lot damages have been done with loss of life and many people displaced from their homes.

He described it as quite unfortunate in the history of local government saying "as we went round we saw several corpses which were left unburied since the incident took place because of hostility of the attackers."

According to the chairman the team has already been sent to remote areas to alert the level of damage and property lost in such incidents "before we can have a chance to know what really happened".

The attackers were also said to have gone to all the houses of people living in the boundary between Nasarawa and Plateau states which saw several families killed and farm products worth millions destroyed when their houses were burnt.

Unfortunately, not even the names of the villages that survived the terrible incident could tell the remote or primary course of the bloody clash.

In the meantime, full farm activities are yet to resume at Kundu village. Investigations are still going on as witnessed by *Daily Trust* on Tuesday when security men and local government officials put their heads together to ascertain the cause of the killings.

## 'You cannot even see a chicken around'

**Y**ou have gone to the scene of the bloody clash, what is your assessment of the incident?

So far a lot of damages have been done and also lives have been lost. Many people have been displaced. I think it was quite an unfortunate happening in the history of this local government.

When we went round we saw three corpses left unburied since the day of the incident. And so far on account of the numbers of houses burned down we cannot even start to count them because we are only able to reach the available ones around us. There are others, as we were told, but these are a little far apart because they are farm settlements. After we have sent our team to go round and to assess the level of damages and property lost, then we will be in a better chance to speak further.

*From what you have seen so far, can you quantify the losses?*

Well, I know from the look of things that other valuables were also looted because virtually all the houses abandoned by the affected people were empty and you can not even see a chicken around. So to quantify the losses I think, it will be difficult because I could not even believe it when I saw the damages.

*What efforts have you made to ensure the resettlement of the people?*

So far, I have directed the head of the mobile unit because of the difficulties like lack of

*Buhari Bello our reporter in Jos had this interview with Dr. Chindo Dafat, the chairman Quan'Pan Local Government Area soon after the rumpus in Kundu*



A devastated residence at Kundu

divide his men into groups on surveillance duties so that this will encourage the people to return and settle down.

We also assured them of governments assistance as soon as they come back to their various houses to enable us know the numbers of persons affected so that we also assist them.

For their security we told

again, we have to go in for reinforcement of the mobile policemen to bring permanent peace and order in the area.

What call can you make to the state and federal government on the need to come to the aid of the victims.

My passionate call to the government and especially to his excellency Chief Joshua Dariye,

least pay a visit to the affected area and examine the damages done.

Now that you are calling on the villagers to go back to their homes, what security assurance can you guarantee?

Generally, the local government cannot do otherwise without the support of the people. By the location of the area af-

without the support of the people no government or security operative will be able to control what happened. It occurred all of a sudden and nobody even thought that such things will happen. I think it was sometime last year after the death of one Anthony there was information, and actually we tightened security here. We always asked the po-

movement and since then have not received anything except what happened which was quite a surprising thing to us.

Possibly we would set up permanent police out post especially at our boundary areas because at Quan'Pan in particular we have a problem of security mostly because of our location. As we are on the boundary with Lafia and Awe Local Governments in Nasarawa State, we have a lot of people coming, and this is causing a lot of problems. The issue of robbery is very rampant here because of that, and we have tried all we could but it has not been easy for us to tackle the issue of armed robbery.

**What could be the source of this communal clash because there have been several claims on the issue. Some say that it was a conflict between some tribes.**

Actually, up to this time I am talking to you, I cannot ascertain the position of the cause of the crisis. Nobody has come out to claim to have been the cause of the crisis and no arrangement has been made so far for us to ascertain it.

*So you mean there has been no clash between the different tribal groups in the area?*

Well, if you talk of clash between communities or tribes, you will look at factors or what resulted in that clash. It could be boundary disputes or differences as account of farmland, which was not in this case.



NEWS

# Gov. charges US-Nigeria institute on export

The United States - Nigeria Development Institute has been charged to intensify its activities in Nigeria to ensure that it assists members in the export of products.

Giving the charge in government house, Makurdi, last

By Austine Odo

week when he received the President of the institute, Mr. Charles Williams, Governor George Akume noted that the dream of the founding fathers of the institute would be realised when that was done.

Governor Akume stated that Benue State, with an agrarian economy that was fully involved in farming and food processing, would wish to take advantage of the United States market by exporting its products.

The governor therefore requested that the institute liaise with the state to work out strategies that could help

Benue to benefit from its services. Acknowledging the support Nigeria enjoyed from the Clinton administration,



Gov. Akume

Mr. Akume expressed optimism that the incumbent President George Bush

would consolidate such support.

Earlier in his speech, Mr. Williams said the team was in Benue to get a first hand knowledge of manufactured products from the state with a view to assisting in their export to American markets. He expressed the institute's appreciation to the Benue State government for its contributions as a funding member towards establishing the institute in Nigeria, saying it was interested in Benue as Nigeria's food basket and hoped that such services extended to the United States.

## Gov. Sani advised on marginalisation

Salisu Zakari Maradun, Gusau



Gov. Ahmed Sani grassroots.

According to him, giving assistance at individual level which the governor had embarked upon, doesn't pay "because you can't reach or satisfy all, only God can satisfy all", pointing out that currently, the people of Zamfara need good drinking water, roads and healthcare services.

He also reminded the governor to remember the oath he took after the election to provide all the necessary facilities and carry people along, irrespective of political affiliations, "but the governor seems to have forgotten his utterances at the swearing-in ceremony held at the Ali Akilu square about two years ago", he added.

The PDP spokesman also cried over the marginalisation of members of the PDP especially on the distribution of the wealth of the state, which he said members of his party had never benefited from, either in loan or assistance, as according to him, "if you are not a member of the APP now in Zamfara State, you will be given different names, some will call you unbeliever, anti-sharia, and so on".

## Kano awards N2.7b contract for 40 roads

From Habiba Adamu, Kano

The Kano State government has awarded contracts at the sum of 2.7 billion naira for construction and rehabilitation of 40 roads in the state.

The Commissioner for Works, Housing and Transport, Engineer Mansur Ahmed, disclosed this to newsmen at a parley in Kano yesterday. He said that his ministry had also undertaken about 30 building projects, some of which had been completed while some were at various stages of completion.

He added that the 40 road projects executed by the present administration comprised new road constructions, rehabilitation of damaged ones and maintenance of good ones in Kano metropolis and environs.

Engineer Mansur also added that his ministry had adopted a new strategy of conceptualising and designing roads. He said that was in the effort of the state government to provide better infrastructure to the public in the state

The commissioner also stated that at the end of this month, the state fire services would start getting the first batch of new fire fighting vehicles to enable it perform its duties effectively.

# Deputy speaker advises on resource control

From Ibrahim Ka-Almasih, Kaduna

The Deputy Speaker of Kaduna State House of Assembly, Architect Gideon Gwani (PDP/Kawo), has called on the states agitating for the control of their oil resources to consider the long-term consequences rather than the immediate gain.

In an exclusive interview with *Daily Trust* over the weekend, the lawmaker described as wrong, the belief that the north was economically parasite, adding that Nigeria had for long depended on the resources of the north to develop the other sectors, including oil.

Hon. Gwani wondered, therefore, why the oil-producing states should at this point consider it a privilege rather than right, for the north to benefit from the oil revenue, saying "I am not happy with those calling for resource control because it is a way of dividing the country; after all the government is

doing something about their complaint of negligence."

The Lawmaker who also dismissed calls for a Sovereign National Conference, called on Nigerians to de-emphasise issues that had tendencies of dividing rather than uniting them.

On the contemplated deregulation, Hon. Gwani called on the federal government to be cautious. He said, "deregulation is not good now particularly since we are trying to make the people feel the impact of the

government. We can deregulate the oil later at an appropriate time".

Reacting to observations that the dividends of democracy were slow in reaching out, Hon. Gwani argued that nobody could say that Kaduna State had not experienced appreciable level of development under the democratic rule, but conceded, however, that some states of the federation might have performed below expectation.

Hon. Gwani also said that political office-holders should not be blamed for the "Tazaree" (campaigning for

self-succession) because it was their followers, who felt they deserved second terms, that were campaigning for such persons.

He said, however, that the time might not be ripe for such campaigns, though well intentioned.

He said also that it was wrong to assume that the Kaduna state House of Assembly was a rubber stamp simply because it did not appear confrontational to the executive. He stated that the House had disagreed with the executive on many occasions when it felt it was in the interest of the public to do so.



Speaker, House of Representatives, Alhaji Ghali Umar Na'Abba welcoming United States...

## Egyptian to head Kano University of Technology

From Habiba Adamu, Kano

The Kano State government is to appoint an Egyptian as the vice-chancellor of the state's university of technology.

The state governor, Alhaji Rabi'u Musa Kwankwaso, disclosed this during an inspection tour of the university. He said that

with the state government for the period of two years.

He added that the present acting vice-chancellor would serve as deputy vice-chancellor when the Egyptian assumes duties, adding that the state government had approved the sum of N9.6 million for the rehabilitation of the university. He also commended the implementation committee of the



## NEWS

## NACOMYO opposes deregulation

From Abdulfatau Olajide,  
Lagos

The National Council of Muslim Youth Organisations (NACOMYO) has lent its voice to the increasing opposition to the proposed deregulation of the petroleum sector by the Federal Government.

Speaking at the annual Hijrah Family Day Celebration of the organisation recently, the coordinator of its Lagos State chapter, Alhaji Razak Gawat declared that the proposed deregulation of petroleum products was unacceptable.

Alhaji Gawat also spoke on the controversial issues of resource control, revenue allocation, and marginalisation, urging that they be resolved amicably.

On the current standoff between the government and the Academic Staff Union of

University (ASUU), he called for dialogue to forestall the imminent disruption of the university, academic calendar.

The NACOMYO coordinator also urged the Federal Government to declare the first day of the Islamic month of Muharam, a public holiday every year "just as January 1 for Christians."

He noted that the organisation's annual family day celebration was informed by the need to strengthen the cord of brotherhood and unity among Muslims in the state.

Alhaji Gawat emphasised that the family was the bedrock of any society, adding that the theme of this year's celebration: (Modern Technology - Means of Religious Propagation) was so chosen to enable the

Muslim family appreciate the import of global advances in modern technology.

Listing the achievements of NACOMYO, he said: "As a manifestation of our commitment to sciences and technology, the council had awarded computer training scholarship to some Muslim youths in the state."

He stated further: "We have continued to offer spiritual guidance and social welfare services to prison inmates in the land fifteen years. And we have equally been granted permission by the Lagos State Health Management Board to extend our welfare services to the various General Hospitals in the state."

The NACOMYO coordinator, however, noted that the hospital welfare scheme had been delayed due to inadequacy of funds, and hinted that it would start next month.

Alhaji Gawat commended that the Lagos state First Lady, Chief (Mrs.) Oluremi Bilkis Tinubu for initiating the New Era Foundation, which, according to him, had positively touched many lives.

## Gwandu gets new Waziri

The new Wazirin Gwandu and a senior councillor to the Gwandu Emirate Council in Kebbi State, Alhaji Abdullahi Umar Waziri, has been turbaned.

The turbaning ceremony of the new Waziri which took place in Birnin Kebbi was peacefully conducted by the kingmakers of the emirate.

Speaking after the turbaning, the Emir of Gwandu and the chairman, Kebbi State Council of Chiefs, Alhaji Al-Mustapha Haruna Jokolo, described the new Waziri as a humble and industrious person whose primary intension is always targeted at the service of his people.

He explained that the selection of Alhaji Abdullahi Waziri to the throne was not just because he was a descendant to the throne, but also because of his sterling qualities and proven integrity.

According to the emir, the new Waziri is determined to deliver the good expected of him. "He is my personal friend and I know how good and humble he is, therefore with him in my cabinet by the grace of God we shall deliver the goods", he maintained.

The new Waziri held various positions in the banking industry where he



Alhaji Al-Mustapha Jokolo, Emir of Gwandu

worked with Habib Nigeria Bank Limited in 1984 as third officer/assistant manager in the Kano branch. He rose to the post of manager, administration in the Lagos central office and in 1989-1991, became the branch manager of the same bank in Sokoto.

Alhaji Abdullahi Waziri was in 1993 appointed as controller, administration and personnel of the bank's head office, Kaduna, before he finally became a commis-

sioner and member of the Kebbi State executive council, a position he held till 1998.

Among the dignitaries that were present at the ceremony were former president, General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida, Kebbi State governor, Alhaji Muhammadu Adamu Aliero, the deputy governors of Adamawa and Zamfara States and a former civilian governor of Kaduna State, Alhaji Lawal Kaita.

## Kundu communal clash victims get relief

From Buhari Bello, Jos

Plateau State government has donated relief materials to victims of the recent communal clash in Kundu village of Quan'pan local government areas.

The materials include foodstuff, clothing and building materials.

The government has also pledged to map out security strategies to prevent the recurrence of violence in the state.

In a statement issued in Jos at the weekend, the press secretary to the governor said the governor also condoled the chairman, members of the traditional council and the entire people of the state over the incident.

In the statement, the government expressed shock with what it called "unfortunate clash..." which led to the loss of lives and property and said efforts were being made to ensure the resettlement of those who fled their homes during the crisis.



Gov. Dariye

## Jigawa governor tasks youths on poverty

From Bala Mohammed Nasir, Dutse

Jigawa State Governor, Alhaji Ibrahim Saminu Turaki, has advised youths in the state to pursue education and self-employment in order to get rid of poverty.

The governor made the statement in Hadejia during the commissioning of the state's skill and training acquisition centre. He said that it was disturbing to find that the bulk of people surrounding politicians cheering them and doing all sorts of praise singing were unemployed youths.

According to the governor, in a bid to arrest the escalation of the unemployment trend in the state, the government was determined to es-



Gov Turaki

tablish centres for acquiring skills and training, all over the state. He therefore, called on youths in the state to utilise these centres to make government's dream a reality.

The governor also said plans were underway to establish more of such centres for both male and female trainees in the state.



Children playing at the Abuja Garden on Easter Monday.

Pix: Kennedy Egbonodje

## Muslims will resist return of mission schools - scholar

Ishaq Oloyinde, a professor of Islamic studies, University of Ilorin, Ishaq Oloyinde, has said that Muslims will resist attempts to return schools to missionaries. Oloyinde told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in London that the planned return of mission schools to their "so-called" owners by some state governments was a "misguided move".

"We will fight the move in the courts," he said, adding

that Muslims might "wage a political weapon against the respective state governments".

The scholar said that after spending enormous government resources on such schools after their take-over, it would be unfair to return them to a particular religious group which, he said, might use the schools to the disadvantage of other religious groups.

Oloyinde said 60 percent of the schools in Kwara State

were established by communities and the government but were registered as mission schools and argued that it would be unjust to return them to the missionaries.

He alleged that in the past, missionaries forced students to embrace Christianity as a condition for admission into their schools and said that since education was an inalienable right of the citizens, it would be unfair to impose such a condition as part of admission requirements.

The university lecturer claimed that some prospective students had to compromise their religious beliefs to gain admission into such schools due to the importance of education and emphasised that the dangers inherent in the system were enormous.

He therefore, urged state governments wishing to return such schools to the missionaries not to implement the plan in the interest of fair play and justice.





# INSIDE POLITICS

The Education Tax Fund (ETF) was established in 1993, through the promulgation of Decree 7 by the General Ibrahim Babangida administration. But, little or nothing was heard of the activities of the ETF until 1998, when allegations of a missing N40 billion made the headlines in the Nigerian media.

Since then, however, the ETF has been in the big news considering the public funds allegedly involved. The then administration of General Abdulsalami Abubakar in its attempts to get to the roots of the allegations, set up a high-powered investigative panel under the direct supervision of Alhaji Ibrahim Commasie, the former Inspector-General of Police.

After the conclusion of its assignment, the panel disclosed; that not all companies that should; are paying the education tax. These includes under-declaring of profit before tax by companies; wrong computation of assessable profit; deliberate delays in payment and companies objecting to pay fully what has been assessed by the Federal Inland Revenue Services (FIRS). Similarly, the panel found out that oil companies refused paying the education tax just as it observed that the committee came to this conclusion, after it had reviewed the report of its consultants - standard cybernetics limited.

The report of the consultants which leaked out to the press made the following allegations. It quoted the Accountant-General of the federation, Mr. James Naiyeju, the then chairman of the FIRS, of acknowledging the existence of a N5.889 billion fraud in ETF. That ETF lost N20 billion owing to the non-opening of a

## Where is ETF's missing N40 billion?

By Henry Omuu

domiciliary account that oil companies in collaboration with FIRS conspired to defraud the government of N25 billion and that FIRS forced the ETF to pay its N60 million as reimbursement of expenses in collecting the education tax.

Some allegations were equally made against the board of trustees, especially the chairman, Mrs. Olutoyin Olakunri, who was said to have diverted N660 million belonging to ETF to illegal accounts; that she forged bank statements and audited financial statements to cover fraud including the inflation of disbursements to schools and duplication of such disbursements.

With such document in its possession, the House Committee discovered that even payments made by companies were paid into wrong FIRS accounts, such as VAT, withholding tax and the company income tax.

Based on this report and other petitions alleging fraud in the ETF, the House of Representatives in September 2000, passed a resolution mandating its education committee, chaired by Rep. Garba Matazu to conduct an investigation into the alleged missing N40 billion. The House further directed the committee to conduct a public hearing into the matter.

But before the committee could discharge the House resolution, the Obasanjo administration created another probe panel to look into the allegations. According to official records, this panel apart from alluding to some level of

fraud at the ETF, was said to have recovered some billions of naira of the missing funds. However, on Monday, April 2,

and first to appear before the House committee was Mr. Naiyeju. In his testimony, the Accountant-General denied

federation account was shared, including the education tax."

According to Mr. Naiyeju, what people are referring to as fraud was referred to in tax literature as "under assessment." This is quite different from "missing" or "stolen" money, he explained.

Mr. Naiyeju blamed the under-assessment of education tax by FIRS in 1993-1994, on the contradictions in the tax laws and the lack of preparedness of the tax authority (FIRS). He described Mr. Uzonwanne, a former consultant to FIRS and who also consulted for the House committee as a professional petitioner, but stated that the total amount of education tax paid into the federation account in the CBN cannot be ascertained, as monies in this account were shared monthly by the then military regime.

The second day of the public hearing was the turn of ETF chairman, Mrs. Olakunri, she emphatically told the House committee that, "money could be missing but definitely not ETF money. If money is missing it hasn't reached ETF and it's somewhere." The ETF chairman said to be the first female African accountant, informed the committee that on assumption of duty, the board heard about the N40 billion fraud and that it subsequently, commissioned experts to verify the allegations.

On allegations of the N600 million allegedly missing from ETF accounts, including the forgery of bank documents by her, Mrs. Olakunri said whatever financial transactions her board had authorised, had been with the approval of the Finance Minister and the

Accountant-General. Threatening to institute legal action against the consultants for maligning her reputation, the ETF boss insisted that no fraud has occurred in the ETF system, but that rather, the board has commenced the process of monitoring the assessment of companies and the recovering of over N6 billion as outstanding tax from oil firms.

She was, however, ordered by the House committee to release the six months salary arrears of some directors sacked by the board, after it was confirmed that the ETF management had refused to pay their salaries, despite assurances to the committee that the affected staff were paid every month. The ETF was also asked not to forcefully eject the said officers from their official quarters, as was being planned, and that their cases be referred to the head of service for re-posting to any other ministry.

When it was the turn of the Finance Minister, Mallam Adamu Ciroma, to testify during the public hearing, the minister who was still walking with the aid of clutches, told the committee that, he was unaware of any missing funds in the ETF. Said Ciroma: "No, I don't think any money was missing. Such huge amount couldn't have been lost, in so short a time since the ETF decree came into effect in 1995.

"Moreover, for anyone to steal such an amount of money, he will not be in the civil service today. The system of government accounting will not allow the stealing of such an amount," he assured.

Insisting on seeing proof of the missing N40 billion, the minister confirmed that the ETF monies paid into the federation account can still be recovered. This position was corroborated by the CBN deputy governor, Mr. Rasheed Mahey. But Mallam Ciroma, however, explained further that when ETF took-off, "there was confusion over where its funds were to be placed. The funds were finally placed in CBN, but there are no missing funds."

The minister while opposing the idea of an education tax, said he would have kicked against it if he was then in government, stressing, that "in terms of policy, I am against taxation based on education or any other service. The citizens of any country are expected to pay a single tax, therefore, I would have opposed the idea right from the beginning."

With the public hearing now concluded, the impression one gets is that not much revelations were made during the three-day event, as against the mind-boggling findings of the consultants to the House committee on education. According to some observers, the consultants not only did a poor job, for which they received N6 million but they presented fallacious claims to the House Committee as hard facts and evidence.

How true this observation is would be determined when the committee submits its final report to the House for



Mrs. Olutoyin Olakunri

2001, Rep. Matazu, chairman House Committee on education addressed a press conference, where he said his committee had enough evidence that the amount missing from the ETF was not only N40 billion, but up to N50 billion. He summoned the Minister of Finance, Mallam Adamu Ciroma, the Accountant-General of the Federation, Mr. James Naiyeju and the ETF chairman, Mrs. Olutoyin Olakunri to appear at the public hearing to explain what they know about the alleged missing N40 billion.

Tuesday, April 3, 2001 was D-day for the public hearing

that there was fraud in the ETF. He told the committee that the assessment and collection of education tax by FIRS, actually began in 1995. And that with government yet to set up a board of trustees for the fund, including the fact that ETF had no operating accounts, all monies collected as education tax by FIRS were paid into the federation account.

He described the allegations made by Mr. Fidelis Ogboko Uzonwanne, the petitioner who blew the alarm on the missing N40 billion, as not only false but in bad faith. Mr. Naiyeju said: "All monies collected and lodged in the

## Resource control will benefit the North - Braithwaite

Leader of the unregistered Democratic Alliance Movement (DAM), Dr. Tunji Braithwaite, has called on Northerners to support the on-going battle for resource control and devolution of power.

Braithwaite, who made the call in Lagos over the weekend, said opposition of resource control by certain people is out of ignorance.

The radical politician described the North as the food basket of Nigeria, saying, less than 5 percent of its dairy products is currently tapped.

He added, "there are many other deposits throughout Nigeria like gold in the North and some parts of the South, precious and semi-precious stones abound in the North and so are mountains with high quality marble and granite which some people have actually been mining and exporting without account to the national purse."

He condemned the nation's over-dependence on oil saving

From Bright Ewulu, in Lagos

and grow by the introduction of resource control and eradication of corruption from the body polity.

Describing the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP)-led central government as inept, and that it has failed to meet the expectations and aspirations of Nigerians, Braithwaite declared that "corruption is now the order of the day."

According to him "nothing demonstrates its scandalous mismanagement and total failure in an oil-rich country, more than its inability to generate a simple thing like electricity and energy nationwide."

He posited that persons who ought not to be in government because of their past ignoble roles are currently those calling the shots in the PDP controlled central government.

Braithwaite urged Nigerians to brace up and throw off the yoke of highly corrupt and mediocre governance by

President of the Community Action for Popular Participation (CAPP), a non-governmental organisation, Mr. Yunusa Zakari Yau, has described the present political structure as a "monetised political contraptions" even as he decried the worsening economic situation in the country.

Yau, in an address he delivered at the second biennial congress of CAPP, scored the three political parties, Alliance for Democracy (AD), All People's Party (APP) and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) below average as he said none of them has a clear cut policy or manifesto that would change the lives of the people.

According to the President, CAPP and indeed well meaning Nigerians are not under illusion that the present political mechanisms on the ground are mere contraptions. Said he; "we have political parties, which have no programmes, no political

## CAPP chides political parties' lack of focus

By Tashikalmah Hallab

commitment to the welfare of the people as the foundation of politics.

"What we have are monetised contraptions, through which people with money could seize the electoral processes and foist themselves as candidates," he said.

Such a political set up he said cannot promise to deliver the country from the misrule of the past, "instead, it has delivered us into the hands of the crooks of yesterday, masquerading as the democrats of today," adding, "they now constitute our government at all levels."

He explained that the Nigerian people had fought for democracy as some even paid the supreme price with their lives and destinies to be treated better than

him is much more than the ritual of voting, people expects those elected into various political offices to perform, but unfortunately he said, the country is today undergoing a serious economic crisis.

Since the coming of the President Olusegun Obasanjo's regime, he said, every social indicator has undergone a negative development.

"The perennial fuel shortage has continued unabated in spite of the increase in the pump price; power supply in the country has become a national scandal; water supply has deteriorated; healthcare and education are in shambles while roads have become death traps," he said.

The CAPP President, also chided the President on his inability to control the continued rising of inflation



## Honorary Presidential Advisory Council On Investment In Nigeria

In view of the recent publication in the **Sunday Tribune of April 1, 2001** which tends to misinform the general public about the composition, aims and objectives of the **Honorary Presidential Advisory Council on Investment in Nigeria**, the publication of the Communique issued at the end of the Council's maiden meeting, here in Abuja, has become imperative, so as to properly inform and educate the Nigerian public about this historic initiative of the present administration, to harness the friendship and goodwill which Nigeria currently enjoys in a large segment of the international community to our economic recovery and revival efforts through massive foreign direct investments.

The Communique is herewith published unedited:

### HONORARY PRESIDENTIAL ADVISORY COUNCIL ON INVESTMENTS IN NIGERIA: INAUGURAL MEETING - ABUJA 27TH - 28TH FEBRUARY, 2001.

### COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE MEETING

At the request of His Excellency Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, we, the undersigned, convened in Abuja on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of February, 2001 for the Inaugural Meeting of the Honorary Presidential Advisory Council on Investment in Nigeria.

The Council was received by the President, the Vice President, ministers and top government officials of the Administration. The Council Members were also received by the President of the Senate and briefed by the Chairman of the Anti-Corruption Commission. The visits provided an opportunity for us to obtain firsthand information on the progress of Nigeria's democracy and economic reform plans. In particular, we sought and obtained clarifications on specific areas of the programme of economic reform including privatisation, deregulation, and anti-corruption measures.

The objective of these meetings was to examine the programmes in place with a view to identifying strengths and weaknesses and enable the Council members to promote Nigeria's potential. The two working sessions with the President as well as those with other government officials provided opportunities for a frank exchange of views, and offered realistic proposals on how best to attract foreign capital.

- The Council identified a quickened privatisation programme as an important signal to international investors that "Nigeria is open for business". The Council also stressed that the goal of the privatisation effort should be improvements in efficiency and the delivery of goods and services rather than the maximisation on the return on state held assets.
- The Council members recognised the substantial effort being made by the President to address the serious problem of corruption in Nigeria and urged that his campaign be actively pursued throughout the rest of the government and Nigerian society.
- The Council urged further improvements in the quantification of Nigeria's economic goals for the future through the provision of additional data and statistics. In particular, it stressed the requirement for realistic investment programmes to rehabilitate and expand power,

telecommunications, and water supply facilities. This improved flow of information will allow investors to assess potential investments in Nigeria.

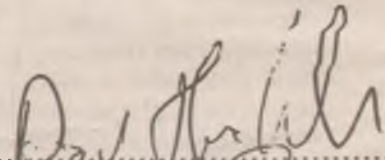
We recognise the potential of Nigeria to be a rich and prosperous nation, given its endowment of natural and human resources. While there may be obstacles in the way of Nigeria achieving its full potential, the Council believes that with the appropriate policies, Nigeria can be a preferred destination for foreign investment in the future.

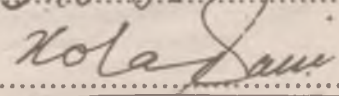
With regards to the future programme of the Council, we are planning visits to the World Bank and IMF. In addition we will organize an international investment conferences, the first of which will be held in London. The President and other top government officials have agreed to participate.

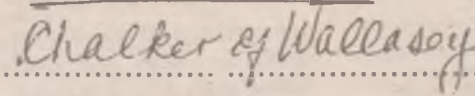
Finally, the Council members express deep appreciation to His Excellency Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the government, and the people of Nigeria for the warm hospitality and friendship extended to them during the visit.

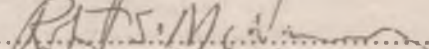
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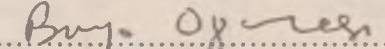
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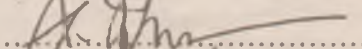
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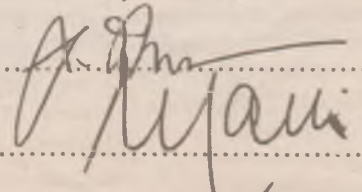
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Baroness Lynda Chalker..... 

Robert McNamara..... 

Bayo Ogunlesi..... 

Yuichi Ishimaru..... 

Abba Kyari..... 



# Lady's Line

## For women of today

### Getting what you want from him

There's no doubt about it - Black women know what they are looking for in a man. They want a supportive, romantic man who openly expresses his deepest feelings, and listens attentively to hers. They want an impeccably groomed man who isn't afraid of responsibility or commitment. And above all, they want a satisfying lover who helps out with the household and child-rearing duties. Is this man for real - or a figment of an overactive female imagination? Well, Sisters, put a little initiative behind that imagination, and the man you're with now can become the man of your dreams (that is, if he isn't already).

If it's change you want, you're going to have to work to get it. No one on this side of heaven ever said that getting what you want from the man in your life would be easy. There are several roadblocks on the way to your destination, and the first one has to do with a specific old wives' tale that asserts that men cannot and will not be changed, no matter what. Chicago-area relationship therapist George Smith says that most Black men are passionate about pleasing the woman in their lives, and they want to be willing participants in their evolution if the woman knows how to play her cards.

"Most men want to satisfy the needs of their woman. He wants to provide and protect, and men can be trained to do anything you want them to do," Dr. Smith says gingerly, realizing that he is exposing the ultimate secret of the male species.

But there is a catch, ladies. Your man will change only if he wants to, hence your duty is to show him the benefits of changing for the better immediately. "He wants to know, 'How will this change affect me and those whom I care about?'" adds Dr. Smith. "Your man has to see the benefits of change. One benefit is that there will probably be less bickering and better dialogue, which leads to a more wholesome, healthy relationship. Once you've established the boundaries of your relationship, it's time to move on to getting what you want out of the relationship. For instance, if you want to improve your love life, there is an almost foolproof method of getting the sparks to fly in the bedroom: Tell him what you want, relationship experts say:

"Women expect men to know more about us than we know about ourselves. Don't ever presume that your man knows where your erogenous zones are," says L.A. - based family therapist Rosie Milligan, author of *Satisfying the Black Male Sexually, Made Simple*. "You have to be upfront about what turns you on. He shouldn't have to go on a scavenger hunt."

Tell your man your desires in a gentle and honest manner, remembering not to bruise his ego. This conversation should be casual and should take place outside of the bedroom, in a comfortable setting for the both of you. And while you're telling him what you want, inquire about his needs and wants as well.

If it's romance that you seek, there are creative ways to go about getting it from your man, even if he appears to be colder than Mr. Freeze. First of all, when you're asking your man for more romance, you have to make sure that the two of you are speaking the same language.

"Romance is a term that men hardly think about and they sometimes get it mixed up with sex," says Dr. Milligan. "They think that touching or hugging must lead to the bedroom. When a woman wants romance, she wants you to be involved in her life outside of the bedroom."

In order to score in the romance department you have to know how to push your man's buttons. Get to know the things that he really likes. Some men just like to kick back and watch the sports channel. In that case, don't exclude yourself; instead, put on one

of his sports jerseys and watch the game with him. The goal is to show him that you're interested in him, and in turn, he'll show you that he's interested in you.

David Linton, senior vice president, R&B Promotions at Capitol Records, says he and his wife Elnora

they were taught that men are not supposed to be emotionally fragile) or if they've been burned by someone they've opened up to," he explains. "Men have very fragile egos, and the only way we'll share is if we're in a really intimate relationship where we trust this person with our feelings and



Work at it and you'll get him doing what pleases you both, easily.

have enjoyed non-stop romance in their 19-year marriage because he treats his wife like his girlfriend, a tactic that has kept Elnora tremendously happy. "We go out on dates," Elnora Linton gushes. "He'll call me from work and ask me out on a date." In turn, she makes sure that once he steps into the house, he is at peace and is ready to give and receive some special attention. "My husband has very limited free time... so I try to make things as comfortable and easy as possible for him to spend quality time with me," she adds.

Some men welcome a little TLC with open arms, while other men may shy away, according to Dr. Paster, who advises that women should really get to know their men well before pouring on (or demanding) romance. "Being very affectionate can help many men because they will feel that you are really in love with them and that you accept them, and they want that security in that relationship," she says. "But some men are afraid of too much affection, and they may feel that you are not independent enough for them and will (eventually) drain them."

The best way to get to know your man is to listen to him. "If you want conversation, don't judge him for what he has to say, and don't interrupt him," Dr. Milligan advises. "If you want him to make more time for you, you have to make yourself available to listen."

But what if your man refuses to talk to you about his feelings? The fact of the matter is that most women want to listen to their men - but many men simply refuse to express themselves. Getting your mate to express his feelings openly depends primarily on his past experiences and your current relationship, says Dr. Smith. "Men are emotionally constipated and many times are reluctant to express their feelings due to their upbringing (when

our thoughts." Warning! Once your man has shared something sacred with you in confidence, the very last thing you should do is throw his insecurities back in his face. He might not ever open up to you again.

Getting your mate to spill the beans may take a while, but getting him to pull his weight with household chores and child-rearing duties is fairly easy once you've removed the notion that "mother knows best" out of your head. Dr. Paster reveals that many women inadvertently discourage their partners from assisting with so-called "motherly duties" on a regular basis by making their partner feel incompetent. "If you are in charge of the baby and are always correcting what (your man) does or are giving him (constant) instruction on how he should do it, eventually he'll be unwilling to help, and the woman will be the expert all by herself," Dr. Paster explains. "Therefore, in the very beginning the woman has to give her mate equal responsibility, and she must not assume that only she can take care of the baby."

The same approach works when recruiting your mate to help with the household duties. Allow him a specific chore (i.e. mopping) and don't be overly critical of his work. Instead, compliment him on a job well done, keeping in mind that he's doing his best and, with time and practice, he will get better.

These tips, experts say, can help to turn your man into a romantic who changes diapers and discusses his passions in life. Now it's time to dress up your Mr. Right, letting him live out his hunk-potential to the fullest. Just focus on bringing out the best in him, instead of revamping his style completely. Condensed from EBONY magazine

## Cook's corner

with Halima Yakubu

### SCENT LEAF SOUP

#### Recipes

Half kg of meat  
250g smoked fish  
Two bundles fresh scent leaves  
Two large onion

Four fresh tomatoes  
One cup powdered egusi  
250ml palm oil  
Two cubes maggi salt and pepper to taste

#### METHOD

1. Wash and cut meat into pieces. Cook until tender.
2. Pick leaves. Wash in several changes of water to remove sand. Plung into boiling water and boil for a few minutes
3. Wash and chop ingredients
4. Heat palm oil in a source pan. Fry onions and tomatoes.
5. Wash and flake the smoked fish.
6. Mix powdered egusi to a smooth paste and other ingredients. Stir well add flaked fish with meat, simmer gently for about 15 minutes. Stire occasional
7. Add the scent leaves and other seasonings.
8. Serve with hot pounded yam.

# 5-Minute Fiction

With Ms. Farouq

## Tee-Jay's goldmine

What does your friend do for a living?" Nura asked his brother Suleiman, as soon as they drove out of the gate towards the main road. "You mean Tee-Jay, he is a businessman, why did you ask?" Suleiman queried his younger brother.

"Isn't the reason obvious? I mean look at his house, look at the way he lives, he has to be doing very well indeed to be able to afford this lifestyle" Nura answered.

"Yes he is doing quite well. In fact you could say he has hit a goldmine".

"A goldmine? In my ignorance I thought Abuja is not one of those places endowed with solid mineral deposits, yet even someone we know has a goldmine."

"Come on, don't be so literal. I meant that he has found a way of making it fast, he doesn't actually own a goldmine, do they exist at all in this day and age?"

"I don't know. But tell me what he actually does. I mean you two were friends right from secondary school. You went to the same university, read the same thing. And though it doesn't follow, the difference in your living standards ought not to be so glaring. Look at that big mansion in that exclusive area of our federal capital. Look at those two latest model cars whose names I don't even know, and the interior decoration, everything there is state-of-the-art; computerized TV, remote-controlled A-C, remote-controlled curtains, servants..."

"Did you see the picture of a woman way down the hall towards the bedrooms, it's a bit obscured from view but you might have seen it since you seemed to have noticed everything." Suleiman interrupted.

"Yes, I thought she was a bit too fashionable for a mother but then not every mother is as homely as our mum."

"That was Tee-Jays wife" Suleiman responded.

"Tee-Jay's wife?" Nura repeated incredulously. "How come, I mean I didn't know that he was married and she seems so much older?"

"She is much older but she is also his goldmine."

"You mean she really is the rich one and he only lives off her wealth?"

"Precisely" Suleiman said parking his car in front of the block of flats where he has his home. "It's a queer arrangement really," he continued while they walked towards the staircase, "they are hardly ever seen together in public, it suits both perfectly. He gets what he wants and she gets what she wants."

"Forgive my curiosity but what is it that they get from this queer arrangement?"

"Well he has always wanted an easy life, a life of luxury and very little stress. When we lived together as corporers, he always dreamt of making it big so as to forget all the suffering we went through as students. I just didn't know that he could go to any lengths to achieve that." Suleiman opened the door to his flat and they went in and sat down. "One day when he lived in that flat opposite, you know we were working in the same ministry at first, he came in here and told me that he was quitting his job. I asked why and he said that he was going private because he had found some wealthy individual willing to go into partnership with him. I wished him luck, a month later he not only left the office, he also moved out of his flat. He never invited me to his new office or his new place and I never pressed for it. When he finally showed up with a wedding invitation card, he confessed that he had been living with his future bride and that she was also his business partner."

"Wa'iyazubillah" Nura answered. "I suppose they still work together?"

"I don't know about that. He doesn't seem to be doing much working really.

You see she seems quite happy to take care of him, the price she has to pay for marrying a younger man. He on the other hand gets all the luxury that he wants, all the good life, but he doesn't have a say in what she does with her life. She is an international businesswoman, right now she is out of the country, when she is around she chases after one contract or another, he hardly sees her in the daytime and is not particularly bothered. It's quite a convenient arrangement really."

"But a pathetic way to live, why don't you sit him down and talk to him?"

"Talk to him? Do you want him to think I am envious? No my sincere prayer is that he will realize the worthlessness of his present situation and change for the better."

"He may not realize it on his own without anyone letting him see the way. Doesn't he have parents, can't someone alert them about this?"

"His bride has won over his parents hands down. When she forced him to take her to meet them at the village, I was told that she immediately demolished the father's house and built a modern one for him, then she bought him a portable truck to commute in around the village and outside. I don't think they will listen to a word against her. In any case Tee-Jay is not the only one. There are many such marriages around Abuja. We call them the gold diggers. So many women are in to so-called businesses or hot career pursuits that before they know it they are over forty or approaching fifty. By now they have everything, wealth, position, social status but no husband. Then they lure guys like Tee-Jay who are so greedy for the good life that they can sacrifice their masculine pride. Right now Tee-Jay is virtually the wife. He is the one who's always at home. He dresses in the best, rides posh cars and receives expensive presents whenever she travels. Every once in a while she takes him along. But like I said Tee-Jay is not the only such lost soul, they are many."

"But do they ever have children from such marriages?"

"Some of the women care enough about the future to have a child or two. While those who were actually divorcees who decided to make it big after the first marriage, may not care much if they had kids in the previous relationship. It all depends on how they want the marriage to be. It is all a question of convenience," Suleiman concluded.

"May the Almighty prevent us from such blind greed. May we always work for what we earn and always earn it lawfully." Nura supplicated.

"Amin, little brother, amin," Suleiman intoned.



# Feature

## Environment problems in Nigeria: The facts before us

Nigeria is richly blessed with a number of resources, which are of varying importance to human beings. Some of the resources, especially air and water, form what human beings consume directly. They are in fact considered as some necessary ingredients for the very survival of human beings. He must, therefore, be interacting with them almost at every time as long as he survives. Other resources including, for instance, minerals obtained from lowest levels of the earth's surface and some crops could only be consumed where adequate processing steps are taken. Such processing steps are particularly necessary so that the resources could be changed into forms in which human beings can consume them, or they can be subjected to some marketing processes, which will help human beings to improve their economic base. Most of these resources have the tendency to decline in their quality and quantity almost as soon as human beings subject them to use. Some have almost an inelastic supply tendency, which implies that they are renewed in terms of their quantity almost as soon as they are depleted or taken up by human beings. For example, while air is in abundant supply to human beings in an almost limitless quantity, human activities can cause some diseases of unwanted materials into the air, which can greatly temper with its quality. Virtually every resources upon which human beings rely for survival have the tendency of being subjected to some negative quality changes, especially where human use of resources is not being carefully co-ordinated and executed.

In Nigeria, the key resources upon which human survival is strongly based include land, water, air, vegetation and mineral resources. On the land, a number of human activities are taking place. Not only is agriculture carried out on the land, but also several other activities like grazing, settlement development, and construction of road network, industrial activities, sports and recreation. While there is a general tendency to subsume land as basically a resource upon which agricultural activities are based, there is an obvious advantage to us in properly understanding land condition and its problem if we look at the land as a platform where several human activities, beside agriculture, are being carried out. If we do so, we will now be in a good position on which to be relating land problems to a number of human activities. In this case, we will be able to identify as many sources as are possible of such problems. If we are to solve the problems, we can also be able to administer a number of solutions based on the information we do have on the multiple causes of the problems we do intend to solve. When we look at all the human activities going on over a land, we are more likely to do what is commonly re-

garded as integrated approached problems identification. Such approach is important, especially in situations where every problem is being investigated. More than one cause is possibly identifiable. If we are to understand land-related problems therefore, we must know what exactly we are talking about.

Land is only one out of many elements we do have in Nigeria's environment. Water is another, so are soil, vegetation, air, minerals and even man-built features. However, by looking at the land as a collection of varied, but largely related elements, one is in adequate position to consider almost all the elements that are found on the land. Human activities that are going on over the land can, therefore, be looked at in an integrated manner, with the possibility of examining the ways in which the elements are relating to each other. Relationships between



A stream within the Kagoro hills.

Pix by Felix Onigbinde

elements that constitute an environment can take either of three forms, the nature of which will determine the pattern and magnitude of changes that would be introduced to the environment.

In the first place, the relationship can take a form of symbiotic association in which the elements provide some mutual benefits to each other. In this case, the presence of one can stimulate the presence and development of the other resources. This is made possible through some exchanges of materials between the elements that are often accomplished in a mutually beneficial manner. It is, therefore, hardly possible for some detrimental effects to be created where symbiotic associations are taking place. It may, however, be possible for such effects to be created where the supposed mutually beneficial relationship is being distorted with one element attempting to have a sort of domineering influence over the other element. In this case, one element will attempt to over extract some materials from the other element. A good example that can be given here is the relationship that does exist between human beings and soil. Human beings depend upon the soil for crop growth which is made possible

largely by taking up of water and nutrients from the soil by the crops being cultivated. To ensure that crops growth is sustained over a soil, human beings sometimes add to the soil some water and nutrients through irrigation and fertiliser application respectively. In certain cases, human beings may want to tremendously increase the amount of crops that could be grown per given soil. Demands such as this often arise as demands for more food arise in human societies. To ensure that much food is produced to satisfy such demands, human beings often devise some ways of forcing out of a soil, more quality of food. For example, crops with very high yielding capacity can be grown, which invariably implies that more demands would be made of nutrients and water from the soil. In this situation, an imbalance is sometimes created between what is

there in the soil and what is being demanded from it. Such an imbalance in most cases result into over exploitation of one elements by the others.

Another kind of relationship into which environmental elements do enter is parasitic in nature, in which one element does nothing but continuously extract materials from other elements without necessarily giving back anything in return. This is essentially an exploitative relationship because virtually one element does nothing rather than exploit the other. This is the main relationship that does exist between human beings and mineral resources. Mineral resources (both solid and liquid) are formed by events that are basically historical and natural in nature. Historically, they are formed over thousands of years while naturally they are created by processes over which human beings virtually have no control. In this kind of relationship, the exploited resource is always being put into a disadvantaged position. It is subjected to explanation which no human effort can reverse, but can at best only be stopped or the exploitation rate regulated.

The third type of relationship that does exist between environmental elements is a destructive one in

which one element is not interested in extracting resources from the other element but is only interested in destroying it. This kind of relationship is analogous to the type that does exist between cat and mouse or between human being and pests. In pest control for example, human beings are interested in nothing but getting rid of the pests and insects that are considered harmful to say crop growth. But such a control effort is sometimes never mindful of what other roles are pests and insect playing in the environment. As such, as they are eliminated from the environment, some undesirable effects are inflicted on the environment.

Environmental elements, therefore, exist in some delicate relationships with each other. While some of the relationships may be beneficial and can help in making the environment better, others are essen-

a destructive or beneficial association between environmental elements. If the exploitation will promote a destructive relationship, what then should be done to eliminate or minimise such destruction? In other words, once if we could were able to identify, measure and project relationships and their impacts, we are most likely going to have a sound basis for upon which to plan an environment and make it a good home not only for human beings, but other environmental elements as well.

Elements in the environment are identifiable into unique entities, with one being completely or largely different from the other. Soil is identifiable as being different from man, water, vegetation, mountain, river or a house. But they do exist in a continuously interactive manner. This is to say, as long as these elements are existing in an environment, interactions are necessarily generated. Whereas actions are generated, one must expect reactions to occur. This is to say that in an environment, actions are being generated by the various elements that do exist in the environment and as the result, reactions in forms of responses or feedback are created. Such feedbacks can create good or bad situations in an environment. For example, when rain falls in an area over a soil, individual soil particles can be removed through a process called erosion. The removal is usually the feedback while the falling of the rain is the action that generates the feedback. As the removal progresses over time, the soil can have its substantial proportions removed, which can render it useless or less useful for a number of purposes. In this regard, one may describe the soil as being less or ever non-productive in agricultural sense. This negative change usually indicates how negatively environmental interaction have been affecting the soil. The change itself is considered as the consequence of actions and interactions that are generated by environmental elements.

As we continuously express worries about environmental problems in Nigeria, and as we continue to search for viable solutions of solving those problems, we must know what exactly we are talking about. We should always be able to outline and distinguish elements from their actions, actions from interactions and interactions from consequences. In short, we must always start from the elements, then move forward to understand the actions they generate and the resulting interactions. It is expected that once these are known and fully understood, we would then be in a position to analyse and assess impacts of environmental actions and interactions. These must be, knowing we are to confront what we have been talking about, the environmental problems in Nigerian.

By Dr. Sani A. Mashi, Department of Geography University of Abuja, Abuja.



Arts & Entertainment

The Story of the New Nigerian Part XVI

'One thing at a time'

In yesterday's account, the New Nigerian took a bold stand on corruption in government. Today, we read more on this theme, and we are presented a graphic picture of the initial days of the Nigerian civil war. We see Theresa Bowyer reporting from the war front.

However, the case which brought out the extent of the New Nigerian's abhorrence of corruption was that involving the Emir of Daura, Alhaji Muhammadu Bashar, who was ex-Minister of Economic Planning in the Northern Region. Removed from Emirship of Daura on the recommendation of a tribunal into the affairs of NNDC Ltd. Bashar was reportedly reinstated by the then North Central State Governor, Major Abba Kyari. The New Nigerian's popular columnist



Mallam Turi Muhammadu

"Candido" swiftly reacted in an article titled "This is scandalous" and published on August 23. The critical piece read in part: "This is scandalous". This is the only way in which I can explain the huggery-muggery manner in which the Emir of Daura has been reinstated."

Ever influential, the paper's comment elicited a denial of such action by Major Abba Kyari - the very next day.

However, the exigencies of the time could not support the full operation of the anti-corruption probes. Signs of the system breaking down emerged when Justice Somolu decried the allegation that Emmanuel Olakanmi, ex-Chairman of the Western State Housing Corporation who was under probe, had attempted to withdraw money from his accounts even though the Tribunal made an order against this. This was reported in the New Nigerian of September 6.

However, the New Nigerian foresaw a situation where the confusion' occasioned by the war against the Eastern rebels: would hamper the due process of the inquiries and tribunals. On August 29, it wrote an editorial titled "One thing at a time" in which it called for a "temporary halt on probes."

Sure enough, events of the succeeding weeks were to dictate no less, a measure even though the probes were not officially called off



Mrs. Theresa Bowyer

or suspended.

The period of April- June 1967 were as critical for Nigeria in the domestic arena as it was in the foreign front. Perhaps, no statement

Books

encapsulates this more than the one by Diallo Teli, the OAU Secretary General, who was quoted by the New Nigerian of May 22, 1967 as saying that "the destiny of

Africa is on test in Nigeria."

This assertion was buttressed by the fact that all the major countries of the sub-region especially Ghana, Niger, Cameroun and Ethiopia devoted their time and energy to seeking solutions to the blossoming national crises. The New Nigerian gave adequate coverage to the efforts of General Joseph Ankrah of Ghana, Hammani Diiori of Niger, Ahmadu Ahidjo of Cameroun and Haile Selassie of Ethiopia in quelling the "Biafran" rebellion.

As it so happened, the Federal Government was friendly with many foreign governments. The Federal Military Government reaped the benefit of making many friends abroad especially during the crucial pre-war period. Weeks before war broke out, the Canadian Government released £578,848 in interest free loan

to Nigeria. As the New Nigerian of April 9, 1967 reported it, a large proportion of that loan was to go into defence as the need of the time dictated. For the same reason of national interest; the New Nigerian also played up stories of foreign cooperation even when reports were rife that some countries like France, Belgium, Holland and the United States were giving clandestine support to Ojukwu in the rebel

enclave.

The New Nigerian's coverage of the outside world was one other arena in which the paper displayed stunning dexterity. For example, throughout the emotive period leading, up to the June 5, 1967 war between Arabs and Israel, the paper refused to take the stand of supporting the Arabs on all issues. In an editorial on June 6, 1967 it called on Palestinians, Syrians and Egyptians to rethink their stand on eliminating the state of Israel. Needless to say this was an unpopular position among Muslims and Christians alike in Nigeria.

This period fell within the days of the police action to quell the rebellion and attempted secession by Lt. Col. Emeka Ojukwu, the former Military Governor of the East Central State. It was an especially important period as it also marked the first few weeks of the 30 months Nigerian civil war. It could also be said that the out-come of the war was largely determined by the events of this period.

The search for peace through the police action was only partially successful and while it appeared to contain rebel activity in the East, it was also giving the rebels time to consolidate gains in men and materials with which to fight the Federation. It would be recalled that engaging as the police action was, the Federal Government had to simultaneously look into other areas of vital need such as establishment of ministries for the -12 newly created states. In his column of July 5, Candido wrote inter alia: "The question of (a new Yoruba Central State) can distract the attention of both the Military Governor of the West and the agitators from what appears to me to be kernel of the problem of the nation - the rebellion headed by Ojukwu and his clique" In time this column became the most celebrated.

Indeed, beginning with its report on July 3 about the sacking of Ojukwu from office and the army, the New Nigerian set a brisk and accurate tone to its coverage of the civil war which was formally declared by General Yakubu Gowon, the Head of State, on August 12.

The newspaper's coverage kept pace with the tempo of events - nationwide but its opinion did not get coloured by the prevailing anger over the rebellion. Thus, while the rebels regularly killed, imprisoned and tortured both Igbo and non-Igbo Easterners opposed to the secession, the New Nigerian in its editorial of July 6 titled "Let us be

just" said "once again feeling in Lagos is running high against Igbos who live there ...We must keep our heads. Many of them are people who have done and are doing a great deal to help our country - simply because the rebel clique is Igbo does not mean that all Igbos

are rebels. To behave as if this were so would lead to injustice." This was written just three days after the rebels had bombed Lagos, killing four and injuring many! The anti-Igbo feeling

among Lagos residents had become strong.

Yet, the New Nigerian identified with the effort of the Federal Military Government all the way to the war front. Apart from publishing the regular agency reports and radio broadcasts at home and abroad, the paper also sent in its reporters to the war- front. First, it was Bayo Joseph.

Then followed by Theresa Bowyer who covered such aspects as "what the men at the front really feel." In the August 1 edition she quoted a soldier at the front saying "First we must capture Ojukwu and take him to Gowon then we can go home to our families." The newspaper kept its readers informed of the progress of the action against the rebels such as the fall of border towns of Obudu, old Enugu and

two foreign mercenaries reported in the August 16 edition and the liberation of Warri from rebel Forces reported on September 25. The expulsion of the rebels from Ore and other towns in the West and Mid-West states were duly reported.

Going by the tone of the letters published in the public forum column of the paper, the war pictures were highly appreciated by the

readers. Urging the New Nigerian to keep up the good work, one reader wrote in the August 16 edition that "pictures never lie." The public forum also gave many readers an opportunity to air their views on such issues as the then US and British antagonism to the war efforts

of the Federal Military Government. On this topic alone, dozens of letters were published.

The end of the police action and the declaration of full scale war against the rebels

took place on August 12, a date which also marked a rise in the tempo of events on the war front.

A day earlier the rebels had invaded the Mid- West across the Niger bridge. Columns of vehicles carrying soldiers fanned out from the East in three directions. By the end of the day almost all the Mid-west towns had been occupied by rebel forces. Two days later they reached Ore in the west. They were aided in this Mid-west raid by Igbo speaking Army Officers, indigenes of the Mid-West. The invasion was repelled in less than one month. Many Ibo soldiers and civilians were killed as a result of the raid. The Yorubas led by Chief Awolowo and their Governor finally declared for the Federal Government. Hitherto, the Yorubas and the Mid- West were sitting on the fence insisting that the West and Mid-West must not become theatres of war.

As usual, the New Nigerian kept its readers fully abreast of happenings such as the death of 150 rebel soldiers and

two foreign mercenaries reported in the August 16 edition and the liberation of Warri from rebel Forces reported on September 25. The expulsion of the rebels from Ore and other towns in the West and Mid-West states were duly reported.

To be continued.



Lt. Colonel Odumegwu Ojukwu



Chief Obafemi Awolowo





# Consumer Guide



## Today's Flights

**Albarka Air Services**  
Abuja—Lagos:  
8.30am; 10.00am;

1.00pm; 4.30pm  
Lagos—Abuja  
7.00am; 9.45am;

1.00pm; 3.00pm.  
Abuja—Maid (1.30pm)  
Abuja—Maid (4.30pm)  
Maid—Abuja (7.30pm)

**Chanchangi Airlines**  
Abuja—Lagos:  
8.00am; 11.45am;

1.40pm; 3.00pm; 5.30pm  
Kaduna—Lagos (8.30am)  
Kaduna—Abuja—Lagos  
(12.40pm)  
Lagos—Abuja;  
7.15pm; 10.00am;

1.10pm; 3.30pm; 4.45pm.

Lagos—Abuja—Kaduna  
(10.00am)  
Lagos—Kaduna (5.00pm)

**Nigeria Airways**  
Abj—Lagos: 8.30am  
Abj—Lagos: 2.00pm;  
3.30pm; 5.30pm.

Lag—Abj: 7.00am;  
12.30pm  
Lagos—Phc: 9.00am  
Lagos—Enu—Phc:  
4.00pm  
Abuja—Yola: 3.30pm.  
Yola—Abuja: 4.45pm

**Eas Airlines**  
Abj—Jos 11.00am  
Abj—Jos—Lagos—  
11.00am  
Abj—Lag: 10.30am;  
4.30pm  
Lag—Abj: 7.15am;  
9.30am; 2.45pm.

**Bellview Airlines**  
Abj - Jos 11.00 am  
1 p.m, 5.20 p.m  
Lagos - Abuja 6-50 a.m.  
11.15 a.m  
Lagos - PHC  
7.40 a.m, 3.15 a.m  
PHC - Lagos 9 a.m.  
5.05 p.m

**Sosoliso Airlines**  
Lagos - Abuja  
12:30 p.m  
Lagos - Enugu 10 a.m, 4.30  
p.m  
Lagos - PHC 4.30 P.M  
PHC - Lagos 8.30 a.m  
Enugu - Lagos 7.30 a.m  
11.30 a.m

**Kabo Air**  
Lagos - Kaduna 10.00 a.m  
Lagos - Kano 10 a.m, 2p.m  
Jos - Lagos 8.30 a.m  
Kano - Lagos  
7.30 a.m, 12 p.m, 4p.m

**ADC Airlines**  
Abuja - Lagos  
8.30 a.m, 4.40 p.m  
Lagos - Abuja 7 a.m,  
3.15p.m  
Lagos - Calabar  
10.30 a.m, 12.15 p.m

## Selling drugs under the sun

For the Nigerian whose picture of the new Federal Capital city was a neat and orderly city as against the rowdiness of Lagos, there is a big disappointment. For already some of the things that made Lagos wild are being replicated in Abuja.

One of these is the menace of road-side hawkers of drugs as they are today in every major commercial spot within the city. If one takes a walk through Berger Junction, Area 1, Zone 6, Area 10 etc, one would see hawkers, with their wares displayed on tables, pavements or carried on their heads as they walk up and down or criss-cross the roads advertising their wares. They make sales to both the enlightened and the unenlightened. Of late, doctors, pharmacists and other professional health workers have raised questions as to the efficacy of these drugs, their handling and the professional standing of these hawkers.

Daily Trust spoke to one of the hawkers who preferred anonymity at the Wuse Market. Asked where he bought his drugs, he said, "I buy my drugs from Kano." Asked if he was trained, he retorted: "Which training? No be una say make we be self-employed?" On the genuineness of his drugs, he said, "my medicine be genuine, even self NDLEA give me certificate. Even some chemists dem de buy from us." When asked if all hawkers in Wuse or Abuja were certified, he replied: "Me I don talk my own. Ask them their own."

A second and third hawker declined to speak to us saying, "if you want to buy, come, but if na grammar, we no go school. We just dey look for our food. No waste our time"

In Zone 5, Daily Trust, spoke to a group of girls with plastic baskets stacked with assorted drugs, walking from one vehicle to another selling to interested buyers.

Daily Trust: Are you chemists or pharmacists? "No," one of them answered, "we are only selling these for somebody on commission." They would neither give the name of the company nor the "somebody" behind it.

In Zone 1, a middle-aged hawker replied to Daily Trust's enquiries thus: "I don't prescribe drugs for my customers. If someone comes

By Victor Akobundu

and says: give me panadol, I give him or her panadol. If you have headache and you ask for nivaquine, I give you and you give me my money. It is based on request. I don't



Prof. A.B.C. Nwosu

prescribe. Like you now, if you want to buy aspirin and you get pay, I will give it to you."

Queried if his drugs were genuine, he became hostile: "you are not sick. If you are, you will buy medicine and not to be asking questions. When you go to your babalawo, do you ask if his herbs are expired? I no blame you. Na me dey waste my time for people like you."

In Area 1, Murphy Odusola, a businessman told Daily Trust that, "I don't patronise hawkers. What do they know about drugs? Do they even know what they are selling? I know where to buy drugs, I go to pharmacies."

Mr. Odusola accused some patent medicine dealers and even unscrupulous pharmacists of selling expired or adulterated drugs to hawkers who in turn sold them to the gullible public.

A commercial driver, Mr. Sunday Agu, interviewed in the same Area 1, told Daily Trust that he first looks at the cases or sachets for expiry dates. Whether or not he buys depends on what he sees.

John Pepper, a student, who spoke to Daily Trust was non-challant: "I buy drugs from them and why not? If man go die, man go die any way - hawkers or no hawkers, expired drugs or no expired drugs."

An official at the Consumer Protection Council, disclosed to Daily Trust that it was not proper to sell drugs on the street, saying, "these drugs are exposed to sunlight, rain and dust, which render the drugs useless."

He disclosed further that the council could do little as

stopping the hawkers was not within their schedules or functions. He said, however, that the council was liaising with NAFDAC on how to check this growing menace.

Indeed, a NAFDAC official, who denied the registration or issuance of certificates to hawkers by the agency, also said that the agency chased the hawkers from off the streets from time to time. He decried the non-cooperation of members of the general public in the fight against the hawkers, saying: "If people don't buy their drugs, they won't be there in the first place."

A pharmacist with ABM Pharmacy in Kubwa, who corroborated the NAFDAC official's position, told Daily Trust that "members of the public are exposed to too many risks by taking drugs sold and prescribed on the street by quacks." He stated that the drugs, in most cases, were inferior and adulterated.

The pharmacist called on NAFDAC to find a way of permanently keeping these vendors of death from off Abuja streets, and, in fact, off every major city where they peddle these drugs.

## Business begins at Karu international market

By Halima Yakubu

Everybody may know that Abuja is the political capital of Nigeria, but few know that it is also becoming the business capital, even if gradually.

Like elsewhere in Africa, government is the biggest spender in Nigeria. Put dif-



Gov. Adamu

ferently, government is big business. So where government is, there all roads will lead.

After all, it is said that where the carcass is, there the vultures will gather. Abuja city is brimming with people and businesses. The city-centre can no longer hold all, so it is overflowing into the suburbs and even the neighbouring states of Niger and Nasarawa.

Naturally, therefore, markets have sprung up in the metropolis to service the cosmopolitan needs of its residents and visitors.

There are the Old and

## Are ready-made clothes cheaper?

By Halima Yakubu

Going around the city of Abuja, one will see native ready-made clothes for men, women and children displayed on the streets or in boutiques in various colours, designs, qualities, and sizes. These native clothes come in *kampalas* shadda's and other wears.

The majority of customers today, it seems, prefer to buy the ready-made clothes as it saves them a lot of time from going into the market to buy the materials, and, later, looking for a good tailor to sew.

However, some still buy the materials themselves and take time to sew personalised clothes that fit them better.

Mallam Rashid Ahmed, a trader in the market, who sells ready-made clothes, said, "most of these ready-made clothes like *kampalas* for men and women are brought from Lagos and Onitsha, while, the shaddas are mostly brought from the Northern part of the country, especially Kano. Some even come from Senegal." And he makes a lot of profit from selling the clothes.

It could be difficult to believe that most of these ready-

made clothes are inferior in quality. They come in different colours and beautiful designs that make them look very attractive.

Mrs. Maria John of FCDA said, buying ready-made clothes from the market is a great relief to her. It saves her from wasting a lot of time at the tailor's place.

Also Miss Helen Amos of the University of Abuja told *Consumer Guide* that "she considers the ready-made clothes as inferior products, which are beautifully designed to attract customers. And to her, they are not even cheap.

A ready made *kampala* kaftan for women, she says, costs about N4,000, whereas you could get a quality *kampala* material for less than N2,000.

So, from interviews with people and by juxtaposing boutique/fashion - house price-tags with the costs of buying cloths or materials and sewing your clothes, it is evident that ready-made clothes are not cheaper afterall.

toilets built to withstand mass use and a car park of 1000 cars to prevent congestion problems. Others are independent phone-lines, street lights, paved roads with a dual carriage way, clinics and banking halls.

For many businessmen whose complaints were the exorbitant rents Abuja landlords charge, Karu International Market offers them an edge, price-wise and still gives them the much-desired closeness to the Federal Capital City.

### Bus Schedules

#### Ifesinachi Nig Ltd

at Berger Junction by  
Sassandra Street and  
Nyanya Unipetrol Filling  
Station  
Abuja to Lagos  
Departure 8 pm

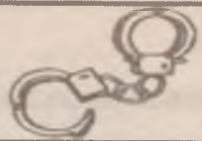
#### ABC Transport

at Banex Plaza,  
Abj—Lagos  
Departure: 7.00 am,  
8.00am

#### Chisco

at Utako District  
Abuja—Lagos N1,810.00  
Departure: 7.30am, 7.30pm  
C.N. Okoli at Berger Junction,  
Abj—Lagos  
Departure: 8.00pm daily





# Crime & Punishment



## Police blame NAF medical centre for constable's death

Authorities of the Nigeria Air force Medical Centre, NAF base, Ikeja, have been blamed for the death of a police constable, Lamidi Ajabubi, for refusing to treat the deceased when he was rushed there with gun shot injuries.

Police at Zone II Command, Onikan, who apportioned the blame told *Daily Trust* that, Constable Ajabubi's life would have been saved if the medical officials at NAF base had exercised human feelings.

"Imagine a Nigerian policemen in uniform was rushed to a Federal Government Hospital but was turned back for reasons they are yet to explain to the world. "Can you imagine that this is happening in this democratic era?" queried a Police officer.

Investigation by the *Daily Trust* revealed that, at about 9:30pm a combined team of policemen and army personnel led by one Corporal Romanus Onumajuru, while on their way to recover an abandoned vehicle, were attacked by armed bandits.

It was gathered that, the incident happened on Lateef Salami Street in Ajao Estate, a Lagos suburb. The robbers who laid ambush for the cops immediately opened fire on

them when they got close to where the abandoned vehicle was parked.

*Daily Trust* learnt that in the process, constable Lamidi Ajabubi was hit in the head while the soldier was shot in the leg.

Both of them were rushed to the Nigerian Air force Medical Centre, NAF base Ikeja, where the soldier was

immediately treated while the hospital authorities rejected the police constable whose injuries were fatal.

It was learnt that no reason was given, but someone within the hospital disclosed to *Daily Trust* that it might not be unconnected with the traditional rivalry between the two.

The late constable was

then taken to Ikeja General Hospital, but unfortunately, he died on the way.

Mr. Emmanuel Ajayi, a Superintendent of Police and police spokesman for Zone II Police Command, Onikan, Lagos, confirmed the incident to the *Daily Trust* and said it was "unfortunate."



IGP, Musiliu Smith, with DIG, Bukar Ali, analysing operational strategies, while the AIG 'B' dept. Mr. Titus Akeredolu, looks on at the foyer of the police officers' mess Area 11, Garki, Abuja...recently

Pix by Felix Onigbinde

## Magistrate summons WAPCO chief accountant

An Abuja chief magistrate court has ordered the chief accountant of the West African Portland Cement Company, Plc (WAPCO) to appear before it in a case involving a local purchase order (LPO) allegedly issued by the company.

Mohammed Kolo, chief magistrate, gave the order yesterday during the resumed hearing into a case of criminal conspiracy and cheating preferred against one Sunday Ere and his brother Alhaji Ani Ere.

The summons for the appearance of the chief accountant arose from the court's insistence that he must testify in the case. He is also to identify the LPO allegedly issued by the company to Sunday Ere which he used to collect N582,000 from one Mr. Abishai Andirya sometime in 1995.

According to the particulars of the case, the accused person, Sunday Ere, had sometime in 1995 approached Mr. Andirya of the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC), Abuja through a mutual friend, one Jeremiah Ahmadu, and intimated him of an LPO from WAPCO requesting for the supply of 210 tonnes of gypsum for which he need

By Uwem Umo

An agreement was reached between both of them to share the profit in the ratio of 70-30. Sunday Ere thereafter brought his brother, Alhaji Ani Ere of the National Board for Educational Measurement Minna, Niger State, to stand surety for him upon which N582,000 was released to Sunday Ere to execute the LPO.

Unfortunately, Sunday Ere neither executed the contract nor refunded the money and was subsequently charged to court under section 97 and 320 of the penal code on November 16, 1996.

Meanwhile, the accused persons had pleaded not guilty and were allowed bail in the sum of N20,000 and a surety each with landed property in Abuja.

The case had earlier been handled by chief magistrate Nwada Balami before he was appointed a chief registrar in 1998.

Counsel to WAPCO, Mrs. F.U. Agbasi, had pleaded with the court to discharge the bench warrant earlier issued on the chief accountant, because according to her, "he was on course abroad."

She said there had been

earlier correspondence to the court intimating the court of the position of the chief accountant, adding that he would be produced it as soon

as he returned from overseas.

The case has been adjourned to June 4, 2001 for continuation.

## Suit against fake P.A to Senate President commences May 9

An Abuja Chief Magistrate Court has fixed May 9, 2001, for the commencement of a civil suit brought against one Charles Ndukwe by Messrs Tony Dibia and Clifford Ovwah for allegedly duping them of cash and goods totalling N800,000.

Charles Ndukwe had allegedly posed as a Personal Assistant (Overseas) to the Senate President and presented some fictitious job orders purporting to be from the National Assembly issued in the name of High Time (Nig) Limited, a business concern jointly owned by Mr. Tony Dibia and Mr. Clifford Ovwah.

According to the particulars of the suit filed by counsel to the complainants, Mr. Frank Udokwelu, the accused person misled the two men into believing that the job orders were genuine,

upon which they released N75,000 cash and goods valued at N733,000 to him. These were supposedly furnishings for the Senate President's Senatorial office in Enugu.

In a further affidavit to buttress their suit, the complainants, through their counsel, alleged that the same Charles Ndukwe, had at another time in October 2000, while also claiming to be a Personal Assistant to the Senate President, approached Mr. Clifford Ovwah, and convinced him to supply him (Ndukwe) one T-2000 refrigerator, one TV set, one video machine set and 100 reams of bond paper, purportedly furnishings for the Senate President's Senatorial Zonal office in Abakaliki.

Meanwhile, the defendant was said to have also collected various sums of money from Ovwah,

A 30-year-old geography teacher at Government Science Secondary School, Gusau, Zamfara State, Malam Bello Ahmed, has committed suicide by hanging himself in his bathroom.

A competent source told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Gusau over the weekend that the late teacher, a geography graduate, was discovered on Monday hanging in his bathroom.

He added that on Sunday, Ahmed took his wife to a wedding ceremony, but did not go back to pick her up from the venue of the ceremony.

The source further said that when the wife came back home at Birnin-Ruwa, she found the house locked up and had to put up with a relation of the late teacher, one Malam Labaran Abdullahi, for the night.

The source also said that when on Monday, family members gained entry into the house and after a search, Ahmed was found hanging from the ceiling of the bathroom.

NAN learnt that the late teacher left a suicide note to the police which read: "please, please police, my wife is innocent and do not blame any of my relations

## 30-year-old teacher commits suicide



Gov. Ahmed

for my action."

The Police Public Relations officer, ASP Mohammed Abdullahi, confirmed the incident, saying it was reported to the police by one Mr. Mahdi Ibrahim at about 6a.m on Monday.

He further said that the police were still investigating the cause of the suicide.

## Breach of contract: Firm sues for N607m

A limited liability company in Kano, HANACO, is claiming the sum of N607 million from the Bank of the North (BON) for breach of contract.

It is also claiming damages of N3 million for the repudiation of the said agreement and negligence of the bank in considering and processing the company's

From Jamilah Musa, in Kano

application and failure to speedily respond to official communications.

The Bank of the North is also to return, all the company's documents still in its possession.

In a statement of claim signed by Mr. Charles Okeke and Associates on behalf of HANACO, the plaintiff maintained that there was a binding agreement with the defendants for the loan of N3 million for the execution of a business transaction in China.

The plaintiff further maintained that discussions were held and documents were submitted to the defendants and that the true profitability of the importation and marketing were fully described and understood.

According to the claim of statement, by a letter dated 15th August, 2000, the defendants informed the plaintiff of their inability to consider the agreement for loan and promised to return all documents to the plaintiff.

The statement then claimed that by reason of the aforementioned, the plaintiff had suffered loss, damage and the benefit of the agreement for the loan and also lost revenue.

The case which was mentioned yesterday has been adjourned for hearing on 31st May and 1st June, 2001.



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# Abuja News

## Work resumes gradually in Abuja after Easter break

The rhythm of work in Abuja city yesterday was relatively slow as most workers in the capital city were just resuming after the Easter break while some were yet to return.

A survey conducted by the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) showed that activities had not fully picked up as some streets in the federal capital were almost empty with commuter vehicles having only few passengers in them.

Mrs. Grace James, an employee of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, said most of the workers had not resumed, "but we are expecting them (workers) to come in by tomorrow because normally, they will travel back today.

"There is no money so probably some of them are staying at home looking for money to come and resume work. And this morning it was difficult getting to work because there was no transport, it is possible others did not get transport to work," she said.

An employee of the Nigerian Tourism Development Corporation, Malam Garba Musa, said most people think "there won't be much work on the first day of resumption, so they (workers) decided to stay back home or come to work a little later than

usual." Musa, who described the situation as very poor told NAN that activities at the secretariat would pick up before the end of the week.

Another employee of the corporation, Mr. Inalegwu Samuel, said that most workers had resumed, but that job seekers and contractors who normally flooded the secretariat had not resumed thereby making the offices to appear desolate.

The business sector was also affected by the slow

rhythm of activities as taxi drivers also complained of "no passengers."

Mr. James Umeh, a taxi driver, said he did not work during the break because the town was virtually empty and was surprised that although work had resumed today, there were still no passengers on the streets.

At the Area 1 central park, the vice chairman of the Road Transport Workers said that there were few passengers on the roads and that only a few vehicles were loaded to Jos

today as at noon, but that more commuters who went on break were returning.

Omolola Awe, a food seller at the park said patronage had been low and that things would improve with time.

She said most of the workers that usually ate at the restaurant had complained about the increase in the price of food and that some had resorted to eating on credit because of low income and irregularity in the payment of salaries.

## Ministry of Environment erects conveniences in Nyanya

The Ministry of Environment is to build toilets, bathrooms and urinals for use by the people in the Federal Capital Territory's satellite town of Nyanya, to check the deplorable sanitary situation in the area, the Environment Minister, Alhaji Muhammadu Sai'd, has said.

Sai'd told a correspondent of the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) today in Abuja that the exercise was part of the Nyanya Solid Waste Management Project, being implemented by the Ministry in collaboration with Abuja



Alhaji Muh'd Sai'd Environmental Protection Board and Abuja Municipal Area Council.

He said that the conveniences, to be accompanied with the provision of water through the sinking of boreholes with overhead tanks, were being provided because of the shortage of such facilities in the area.

He said "the sites for the public conveniences are being selected in collaboration with the community and AMAC," whom the minister said would have to give approval to use the sites.

He said the project also incorporates the adoption of model disposal methods and the construction of refuse transfer stations to avoid indiscriminate dumping of refuse, adding that some area had already been earmarked for it.

The minister explained that as part of the Nyanya project, initiated late last year, a sensitisation seminar was held in March for the royal fathers, community leaders, community-based organisations (CBOs) and NGOs to create awareness on environmental sanitation.

He further said that for the project, the Ministry of Environment had already trained all the environmental health officers in the FCT.

"These are the people from the community who are of great integrity and have the interest of the masses at heart," he said.

They are to guide the people and persuade them to adopt sound environmental practices, the minister said.

"But when this fails we have plans to introduce mobile courts that will prosecute offenders, who could be asked to pay fines as prescribed by the edicts enacted by AMAC," he said.

The Nigeria Police recruited 35,000 men and women last year to beef up its operations, the Federal Ministry of Information and National Orientation has stated.

In a publication entitled: "Democracy in Action", the Ministry stated that 17,997 of the recruits were currently under-going training at the various police training colleges nationwide.

The document, published to list achievements of the Federal Government since it assumed office on May 29, 1999, stated also that 3,926 recruits passed out of police training schools this year, having completed their six-months courses. It added that another 13,951 recruits were on stand-by to participate in the training programme.

It stated that in the next three years, 120,000 fresh hands would have been recruited into the force at the current rate of 40,000 recruits per annum.

The document also stated Federal government's resolve to equip the force and to bring

## Police recruit 35,000 men and women



Mr. Musiliu Smith it to an "appreciable and acceptable international standard."

The police also acquired computers, wireless communication gadgets, vehicles, arms and ammunition to enhance the discharge of its functions, the document added.

## FG allocates 17, 884 plots of land to 17 states

The Federal Government has allocated 17, 884 plots of land to 17 states of the federation for sale to the public, the Ministry of Information has stated.

In the latest edition of its publication, "Democracy in action", the ministry stated that the allocation of land to various states was done under Federal Government's sites and services programme.

Under the programme, the federal and state governments jointly fund the provision of roads, drainages, water supply, electricity and other infrastructure at the affected estates to reduce the burden of development on prospective beneficiaries.

The report said under the programme, more than N608.8 million had been spent on site acquisition, survey, payment

of compensation, layout design, site clearing and provision of access roads.

It added that another N2.5 billion would be needed to successfully execute "the quantum of on-going and additional infrastructural works".

The ministry stated also that under the programme, the respective states' ministries of works and housing would allocate land to beneficiaries.

The report further stated that the programme had taken off in nine other states, including the Federal Capital Territory.

It attributed the delay in the provision of needed infrastructure in some of the estates to "the extremely deplorable condition of land" earlier released by the states to the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing.

## Nigeria to host preparatory meeting on earth summit

Nigeria is to host a meeting of the preparatory committee on the earth summit set up by the 1998 Cape Town Conference on environment to prepare grounds for a partnership conference expected to be held during the 2002 summit.

The Minister of State for Environment, Dr. Imeh Okpido, who disclosed this on Tuesday at a dinner he hosted for the visiting Executive Director, Advisory Committee on the Protection of the Sea (ACOPS), Dr. Viktor Sebek, said the preparatory committee meeting would take place in Abuja in February 2002.

The Cape Town Conference, which was organised by the government of South Africa in collaboration with United Nations Environment programme and the ACOPS in November 1998, adopted an African action plan and strategy known as the African Process.

The strategy is aimed at the development and protection of the coastal and

The conference also set up the preparatory committee comprising South Africa, Mozambique, Seychelles, Kenya, Cote D'Ivoire and Ghana while Nigeria joined as a member after assuming the presidency of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN).

The Minister of State, who is one of the Vice-Presidents of ACOPS, said that the proposed partnership Conference might be held at the level of Heads of State during the world summit on sustainable development in South Africa.

He said that the preparatory committee together with its partners had embarked on a solid and comprehensive research to identify the root cause of degradation of coastal and marine environment.

"The committee is also in the process of identifying and prioritising the main issues and areas which are

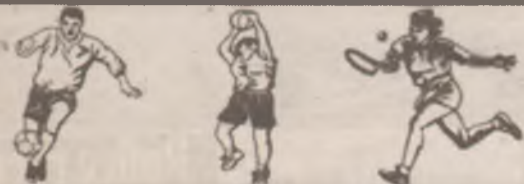
marine environments in Africa especially in Sub-Sahara Africa.

either environmentally degraded or face imminent threat," Okpido said.



Vice-President, Atiku Abubakar (right), congratulating the Head of Service of the Federation, Alhaji Mahmud Ahmed Yayale, shortly after his installation in Katagun, Bauchi State as the new Agiyun Katagun ... Sunday.





# SPORTS



Giovane Elber, Bayern's Brazilian striker

## Munich hopes to end 25-year wait

Bayern Munich's motivation to regain the European Cup title, fueled by a 25-year barren spell, has been increased by opponents Manchester United in the quarterfinals.

Never has a European Cup final been won and lost in so short a time than at the Nou Camp stadium in May 1999.

The German champion led the final 1-0 deep into injury time at the Barcelona ground through a Mario Basler goal before United subs Teddy Sheringham and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer scored twice to snatch victory.

The match will also touch a nerve for those who remember United's 1958 plane crash at Munich airport, which killed many of its delegation.

Bobby Charlton, who went on to star in the 1966 World Cup for England, was one of those who got back to full fitness under German medical care.

After that shattering Nou Camp defeat Munich suffered post-season blues which lasted months but a victory over Alex Ferguson's men might heal the wounds.

Bayern goes into Wednesday's second leg in Germany with a 1-0 lead following a late Paulo Sergio goal at Old Trafford and Bayern players, officials and fans must be relishing the possible demise of United at its Olympic stadium.

Coach Ottmar Hitzfeld, who has recently extended his contract, is seen as the mastermind behind Bayern's authority in Europe.

It was Hitzfeld who coached Borussia Dortmund to the 1997 European Cup title and he has continued European success since moving to Bavaria.

A repeat of the ear-bashing from Bayern legend Franz Beckenbauer, star in Bayern Munich's 1974 to 1976 European Cup tri-

umphs, following its 3-0 loss in Lyon in early March might also have given the team more incentive.

Munich has strength in the depth of its squad. With key players Stefan Effenberg, Giovane Elber, Paulo Sergio, Jens Jeremies and Thomas Strunz all out at the start of the season, it made no difference as its early results went well.

Their strength at squad

level is, like United, their success to continued success.

Players such as Bosnian Hasan Salihamidzic, wing-back Michael Tarnat, Paraguayan striker Roque Santa Cruz or midfielder Michael Wiesinger are hardly first-choice. When called up however, they rarely disappoint.

**Key player - Stefan Effenberg**

Simply the engine room,

playmaker and leader of the team which also allows other players to flourish. Combines good passing ability, ball-winning skills and vision with a tough mental approach.

A straight-talking, no nonsense guy who has had his share of controversy, he is nevertheless as important to Bayern as Roy Keane is to United.

## For Man United, only a mini-dynasty will do

Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson has repeatedly said the great teams win the European Cup more than once and he is well aware United is currently a one-season wonder.

It may have become the first English club to win the competition in 1968 but that is too far removed for many of United's younger fans to remember.

Holland's Ajax, Bayern, Italy's AC Milan and England's Liverpool and Nottingham Forest have each formed mini-dynasties in the last 30 years with the same generation of players winning the competition more than once.

Ferguson knows only a repeat performance of its 1999 final victory, ironically against Bayern Munich which it meets in Germany in the quarter-finals, second leg on Wednesday, will do.

United's 1999 victory was as much about holding its nerve as it was about superior football.

Munich had largely outplayed United and was 1-0 up through a Mario Basler goal in the Nou Camp stadium before substitutes Teddy Sheringham and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer both scored in injury time.

United has looked occasionally vulnerable in Europe this season losing to the likes of PSV Eindhoven and Anderlecht but it did not lose a game in the second phase.

The home-grown skills of David Beckham, Paul Scholes, Nicky Butt and the Neville brothers Gary and Phil have been blended by Ferguson with shrewd signings such as Solskjaer, Andy Cole and goalkeeper Fabien Barthez.

For all their undoubted collective strength and tenacious, never-say-die attitude as exemplified by club and Republic of Ireland captain Roy Keane in midfield, United also has players capable of individual moments of match-winning brilliance.

Cole, Dwight Yorke and Ryan Giggs all have plenty of pace but the latter's superb ball skills make him a fan's favorite and a defender's bad dream when he's on song.

seventh time in nine seasons at the weekend, will find the Olympic stadium clash a test they cannot find in their own country.

**Key player - Roy Keane**

When the chips are down



Beckham

a team needs players who lead from the front and Keane certainly fits the bill.

An integral part of United's success, Keane can inspire his team to glory just as he did in the Champions League semifinal two years ago.

When United was trailing Juventus 2-0 in Turin after drawing 1-1 at Old Trafford, Keane dug his heels in and scored with a flying header to revive his side's hopes.

United came away with a 3-2 win and qualified for the final, a match which Keane failed to take part in because he was suspended.

By Keane's own high standards the Republic of Ireland midfielder has not had a great season, but on the big occasion the United skipper rarely fails to deliver.

## Ronaldo could return to action this season

Ronaldo could return to action before the end of this season, the Brazilian striker said on Monday.

Ronaldo, 25, has not played since suffering a knee injury in the Italian Cup final last April.

Speaking to reporters after his first training session back at Inter Milan's training centre on Monday, the former Barcelona forward said: "I don't know when I will be back playing but I do not exclude that if I feel good in 15 days or a month then I could do it."

"I don't exclude anything -- it all depends on how I feel. I Ronaldo, who since an op-

eration has trained with specialists in France and Brazil, said he felt close to being ready to compete again.

"Now I can do almost everything with the ball and I have played a lot of training games. I believe I am not lacking much now."

The Brazilian added: "I never felt that I wouldn't be back. I always had that belief. I want to thank the fans...who have helped me. I heard encouraged me on the way."

The striker has suffered a number of knee injuries in recent years and made just 26 league appearances for Inter in the two seasons prior to his enforced absence this term.

## Ajax suffers blow in Champions League quest

Third placed Ajax Amsterdam missed the chance to close in on a Champions League place after drawing 1-1 at Roda JC Kerkrade in the Dutch first division on Monday.

Victory would have seen Ajax close the gap on second-placed Feyenoord, who lost 2-1 to lowly Graaafschap Doetinchem on Sunday, to three points with six matches to go.

Feyenoord have 56 points from 28 games while Ajax have 51. Finishing second allows direct entry into

third place means having to qualify for Europe's most prestigious club competition.

Leaders PSV Eindhoven, who drew 0-0 at Vitesse Arnhem on Sunday, have 67 points and are only eight away from retaining

the championship, which will be their 16th league title in their history.

Roda JC took the lead on 61 minutes against Ajax when leading scorer Yannick Anagnostou reacted fastest to a rebound.

But Shota Arveladze levelled from the penalty spot four minutes later after

brought down.

On Sunday, Dennis den Turk gave Graaafschap a ninth minute lead against a Feyenoord side who have now suffered three consecutive defeats.

Zico Tumba made it 2-0 on 72nd minutes and Johan Elmander's effort nine minutes later was purely a consolation.

At the bottom of the division RBC Roosendaal are set to be relegated after just one year on the top flight.

They lost 3-1 to relegation rivals Sparta Rotterdam on Saturday and are rock

## Rivaldo agents denies link with English club

Rivaldo's agent has rejected a claim that Barcelona are set to negotiate the transfer of the Brazilian forward to an "important" English club.

"There is absolutely no truth in this claim," Jose Maria Minguella told Reuters on Monday.

"We know about the claim but neither the player nor the club are going to be negotiating with another club about the future of the player."

The agent of Barcelona team mate and captain Pep Guardiola had said on Catalan television station Canal 33 that negotiations between Barcelona and a premier ship club would take place later this week.

Guardiola shocked Spanish football last week by announcing that he would be leaving Barcelona to play abroad, possibly for a club in England.

Rivaldo has hinted that he would understand if the Catalan club decided to sell him before his contract expires in June 2003, but club president Joan Gaspart has insisted that the former World Player of the Year will stay at the Camp Nou.

The Spanish media speculated on Monday that

Manchester United, who reportedly expressed an interest in signing the Brazilian last season.

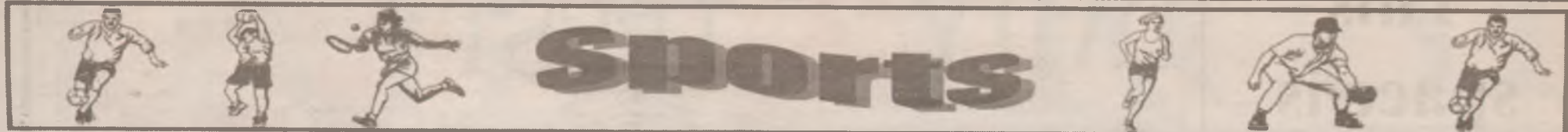
When rumours of a possible move away from Barcelona surfaced last month Rivaldo said he was flattered by the interest of other clubs, but that any future transfer was in the hands of Barcelona.

Rivaldo, who will be 29 on Thursday, is the leading scorer in the Spanish league this season with 19 goals.

Barcelona face Liverpool in the second leg of their UEFA Cup semifinal at Anfield on Thursday. The two sides fought out a 0-0 draw in the first leg.







## Two Classic records fall in Enugu

The highlight of the second 2001 Athletics Federation of Nigeria (AFN/UNIC) Classic decided at the Nnamdi Azikiwe stadium, Enugu was the creation of two meet records in the women's Javelin and women's 1,500m.

Sorochukwu Ihuefo from Enugu improved on her former record of 53.44 metres in the Javelin with a throw of 53.79 metres in the event.

Edo state's Victoria Modabejo erased Phidelia Victor's 10-year-old time of 4 minutes 28secs in the women's 1,500m when she clocked 4 minutes 24 secs.

The men's 100m was thrilled as it saw Chinedu Orialla beat Uchenna Emedolu and Seun Ogunkoya in a photofinish.

Orialla breasted the tape in 10.36 secs while Emedolu clocked 10.37 secs and Ogunkoya returned in 10.39.

The all-comers women's 100 metres was won by Rose Nwodo (12.63 secs), Bukola Omodona and Edith Iwundu followed in the second and third places in 12.64 and 12.79 seconds respectively.

Mary Onyemuwa topped the women's 200m classics in 24.12 secs while Calister Onyejiaka (24.34 secs) and Nkiru Anua (12.63 secs) placed second and third respectively.

Musa Audu clocked 46.89 secs to beat Tunde Ogbu (47.81 secs) and Ezeme Onykachi (48.27 secs) in the men's 400 metres while Glory Nwosu (53.02 secs) outran Hajarat Yusuf (53.60 secs) to win the wom-

### Athletics

en's 400 metres race.

Godwin Omosili threw a distance of 49.07 metres in the men's discus.

Olayinka Onosile hurled a distance of 40.73 metres in the women's hammer,

Kumfong Wilfred won the men's 5,000m in 14.55.88secs.

Osita Okagu returned in 52.81 secs to win the men's 400m while Glory Okpako was second in 52.81 secs while a leap of 5.71m, E. Aghatise won the men's long

jump.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the two-day meet was delayed for 24 hours following protests by the Athletes over a five-year ban on the chairman of the athletes, Alli Baba by the AFN.

## Nigerian male team shines at Commonwealth tourney

Nigeria's male table tennis team Monday trounced their Singaporean counterparts 4-0 in the semis of the on-going common table tennis championships to keep hope alive for an impressive outing. Nigeria's Segun Toriola began the whitewash by beating Zhang Taiyong, 18-21, 23-12, 21-16, while Monday Merotohun consolidated the win with a 21-19, 14-21,

### Table Tennis

21-17 thrashing of Duan Yongjun.

Sam Ayemoujuba completed the rout in the singles event with a 26-24, 21-12 win over his Singaporean counterpart.

The duo of Segun Toriola and Monday Merotohun also gave Nigeria victory over Duan Yongjun and Zhang Taiyong, Singapore, 21-15,

19-21, 21-16 other results from the championships played at New Delhi's Indira Gandhi stadium also indicated that India's male team triumphed 4-3 against England.

In the semis of the female team championships, Singapore was 4-2 victorious over New Zealand, just as Malaysia also swat India by 4-1. The championships continue.



Patience Ijioma of Lagos state during the Nkoyo Ibori U-20 discuss event last year. Two records were broken in the AFN/UNIC Classic... recently.

## Tornadoes disappoint fans but sail through

Niger Tornadoes' fans left the Minna town ship stadium on Saturday wearing long faces after their favourite side only manage a consolatory penalty shoot-out victory over Congo's V Club Mokanda to secure a second round berth in the African Cup Winners Cup.

The Minna side, who had assured their teeming supporters before the game that the Congolese had no chance in the first round second leg tie, piped their visitors by a solitary goal scored by Jonathan Daniel, in the 49th minute.

The Congolese had won

the first leg by a similar scoreline two week earlier.

The fans had to wait agonisingly throughout, hoping for the decisive winning goal that never came until the shootout, which the home side won 4-3 for an aggregate 5-4 score.

But for the prompt intervention of security personnel, the angry fans almost vented their anger on some

officials of the Tornadoes, who they allegedly accused of responsibility for the unimpressive outing of the club.

A fan, Shehu Aminu noted that "the Tornadoes did not justify the tremendous goodwill, home support and government's financial and moral support.

"If the team plays like this in the next round it

should consider itself out of the competition as it should not expect any advantage in an away game," Shehu said.

He blamed Coach Benard Ogbe and his crew for failing to give the boys what he described as "the right training and team discipline."

Club public relations officer, Yusuf Dauda said the team played under tremen-

dous pressure before the decisive penalty shoot-out and promoted that the team would be overhauled before the next match.

"We have learnt our lesson from this match and I assure you that our performance would improve to justify every bit of confidence reposed in us by our teeming supporters, he added.

## Obasanjo to open NUGA festival

President Olusegun Obasanjo, in company of five other former Heads of State, is expected to declare open the 18th edition of the Nigerian Universities Games (NUGA) today at Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria.

Vice Chancellor of the university, Prof. Abdullahi Mahadi, disclosed this over the weekend while addressing a press conference on the state of preparedness of the university to host the games.

Prof. Mahadi gave names of the former Heads of State as General Yakubu Gowon, Alh. Shehu Usman Aliyu Shagari, General Muhammadu Buhari, General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida and General Abdulsalami Abubakar.

Other dignitaries expected at the opening ceremony of the games include state governors, traditional and political leaders, members of the National Assembly and diplomacy.

The Vice Chancellor who disclosed that ABU is expected to host not less than 37 universities and 5,000 athletes said all arrangements for the successful kick off of the

From Waziri Isa Gwuntu, in Zaria

Games have been concluded.

"ABU-Millennium Games will be a show case for what this great university stand for as a centre of sports development and excellence" Mahadi said, adding, "I am sure that all those who will have the opportunity to come to ABU for this Games, will have a visiting impression in their minds of a great event in history."

Activities outlined to add glamour to the event, according to the Vice Chancellor, include concerts that will feature star artists from different parts of the country, drama NUGA seminar, welcome party and sponsors' nite.

He said the drama is aimed at ensuring proper relaxation and exhibition of Nigerian cultural heritage through out the games. Other series of plays have also been organised for participants of the games.

While the NUGA seminar is intended to offer academic and brainstorming exercise to be focussed on current issues in sports, science and administration, the spon-

sor's nite is intended to honour and thank sponsors for their support.

"Also, as a tradition of

ABU's hospitality, welcome party will be organised on 20th April, for all participants and officials to the games", Prof. Mahadi added.

### African Club Competitions draws

The draw for the second round of African club competition matches after the completion of first round ties on the weekend:

#### African Champions League:

ASEC Abidjan (Ivory Coast) v Diaraf Dakar (Senegal) SC Villa (Uganda) v Julius Berger (Nigeria) Al Ahli (Egypt) v St Michel United (Seychelles) Tusker FC (Kenya) v Esperance (Tunisia) Mamelodi Sundowns (South Africa) v Young Africans (Tanzania) Al Merreikh (Sudan) v CR Belouizdad (Algeria) TP Mazembe Englebert (DR Congo) v Raja Casablanca (Morocco) Petro Atletico (Angola) v Hearts of Oak (Ghana) or Etoile du Congo (Congo)

#### African Cup Winners' Cup:

Club Africain (Tunisia) v AS Saint Luc (DR Congo) or Gazelle (Chad) Stade Abidjan (Ivory Coast) v Inter Luanda (Angola) Royal Armed Forces (Morocco) v Evico (Gabon) CR Ben Tour (Algeria) v Niger Tornadoes (Nigeria) Kumbo Strikers (Cameroon) v Coffee FC (Ethiopia) Ismailia (Egypt) v Simba SC (Tanzania) Zamalek (Egypt, holders) v Nkana FC (Zambia), Sunshine SC (Seychelles) v Kaizer Chiefs (South Africa) or Stade Tamponnaise (Reunion)

#### Confederation of African Football (CAF) Cup:

Goldfields (Ghana) v AS Aviaco (Angola) Wydad Casablanca (Morocco) v ASC Ndiambour (Senegal) Mouloudia Constantine (Algeria) v Africa Sports (Ivory Coast) Katsina United (Nigeria) v Ajax Cape Town (South Africa) Cotonsport (Cameroon) v SM Sanga Balende (DR Congo).

Ferrovial Maputo (Mozambique) v Green Mamba (Swaziland) JS Kabylie (Algeria, holders) v EECPO (Ethiopia) Etoile Sahel (Tunisia) v Oserian Fastac (Kenya).

Team mentioned first play at home in the first leg on the weekend of May 11-13.

The return legs will be played on the weekend of May 25



Katsina United's Abdullahi Mu'azu, left vies, with Johnson Olewesi of NPA Warri during a league game in Kaduna. Katsina will face South African side Ajax Cape Town in the CAF Cup second round.



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Houston Rockets Steve Francis tries to protect a loose ball from Denver Nuggets Robert Pack during an NBA action at the Compaq Centre... last Wednesday. *Pix AP*



Franklin Corozo (bottom) of Ecuadorean soccer club Emelec stops the drive by Gilberto Palacios of Paraguayan club Olimpia during their first round Copa Libertadores match played... last Thursday. *Pix AP*

## Eagles'll crush Leone Stars - Okocha

Super Eagles midfielder maestro Austin Okocha has declared total war against the Leone Stars of Sierra Leone, as the two teams clash this weekend in a World Cup qualifier in Freetown.

Okocha, who played below expectation in the last World Cup match against the Black Stars of Ghana in Accra last month, said Sunday's crucial encounter will be a do-or-die-affair.

"We are aware of the situation we are in presently, but I can assure you we shall triumph at the end of the day," he declared.

The PSG midfielder hinted that the Super Eagles have resolved to win the match against Sierra Leone convincingly to restore Nigeria's World Cup hopes.

"Actually, it is not going to be an easy game but we have the calibre of

From Richard Abayomi, in Lagos

players that can crush Sierra Leone at home," he boasted.

Most of the Europe-based players are already in camp. They are Tijjani Babangida, Ifeanyi Udeze, Yakubu Aiyegbeni, Benedict Akwuegbu, Joseph Yobo and Okocha. Others are Karibe

Ojigwe, Garba Lawal, Peterside Idah and John Otaka, who was brought in by technical adviser Johannes Bonfrere to replace injured Victor Agali.

Nigeria Football Association (NFA) spokesman, Austin Mgbolu, however, confirmed to Trustsports that the team's captain,

Sunday Oliseh was expected to join the team last night. Unconfirmed reports indicate that Besiktas goalkeeper Ike Shorunmu is in town, but was yet to report to camp as at the time of filing this report.

Meanwhile the team could not train yesterday as planned due to heavy downpour in Lagos.



Okocha

### Professor Nomau's travails, written & illustrated by Bulama Mustapha

