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## MONDAY COLUMN

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Former Chief Justice of the Federation, Justice Mohammed Bello with Emir of Dutse Alhaji Sanusi at a summit on Conflict Management organised by the Even-development Projects in conjunction with the Kaduna State government and USAID-OTI Nigeria held at the Arewa House Kaduna... recently.  
Pix: Joe Oroye

## I'm not after Atiku's job - Makarfi

By Jibril Daudu

Governor of Kaduna State, Alhaji Ahmed Mohammed Makarfi, has dispelled speculations that he is eyeing the position of vice-president in the 2003 elections, the position currently held by Alhaji Atiku Abubakar.

Makarfi described the speculations which became rife after the meeting at Benin last month by some PDP governors as "political intrigues."

"It is part of the political intrigues some people en-

gage in to cause distractions," the governor said in an interview in the current edition of *Tell* news magazine.

He said rather than gun for Atiku's post, he would solidly support the administration and back the Obasanjo/Atiku ticket for re-election in 2003.

While describing the speculation as "falsehood", Makarfi said neither his candidature as vice-president nor of any other person as

replacement for Atiku was discussed at the Benin meeting.

"I do not know the intentions of those who started this kind of falsehood," he said, adding, "you do not go out campaigning to be a vice-president."

"Let me state it once more... that we have a president, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, and a vice-president, Atiku Abubakar and we believe they are a good team and we are ready to support them to the end," Makarfi said in the *Tell* interview.

He chastised those engaged in the speculation, saying that it is unwholesome for people to drive a wedge between Atiku and Obasanjo in order to create conflict between the duo and other people outside.

The governor also spoke on the activities of some

*contd. on pg 2*

## Court releases detained Islamic cleric

By Mustapha Isah Kwaru

An Abuja magistrate court last Friday granted bail to detained Islamic scholar, Mallam Yakubu Musa, who was arrested by the security agents one month ago for harbouring two foreigners at his residence.

Malam Yakubu, who was speaking shortly after his release on a British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Hausa programme monitored in Abuja, disclosed that his arrest and subsequent detention were unconstitutional because the people he kept at his residence "were not criminals and that there was no evidence to show that they had never committed any offence." "These people are my brothers in Islam. They came to me seeking for

*contd. on pg 2*

## Auto crash claims 49

No fewer than 49 people have been feared dead in a ghastly auto-accident that occurred yesterday on the Zaria-Kano road.

The vehicle, a Volvo luxury bus, with registration No. XG916AAA was on its way from Lagos to Kano when it plunged into River Kano at the border between Bebeji and Garun-Mallam, at about 9 a.m.

The cause of the accident was not immediately known but eye-witnesses

From Musa Umar Kazaure, in Kano

claimed it was as a result of a front tyre that burst forcing the driver to lose control of the vehicle.

*Daily Trust* correspondent who visited the scene counted up to 10 dead bodies which were removed from the submerged vehicle while 20 others who received varying degrees of injuries were rushed to Murtala Mohammed Specialist Hospital, Kano, for medical attention.

## Kebbi Assembly against ID card project

The Kebbi House of Assembly has adopted a motion urging the Federal Government to discard the idea of using the proposed national identity card for the 2003 elections.

The Assembly said that time constraints and lack of enlightenment for the electorate on the use of the card are the militating factors.

A member representing Danko/Wasagu East constituency, Alhaji Garba Bena, moved the motion, urging the

Federal Government to discard the idea, saying the country was not ripe to use ID cards in place of voter's cards.

"Nigerians are more interested in what the government will do to improve their standard of living and not to use their money to produce something that will not improve their conditions," he said.

He said the money that would be spent on the ID card project, which was said to be in billions, was not justifiable, considering the fact that Nigerians were suffering

*contd. on pg 2*

One of the survivors, one Mallam Garba, told *Daily Trust* that there were 69 passengers on board, including those on attachment but that only 20 were taken to hospital still alive.

He added that the vehicle lost control as they ap-

## Tazarce not for us - Ciroma

Finance Minister, Mallam Adamu Ciroma, at the weekend in Maiduguri described as undemocratic the popular Hausa slogan, "Tazarce" currently being used by elected public office holders with the ambition of continuing in office in 2003.

Speaking at the second North-East rally of the

proached the Bebeji bridge when the front tyre burst.

The luxury bus, with the inscription "Blessed Jude Ntuoji Motors Ltd," was still submerged in the river with many bodies still trapped under water at the time of going to press.

Local fishermen who arrived the scene to assist in the rescue operation later abandoned it for unknown reasons. The Kano State Fire Service which also arrived after about two hours could not do much as they did not

*contd. on pg 2*

By Suleiman Mohammed and Abdullahi Bego, in Maiduguri

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), in Maiduguri, the Borno State capital, Mallam Adamu Ciroma said, "Tazarce" was a military terminology with negative connotation, and has no place in a democratic environment.

"There is nothing wrong

## Dele Giwa: Rtd AIG faults Tsav

Retired Assistant Inspector General of Police, Alhaji Abdullahi Kaltungo, has said former Lagos Commissioner of Police, Mr. Abubakar Tsav had no part in the investigation of the murder in 1986 of the founding Editor-in-Chief of *Newswatch* magazine, Mr. Dele Giwa.

Reacting to Mr. Tsav's re-

cent claims at the Justice Oputa Human Rights Violations Investigation Commission, Alhaji Kaltungo, who spoke to newsmen in Bauchi, said he was not aware that "Tsav had at any time at all ever took part in the investigation of that cases." He explained that at the time of the

*contd. on pg 2*



Mallam Adamu Ciroma

## NEWS

49

Contd. from pg 1

have a crane to lift the bus out of the river and save the other trapped bodies.

The police in Bebeji local government were seen assisting survivors to identify their belongings and conveying the wounded to the hospital.

**Makarfi**

Contd. from pg 1

people who are distributing campaign materials in Kaduna urging him to go for a second term in 2003. He denied that he produced the materials which include caps and T-shirts neither were they done with his consent.

According to him, it was yet too early to decide on his political future. He said he would make such a declaration only after he must have

**Gov Akume says Tiv people not killed**

Governor George Akume of Benue State has described as "untrue" media reports that 12 displaced Tiv people were killed penultimate weekend in Nasarawa State. The 12 persons had allegedly left their refugee camp in Daudu, Guma Local Government Area of Benue State

By Simon Imobo-Tswam and Emmanuel Ande

and gone to their farms in the crisis zone to carry food items.

The governor, who spoke to newsmen at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja, Thursday on his return from a three-week trade mission to the United States, said the reports were false and capable of jeopardising the calm in the area.

His words: "I was not around as you can see, but the Deputy Governor, Prince Ogiri Ajene, who held the fort while I was away and who incidentally is sitting right here on my left has told me that nothing like that happened. So it is not true.

"I just want to say here that what took place in Nasarawa was most unfortunate. But the Governor, Alhaji Abdullahi Adamu, who is also the chief

security officer of the state has done and is doing everything possible to contain the situation."

Governor Akume commended the intervention of the federal government and the input men of goodwill both within and outside Benue State in containing the crisis, adding, "I believe and very strongly too that the brokered peace will be kept even as spirited efforts continue on both sides at very high levels to restore normalcy."

On his trade tour that took him to Arkansas, California, Georgia and Alabama, Akume said he held fruitful discussions with potential American investors and financiers who expressed willingness to invest in the Benue economy.

"In Arkansas, I met with the second biggest food chain in the world i.e the Tyson group. They will be in Benue State in the next

60 days to invest in the Benue Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC) they intend to make ADC a model regional centre, their first such experiment in Africa.

"I also discussed the possibility of reactivating the Ber-Agbum Fishery farms with the University of Arkansas. I spoke with the Rockerfella Group on its possible involvement in the reactivation of Agro-Millers, Makurdi. I also met with a company that will be coming here in October to help us set up a firm that will process our tubers into flour for American and European markets," the Benue State governor disclosed.

Answering a question on the epileptic power supply in Benue State, Akume assured that the interim measure of connecting to state to the 132 KVA line and the planned connection



Gov. Akume

of the state to the national grid would effectively tackle the problem of power instability in the state.

Meanwhile, our reporter who just return from Nasarawa State, has reported that violence erupted on Thursday and Friday in Keana, headquarters of Keana Local Government Area and Tudun Adadu and Okpa Shage village all in Obi Local Government Area.

Our reporter, who accompanied former Senate Deputy President, Alh. Haruna Abubakar, who was on tour of his senatorial district, said no fewer than 56 people were reported to have killed in Tudun Adadu on Friday. Six persons were allegedly beheaded in Adadu while in Okpa Shage village, seven persons were killed that same day.

In Keana, besides the destruction and looting of properties running into about N50 million, four men were reportedly killed by invaders suspected to be Tiv people.

Mallam Inarigu further told Senator Abubakar that when they held peace meeting in Lafia last week with Tiv people, the latter complained of inability to reach their kinsmen and inform them to drop their weapons in order to participate in the peace process.

The village head accused the government of Nasarawa State of deceiving the public, while acting to the contrary, saying, "the government of Alhaji Abdullahi Adamu is not ready to address this crisis. If it were serious, how can you fix a peace meeting one month away when people are being killed on a weekly basis?" he queried.

pressed disappointment at the Newswatch company's lack of cooperation with the police in the course of the murder investigation, citing the inexplicable quick return to London of the magazine's (London Bureau Chief), Mr. Kayode Soyinka, who was said to be breakfasting with Mr. Dele Giwa when the explosive that killed him went off.

He particularly took exception to the company's refusal to produce Mr. Soyinka to the police to assist them in their investigation despite requests from the force to the company stressing that throughout the period of the investigation the police were not able to get in touch with the magazine's London correspondent.

**Tazarce**

Contd. from pg 1

that the PDP would employ the same strategies it used during the 1999 presidential election to win in 2003.

"The Obasanjo government will continue to improve on the provision of social services, strengthening of the value of the Nigerian currency and fighting inflation to convince doubting Thomases and Tanimus that PDP's programmes for the nation shall indeed be," he declared.

The North-East rally, which kicked-off last month in Damaturu, the Yobe State capital, was part of the PDP's plans to capture the zone in the 2003 elections, and further boost support for Vice-President Atiku Abubakar in his drive for a second term with President Olusegun Obasanjo.

The Vice-President also used the rally to reply critics of his joint ticket with President Obasanjo and urged PDP members to vote for "Obasanjo-Atiku ticket" in 2003 in order to consolidate the gains of democracy.

Addressing the crowd, Vice-President Atiku Abubakar argued that before the advent of the current democratic dispensation, the North-East zone was never recognised at the federal level, stressing that since the

**Cleric**

Contd. from pg 1

assistance to live in my house. And I obliged them as I usually do to assist whoever needs my assistance," he said.

Asked whether he faced any hardships during his detention, he said: "Nobody made any attempt to touch my body except that I was not allowed to see whoever I knew. Detention is not a new thing to me because whenever an Islamic scholar

spent three years in office as governor.

"By then, I may not even continue in politics, or may continue and re-contest. The point of decision is not now," Makarfi said, adding, however, that he would not prevent anybody from airing their views as they wanted. "It is their democratic licence," he added.

He explained that the rally was to use the PDP's popular appeal to enable it capture non-PDP-controlled states in the North-East during the 2003 polls, and raise the party's stake in the national elections.

The rally, attended by PDP National Assembly members from the North-East, governors of Bauchi, Adamawa and Taraba States, as well as top government officials from the sub-region, was preceded by series of nocturnal meetings aimed at evolving strategies ahead of the 2003 polls and the re-election of the Obasanjo-Atiku ticket.

This followed recent reports highlighting alleged plans by President Olusegun Obasanjo to drop Atiku Abubakar in his 2003 presidential bid, a development which North-East PDP members are not taking lightly.

preaches truth, he should surely face some difficulties."

The cleric then called on his followers to live in peace and avoid taking laws into their hands. He further enjoined them to keep praying to Allah to continue advance the frontiers of Islam.

It will be recalled that the detention of Mallam Yakubu has generated criticisms from various Islamic bodies and human rights organisations,

**N/Assembly begins new legislative year tomorrow**

By Henry Omu and Reuben Yunana

The National Assembly reconvenes tomorrow after a seven-week recess which had to be postponed thrice because of differences between the Senate and the House of Representatives over approving the purchase of a presidential jet and reconciling the differences in the 2001 supplementary appropriation bill.

Both chambers of the National Assembly had to defer going on recess because while the House objected to the purchase of a new presidential jet, the senate had approved the purchase.

**Kebbi**

Contd. from pg 1

from poverty and "some cannot even afford to pay their hospital bills."

He said the programme had already been hijacked "as there is the tendency that the programme would be manipulated in favour of certain sections of the country." Benia warned that "there is very strong tendency that other nationals would have the ID card just like the way a good number of foreign

nationals carry international passports of this country right now."

The motion, seconded by a member representing Fakai constituency, Alhaji Mohamed Maihuta, was passed and adopted, with all members speaking against the project. The members stressed that the money for the project be used to improve the living condition of the people.

incident, the former Lagos Police Commissioner was in charge of the X-Squad which was responsible for the arrest of corrupt police officers on the highways or in office.

He explained further that when news of the incident got to the police, two Deputy Inspectors General of Police, (DIGs) Mr. Victor Pam and Mr. Chris Omoben (all retired now), himself (then a Deputy Commissioner of Police) and the officer in charge of investigation, one Chief Superintendent Dare (now late), along with other investigators rushed to the scene only to find nobody but a lone security man who told them that he had been instructed not to allow the police access into the premises without clearance from the Legal

**Dele Giwa**

Contd. from pg 1

Department of the Newswatch magazine.

Failing to gain entry into the house, the team of police quizzed the security man who, in broken (pidgin) English, told them that he was on duty when two men driving a Peugeot 504 came and asked if Mr. Dele Giwa was at home; and that when Billy, Dele Giwa's son, came to the door, one of the two men handed a parcel to him and thereafter drove away. Asked whether he could recall the registration number of the vehicle, the security man replied in the negative, saying he could neither read nor write but expressed the belief that he could recognise the person who handed the parcel to Billy but not the

other who drove the vehicle.

According to the retired AIG, having failed to find out where Dele Giwa's corpse was taken to, the police team went back to the (police) office and returned the next day only to find that there was nobody "reasonable" to talk to but (only) a lone security man (again) so they proceeded to the Newswatch magazine's office where they met and took statements from the trio of Messrs Ray Ekpu, Yakubu Mohammed and Dan Agbese. After which he said, the police were allowed to have access into Dele Giwa's residence where forensic experts and Fire Service department officials conducted tests.

AIG Kaltungo also ex-

## News Focus

# The detention and trial of Sheikh Yakubu Musa

By Musa Umar Kazaure

The Obasanjo government must appear before the law court and explain to the world why the Katsina-based Islamic scholar, Sheikh Yakubu Musa was arrested and detained for more than 48 hours without trial, the co-ordinator of Network for Justice, Dr. Bashir Kurfi has said.

"The infringement on his rights must be compensated for and we will ensure that the hypocrisy and irresponsibility of the Obasanjo government is exposed before their own law court in Kano and we are prepared to go the last brief to ensure justice to Mallam Yakubu Musa," he charged in an interview with *Daily Trust*.

The civil rights crusader said the arrest and detention of the learned Islamic scholar on charges of harbouring foreigners amount to breaching of ECOWAS treaty of free movement because the so-called foreign nationals teaching in Mallam Yakubu's school were from Niger Republic.

Said Dr. Kurfi: "And even those they call foreigners that are still in detention, we will fight for their release because they are citizens of the countries in ECOWAS, they have a right of movement in our country as stipulated by law. If they have broken any laws by coming to teach our children Islamic studies,

then we want to know." The coordinator of Network for Justice, a non-governmental organization fighting for the release of the Katsina-based Islamic scholar, condemned the double standard of the present administration in dispensing justice, citing the case of Frederick Faseun and Ganiyu Adams.



President Olusegun Obasanjo

"Faseun has never denied being the leader of the OPC, a tribal organization that the police confirmed is responsible for the killing of innocent people in Lagos and South-West. When he was arrested, he was immediately charged to court and released. Recently, they arrested Ganiyu Adams, who the

released armed robbers and so on and yet when he was arrested, he was charged to court within 24 hours, so why this double standard and hypocrisy on the side of this federal government?" Dr. Bashir Kurfi queried.

He also cautioned the Obasanjo government on the use of foreign intelligence operatives on Nigerian soil because a suspected Israeli intelligence was among the Nigerian security operatives that searched the home and guests of Mallam Yakubu Musa in Katsina.

"This suspected Israeli intelligence man went there and took the Holy Qur'an and was trying to tear some portions out, until the crowd that were watching protested and it could have caused a serious riot. This shows you the insensitivity and hypocrisy of the present government.

police confirmed that his gang killed policemen, attacked police stations, burnt police posts,

How can you bring an Israeli spy to come to Katsina? It confirms that this government is being controlled by foreign intelligence service," he further maintained.

The Katsina-based Islamic scholar and front-line Sharia protagonist, Mallam Yakubu Musa Hassan was arrested on July 12, 2001 in a commando-like operation by a special team of the state security service sent from Abuja. He was arrested in Kaduna and taken to Abuja SSS headquarters where he was in detention for 44 days before he was formally charged to an Abuja Magistrate court last Friday on charges of harbouring foreign nationals in his Islamiyya school. He was released on bail until further hearing which was adjourned till the 18<sup>th</sup> of September.

The human rights organization, Network for Justice, had earlier instituted a suit at the Federal High Court, Kano, challenging the continued detention of the learned Islamic scholar for over 48 hours as stipulated by law. In the suit No. FHC/K/CP/28/2001, Mallam Yakubu Musa through his lawyers, Abbas Ibrahim, Ja'afar & Co of Hope for the Blind Chambers, is challenging his unlawful arrest and detention without trial by members of Katsina State Security Service, and seeking leave to enforcing his fundamental human rights.

The case brought before Justice C.C. Owagwuga of the Federal High Court in Kano, could not be heard on the fixed day, Monday the 20<sup>th</sup> because the judges were

showing a double standard and hypocrisy on the side of this federal government?" Dr. Bashir Kurfi queried.

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said to be on vacation which would last until September 9<sup>th</sup> 2001. However, on Thursday August 23rd, 2001, Justice Owagwuga appeared to attend to the case amidst tension from the scholar's supporters who besieged the court house.

The ruling not to entertain the bail request presented by the applicant sparked a mild

Nigerian Prison Service and Attorney-General of the Federation. He, therefore, adjourned the case until September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2001.

*Daily Trust* reliably gathered from a reliable source that the release of the cleric on bail through a court in Abuja is a face-



Mr. Musiliu Smith, IGP

demonstration by hundreds of Sheikh Yakubu Musa's supporters at the court premises, disrupting traffic flow and business activities along Court Road in Kano metropolis.

The protesters carrying placards that read, "release Yakubu Musa now," "No to Obasanjo's oppression," and "Allah's laws is supreme," later dispersed peacefully threatening to invoke Allah's wrath on those perpetrating the injustice on Mallam Yakubu Musa.

Justice C.C. Owagwuga held that he cannot grant the bail because the ex-parte summons have not been served on the respondent which include the Director-General, State Security Service, Abuja, the Inspector-General of Police, the Comptroller-General of

saving devise by the Obasanjo government following the embarrassment President Obasanjo suffered when asked why the cleric has not been charged to court as stipulated by law in his monthly media chat recently.

The government was also said to be at crossroads when Ganiyu Adams was arrested and charged to court within 24 hours which glaringly shows the hypocrisy and double standard of the government in the dispensation of justice among its citizenry.

Meanwhile, thousands of Mallam Yakubu Musa's supporters have been thronging to his home in Katsina to sympathise with him and welcome him back home.



Governor Musa Yar'Adua

**"The human rights organization, Network for Justice, had earlier instituted a suit at the Federal High Court, Kano, challenging the continued detention of the learned Islamic scholar for over 48 hours as stipulated by law."**

NEWS

Don't ignore violence on women

- WRAPA scribe tells police

By Habiba Adamu

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

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

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

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

The Secretary-General further added that the billboard which carried the symbol of a man pursuing a woman with a whip and a crying child pulling the gown of

the man, has been chosen as a logo to "say no to violence against women no matter what" by (WRAPA) to sensitize the family and the whole society.

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

Hajiya Saudatu thanked the management and entire staff of the National Hospital in assisting and supporting WRAPA by giving free medical treatment to the victims brought to them by (WRAPA) and for the good relationship that exists between them.

Hajiya Saudatu further pledged to include Secondary Schools, tertiary institution, universities and market places in WRAPA's efforts to sensitise and put an end to violence against women in Nigeria.

The Chief Medical Director of National Hospital, Abuja, Professor Francis Durosinmi-Etti, in his remark, commended WRAPA for being in the forefront to get rid of violence against women in the country.



The Minister of Finance, Mallam Adamu Ciroma (l) discussing with President Olusegun Obasanjo during the launching of Small and Medium Industries Equity Investment Scheme in Abuja... recently

Pix: Kennedy Egbonodje

Former AIG carpets FG over Aikhomu's ban

From Musa Umar Kazaure, in Kano

The Secretary of National Board of Trustees of United Nigeria Democratic Party, UNDP, AIG Bashir Albasu (rtd) has described as flimsy the excuse given by the Federal Government for the seizure of Admiral Aikhomu's passport and

his subsequent prevention from travelling abroad.

Speaking to *Daily Trust* in Kano, AIG Bashir Albasu said Aikhomu is no more in the military and has no control over any military formation. He argued that Aikhomu was known to be a man advocating for change but through democratic means.

"Aikhomu is not and has never been an advocate of violent change of government. What you heard is government's version that he said he was going to change government. How can he do that?" Albasu queried. He averred that government's action is a reflection of PDP's fear over the growing strength of UNDP and its potential to unseat the present leadership in 2003 elections, adding that UNDP will never be intimidated.

On the use of national ID card as election voters card, the UNDP strongman in Kano said as far as his party is concerned nowhere in the democ-

racies of the world has ID cards been used to conduct elections, because it is undemocratic. He wandered how such exercise is feasible when local government elections is just about six months away, saying it is cumbersome and has never been experimented anywhere.

Alhaji Bashir Albasu said UNDP has no plan to merge again with any other party but will welcome any party that shows intention to join the party.

On the chances of UNDP's registration he explained that the 1999 constitution, unless amended, did not require INEC to register political associations but for the associations to register with INEC through the fulfilment of INEC's laid down conditions which they have satisfied.

He stated that former military president, General Ibrahim Babangida is not a member of UNDP despite the numerous IBB supporters in the party, saying that the General is however free to join if he so wishes.

Borno confers Abiola's title on his son

From Abdullahi Bego, in Maiduguri

The late Chief M.K.O. Abiola's son, Mohammed Jamui Abiola has been turbaned as the new Shettima Rasheed of Borno at the palace of the Shehu of Borno, Dr. Mustapha Umar El-Kanemi in Maiduguri.

The turbaning ceremony, which was witnessed by the governors of Borno and Yobe States, the deputy governor of Lagos State, Mrs. Bucknor-Akerele as well as the Speaker of the Lagos State House of Assembly, among other dignitaries was performed by the Shettima Kanuribe at Borno, Mala Kaka.

With his new title as Shettima Rasheed of Borno, Mohammed Jamui Abiola now becomes an important confidante of the Shehu of Borno.

Shortly after the turbaning and special prayers for peaceful co-existence in the country, the Shettima Rasheed, riding on a colourful horse, paid homage to the Shehu of Borno, the Waziri of Borno, Alhaji Yarima Mukhtar and the Shehu's sister, Ya Maira.

Speaking after the turbaning ceremony, Lagos State Deputy Governor, Mrs. Kufuworola Bucknor-Akerele expressed appreciation for the honour done the late Abiola's son.

Mrs. Akerele said the gesture showed that Nigerians are a united people and would continue to live together as brothers and sisters.



Mustapha Umar El-Kanemi, Shehu of Borno

Don't abuse press freedom

- Yobe Gov tells journalists

From Hadiza Abba Musa in Damaturu

The Yobe State Governor, Alhaji Bukar Abba Ibrahim has urged Nigerian journalists not to take press freedom for granted, rather it should be seen as a freedom only in the context of nation building, freedom for constructive criticism and not for incitement or smear campaign.

The governor made this assertion when the Minister of Information and National Orientation, Professor Jerry Gana paid him a courtesy call as part of the national media tour.

He said a disciplined, well-articulated vibrant and responsible mass media remains a major vehicle for propagating values, which would mould the civil consciousness of the generality of the people.

Bukar therefore called on all journalists in Nigeria to stand up and be counted in the fight against

disunity, defamation and inflammatory propaganda so as to ensure excellence in the practice of journalism and the sustenance of democracy.

He commended the minister for the tour which he said would give Nigerians the opportunity to assess the difference between the military and civilians and what they have achieved so far in just two year.

WATCH OUT !

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DAILY TRUST  
EDITORIAL

## Nigeria's Canada 2001 outing

Recently, the World Athletics Championships held in Edmonton, Canada. Many countries were present and it was easily the biggest sporting event on the globe outside the Olympics.

Nigeria participated in some events but its performance, to say the least, was disappointing. We could not clinch a single medal and it was our worst international outing since the Seoul Olympics in 1988.

Clearly, Nigeria went to Canada with greenhorns who seemed to have gone to the championship to gain the much-needed maturity which the meet would naturally afford them. When, upon getting to Canada, they came into contact with the world's best and finest, the difference was immediately and tragically clear.

One problem that militates against our performance at international sporting fora is the deficient facilities which our sportsmen and women use as they prepare for major sporting events. They go forward to meet their international counterparts who have been groomed in the most sophisticated and up-to-date facilities.

Another explanation for Nigeria's dismal performance may be its deployment of old and tired legs to the event. These sporting persons include Mary Onyali, Falilat Ogunkoya, and Endurance Ojokolo. Experts in the area hold that some of these athletes have passed their prime and they have also mentioned that the sports ministry seems to be recycling old athletes instead of focusing on the identification and nurturing of new talents. The injection of new blood always represents a healthy alternative, and it usually works in whatever area.

Interestingly, the Nigerian Athletes Federation had complained over the neglect of the sports sector and drew attention to the paucity of training facilities, and lack of funding which has united to negatively affect our performance at international sporting fora. Recently too, the sports ministry came out with a statement on future commitment in the development of sports in the country.

This kind of statement is inevitable and natural, given our poor showing at the championships and it is hoped that the ministry would translate words into action, and move swiftly to block all loopholes in our sporting establishment.

Daily Trust feels that an interest in sports is at the same time an investment in our youths, and also the future of our nation. Thus no expense is too much where the attempt to ennoble sporting structure is concerned. Clearly, the recruitment of new sportsmen and women, adequate funding of the establishment, and an exposure to modern sporting facilities would go a long way in avoiding the harrowing experience of Canada 2001.

## MONDAY COLUMN

# Letter to the President

By Abubakar Gimba

Dear Mr. President,

I am aware you run a very tight schedule. And you may not have read the front page comment (editorial) of the *Daily Trust* newspaper of Monday, August 6, 2001. The newspaper's comment was on the Human Rights Violations Investigation Commission (HRVIC) headed by Justice Chukwudifu Oputa. The current goings-on at the commission's sittings apparently caused the paper to express its fears and misgivings about the goals the Oputa-led body was set up to achieve.

Most of us (have been made to) believe the HRVIC is for truth and reconciliation a la South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) under the chairmanship of the Nobel Peace Prize Winner Bishop Desmond Tutu. *Daily Trust* believes our HRVIC may at the end of the day neither arrive at the truth nor achieve any reconciliation. Indeed, the commission could be swarmed by distortions of truth, falsehoods, and produce new landmines of acrimony, hate and irreconcilable discord. I share the opinion of the paper, and strongly too.

The Oputa panel, or its abbreviation, the HRVIC is becoming as frightening as the dreaded virus whose abbreviation it almost resemble, HIV/AIDS. And unless urgent measures are taken to redirect the *modus operandi* of the commission, the HRVIC will carry the same stigma and life-threatening consequences for our national body politic as HIV/AIDS. Given the orchestrated theatricals at the HRVIC public hearings, often staged with venomous deliberateness to the applause of a cultivated (and rented) jeering crowd reminiscent of the inquisitorial Roman Coliseum of yore, I don't see how the commission can achieve anything but a modicum of short-lived reconciliation.

Perhaps the commission was never intended to achieve any reconciliation. Nowhere in the panel's terms of reference is there any mention of a deliberate effort at reconciliation as a main goal. The official name of the commission adequately sums up the commission's terms of reference: human rights investigation, at the end of which it is to "recommend measures which may be taken whether judicial, administrative, legislative or institutional to redress the injustices of the past..." Translate: who's done it? Punish (from an agitated spirit full of vengeance)! And the fact that *ab initio*, the time period initially meant to be covered by the commission was 1993 to 1999, provided grounds for suspicion and concern that the HRVIC was a camouflaged battle-tank to get the Abacha men (principally), and Abdulsalami's men. These are certainly no green lights for a reconciliation train.

Truth and reconciliation that bind are not made in the disorderly noise of the marketplace, nor forged out of a playwright's scripts for a grand theatre performance to an audience that knows little difference between reality and the make-belief world of virtual reality. Any meaningful reconciliation requires a proper understanding of the concept (or word) itself: the dictionary (Collins) defines reconciliation as "to cause to acquiesce in something unpleasant; to become friendly with someone after estrangement; to settle (a quarrel)..." And since you are not so secularly inclined (despite the insistent voices that have made you to hold our nation's flag high as a foremost secular entity), the Holy Bible fully endorses reconciliation, when it says (2 Corinthians 5:19) "that God (the Most High) was in Christ (may Allah's peace be on him) reconciling the world to Himself, *not imputing their trespasses to them*, and has committed to us the word *reconciliation*" (italics mine).

And between men, how do we achieve the true reconciliation outlined above? Again the Holy Bible offers some invaluable help: It says (Matthew 18:15), "Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone..." (italics mine). The Alaba market atmosphere and the Hollywood syndrome of the dramatis personae hitherto at its sittings, have pushed our Oputa-led HRVIC far away from the ideal of a sanctified reconciliation. Sadly, you have not injected the most important energising tonic into the whole process. The tonic of *forgiveness*: only you can start the process of injecting this antidote into the rapscour that has poisoned our body politic

these past years. By word and action.

If the South African TRC achieved any success at all, it must be because of the *forgiveness factor*. Dr. Nelson Mandela was very magnanimous in his forgiveness. He did not make frequent references to his torturers for 27 years when he was in jail. You, unfortunately, have not been able to kick the habit. I don't blame you. You are just being human. But by proclamation and actions, I know you are a Born-Again Christian. And this has heightened one's expectations of a high moral standard based on Christ-like principles and ethics. Yes, principles, ethics, and Christian morality. I believe these are what prompted you in the first place to set up the Oputa panel. Not the bug of an imitation syndrome to be like Mandela of South Africa. But even in the South African TRC's case, morality and Christian values played no small role. For how else do you explain Bishop Desmond Tutu's Chairmanship of the TRC?

If you can forgive Abacha (I do not mean you should stop your efforts to recover anything he undeservedly took from our national wealth), forgive his family, forgive all those who tried you at the tribunal and got you incarcerated (escaping death by whisksers), forgive all, you would have laid a sound foundation for a proper reconciliation in the country. Again, remember the parable of a king and his servant in the Bible (Matthew 18:23-35). Those who benefit from divine grace must never refuse same to others. From the fertile grounds of your example, I believe, would sprout healthy olive plants of predisposition for forgiveness. The Abiola family, the Rewane family, the Dele Giwa family, the Ibru family, the Kaltho family, the Umaru Dikko family, and many, many more such families would want to follow the President's noble footsteps. This would stem the rising wave of the rancorous showmanship at the Oputa sittings, the antithesis of the reconciliation Nigeria needs. This would block the agenda of all those with sinister and personal agenda for vendetta, blackmail, humiliation and even scavengery. These do not enhance the course of reconciliation: they only deepen and aggravate acrimony.

Over and above individual forgiveness and reconciliatory moves however, there is a great need for the reconciliation of institutions, groups and communities. Let's remember that even the South African TRC was essentially an attempt to reconcile groups after the apartheid era, reconciling the blacks with the whites. It was not an attempt to settle personal scores per se; it was to assuage the psyche of a people. We should borrow a leaf from the South Africans and keep that at the back of our mind. No doubt individuals are important, but the interest of the society should be paramount. First and foremost, the military as an institution has wronged the rest of the population ever since the 1966 coup. Who needs any evidence(s) of their culpability? The present military High Command should apologize to the nation (publicly). The National Assembly should accept or reject the apology, with or without sanctions (if accepted). We, as a people then should stop blaming the military in our daily litany of songs of our sorrows, and get on with the business of nation building.

Then, the reconciliation efforts should shift focus to the suspicions between the North and East, the North and the West, the East and the West, the minority tribes and the so-called major tribes, then communities and tribes, Muslims and Christians, et cetera, et cetera: And by this, I do not mean the highly tendentious Sovereign National Conference (SNC), which is a conference in the mould of the Berlin Conference of the 19th Century where the then European colonial powers balkanised the African continent into its present fractious units: Reconciliation holds our oneness sacred. SNC does not: for the most vociferous of the conference advocates, nothing is sacred.

The problem, when all is said and done, is not with the Oputa panel. The problem is with the *thinking and motive* behind the setting up of the commission. Both are defective. And this is why HRVIC will not live up to our expectations. Hope is far from lost though. The situation can be retrieved. But only you, Mr. President, can make the difference. You can do it. I trust you can do it. And if you want this country to survive in greater peace and harmony than you found it in your second coming, you must do it. Re-evaluate the Oputa panel. Redefine and refocus its objective and procedures, if after the exercise we want to emerge as a stronger nation. Build our nation. You are destined to by God. Think about it: in particular Psalm 118:22, *The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone*.

Your Excellency, Mr. President, you were once rejected. Then the Lord restored you to His grace. Now you are our chief cornerstone. You must do the Lord's will. God bless. And long live the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Gimba is the president of the Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA)

### LETTER OF THE DAY

## Re: Housing as democracy dividend

I write in reaction to the above captioned editorial of your publication of Tuesday August 21, 2001 which contained a misrepresentation with regards to the National Housing Fund Scheme which you referred to as moribund. We are surprised you would make such a negative categorical statement without knowing it to be factual or checking from the Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria (FMBN).

The National Housing Fund is not moribund. The Fund is still operating effec-

tively and is in no way about to stop or come to an end.

As a further clarification of this, please be informed that as at the 21st August, 2001, a total of N799,800,927 has been approved to 1270 applicants through 22 Primary Mortgage Institutions in the country. Also, bulk loans that could yield up to 800 houses through the Scheme have been approved by the Bank and are awaiting ministerial ratification.

We in the Bank are aware of various criticisms of the fund which is mainly due to

ignorance like the one displayed by your editorial.

It is for this reason that we hope that the hallowed creed of objectivity and fairness of press will be displayed through the publication of this rejoinder to correct the wrong impression that the misrepresentation of the facts by your editorial must have caused among your readership.

Thank you.

Mike Omeri,  
Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria,  
Plot 124, Moshood Abiola Road,  
Garki, Area 2, Abuja

## Opinion

## Almajirai and the Northern elite

By Attahiru Mu'azu Gusau

The child *almajiri* is the most obvious and immediate manifestation of the woeful failure of our elite, and indeed the society, in confronting our contemporary challenges and forging ahead in dignity towards a better and prosperous future. So what used to be an indicator of vibrant urban centres of literacy and civilisation has now turned to be the symbol of our failure as a people. A course unbearable to our elite whose major preoccupation has always been building their images and extending their ego.

Today the spectre of begging transcends its traditional boundary and original base. It has turned into a national disgrace. It is our first fear when we contemplate hosting any event of international significance. Furthermore, the migration of beggars from the North to the South, like cattle, for greener pasture and the unfortunate transformation of the act of begging itself into a professional business venture has added more weight to the argument of the South of a decadent unproductive but over-consuming North.

All this became so unbearably painful to our elite. Their conscience wounded,

*The beggar in the North is the evidence of the collective failure of the Northern elite. With their "moral poverty" Attahiru does not see how the elite can come out with a solution.*

(by the damage to their images not actually their failure or the suffering mass), they met in Kaduna in 1997. After lots of philosophising and *dogon turanci*, they came up with an antidote to eliminate the symptom and not actually the disease, a character trait of our leaders. This antidote is the National Council for the Welfare of the Destitute (NCWD).

Child and adult begging is only an indicator, a symptom of the chronic and deadly widespread poverty in the North. Any alternative explanation is not acceptable to me. So the very solution to this menace of begging, which actually is only one symptom out of many, is far beyond the NCWD. It should be reiterated that our leaders have failed to deliver in almost every aspect capable of uplifting man to progress and dignity. In education, agriculture, economy, infrastructure etc. Having failed to protect and deliver, the shepherd consequently lost his flock to the wilderness. This is an issue of justice and good governance, of visions, plans and resolute execution to uplift the economic, social and psychological status of our people, characteristics conspicuously absent in our

polity. And, I am afraid, unless we can have a radical restructuring in our perceptions and actions, unless we can break away from the *status quo* that tends to continuously drag us in the mud, we would always be doomed a beggar nation.

This write up should not be seen as a critique of the NCWD, but the northern elite and particularly the leaders would like to bury their failure in the NCWD. In other words, the NCWD serves as a curtain veiling the nakedness of our leaders. But that veil has since been torn apart by the powerful storm of the ever-increasing poverty and backwardness of our people. Leaving us no alternative but to face the issue as realistically as possible.

Three years since the establishment of the NCWD nothing tangible has been achieved apart from experimental rehabilitation approaches designed for the integration of Qur'anic and conventional primary schools. Thus, the NCWD betrayed the same weakness they have discovered to led to previous failures. But no sensible person will criticise the NCWD, as everyone knows this responsibility hangs heavily on governors and

chairmen. It is an issue to be solved using state funds and subventions and also ensuring economic prosperity of the people. Where the NCWD might be at fault would be their failure to reach, pressurise and influence the decisions of governments by reminding them of their responsibility. For example, in Zamfara State earlier this year the United Council for Islamic School Teachers (UCIST) was commissioned by the government to take a census of all Islamic schools and teachers, which they successfully did. I believe that had the NCWD been interested a lot of difference could have been made and we could have even possibly gone a long way in executing plans and programmes.

I should reiterate that the underlying cause of this whole menace is the economy i.e. poverty. This poverty is caused by yet another kind of poverty, the moral poverty of our leaders and elite. There is also another poverty, the poverty of love and affection for our children, which in turn were caused by our economic poverty, which is caused by moral poverty of our leaders.

Attahiru writes from the Ministry of Lands, Housing & Survey, Zamfara State.

## The missing links in Abuja masterplan

By Mark Usman

*Abuja is a city for the rich which is why cleaners, drivers, messengers and, worst of all, the disabled, cannot secure shelter.*

I don't have the know how of how a city is planned. But I do know that every city is planned for the people that will live in it. Hence knowing that any given society is comprised of the rich, the poor and the downtrodden, any city planner should to take into account the high and low in the society. Going by this, the planners of Abuja have missed a point by not providing for the less privileged of the society which happens to be in the majority. This category comprises the unemployed low-income earners; the petty traders and the people with disabilities.

The unemployed people that are in Abuja must go about either in search of employment or any available menial job. Such people, since they have no money coming in the first place, trekking has become inevitable and I mean trekking long distances since as we know this category of people can't have a place to live anywhere close to the City centre. The planners have not thought of this as to provide a resting point for the wary trekkers. For instance the planners of the Tin City (Jos) provided such places that are called: Government Public Garden. These are points where you find a reserve with either bricks benches or something to that effect and roofs above or trees that provide shade. Such places are found on many streets in Jos but I have not seen such anywhere in Abuja. We all know that it is not always that Abuja weather extend handshake to people on the street - at one time it is fair weather and the next time it is raining. When it shines, the sun is scorching and basking. If such points are provided in all places, they could have been a place to take cover during the unprecedented rain.

I hear someone say Abuja is not meant for the poor. Granted, Abuja is an Administrative City designed for the President and his class, the ministers and their progenies, but we all know that the President and his Ministers do not clean their offices. They don't shift files or drive their vehicles. Cleaning, shifting of files or dispatch and driving are done by cleaners, messengers and the drivers. These and other clerical officers as we know are low-income earners. The Abuja City planners did not take into consideration their welfare when they planned the city. These category of people have their staff quarters built far away from where the offices are. Getting accommodation in these quarters is Herculean task on its own. But let's take it that at least accommodation is been provided. But the point is that the location is far from the city centre. Even as these people earn less, they still expend more on transportation as some of them may have to spend fifty naira to get to work daily. Apart from this, time is another factor. The trekking that some of them might have to do to get to the point where they could get vehicle should be considered and somebody says: there are staff buses that have been provided. But that is a misplaced priority as things could have been made easier if there are sufficient quarters for the low ranking officers built close to their offices instead of the buses that may park up at any time.

Those that can't afford to rent a shop but have to survive, secure street sides, under trees, backs of buildings and they are not safe from the wrath of the Environmental Protection Task Force.

Come to the people with disabilities, the voiceless in the society. There is no place at all for this category. Take for instance a blind person in Abuja City, he cannot move to any point as there are no structures put in place to guide him. There are no pavements at the roadsides to his advantage. The Traffic Lights neither peep nor talk. There is no Alarm of any sort such a sightless person takes his queue in movement from the pavements, sounds and the three dimensional things around him. But the Abuja structures have wide spaces and flowers are planted around buildings which make it difficult for the sightless person to go close to the wall that could have been a form of guide. Somebody may say the flowers planted is a source of guide too if the walls could be. If you think so, well consider its hazards..

The lame man on wheelchair can't have easy access to the building as they are mostly storeys buildings. Somebody may say; the buildings have got elevators. This is true but remember that some of the buildings in Abuja are on the mountain top and several steps must be climbed to get there. There are no ramps to wheel chair through.

The Deaf on the street is in trouble. To board a bus to places in Abuja even for the hearing person, one must listen very carefully to get what the bus conductors are calling. How much more of a deaf person. The buses have no tags to indicate the destination. How then, does the deaf take public transport in the City?

Usman, is of Plot 105, Kashim Ibrahim Way, Wuse II, Abuja.

## Re: Oil exploration in the North

By Ahmed Isah Haruna

*Oil exploration in the North is marked with so much sentiment, 'pervasive ignorance', double standards and bias that Ahmed believes the findings are not worth the ink and paper.*

The article of one Akpo Avbovbo in the *Guardian* of July 1, 2001 refers. First of all I will like to thank Akpo for confirming that there is oil in the North only that pervasive volcanic activities have destroyed it. And for the fact that Senator Victor Oyofor (a petroleum geologist) did not tell the Northern senators, Akpo declared the Northern senators as "pervasive ignorants". The approach of Akpo Avbovbo is not only speculative and unprofessional it also portrays "pervasive fear" plus "persuasive sentiment" which are worse than "pervasive ignorance". The approach is bereft of intellect, expertise, proven facts and figures and, most importantly, credibility and as such questions the status of Akpo as a consultant geologist. I will justify my position.

Firstly, his explanation of the so-called magic five for sedimentary basin assessment is very "embarrassing" at his level because it is too skeletal without facts and figures. The examples he gave further compound the embarrassment. I expected him, in the cause of discussing the magic five to present the names, positions, locations and number of the source rocks, reservoir rocks and volcanic rocks in both Chad Basin and Upper Benue Basin. Tell us what rocks constitute the seals in both Chad Basin and Upper Benue Basin. Tell us the origin of the paleotemperature why it is high or low in both. Chad Basin and Upper Benue Basin with references to genuine and not sentimental research. Tell us the nature and locations of traps in both Chad Basin and Upper Benue Basin and why he thinks they cannot host oil using facts and figures. This is the only way you could have been free from being a "pervasive ignorant" of the realities of Chad Basin and the Upper Benue Basin.

Secondly, I cannot see the nexus between petroleum generation in source rocks and "putting *garri* in hot water to produce *amala* instead of *eba*". This is an enigma which neither exemplifies petroleum generation in source rocks nor petroleum migration and accumulation in reservoir rocks. He said "the presence of source rocks with adequate organic material of various types determine whether oil or gas will be source". Does that mean that oil and gas cannot be formed by the same source rock or co-exist in the same reservoir rock? What about in the Niger Delta where gas and oil co-exist in the same reservoir at a ratio of 70:30 which declared Nigeria a gas province? Is it only in the North that gas and oil must be formed by separate source rocks?

Thirdly, he should have the courtesy to know that there are geology programmes and departments in the Northern universities that can differentiate between porosities in soft rocks

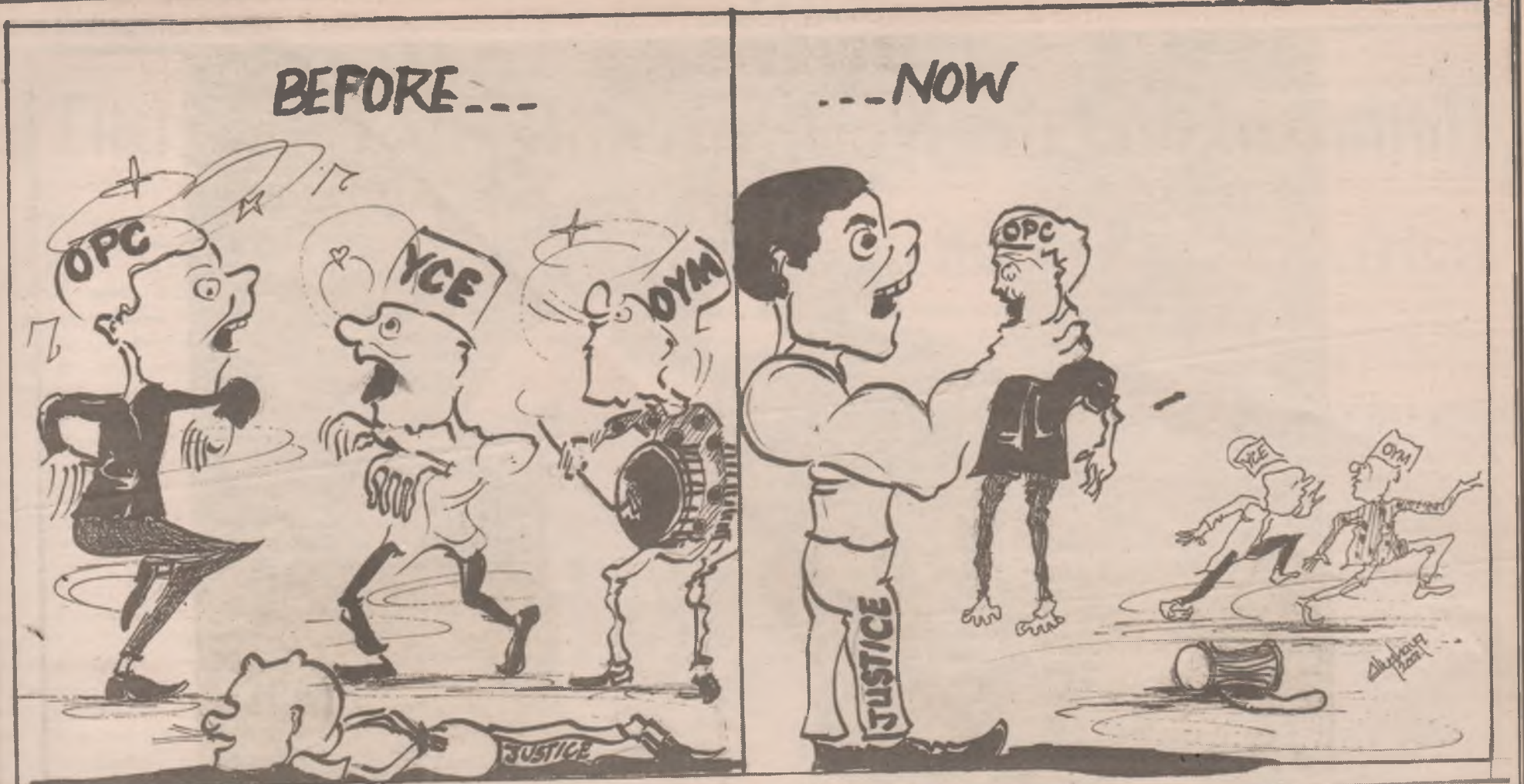
and secondary porosities in hard rocks. This would have saved the granite producing states from his insult. Well, there are granites in the Gongola Basin that are juxtaposed with sedimentary source rocks. They are Gombe inlier, Dadin Kowa inlier and Kaltungo inlier. They are unexplored. We are still in the process of proving who is pervasively ignorant. Must these granitic bodies be in the Niger Delta before they become explorable?

The wells drilled by Chevron, Shell and Elf cannot in any way be used to justify the failure in Chad Basin operations because Kolmani River-1 well showed economic quantity of gas and little oil contrary to the biased statement that all the three wells are dry. This is 100 percent success considering the fact that it is the first well and there are no volcanic rocks around this well. Chevron Nasara-1 well was mislocated on a metamorphosed zone (Contact aureole), just about 100 metres away from a volcanic plug in a vicinity of many volcanic plugs. This is due to the 'pervasive ignorance' of the team leader who could not be promoted in Chevron for the past 10 years due to incompetence and unproductiveness.

So by implication even where volcanic rocks burn the oil, in the reservoir rock, the heat generated by the volcanic activities can cook up more source rocks to release more oil because the source rocks in the Chad Basin and Upper Benue Basin have different ages, different levels of occurrence and so different diagenetic histories. Only intensive exploration can reveal the hydrocarbon potential of the Northern basins. Besides substantial portions of the Chad Basin and Upper Benue Basin have not been affected by volcanic activities, so how could a genuine consultant describe these basins as being pervasively non-petroliferous due to pervasive volcanic activities? This is pervasive ignorance

In conclusion, I want to state categorically that knowledge of geology is dynamic just like any other, branch of science. So it is good for geologists with archaic views who have been out of genuine research since time immemorial to be updating their knowledge with the state-of-the art findings. To declare that the presence of volcanic rocks in a basin is an indication of lack of oil is not only premature, it also reveals "pervasive ignorance" which is worse than that of the Northern senators. Neither angry argument, furious fanaticism nor inflexible insistence of your own conviction (without facts) of what is right will obliterate the actuality and proven facts of the opposite belief held equally firmly by others. The northern senators therefore have a genuine and clear-case against the Federal Government on the issue of oil explorations in the pervasively unexplored Northern inland sedimentary basins (Nigerian sector of Chad Basin, Upper Benue Basin, Middle Benue Basin, Bida Basin and Sokoto Basin).

Ahmed is of the Geology Programme, Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi.



## YOUR LETTERS

### Gov Makarfi, Jagindi is neglected

I wish to call the attention of the Kaduna State government, the governor in particular, Alhaji Ahmed Mohammed Makarfi, for sidelining Jagindi area in Jema'a local government of Kaduna State. Our people voted massively for the government of the day, but in essence, till today, we cannot be proud of anything called dividend of any kind; be it appointments, infrastructural facilities and otherwise. Are we not qualified to any dividend?

Of course, we have to voice out our feelings, for we are left behind. Historically, Jagindi Gari is one of the oldest settlements in Jema'a local government area, yet nothing to show on the ground as compared to other places and this of course is discouraging to majority of our people.

I wish to call on the

Kaduna State governor to come to our aid and look into our problems which include: construction of Bedde-Jagindi-Gidan Waya road; completion of Jagindi Gari primary healthcare (hospital) abandoned since 1993; siting of a government secondary school in Jagindi Gari;

There was apparent relief when on May 29, 1999 Nigeria joined the league of democratic nations. But this seems short-lived by the way and manner in which some Nigerian politicians misuse the office entrusted to them to perpetuate themselves in power and become antagonists to the ethics of democracy.

Only a few months ago, the National Broadcasting Commission (NBC) warned

electrification of Jagindi Gari, Jagindi Tasha, Kogom, Banauje, Dalle, Kariyo, Dangwa, etc.; reactivation of the Kaduna State Agricultural Project in Banauje, Jagindi Gari, and rehabilitation of Jagindi Gari primary school, which suffer serious denial or neglect by the Kaduna State

some broadcasting organisations for breaking the *modus operandi* of the industry by allowing their organisations to be used for showering praises on some governors.

Governor Abubakar Audu of Kogi State is one of such governors who have turned himself into a figure of worship for some people in the state. To them "if you want to get money or remain at the corridor of power, you MUST shower praises on Audu". He is an "elected dictator" just like some of his colleagues in other states. They will never condone or allow any challenge to their activities.

Funny enough, Governor Audu wants to remain in Government House for

### Attention: Senator Kura

Permit me to express my view on the recent protest against Senator Ibrahim Kura Muhammad carried out by the millions of PDP supporters at the venue of the launching of Muhammadu Abubakar Rimi campaign for 2003 held on July 14, 2001 at Sani Abacha Indoor Stadium, Kano.

The Senator who was supposed to be in the forefront of the launching was left behind without performing a significant role.

At the launching of the campaign which was attended by prominent personalities in politics, business and other professions, people like Kura Muhammad were there only for show off not to enhance the success of his new boss in politics, Alhaji Muhammadu Abubakar Rimi.

I said this because of the protest made by the large crowd during the launching and also rejected the donation of N100,000 made by the Senator, shouting and saying in Hausa *Ba ma so* meaning "we don't want", *karya ne, ya yi kadan* meaning "false, the donation is very meagre".

Senator Kura Muhammad in 1999 during the National Assembly election went round his Central Senatorial district with Alhaji Abubakar Rimi with a view to save him from losing the seat because he knows that without Rimi he would not be a winner, so he decided to decamp to Rimi's faction to win the election.

Since he was elected as a distinguished Senator, he has not tabled a significant motion for the benefit of the common man in his constituency.

In the Third Republic, Kura Muhammad was asked to present a person from Kura town to be appointed as one of the state executive council members but instead fixed another man from one of the five Kano metropolitan local government councils who was appointed commissioner.

This attitude was responsible for Kura's loss during the 1998 election when he contested for the Senate under the defunct UNCP. The election was won by 'The Iron Lady', Hajija Naja'atu Muhammad.

Unfortunately when politicians are campaigning for the political survival of our great nation, the present administration is also campaigning for the eradication of human right abuses, the Senator recently used his position to replace an illustrious son of Kura town as co-ordinator of poverty alleviation programme in the federal ministry of employment and productivity with another man who is not an indigene of Kura town.

I want to call the attention of Senator Kura Muhammad to note that the person he displaced was a grandson of the late chief Imam of Kura, Alhaji Malam Hallai.

I want to also use this opportunity to call on the entire people of Kura town to unite and wake up to fight for their right.

**Mansur Sani Malam Kura,**  
 Takalma Quarters, Kura,  
 Kura LG, Kano State.

### Hero worship the Kogi State style

another four years through the use of some political gimmickry and by lavishing money on some political apologists to see his dream come true. Public office is not an avenue to amass wealth, so political office holders should not be encouraged to do so.

On the whole, Nigerians should beware of the type of people we elect as our representatives. We shouldn't allow our fantasies and illusions to derail us from realities on ground. Let us all resolve to take all possible and practical steps to make sure we do not, through our folly, go over the edge.

**Usman D. Suleiman**  
 Dept. of Public Admin,  
 University of Abuja.

Primary Education Board. It is indeed a serious embarrassment, disappointment and the deteriorating condition of our people.

We hereby plead with the governor to come to our aid as a matter of urgency.

**Shuaibu Ahmad Jagindi,**  
 Federal Urban Mass Transit Agency,  
 No. 10, Lusaka Street,  
 Wuse zone 6, Abuja.

### Equip NDLEA

I want to air my views on NDLEA, an established government force charged with responsibility of fighting the traffic in dangerous drugs in our country.

When the body was established a few years ago, I was one of those Nigerian who welcomed the brilliant idea which I think, has proved itself useful to the nation and I have personally seen this beyond the shadow of doubt. It was during one of my usual trips from Kano to Kaduna on June 12, 2001, men of the NDLEA at Zaria outpost stopped us with the aim of fishing out those of us who might have been in possession of dangerous drugs. To my utter dismay, after travelling a distance, we were stopped for a second time by the same NDLEA men, followed by another search inside our bus. This time they even asked all of us to come down with our luggage. After a thorough check, dangerous drugs and narcotics were incredibly found in torchlight and even Mentholatum casing!

My observation that fateful day indicated inadequate equipment for the NDLEA men on the highway.

Now, I wouldn't imagine finding myself on a highway trying to grab illegal drug traffickers but with inadequate equipment. I may be a patriot, but then how can I risk my life when the government doesn't remember to equip me sufficiently? As far as I know, NDLEA is an important authority that has been immensely helping to save our youths from mental and moral collapse through the dangerous drugs.

**Yahya Maishera Bida,**  
 No. 3, Ibrahim Dasuki Road,  
 Sokoto.

### Reorganise NEPA

With the constant shortage of power supply to Nigerians, it has been a harrowing experience. Upon all the efforts put by the government of Nigeria to make NEPA provide adequate power supply, some people with dubious characters amongst us have been sabotaging the authority.

Instead of NEPA to find a lasting solution to this pressing problem, it rather compounds them. Money realised from respective institutions, groups and individuals is not being

utilised judiciously. Evidence of fraud, inefficiency and lack of patriotism on the side of the NEPA officials-cum-staffers abounds.

I advise the authorities concerned, particularly the Federal Government of Nigeria, to take the appropriate measures in reorganising the institution and deal with those found wanting among NEPA officials.

**Abdullahi Sabo Tilde,**  
**Ungwar Kasa,**  
**Tilden Fulani,**  
**Toro LGA,**  
**Bauchi State.**

### Equip NDLEA

I want to air my views on NDLEA, an established government force charged with responsibility of fighting the traffic in dangerous drugs in our country.

When the body was established a few years ago, I was one of those Nigerian who welcomed the brilliant idea which I think, has proved itself useful to the nation and I have personally seen this beyond the shadow of doubt. It was during one of my usual trips from Kano to Kaduna on June 12, 2001, men of the NDLEA at Zaria outpost stopped us with the aim of fishing out those of us who might have been in possession of dangerous drugs. To my utter dismay, after travelling a distance, we were stopped for a second time by the same NDLEA men, followed by another search inside our bus. This time they even asked all of us to come down with our luggage. After a thorough check, dangerous drugs and narcotics were incredibly found in torchlight and even Mentholatum casing!

My observation that fateful day indicated inadequate equipment for the NDLEA men on the highway.

Now, I wouldn't imagine finding myself on a highway trying to grab illegal drug traffickers but with inadequate equipment. I may be a patriot, but then how can I risk my life when the government doesn't remember to equip me sufficiently? As far as I know, NDLEA is an important authority that has been immensely helping to save our youths from mental and moral collapse through the dangerous drugs.

**Yahya Maishera Bida,**  
 No. 3, Ibrahim Dasuki Road,  
 Sokoto.



# NEPA, O-YO- YO!

**H**ere's to gradual winning success. It is said, sung and danced to in all Nigerian languages.

Our toddlers are familiar with it.

The children are saying it.

All children have at one time or the other said it.

All adult Nigerians have during their growing up process also said it. It is a soul-deep thing.

We all have said it, one time or the other.

*Mama O-yo-yo!* It is an expression of warm welcome straight from the heart.

And what is heartwarming now, is that it is catching up with NEPA, if you see what we mean.

As power supply continues to improve nationwide, we have no doubt that more of this will come our way. Thanks to the Obasanjo administration which has demonstrated such unparalleled commitment to resuscitating the power system and turning around the fortunes of NEPA. And to the good Nigerian people for their patriotic support and prayer.

*Today, things are sure getting better.*

We are blowing our own trumpet? No, not at all.

We are merely joining you, our most valued customers, to blow it, sing it and dance along to it with you!

The great news today is that NEPA is improving its service delivery.

Everybody is saying it, nationwide.

This acknowledgment calls for celebration.

So whether it is O-yo-yo, A-yo-yo, or U-yo-yo, it is very well said to give welcome to a celebration of success through great strength and sheer determination.

We understand. We appreciate.

Our service has no language barrier.

We belong to ALL. That's why we are rejoicing with all our customers, today. We are sure of getting there.

You never know, OYOYOISM may well be a new concept or doctrine that will bind us together! Just the same way our electricity network binds the nation.

Well, what can we say, when you give us something to cheer about (by blowing our trumpet), there is a unity of purpose. Above all, you give us hope and you inspire in us a renewed vigour to strive for the best.

We remain dutifully on course for the best. The best of times. As we come close to home, we remain hopeful that the shouts of O-yo-yo, A-yo-yo, U-yo-yo will continue to rent the air!

*Wherever. And whenever.*

*NEPA na we yon!*



**NEPA**



....providing power for national growth.

TRUST INTERNATIONAL

Foreign & Diplomatic

The battle of ideas on the future of Africa, especially on its political and economic development, has always raged among scholars since the continent emerged from colonialism. With the retreat of leftist ideologues following the mismanagement of the Soviet experiment, robust debates on African development seemed to have also been eclipsed.

The recent visit to Nigeria by two American scholars, Professor Richard Sklar and Professor C. R. D. Halisi, has however reopened the debate. In a robust exchange with Nigerian journalists, recently, the passion that used to characterise such debates in the past, came to the fore.

Professor Sklar who taught at the University of Ibadan between 1963 and 1965 fired the first salvo with what he called *mixed government*. Mixed government, to him, is an idea of dual authority.

"Dual authority is sovereign authority on the one hand and then what I call the second dimension of authority. ... There are two different spheres but there is no challenge to the sovereign dimension by the second dimension but the second dimension is there, and that is the throne (traditional authority)," contended Sklar.

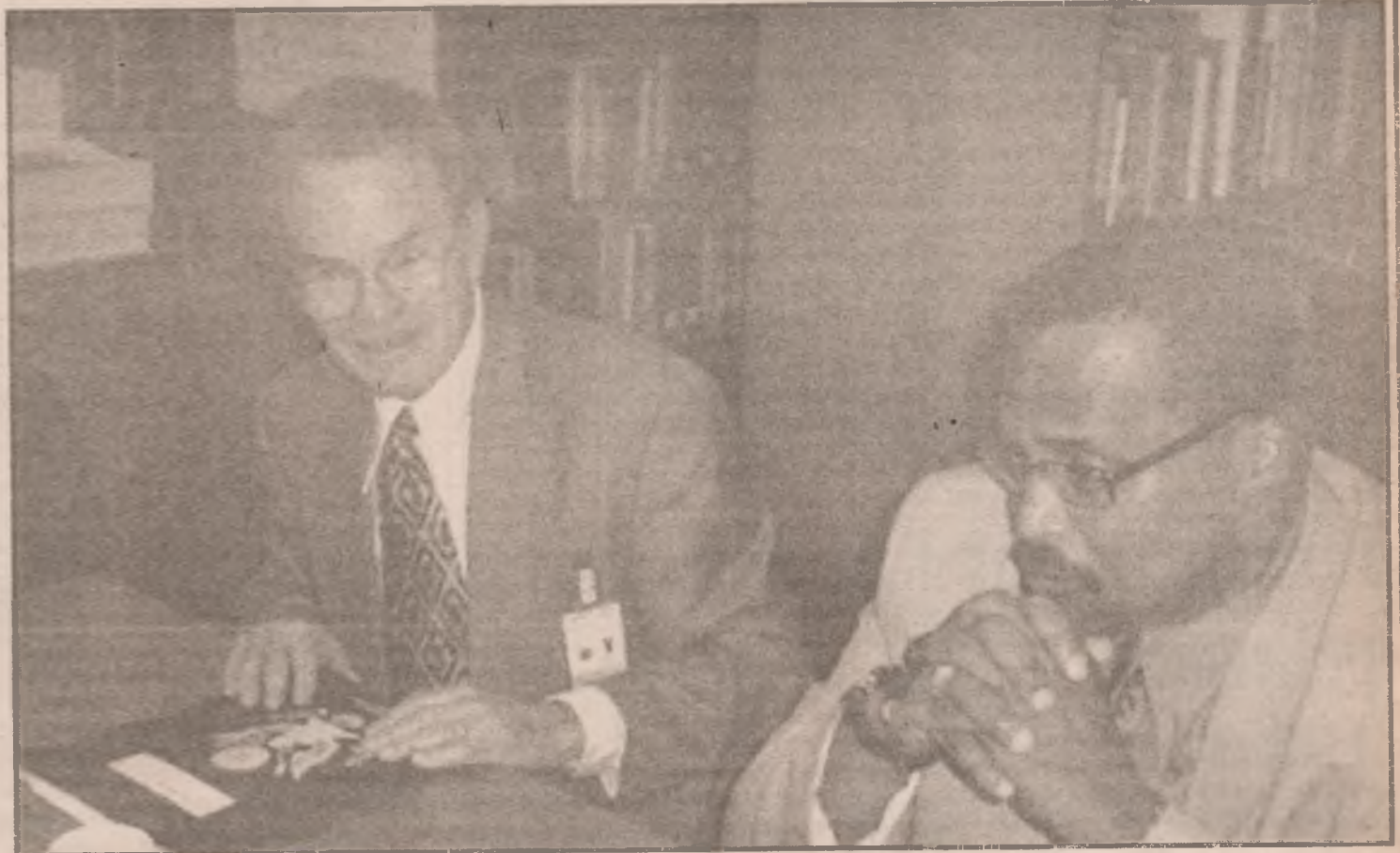
According to Sklar, the thrones do not have power but they however have authority, influence and legitimacy. Nigeria, he analysed, has hundreds of traditional dimensions and each has its own sphere of influence. Neither should be adversarial to the other.

I consider these two dimensions to be complementary rather than adversarial. ... This is a very abstract idea," he submitted while maintaining that political instability would be nipped in the bud if Nigeria adopts this "new" model.

However, participants questioned Sklar's

## What form of democracy for Africa?

The increasing democratic experiments on the continent notwithstanding, African countries continue to grapple with political instability. Two professors of Political Science, Richard Sklar and C.R.D Halisi recently jaw-jawed with Nigerian journalists in Abuja on the way forward for Africa. Foreign Desk Editor, Kevin Ebele Adinnu, reports.



Professors Richard Sklar (l) and C. R. D. Halisi at the forum

**The complementarity of traditional institutions has always been there. During the colonial period, these traditional institutions served the purposes of colonialism. After, these institutions were co-opted into the modern system.**

"abstract idea" of mixed government. Kevin Ebele Adinnu of *Daily Trust* observed that there was nothing new about the idea within the context of Nigeria in particular and Africa in general.

"The views you have just expressed may sound abstract to you but here in Africa, it is not," he argues. "The complementarity of



Sklar

into the modern system."

Matthew Oguiche of *The Champion* wanted to know when Nigeria should try the model. According to him: "In the face of the failures of several models that we have tried,

it is therefore important for long term political stability that alternatives should be tried at some stage but at what point would you think that this thing you are talking about could be very useful for our kind of situation?"

Sklar maintained that his idea was not a substitute for democracy. "Traditional authority is a resource for the society during a period of great turbulence in both politics and society," he countered.

Professor C. R. D. Halisi brought the South African experience to bear on the discussion.

He explained that the Apartheid government also reinforced ethnicity to serve their purposes but it did not take central stage during the struggle against Apartheid. As he puts it: "Africans had no particular problems with speaking their languages and their identity. At the political level, however, a commitment to ethnicity was tantamount to supporting the Apartheid regime."

He said that a constitutional role has been created for some traditional authorities in South Africa. "The South African Constitution," he said, "gives certain regions the right to recognise and incorporate traditional authority in their constitutions at the provincial level." He recommended this option to Nigeria.

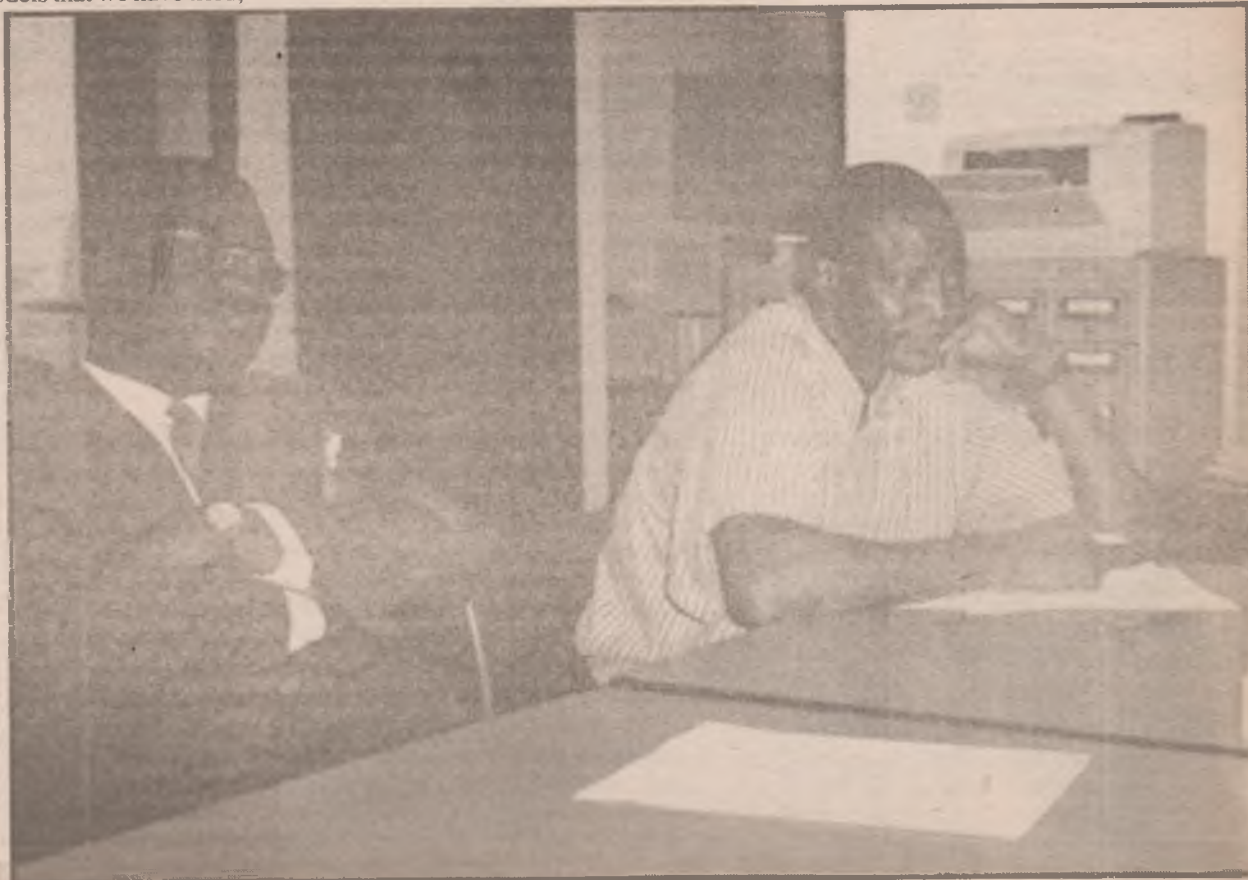
However, Gilbert Dacosta of *Associated Press*, AP, hinged political instability on the

continent on the pervasive poverty on the continent. According to him: "There is so much poverty and given the shift to democracy, one would have expected the West to come with substantial economic support. This hasn't happened. At the root of the several crises in Africa today is poverty." He canvassed for a Marshall Plan from the West for Africa.

Prof. Sklar came to the defence of the West saying that they were not averse to economic support to Africa. "Debt relief, for instance, is no longer an intellectual question. Everybody believes in it but the issue is the conditions for debt relief.

"There are those who believe that debt relief should be predicated on the use of the relief for health and education.

"Others believe it should be linked to democracy and transparency."



Gilbert Dacosta of Associated Press, AP, (l) and the correspondent of Aso FM listening.

# TRUST INTERNATIONAL

AFRICA &amp; THE MIDDLE EAST



Senate President, Senator Anyim Pius Anyim (left) chatting with the British High Commissioner in Nigeria, Mr. Phillip Thomas, during the International Conference on Sustainable Debt Strategy in Abuja... recently. Pix: Felix Onigbinde.

## Nigeria assesses implementation of Earth Summit decisions

As Nigeria prepares its position paper for next year's World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), otherwise called Rio plus 10, an online assessment on how the nation fared in implementing the U.N decisions on the last Earth Summit has been worked out.

The WSSD is scheduled to hold in November 2002 in Johannesburg, South Africa.

According to the working document for the 36-member Nigeria Preparatory Committee on Rio plus 10, inaugurated on August 16, by the Minister of Environment, Alhaji Mohammed Sa'id, the general guideline of assessment since the last 10 years will include levels of implementation of relevant U.NI conventions, and principles of Rio, including

forestry.

The document made available to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Abuja at the weekend, also stipulated an assessment of major groups and stakeholders, including Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Community Based Organisation (CBOs), farmers and trade unions, academia, business and industry.

It also requires assessment of accomplishment till date, and lessons learned, major problems and constraints, projections for the future, and make recommendations on the way forward.

The recommendations are expected to include "specific time-bound measures to be undertaken, institutional and financial requirements, capacity building and identified sources of support."

Four main components of the outline for the national assessment include social and economic dimensions, conservation and management of natural resources, toxic chemicals and waste management, as well as implementation strategies.

The social and economic component of the assessment exercise had been shared between four federal ministries and the NGOs.

NGOs are to assess Nigeria's performance on poverty, including the provision of sustainable livelihoods, implementation of relevant policies and strategies, special programmes on vulnerable groups, and poverty and environment linkages.



Alhaji Sule Lamido, Foreign Affairs Minister.

The Federal Ministry of Works and Housing is to present a report on human settlement, including issues on provision of shelter, human settlement and land-use planning.

Experts work on Nigeria's position paper for Rio plus (2) infrastructure for human settlement, human settlement in disaster prone areas, and urban renewal.

The health ministry report is expected to focus on primary health care, community diseases, and impact of environmental pollution on health.

While the commerce ministry would look at international trade and tariffs, trade subsidies, trade and globalisation, as well as ecolabelling and ISO1400 series, its environment counterpart is expected to examine issues relating to the atmosphere.

It is to assess atmospheric emissions, including those from energy, transport and industrial sectors. It is also to note the impact of climate change, the ozone layer depletion and air quality management. (NAN).

## Israeli troops kill Palestinian policeman

Israeli troops killed a Palestinian policeman as they thrust into Palestinian-ruled areas in Gaza early on Sunday in retaliation for attacks by militants in which three Israeli soldiers and two Israeli motorists died.

Hospital officials said Palestinian security official, Allah Abu Bakra was killed during one of the clashes that broke out following Israeli incursions from the east, west and south of Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip.

Palestinian security officials said Israeli tanks and bulldozers destroyed three buildings, including the headquarters, of Palestinian national security in Rafah.

They said Israeli forces were in control of at least six Palestinian positions east and south of Rafah, three

near the border crossing with Egypt.

Israeli tanks fired shells and exchanged heavy-machinegun fire with Palestinians. Loudspeakers from mosques in central Rafah called on residents to take to the streets to defend their homes.

Amin Abu Hatab, 26, and Hisham Abu Jamous, 24, who raided the Israeli military base of Marganit with guns and grenades, killing three soldiers and wounding seven before they were shot dead, came from Rafah City.

The latest incursion came just a day after the Israeli military drove into the divided West bank city of Hebron on Friday to destroy two buildings it said were used by gunmen as bases for shoot at settlers. A Jewish boy had been wounded.

Israel has vowed to retaliate for attacks on its soldiers and citizens. Nearly 700 people, including more than 530 Palestinians and

more than 150 Israelis, have been killed since a Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule broke out last September after peace talks reached an impasse.

## ... attacks Palestinian targets

Israel said its warplanes attacked Palestinian posts in the West Bank and Gaza Strip early on Sunday in retaliation for the deaths of three Israeli soldiers and two civilians the previous day.

A Palestinian security official called the air strikes "a very grave aggression" that would lead to a very dangerous situation in the area.

Palestinian officials said the F-16 jets swooped low over Gaza City and fired two missiles at police headquarters in the city, wounding three policemen and causing heavy damage.

An Israeli military

statement said planes had successfully hit the main headquarters of the civilian police in Gaza City, military intelligence and police headquarters in Deir al-Balah, south of Gaza.

In the West Bank the Army said its jets struck at the Palestinian police headquarters at Salfit village, south of the Palestinian-ruled city of Nablus.

The statement said the strikes were in retaliation for two attacks on Saturday, one in Gaza and the other in the West Bank.

In Gaza, two Palestinians gunmen infiltrated an army base, killed an officer and two soldiers and wounding seven. The attackers were killed in a hail of gunfire and grenade blasts.

Later, Palestinians snipers attacked an Israeli car in the West Bank a Jewish settler couple and wounding three, including the couple's two infant children on the Jerusalem-Modiin Road near the West Bank city of Ramallah.

The Israeli Defence Force said it would "do everything in its power to ensure the safety of Israeli civilians and its forces."

Following the Palestinian attacks on Saturday, Israeli tanks and bulldozers thrust into Palestinian-ruled Gaza early on Sunday. They pulled back again as dawn approached.

## Sudanese president meets Museveni

President Omer Hassan El-Bashir of Sudan and his Uganda counterpart, Mr. Yoweri Museveni, have met in Kampala, Uganda and reaffirmed the importance of accelerating the normalisation



President El-Bashir of Sudan.

of relations between their two countries.

According to a press release from Sudanese embassy, they also agreed to extend more assistance to each other's Charge d' Affaires to facilitate the goal of restoration of normal relations. In particular, the two leaders agreed to do more to bolster commercial and economic relations between their two countries.

Meanwhile, President el-Bashir has directed the civil aviation authorities in Sudan and the Sudanese airlines to work at the resumption of commercial flights between the two countries.

He has also in compliance with the peace agreement signed by both countries ordered the stoppage of all kinds of support to the rebel Lord's Resistance Army (RA)

and pointed out during an interview with journalists in Kampala that some members of the LRA have recently given themselves up to both the Sudanese and an Ugandan authorities while several others had fled to the government-controlled areas and moved southwards rather than northwards.

On the issue of children kidnapped by the LRA, president El-Bashir said that Sudan has with the assistance of the UNICEF and the Carter Centre succeeded in transporting 300 of them to Uganda.

He expressed the hope that Uganda would reciprocate those gestures by withdrawing support to the Sudanese rebel movement and review the permit given the rebel organisations to operate in Uganda.

# Congratulations

## Walin Ribadu



*Alhaji Bello Muhammad Tukur, Walin Ribadu  
The Deputy Governor of Adamawa State*

**The Board of Directors, Management and Staff of  
BANK OF THE NORTH LIMITED  
heartily congratulate and rejoice with  
His Excellency,**

**Alhaji Bello Muhammad Tukur,  
(The Deputy Governor of Adamawa State)**

**on his turbaning as WALIN RIBADU  
by His Highness, Ardo Ribadu, Alhaji Aliyu Mahmud Ribadu.  
May Allah grant you divine guidance, wisdom and understanding  
in your service to your community and the nation.**



**BANK OF THE NORTH LIMITED**

Head Office: Ahmadu Bello House, 2 Zaria Road, Kano.  
Tel: 064-640390-9, Fax: 064-667033, Telex: 77233 NG.

E-mail: [bnl@bankofthenorth.com](mailto:bnl@bankofthenorth.com) Website: [www.bankofthenorth.com](http://www.bankofthenorth.com)

*We EARN your Confidence*



## BANK OF THE NORTH LIMITED

We **EARN** your Confidence

### Appreciation

**O**n behalf of the Board of Directors, Management and staff of Bank of the North Ltd., I wish to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to all those who in one way or the other contributed to the success of our 41st Annual General Meeting recently held in Maiduguri, also the opening of our new Maiduguri Regional Office/Bama Road Branch office complex, Monday Market Branch all in Maiduguri as well as the opening of other new Branch offices at Potiskum and Billiri, in Yobe and Gombe States respectively.

I would like to thank sincerely, His Excellency, the Governor of Borno State, Alhaji Mala Kachallah who hosted us during the Annual General Meeting, Their Excellencies; the Governor of Yobe State, Alhaji Bukar Abba Ibrahim, the Governor of Gombe State, Alhaji Abubakar Habu Hashidu; the Governor of Adamawa State, Mr. Boni Haruna; the Governor of Taraba State, Reverend Jolly Nyame, Their Royal Highnesses, the Shehu of Borno, Alhaji (Dr) Mustapha Umar El-Kanemi CFR, the Emir of Fika, Alhaji (Dr) Abali Ibn Muhammad Idris, the Emir of Damaturu, Alhaji Bukar Ibn Ali El-Kanemi, Emir of Dikwa, Alhaji Kyari Umar El-Kanemi, Emir of Gombe, Alhaji Usman Shehu Abubakar, other traditional rulers from Gombe State; Lamido of Adamawa, Alhaji (Dr) Aliyu Mustapha, Sarkin Yamma of Adamawa, Rtd. Admiral Murtala Nyako, esteemed customers, top government functionaries and other distinguished invitees who personally graced the occasions.

I would also like to convey the special appreciation of the Bank to all those who honoured our invitations but space would not permit me to name them, who nonetheless, have in various ways contributed to the overall success of the occasions.

Thank you all and God bless.

Shettima Mohammed Bulama  
Managing Director / Chief Executive

# BUSINESS DAY

## FG moves to strengthen free zones scheme

In line with the socio-economic importance of the Free Zones Schemes in industrial development and employment generation, the Ministry of Commerce has identified the need to enlighten the 36 states of the federation including the FCT on basic factors in relation to the Free Zone Scheme, licensing requirements and the management styles.

This is to enable state governments and private developers participate and use

By Victor Akobundu

them as an industrialisation strategy as well as an economic venture.

In a seminar organised by the Nigeria Export Processing Zones Authority (NEPZA) at the Sheraton Hotels and Towers recently in Abuja, the Minister of Commerce, Engr. Mustapha Bello who was represented by the Director of Commodities and Export in the Ministry, Alhaji

Mohammed Abass, said the ministry has been inundated with requests from states and local governments for the establishment of Export Processing/Free Trade/Border and International Border Markets.

The minister however, stated that establishment of market be it national or international is the statutory responsibility of local governments in which the federal and state governments could encourage as a veritable tool for commerce and trade.

The minister further disclosed that the ministry has reengineered and refocused the Free Zones Schemes to make it more relevant for socio-economic and industrial needs in order to reap the gains of globalisation.

"We need to energise the real sector of the economy and produce products that meet international specification," he added.

He moreover observed

that unemployment is the bane of the scheme therefore Free Zones can be developed by the private and public or communities of both entity as government has no monopoly power in the development, management and operations of Free Zones.

Meanwhile, the minimum cost approach to industrialisation and industrial disposal strategy which FZS offers for states to adopt and least cost are the major issues addressed at the end of the seminar.

Earlier in her address the Managing Director of NEPZA, Mrs. Aisha Bakare said NEPZA has come up with a new concept which possess the potential to redefine Nigeria's participation in the export of fruits, flowers and other horticultural products.

This, she explained will earn Nigeria 10% of the \$3.6 billion US dollars, which represents Brazil's foreign trade in horticulture alone.

The Chartered Bank Plc. is getting set to introduce off-site banking operations this October.

According to its Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Moses O. Adedoyin, the recent deployment of its internationally tested and acclaimed phoenix banking software was in furtherance of the bank's aim in this regards.

Adedoyin who was speaking on the occasion of the bank's "facts behind the figures" at the Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE), Lagos maintained that Chartered Bank is well positioned to create a new wave of off-site banking services through full exploitation of the internet, e-commerce and telephone banking.

The managing director who said these efforts area continuation of its automation drive which comes at a time the bank has concluded plans to increase its paid-up capital.

He said: "increased capital base will enable the bank acquire requisite infrastructure and achieve financial stability to meet the rapidly expanding founding requirements of our customers."

He said the commencement of universal banking in the country as well as recent developments in the global and domestic environments mandates that Chartered Bank should enhance its capacity to effectively deliver quality

## Chartered Bank commences off-site banking soon

From Bright Ewulu, in Lagos

services.

The Director-General of the exchange, Dr. Ndi Okereke-Onyinka thanked Chartered Bank management for their commitment and achievement over the years.

She urged them as one of the most capitalised companies listed on the exchange that only the best is expected to them.



Adamu Ciroma, Finance Minister

The Chartered Bank boss had earlier disclosed plans by the bank to link all their branches nationwide with the VSAT communication technology before the end of the year.

The bank's operating profit before tax grew by 163.1 percent to N837.3 million from N318.2 million reported for year ended 31st March 2000.

## Roro decries low turn-out at ports

From Tokumbo Oloke, in Lagos

Despite its recent introduction of weekend operation aimed at decongesting the ports, the Roll-On-Roll-Off (RORO) port has lamented the turnout of their customers for the Saturday and Sunday operations.

The Traffic Manager of the Port, Alhaji Bala Ahmed in a chat with the *Business Day* hinted that the port has started the weekend services about seven weeks ago, but noted that the turnout of the customers are nothing to write home about.

He therefore appealed to both the clearing agents and importers and their workers to come regularly and used this period to clear their cargoes from the port.

To the workers, Ahmed said the weekend operation was compulsory for everybody except the berthing operators adding that even these berthing operators maybe asked to come when the pressure is high in the port.

It would be recalled however that the Nigeria Customs Service has started the weekend service for the past three months.

The essence of the service is to meet the rising pressure emanating from customers who are claiming that their goods are delayed in the port, hence they were made to pay huge demurrage on them.



Mustapha Bello, Commerce Minister

## ... to develop solid minerals potentials

In an effort to kick-start the solid minerals sector, the Minister of Solid Minerals Development, Mr. Kanu Agabi, announced in Abuja, the setting up of a committee for the accelerated and sustainable development of the country's solid minerals development potentials.

Briefing newsmen on the relevance of the committee which has already been inaugurated by President Obasanjo, Agabi lamented what he described as the long period of neglect suffered by the solid minerals sector during previous governments.

Agabi said that government was determined to develop the solid minerals sector and that the committee would examine the potentials of the sector in accelerating the attainment of government's objective of diversifying the economy.

He also said that the committee would look at the factors that militated against the development of the sector, especially policies, funding, technology and manpower.

The minister said that it would also study the effects of small and medium-scale mining activities and recommend measures that would make them more economically successful and acceptable to all.

He said that the committee would consider the development of large-scale mining activities and also examine the desirability of establishing joint venture partnerships with the Nigerian Mining Corporation and the Coal Corporation.

Agabi said that it would be the responsibility of the committee to develop a reliable means of collecting all committees to develop a reliable

means of collecting all revenues accruing to government, such as royalties, taxes and rents.

He said that existing structures of the parastatals in the solid minerals sector would also be examined and recommendations made towards improving their efficiency.

The committee is made up of 17 members with Governor Ahmed Makarfi of Kaduna State as chairman while a Director in the Ministry of Solid Minerals Development, Alhaji Shehu Danyaya, would serve as secretary.

## CIBN swears-in 356 members

From Adelanwa Bamgboye

The Associate Cadre of the Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria (CIBN) will be swelled by the induction of 356 newly qualified associates and 20 graduate members at a ceremony tagged: ASCIB Graduates Induction/prize Award Day.

In preparing the minds of the newly associates to the tenets of the banking profession, a lecture with the theme: Banking Dynamics in Nigeria: "Matters Arising for the Professionals" will be delivered by Mr. Nnamdi Anammah, ACIB, President/CEO Guardian Express Bank Plc.

The ceremony, Business Day gathered is expected to attract distinguished members of the banking community, corporate organisations, fellows, associates and well wishers who will witness to presentation of various prizes to 17 graduants who have distinguished themselves in the qualifying examination.



Joseph Sanusi, CBN Governor

## Hard times await community banks -Bank chief

The Chairman of Jimeta Community Bank in Adamawa State, Alhaji Ibrahim Barnoma has predicted that the community banking industry in Nigeria will face hard times as the nation's economic difficulties persist.

Represented by former State Commissioner of Finance, Alhaji Shuaibu Girei, at the bank's annual general meeting in Yola, the chairman said that for the sector, "the year 2001 is expected to be another difficult one as the political

From Abullahi Tasiu Abubakar, in Yola

and economic difficulties persist."

Alhaji Barnoma maintained that the operating environment of the past two years was harsh and its impact on the performance of the financial sector was adverse.

However, he said, despite this hostile climate, Jimeta Community Bank had sustained and improved on its financial performance in the preceding year.

He said the gross earning

of the bank increased to over N6.4 million in the year 2000 over and above the N3.5 million in 1999, representing an increase of 185 percent.

The net profit jumped to over N3.5 million in the year 2000 from the N709,178 recorded in 1999, representing an increase of 494 percent, he said.

The assets and liabilities of the bank also increased from about N26 million in 1999 to a little over N35 million in the year 2000, he added.

## DPR's surveillance train visits Kaduna -Seals 12 petrol stations

From Rakiya A. Muhammad, in Lagos

The Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) has sealed 12 petrol stations in Kaduna, in its recent surveillance activities across the nation.

According to the DPR in a report of its activities during the second week in August, the stations were closed for profiteering and products diversion.

Also in Warri/Benin/Ore Operational area, nine dispensing pumps in four stations were sealed for under-delivery.

Surveillance activities were also carried out in Lagos, Ogun, Port Harcourt, Enugu and Makurdi, however no station was sealed in these places.

On upstream operations during the week, DPR disclosed that total crude oil production and export were 15,172,135 and 12,629,085 net barrels respectively.

Condensable production and export were 611,529 and 502,172 net barrels respectively.

Also, production of propane, butane and pentane from Oso NGL project was 224,943, 338,963 and 192,403 net barrels respectively. Nigeria Liquefied Natural Gas production was 263,218 net barrels during the week.

A review of the safety and environment situation for the period under review indicated that eight oil spillage incident were recorded involving the spill of over 222 barrels of crude oil.

Also one fire accident occurred in which two persons were seriously injured.

# BUSINESS DAY

## Nigerian Stock Dealings (NSE)

Price List as at 24/08/2001

COMPANY	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE	DEALS	VOLUME	VALUE
7UP	5.90	5.90	0.00	9	8,299	48,604.10
ABATEX	1.00	1.00	0.00	1	400	400.00
ACCESSBANK	1.18	1.23	0.05	10	113,220	13,579.60
ADSWITCH	1.27	1.33	0.06	1	51,000	67,830.00
AFPRINT	0.96	1.00	0.04	11	73,308	71,923.68
AFRIBANK	8.78	8.78	0.00	12	86,281	757,547.18
AFRPAINTS	0.88	0.74	0.03	4	28,313	20,951.62
AGIP	30.65	31.40	0.75	45	161,571	5,017,861.69
AGLEVENT	1.18	1.18	0.00	1	2,292	2,704.56
AIICO	2.74	2.74	0.00	11	46,450	127,273.00
ALUMACO	0.89	0.89	0.00	1	2,000	780.00
AP	19.34	19.34	0.00	25	72,220	1,396,734.80
ASHAKACEM	18.00	18.00	0.00	14	10,888	196,390.50
BATA	0.26	0.26	0.00	8	17,870	4,636.20
BCC	4.79	4.79	0.00	8	100,000	479,000.00
BERGER	2.50	2.62	0.12	4	10,116	25,637.37
BLACKWOOD	0.74	0.77	0.03	2	27,51	21,183.47
C&ILEASING	1.30	1.30	0.00	4	24,590	31,967.00
CADBURY	22.40	23.50	1.10	67	114,840	2,600,058.50
CAP	2.19	2.19	0.00	3	5,474	11,988.06
CAPALBETO	8.00	8.00	0.00	1	11	88.00
CCNN	3.07	3.07	0.00	1	6,250	19,187.50
CFAO	2.50	2.50	0.00	12	169,097	422,530.10
CHARTERED	7.50	7.50	0.00	75	455,311	3,484,500.00
CHALLARAM	1.10	1.15	0.05	1	2,018	2,320.70
CMB	0.74	0.77	0.03	6	7,664	5,901.28
CORNERST	1.61	1.61	0.00	1	200	322.00
COSTAIN	1.03	1.03	0.00	6	20,800	21,424.00
DELTGLAS	4.90	5.14	0.24	8	37,966	186,433.24
DNMEYER	7.55	7.92	0.37	26	69,369	549,365.10
DUNLOP	3.35	3.34	0.01	29	288,255	940,148.61
EKOBANK	1.63	1.55	0.08	23	207,991	329,673.99
EKOCORP	3.41	3.41	0.00	4	4,625	15,771.25
EPICDYNAM	0.56	0.56	0.00	1	1,166	652.96
ETERNAOIL	1.4	1.40	0.01	4	11,500	16,100.00
EVANSMED	1.25	1.19	0.06	1	240,114	285,735.66
FIRSTALUM	2.03	2.02	0.01	2	15,000	30,350.00
FIRSTBANK	22.99	22.11	0.88	283	3,395,778	75,827,098.26
FLOURMILL	12.85	12.80	0.05	64	445,617	5,797,176.14
FSB	9.25	9.40	0.15	66	1,511,960	13,578,524.68
GOLDBREW	0.59	0.59	0.00	1	1,000	590.00
GUARANTY	5.70	5.70	0.00	69	3,707,132	21,130,652.40
GUINNESS	37.36	37.36	0.00	29	41,373	1,547,584.08
HALLBANK	4.28	4.49	0.21	8	85,099	373,768.01
IGL	5.00	4.76	0.24	31	177,363	867,873.20
IMB	1.36	1.30	0.06	28	160,856	211,433.80
IPWA	1.20	1.20	0.00	1	156	187.20
JBERGER	56.59	53.77	2.82	6	21,725	1,168,153.25
JOHNHOLT	1.78	1.72	0.06	9	6,263	10,815.56
JOSBREW	0.54	0.54	0.00	1	2,000	1,080.00
LASACO	1.25	1.25	0.00	6	44,000	55,005.00
LENNARDS	0.26	0.25	0.01	1	5,000	1,250.00
LEVBROS	23.79	23.98	0.19	79	238,582	5,696,428.42
LIONBANK	1.60	1.53	0.07	3	101,000	154,600.00
LONGMAN	5.40	5.40	0.00	1	5,000	2,700.00
MANNYBANK	1.88	1.94	0.06	19	531,800	966,005.70
MAY&BAKER	2.41	2.41	0.00	5	21,500	52,915.00
MOBIL	63.20	63.00	0.20	25	14,384	908,915.35
NAL	5.40	5.50	0.10	96	6,394,411	36,311,451.10
NB	27.30	28.00	0.70	51	130,165	3,598,198.90
NBC	21.00	22.00	1.00	66	444,899	9,349,684.06
NCR	2.41	2.49	0.08	1	5,000	12,450.00
NEM	0.82	0.78	0.04	1	5,000	3,900.00
NESTLE	63.50	65.50	2.00	30	32,723	2,116,158.00
NIG-GERMAN	2.60	2.60	0.00	2	2,500	6,280.00
NIGERCEM	0.54	0.54	0.00	1	1,500	810.00
NIGERINS	5.00	5.00	0.00	12	33,559	166,333.40
NIWICABLE	2.17	2.17	0.00	5	17,050	36,998.50
NNFM	10.50	10.00	0.50	1	10,000	100,000.00
NOLCHEM	30.00	30.00	0.00	27	10,621	311,533.43
OLUGLASS	2.10	2.10	0.00	2	1,200	2,520.00
OWENABANK	2.40	2.51	0.11	1	20,000	40,200.00
PRIZER	5.44	5.44	0.00	1	500	2,720.00
POLYPROD	0.50	0.50	0.00	2	7,141	3,570.50
PRESTIGE	3.04	3.19	0.15	3	13,859	44,210.21
PZ	12.77	12.90	0.13	48	99,504	1,286,867.14
ROYALEX	4.40	4.40	0.00	5	20,260	89,144.00
RTBRISCOE	1.49	1.56	0.07	1	68	106.08
SAVANNA	1.27	1.28	0.01	19	96,323	127,245.64
SCOA	2.54	2.61	0.07	5	4,544	11,674.76
SKBEECHAM	2.20	2.20	0.00	9	242,229	532,903.80
TEXACO	63.00	63.00	0.00	23	31,134	1,961,442.00
THOMASWY	0.66	0.65	0.01	1	1,011	657.15
TIB	2.59	2.59	0.00	1	100	259.00
TOTAL	67.10	67.10	0.00	12	12,195	818,284.50
TRADEBANK	1.04	1.04	0.00	1	211	219.44
TRIPPLEG	1.10	1.15	0.05	4	6,733	7,659.65
UAC-PROP	2.90	2.99	0.09	28	376,200	1,124,598.00
UACN	3.49	3.40	0.09	54	281,796	981,027.35
UBA	13.00	13.60	0.60	85	444,272	5,943,571.63
UBN	23.31	23.15	0.16	91	292,112	6,790,627.99
UNIC	1.65	1.57	0.08	6	31,904	52,089.28
UNIONDICON	17.18	17.00	0.18	6	24,800	421,855.00
UNIPETROL	42.76	44.80	2.04	34	103,194	4,594,124.84
UNTL	4.00	4.00	0.00	1	100	400.00
UPL	3.80	3.80	0.00	1	12,000	45,600.00
UTB	3.50	3.67	0.17	5	14,400	52,100.00
VITAFOAM	3.73	3.72	0.01	35	320,398	1,188,484.58
VONO	1.59	1.56	0.02	3	20,216	31,536.96
WAPCO	21.38	21.49	0.11	20	29,116	622,960.28
WAPIC	1.87	1.87	0.00	1	1,633	3,053.71
WEMABANK	2.80	2.85	0.05	34	350,205	960,756.60
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>2,011</b>	<b>22,953,853</b>	<b>224,448,560.25</b>

## Nigerian Stock Dealings (NSE)

Gainers/Losers as at 24/08/2001

Gainers			
COMPANY	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE
UNIPETROL	42.76	44.80	2.04
NESTLE	63.50	65.50	2.00
CADBURY	22.40	23.50	1.10
NBC	21.00	22.00	1.00
NB	27.30	28.00	0.70
UBA	13.00	13.60	0.60
DNMEYER	7.55	7.92	0.37
DELTGLASS	4.90	5.14	0.24
HALLBANK	4.28	4.49	0.21
UTB	3.50	3.67	0.17
PRESTIGE	3.04	3.19	0.15
BERGER	2.50	2.62	0.12
OWENABANK	2.40	2.51	0.11
UAC-PROP	2.90	2.99	0.09
NCR	2.41	2.49	0.08
SCOA	2.54	2.61	0.07
RTBRISCOE	1.49	1.56	0.07
ADSWITCH	1.27	1.33	0.06
SAVANNA	1.22	1.28	0.06
MANNYBANK	1.88	1.94	0.06
TRIPPLEG	1.10	1.15	0.05
ACCESSBANK	1.18	1.23	0.05
AFPRINT	0.96	1.00	0.04
BLACKWOOD	0.74	0.77	0.03
CMB	0.74	0.77	0.03

Losers			
COMPANY	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE
JBERGER	56.59	53.77	2.82
FIRSTBANK	22.99	22.11	0.88
NNFM	10.50	10.00	0.50
IGL	5.00	4.76	2.24
MOBIL	63.20	63.00	0.20
UNIONDICON	17.18	17.00	0.18
UBN	23.31	23.15	0.16
UACN	3.49	3.40	0.09
EKOBANK	1.63	1.55	0.08
UNIC	1.65	1.57	0.08
LIONBANK	1.60	1.53	0.07
EVANSMED	1.25	1.19	0.06
IMB	1.36	1.30	0.06
JOHNHOLT	1.78	1.72	0.06
FLOURMILL	12.85	12.80	0.05
NEM	0.82	0.78	0.04
AFRPAINTS	0.77	0.74	0.03
VONO	1.58	1.56	0.02
LENNARDS	0.26	0.25	0.01
ETERNAOIL	1.41	1.40	0.01
DUNLOP	3.35	3.34	0.01
VITAFOAM	3.73	3.72	0.01
FIRSTALUM	2.03	2.02	0.01

### Summary of Transactions

	OPENING	CLOSING	% AGE CHANGE
MKT. CAP.	612,753,949,511.34	617,848,900,569.89	0.83
INDEX	10,364.27	10,450.45	0.83
DEALS	2,011		
	VOLUME	VOLUME	No. OF COMPANIES
	22,953,853	224,448,560.25	102

# Privatisation UPDATE

## NITEL privatisation time-table out

As a result of the extension of the deadline for the submission of expressions of interest from June 11th, 2001 to 2nd July 2001, it became

necessary to review the timetable for the privatisation of NITEL.

In view of this, President Olusegun Obasanjo has approved the extension of

the deadline from September to November to ensure that appropriate and internally acceptable procedure is followed in the exercise.

Below is the new time-table:—

DATE	ACTIVITIES
Friday 24 August	Info Memo dispatched to potential investors.
Early September (5 Weeks)	Opening of data room to pre-qualified bidders to conduct due diligence. Access to data room will only be provided after pre-qualification of bidders.
5 Weeks	Transaction document will be available in the data room.
Early October	Submission of Technical and Financial proposals by potential investors.
Early October	Notification of preferred bidders.
Mid October	Negotiations with short-listed bidders (maximum of 3).
End of October	Signing of sales agreement and payment of deposit (short-listed bidders only).
End October	Financial bid by short-listed bidders.
Early November	NCP selection of core investor.
Early November	Final payment by core investor.

BPE has been engaged in consultations with the two industrial unions in NITEL.

The unions are; Senior Staff Association of Utilities, Statutory Corporations and Government Companies (SSAUSCGOC) and the National Union of Postal and Telecommunications Employees (NUPTE), as well as the NITEL Pensioners Association.

These discussions are expected to reach agreement on a number of issues.

The bureau commended the unions and the pensioners for the spirit in which the discussions have been held, and expressed the belief that the outcome will ultimately be beneficial to all the stakeholders concerned in the privatisation of the company to be presented to the National Assembly.

The draft Telecommunications Bill has been approved by the Federal Executive Council (FEC).

With this approval, the

## BPE dialogues with NITEL staff union

proposed bill will now be forwarded to the National Assembly for enactment into the statute books as soon as possible.

When passed, the bill will provide for an independent regulator, the Nigerian Communications Commission. It will also specify a division of responsibilities between the regulator (NCC) and the Ministry as the policy making body.

The bill will further facilitate the creation of a National Frequency Management Council that will be responsible for the bulk allocation of frequency in Nigeria.

Accordingly, it will provide for the creation of a Universal Access Service fund that will primarily secure funding from telecoms sector operators for

the purpose of encouraging telecoms infrastructure investments in areas that are relatively poorly served with communications links.



Ganiyu Adeghuji, NITEL MD

## US government assists BPE

The United States government through its Agency for International Development (USAID) has continued to express confidence in Nigeria's Privatisation Programme.

To this end, the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) has held series of meetings with the representatives of USAID with a view to finalising a proposed grant of approximately US \$7.7 million.

The grant will involve the institution for a term of privatisation and other specialists to assist the BPE in efficiently implementing the privatisation programme.

Areas to be covered by the grant include:

Capacity building through the addition of 7 'core-team' professionals and public awareness and education through great support to the BPE public affairs department.

Other areas include progress monitoring and reporting of the privatisation programme and reviewing and revising investment and valuation packages.

The grant is also signed to track the progress of phases 2 and 3 transactions and addressing key policy issues surrounding the programme, including provision of advisors to advise on labour issues, pension reform and the development of the anti-trust legislation.



President George Bush of USA

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**THE BETTER CONNECTION**

SUPPLEMENT

KOGI STATE AT TEN

-Hope Restored

INTRODUCTION:

Kogi State is one of the eight states created by the regime of General Ibrahim Babangida (rtd) on 27<sup>th</sup> August 1991 to assuage the yearning and aspiration of the people of the old Kabba province who were divided during the creation of states in 1976.

The old Kabba province, which has half its part divided among the Kwara and Benue State with the Eastern senatorial in the Benue State while the present central and western senatorial in Kwara State.

The State which has Lokoja as its capital on creation exactly ten years ago was faced with dearth of infrastructural development as the state capital was merely playing the role of a local government Headquarters. Now saddled with status for both state capital and local government council adequately.

The First Chief Executive of Kogi State on creation was Brig-General Dalandi Zakari (rtd) who laid the foundation for the present development of the state. He was there between August 1991 and Jan. 1992. He handed the affairs of the state to civilian administration headed by Prince Abubakar Audu who was there for 22 months only before his administration was truncated by the military intervention.

Col. Paul Omeruo took over from Prince Abubakar Audu on the 19<sup>th</sup> of December 1993 and was there up till July 1996 when another military officer was posted to take over from him. Col. Bzigu Lassa Afakirya assumed office in July 1996 as the military administrator of Kogi State where he contributed his quota to the development of the state until the death of the late Head of State General Sani Abacha when Col. Afakirya was redeployed from Kogi State and Col. Augustine Aniebo took over as the 5<sup>th</sup> Chief Executive of Kogi state and ran the affairs of the state until 1998 when the present dispensation came on board to rekindle the almost lost glory of the state through rebuilding of the delayed infrastructure in dare need of attention.

Prince Abubakar Audu the incumbent governor of Kogi State is anonymous with rapid development of Kogi State which he introduced during his first tenure as the Chief Executive.

The state presently has 21 local government areas. They are Ankpa, Adavi, Ajaokuta, Bassa, Dekina, Ibaji, Idah, Igala-Mela/Odulu, Ijumu, Kabba-Bunu, Kogi, Koton-Karfe, Mopa-Muro, Ofu, Ogori/Magongo, Okehi, Okene, Olamasoro, Omola, Yagba West and Yagba East.

Achievement

Electrifying the Grass roots

Rural electrification is a priority programme under the administration of Governor Audu. This is understandable because most parts of Kogi State are

not hooked to the National Grid. In the last two years, the electrification programme has been continuously executed without any moment of break. During Prince Audu's first tenure of office between 1992 and 1993, he accorded similar priority attention to this sector undertaking over 70 electrification project.

So far, a total of 35 towns, and villages have been electrified and hooked to the National Grid since the second coming of Governor Abubakar Audu. In addition, over 100 electricity transformers have been distributed to various communities to improve the level of their electricity supply. Also, about 37 high voltage generating sets have been purchased and distributed to various communities to ensure uninterrupted power supply to schools, medical institutions, water schemes and other public organisations.

The high premium which the administration of Governor Audu has so far given to the electricity sector, is indeed, justifiable in the light of the fact that electricity is a basic infrastructure that can stimulate the process of industrialisation. Most, if not all, small scale industries that are common in the rural areas are dependent on electricity. Therefore, the provision of this essential facility in the rural communities has given a boost to the socio economic activities of the people. Also, the quality of life in the communities provided with electricity has further improved as the ordinary people can now utilise such household appliances as television and radio sets, refrigerators, fans and air conditioning systems. Looking at the history of rural electrification in Kogi State since the state was created about 10 years ago, it is obvious that Governor Audu has done more than any administration in the state. About 95 communities in Kogi State have been connected to the National Grid under the first and second tenures of Governor Audu's administration which together cover less than four of the ten years the state has been in existence. Indeed, several electrification projects initiated by Governor Audu during his first tenure were abandoned by successive military regimes until he came back to office in 1999 to complete them.

On the low power voltage being supplied to most parts of Kogi State, Prince Audu has made repeated appeals to the Federal Government. Already, an approval has been secured for the connection of Lokoja, the state capital, to the 132 kv line in Ajokuta. In addition, efforts are also to be made to improve power supply to other parts of

the state under the Federal Government power generation and distribution scheme.

However the ultimate goal of the present administration in the state is to embark on an Independent Power Plant Project. Concerted efforts have been made in this direction by the Government. In February this year, Governor Audu visited the American Congress where he successfully persuaded the congressmen to support the bid of Kogi State Government to establish an Independent Power Plant. In response to the appeal, a bill has been presented on the floor of the congress at the Capitol Hill seeking the United States Government support for an Independent Power Plant Project in Kogi State at the cost of 30 Million US Dollar. In the history of the US Congress, this is the first time such a support programme is being canvassed for a regional government in Africa. The bill was presented by Congressman James Trafficant.

1999, the health sector, like other social services, was, in a state of paralysis, having suffered outright neglect from the past military administrations. In order to redress the situation, government embarked on massive rehabilitation of infrastructures in the health sector. In the same vein, essential medical facilities such as ambulances, drugs and dressings were procured on a large scale and distributed to health institutions in the state. In addition, new hospitals and health centres were established while existing ones were upgraded and re-equipped. So far, the state government has purchased a total of 24 ambulances and refurbished some existing ones which were all distributed to the health centres and hospitals in all parts of the state.

Over 45 major health institutions have also been upgraded in the state with their facilities expanded. In order to improve the quality of service in these institutions, equipment worth 200 million Naira were procured and dis-

tributed for use throughout the state. Some of the comprehensive Health Centres that have been upgraded into General Hospitals in the state include those located at Egume, Anyigba, Abejukolo, Odolu, Okengwe, Aiyetoro-Gbedde and Iyamoye. Some other major projects executed under the health sectors include the construction of a new General Hospital at Anyigba and new Basic Health Centres at Eggan, Ogodu Ohono, Jamata, Odu Ikaka, and Emewe Opada. Others are located at Onicha Igo, Ette, Ikemu -Ogugu and Olla. A comprehensive Health Centre has also been constructed at Alloma, while a Specialist Eye Hospital constructed at Ogbonicha has been commissioned. A total of about 250 million Naira has been expended on the establishment of these new health institutions.

Some of the existing General Hospitals in the state have been completely renovated. They include those located at Ogori, Okene, and Okpo. In addition, the water supply scheme at Okene General Hospital has been expanded with the drilling of a new borehole for a more productive supply. Also, the internal road network at the hospital is to be re-reconstructed, while the maternity and baby friendly wards have

been completed. The access road to the General Hospital, Anyigba, is also been constructed. Furthermore, electricity generating sets were also provided for Adogo, Cottage Hospital, the Eye Specialist Hospital, Ogbonicha, Comprehensive Health Centre, Alloma, and the General Hospital, Abejukolo. To attract the financial support of international funding agencies, the administration has given high premium to the payment of counterpart funds for health projects. These funds are in respect of World Bank, ADB, UNDP, and UNICEF projects. In all, about 500 million Naira has been spent on projects in the health sector in the last two years.

Transport

links the Takete communities with the rest of the local government area. These communities are often cut off from the rest of the Local Government Area during the rainy season. A total of about 60 selected roads have been earmarked for re-construction this year and a budgetary provision of 2.5 billion Naira has been made for them. These roads include Mopa -Ihai -Ife-Olukotun-Igbagun-Iyamoye Road, Kabba -Olle -Iluke Road, Ankpa -Abejukolo Road and Osoma - Society General - Ogori -Edo State.

In Lokoja, the state capital, two major roads are being dualised. These are Murtala Mohammed Road and Salihu Ibrahim Road. Several other roads in the town are being rehabilitated and expanded. These include Adankolo Ring Road, Old market Road, Mount Patti Road and Ibrahim Taiwo Road. In Ankpa, township roads covering over 35 kilometres are being rehabilitated. The Egbe, Kabba, Idah and Dekina township roads have also been earmarked for rehabilitation this year. Indeed, the road development programme of the present administration is revolutionary and has gone a long way to eliminate the hardship experienced by commuters around the state as a result of the deplorable condition of existing roads.

On the provision of commuter buses in the state, the administration of Governor Audu has made history with the purchase of 50 new buses for state transport company with the provision of this buses, the company which was hitherto paralysed has bounced back to life.

Government has also injected a new management outfit into the organisation to ensure an efficient and viable mass transit programme.

In addition, Governor Audu recently introduced an innovation into the transport sector with the delivery of 50 new mass transit buses for Local Government Councils in the state. The bus were given to the councils on interest -free credit basis. With the introduction of 100 buses into the transportation system in the state, commuters now travel within and outside the with relative ease and at very moderate rates. The government of Prince Abubakar Audu has equally extended its benevolence to private commercial motorcycle operators who are the in the state. The cyclists, who provide the major source of transportation for intra-city commuters in the state as in other parts of the country, got the as



Prince Abubakar Audu Executive Governor, Kogi State

From the efforts being made by the present administration, it is obvious that the power supply situation in Kogi State will soon get a big boost.

Health-Care: Accessible and Affordable

The health sector has enjoyed unprecedented attention in the last 24 months in Kogi State. At the inception of Governor Audu's administration in May



A newly constructed ultra modern Lecture Theatre at Kogi State University

# SUPPLEMENT

## KOGI AT 10

Continued from Page 17

assistance of Governor Audu with the donation of over 75 motorcycles to their unions in parts of the state to enable them provide better and cheaper services to the masses. Furthermore, it is imperative, to note that through the persuasive efforts of Governor Audu, the Federal Government has renewed its commitment towards the following abandoned projects: 1. Ayetoro-Gbedge -nuk -Budun Road; Anyigba -Dekina -Shintaku Road; and II, Odolu -Nsukka Road. In addition, the Federal Government has also approved the dualisation of Abuja -Lokoja -Okene -Benin highway and Anambra River -Otu -Ocha -Ibaji -Idah Road. Similarly, the abandoned rail between Ajaokuta and Otukpo has been approved for completion by President Olusegun Obasanjo.

**Repositioning of the State work force**

At the inception of the present administration in Kogi, the civil service was traumatized and highly demoralised due to unpaid salaries and allowances for the upward of five months. Governor Audu in his inaugural speech said he would make efforts to make life more meaningful for the civil servants who constituted the cream of the various communities in Kogi State. Since he came into office, Governor Audu has given very keen attention to issues involving civil servants in the state. He regularised the payment of salaries and allowances to the state work force and commenced the payment of arrears of salaries, pensions and gratuity which had risen to over one billion Naira. When the new national living wage was approved, Governor Audu adopted N6000 minimum pay level, which is today one of the highest among all the States in northern part of the country.

Governor Audu also introduced the owner-occupier housing scheme. Under the scheme, all civil servants living in government quarters were given opportunity to purchase the houses on a convenient owner-occupier basis. Over 2,000 houses in the state now belong to the civil servants who are occupying them. The adminis-

tration has also been completed. The 30 units have been named after Prince Audu. Government has also made provision for the construction of another set of 750 units of houses for both intermediate and junior workers. This will go a long way to ease the acute shortage of accommodation for workers in the state capital. The administration has also given attention to the problem of office accommodation for workers. The headquarters of the state Judiciary was provided with infrastructures by the state gov-



Col. Danladi Zakari

ernment and commissioned for use. Similarly the Sharia Court of Appeal headquarters was constructed by the state government and has been commissioned. At the Government House, Lokoja, a new two-storey office complex is being constructed to ease the shortage of accommodation for the Governors aides and civil servants at the seat of power.

Prince Abubakar Audu has also introduced a youth employment scheme as part of the state's poverty alleviation programme. Under this scheme, over 25,000 youths have been offered employment to reduce unemployment in the state and alleviate poverty among the citizens. On the issue of the unpaid retirement benefits of pensioners in the state, Governor Audu promised during his inauguration to look into the issue and find a lasting solution to it. He has fulfilled this promise. A monthly allocation of five million Naira has been approved for the settlement of the arrears of gratuities. Many of the retirees who had waited for their benefits for upward of nine years have started receiving them.

ried out by professionals within the state public sector. With the incentive being given to workers in the state, it is expected that the current pace of development will not only be sustained but surpassed in the period ahead.

**Water-New Frontiers of Development**

Potable water is one of the most essential social facilities for healthy living. However, the de-



Prince A.A. Audu

velopment of this sector has suffered great set back in the past because the pace of activities hardly meets the increasing needs of the people. To improve the deplorable position inherited, the present administration has taken very far-reaching actions. In fact, the first organisation visited by Governor Audu after his inauguration was the Lokoja Water Works where he gave immediate approval for the release of monthly imprest to the state water board for sustained operation. Before this approval, many state water works were disconnected from public power supply because of nonpayment of bills while standby generators could not be operated because the agency could not procure diesel. Governor Audu has consistently given priority attention to the provision of potable water to both rural and urban communities in all parts of the state.

One of the major programmes executed by the state government to address the problem of shortage of water is the completion of some of the abandoned World Bank assisted National Water Rehabilitation Projects.

by the previous administration. The Ejule Water Project abandoned since 1993 is also receiving attention. Imported equipment worth over 300 million Naira abandoned at Warri Port for about five years has been cleared and delivered to the project site. The contract for the project was recently awarded and work has resumed at the site. Similarly, the water scheme for Ogugu as well as Ogbonicha



Col. Paul Omeruo

communities have been awarded for execution. More importantly, the state government has succeeded in solving the problem of lack of potable water in many communities in the state

Abubakar Audu Housing Estate and Oba Micheal Olobayo Housing Estate at a total cost of about 140 million Naira. These water schemes provide uninterrupted supply of potable water to the housing estates. The water scheme for the Legislators Quarters in Lokoja has also been completed. The water scheme in Ado Ibrahim Housing Estate which was abandoned for several years has further been completed.

At present, the state government has almost finalised the arrangements for a World Bank loan for the execution of the



Col. Bzigu Afakirya

Osara Dam project which is expected to cost about 3.5 billion Naira; When completed, the dam will serve the long term water needs of Okene and the

between the university and Morgan State University Baltimore, Maryland, USA.

As part of this programme, the Morgan State University has concluded arrangements to send a delegation of 15 Professors to Kogi State University for a period of three months.

Indeed, Kogi State University is not only evolving into a centre of academic excellence, but also a model for other universities to emulate. What Kogi State has reaped in this sector in the last two years has been most intriguing and this no doubt, is why the students of Kogi State University and some non-governmental organisations have called for the naming of the institution after Prince Audu as a mark of their boundless appreciation for the feat achieved by this visionary leader.

**Housing programme:**

The provision of shelter is one of the areas the administration of Prince Abubakar Audu has also performed to the satisfaction of the people. Taking similar steps as he did during his first tenure in office in 1992/93. His efforts has been revolutionary in this sector. Lokoja the state capital and congested houses, in his effort to reverse the trend, Governor Audu immediately put in place a 30 units commissioners quarters, which was named after him.

The most applauded policy of the Prince Abubakar Audu administration in Kogi State is the owner-occupier housing scheme. Under the scheme all houses being occupied by civil servants numbering about two thousand units have been sold to them on owner-occupier basis.

Other categories of public officers such as commissioners, special advisers members of the State House of Assembly and permanent secretaries are also beneficiaries of this programmes.

To ensure comfort of quest of the state government abandoned lodges have been completed while those in use have been renovated across the three senatorial district. The new Presidential Lodge in Lokoja others are in Dekina Governor Lodge, Ankpa, Okene, Kabba, and Abuja which was constructed in 1993 and now renovated.

Other housing project now under construction is the 200 housing units named after the Obaro of Kabba Oba Micheal Olobajo.

Roads development has equity received a boost since the inception of this regime about 350km of roads have been rehabilitated in the last two years. Other roads that have been constructed by the state government included Okene-Ihima Road, Ogaminana, Obagede Okoita road.

Meanwhile, over sixty roads have earmarked for constructions this year alone. While the state capital Lokoja roads and street are all under rehabilitation and dualisation.

**Conclusion:**

During the ten years under review, critical and objective analysis of the major development strides made, will indicate that the first and the second (current) regimes of Prince Abubakar Audu recorded the highest.

Despite such achievements, the action governor legislature and members of the state executive council are still striving hard to achieve more. The mid-term report and the future proposals and actions plan are for all to see.



Governor Audu Commissioning Water Project.

through the provision of boreholes. Two government Agencies- The Directorate of Rural Development and the UNICEF Assisted Water and Sanitation Project are actively involved in the provision of borehole water schemes.

In the last two years, over 300 boreholes and deep wells have been drilled in different communities with acute water problem. Very recently, the Governor commissioned 10 boreholes in different locations at Idah. Also, a similar number of boreholes have been commissioned in Okene and 15 at Ajaokuta. Other communities that have benefited from the scheme are Lokoja, Okebukun. Governor Audu has pledged to acquire a new drilling rig that can carry out successful operations in the difficult geological terrains in the eastern Senatorial District of the state.

In Lokoja, two major water schemes have also been executed for the newly completed housing estates. These are the Prince

surrounding communities in the Central Senatorial District of the State. This year the total sum of 3.9 Billion has been voted for the development of the potable water sector.

**Education**

The success story of Kogi State University can be attributed to the vision, zeal, dynamism and commitment of Governor Abubakar Audu. The state Chief Executive has continued to give priority attention to the university while also seeking support for the project from well wishers especially the international communities. The relentless efforts of Governor Audu towards the growth of the university has yielded a lot of dividends.

Already, consignments of books, computers and other academic materials worth about 3 million US Dollar have been donated to Kogi State University by some institutions and organisations in the United States of America. Furthermore, an affiliation has been arranged



Oba Michael Olobayo 200 housing units along Ganaja Road Lokoja. Another project of Prince Audu's regime

tration of Prince Audu has almost completed the biggest and most modern estate in the state comprising of 200 3-bed room bungalows which are being allocated to the civil servants on owner occupier basis. Another housing estate for top govern-

ment is generally a new lease of life for civil servants in the state. The workforce has been dramatically re-invigorated with corresponding productivity in virtually all sectors. Project planning, design and implementation are being effectively car-

ried out by professionals within the state public sector. With the incentive being given to workers in the state, it is expected that the current pace of development will not only be sustained but surpassed in the period ahead.

# NEWS

## LG boss decry proposed revenue allocation formula

The proposed revenue allocation formula released by the Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Commission, has been described as an attempt to further marginalize the commonman at the grassroots.

Chairman of Dan-Musa Local Government Area of Katsina State, Alhaji Sani Abu Minista, disclosed this to *Daily Trust* in an exclusive interview in Katsina.

He said the responsibilities of the local council coupled with their closeness to the people should have attracted more funds for the development of the grassroots instead of another attempt to impoverish them with continuous starvation of funds.

He added that the Federal Government should instead receive 28 percent of the accrued revenue, while 30 percent and 42 percent should go to states and local governments respectively.

"But instead of further empowering the commonman, the Federal Government is busy trying to destroy the hope of the commonman."

From Hassan A. Korfi, in Katsina

"When you check the exclusive legislative list in the second schedule of the 1999 constitution you'll find that the Federal Government has 687 items, including marriage, these should be left to the local governments to deal with," he said.

Alhaji Minista further stressed the need to rebuild and enhance the power of local councils, this he said could make them run universities if allowed to

grow. He also stressed the



Gov Musa Yar'Adua

## FG to establish frequency management council soon

The Minister of State for Communication, Alhaji Adekunle Haruna Elewi, has said that the Federal Government is planning to establish a National Frequency Council in the country.

Alhaji Elewi disclosed this in a statement signed by the Assistant Director/Head, Press and Public Relations Unit, Mr. Samuel O. Ajayi, made available to *Daily Trust* recently in Abuja.

The minister of state

added that the council would be responsible for planning, coordination, allocation, assignment, registration and monitoring of the radio frequency operation in the country.

He hinted that this would be in addition to the Federal Government's plan to upgrade the NITEL training centres in Lagos and Kano to international standards.

The centres had in the past, produced numerous

By Hassan Idris

need to re-schedule the provisions of the legislative list so as to allow local governments run items like market places, abattoirs, naming of streets, etc. These, he said, have the potential to attract direct investment for the growth and development of local governments in the country.

On the establishment of state electoral commissions, Alhaji Minista described the idea, as a constitutional issue.

However, he reminded whoever sees any tool of manipulation in such commission to study history and learn about how destiny changes attempts to utilize such commission for selfish interest.

manpower for the telecommunications sub-sector and would not be allowed to go defunct when NITEL is privatized, he said.

Mr. Elewi called for prudent management of the nation's electro-magnetic frequency spectrum by the newly employed senior technical staff of the ministry.

He described the frequency spectrum as a scarce national resource which must be closely guarded for equitable and rational use, stressing that the telecommunications sub-sector of the economy stands to gain immensely from its proper management.

Alhaji Elewi advised the ministry personnel to embark on self-development efforts in order to keep abreast of latest technology and challenges in the industry.



Prof. Jerry Gana

## NBA amends constitution

Lawyers in the country, acting under their Umbrella body, Nigeria Bar Association (NBA), have concluded plans to amend their constitution at its forthcoming NBA national conference tagged: "Calabar 2001," from August 27 to 31.

The proposed amendment is necessitated by the problem of definition of designations and definition of who is a member of the NBA.

Briefing newsmen at the NBA national secretariat, Chief Bayo Ojo (SAN), Chairman, NBA conference planning

From Adelanwa Bamgboye, in Lagos

committee, said the NBA Calabar 2001 will be declared open by His Excellency, Governor Donald Duke and will be chaired by the Chief Justice of Nigeria, Hon. Justice Mohammed Lawal Uwais (GCON).

The theme of this year's conference, according to Bayo Ojo is, "The law, democracy and national development," adding that the President of the International Bar Association, Diana Kempe, QC is expected to grace the occasion.

## ABUDSS spends N3.5m on labs

From Waziri Isa Gwantu, in Zaria

Ahmadu Bello University Demonstration Secondary School (ABUDSS), Zaria, has spent more than N3.5 million on the renovation of the schools, three science laboratories and the purchase of chemicals and reagents.

Principal of the ABUDSS, Dr. Yahaya Korau Kajuru, who stated this during the school's 13<sup>th</sup> annual speech and prize giving day held recently, said renovation of the labs and purchase of the chemicals were in line with the school's commitment to continue to lead other secondary schools in the country in terms of academic excellence.

He commended the authorities of ABU under the Vice-Chancellorship of Prof. Abdullahi Mahdi for the logistics and moral support his administration had been rendering to the school, since he assumed office, saying it was his support that made the school to stand tall among other secondary schools in the country in terms of academic excellence.

He said the school had won first position in several national and state academic contests and competitions, an achievement that had brought the name of the school to limelight in the entire country.



Chief Bola Ige

He said that this year's conference is unique because deliberations will be centred mainly on issues directly affecting the practice of law today, while at the same time looking at how the country's nascent democracy can thrive through the law, thereby serving as a guarantee for national development.

"To this end, there are so many government personalities, lawyers and non-lawyers alike, who will deliver papers and participate as discussants and panelist."

*Daily Trust* gathered that there would also be a novelty football match between the members of the inner and outer bar, that is, the Senior Advocates of Nigeria will be lacing their boots against the other lawyers.

Another highlight is the golf tournament for members of the bar who are golf enthusiasts.

## NAFDAC urges Sokoto Assembly to legislate against pure water

The Sokoto State House of Assembly has been called upon to pass a resolution that would help to sanitize Sokoto of substandard "pure water."

This call was made recently by a Pharmacist, Ahamed I. Yakasai, the Consultant/Zonal Workshop co-ordinator of North-West NAFDAC workshop on "pure water" and other water-based drinks (fruit juice and yoghurt) at Sokoto Ho-

From Abdulfatai Abdjulsalami, in Sokoto

tel, Sokoto.

He said in view of the presence of all sorts of pure water in the state, any resolution passed at this point in time would bring the Ministries of Health, Environment, Water Resources and NAFDAC together to address this problem.

The co-ordinator re-marked that the partici-

pants would have been thoroughly educated to appreciate NAFDAC's registration procedures and standard requirements.

Alhaji Ahamed called on producers of pure water and other related products to maintain the purity of the source, surroundings of the plants and packaging material to the highest standards of hygiene "so that the quality of the end product is assured."

## We need sovereign conference on Ilorin leadership - General Adisa

Former Works and Housing Minister, Maj.-Gen. Abdulkarim Adisa (rtd), marked his 53<sup>rd</sup> birthday in Ilorin last week with a call for an Ilorin sovereign local conference to be convened to resolve the ongoing heated controversy generated by the issue of Yoruba Oba for Ilorin.

Fielding questions from newsmen shortly after special prayers were held to mark the day, General Adisa said there was the need for all stakeholders in Ilorin to come

From Abdul Laro, in Ilorin

forward for dialogue.

According to him, "Olola Kasum alone cannot decide for us what we want, we need to hold a sovereign conference to decide the matter together, although I am neutral on the issue even as I come from one of the camps entangled in the struggle between Afonja and the Emirate."

General Adisa, a fulfilled personality, also spoke on Brig.-Gen. Oluwale Rotimi

Commission of Inquiry, declaring that, "I have not been indicted in any way, and neither have I have been accused of selling government land or allocating it to myself illegally."

The former minister, who thanked God for sparing his life said, "I should have died long ago apparently casting his mind back to his journey to the valley of death during General Abacha's regime when he was roped as a coup plotter in 1997.



Zamfara State Governor, Alhaji Ahmed Sani (left), exchanging pleasantries with Kogi State Governor, Prince Abubakar Audu during the NEC meeting in Abuja ... recently. Pix: Felix Onigbinde

NEWS

**Balarabe Musa faults privatization programme**

The Federal Government's privatization policy has been described as a negation of the Peoples Democratic Party's (PDP) manifesto and the fundamental principles of state policy enshrined in the constitution.

Former Governor of Kaduna State, Alhaji Abdulkadir Balarabe Musa, made the observation at the launching of a book on the terminal review of the Obasanjo administration in Kaduna recently.

Musa argued that the policy is a recipe for disaster in view of the weak and corrupt nature of the Nigerian state, adding, "pursued to its logical conclusion, the Obasanjo administration's pursuit of its privatization and deregulation policies can only



Alhaji Balarabe Musa

From Ibrahim Dan Halilu, in Kaduna

lead to a further impoverishment of Nigerian people."

He added that the policy thrusts of the administration would only create more instability and undermine the democratic gains achieved so far.

While acknowledging the low average performance of the present administration, Musa, however, called for caution, patience and sober reflections from Nigerians, especially those calling for the

dismantling of the democratic structures.

"I cannot but have pity for such people for they have lost touch with the changing realities of the Nigerian situation. We Nigerians must reject their attempts at making us throw out the baby with the bath water," Musa stressed.

He noted that the daunting problems inherited by the present administration at inception and the new ones emerging from elite rivalry and narrow-mindedness are so daunting that people should not expect magic.

**Wada Nas condemns critics of naira note**

Former Special Duties Minister, Alhaji Wada Nas, has said that Nigerians who threatened to sue the Federal Government for the Arabic inscription on the naira note are bunch of phobics, out to cause religious disunity in the country.

Alhaji Nas questioned the rationale behind such retrogressive and primitive behaviour and challenge anybody to prove the inscription as a symbol of Islamisation.

In a release issued last week in Katsina, Alhaji Wada Nas further asked those agitators to remember that English Language which is

From Hassan A. Karofi, in Katsina

officially used as a national language occupies the same position as a language with the Arabic words.

He then asked whether the English Language could be termed christian just because the Bible was written in it.

He reminded such retrogressive people to realize the volume of their mischievous phobic emotion to intolerance that do not have any developmental advantages to the much needed and desired national unity.

He explained that in the history of the world, many

A group of ex-servicemen in Adamawa State have protested against what they called unfair treatment of some legionnaires in the ongoing payment of their pensions.

The group, led by the State Secretary of the Nigerian Legion, Mr. Reza Ninfas, alleged that the exercise is being marred by malpractices.

Speaking to newsmen in Yola last week, the group alleged that some families of the deceased legionnaires were being denied their entitlements.

The secretary argued

christians are found in the Middle East, he cited the celebrated Dr. George Habash who condemned a muslim Arafat for going into treaty with his (Dr. Habash) christian



Alhaji Wada Nas

brothers.

He further described as terrible that some Nigerians believe that Arabic Language amounts to Islam, he then asked them what English Language amounts to.

Said he: "Soon people like Ishaya Audu and Adamu Baikie will be told they are not christians because they bear Hausa names, or Onyema Mohammed is not muslim because he bear Igbo name, I wonder which kind of mental attitude built on stereotypes and for the matter by those who ought to know."

**Ex-servicemen protest unfair treatment**

From Abdullahi Tasiu Abubakar, in Yola

that the method of withholding the monies of the families of the deceased legionnaire until they get clearance from the Directorate of Military Pension in Lagos was unfair.

Mr. Ninfas also alleged that some legionnaires were unable to receive their pensions because of the stringent measures being used in the identification exercise.

Many legionnaires who spoke to *Daily Trust* at the payment center in the 23 Brigade in Yola, said that they spent many days at the centre without getting their money.

They said they were denied their payment because

the team responsible for the payment had said that their identity cards number did not correspond to the ones in their record books.

The leader of the payment team, Mr. Ayodele Kolade Emmanuel, however, denied the charges that the team was employing unfair methods in the exercise.

He said the procedures for identification of legionnaires and for treatment of the families of the deceased legionnaires are well-known to those affected.

He said nobody is entitled to claim the money for a deceased legionnaire unless he/she had sorted the matter out with Directorate of Military Pension in Lagos.

**FG advised to establish conflict resolution structure**

From Terns Doki, in Makurdi

The Federal Government has been advised to establish permanent conflict resolution structures to oversee the high incidence of crises across the country.

An ex-Sole Administrator of Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) in the IBB days, Chief Asom Bur, gave this advice in a keynote address he presented at the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual National Conference of Counselling Association of Nigeria (CASSON) held in Makurdi.

Chief Bur identified the absence of a permanent conflict resolution mechanism as largely responsible for the recurring violence in different parts of the country.

He further explained that what is currently obtained in conflict resolution in Nigeria is the constitution of ad-hoc bodies like commissions of inquiry panels and peace committee which focuses on the restoration of immediate peace in the wake of crises instead of brokering enduring

peace.

The former NLC boss disclosed that what these makeshift bodies do essentially is a cosmetic treatment of issues in the wake of crisis, while the real problems remain unresolved and the internal wounds also unhealed; pointing out that this is why communities repeatedly erupt in violence over the same issues. "A conflict resolution mechanism will ensure that problems that give rise to crises are adequately addressed permanently," he said.



Adams Oshiomhole

**Obasanjo supports national conference - Ige**

The Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Chief Bola Ige, has said that President Olusegun Obasanjo supports a national conference to address the nation's multifarious predicaments.

The minister, who disclosed this in an interview in Lagos, said, however, that the president's misgiving is with the idea of Sovereign National Conference (SNC), adding that so long as the conference is not sovereign the president has indicated his readiness to support it.



President Olusegun Obasanjo

From Bright Ewulu, in Lagos

Chief Ige who is also the Deputy Leader of the Yoruba socio-political group, *Afenifere*, maintained that it has become imperative that Nigeria should sit down and rub minds over the various problems bedeviling it.

According to him, the major stumbling block to such a conference is the National Assembly and not the president.

He, therefore, urged Nigerians to pressurise the National Assembly to see reason and accept the conference for the benefit of all and sundry.

On the political battle between the Peoples

Democratic Party (PDP) and the *Afenifere* in the South-West, Ige reiterated his position that PDP will not capture any state in the South-West.

According to him, the *Afenifere*-controlled party Alliance for Democracy (AD), will rule the South-West "till thy kingdom come."

He disclosed that *Afenifere* will not shift from its political strategy, saying that the ongoing political rapprochements with a number of groups and nationalities will not lead to any change of political philosophy.

**Islamic group on nationwide peace tour**

The Jama'atu Nasril Islam (JNI), an Islamic organisation with headquarters in Kaduna has commenced a tour of the six geo-political zones in the country to promote peaceful co-existence between muslims and non-muslims in the country.

A press statement from the headquarters of the JNI, signed by Umar Ahmed, its Public Relations Officer, said the delegation visiting the zones is led by Justice Abdulkadir Orire, who is also the Secretary-General of JNI.

According to the statement, the delegation had already visited 12 states in the

**Foreign NGO to build hospital in Sanga LG**

A befitting hospital with modern facilities is to be established in Sanga Local Government Area of Kaduna State.

The Executive Secretary of Leadership Trust

Foundation and Coordinators of the St. George University International, Japan, Chief (Dr.) Matthew A. Akinpelumi, disclosed this at a ceremony



Gov Ahmed Makarfi

marking the award of a doctorate degree to the Chairman of the council area, Dr. Frank Bala Baba, by the university.

Chief Akinpelumi, who said that an approval has been given for the building of the hospital, explained that the hospital would be built at Kurassau village as one of the three places selected in the country.

He further stated that the Leadership Trust Foundation has, in recognition of the excellent qualities and hardwork of the council chairman, selected him to be among those notable Nigerians that will go on a tour of the United States of America.

# VACANCY

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The personality being sought should be a pleasant extrovert, and conversant with current issues, able to command attention with a corporate presence and ability to communicate in rich diction. He/she will in addition to assisting the Chief Executive in corporate matters, must be able to ably represent him outside the company.

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**MICROBIOLOGIST:** The candidate should preferably have a M.Sc in Pharmaceutical Microbiology plus 5 year experience.

**SECRETARY TO THE MANAGING DIRECTOR / CEO:** Must be under 45 years of age and have secretarial qualifications: HND with 5 years relevant experience or OND with 10 years post qualification experience. Must be computer literate, especially in MS Word and Excel.

Must be ready to work long hours and on weekends.

**ELECTRICAL/MECHANICAL ENGINEERING POSITION:** HND in Electrical or Mechanical Engineering with 2-3 years Industrial Maintenance Engineering.

**PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR / PHARMACY TECHNICIAN:** Should have HND-level qualification in Pharmacy Technology, Laboratory Technology or Production Quality Control.

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All applicants must be able to supply 3 references and must be ready to produce medical certificate of fitness from a Government hospital if successful

Applications must be accompanied by one recent passport photograph of the applicant, Resume of applicant and photocopies of credentials and should reach The Consultant, Plot 50 Sharada Phase I, P. O. Box 348, Kano within 2 weeks from the date of this publication.



# I.T. WORLD



## Science and tech, the way out—Minister

The Minister of State for Science and Technology, Mrs. Pauline Tallen, has said that the fastest solution to the nation's economic backwardness is rapid investment in the science and technology sector.

The minister made the assertion penultimate week, when she received in audience the President and Executive member of the Church of Christ in Nigeria (COCIN) at her office in Abuja.

Mrs. Tallen declared that before the advent of the present administration, no attention was given to the science and technology

Stories by Hassan Idris

sector, pointing out that if successive governments had paid attention to the sector, the nation would have been



Tallen.

a producer and not a consumer.

However, she maintained that science and technology was the basis on which other nations leap-frogged into economic fortune and

appealed for government efforts towards moving the sector forward.

She commended the COCIN executives for their continuous prayers for the present administration and

called on them not to relent especially, at this time of political opposition.

Earlier, President of COCIN, Reverend Alexander Lar stressed that their visit was to fulfil the biblical injunction which says that respect and honour must be given to any established

governing authority as ordained by God.

He commended Mrs. Tallen's outstanding accomplishment in promoting Science and Technology.

Religious leaders would not relent in their prayers for the peace, progress and unity of Nigeria, he said.

## NITEL to upgrade training centres

The Minister of State for Communication, Alhaji Adekunle Haruna Elewi, has said that the ministry will upgrade the Nigerian Telecommunications Limited (NITEL) Training Centres to offer new training programmes.

The minister made the statement, last weekend

while addressing new technical staff during the orientation and induction programme, in Lagos.

Alhaji Elewi congratulated the participants on their appointment at a crucial period when the telecommunication industry made some landmarks on the deregulation, liberalisation

and privatisation of the industry.

He noted that indeed, telecommunication was universally accepted as the basic infrastructure for modern development.

He declared that some of the functions now being

carried out by NITEL would of necessity revert to the ministry, once NITEL was privatised.

Those functions would have to be undertaken by the Technical Services Department, being the only technical department of the ministry. The need for the ministry to meet new challenges, informed government's decision to employ more engineers and technicians, he stressed.

The minister declared that the NITEL Training Centres in Lagos and Kano would be upgraded when NITEL was privatised, he said.

Owing to fast changes occurring in the sector, there was an obvious need for training and re-training to keep pace with developments, he said.



Elewi.

## Criminals turn to Internet

A professor of International Securities Studies at the University of Pittsburgh, USA, Phil Williams, has disclosed that criminals have turned to the internet for new opportunities and multiplier benefits for illicit business.

The professor made the declaration while delivering a lecture on "Organised Crime and Cyber Crime" at the University of Pittsburgh, in the United States of America (USA),

recently.

He stressed that the capabilities and opportunities provided by the Internet have transformed many legitimate business activities, augmenting the speed, ease, and range with which transactions can be conducted while also covering costs.

He pointed out the dark side of the Internet, which involves fraud and theft, pervasive pornography, and paedophile rings, but also drug trafficking

and criminal organisations that were more intent upon exploitation than the disruption that was the focus of the hacking community.

In another paper titled "Major Trends in Organised Crime and Cyber Crime," Professor Williams gave the most notable example of what occurred in October 2000 at the Bank of Sicily involving a group of 20 people some of whom were connected to mafia families.

He added that, working with an insider, they created a digital clone of the bank's online component and they planned to divert about \$400 million allocated by the European Union to regional projects in Sicily.

He disclosed that the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), a body set up by the G-7 had attempted to create norms and standards for governments and financial institutions to follow in the development of laws and regulations.

## Avoiding pitfalls in technology transfer agreements (1)

Transfer of technology has been accepted as one of the ways of passing on knowledge and skills from one person/firm/society to another. Knowledge and skills are referred to as intellectual property.

A company that wants to use somebody else's technology has to enter into a legal contractual agreement in which the technology owner specifies the conditions on which his Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) would be utilized. The payment connected with the exploitation or marketing of intellectual property comes in form of license or technical fees.

The payment may be in the form of royalty, usually calculated as a percentage of the number of units or the quantity to be produced under the license. In certain cases, a lump sum payment may be paid as the compensation for the use of IPR, but this is not to be encouraged as it may not be in the interest of the licensee. In other words, transfer of technology involves revealing the "know-how" for a fee payable.

In general, technology licensors (or transferors) grant licenses through the signing of licensing agreements for the use of their industrial property rights, namely: patents, trade marks and trade secrets or technical know-how with confidentiality provisions.

In Nigeria, some of the technology transfer agreements commonly signed between licensors and the licensees (or transferees) are trademark licensing, know-how licensing, technical assistance, technical

By Adokiye Dagogo-George

services, consultancy services (for engineering, construction and installation) and management services.

For a meaningful and effective transfer of appropriate technology, the prospective licensee requires to undergo the following processes:

Identification of source (i.e. country) from where the required technology will be obtained; selection of the appropriate licensor; Negotiation for a fair, good and balanced contractual terms; adaptation of imported technology at minimal cost, and absorption/assimilation of foreign technology.

In the eagerness to acquire foreign know-how, for the development of a strong technological base for Nigeria's industrial growth and the peoples' economic well-being, the national economy has been sapped away through exorbitant royalties. As it were, some

foreign technology licensors have been discovered to be overpricing technology fees and royalties besides building in many other imperfections in the technology agreements calculated to keeping the licensee (and Nigeria) industrially and technologically over dependent on foreign interests.

For example, Nigerians have signed and executed technology agreements which contained restrictive business clauses, including: export restrictions, coercive packages and tie-in clauses dealing with capital equipment, raw materials and components being tied to the strings of the technology suppliers. Contracts were of excessively long, and sometimes of indefinite, duration. In addition, details of technology to be acquired were in most cases not exactly stipulated in the agreements. Products quantity, quality and standards were not clearly stated, while guarantees, warranties, and infringement penalties were not

clearly defined in most contracts.

Generally, foreign companies had a free hand in the management of projects with no accountability or consideration for the local needs of the people or to the environmental impact of their operations and activities. In most contracts, Research and Development (R&D) were non-existent while little or no attention was paid to capacity building in terms of the training of indigenous staff, except for statements of vague and general nature, which were never implemented. With time it emerged that the indiscriminate import of technology into Nigeria had resulted in a high level of capital flight and has inhibited indigenous skill acquisition.

In view of these unfair practices, which also occur in other developing countries, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) considered it

imperative to check such imperfections in the system. Regrettably, various meetings held on the issue were deadlocked, owing to the divergent interests of the developed and developing countries. Consequently, the only option open to the developing countries was the establishment of national mechanisms to facilitate the acquisition of technology. The National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP) was set up, partly, out of a strong desire to assist entrepreneurs and industries in the tricky negotiation of Technology Transfer Agreements and to stem the tide of capital flight from the country.

The National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP) was established by Decree No. 70 of 1979 to among other things facilitate and implement the acquisition, promotion, and development of technology in Nigeria. Specifically, NOTAP was mandated to perform the following functions in respect of technology acquisition, assimilation, adaptation, and development:

Encouragement of a more efficient process for the identification and selection of foreign technology;

Development of the negotiating skills of Nigerians with a view to ensuring the acquisition of the best contractual terms and conditions by Nigerian parties entering into any contract or agreement for transfer of foreign technology;

Provision of a more efficient process for the adaptation of

imported technology;

Registration of all Technology contracts or Agreements having effect in Nigeria on the date of the coming into force of Decree No. 70 of 1979 and of all contracts and agreements thereafter entered into for transfer of foreign technology to Nigerian parties; Monitoring on a continuous basis of the execution of any contract or agreement registered in pursuant of Decree No. 70 of 1979.

The Registration of Technology Transfer Agreements involves evaluation. Through this process, NOTAP protects the interest of the Nigerian economy by assisting indigenous entrepreneurs in their negotiations with their foreign partners so that the terms and conditions which they enter into are reasonable, fair, and equitable, and to ensure that obnoxious clauses which act as restraints to technology transfer and the development of innovative capabilities are expunged from all technology or collaborative agreements. The Office also ensures that the cost of technology is commensurate to the technology to be transferred.

This technology evaluation is carried out partly for a social cost-benefit analysis of an agreement, to ensure that commercial transaction involved in the agreement complies with the goals of the Nigerian Technology Policy, and partly to enable the collation of data to assist in the formulation of government policies.

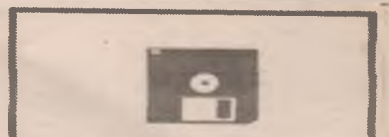
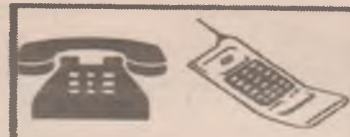
To be continued.

Dagogo-George is of the National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion, (NOTAP), Abuja.

**The National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP) was set up, partly, out of a strong desire to assist entrepreneurs and industries in the tricky negotiation of Technology Transfer Agreements and to stem the tide of capital flight from the country.**



# I.T. WORLD



## New cell phone to locate users

Your next cell phone may be able to tell your mobile carrier—and possibly others—exactly where you are and where you have been.

Starting in October, new cell phones will contain Global Positioning System units for use with location services offering emergency help, traffic and shopping aids, and more.

But the questions of what such services do with the data they gather on you and who can access it raise a host of privacy concerns that are far from resolved.

Cell phone tracking was propelled by the Federal Communications Commission, which adopted enhanced 911 rules to cover

Stories by Umar Mu'azu, with Agency Reports

wireless services. For E911's first phase, cellular carriers must be able to pinpoint, to the nearest cell tower, the location of someone calling 911. For Phase II, carriers must be able to pinpoint a 911 caller's location to within 50 to 300 meters.

FCC requirements mandate that the first phones equipped with Phase II capabilities appear this October; nearly all cell phones are supposed to comply by 2005. Thus far, Sprint PCS is the only major carrier that claims to be on schedule to ship some location-enabled phones this fall.

Two of Japan's biggest phone companies are planning to link up to provide third generation phones. Matsushita and NEC are the country's top mobile phone companies and the alliance should enable them to crack overseas markets, where they have yet to make a significant impact. Few details of the alliance are available and at this stage it is thought

## Japanese phone giants forge alliance

unlikely to involve the development of any new technology.

The slowdown in the US economy and fears of poor demand for new mobile technology is encouraging more phone companies to form alliances.

Matsushita Communications has a 26% share of the Japanese handset market, while NEC has 23%.

The plan is that they would supply each other with their own brands on an original equipment manufacturing basis.

"Matsushita needs technological help and NEC needs their experience in Europe," Yoshihide Otake, chief analyst at Tsubasa Securities, summed up the logic for the merger.

Matsushita has had to recall some of the Panasonic phones it supplied to DoCoMo.

NTT DoCoMo plans to launch full commercial 3G services in October.

"Globally both companies have less than 5% market share," SBC Warburg's Tokyo telecoms expert Izumi Yoshihara told the BBC's World Business Report.

This leaves them far behind global technology giants such as Nokia, which has 30% share of the global market, and Motorola, which has a 13.3% share of the global market. Sony and Ericsson have formed an alliance as have Toshiba and Siemens.

Matsushita posted its first quarterly loss since listing 33 years ago, and forecast even worse figures to come.

The company's president had previously said that it was unlikely to turn a profit from 3G phones before the end of 2003.

Shares in Matsushita rose on the announcement, closing 3.72% higher at 4,180 yen.

## Football clubs to broadcast matches online

Premiership football clubs will soon be broadcasting entire league games on websites and via their own TV channels.

Top clubs such as Liverpool and

Middlesbrough are taking advantage of new rules governing the re-broadcast of Premier League games to give fans greater access to match footage.

The domestic web audience for the broadcasts is likely to be small, but many fans overseas do have access to broadband net connections and are eager to watch matches they would otherwise only read about.

But the ambitions of the top clubs may come to nothing as a study shows that most of their websites are sluggish, and take far too long to serve up basic information let alone video

streams.

This year sees a big change to the rights Premier League football clubs have to TV footage of their matches. Before now the broadcast rights have rested solely with TV companies.

"The rights to show matches that the clubs are involved in revert to the club after an exclusive period of time," said a spokesman for the FA Premier League.

For games that take place on Saturday or Sunday the exclusive period runs out at midnight on the following Monday. For games on week nights the exclusive period expires at midnight the same

day.

The change has led to many of the 20 Premier League clubs signing deals to start rebroadcasting entire games or highlights via their own websites.

The few clubs that run their own TV channels, such as Middlesbrough, Chelsea and Manchester could soon be reshooting games shortly after they were first aired.

Before now football clubs have been limited to showing post-match and archive material on websites, now many are planning to use the footage to cash in on their fans' almost insatiable desire to see their team in action.

## New computer game helps patients with word-blindness

Psychologists in Finland have developed a computer game to help children with dyslexia, or word-blindness

They say it improves reading ability by training a specific part of the brain.

The Helsinki-based team hopes to make the software available worldwide.

The game is suitable for four-to seven-year-olds and could be used at home under parental supervision.

Team leader Teija Kujala of the Cognitive Brain Research Unit at the University of Helsinki, Finland, told BBC News Online:

"This program is very simple and easy to use and it can be applied in any language.

She said: "We observed improvement in reading generally. The brain started to process auditory information better."

People who are dyslexic may have difficulty with reading, spelling, understanding language

they hear, or expressing themselves clearly in speaking or in writing. They are often gifted in other ways.

The underlying cause of dyslexia is largely unknown but it is thought to be due to a problem in processing auditory or visual information, or both.

To help dyslexic children improve their reading, the scientists developed a computer game based on matching shapes with sounds.

A group of seven-year-olds at a Finnish school took part in a pilot study.

The children were played sounds of different pitch, duration and intensity, which were represented on screen by a series of rectangles moving up and down with the music.

The subjects were asked to follow the pattern of sounds and press the space bar when the last element of the pattern was played. If they got it right, they were greeted with a smiling face.



The President of Matsushita Electronic Industrial Co. Ltd., Kumo Nakamura (L) and the President of NEC Corporation, Koji Nishigaki during a press conference.

## Computer security firms gang up against viruses

Computer security firms are banding together to develop ways of stopping virus outbreaks and remote attacks before they get started.

This year both PC and web users have faced a barrage of security problems including outbreaks of successive Windows viruses, an increase in attempts to knock sites off the net, and greater use of malicious programs like the Code Red worm.

Now anti-virus company McAfee is joining up with three network security companies to share expertise and develop software that can thwart security problems before they get out of hand.

The first programs to

emerge from the alliance should be available within 6 months. As the internet and e-mail have grown in popularity, malicious hackers and computer vandals have been quick to exploit them to make electronic nuisances of themselves.

Now Windows e-mail viruses are appearing on a regular basis, many websites are regularly bombarded with bogus data in so-called distributed denial of service attacks, and now virulent worms like Code Red that soak up web resources are starting to proliferate.

In a bid to do a better job of tackling these problems anti-virus company McAfee is joining security firms Mazu Networks, Asta Networks and Arbor Networks to develop smart

software that can nip the problems in the bud. Typically anti-virus companies can only issue a patch or protection against new viruses after they have appeared. But no matter how fast a defence against a virus is distributed, the malicious program has a head start and manages to infect some computers.

Anti-virus programs usually do a bad job of spotting the pernicious programs that can hijack a home PC and turn it into a "zombie" that some malicious hackers use to launch denial-of-service (DOS) attacks by proxy.

The four companies are working on ways of scanning the web traffic a computer is receiving to look for and eliminate the programs that

can convert an ordinary PC into a "zombie".

They also plan to develop tools that can spot when a DoS attack is under way, can take action to avoid it, and work out who launched it.

A survey earlier this year by researchers from Carnegie Mellon found that over 4,000 DOS attacks are being launched every week. Typically many machines are used to target one website.

The web traffic scanning technology is already included in McAfee's Webshield software. In a separate initiative, the Internet Engineering Task Force is known to be looking into ways of designing tools into the fabric of the web that make it easier to block bogus data packets and limit the damage a DOS attack can do.



Internet surfers watching online programmes

# Features

## African commonwealth parliamentarians converge in Abuja

By Reuben Yunana

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> August, 2001 was unique in the history of Nigeria. The country's nascent Democracy received a boost with the convergence of delegates from 22 countries in Abuja for the 32<sup>nd</sup> Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (Africa region).

Coincidentally, Nigeria last hosted this conference in 1962, two years after independence. Incidentally, this year's conference also came exactly two years after the country's re-admission into the commonwealth following its expulsion over violations of the Harare declaration.

The opening ceremony of the conference took place at the magnificent ECOWAS Secretariat, Asokoro, Abuja, while the plenary sessions were held at the Sheraton Hotel and Towers.

Declaring the conference open, President Olusegun Obasanjo said it was significant that the occasion came two years after the return of democratic government to the country.

"I would like to seize this opportunity to express the personal appreciation of all Nigerians for your support both as individual nations and as a collectivity during our trying moments and in ensuring the transformation of Nigeria into a vibrant democracy," Obasanjo said.

Stressing that parliaments serve as a hub of democratic governance, the president urged African parliaments to ensure that Africa is not left behind.

"This conference is therefore very timely and should as a matter of priority, address the issues that have been militating against the development and integration of Africa for decades," he said.

Conceding that the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) was not very effective in resolving conflicts on the African continent, President Obasanjo called for greater commitment to the promotion of an enduring mechanism for conflict prevention, management and resolution within the newly conceived African Union.

He urged African parlia-

mentarians to embrace the United Nations panel on peacekeeping reforms (BRAHIM) by ensuring its implementation. He also stressed the need to sever the link between the proliferation



Senate president, Anyim Pius Anyim (L) welcomes vice president, Atiku Abubakar to the opening ceremony of the 32nd commonwealth parliamentary conference (Africa Region) in Abuja... yesterday.

of small arms and the escalation of arms.

Recently, he said, Nigeria co-sponsored two resolutions on disarmament matters in the United Nations: an International Conference on illicit arms, and the setting up of National Commissions on the proliferation of small weapons.

The president also seized the opportunity to warn on his pet problem, which is the issue of debt relief.

Said he: "Africa's debt burden has not only militated against its political and economic development but has assumed a psychological dimension. This call for debt relief is no longer just a moral argument but a socio-economic reality that must be actualised."

According to him, Africa's impoverishment is a result of its isolation, while the continuous flow of capital from Africa has not helped matters.

He therefore urged them to set in motion legislative mechanisms to ensure the repatriation of all funds illegally transferred from Africa since independence.

On the AIDS pandemic sweeping across Africa, President Obasanjo urged parliamentarians of commonwealth African nations to enact a legisla-

tion that will ensure that decisions reached at both OAU conferences on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and other infectious diseases held in April this year in Nigeria and the UN General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS held in New York in

looking negotiations with the developed nations in a spirit of shared good faith," he said.

Present at the opening ceremony were Vice-president Atiku Abubakar, who represented President Obasanjo, who was on a state visit to Chad.

the Upper House, while very few women held positions in the federal and state executive councils.

"However, I have reached a position in my life where I feel that we should stop crying for attention because we are neglected by men. We should stand up and resist all attempts to exclude us from positions where we can make decisions. My life has been threatened because of my views but I remain undeterred," she told her counterparts.

Delegates from Uganda, Ghana and Namibia painted similar pictures of neglect of the womenfolk in their countries.

At the meeting of the sub-committee on the Review and Transformation of the CPA constitution, Rep. Farouk Lawan, who stood in for Speaker Ghali Na'Abba, met with other delegates to evaluate and examine the structures and membership of the body as well as the relationship between the CPA and its regions.

The AIDS pandemic was one of the most important issues discussed at the conference. Chairman, House Committee on Parliamentary Relations Hon. Farouk Lawan and Mrs. Rebecca Kadaga of

the Ladi Kwali Hall of the Sheraton Hotel where Speaker Ghali Na'Abba of Nigeria emerged as the new chairman of the association.

Na'Abba, who was hitherto the vice-chairman of the association took over from South Africa's Frene Ginwala.

The new chairman told the gathering that he would ensure the growth and success of the association in the next one year. Outgoing chairperson, Dr. Ginwala, said the Abuja conference was a huge success in that far reaching resolutions were taken on wide ranging issues.

Apart from nominating Africans who are to serve in international organisations she said the conference had agreed that five women legislators must be nominated as delegates to the CPA conference from each member nation.

During her tenure, she said, the association has been changed into an organisation more relevant to the needs of the African continent.

According to her, Nigeria's return to Democracy and the Commonwealth, represents a huge political shift in Africa, in that other member nations on the continent could interact with Nigeria for mutual benefit.

Both Ginwala and Na'Abba agreed that the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (Africa region) is

June this year, are religiously implemented.

The Speaker of the House of Representatives, Alhaji Ghali Na'Abba, said the conference would offer African parliamentarians the opportunity to learn from each other's experiences.

According to him, the occasion was an opportunity for the lawmakers to make a strong resolve to rise to the defence of democracy.

He urged members to find ways of tackling socio-economic problems like the HIV/AIDS scourge, poverty, political conflict and ethnic wars.

The Speaker of the South African Parliament, Dr. Frene Ginwala, the immediate past chairperson of the association, said the conference will seriously look into ways of tackling the huge problems confronting member countries.

Senate President, Chief Anyim Pius Anyim, called on the association to extend a hand of friendship to other associations in the international community with a view to finding solutions to the problems of the African continent.

"The deepening economic quagmire of Africa calls for sincere, forward-

Others were Chief Justice of the Federation, Mohammed Uwais, Secretary General of the African Parliamentary Union, Ibrahim Fall, and some members of the British parliament.

The conference proper, lasted for one week and issues like "the role of parliaments in strengthening regional co-operation," the role



Chief justice of the federation Justice Muhammed Uwais in a hand shake with the Director of Development and planning, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Mr Raja G. Gomez; (R) while the Clerk of the National Assembly Alh. Ibrahim Salim watches with interest during the 32nd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (Africa Region) in Abuja .. yesterday

of parliaments in the implementation of the millennium African renewal plan (MAPP) and "the impact of uncontrolled development and the need to conserve marine ecology" were discussed.

Other issues which came up for discussion were the "role of women parliamentarians in conflict resolution" and "building sustainable peace and the AIDS pandemic."

The sub-committee on gender issues, which met at the Sheraton Hotel and Towers, Abuja, dissected issues that relate to the participation of women in politics as well as the complete marginalisation of the female gender in decision making in African countries.

Senator Florence Ita Giwa lamented that Nigeria had only two female Senators in

Uganda made paper presentations on the topic.

Lawan, who said that 22 million Africans were afflicted by the HIV/AIDS scourge so far, called on parliaments to appropriate more funds to fight the pandemic.

Noting that the AIDS issue was a natural priority, he urged parliaments to come out with laws that would ensure free AIDS treatment, as well as make the teaching of AIDS-related issues compulsory in schools.

Rebecca Kadaga on her part called for a multi-sectorial approach to the fight.

She called on parliamentarians to mobilise their constituencies in the fight against the disease as well as mobilising resources to combat its spread.

However, the climax of the conference was the Annual General Meeting (AGM) at

dynamic and prepared to face the future with optimism to tackle Africa's multi-faceted problems.

As delegates return to their countries, what should be upper-most in their minds is making the proposed African parliament a political imperative and a reality, facilitating the implementation of the millennium African renewal plan (MARP), as well as fashioning a parliament unique to Africa.

The issue of women representation and participation in national development, political instability, ethnic clashes, poverty and corruption, are issues that need the attention of delegates.

If the association finds solutions to these debilitating problems, then it would have taken a step towards integrating Africa and ensuring its march towards the much-needed development.



Speaker of the House, Alh. Ghali Umar Na'Abba (L), President of the Senate, Sen. Anyim Pius Anyim (M) and Chief Justice of federation, Alh. Muhammed Uwais during the Opening Ceremony of 32nd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (Africa-Region) in Abuja.

# The media tour

## Ebonyi: youthful pearl of the east

By Garba Deen Muhammad

Every patriotic northerner should pay a visit to Ebonyi State: the youngest state in the South Eastern part of Nigeria. There are no breath taking sights, magical healing waters or spectacular beaches. There are no monies to be picked up on the streets.

But there is, in this young state of only five years, abundant and incontrovertible evidence that a state government does not need special oil revenue, or a seaport, or an ultra-modern international market to be able to satisfy the yearnings and aspirations of its people.

Before Ebonyi State was created from Abia and Enugu states, the people of Ebonyi had very little say in the affairs of the south east, being economically weak and educationally backward, and thus dominated by their brothers in Abia and Enugu states.

But if developments recorded within the last two years are anything to go by, the state might well emerge as a fundamental surprise that will shortly be showcased as the pearl of the East.

As a northerner, this writer was particularly struck by the similarities in fortune, between Ebonyi and most of the northern states. For instance Ebonyi has a weak revenue base, relying solely on the Federal allocation which is sometimes as low as N380m and during the last disbursement, the state was next to the last. Ebonyi is classified as an educationally disadvantaged state (a dark regalia which features mainly in the northern parts of the country) to underscore the level of deprivation among the people. The permanent secretary ministry of information disclosed before the state governor Chief Sam Egwu, that "nobody from Ebonyi state can claim that he comes from a rich or aristocratic family."

In a remarkable display of transparency and willpower, the people of Ebonyi seem to be turning these apparent disadvantages into sources of hope and strength.

To begin with, education from the primary to the secondary school level is free in Ebonyi, and this is a rare event in that part of the country. At the tertiary level the state government offers its sons and daughters generous subsidies that include a scholarship between N10,000 to N20,000 overseas scholarships for up to 46 students in the year

2000, the payment of WAEC and NECO fees for students, and a special grant for law school students from the state.

To cap it all, the Ebonyi State University (EBSU) established in 1999, is not only fully operational but has an accredited college of medicine complete with a teaching hospital, and it is fully recognised by the National Universities Commission. In addition the university which started off with six faculties (Education, agriculture, natural sciences arts and medicine) is now located in the temporary campuses, is expected to move to its permanent site on the outskirts of Abakaliki, the sleepy state capital.

To consolidate this aggressive attack on its "Educationally disadvantaged" status, Ebonyi State has an adult education programme involving 72 learning centres and over 1000 adult participants. There is also one special school for the deaf and another for the blind located at Iboko.

Another unique feature associated with efforts of Ebonyi State to educate itself and catch up with its neighbours is that its free education policy has been given a very sound legal backing. Thus, it is now an offence punishable by up to three months imprisonment or a fine of N2000.00 or both, for any person or organisation caught engaging a child of below 16 years in non-school activities during school hours. This "mass attack" according to the information commissioner is necessary

because at one time "anyone that requires a housemaid or a houseboy will come to Abakaliki due to the poor educational background of the children from that area." Now, according to Governor

state where the Fadama system of farming, once the exclusive preserve of the northern region, is practised in the south-east. Even the industrial dream of the state is agro-based.

fertiliser blending plant at Onuebonyi which produces 45 metric tonnes per hour; distribution of over 170 irrigation pumps under Fadama, and the procurement of and distribution of fertiliser

from our hospitals as if we were at war." Ebonyi has made equally impressive strides. It has upgraded the Ebonyi state college hospital to a full fledged university teaching hospital, and it has upgraded some 22 health institutions to general hospitals and given a blank cheque to the chief medical director of the EBUTR to recruit the best doctors he could find.



A large crowd throngs to meet Governor Sam Egwu during the tour

Sam Egwu those housemaids and houseboys are quitting their jobs and going to school.

Next to education, the other preoccupation of Ebonyi people is agriculture. According to persons from the south east, Ebonyi State has the most fertile farmlands in the entire south east region. Evidence of this is the famous Abakaliki rice. Since the commencement of the media tour, Ebonyi was the first place wherein the journalists spotted large herds of cattle grazing as if one were somewhere in Adamawa State. Indeed Ebonyi is probably the only

One of the biggest and most impressive agricultural ventures of the state is the ultra modern poultry complex at Nkaliki. Among the biggest in the West African sub region, it has the capacity for 42m table eggs per annum; 1.5m fertilised eggs per annum; 9000 broilers per week. The total cost is about N500m.

For crops, Ebonyi probably has the most functional agricultural development project office in the country, (the EBADP). The EBADP oversees the development of general agriculture through the establishment of a N245m

at N900 per bag among other things.

In terms of other basic social amenities such as health, roads etc Ebonyi State appears to be spending twice its income. Journalists were shown Housing projects in all 3 senatorial districts and over 30 road projects covering more than 300 kilometres either being constructed or rehabilitated within Abakaliki and the rural areas. In the health sector, which suffered a mass exodus by doctors from Enugu and Anambra State when Ebonyi was created, governor Sam Egwu lamented that "our two sister states withdrew their doctors

Indeed, given the financial resources available to the state, its achievement seems almost unbelievable. At every project site, the state governor known by officials as "Brother Sam" on account of his spiritual leanings (the state executive council begins every working week with a prayer) usually stands aloof as if he was not part of the affair, allowing the official in charge to brief the visiting journalists and answer questions to their satisfaction.

In conclusion one cannot but take seriously the official ambition of Ebonyi State to make itself "the Jerusalem of Nigeria." If and when that dream is eventually reached, "pilgrims" will not be seeing "democracy dividends" alone. They would like to see the famous or infamous Abakaliki prison where one of Nigeria's most brilliant politicians and ardent democrats, the late Shehu Musa Yar'adua, breathed his last. Those who still adore Nigeria's favourite military ruler, the late General Martala Ramat Muhammed, may like to visit Asikpo where late Col Bukar Suka Dimka, the leader of the coup that claimed General Mohammed's life was captured when his car mysteriously stalled. It was also the site of one of the battles of the Nigerian civil war.

Muhammad is currently on the National media tour



Federal Medical Centre, Abakaliki



Laraba is an indigene of Abuja. She lives in Maje, a village, which, though, in the Abuja Municipal Council Area is rather unknown to many people.

# Laraba, the agile wood gatherer

By Yakubu Ozohu-Suleiman

The old woman whose age is estimated by her great grandson Joseph, to be above 100 years could not recall exactly when she came with her parents to settle in Maje Village. She traced her origin to Jai, a village within the present FCT but she could not say precisely where Jai is located at present.

her own farming and going into the forest to gather firewood for sale, "because the tradition of my people is such that everyone struggles to excel, and we used to have our clique then. The differences among us and the respect accorded to the individual depended on how active you are, and how much you are able to earn for your parents from the farms and the gathering of firewood. In fact, we used to go into the forest with

of physical energy even as a centenarian.

Laraba told *Daily Trust* that she chose to remain single since the passing of her husband a long time ago. Even though many suitors

one. She recalled that during her youth, she was very obedient and followed strictly the required standards of social behaviour in the society. "Whatever was forbidden,

days because of the common disregard for the cultural norms of the various societies we belong to."

Laraba, a woman who is very proud of her generation saying "in my days, when a child grew up to the age of 10, he/she was given a certain charm, which would protect him/her whenever danger threatened. Such charms were indeed a local way of regulating their social behaviour, particularly the women. The charms have some rules guiding them. For instance, a rule may stipulate that the woman should avoid extra-marital affairs. Violation of this rule may result in some harm visited on the woman by the charm."

rules strictly." Although Laraba's remarks are somewhat generalised, there is no doubt that she was guided by her experiences as a Gbagyi woman.

However, the old woman has something to say about her physical strength. "A mark was made on my body when I was young. Apart from ensuring that I don't disobey the rules of tradition in my place, I also obey the guiding stipulations of the marks. When you are given these marks, a leaf is rubbed into it and you are instructed against adultery, so that the marks would not cease to work. The purpose of the marks is to enhance the physical energy needed to farm. It is these marks that have kept the physical energy in me inspite of my age."

The old woman however, acknowledged the role that simplicity and humility had played in keeping her in good shape. "From the beginning, when I used to go out to gather firewood, I collected the quantity that I could carry for every distance I had to trek. By so doing, I have been able to maintain my strength over this long period. I am still strong and still go out for firewood."

This rule of cutting one's coat according to its size is another value that Laraba believes the younger generation are not observing, and according to her, people are now prematurely easily driven into old age and death as a result.

Although Laraba is left with only one of her children, she has many grand and great grand children, and so, she considers her life a fulfilled one.

**"Death is prevalent these days because of the common disregard for the cultural norms of the various societies we belong to."**

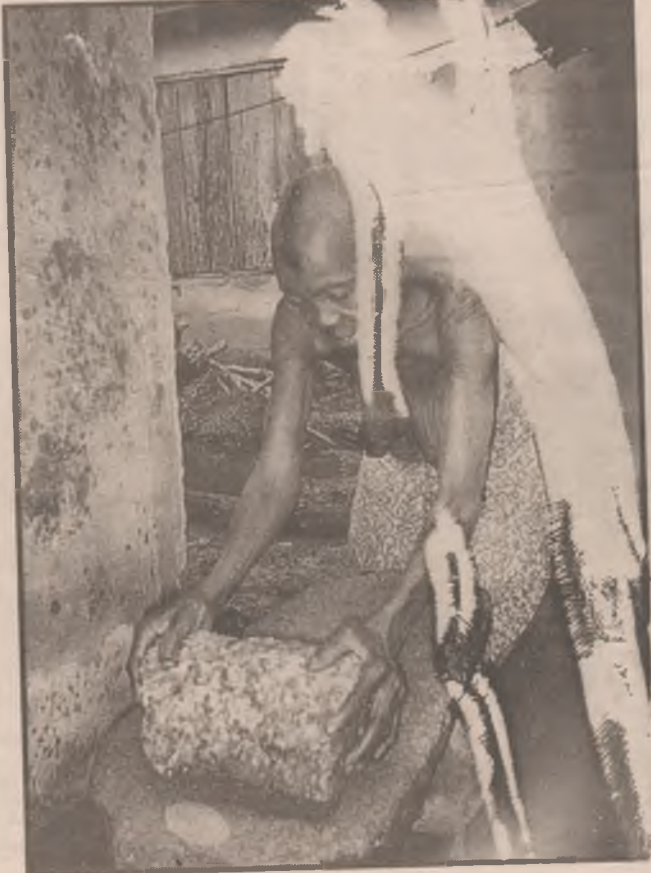
Laraba is a clear testimony of her old age, but her physical strength and agility is that of a 50-year-old.

Her only great grandson, Joseph Fenu who looks after her in the village insisted that Laraba was well over a 100 years old. "Given what my father told me before his death a long time ago, by now Mama should be well above 100 years old." Laraba herself could not remember her age because according to her, "it was a very long time ago. I don't know how old I am. I cannot remember. It was too long and, besides, we don't have the same way of counting age as the present generation does. Imagine that when I see a small boy, I would be told that he is up to 30 years old", she said in her native Gbagyi language. Her grandson served as interpreter during the encounter.

A graceful woman who undoubtedly was a beauty in her time, Laraba is a strong advocate of tradition. Perhaps, it is easy for readers to guess that Laraba does not possess western education. This is true, but the wit in the old woman is suggestive of a "guru" and if she had found the opportunity to acquire western education she might have fared very well elsewhere.

Laraba recalled that she was as young as a seven-year-old girl whom she pointed at when she began

cutlasses and hoes to cut fresh trees, and leave them to dry, while we proceeded to gather the dried ones. In addition to farming, this is what I have been doing since when I was a small girl." This means that she must have been farming and gathering firewood for about



Madam Laraba Shamuon grinds with the heavy stone

came seeking her hand in marriage, she cannot remember how many years her husband has been dead.

we didn't do. We not only tried to excel in our occupation as young women, we also had to put up good behaviour in our respective matrimonial homes so that we would be commended. But these days, young women take matrimony for granted. It is very common today to see a woman having an extra-marital affair. In our days, this was never the case."

As far as Laraba is concerned, the world has degenerated, and that explains the low life expectancy of today. The old woman speaks further: "death is prevalent these



Joseph Fenu, great grand son of Madam Laraba

90 years, if she is now 100 years.

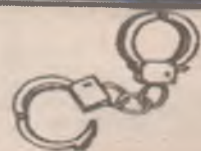
At the time of the encounter with *Daily Trust*, Laraba was grinding some local herbs, which she was going to use in the preparation of a soup. Although as a result of old age she walks around slowly, the grinding stone that she was using was so heavy that one as old as herself would ordinarily not be expected to lift it. Clearly therefore, that Laraba still possesses a lot

According to her, it was not because her hand was not sought by any man in marriage since the death of her husband, neither was it tradition that prevented her from another marriage. According to her, she preferred to remain dedicated in "love and commitment" to her late husband.

Laraba considers her generation of house wives as more disciplined than those of the present



Madam Laraba Shamuon resting in the front of her house in Maje



# Crime & Punishment



## Gatemen rob former CJ

**A** former Chief Judge of the Federal High Court, Lagos, retired Justice M. Babatunde Belgore has lost goods worth several thousands of naira.

According to the police, four men described as ex chief judge's gateman namely Clement Etuk Uko 26, Obasese Bayode 26, Musa Muhammad 39, Adamu Hammeed 20 and 25 year-old Muhammad Sani were allegedly to have committed the offence.

The police said that the five suspects and one other now at large, on August 5, 2001 at Osborne Estate, Ikeja, Lagos conspired to steal the goods.

From Adelanwa Bamogboye, in Lagos.

The suspects were alleged to have stolen one and half tonnes of Iron rod valued at N65,000 property of M.B. Balgore and entrusted to one C.O. Alade.

Specifically, 25 year old Muhammad Sani on the same date, place and time allegedly stole four iron pipe valued N4,000 property of the former C.J.

The offence is punishable under sections 516 and 390 of the criminal code laws of Lagos State.

All the accused persons pleaded not guilty to the charges.

The trial magistrate, H.O. Amos while adjourning further hearing till Au-



CJN, Muhammad Uwasi

gust 29, admitted the accused persons to bail in the sum of N80,000 each.

The accused persons are also to provide two reliable sureties each

**A** 30 year-old man who attempted to kill his father over a disputed land is now in police net.

The suspect, Lukman Sholatan who was allowed bail is reportedly still being held by the zone II police command as the reproduction warrant from the court was not honoured.

According to the police, Lukman between July and August 2001 at No. 29 Ayelato Street, Surulere in the Lagos magisterial district with intent to intimidate his father, Alhaji Agboola Sholatan and other members of his family threatened to break down his father's house.

Daily Trust gathered that the accused had made a part payment to his father for the land in dispute, which was allegedly sold to him by his father, who refused to release the land to him.

Angered by this develop-

## Man nabbed over attempt to kill father

ment, the accused was alleged to have maliciously pulled down his fathers dwelling house.

The police further alleged that on July 15, 2001, the accused attempted to kill his father, contrary to section 320 of the criminal code.

According to the section, any person who attempts unlawfully to kill another is

guilty of felony and is liable to imprisonment for life.

When the charge No. C/65/2001 was read out to the accused person, he pleaded not guilty.

In her ruling on the bail application, the trial magistrate Mrs. M.O. Martins granted the accused a N100,000 bail with two reliable sureties whose addresses were to be verified.

## Pharmaceutical coy drags twenty establishment to court

**A** Nigerian Pharmaceutical Company, Orange Drugs Limited has dragged over twenty companies to court, seeking judicial protection for its trade marks.

According to the suits filed by Orange Drug's counsel, Mr. Nwabu A. Okoye, the Pharmaceutical company is seeking ju-

dicial protection over the trade marks for some of its products registered with the National Agency for Foods, Drugs Administration and Control (NAFDAC), but which some companies were alleged to be illegally importing, producing and distributing to the public with other names and designs.

Some of the drugs which the plaintiff is seeking trade marks protection over are Mixagrips, Cypron cold caps, Corhinza, Boska, Ciproflox procold and Sundrex among others.

The Enugu and Lagos Federal High Courts presiding over the trade marks suits had earlier granted seven ex-parte orders against the over twenty companies alleged to be involved in the trade marks rfidations.

Ruling on the motion exparted, the courts restrained all the defendants from further infringement on the products either by importing, producing, distributing or offering for sale any of the drugs in contention pending the determination of the substantive suits.

The three Federal High Court Judges, Justices Abdullahi Mustapha, A.O. Ajakaiye and C.P.N. Senlog in their different rulings on the motion expartes also ordered that the defendants should forthwith disclose to the bailiff of the courts on oath within seven days after the service of the process on them, the names and addresses of all persons, companies or firms responsible for supplying or offering to supply to them and to whom within their knowledge they have supplied without the plaintiff's consent.

Joined in the suits as defendants are Trans-calobe Pharmaceutical Company Limited, Jasper Joe Associates Limited, C.N. Okafor Investment Limited, Pezachi Pharmaceutical Company Limited, Edu Dore Link, Livermore Patent Medicine Stores, Mainasara Haliru Nigeria Limited, Vio Jaycee Pharmaceuticals Limited, Hembico Nigeria Enterprises, Bassel Anyi Group of Companies and Ifeanyi Franklyn Okede.



Prof. ABC. Nwosu, Health Min.

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## Abuja News

## Mararaba residents convert streets to refuse dumps

Most streets in Mararaba, a satellite town located at the border between Nasarawa State and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), have been converted to refuse dumps.

The streets which were meant for smooth movement of the Mararaba residents are now used solely to store garbage.

When *Daily Trust* visited the densely populated town yesterday, heaps of refuse were seen on all the major streets. On Sani Abacha street, the situation was worst as heaps of refuse blocked all sides of the street.

The situation of the street leading to Dantata quarters is heart breaking, as refuse has completely taken over the street, a situation which forced those using the street to trek as motor cyclists cannot use it.

Some of the residents who spoke to our reporter blamed the Abuja Environmental Protection Board (AEPB) for not providing Mararaba residents refuse bins.

Mr. Benson Ojo, an employee of the Federal Ministry of Education, said even as Mararaba belonged geographically to Nasarawa State, the residents are workers in the FCT, so it is the responsibility of the AEPB to make sure that the town is kept clean.

He said the taxes that are

Stories by Austine Odo and Emmanuel Aude deducted from the salaries of Mararaba residents go to the FCT, since they are working so the responsibility of



FCT Minister, Engr. Abba-Gana taking care of them should also be the burden of the FCT authorities.

Mr. Mike Alubi, a construction worker with Arab Constructors, told *Daily Trust* that the authorities of FCT are not concerned with the welfare of the masses adding that they are only concerned with areas that accommodate top government officials.

Another resident, Alhaji Salem Musa, called on the AEPB to address the problem of refuse dumps on streets or the chief executive of the board should resign since he cannot handle his responsibilities effectively.

It would be recalled that four months ago the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (MFCT), Engr.

Muhammad Abba-Gana, promised to extend development to the neighbouring towns that share borders with the FCT, but he has yet to match his promise with action.

Arrangements are advanced stage to commission the Gwagwalada area council secretariat in Abuja.

*Daily Trust* learnt that the N50 million project which was handled by an indigenous contractor is now at 95 percent stage of completion.

The Gwagwalada area council is said to have prioritised the project, out of the council chairman's

## Gwagwalada to commission secretariat soon

conviction that ultimate output could only be attained in a conducive working environment.

The secretariat which has a conference hall with a 2,500 seat capacity, comprises the executive, legislative and administrative wings.

Staff of the secretariat who spoke to *Daily Trust*, were very pleased with the construction of the secretariat which they described as a modern edifice. They praised the council chairman for stepping up work on it, and expressed the hope that it would soon be commissioned to allow full official business to take off within.

In another development, authorities in the council have expressed their commitment to enhance food production for the masses.

The head of agricultural development in the council, Alhaji Muhammad Lamorde told newsmen in an interview that the council had provided certain farm inputs for farmers in the council to increase agricultural production.

The inputs according to him, include, fertilisers, insecticides and pesticides.

He also said the council had reduced the hiring rate for tractors to make it more affordable to farmers, and urged them to take advantage of the incentives.

## No going back on illegal settlements - Alabi

As tension over recent pronouncements by government on the demonstration of illegal structures in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) continues to mount, the chairman, Board of the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA), Dr. Olu Alabi, has reaffirmed his resolve to dismantle illegal buildings and settlements in the Federal Capital Territory.

Dr. Alabi who was making a remark after a non-governmental organisation visited him in his office last week, said the first assignment of his

board was to correct the distortion in the Abuja master plan.

He stated that members of his board would not only work to improve the lives of FCT residents, but also to uplift the hopes of all Nigerians by providing more accommodation in the federal capital.

The board chairman stated that since the FCDA board was not in existence for a long time, its first assignment was to revive its functions and introduce new formulae that would hasten development in the Federal Capital Territory. He lamented that after the merger of MFCT and FCDA,

there was no record to guide the board members on the operations of FCDA, a situation he blamed on the past government which he said, killed the functions of the board for their selfish interests.

The President of the NGO Mr. Iserin Adewumi told Dr. Alabi that it was customary for it to identify with those who in various ways, affect the lives of the masses.

He disclosed that as a former commissioner in the old Oyo State, Senator Alabi brought many meaningful development projects to Osogbo and Osun.

## Corps members praise NAN for support

National Youth Service Corps members who served with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in the recently concluded service year have commended the agency for the co-operation and support given to them during the period.

Speaking at a farewell visit to NAN Managing Director, Mallam Wada Maida in his office in Abuja recently, the corps members praised the management of NAN for giving them the opportunity to fully

participate in all activities and operations of the agency.

According to a representative of the corps, Mr. Alex Abutu, who disclosed that NAN had significantly increased corps members' allowances, investigations have revealed that the agency is the only Federal establishment under the information ministry where such privileges are accorded youth corps.

Mr. Abutu said the co-operation and friendly disposition of NAN staff made them to enjoy their service period which has

given them a lot of experience.

He appealed to the management of the agency to consider retaining some of them as employees.

Responding, Mallam Wada Maida said he was pleased to hear that the corps enjoyed their stay in NAN, and promised to consider some of them for employment.

In another development, the chairman, House Committee on Information, Hon. Chijoke Edoga, has commended NAN for its role in enhancing the unity of the country.

Speaking when he led a delegation of members of the committee to NAN headquarters in Abuja recently, Hon. Edoga said the agency needed the support of government and pledged the committees' support to ensure NAN's proper funding.

NAN Managing Director, Mallam Wada Maida, had earlier told the House Committee Chairman that fees charged subscribers to NAN's services were not enough to ensure effective service and called for more funding of the agency.

## Nwosu tasks students on HIV/AIDS

Health Minister, Prof. Alphonsus Nwosu, has charged Nigerian students to intensify campaigns against the spread of HIV/AIDS.

Receiving representatives of students associations from the University of Ibadan in his office last week, Professor Nwosu remarked that the effects of the HIV/AIDS scourge was more on the

youths and urged them not to relent in the efforts to curb its spread, before it does more harm to the nation. He told the students to use every strategy within their reach to campaign against spread of the virus.

According to the Health Minister, government has spent a lot of money to import HIV/AIDS drugs into the country and various people have received training on how to administer the drugs. He said the Federal government had directed that the drugs be made available to every Nigerian and promised to personally support the students as part of his extra commitment to the fight against the scourge.

Earlier, a spokesman of the students, Mr. Olaiye Olusegun, told the minister that the students would put everything in place to ensure success in the war against HIV/AIDS and solicited the minister's support for the campaign to be carried to the grassroots.



President of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria, Archbishop John Onaiyekan (middle), with Rev. Fr. Daniel Msugh Ager and Fr. John Aseu at the occasion of the Archbishop's pastoral visit to Sacred Heart Catholic Parish Airport road, Abuja..... recently



Prof. ABC Nwosu

# Abuja News

## Illegal waste dump-sites grow along Abuja - Suleja highway

New waste dump-sites are growing on either sides of the Abuja - Suleja road, a few metres from Berger Junction, a development which users of the highway see as eyesore and of high nuisance value.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the dumps which spread between the Tipper garage and Gwarimpa Phase II Housing Estate are constituting a nuisance to motorists especially as the road is one of the highways leading into the new Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

Items disposed at the sites, which stretch over three kilometres of the highway, include household wastes, plastic materials, cellophane bags, organic materials some of which look like industrial wastes and medical disposables.

NAN reports that another waste site, situated at few kilometres away from the Berger Junction along the Maitama-Asokoro section of the road, is also threatening to spill onto the highway.

However, officials of the

Abuja Environmental Protection Board (AEPB), described the dump-sites as illegal and unauthorised.

The Acting Director of the board, Mr. Francis Ayandele, told NAN at the weekend in Abuja that the dumps are the handwork of operators of restaurants and night clubs who generate a lot of waste and find it convenient to dump their wastes along the road by night.

"In the night or day they

just carry the waste in the back of pick-up vans dump them there," he said.

He said it was necessary to place sanitation marshals along the highway to stop people from perpetrating the act, but wondered if there would be enough marshals to cover the whole stretch of the highway.

The official waste dump-site on the FCT master-plan is at Durumi, in the Garki Area I part of the metropolis.

## UniAbuja ASUU gets new exco

A new executive council of the University Abuja chapter of the Academic Union of University (ASUU), Wednesday assumed duties just as the vice-chancellor Dr. (Mrs.) Gambo Laraba Abdullahi, stressed the need for peace in the institution.

The new executive chaired by Suleiman Muhammad has Mr. Yusuf Ali Zoaka (vice-chairman), Alhaji Hamza Na'uzo (secretary-general), Mrs. O.M. Yusuf (treasurer), Mal. M.A. Bamanga (Assistant

By Suleiman Muhammad

Secretary General), Dr. Musa Maisamari (P.R.O., Mal. Ishaq F. Musa Internal Auditor, Mr. Suny Ejaro (Financial Secretary) and Mr. Peter Maidoki as welfare officer.

The vice-chancellor, Dr. Gambo Laraba Abdullahi who inaugurated the new executives, said the University had excelled as a peaceful institution since inception and charged and charged the union leaders to maintain that tradition.

She noted the good working relations between the management and ASUU and attributed it to good understaking of the role expected of each organ in the University.

Dr. Abdullahi, said the dream of both the University management and ASUU members was to produce an excellent institution and assured them of the cooperation and support of the management towards attaining their

apartment and was about packing in when he died." A friend said the death of Mr. Otanwa has brought to three, the number of journalists who have died in the Abuja council of the NUJ within the past 6 months.

Council executives said burial arrangements would soon be arranged in consultation with his family.

## Abuja NUJ loses member

The Abuja chapter of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), has lost one of its members Mr. Richard Otanwa.

Mr. Otanwa who was until his death, a senior correspondent with an Abuja based weekly newspaper, "The Nigeria Sun, was said to have died shortly after coughing and vomiting blood during an editorial meeting of the paper in its Kado office.

Daily Trust learnt that late Richard was being rushed to the hospital where he gave up the ghost.

An employee of the newspaper, Mr. Joseph Hiir, told Daily Trust that the cause of Richard's death is yet to be established.

His body was later deposited at the Garki General Hospital.

Twenty-seven year old late Richard Otanwa was before now, the Abuja Bureau chief of the defunct Examiner newspaper, after graduating from the Institute of Journalism in 1999. He was also the secretary, press conference monitoring committee of the Abuja chapter of the NUJ.

Professional colleagues described the Benue-born Mr. Otanwa as hardworking, transparent and dedicated to duties.

"He was always calm and gentle, he never hurt a fly. He just got a new,

## FG reposes confidence on FCDA Board

The Federal Government has expressed confidence in the ability of the Board of Directors of the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA), to successfully execute the Abuja project.

The expression was made Friday by the Secretary to the Government of the federation, Chief Ofot Ekaette, when he received members of the Board, who paid him courtesy call in his office.

Chief Ekaette pledged the willingness of his office to give urgent attention to the problems of the authority anytime the Board came up with any request for assistance. He narrated his intervention missions during the unclear issues at the board's inauguration, and during the demerger of FCDA and MFCT, as a demonstration of the Federal Government's seriousness with the Abuja project, which he specified as the objective of the Federal Government in setting up the F.C.D.A.

Chief Ekaette reaffirmed

the positive expectations of the Federal Government that the board would be able to handle all problems it had inherited, including the distortion of the Master plan and construction of illegal structures, among others.

Earlier on, chairman of FCDA Board of Directors, Senator (Dr.) Olu Alabi, while thanking the secretary to the government of the federation for the role of his office in ensuring that the new board stabilised, enumerated strategies already being put in place by the Board to tackle various inherited problems.

Among the board's strategies, Senator Alabi highlighted the demolition of illegal structures and the opening of new districts in the satellite towns, for squatter settlers.

On the problem of traffic congestion, the chairman expressed the hope that the problem could be overcome with the completion of the on-going construction work on Ring Road 1, adding that the opening up of City Mass Transit System, would ensure a permanent solution to traffic congestion in the city.

Residents of the Federal Capital Territory, F.C.T., Abuja and its environs, especially those living in Keffi, Nassarawa State, have been assured of safety of their lives and property by the Nigerian Air Force NAF, in its forthcoming shooting exercise.

As part of resolve of the NAF to train and retain its personnel to improve their combat readiness, it has concluded arrangements to hold its annual shooting exercise scheduled to hold between August 27 to 30 along Nyanya-Keffi road at 8:00 a.m. daily.

The exercise which will last three days, will involve

## NAF assures of safety in Nyanya-Keffi express

By Hammeed M. Bello

mass movement of troops and firing of live ammunition is geared towards reprofessionalising the Nigeria Airforce.

In a statement signed by Squadron Leader DJ Alonge of the Directorate of Public Relations and Information, NAF Headquarters Abuja, members of the public have been told not to panic as adequate security measures have been taken to protect lives and property of residents of the areas designated for the exercise.

Recently, NAF announced the retirement of seven senior officers and the appointment and

redeployment of sixty others as part of the on-going re-organisation to enhance mobility and professionalism in the Airforce.

The military which has at different fora indicated its resolve to subject itself to civil authority has also been emphasizing on transparency in its activities to strengthen the confidence of the public in its defence of the territorial integrity of the country.

Similarly, apart from the emphasis the military leadership has placed on the need for its men to improve their communication with the civil society in the spirit of democracy, it has also advised those officers who are politically ambitious to resign or face wrath of the law.

## Girl, 22, receives accid bath in Mabushi

Residents of Mabushi in Abuja were on Thursday last week, thrown into confusion as they battled to save the life of a 22 year old girl when she received an acid bath from her lover it was gathered that Jane was brought to Abuja by the boy several months ago but their relationship started developing problems after she was later discovered to be having many other boy friends. This did not go down well with the boy who warned her several times. He feels he had been cheated because he brought the girl to Abuja and she started shunning him" a source said.

The girl whose eyes were to have been affected by the acid, was rushed to a nearby hospital where she is presently responding to treatment

The guilty lover is reported to have taken to his heels immediately after the deed and has not been reappeared since then.

"The girl was asked to pay N40,000 in the hospital, it was the boy who brought her to Abuja, said he disappeared, we are trying to find how to raise the money. We are particularly happy that the girl did not die," the source added.

The sprawling ghettos behind the Federal Ministry of Works headquarters in Abuja where the incident took place, is a part of Mabushi where many girls have chosen to make a living out of prostitution. The derelict squalor accommodates a variety of churches and brothers which are built side by side. It is indeed, one of the village settlements expected to be visited by FCDA bulldozers as government plans to rid the Federal Capital Territory of illegal structures and settlements.



Dr. Laraba Gambo, UniAbuja V-C objectives.

The new ASUU chairman, Dr. Suleiman Muhammad of the sociology department described the election as an internal brotherly matter, aimed at rejuvenating the union and commended the former executives led by Dr. Sain Gbilekaa for earning respect for the union.

Dr. Suleiman pleaded good working relations with the University management and promised union members that their rights would be protected at all times.

Former chairman of the Union, Dr. Sain Gbilekaa expressed his readiness to work with the new team and assured them of wise counselling at all times.



Scene of an accident at zone 5, behind Ibro Hotel in Abuja, where the car hit an electric pole. No one was injured.



# SPORTS



## Kenya invites Nigeria for rugby friendly

Kenya has invited the Nigeria Rugby Football Association (NRFA) to an international rugby match in Nairobi on Sept. 24 or Oct. 25, according to Ntense Williams, NRFA Acting Secretary said.

Williams said in a statement that the NRFA was delighted to be recognised by the "Rugby World" particularly with the Kenyan invitation.

He said the association had already begun arrangements to be in Kenya for the match. The secretary added that the NRFA had plans to invite the Kenyans for a return match in Nigeria.

Meanwhile, the NRFA said it had secured a sponsor, Vitamalt to bankroll its "catch them young rugby programme," tagged "Vitamalt Rugby Schools Pilot Project" expected to be-

gin on Sept. 20.

Williams said the project would target about four secondary and four primary schools during the first term of the new school calendar.

"We are taking rugby to the grassroots through the project.

"The basics of the sport will be imparted to the pupils at a very early age.

"This is expected to create a rugby culture in Nigeria," it said, adding that the project would be spread across the game's 10 zones of the country.

The association commended Vitamalt for backing the project and enjoined other well-meaning individuals and organisations to support the development of rugby in the country.



Boca Juniors Japanese soccer ace Naohiro Takahara, right, fights for the ball with Julio Lopez, of Belgrano of Cordoba, recently, at Boca Juniors Stadium in Buenos Aires during an Argentine first division match. Belgrano won 3-1.

## Presidency gives Yusuf respite

By Patrick Andrew

The Presidency has sought further details on the appointment of a new NFA scribe, a development that has given the incumbent, Dr. Tijani Ahmed Yusuf temporal respite.

However, the ministry may issue the letter relocating the scribe today.

Albeit favourable disposed to the administrative and structural repositioning of the NFA, the Presidency sought to know the status and criteria for the appointment of the new NFA scribe.

Trustsports learnt from dependable sources that the Sports Ministry had recommended the appointment of a new NFA scribe on an acting capacity pending the appointment a substantive Secretary-General to replace Dr. Tijani Yusuf.

Though it had earlier sought to replace Yusuf with one of the states directors of sports in the federation, setting for the Plateau State Sports Director, the ministry later dropped the idea instead went in search for experienced persons who have had working and functional knowledge of the internal workings of the NFA.

Trustsports learnt also that the Presidency has given the go ahead for a change in the leadership of the NFA secretariat, a prove that would sweep off all departmental heads and those said to have been recruited without due recourse to statutory proce-

dure.

The Presidency's request, which was issued by the office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation to the Sports Ministry insisted on clarification in view of the sensitive position of the NFA scribe.

The Secretary-General position as the administrative life wire of the NFA requires highly competent administrator to run. Government which is divesting its funding of sports particularly wants an NFA that is private sector focused and mercantile driven a policy that is at variance with the present civil service orientation in the NFA set up.

## Stam confirms possible move to Lazio

Jaap Stam confirmed in an interview published on Sunday that Manchester United had accepted an offer to sell him to Italian giants Lazio.

The two clubs have agreed to a fee of 18 million pounds (\$26.03 million) for the Dutch international defender, according to newspaper reports.

"This has come out of the blue, but it's true. United have accepted an offer from the Italian club this weekend," Stam told the News of the World newspaper on Sunday.

"I have never wanted to leave but United have agreed a fee with Lazio and it seems both sides are eager to discuss a transfer.

"I have no choice but to consider my options. Lazio are now free to talk to me and we will see what happens over the next few days."

Manchester United said on Saturday that they had received an offer for Stam and newspapers said negotiations between United and Lazio started at the Champions League draw on Thursday in Monte Carlo.

Italian sports daily Gazzetta dello Sport reported on Sunday that the two clubs had reached a general accord but suggested it was not a final agreement because United still needed a defender to replace Stam.

The development follows a row that broke out within the club following the publication of Stam's autobiography Head to Head.

In the book he criticises several of his United colleagues and claims he was approached by manager Alex Ferguson while still at PSV Eindhoven without the permission of the Dutch club. But Mike Williams, Stam's agent, insisted that the decision to accept an offer for Stam was nothing to do with the book.

"I don't think he (Ferguson) would make a decision to sell a player based on that. I have an assurance directly from the club that this has got no bearing on the book whatsoever," said Williams.

## President's Cup to stamp out mercenaries

The organising committee of the Nigerian Academicals Football Championship for the President Cup announced what it called "Performance Incentive Package (PIP)" designed to curb cheating in secondary schools soccer competitions and all sports in general.

"The package is to motivate participants to strike a

balance between academics and sports, adequately reward good performance and discourage the use of mercenaries in school sports," Kunle Raji, the Chairman of the Marketing and Awards Sub-committee for the championship told a news conference in Lagos today.

"The cash-based award system would be wholly private sector financed. Part of



President Obasanjo

the sponsorship monies shall be pooled in a Performance Incentive Trust Fund to be established for rewarding excellence by eligible championship participants," he said.

Giving a breakdown of the proposed PIP award formula, Raji said that each member of the winning team would earn N100,000, the runners-up will receive N75,000 per player while players of the third placed team would collect N50,000 each.

"Collection of the cash award by designated winners

is however contingent upon the successful completion of the participant's School Certificate, NECO or GCE Examinations," he stated.

The chairman listed a seven-point eligibility requirement which the award recipient must fulfil before he could benefit from the scheme which include, being a bona-fide student of a secondary school in Nigeria and must be of good behaviour. The others are that he must have participated and won either a gold, silver and bronze medal in the Nigeria Academicals Football Championship.

Raji said that the eligibility process allowed for multiple attempts to sit and pass the designated examinations, and lapses after three years of the prospective recipient's expected date of graduation.

"The process allows for cumulative cash awards for those outstanding student-athletes who are on multiple winning teams over the course of their secondary school education," he said.

## Dortmund crash in German Cup first round

Bundesliga clubs Borussia Dortmund, Hansa Rostock and Energie Cottbus were ousted in the first round of the German Cup on Saturday.

Dortmund, who have won their first four matches to lead the Bundesliga, lost 1-0 against the Wolfsburg amateurs, a fourth division team.

The pressure was mounting on beleaguered Leicester City manager Peter Taylor on Saturday as his side were comprehensively outplayed by Arsenal in a 4-0 premier league defeat at Highbury.

Freddie Ljungberg and Sylvain Wiltord were on target before Leicester's Dennis Wise and Arsenal's Patrick Vieira were sent off after an hour.

Olympique Lyon moved to the top of the French first division after a 2-0 victory at Troyes on Saturday, while prestigious Nantes, Monaco

and Marseille were again all beaten and slipped further down the table.

Lyon won at Troyes thanks to French international Steve Marlet, who scored in the 43rd minute, and defender Christophe Delmotte, who found the net a minute from time.

## Figo sent off as Real suffer opening day defeat

Real Madrid slumped to a 1-0 defeat at Valencia on the opening day of the Spanish league season on Saturday as Zinedine Zidane laboured to make an impression and Luis Figo was sent off.

Miguel Angel Angulo struck the only goal of the game for Valencia on eight minutes and the defending champions could find no way back against their more disciplined opponents.



Owen Hargreaves of England, left, with teammate Jamie Carragher, in a friendly soccer match between England and Holland at White Hart Lane Stadium, London, England.

SPORTS

NFA to sign fresh contract with Amodu

By Patrick Andrew

The NFA is to enter into fresh crew currently ticketing the Super Eagles.

The contract, which will span the Nations and World Cups, is intended to assure the crew of the confidence Nigeria repose in them to handle the Eagles in both the continental and World Cups fiestas.

The NFA overwhelmingly decided in favour of the fresh contract, which will necessitate an upward review of the present remunerations.

Spokesman of the board, Mallam Mohammed Sani Zaria, disclosed that the decision was in appreciation of the performances of the crew so far.

The crew comprising Chief Amodu Shuaibu, Stephen Keshi and Joe Erico had snatched Nigeria from the jaw of World Cup ouster following the sack of Dutchman Johannes Bonfrere.

Under the Dutch, Nigeria wimble to the brick of World Cup ouster until the FA mustered up courage to throw out Bonfrere who had remained indifferent toward the disgrace that stared Nigeria in the face.

Sani Zaria said though the crew were yet to formally approach the NFA for upward review of the remunerations, the board, however, thought it expedient to do so.

At the moment, Chief Coach Amodu earns N1.2m while Keshi earns N1m and

Erico earns under N1m. Amodu it was reported, had pressed for upward review of his pay in recognition of his new assignment.

Meanwhile, the board has approved the World Cup and Nations Cup programmes submitted by the Super Eagles technical crew.

Among the programmes are proposals for crack friendly matches with South Korea, Japan, Ivory Coast and the Asia Games in India.

The Super Eagles will on October 7 engage Phillippe Troussiers' led Nippon - Japan, while on November 13 it will clash with South Korea in Seoul. The Elephants of Ivory Coast will take their turn on December 30 in Abidjan.

Before the Abidjan clash the Eagles will feature in the Afro-Asia fiesta in India between November 2-11, 2001. They will also feature in an invitational tournament between April 12-13 2001 in New York. In addition, the Eagles will next month participate in the WAFU Nations Cup.



Mohammed Dikko Ladan, the patron of Maidabino Polo team in action at his London base. He will lead his team against Kaduna El-Amin at Katsina Polo Tournament.

Sports Associations election reports for public debate -Ekeji

Electoral reports on the three suspended board elections will be subjected to public scrutiny.

Director of Sports Development, Mr. Patrick Ekeji, revealed while stating that committees are to run the affairs of the Boxing, Gymnastic and Athletics associations following reports of procedural errors in the conduct of the elections.

Mr. Ekeji said because of complaints and counter allegations brought by sundry persons on the elections into the boards of Boxing, Gymnastic and Athletics their elections have been suspended even as fresh elections are to be conducted after the reports of the committee that will temporarily run them have been submitted.

Ekeji, who was scanty on details of the composition of the new committee members, assured that they would be men of integrity and competence in the sports in questions.

The director, disabused the minds of many on government imposition of certain candidates, insisting that if they were so it would have countered the present quest to have individuals with necessary pri-

private sector clout to have in these associations.

Meanwhile, the newly elected boards of the 25 sports associations are to be inaugurated tomorrow in Abuja.

Mr. Ekeji stressed that government will give the new boards fresh mandate and policy position as they affect the running of the associations.

According to Ekeji government intends to use the

occasion to press home the need for less dependence on government funding and the need to develop alternative sources for generating funds for their programmes.

Consequently, he said, prominent corporate sponsors are to be guests at the inauguration, a development that would offer the new boards executives the opportunity to meet with and open contact with them.

...may forfeit sports lottery funds

Sports associations that hope to maximise the National Sports Lottery fund without concrete developmental programmes should better look elsewhere, the sports ministry has advised.

The ministry said the associations can only qualify to draw any financial assistance from the fund on the basis of adequately drawn out and well articulated programmes without which they would forfeit any share from the 30 per cent proceeds earmarked for sports.

Director of Sports Development in the ministry, Mr. Patrick Ekeji, who

warned lazy associations boards to come alive and work assiduously with the aim of turning around the fortunes of their respective sports, said due consideration will only be extended to associations with convincing programmes.

"Associations can only access funds from the 30 per cent earmarked for them from the NSL funds if they have and can with proficiency defend their programmes. A failure to articulate with focus and conviction the programmes they intend to execute, especially developmental programmes should not bother to request for the fund. It won't be ex-

tended to them," Ekeji said. The director said the fund is intended to serve as the launching pad to greater private sector and individuals in-

vestment and development of sports in the country. He assured that the associations will be assisted by the ministry in technical areas.

Kano redeems N3.8m pledge to Eagles

The Kano State government last Friday redeemed a N3.8m pledge to the Super Eagles for qualifying for the 2002 World Cup.

The Kano State government had made the pledge when the Eagles camped in Kano to prepare for their clash against the Falcons of Sudan whom they thrashed 4-0 to raise hope for qualifica-

tion for the mundial.

The squad under an indigenous technical crew later crushed the Black Stars of Ghana 3-0 in Port Harcourt to secure the ticket for the World Cup fiesta holding in Korea/ Japan in the summer of 2002.

Presenting the draft for N3.4m, the state Commissioner for Information, Youth Sports and Culture, Alhaji Nura Mohammed Dankadi, said the government and people of Kano State were happy to identify with the Super Eagles, especially in their moment of need.

The Super Eagles were then trailing the Lone Stars of Liberia even as the Falcons were equally prominent in the chase for the only ticket in the group, the commissioner revealed that in spite of the growing despondence in the land, the state was happy to inspire the team to victory.

"We had pleaded with them to pass through Kano on their way back from Omdurman, but you see, victory has many followers so when they beat the Sudanese national side they by passed Kano straight to Abuja. Nevertheless, we feel highly obliged to redeem our pledge to them, hence this draft for N3.8m," he said.

Nura Dankadi, therefore, urged the Eagles not to rest on their oars but to ensure that they prepare adequately for the gruelling coming Nigeria and the African continent proud in the mundial.

NABA members vow to fight annulment of election

Members of the Nigeria Amateur Boxing Association (NABA) have vowed to rally round their President-elect Mr. Rotimi George-Taylor, whose victory at the July 31 polls officials at the Ministry of Sport and Social Development are

attempting to annul

A statement signed by Emeka Odikpo, NABA spokesman, said "that the association members were worried at the spate of rumours making the rounds that results of some associations would be cancelled.

The statement issued after the members had paid a courtesy call on George-Taylor in his Ikeja office, said their decision to back the president-elect was as a result of their hope that his leadership would help bring back Nigeria's glory in amateur

boxing.

"Taylor has pledged to restore the game of amateur boxing to its enviable height akin to the days of Late group Captain Brai Ayonote," said the statement.

Ayonote's term as NABA chairman was remarkable as Nigeria paraded an array of brilliant amateur boxers including 1984 Los Angeles Olympics silver medallist, Peter Konyegwuachie. Others also include Charles 'Tiger' Nwokolo, Christopher Ossai, Jerry Okorodudu, who also enjoyed brief stints as professional fighters.

The statement quoted Taylor as saying that he was certain that the minister as an honourable man would not tamper with the results of the election.

It said that already the NABA had commenced discussions with some corporate organisations in its plans to revive boxing in the country.

It added that some corporate organisations had indicated interest in reviving the abandoned sport of boxing in the country.



Flash back: Vice-President Atiku Abubakar presenting the Vice-President Cup to Alhaji Lawal Kaita Bife Chairman of Katsina Polo Club, watches. The cup is sponsored by Eiyafa Palace Hotel.

Intercity Bank boosts Katsina Polo tourney

Intercity Bank has joined the ever-growing number of corporate bodies sponsoring major trophies across the Nigeria polo circuit.

The bank is bankrolling the coveted Nigeria Cup at this year's Katsina Polo Tournament, which kicked off on Saturday at the Sir Usman Nagogo Polo Ground in Katsina.

According to the bank's Head of Corporate Planning and Promotion Department, Alhaji Umar Mairami, the move is as step further from its previous gesture towards the development of polo in the country.

The Nigeria Cup is the biggest trophy up for grabs at the polo fiesta and the most prestigious after the Georgian and Majekodunmi Cups.

Intercity Bank has been major sponsors of polo in Nigerian. The bank sponsored a team at Port Harcourt and was main sponsor of the 2001 Minna Polo Tournament.

Other trophies to be competed for at the eight-day polo extravaganza are the Gen. Hassan Usman Katsina Cup, Talban Katsina Cup, Ahmed Coomassie Cup and some selected trophies which include the Vice-President Cup, Governor Cup, Dikko Memorial Cup and Usman Nagogo Cup.

Polo teams from Kaduna, Kano, Bauchi, Jos, Yola and a visiting Ghanaian team are participating in the fiesta.

Among the top stars on parade are Bello Buba, Dawule Baba, Mohammed Babangida, Abba M. T. Usman, Dikko Ladan, Aminu Alhaji and Babangida Hassan.



Alhaji Lamis Dikko, Bank

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# VIXEN contract breaks NFA board

The last word has not been heard on the N1.7bn contract between the NFA and VIXEN.

The contract brokered by Pamodzi, a sports promotion outfit, had generated no little controversy since the memorandum of understanding was signed between the NFA and VIXEN, an oil prospecting firm.

Board members had objected to the contract on the ground that the leadership of the board had unilaterally entered into the deal without due consultation with them.

Members also faulted the procedure adopted by the leadership in the deal, which only committed the NFA to VIXEN without proper contract.

Since the contract was brokered last April members have refused to be taken in on the deal and consequently declined to give nod to the leadership to make further progress on the contract.

Last week, the board again declined to discuss the VIXEN contract insisting that the MOU the leadership entered with the oil prospecting firm was not binding. The board had at its penultimate emergency meeting dismissed with disdain all entreaties to have the VIXEN deal presented before it.

Trustsports learnt from a member that the board rejected moves to have the issues looked into because it does not want to set unnecessary precedence where anybody could assume a unilateral authority to do things without following laid down procedure.

"We refused to allow the VIXEN contract to be brought before us for discussion because the previous areas of differences have neither been resolved nor has the leadership of the board convinced us on why he snopped the board. He did not deem it necessary to consult us why then does he want us to look

By Patrick Andrew  
through the terms," he queried.

VIXEN had last April presented a cheque for N30m as commitment sum in lieu of the contract to sponsor the Super Eagles; payment of their bonuses and other entitlements for five years.

However, controversy has trailed the deal following what is alleged to be an improper deal. The problem has engaged the attention

of the House of Representatives Sports Committee, which subsequently requested for details on the deal.

The leadership of the NFA board had hurriedly entered into the deal sequel to the verbal recrimination on the board by the Sports Minister, Ishaya Mark Aku.

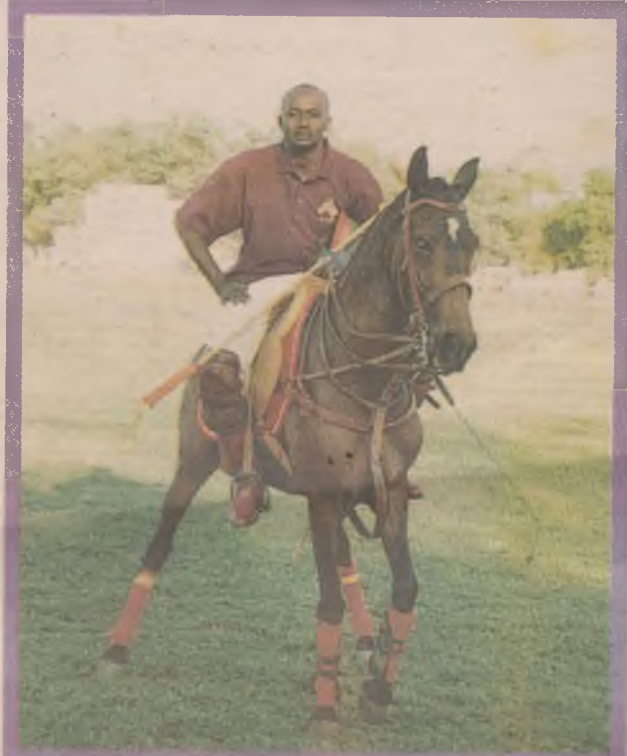
The minister had openly accused the leadership of the NFA of being bereft of mercantile drive describing them as "parasites" that are

only interested in appropriating the little that accrues to the Sports Ministry.

At last Wednesday's board meeting, members seething with rage over the alleged indifference of the leadership towards them staved off attempts to have any serious look into the deal, a situation that prevented the discussion of Wamco's bid to sponsor the proleague. Pepsi recently withdrew its sponsorship of the league.



Real Madrid's Geremi, left, shields the ball from Kallon of Inter Milan during the Santiago Bernabeu trophy soccer match in Madrid, Spain.



Ali Hassan Hadejia will be one of the star attractions at the Katsina Polo Tournament.



Ibrahim Zakari Ibrahim and Aminu Abubakar Athaji of ICN Polo Team pose before a match at Kano Polo 2001. The duo will be in action at the Katsina Polo Tournament.

## Strands of Fate: written & illustrated by Bulama Mustapha

