

COMPLIMENTARY

# DAILY TRUST

Trust Is A Burden

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**We'll begin kidney transplant soon - CMD UMTH**

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**UNFPA warns on delayed census**

By Tashikalmah Hallah

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has advised Nigeria not to "unnecessarily delay" the conduct of census scheduled for this year, even as the National Population Commission (NPC) has proposed November 2002 for the National census exercise.

The warning was given by the UNFPA country representative in Nigeria, Ms Daniele Landry, at a workshop in Abuja on the final review of the country's population policy.

Landry said the timely conduct of the census and surveys were imperative in meeting the inadequacies in population requirements.

"UNFPA will support all efforts to develop and implement effective intervention programmes that will lead to the achievement of the objectives, targets and goals of the revised population policy," she said.

The country representative, however, acknowledged the Federal Government's efforts in strengthening contraceptive supplies, eradicating poverty, revitalising primary healthcare and reinvigorating Universal Basic Education (UBE).

She added that central to the goal of a factual population census aimed at improving the people's quality of life were the issues of reproductive rights, reproductive health, and the empowerment of women.

Ms Landry also explained that the ongoing re-organisation of institutional frameworks for the coordination of population programmes would go a long way in completing the revision exercise on schedule.

Also, in his remark, the Director of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Dr. Thomas Hobgood, whose agency is assisting in the review, said the reviewed document was crucial now that Nigeria was facing the HIV/AIDS scourge.

He added that the USAID would continue to advocate for the improvement of the well-being of Nigerians, particularly

contd. on pg 2

**2003 ELECTIONS**

# Buhari condemns use of ID card

By Mustapha Isah Kwaru

Former Head of State, General Mohammadu Buhari (rtd) has disclosed that the recent decision by the Federal Govern-

ment to use the national identity card in casting votes in the 2003 elections is unfair

to the North and a waste of public funds.

Buhari, who was speaking on a Voice of America (VOA) Hausa service



President Olusegun Obasanjo and his Vice, Atiku Abubakar both (l) greeting Royal Fathers, the Alafin of Oyo, Oba Lamidi Olayiwola Adeyemi II, the Ooni of Ile-Ife, Oba Okunade Sijuade, Olubuse II and others (r) during the 1st presidential retreat on National Security held in Abuja...Friday  
Pix: Kennedy Ogbonodje

## N2.85b fraud in 66 banks

(N6.36 billion) involved in 1999.

By Ahmed Shekarau

The Nigerian Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC) has uncovered 403 different cases of fraud and forgeries involving a total sum of N2,851,110,000.00 (N2.85 billion) in 46 commercial banks and 20 merchant banks in the country last year.

This was disclosed in the corporation's Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for the year 2000 released at the weekend in Abuja.

Although names of the various banks involved in the fraudulent activities were not published, the NDIC report which was made available to *Daily Trust* indicated a phenomenal increase in reported

cases of fraud and forgeries, particularly in commercial banks in the year 2000.

According to the report: "The number of reported fraud cases (in commercial banks) increased significantly by about 119.8 percent from 182 in 1999 to 400 in 2000."

Despite the increase in the number of reported cases of fraud in an average of 46 commercial banks that rendered returns to the NDIC, however, the total amount of money involved in the reported cases in 2000 decreased to N2,844,20,000 (or N2.84 billion) from N6,367,69,000 (or

contd. on pg 2

## Sharia body warns FG over detained cleric

Three weeks after the arrest of a Katsina-based Islamic scholar, Malam Yakubu Musa, by security agents, the Council for the Implementation of *Sharia* in Nigeria, has warned the Federal Government to quickly release the Islamic scholar or the association will take necessary steps that would lead to his release.

According to a British Broadcasting Corporation

programme monitored in Abuja, declared that the issue of I.D. card was a long story which his administration decided to shelve due to its unacceptability by the entire people of the country.

His words: "Past leaders wasted huge amounts of money on this issue, but because of their position no effort was made to force them to return the amounts looted."

General Buhari stated further that, "the country



Maj.-Gen. Buhari spent so many years under colonialism before it gained independence and that the people of the North should therefore, be given enough time to be enlightened on the importance of the I.D card before it can be adopted as a card for election."

The former leader maintained that the fulani herdsmen who live in the bush and come to the city weekly

contd. on pg 2

## Man arrested with 10 girls in Sokoto

The Nigeria Immigration Service has arrested a man attempting to traffic 10 girls to Mali, through Niger Republic.

The Sokoto State Controller, Nigeria Immigration Service, Alhaji Aliyu, disclosed this on a British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Hausa service programme monitored in Abuja.

The immigration boss said that his command has arrested a man who gave his name as Alexandar Okoro, with 10 girls whose ages range from 10-16, at Ilela

Local council which is a border to Niger Republic.

The accused declared that he is an indigene of Edo State and also the girls.

He said that he collected them with the permission of their parents.

His words: "I am not a girls trafficker, I have my restaurant at Mali, but the girls I employed to work for me, cheated me a lot and went away with my money, therefore I decided to come to Nigeria and invite my sisters to replace the Malian girls, who wasted my money."

contd. on pg 2

(BBC), Hausa service programme, monitored in Abuja, the association's President, Dr. Ibrahim Datti Ahmed, disclosed that it is unfair for the Federal Government to arrest the scholar considering the fact that there are a lot of associations such as OPC, that have caused the deaths of people and destruction of their properties, but uptill now security agents have not arrested their

leaders. Also commenting on the issue, Malam Ibrahim Adam Kasuwar Bacci said that Muslims are disturbed over the arrest of Malam Yakubu and that they are ready to use any means to get him released.

His words: "We have taken necessary steps to get him released but the Federal Government has refused to

contd. on pg 2

## NEWS

**Buhari** *contd. from pg 1*

on market days know nothing about I.D. card and any effort to force them to accept it within a short time will fail.

"Does it mean that because they don't have I.D. cards they would not be allowed to participate in voting?" he asked.

"I have talked on this before. Our elected leaders at the National Assembly who are responsible for protecting the rights and interests of the North, shouldn't support this idea.

"I told them we have our origin in the olden days when survey was conducted at every house to identify who was old enough to pay tax. We also have records of those who paid their taxes.

"So, it is unfair to use I.D. card for election now. This is because they have not conducted any survey to know

who are the actual people that can use the I.D. card," Buhari emphasised.

Asked to comment on whether the monthly allocation received by the local government councils from the Federation Account is enough for the chairmen to spend on enlightenment campaigns, he said that the issue of time factor should be considered.

As the issue of the ID card needs long time planning to enlighten the people before accepting it.

Buhari therefore, called on the Northern lawmakers at the National Assembly not to allow this idea to go like that, since they are responsible for protecting the rights and interest of the North, "accepting the idea is a betrayal of the North," he said.

**N2.85b fraud** *contd. from pg 1*

Similarly, the actual/expected loss resulting from such fraud and forgeries in commercial banks last year stood at a lower level of N1,077,89,000 (N1.07 billion) compared to N2,713,40,000 (N2.71 billion) in 1999.

On the average, therefore, about 37.90 percent of the total amount involved in the 400 cases of fraud in commercial banks was lost during the year compared with a proportion of 42.73 percent loss recorded in the previous year.

With respect to merchant banks, the report revealed that only three cases of fraud were uncovered from the returns rendered by an average of 20 of such banks

within the year. This is against the 13 fraud cases reported from the returns rendered by an average of 31 merchant banks in 1999.

There was also a decrease in the total amount involved in fraud cases reported in merchant banks in the year 2000. While a total of N1,036,59,000 (or N1.03 billion) was involved in the fraud cases in 1999, the total amount involved in merchant banks' fraud as at December 2000 was N6,91,000 (N6.91 million).

However, the proportion of loss in this case increased significantly to 38.8 percent as at end of 2000 from a very low level 1.61 percent in 1999.

Also, the supervisory

agency reported that "the level and depth of distress in the (nation's financial) system were reduced significantly during the period under review."

This resulted from the efforts made by the corporation to continue with both its on-and off-site supervision of banks as an integral part of the mechanism for ensuring safe and sound banking practices in the system.

Meanwhile, the NDIC has also declared a N4.402 billion liquidation dividend on 23 out of 31 banks closed between 1994 and 1998.

Out of the total liquidation dividend declared, however, a total of N1.6 billion had been paid out as at the end of last year.

**UNFPA***contd. from pg 1*

women and children.

But the National Population Commission (NPC), the body charged with the responsibility of conducting census in Nigeria, said it would not be feasible to conduct the head count this year and has proposed November 2002 as the new date.

A management staff of the commission, who spoke to *Daily Trust* on the condition of anonymity, said that the proposed new date has already been forwarded to the president for approval.

The source also revealed that the Director-General of NPC, Dr. Kadejo has travelled to New York, in respect of the new date.

"We know that we (Nigeria) are supposed to conduct the census this year, but we have a problem and the UNFPA gives a minimum grace of one year and maximum of three years for every nation to conduct their census after ten years."

The source further said the NPC has scheduled demographic studies for early next year, but added "all depends on the government's response to our request."

Nigeria's last census exercise, which put the population of the country at 88.9 million, with an annual growth rate of 2.9 percent, was conducted in 1991.

The UNFPA is currently assisting Nigeria with \$32.5 million to enhance population development strategies, reproductive health and gender rights advocacy.

**Man arrested** *contd. from pg 1*

But the statement of one of the victims, who gave her name as Julie Alex contradicted that of Okoro. Julie stated that she and her friends are trained hair dressers who have not been able to establish their own saloons years after

training. They then decided to travel to other countries where their services will be needed.

Alhaji Aliyu stated that when they finished their investigation, the accused together with the girls would be handed over to the police.

**Sharia** *contd. from pg 1*

do anything. Gani Adams had committed various crimes including killing of people in the country, but the Federal Government is yet to arrest him, his offence cannot be compared to that of Malam Yakubu, why should the Federal Government arrest him because he keeps foreigners at his residence."

Malam Adam alleged

that Malam Yakubu was arrested based on misunderstanding over the implementation of *Sharia* in Katsina between him and the state government.

He said that the body has embarked on prayers to seek God's assistance on the issue.



L-R: The Chief of Defence Staff, Rear Admiral Ibrahim Ogohi, the Chief of Army Staff, Major General A.O. Ogomudia and the Chief of Naval Staff, Rear Admiral S.O. Afolayan at the 1st Presidential Retreat on National Security, ...Friday  
Pix: Kennedy Egbonodje

## The Debate Continues

For the past nine months in Lagos, Kano, Enugu and Abuja you have watched and read some startling revelations as well as accusations and counter-accusations at the Human Rights Violations Investigation Commission (HRVIC), otherwise known as Oputal Panel. Some VIPs have been invited and while some honoured the summons and attended, others refused to do so and President Obasanjo had advised them to attend. In continuation with its debate on national issues, *Daily Trust* is now giving you the opportunity to air your views on the topic:

**OPUTA PANEL: RECONCILIATION OR RECRIMINATIONS?**

Your invaluable contributions on this topic are awaited. Write today and let others know your point of view.

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NEWS

# I will never work with Obasanjo – Buhari

Former Head of State and Chairman of the defunct Petroleum Trust Fund (PTF), General Muhammad Buhari (rtd), has reiterated his resolve never to work in the government of President Olusegun Obasanjo.

Gen. Buhari, who was a Minister of Petroleum Resources in 1978 under Gen. Obasanjo's military regime, was apparently reacting to the scrapping of the PTF, saying that the act was an injustice to Nigerians.

According to a Voice of America (VOA) Hausa service report monitored in Abuja, he said, "the work I did for PTF is not for my

By Mustapha Isah Kwaru

personal benefit, I worked for the nation when I accepted the appointment during Abacha's regime. People accused me but since I was assisting in



Gen. Muhammad Buhari (rtd)

nation building, I put these accusations behind me."

Buhari referred to the campaign pledge of President Obasanjo to scrap the PTF, which he said, "made me to resign my appointment before he even came to power. So what should I come and do now under his administration?"

Asked to comment on what made him to accept Abacha's offer but would reject Obasanjo's overture, he said he had more confidence in Abacha because he (Abacha) was realistic "in all his activities, he is a real man."

The Zamfara State government has banned traditional rulers in the state from receiving any national, or international official without clearance from the state government.

A statement given to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) by the state's Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Alhaji Hassan Masiha, at the weekend in Gusau, said government was displeased with the trend whereby traditional rulers engaged in partisan politics.

It said government "has noted the unhealthy development which is contrary to the laid down rules and regulations in the country."

According to the statement, a recent action of the Emir of Talata-Mafara, Alhaji Bello Barmo, caused serious embarrassment to the government, consequently, the emir has been restricted from moving out of his domain.

# Zamfara bans traditional rulers from receiving top govt officials

The commissioner said that the government took that action because it would not fold its arms and allow a breach of the peace in the state.

Recently, the National Security Adviser (NSA) to the president Lt.-Gen. Aliyu Gusau (rtd), visited Talata-Mafara to sympathise with the people

over the recent flood disaster that displaced 4,000 people in the area.

During the visit, the NSA seized the opportunity to pay the emir a courtesy visit and presented relief materials in his capacity as an indigene of Zamfara to the victims of the flood.

# PLSG reinstates 1,000 sacked workers

Following the court order given to the Plateau State government to reinstate all the civil servants dismissed in the last retrenchment exercise in the state, the state Governor, Chief Joshua Chibi Dariye, has re-absorbed a total of 1,000 workers and all widows out of the over 5,000 affected in the controversial rationalisation exercise carried out in January this year.

A statement signed by the Plateau State Head of Service, Mr. Camilus L. Tsemwan, explained that the gesture was an indication of the government's irrevocable commitment to the well-being of the people of the state.

He, therefore, called on the affected civil servants in the state to demonstrate the spirit of hardwork, diligence and transparency in their work by rededicating themselves to service "so that the collective dream of the people would be realized."

According to him, government would remain focused in the implementation of its programme for the benefits of the people.

The statement which was made available to Daily Trust in Jos, added that "government appreciated the patience and understanding of the concerned citizens, elders, religious leaders and the

From Buhari Bello, in Jos affected workers during and after the retrenchment."

It would be recalled that the retrenchment of 5,000 civil servants in the state sometimes in January, attracted controversies which some concerned elders in the state vehemently condemned.

Meanwhile, some of the affected workers have vowed not to go back to work as they preferred their entitlements being paid to them. Speaking to Daily Trust in Jos shortly after the government's announcement, one of the dismissed workers, Yakubu Samuel, said, "look, what the government is doing is a mere propaganda to redeem its already eroded image in the state, people want their benefits paid and not the job."



Gov Joshua Dariye

# Nigeria, S/Africa can lead Africa to economic stability - US scholars

Two visiting US political scientists have identified Nigeria and South Africa as "model countries with the potentials to lead the continent toward attaining political and economic stability."

Profs. Richard Sklar, an expert on African affairs and C.R.D. Halisi, of the Department of Pan-African Studies at the University of California, were briefing newsmen at the end of a three-week tour of Nigeria.

Halisi said that the growing interaction between both countries at bilateral and multilateral levels, with enhanced interaction between their peoples, meant well for "African renaissance."

He also commended the growing democracies in both countries, explaining that their abilities to sustain the system provided the platform for the enthronement of stable political systems for the rest of the continent.

Speaking on democracy in Nigeria, Sklar noted that there was no part of the world where democracy was full blown, "not even in the United States," as every society had its own mixture of democratic values.

He also commented on the Justice Chukwudifu Oputa-led human rights violation

commission, and lauded it for exposing the ills of past regimes and granting amnesty

to violators of individual rights, a departure from the past.

# Spinster to receive 100 strokes for fornication

A Sharia High Court in Gusau, Zamfara State, at the weekend sentenced a 20-year-old spinster, Amina Abdullahi, to 100 strokes of the cane for committing fornication which is contrary to Sharia legal system.

According to the prosecution, Amina who lives at Tudun Wada ward, committed the offence sometime in June.

The prosecution told the court that the convict made direct complaint to the Sharia court that she had sexual act with her boy friend, one Saminu Abdullahi.

The prosecution also told the court that the

convict lodged the complaint in order for the court to compel her boy friend to marry her as they had been lovers for a long time.

During cross-examination, the boy friend, denied ever having sexual intercourse with the convict.



Gov Ahmed Sani

saying that she chose to marry a car owner instead of him.

Saminu further told the court that when the car owner jilted her, she came back to him and at that time it was too late because he had had married another girl.

The boy friend asked her to produce witnesses that would testify that he had sex with her, adding: "My lord, this is a deliberate attempt by Amina to tarnish my image before my parents and in-laws."

The convict pleaded guilty to the fornication charge and asked the court for leniency, saying that she came to the court so that the court could compel Saminu to marry her.

# NIPOST introduces security against mail vandalism

Vandalisation of mail which emerged shortly after the economic crunch of the military era, may be a thing of the past as the Nigerian Postal Services (NIPOST) has introduced a Mail Security System to forestall the act.

According to the Chairman, Board of Directors of NIPOST, Chief Samuel U. Nwanganga, in a chat with newsmen at the weekend in his office, electronic surveillance cameras have been installed in halls where letters are sorted to detect fraudulent staff. Guards are also positioned to complement the cameras.

By Abubakar Ibrahim

Further innovations for the improvement of services, he said, were the computerization of NIPOST delivery network, including that of its subsidiaries; EMS and Speedpost. Computer modules have been set up for each sector with each module coded in such a way that one operator could not detect the code of the other.

Citing an instance, Nwanganga said, a coded mail meant for the United Kingdom but misdirected to Hong Kong could be detected and re-channelled to its proper destination.

On dilapidated NIPOST

facilities, he said N300 million has been earmarked for facilities, repairs and renovation of post offices in state capitals and local government areas, including the purchase of vehicles, adding that consultants have been commissioned to look into the needs of NIPOST's central workshop, Ijora in Lagos and building renovations.

Chief Nwanganga expressed NIPOST's new commitment to regulate the activities of other private courier companies in accordance with the NIPOST Services Act of 1992 with particular emphasis on unregistered firms and inspection of existing facilities.



President Olusegun Obasanjo

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**GREAT PACESETTERS CLUB OF LAGOS**  
 This is to inform the general public that the above Club has applied for registration under Part C-of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990.  
 The Trustees are:  
 1) Nnamdi Okonkwo Chairman  
 (2) Ezenwa Oguadimma Secretary  
 (3) Magnus Ike Financial Secretary  
 (4) Ikenna Enendu Treasurer.  
 Any objection to the registration should be sent to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Area 11 Garki Abuja within 28 days of this publication.  
 Signed:  
 Ugochukwu Edmund Onyejiuto Esq  
 Ugochukwu Onyejiuto & Co 1207 Yakubu Gowon Crescent Asokoro Abuja.  
 Tel: 09- 3141115

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**LOSS OF LETTER OF PLOT ALLOCATION**  
 The General public is hereby notified of the loss of a letter of Plot Allocation belonging to Major Azagazu T. Umaru with reference No. MFCT/LA/PL973 Located at Dape District Abuja issued by Ministry of Federal Capital Territory Abuja.  
 Anyone who transacts any business in respect of this offer letter does so at his or her own risk.  
 Signed:  
 Major Azagazu T. Umaru

NEWS

# Yobe urges ACF to embrace youths

The Yobe State governor has urged members of the board of trustees of the Arewa Consultative Forum to open up its doors to the youths and also endeavour to bring in the women folk to reflect the geopolitical and religious groupings in the North.

The governor made the call when members of the Board of Trustees of the Arewa Consultative Forum paid him a courtesy call led by its Chairman, Lt General J.T. Useni (rtd) at Government House, Damaturu.

As an umbrella organisation meant to bring Northerners together within a united Nigeria, Governor Bukar stressed the need for embracing the youths who are the backbone of the society.

He disclosed that there was the need to change the structure as well as the method, the organisation employs to achieve its objectives.

Governor Bukar stated that "our society is changing very fast to the extent that some of our elders of today may not be able to tackle crisis, as the youths if given opportunity."

This, Bukar said, should not be seen as a sign of disrespect to elders, but to emphasise the importance of youths in our society today more than ever before.

He faulted the selection of one representative of Yobe on the advisory council and the board of trustees, saying the larger part of Yobe has been ignored.

He, therefore, called on the leadership of the Arewa

**From Hadiza Abba Musa, in Damaturu**

Consultative Forum to take steps that would change the composition of those who represent Yobe in a way and manner that all shades of opinions will feel represented.

Responding, the chairman of the Forum, Lt. General J.T. Useni (rtd), stated that the main objectives of the Forum is to foster unity and peaceful co-existence and harmony

among the people of the North.

He added that ACF is a non-governmental organisation and non-tribal as all the tribes in the North with different religious and political backgrounds are members.

The chairman, therefore, called for the co-operation and support of all Northern governors as "ACF is not against state governors as is being wrongly rumoured in some quarters," he said.



Gov. Bukar Abba Ibrahim

# Bayelsa government, LG chairmen on war path

The Bayelsa State Governor, Chief Diepreye Alamieyeseigha and the chairmen of the newly created 24 local government areas are poised for war over an alleged plan to sack them.

Sources in Port Harcourt told *Daily Trust* that arrangement has been concluded by the state government to dissolve the 24 newly created councils over what was described as "abuse of office."

*Daily Trust* learnt that alleged looting in the new councils, declared illegal by the Senate may be one of the reason why the councils are considered no longer necessary.

*Daily Trust* also gathered that the government is giving a second thought over the matter.

A close aide of the state governor, Chief D.S.P. Alamieyeseigha, said he (governor) has already made up his mind to dissolve the new councils because of the heavy financial burden.

*Daily Trust* gathered that by this arrangement the old eight councils would be left to function while also acting as "managers" to the dissolved councils

**From Wisdom-Uduok Patrick, in Port Harcourt**

until new chairmen are appointed.

It would be recalled that the Bayelsa State House of Assembly had made frantic attempts to probe the activities of the new councils but in the process, discovered that the appointed chairmen rarely go to their offices.

It was also learnt that there was nothing on ground to show how they have been spending their monthly statutory allocations.

The newly created local government councils in Bayelsa State out of the existing eight, enjoy fund appropriated to them by the old local councils.

Efforts to get any of the affected council chairmen for comment proved abortive as none of them could be reached.

But a close source to one of them from Brass L.G.A. told *Daily Trust* that they would challenge any move by the governor to dissolve them in the law court.

# FG wants clearance on GSM facility

The Federal Government has directed federal ministries, extra ministerial departments and agencies desirous of using the GSM facility to seek prior clearance from the office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation.

This is in view of the need to judiciously utilise public funds and ensure that past abuses of NITEL facilities are not carried over to the raw facility.

According to the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Chief Ufot Ekaette, such requests should be accompanied by a full list of current lines (both landlines and mobile) under the control of the ministry or agency, the officers to whom they are attached and their grade levels as well as outstanding bills on the lines.

Chief Ekaette, who issued the directive in a statement made available to *Daily Trust* on Friday, said the requests should indicate whether the new GSM lines to be acquired are substitutes or complements to the current NITEL lines, and the names and grade levels of officers who will use the lines.

He advised all government officials to abide by the guidelines which he said, were from President Olusegun Obasanjo.

**By Austine Odo**

The Federal Government directive may not have been unconnected with its posture on probity and accountability, as well as judicious use of taxpayers' money.

Due to recent concerns raised by Nigerians on the tariff recently announced by ECONET and MTN, the two newly licensed cellular phone operators, the Federal Government vowed to not only bring down the prices but also make the services affordable to all

Nigerians.

Communications minister, Dr. Bello Haliru, said while signing the interconnectivity agreement between NITEL and the two operators last week that Nigerians would soon experience the tumbling prices of GSM services and that it would become clearer that all Nigerians would have access to the GSM.

He said as a result, government had waived payment of import duty, VAT, and tax for all telecommunications equipment imported for NITEL.

# IGP meets senior officers on security

The Inspector-General of Police, Musiliu Smith, has met with Asst. Inspectors-General of Police and Commissioners of Police from all over the federation to review the security situation in the country.

The meeting which was at the instance of the IGP, is aimed at repositioning the Force to face the growing challenges, especially in the area of violent crimes in the

country.

The meeting reviewed operational strategies towards the provision of general security at the airports, refineries and other major oil pipelines, as well as chart a new course towards handling cases of religious and ethnic crises, motor vehicles trafficking, money laundering, and arms trafficking in the country.

Addressing the senior po-

lice officers, the IGP urged them to ensure adequate supervision of officers and men under them, and charged them to carry the war against crime to the den of the criminals.

The IGP also urged the officers to maintain cordial relationship with the judiciary with a view to ensuring speedy dispensation of criminal justice in the country.

On the welfare of offic-

ers and men of the force, IGP Smith disclosed that the president has approved N500,000 as the new death benefit for a police constable who dies in active service.

He further disclosed that plans are underway to introduce a comprehensive police welfare scheme whereby officers and men will contribute towards having their own houses and receiving substantial money on the eve of their retirement.



## NSL N1,000,000.00 LOTTO JACKPOT DRAW

<b>WEEK 1 GAME 1 WINNING NUMBERS:</b>					
<b>8</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>WEEK 2 GAME 1 WINNING NUMBERS:</b>					
<b>9</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>WEEK 3 GAME 1 WINNING NUMBERS:</b>					
<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>WEEK 4 GAME 1 WINNING NUMBERS:</b>					
<b>4</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>WEEK 5 GAME 1 WINNING NUMBERS:</b>					
<b>8</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>WEEK 6 GAME 1 WINNING NUMBERS:</b>					
<b>11</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>49</b>

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DAILY TRUST

EDITORIAL

## Reviving primary education

On Monday July 30<sup>th</sup> the Universal Basic Education (UBE) programme was flagged off when Minister of Education, Professor Babalola Borisade enrolled pupils into primary one for the 2001/2002 school year in Abuja.

The UBE coordinated by Professor Gidado Tahir is patterned after the Universal Primary Education (UPE) programme of the 1970s, unlike the latter, the UBE apart from primary also focuses on adult literacy and nomadic education. Preparatory for the take off of the scheme 3,096 blocks of classrooms are being constructed in all the 774 local government councils. Also, the Education Trust Fund (ETF) has given each state a total of two million exercise books for distribution to pupils, while 30,000 teachers would soon graduate under the first phase of the pivotal teacher training. Thus, the UBE is poised to inject some vitality into the primary school sector which has suffered unspeakable neglect and official impoverishment over the years.

Prof. Borisade captured the philosophy of the UBE at the flag-off ceremony when he said, "we are here to sound the clarion call for the children who are of primary school age to come out and be enrolled for the (UBE) programme. The bell that tolls to invite you is the bell of freedom. It is the bell of prosperity for now and the future of our children and our great country."

He said the programme also aims at eradicating illiteracy, poverty, disease, youth unemployment and restiveness and armed robbery. In spite of these lofty and rosy aims, the UBE is a welcome manifestation in the nation's educational development but a few facts need to be observed to avoid the pitfalls of the past. In this country, policies tend to be associated with the particular administration that initiated it in the first instance. This implies that most new administration develop a cynical attitude to concepts initiated by the predecessor. Soon this cynicism matures, and the project is finally jettisoned.

Progress would be hampered with this kind of mentality, which is gradually becoming a national culture. For instance, what strategies or structures have been put in place to ensure continuity of the UBE even when this administration has done its term?

There is also the bumpy road the UBE bill is contending with at the Senate where there is a debate as to which layer of government should prosecute the programme. It is held that the constitution makes primary school education a function of local governments, and the UBE bill which intends to take over this function, is therefore, a fundamental contradiction of the constitution in this respect. There is an urgent need to overcome this so that the programme be given the required legal backing.

The recent revival of interest in the UBE by Prof. Borisade is, at once, a call to all stakeholders in our educational structures to rally round the programme, and imbibe it with strength and goodwill such that it will flourish. *Daily Trust* welcomes the UBE project which, while focusing on primary education, is at the same time an investment in our collective heritage and future.

## MONDAY COLUMN

### The bitter truth and the Nigerian nation

By Ahmed Danfulani

Writing in his now famous book: *Diplomatic Soldiering*, General Joseph Nanvem Garba began a particular chapter by saying that (given our political fortunes at the time) "Nigerians should be grateful to Americans". Given our political 'misfortunes' of today, I am not sure even if anybody will congratulate the Americans or the British; the former for packaging democracy to the world, the latter for ensuring that, that same democracy a la American, remains unworkable, even though an unfortunate difficult socio-political acrobacy! Yet, when we indeed sit down to count our blessings, strictly speaking, we do have ample reasons to give thanks ONLY to the God of our parents, God of Africa and the Lord of the universe. Let us not now count our blessings. In the words of Frantz Fanon in his book *The Wretched of the Earth* - written first in French, later translated into several languages - *C'est trop tot, ou bien trop tard!*: "Our thanks is either too early or too late"! We do however believe that our thanks - gratitude to God - in this country can never be too early, or too late in the day. Rather, we should continuously express our appreciation to the Lord God, "for his mercy over us".

But for heaven's sake, do we indeed have any reason to thank God in this country? Are we actually qualified to give thanks to God, given that as a people, we are a special breed with a high number of crooks, cheats, fake Mullahs, Bishops and questionable saints? Some smart guys - free thinkers and humanists, the likes of our only Nobel winner - might actually conclude that the Lord God, if He indeed exists, may actually have no time for Nigerians - a people so blest, so ignominious, so deceitful, so forgetful, so parochial, so, so and so so!! We must also add - pious and hardworking with some of the 'best' rulers and leaders in the world! Yes, we are lucky to have the best, and 'fortunately' the worst, which when summed up boils down to the dictum: 'a people gets the sort of rulers they appropriately deserve'. A very prophetic and strategic saying when it is realised that those leaders and rulers are from the same bakery as those of their citizens. Simply put, both the leadership and followership are intrinsically the same; going by the doctrine of a common collective political set up. We are Nigerians!!!

In this piece and in the course of our successive submissions, we would like to argue to the contrary. And in the words of Chief Ernest Shonekan, this country possess the best and possibly the worst - "but the very best is yet to come"! In this line of thinking, we may even quickly extend our thoughts to the neighbour across the border - Ayehi Kwey Amah in Ghana, when he poetically wrote the famous book: *The Beautiful Ones are not Yet Born!* It may however be too sweeping to conclude that in this great country, the beautiful ones are not yet born. Rather, one should admit that, given what Joe Garba called the 'fortunate accident of history', the Nigerian nation - even though crafted by the British, was a nation designed to be one, long before those invaders came to drink from the Niger - only thereafter to call the people 'Nigerians'. Quite fantastic a foresight, and decidedly strategic an ambition to create the most heterogeneous groups of people into a single political entity; and to deftly call them by the name of the river within the vicinity of the rather large territory. Spreading from the desert to the Atlantic, the country is strongly binded together by strands of thread, solidly held in place by several powerful conscious nationalities.

Today we must all be proud that rather than being cut into small bread or banana-like pieces, we have one of the largest countries in the continent. The fortunate accident of 1<sup>st</sup> January, 1914, has thus become the envy of others not so blessed, with a mounting population creeping into 130 million by 2010!!

## LETTER OF THE DAY

### Re: French firm gets N275 billion ID card contract

The attention of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), has been drawn to a story titled, "French firm gets N275 billion ID card project, published in your *Daily Trust* edition of Tuesday, July 24, 2001.

The third paragraph of the said news story claimed that, "the contract was approved by President Olusegun Obasanjo despite complaints by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) which described the company as 'a non-performer based on previous experience'.

The above story as presented in your publication is a misrepresentation of fact and an embarrassment to

both the chairman and the Commission. There was never a time that INEC chairman complained to anybody about the ability of Sagem S.A., neither did it describe the company as "a non-performer".

All INEC said was that the work schedule of Sagem S.A. to produce list of registrants by August 2003 will not meet the commission's requirement for the production of a voter's register to be used by March 2002 in readiness for the local government elections.

INEC had already fixed November 2001 for the registration of voters nationwide and a different schedule as suggested by the company on ID card project would defi-

This precisely is the bitter truth that we must learn to accept in the sense that there is no gain without pain and vice versa! When important leaders talk about Nigeria, they do refer to us as that great country. Others, of equally sound mind do see the country in the light of its leadership and are quick to lament: 'Such a great country with a load of brains and handworking smart population, but bereft of astute political statesmanship'. Others, while acknowledging all the benefits and dangers inherent in our size and population prefer, painfully as it were, to refer to us as a great country essentially divided along ethno-geographic lines. Against the background of our failures (and successes) in the previous republics, and against the sinister of the past years of the avoidable despotic totalitarian military trajectory it certainly may not be out of place to shout with Alan Paton in his book: *Cry the Beloved Country!* Given that we are so blessed - in all aspects, will anybody or even group of bodies take us with desired seriousness when we (our leaders and ourselves) behave in a manner as to warrant the etiquet 'fully paid' stuck on the character of our person! Will anybody forgive us when it is revealed that our labour force and policy makers don't go in the same direction; when it is realised that in spite of our enormous resources: men and material, we import almost all the essential goods of daily living! Mr. President - our dear Mathew Aremu Obasanjo - the African Mao, had to complain that Nigerians have even gone to the extent of importing fried banana!!! Yes, fried plantain! But sir, 'Kabiyesi', why can't our universities be the envy of other nations producing not only the best and brightest, but also providing the best solutions to our human and environmental problems? Sir, why is it that our business 'moguls' are no better than 'salesmen' and contractors boisterously parading our offices with all sort of goods and consumables that are anything but lacking in good quality? Sir, why are we as fortunate as to have leaders the majority of which prefer to put the interest of their people in the car boots? And sir, finally, why is it that when good policies are made, our citizens are always at the forefront struggling to find loopholes to sanction selfish and shameful benefits?

The answer is extremely simple, and could even be answered by a toddler! We are Nigerians - a people without a nation, and a people devoid of a state - the invincible geopolitical entity that welds a people together for a common purpose and common aspirations. Happily enough, one of those men in khaki, fortunate to rule the country, has propounded a theory of *jus solis*: 'we do not have another country. Nigeria is the only nation that we have!' Am not sure whether anybody remembers that strict fine Fulani boy from the desert! Concerned about the abyss of disgrace we were all sunk - that chap and his friend of blessed memory - Tunde, compulsorily staged a 'War Against Indiscipline' - in a country as disciplined as those cows in the cattle ranch painted by Kamara Laye in his book *A dream of Africa!* The bitter truth that we must live with is that we are in a train, sharing a sweet kola of strategic partnership. All the nationalities that were 'sewn together like a quilt, across a foreign bargaining table' (Soyinka - 1996), are the inheritors of the very great country. The bitter truth is that the children of the rich and those of the poor do meet on the streets, in schools and happily enough in churches and mosques - praying for Nigeria. The bitter truth is that the market woman and the 'chaps in Aso Rock' (MAO & Company Nig. Ltd.) are all Nigerians whose fate have been sealed together, earlier in 1914 - and if we go by Joe at NIPSS, possibly even earlier than that! The bitter truth is that all the political parties are composed of Nigerians. The bitter truth is that we must all stand and solidly too behind and together, side by side with the political leadership - The intelligent deduction suggests that we could/should constructively criticise them - all of them - without intently willing to rock the boat! The bitter truth and the sweet lies are being patently churned out by the day at the Truth & Reconciliation Commission -

which in itself is a great achievement by Nigerians: that those that have willingly or unwillingly killed, maimed, defrauded and destroyed others, sometimes in the name of the inhabitants of Niger River, could come together, face each other and expect pardon or other concessions clearly and poignantly suggest that we have a nation - which we all want purified, sanitised and glorified. The bitter truth is that what united us together is stronger than the undeniable differences we share. The bitter truth is that we do not need to thank anyone but ourselves for making Nigeria the greatest country in this century. The bitter truth is that history will not forgive us if we fail - And if God is with us, Nobody could be against us. Cry the beloved country.

Danfulani is a Professor of International Affairs and writes from Abuja.

nitely affect the commission's plans which will affect the 2002 local government elections.

INEC considers the statements credited to it as blatant falsehood and a calculated attempt to cause disaffection between the chairman of INEC and the named company. At no time did the chairman describe the company as "a non-performer".

In view of the above facts, INEC demands an unreserved apology and immediate retraction of the statement published by your newspaper. This retraction should be given prominence in your daily newspaper.

Segun Adeogun,  
Director, Public Affairs,  
INEC,  
Maitama District, Abuja.

## Opinion

Satellite campuses:  
bane or boost

By Ikenna Emeka Okpani

Last Tuesday at the presentation of registration certificates to the proprietors of the newly approved Bowen University, Iwo, Osun State, held at the National Universities Commission, the Minister of Education, Professor Babalola Borisade, without mincing words, stated that satellite campuses were illegal.

"With a total of 25 federal universities, 16 state universities, and now four private universities in Nigeria, coupled with the proposed distance education programme of the federal government, there is no further justification for the ill-equipped and poorly organised satellite campuses run by many universities, which are incapable of effectively running their main campuses", the minister said.

He averred that the primary motive behind the establishment of many of the satellite campuses appears to be pecuniary without regard to quality, stating clearly that the operations of these ill-equipped outreach campuses are illegal and students have themselves to blame if they continue to patronise them.

The issue of satellite campuses has been at the front burner following NUC declarations that they were illegal and the subsequent ultimatum for them to close down.

The reasons behind this are numerous and weighty. In the first place, all major cities in Nigeria have over 10-15 outreach campuses, sometimes more than one in a particular city for one university. These outreach centres, which are growing everyday in number and are also gaining greater autonomy or independence from their mother universities, have gone ahead to offer courses which are not available in the universities they represent.

Standards and quality have been thrown to the dogs while exploitation and other manipulations for monetary gains are glamorised. Lecture periods are getting shorter and shorter while dependence on poorly assembled mimeographs is getting greater everyday.

Students acquire first and post-graduate degrees without 'O' level certificates post-graduate diplomas without a first degree. Qualifications for courses which were hitherto based on acquisition of certain challenges have been replaced by the ability to pay for them. Some satellite campuses charge four times as much as their mother universities.

The course content of satellite campuses sometimes differ totally from those of their parents. Their academic calendars are irregular. Registration does not have deadlines as far as one is able to pay, one can still register on the first day of a semester examination and take part in the examination and school calendar session.

The satellite campuses have therefore become places where rules and qualification certificates for entry into higher studies are being ignored, instead of serving as providers for having the possibility to achieve higher skills.

Another area where people criticise satellite campuses is on the issue of facilities. For example all primary schools in Abuja harbouring these outreach centres lack adequate seating where the so-called students can conveniently sit and take lectures. They do not even have libraries or other equipment.

Furthermore, people argue that the recruitment of lecturers is being done without taking the official criteria into consideration. In some cases, relations of the proprietor are employed to lecture, perhaps as assistant lecturers, even if they have third class in their first degrees.

On the other hand proponents of satellite campuses argue that the system brings access to education for workers and others who cannot leave their immediate environment for academic purpose in other towns. So people have the opportunity to grow in knowledge while they work. The knowledge they gain from lessons at the satellite campuses can quickly be used in their place of work. Others argue that the satellite campuses provide employment for the population of unemployed graduates who might get employed as lecturers.

As cogent as the rationale behind their establishment are, satellite campuses in Nigeria may have been abused, prompting the federal government's preference for distant learning.

Recently, the Commonwealth of Learning visited the Minister of Education, Prof. Borisade, to fine-tune strategies for Nigeria's entry into the programme. It is believed that those who use these satellite campuses because they are interested in acquiring knowledge can use the distant learning opportunity.

Okpani is a staff of Daily Trust.

## Katsina's democracy dividends

By Miqdad A. D. Saude

The world must be made safe for democracy." So said Woodrow Wilson, America's 28<sup>th</sup> president, in his address to the American Congress in 1917. And with that comes the obvious corollary of a robust defence at virtually all costs, in ensuring the integrity of government and the people, by the people, for the people.

Eight and a half decades later, and half a world away, that sentiment remains no less powerful. In relatively small Katsina State, in the North of Nigeria, the heralding of the third year in the area of a newfound freedom of expression and economic liberalisation brings with it genuine hope and aspirations, that the dividends of this sweet new order will continue to reach the public majority which the last two years have been so beneficent to. And what better measure of change for the common good is needed or can be more eloquently stated, than the honest facts. I should know as an insider representing the largest constituency in the state.

A state which, at the inception of the new order and the governor's election to office on May 29<sup>th</sup> 1999, was in deficit to the tune of N70 million. Peanuts, many would say. But being in the red is being in the red. To perhaps introduce a helpful perspective herein, it is relevant to say that Katsina State back then had an almost total reliance on funding from the Federation Account's statutory allocation. Its internally generated revenue in fiscal 1998-1999 averaged a little over 1.9 percent whilst obligations to external loans servicing from World Bank assisted projects was around US\$ 120 million. By May of this year, 2001, through a painstaking and prudent pruning and strict enforcement of disciplined

accounting principles, internally generated revenue had climbed into the comparatively pitchest-black, rising by over 365 percent from its 1998-'99 negative, to a whopping N444 million (1999-2000), and a state coffer bursting to the seams of a remarkable N5 billion, generating an additional N500 million in investment premiums.

On the constituency level, thanks to the vision of the governor, Katsina local government was relieved of the burden of administering four primary health clinics, thereby allowing for the much needed funds to be ploughed into other developmental projects. The rehabilitation of Katsina township roads, complete with security lights to the tune of N988 million has been achievable and with eight boreholes sunk in addition to the rehabilitated Ajiwa waterworks, there will soon be abundant potable water supply for the first time in over five years.

What democracy under a prudent and sincere governor has translated to is the steady improvement of the lives and livelihood of the state's citizenry. The healthcare sector has received a timely shot in the arm with imported and indigenous medical equipment purchase of N330 million and N38 million respectively. With the re-introduction of the Drug Revolving Scheme at the cost of N45 million and the construction of feeder roads in all 34 local government areas of the state, life is becoming less stressful.

Also in the works is a proposal for the construction of roads in all nooks and crannies of the city, thereby enabling greater and easier accessibility and mobility, whilst the

prevention of communicable diseases through decongestion is ensured. This was a project hitherto moribund for the past five decades.

Such greater access and transparency of purpose is the distinct hallmark of the governor, who it should be remembered is still the only one in this present dispensation to publicly declare his and his family's assets. A gesture acknowledged by the award of Excellence in Probity and Accountability, by no less a body than the NUJ. Under his erudite and compassionate leadership, all wrongly terminated appointments in the civil service were recalled and reinstated, with the notable record that no single civil servant has been dismissed or had their appointment terminated since then.

This consultative approach to governance has witnessed a smooth and highly productive relationship between the executive and legislature headed by Alhaji Sani Fago. A quality not lost on the unalloyed support of Alhaji Tukur Ahmed Jikamshi, the deputy governor of the state, a man himself governed by admirable principles of humility and the zeal for the development of the young state.

The partnership of like minds has guaranteed the additional dividend of a crisis-free assembly, which has been able to pass seven bills and over 100 resolutions with the timely release, since inception, of all capital funds meant for the effective performance of the state assembly for the betterment of its citizenry. Such harmonious relationship in the choppy waters of democratic politics has been fostered by the sincere realisation of the innate evil of an over-burdened progeny. Our children and their

children would be made to bend under the weight of debts and maladministrative structures incurred and erected generations before theirs in an increasingly competitive and technologically advancing global marketplace, placing them at a disadvantage to wide to bridge if left unheeded. Education has thus become a priority sector, with the rehabilitation of primary schools and improvement in teachers' conditions through a more conducive atmosphere and prompt payment of salaries, along with state sponsorship in courses and seminars to develop and enhance their skills for the benefit of their pupils.

One hundred years ago, the prediction of a famous and renowned seer and scholar of Islam placed Katsina as the focal trading point of the Northern region. Its industriousness and prosperity would bloom under a leader of sincerity and humility, raised from a dynasty of princes. His transparency and seeming prudence would be initially met with stiff opposition and resistance, but he would eventually prevail and take Katsina to full prominence.

Today, Katsina State's pains of tailored belt-tightening and painstaking attention to the yearnings of its people is commensurately translating into a long-term gain of stakeholders. The prophecy is clearly manifesting. As another great leader said: "Change is slow and gradual. It requires hard work, a bit of luck, a fair amount of self-sacrifice, and a lot of patience". The mark of genuine democracy.

Honourable Miqdad is the chairman, Special Duties Committee, Katsina State House of Assembly.

## Segun: Is he a 'true son' of Awo?

By Idang Alibi

It had to do with Rudolf, the younger brother of Mohammed Ali, the man who calls himself "The Greatest". Rudie tried to be a champion boxer like his famous older brother. This prompted journalists to ask Ali: "Does 'it' (boxing prowess) run in the family?" Ali responded that the famous singer Elvis Presley had a brother who couldn't even sing.

From Ali's response and what we now know, it is clear that character, success or failure does not run in families. Rather, every individual determines who he wants to be in life and proceeds to live his own life regardless of his antecedents.

In other words, contrary to the late Chief Obafemi Awolowo's observation that the son of a lion is a lion, we now know that the son of a lion may be a lion only in name by virtue of progeny, he may not in fact be a lion in character.

Quite interestingly, Segun, the grandson of the late Chief, is a living proof of this reality that certain attributes are not passed on from parents to offspring or from one sibling to another. Why am I making this observation?

Awo built his reputation as a far-sighted, frugal, hardworking, intellectually sound, highly disciplined and spiritually deep man who was not given to any form of frivolity whatsoever. In fact, at a certain point in Awo's life when he was still as fit as a fiddle, he gave up having sex, a fun that many men, both in his time and now, would kill themselves to engage in.

Awo had an omnivorous appetite for knowledge and placed a high premium on the application of knowledge in the provision of solutions to the problems of society. Those who lacked his Spartan discipline, his serious attitude and intellectual capability, were often resentful of him and were fond of accusing him of being arrogant and of having a self-righteous and know-it-all attitude.

In reply to all such critics, Awo who was also well known for an austere and meditative life, once said: "I have never regarded myself as having a monopoly of wisdom. The trouble is that when most people in public life and in the position of leadership and rulership are spending whole days and nights carousing in clubs in the company of men of shady character and women of easy virtue, I, like a few others, am always busy at my post working hard at the country's problems and trying to find solutions to them."

Given Awo's many noble qualities, not a few Nigerians expect that at least Segun, who was the dotting apple of the old man's eye, will be like him. To put it in Chief Zebrudaya's unique English: Segun's "eye will appear his grandfather." But this has not been the case.

While Awo was very reserved and almost ascetic, Segun appears to be a direct opposite. He is a fun-loving, happy-go-lucky young man who wants to live his life to the hilt.

While Awo could only have been found in a crowd where the

deep call to the deep, Segun seems to mix and dance with crowds where wine, women and wild jokes flow freely. For example, Segun was the Master-of-Ceremonies at that (in)famous Terry Wawa *owambe* party in London that attracted a presidential rebuke. I think that when next Segun updates his C.V., he should add this degree to the one he has already got: M.Sc. (*Owambe party*) London.

I can go on and on to compare and contrast the lives of Awo and his grandson but I am not preparing to write a school certificate examination in English Literature, Bible knowledge or History. What I am doing here is lamentation. Is what we are seeing a case of failed fathers or failed sons?

Why does it look like all our famous men could not or cannot mould their children to walk in their footsteps? The late Nnamdi Azikiwe, a free enterprise advocate who built estates in many towns and cities, had a son who was living permanently in a hotel room.

Do famous men leave shoes that are too big for their offspring to wear or do their descendants just buy and wear their own brand of shoes?

At Segun's age, Awo was already a premier and had started doing things that later made him who Ibrahim Babangida called "the main issue in Nigerian politics." Chief Odumegwu Ojukwu also described Awo as "the best president Nigeria never had." I know that it is unfair to compare Awo and Segun because the circumstances are vastly different. There is no Western Region today so Segun can't be premier even if he wants to. In fact, Segun needs not be premier nor aspire to be the best president Nigeria never had.

However, what some of us who consider Awo the authentic Nigerian hero expect of him is that as the grandson of Awo, there should be a lot of Awo's noble qualities in him. A lion's son should indeed be a lion. But the Segun we see today looks like a young man who suffers from perpetual youthful exuberance.

Segun Awolowo and other children of famous men have a right to live their lives the way they want, but we have a right to hold them against the standards of their fathers. Children of famous families must bear a burden. While they profit from the glories of their family names, society has a right to expect them to do honour to the names of their progenitors.

How can an Awo's son be a good friend to high-class revellers? How can an Awo be an M.C. in any party? How can a prince dance - is there a king in attendance?

I am lamenting because some of us, who are from humble backgrounds and desire to build up a name for our family, need to look up to some families. We do need to be encouraged by the examples of children of big families that it is a worthwhile venture. Who will want to build an empire if he knows that it will be destroyed soon after?

Mr. Alibi, a former member of the Daily Times editorial board, lives in Abuja.



## YOUR LETTERS

### Enduring democracy and crime

Newspaper reports on the increasing cases of armed robbery set one thinking about what such ugly situations portend for the nation especially for the democracy that is being nurtured. No doubt, despicable acts of these hoodlums are getting out of hand. The aftermath of such incidents is horrific as the

entire populace is virtually living at the mercy of the armed robbers. As the graphic representation of the activities of armed robbers continue to mount, government appears lost on what to do to curtail this ugly trend, one is therefore bound to conclude that the fate of Nigerians are hanging on the balance.

Nigerians actually did clamour for democracy but not the type with the insecurity that has besieged the nation. The growing disenchantment amongst the masses over the rate of armed robbery incidents in the society coupled with the near hopelessness of the economy is a clear departure from the wishes and aspirations of

most Nigerians. It is becoming increasingly worrisome that the supposed gains of democracy are being fast eroded by non-performance. Any government that that ignores the security of lives and property of its citizens is doomed. Therefore there is urgent need for President Obasanjo to focus his attention on ways to counter the activities of the miscreants.

The government should stop expending its energies in chasing shadows by claiming to fight corruption while lives are left unprotected. **Mr. Rufus Alabi, 14c, Akarigbo Street, Shagamu, Ogun State.**

### Babayaro, an asset to Super Eagles

Fundamentally, Chelsea of England left fullback defence strongman Celestine Babayaro got into tango with the Nigeria Football Association over the issue of refund of air ticket expenses of the player for honouring Nigeria's matches sometime back, hence his absence from most of the Super Eagles' concluded matches for tickets to Mali Nations Cup and Japan/Korea World Cup football competition in 2002.

Really, the absence of Babayaro from the Eagles in recent times have paved way for the emergence of players like Justice Christopher of Insurance Football Club of Benin and Belgium-based Ifeanyi Udeze, both considered in some circles as capable replacements for Babayaro and so to some football fans, let the Chelsea player continue his back-out action from the Eagles as with or without him, the Super Eagles can still prosper in any future football competition.

However, in an interview granted to journalists in Port Harcourt and published on the back page of *Saturday Champion* of August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2001, NFA Secretary General, Dr. Tijjani Yusuf described the player as an 'asset', adding that "the NFA would do everything possible to bring back Babayaro to the Super Eagles' fold".

This statement from no less a personality than the NFA scribe really gladdened the heart of this writer because Babayaro is one of the highly cherished, admired and respected players especially in view of the player's resoluteness on the

field of play. Babayaro no doubt has frequently stepped into the shoes of Nigerian ex-internationals like Yisa Sofoluwe, Bright Omokaro, Ben Iroha etc.

Indeed, any sincere soccer fan must give kudos to Babayaro especially in view of the player's contributions to the country's exploits at the Atlanta '96 Olympic soccer victory. Babayaro was a jewel during the France '98 World Cup competition as well as the 2000 African Cup of Nations co-hosted by Nigeria and Ghana.

Therefore, Celestine Babayaro has the much needed experience to marshal the left fullback defence next year, thus the decision to recall him by all means to the Eagles as enunciated by Dr. Yusuf is indeed commendable. **Hassan Bako, Katsina State Radio, Katsina.**

### Oh God! Save Ilorin

The political situation at Ilorin, the Kwara State capital, deserves special prayers from all well-meaning Nigerians.

The aggressive militant youth under the auspices of OPC have become a threat to peace and the people of Ilorin themselves have also taken arms against one another for selfish reasons. The situation as it is definitely calls for divine intervention because only God can save Ilorin and its indigenes from this crisis. **Yunusa Hamza F/Dutse P. O. Box 185, Gwaram, Gwaram Local Government, Jigawa State.**

### Field competent candidates

May I appeal to all indigenes of Dukku Local Government area of Gombe State to join hands in the crusade to give this area a rebirth.

To say that this area is neglected is an understatement. Various government projects, including rural water and agricultural schemes introduced in this area by successive governments have been abandoned.

I can swear that the future looks bleak for people of Dukku because of lack of new development projects. It is not true that funds were not made available for the development of this area. Rather, our problems had been mismanagement of public funds and lack of public accountability as accounts of most of our local government areas remained unaudited for years.

Besides, most of our so-called leaders, especially at the local government level do not have the interest of the electorate at heart. Most of our so-called chairmen and councillors are busy acquiring wealth at the expense of

the masses that elected them. I am therefore appealing to the people of Dukku local government area to ensure that we turn the table come 2002 when the next council elections in the country are expected to hold. We must ensure that only honest and hardworking persons would

be elected as our representatives in future. We should scout for and field competent candidates who would deliver the goods. **Yusuf Ibrahim Hashidu, Unguwar Madaki, Hashidu, Dukku LGA, Gombe State.**

## Thank you, Nigerian Baptist Convention

I would like to thank the Nigerian Baptist Convention for siting Bowen University, Iwo (BUI) at Iwo.

In fact, the people of Iwo will forever be grateful to the Nigerian Baptist Convention for taking the bold step in breaking the jinx as no higher institution of any kind has ever been sited in Iwoland. We believe that this shall surely be the beginning of the desired development in Iwoland which by its location ought to be the centre of Yorubaland.

Iwo, the present headquarters of Osun West Senatorial District, had

remained abandoned since the amalgamation of Nigeria in 1914 in terms of any viable development. It has over the years suffered neglect by local, state and federal governments.

Iwo people are enterprising and freely mix with any community in which they find themselves. I am therefore appealing to the federal and state governments to please remember the people of Iwoland in terms of developmental projects. In addition, I would like to also appeal to the people and government of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to borrow a leaf

from the Baptist Convention by giving us a befitting Islamic university through their agents and representatives among us. This, no doubt will go a long way in complementing the effort of our people towards propagating Islam in southern Nigeria.

Once again, thank you, Nigerian Baptist Convention, congratulations, the people of Iwoland, and welcome, the Bowen University, Iwo. **Taofeek Olayinka Ayinde, 3, Eku/Agbor Road, Effurun, P. O. Box 979, Warri, Delta State.**



**INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION  
AS CORE INVESTORS IN  
ABUJA INTERNATIONAL HOTELS LTD (SOFITEL)  
AND  
AS CONCESSIONNAIRES FOR  
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTRE (ICC), ABUJA**

The Federal Government of Nigeria, through the National Privatisation Council and the Bureau of Public Enterprises intends to increase Private Sector Participation in the operations, management and maintenance of Abuja International Hotels Ltd. (SOFITEL) and the International Conference Centre (ICC) Abuja. Subsequently, the NCP hereby invites fresh bids to pre-qualify Core Investors interested in acquiring controlling stakes in SOFITEL and providing management services for ICC. **This is a re-advertisement of an earlier publication dated April 30th, 2001. Former Applicants need only to update their submission. New Applicants will pay for the bid document if shortlisted.**

Applicants are expected to be international hospitality industry investors with proven record of successful investments in similar circumstances, preferably on long-standing relationship with at least one major successful global hotel chain. The selected Core Group/Strategic Investors can acquire 51 percent controlling equity stake in SOFITEL and will also be expected to handle the management contract (privatization by concessioning) of the International Conference Centre on a "long-term" basis.

SOFITEL and ICC are congenially located in the central business district of Abuja the Federal Capital Territory. The Hotel has 679 room capacity fully air-conditioned and fitted with state of the art facilities (generator sets, M&E installations) akin to five-star hotel standards. However, the FF&E will need to be supplied and fixed by the Investor. The International Conference Centre on the other hand, is a world-class conference facility with seating capacity for 4,000 participants, including several meeting rooms, canteens, video, press, interpretation centers and modern public address facilities of international standards. ICC is the largest conference center in Sub-Saharan Africa.

For pre-qualification, Interested Investors/Concessionaires must supply verifiable evidence indicating that they are qualified to perform the services listed above. These will include the following:

- \* Brochure of the firm or consortium including its/their ownership structure.
- \* Audited accounts of firm and or consortium for the past five years
- \* Composition of the management team
- \* Indication of the number of years envisaged for this commitment
- \* Record of successful investments in hotels and long standing management relationship with at least one internationally renowned hotel chain
- \* Evidence of the required financial resources to manage the hotel and Conference facility with a view to enhancing shareholder value
- \* Proven evidence of experience in managing public facilities of similar nature as the ICC

Application for pre-qualification must be delivered in sealed envelope clearly marked

**"Pre-qualification for SOFITEL and ICC"** and delivered to the address below by September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001 at 4.00pm prompt. **Late submission will be rejected.**

Director General  
Bureau of Public Enterprises  
1, Osun Crescent  
Off Ibrahim Babangida Way  
Maitama  
Abuja

**ATTENTION: MR. TIJJANI ABDULLAHI**

Director of Operations

Tel: 234 09 4134673

Fax: 234 09 4134674

E-mail Tyjani@yahoo.com

**Only short-listed applicants will be contacted.**



TRUST INTERNATIONAL

Foreign & Diplomatic

Mohammed Khatami: Sailing through turbulent waters in Iran

By Musa Aliyu

President Mohammed Khatami's emergence in 1997 on Iran's political landscape pulled thunderous ovations in Iran and beyond its borders. It was, as many were wont to picture it, a new opportunity to re-inscribe the name of the Persian state considered soiled in the Western world. But for four years now nothing serious has happened. Now enmeshed in series of crisis, Khatami may have more than enough to "munch" as he begins his second term.

Iran's sins under its erstwhile leadership dubbed "conservative" were numerous and unpardonable, in the book of the western world. President Mohammed Khatami was thus to the west especially, a "messiah" to bail the "rogue state" out.

A relatively unknown but moderately placed cleric, Khatami stunned the world and in fact bookmakers when he swept from under the feet of the "conservatives" political power in 1997. Securing 70% of the total votes, most Iranians signified their yearning for change by giving Khatami their mandate. Despite their long years of accustomed subscription to the Ayatollahs' leadership, they saw a new dawn ushered in by Khatami. They were struck by the bold charisma portrayed by his openness to fresh ideas.

Elaine Sciolino, a *New York Times* writer on Iran described him as a "man who went on public buses... the kind of baby-kissing politician we're used to here in the United States, who roles up his sleeves publicly to give blood."

Khatami, Sciolino wrote further, "tries to straddle the world of Islam and Islamic clericalism, and the world of the people."

Khatami, whose manliness gave way to emotions and wept in a pre-election chat this year, may not be a man of confrontation. He may be a quiet persuasive character but he certainly captains a stubborn ship in turbulent waters. His troubles are multifaceted.

Resoundingly mandated by the Iranian electorate in 1997, almost immediately swift reforms were expected. His firm grip of the parliament made mainly of his loyalists was an added assurance. True to type he introduced changes. It however took Khatami a short while to realise that he was heading for a tempest and backpedalled. Reasons are that a solidly entrenched opposition controls most of the institutions on whose structures it behove to run the affairs of the state. Moreso the Judiciary whose unfettered backing he required never pitched tent with him. He remained solely on his own and his ideas of reform crashed to crumbs.

Nonetheless, Mohamed Khatami's first term was not a dismal failure. Aset Bayat, an Iranian Sociologist is given to this argument too. "First of all, there's a change in ideas and that's very important," she argued.

"Khatami's discourse of civil society, democracy and transparency, and all this which were quite absent in the 1980s, became dominant concepts, so that even certain segments of the conservatives tried to speak a similar language," she advanced.

Khatami's idea of change is devoid of the desire for bloodletting despite his revolutionary stance. His gradualist approach has turned the heat on him and earned him countless uncomplimentary remarks even from his core supporters. For the better part of the first four years, therefore, he was trying to stir the ship to normal course. He was to even aptly paint the picture as that of a "tunnel of crisis."

Between the "liberal reformers" and the "conservative hardliners" though much differences lie, which may have acted in parrying back progress, certain issues are interestingly noteworthy. Their differences do not extend beyond the bounds of politics. In any case, they are united in their commitment to the Islamic system. They are mainly opposed to each other on how to run the system workably.

Khatami's electoral victories in 1997 and re-enacted on June 8, 2001 may have enthroned him as Iran's politician with the strongest claim to a popular mandate, but the constitution elevates Ayatollah Khamenei over and above him. Khamenei is in Iran's power pyramid constitutionally the most powerful leader, politically and spiritually. His authority flows from the Velayati Fagih concept (rule by expert jurist). The manifestation of his powers is exhibited in the control of the main state institution including the armed forces, the security services, the Judiciary, the clergy, the council of guardians, the radio and television. He is, as such, the de facto and de jure head of government



Iranian MPs congratulate President Khatami (C) as he departs the parliament after being sworn in for his second term in Tehran August 8, 2001. He was sworn in for a second term in office, promising greater democracy and government responsible to the people.

Critics of Khatami had prior to the June 8 polls predicted a much lower support for Khatami. They even foresaw him playing into the hands of the "hardliners." Events have given a lie to their prophecy. Khatami did not only win but by a landslide (77%) victory.

The western world, which welcomed his 1997 victory with a lot of enthusiasm, does not seem so impressed this time. The US is especially too disappointed to eliminate or soften sanctions on Tehran. Dick Cheney, Vice-President to George W. Bush had while campaigning favoured sanctions lifting on Iran. He had even promised to make a case on it to Mr. Bush, but Cheney is not unaware of the anti-Iranian forces at the Pentagon. This may have rendered his effort futile.

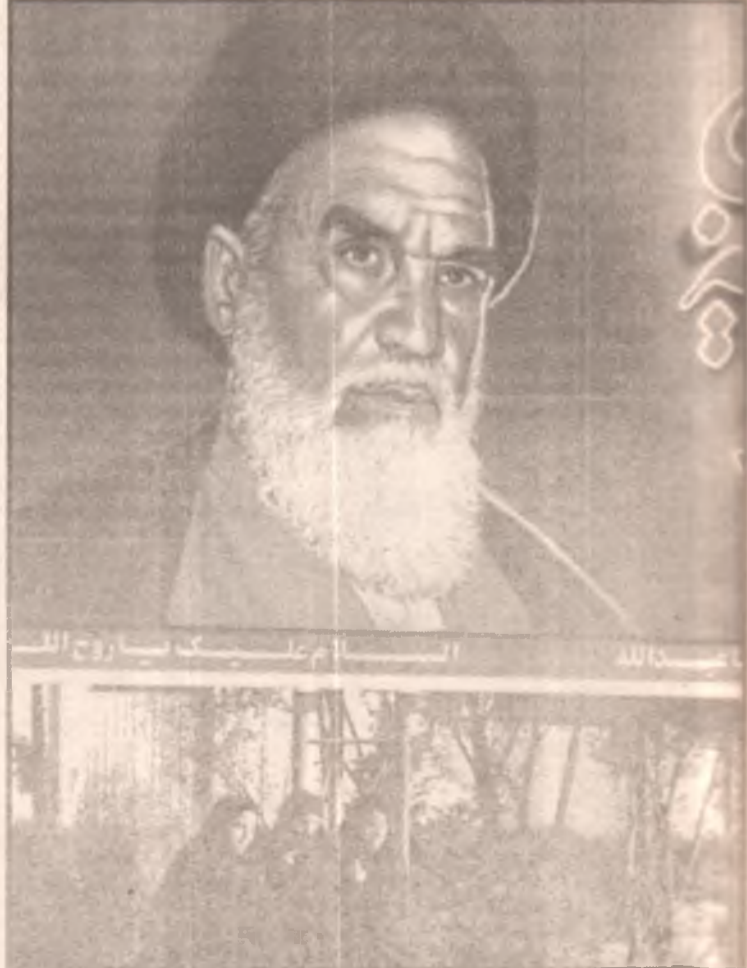
Even the Bush administration does not seem to want to pardon Iran for her so-called sins. The name "rogue state" is continuously reinvigorated though dropped in the days of Clinton. A cogent cause for the National

ting names of the Council of Guardians nominees rejected the list. The conservatives-dominated judiciary originators of the list had to invoke its powers. That cost Khatami his swearing-in, at least for four days. It took the conveyance of the Expediency Council meeting chaired by former President Hashemi Rafsanjani, and a bending of the rules to resolve the crisis. Though the conservatives won, Khatami succeeded in having himself sworn-in scaling over yet another tide.

President Mohammed Khatami, a reluctant candidate in the June 2001 presidential election, must ponder on the reality that confronts him. Even as he sued for "an end to hatred and violence in politics" in his post swearing-in speech, he must prepare himself for a rough ride; he cannot now retreat his course. The fight is two pronged: within Iran against himself, his policies and his opponents within and outside his camp, and also at the international level where the likes of America are hoping to catch him off guard.

Missile defence being the Bush administration's foreign policy cornerstone is to prevent being blackmailed by states like Iran. Mr. Bush never minced words in telling this to the world. Among the many other sins are that Iran sponsors terrorism, it develops weapons of mass destruction and also actively opposes the Middle East Peace process by lending support to the Hezbollah Movement. Washington sees it as a necessary and timely action to extend its sanctions against hostile enemies like Iran and Libya.

Sailing through rare crisis, Mohammed Khatami's swearing in for his second term in office had to be postponed. The reformers-dominated parliament had while vet-



Iranian girls pass a poster of the father of Iran's Islamic revolution, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, in front of his birthplace in the city of Khomein, southwest of Tehran, Iran, July 9, 2001. Since his death in Tehran in 1989, the authorities have turned the home into a shrine. It was repaired and opened to the public months after he died, and restorations continued until 1999.



Iran's parliament chose two hard-liners to the constitutional watchdog Guardian Council, August 7, 2001, ending a bitter row which had delayed the investiture of President Mohammad Khamad Khatami. Khatami (R), seen making a speech after accepting Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's (L) confirmation in Tehran on August 2.

# TRUST INTERNATIONAL

## AFRICA & THE MIDDLE EAST



The mother (right) of Mohammed al-Sa'ah, 20, a member of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, reacts with relatives during his funeral in Gaza City, last Saturday.

### Arafat urges U.S. to act on Israel

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has urged the United States on Saturday to act to reverse the Israeli seizure of the PLO's Jerusalem headquarters, as a leading hawk warned that Israel could inflict crippling blows on Palestinian infrastructure.

"We ask the United States and the European leadership to interfere immediately to protect the peace process and to stop the Israeli aggression," Arafat's spokesman Nabil Abu Rdainah told reporters in the West Bank town of Ramallah.

He said Arafat had written urgently to Bush and other world leaders after Israeli police occupied Orient House, the Palestine Liberation Organization's main office in Arab East Jerusalem and a prime symbol of the Palestinians' quest for

statehood. The bloodless, politically charged take-over early on Friday followed a suicide bombing by a Palestinian militant that killed 15 other people, many of them women and children, at a crowded pizza restaurant in the heart of Jewish West Jerusalem.

Israel's government, facing public pressure for massive retaliation for Thursday's bombing, has called the seizure of Orient House and other Palestinian offices in and around East Jerusalem a "measured" response to the attack.

Public Security Minister Uzi Landau, however, was quoted on Saturday as saying it was not clear how much longer a policy based on what he called restraint could last.

Asked what policies

without restraint might look like, Landau, a prominent hard-liner in Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's Likud party, told the German newspaper *Die Welt* that, "The Palestinian Authority has depots, vehicles, office buildings. There are enough installations which we can start on in order to take revenge on them."

Landau added that: "The more Arafat urges terrorists to conduct attacks, the nearer draws the time that we will tolerate him no longer."

Though Thursday's bombing was claimed by the radical Islamic group Hamas, which Arafat does not control, Israel accuses him of doing nothing to rein in militants during a 10-month-old Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation.

Bush appeared to question whether either side had the desire to stem the bloodletting, in which more than 670 people have been killed, but said Arafat could do more to stop the violence.

### Mugabe to defy sanctions threat

Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe has vowed to defy any threat of sanctions by the United States and other Western countries and to continue with his controversial land reform.

Addressing a rally in honour of veterans of the guerrilla war that ended white rule, Mr Mugabe also warned white farmers against organising attacks on black squatters.

On Friday, 21 whites were denied bail after being charged with violence and assault after they clashed with a group of squatters in the northern town of Chinhoyi.

"We will proceed with land reform with or without their cooperation, with or without sanctions. Let that be known here and abroad," Mr Mugabe said.

Saturday's rally came after a week of rising tension following the clashes and subsequent arrest of the white farmers.

They are accused of ganging up on and brutally attacking defenceless resettled farmers at a farm last Monday.

But the farmers said that war veterans tried to attack one of them.

To loud applause, Mr Mugabe warned the farmers to desist from continuing with what he called organised attacks.

"Mind you, acts of this nature have the ability to bounce back and when they bounce back and hit them, they should not cry foul," he said.

Mr Mugabe also accused white farmers of lobbying the United States and Europe to impose sanctions on Zimbabwe.

Last week, the US Senate approved and passed on to Congress a bill that threatens sanctions unless the Zimbabwean Government respects democratic rule and law and order, and carries out a legalised land reform

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TRUST INTERNATIONAL

World Report

Block Kosovo rebels, Macedonia tells NATO

The Macedonian Government has demanded NATO action to stop the alleged infiltration of armed rebels from across the border in Kosovo. Government sources said they had evidence that rebel infiltration from Kosovo had led to the latest outbreak of fighting in Radusa. Saturday's fierce fighting in the north of the country - both in Radusa and in the volatile town of Tetovo - has cast further doubt on today's planned signing of a peace agreement between the Macedonian and ethnic Albanian leaders. A government spokesman, Antonio Milosovsky, accused the Kosovo Protection Corps - the civilian successor to the

ethnic-Albanian Kosovo Liberation Army - of making armed incursions into Macedonian territory. But a NATO spokesman, Major Barry Johnson, said that while the Macedonian allegations were being taken seriously, there was no evidence of rebel infiltration from the UN-administered territory. The defence ministry said security forces in the village of Radusa came under sustained attack for several hours. Troop reinforcements were flown in by helicopter and Sukhoi SU-25 ground attack jets also flew over the village. Heavy machine-gun and mortar fire was also reported in the north-western town of Tetovo, which has in the past been the scene of repeated clashes between government

forces and ethnic Albanian rebels. At least three people, including one policeman, were reported to have been hurt in Tetovo and nine security personnel were injured in Radusa. Meanwhile, Macedonians mourned the deaths of seven soldiers in a landmine explosion just outside Skopje on Friday. Correspondents said that

fighting was sporadic but has been getting progressively heavier since the peace deal with ethnic Albanians was agreed on Wednesday. International mediators from the European Union and the United States have said it is critical that the deal is signed on schedule. Every report of further fighting makes the peace process look even more vulnerable.

Man held after Paris bank robbery

French police are reported to have arrested a man suspected of shooting dead three people, and wounded five others, in a bungled bank robbery near Paris on Saturday. The man was found at his girlfriend's house north-west of the capital early yesterday, police sources said. He is believed to be in his 20s and of Chadian descent.

He is alleged to have taken 10 people hostage in the Caisse d'Epargne bank in a shopping centre in the northern suburb of Cergy-Pontoise on Saturday afternoon. A huge manhunt was launched after he shot his way out of the bank with two hostages who later escaped, before seizing a nearby car and getting away.

Colombian troops capture rebels

Colombian armed forces have captured 11 rebels from the country's second biggest guerrilla force, the National Liberation Army (ELN), a military spokesman said.

The men were caught in the city of Cartagena as the army continued its offensive against the ELN following the breakdown of peace talks earlier this week. President Andres Pastrana broke government

contacts with the guerrillas last Tuesday, accusing them of intransigence. The rebels responded with bomb attacks, one of which killed three children. The funerals of the victims took place in the

north-eastern town of San Francisco, where more than 40 people were also injured in an explosion. BBC correspondent in Colombia said that if the town's inhabitants are looking for retribution, it seems President Andres Pastrana is the man to deliver it.

Long criticised for being too soft on the guerrillas, Mr Pastrana has unleashed a military and political offensive against them. Some 2,000 men from the elite Rapid Deployment Force have been sent to Bolivar province - an ELN stronghold. The government has also revoked the rebels' political status and arrest warrants for guerrillas leaders have been renewed.

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- Gwagwalada General Hospital, Abuja - August 23-25, 2001

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Odd World

False bomb threat lands granny in jail

An 83-year-old Colombian grandmother, apparently upset when a flight attendant wanted to check her carry-on luggage, made a false bomb threat that landed her in jail, police said.

Beatriz Escobar De Rodriguez, of Bogota, was removed from an American Airlines jet bound for her homeland on Wednesday at Miami International Airport. Miami-Dade Police spokesman Juan Del Castillo said Thursday.

The woman boarded the plane with carry-on luggage that could not fit in the overhead compartment or under the seat, airline officials told police.

A flight attendant told Escobar De Rodriguez that the luggage needed to be checked in and placed in the cargo bay of the plane.

"Did you see the bomb in my suitcase?" Escobar De Rodriguez asked flight personnel, according to police.

The plane was taxiing for take-off when the pilot decided to turn back to the terminal and have the passenger removed, delaying the flight for two hours, police said.

Police checked Escobar De Rodriguez's luggage but no bomb was found. She spent the night at a detention center near the airport.

"Her penalty depends on the judge," a court official said.



**KEY NOTE ADDRESS BY THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF WOMEN  
AFFAIRS AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT, HAJIYA M.S. ISMAIL ON THE  
OCCASION OF THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE NATIONAL YOUTH  
WEEK CELEBRATION HELD AT THE FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY  
ABUJA ON THURSDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2001**

**Protocols,**

It is with great honour and pleasure that I welcome you all to the opening ceremony of the International Youth Day Celebration. But first and foremost, I must thank the Almighty God for making it possible for us to witness this August occasion.

I am particularly proud to be associated with the young women and men at this period when Nigeria like other nations, has resolved to adequately confront the global challenge of addressing the needs, interests and aspiration of the Youth. No nation can afford to ignore the patriotic efforts of her youth. The state of our youth remains the best indicator of a healthy or disintegrated society. It is also recognized that the youths are cornerstone of the Nation and are particularly sensitive, energetic, active and potentially productive. It is in the light of this that this administration, through my Ministry, has put in place a sensitive, progressive, creative and viable National Youth Policy which encourages maximum expression of youthful creativity, ingenuity and freedom, and hopes to provide an enabling environment and structure for self expression, self analysis and self actualization. There is no doubt that Nigerians are among the most talented and gifted people in the world. Given the chances one on one, a Nigerian can hold his own against anybody from any part of the world. This also goes for the Nigerian Youth. In recognition of this, government will continue to provide a dynamic youth policy and take adequate steps to meet the demands of this sector.

On your part, I note with satisfaction the outstanding contributions especially in sports, of our youth and various voluntary Youth Organisations to our dear country, Nigeria. It is my hope that we share with you, the significance of this week. My dear young women and men, at this stage of our country's development, the youth are recognised not only as future leaders but also as actors and foundation of our society, with a direct stake in the development

process of our great Nation. Therefore, while diverse measures have been devised through concerted efforts by the government and other stake holders in a bid to seek ways of enhancing the well being of our youth, it is imperative that the youth themselves should examine further options that would help us achieve poverty eradication, full employment, security and social integration.

August 12th every year is celebrated as International Day of the Youth throughout the Nation and the world at large. Let me use this opportunity to again remind us all of the main objectives of the celebration. These are to;

- i. raise consciousness among parents, families, communities and the society at large on the situation, problems and needs of the Nigerian Youth
- ii. Sensitize the public and educate them on their roles and obligations to the youths
- iii. create awareness among the youths on their roles and obligations to the society and the Nation at large.

Our present democracy which you have all helped to enthrone, and its achievements cannot be sustained without your active participation at whatever level you find yourself. It is in the light of this that the theme "Youth Volunteerism in Nation Building" was chosen for this year's celebration. It is both apt and timely, coming at a time when efforts are being made to enable and empower our young men and women to participate as both creators and beneficiaries of development, recognize that unemployment, Illiteracy, etc are threats to development.

Government recognizes that every country needs the positive influence of its young generation as her future depends on how actively engaged the youths are in the process of development. It is with this knowledge that the clarion call is made today to arouse your

consciousness towards nation building through volunteerism. This I believe can be achieved through conscious imbibe of positive and acceptable virtues of hard work, discipline, integrity and honour.

Many voluntary Youth Organisation abound in this country, which constitute an effective vehicle for mobilization towards positive initiative, self-development, purposeful transformation, genuine spirit of patriotism and nationalism, self dependence and reliance. Organisations such as these offer profitable and useful avenues through which each of you can contribute his/her quota towards a meaningful national development.

It is worthy to mention here that this present Government noting with concern the situation of our youth dwelling in neglect, poverty, unemployment by putting in place a very challenging Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) to at least reduce to its minimal level of unemployment. The administration has also put in place other programmes that would encourage the youth to participate in decision making in matters that affect them.

At this junction, it is pertinent to recall the saying that "To whom much is given, much is expected". I hereby remind the youth of their responsibilities in Nation Building through Volunteering. As you all know, a volunteer is one who offers to do a job without being forced. It is in this spirit that many community projects are executed in many of our communities today. In spite of the vast array of different types of activities, which constitute volunteering, we can easily identify four types viz:

- Mutual aid or self help
- Philanthropy or service to others
- Participating and
- Advocacy or campaigning

These types of volunteering are not mutually exclusive but clearly overlap. However, youth Volunteering will go a long way in boosting the economic activities and thus the overall economic output of the nation, and thereby

reducing the burden and over dependency on government funding. Volunteering entails building of strong and cohesive communities, provision of essential support of life and relief to those suffering from social exclusion, employment for unemployed, work experience, skill development and training opportunity for self-development as well as life long learning and improving physical and mental well being.

To realize the aspirations of good governance and matured democratic practice: the youth are implored to face the challenge of volunteerism 'as a way of moving this great Nation forward and thereby building a very strong and reliable nation not only for today but for the generations yet unborn.

At this juncture, I wish to urge the youth to be aware that due to differences in culture and tradition, there is no standard model of volunteering. However, there can be exchanges in various methods and techniques between or among nations. I therefore seize this opportunity to urge the youth not to rely on government efforts alone in the realization of their aspirations. The nation looks forward to positive contributions from youth through volunteering.

Young men and women, I wish to inform you that this Administration has laid solid foundation for the growth of this Country. I urge you to be steadfast in the task of nation building through Volunteering for the service of our fatherland.

I wish you all successful celebration.

Thank you and God bless.  
Federal Ministry of Women Affairs  
and Youth Development,  
Federal Secretariat,  
Shehu Shagari way,  
Maitama,  
PMB 229,  
Garki,  
Abuja.

# BUSINESS DAY

## Fuel flows in Borno, Yobe filling stations

After many years of acute scarcity of petroleum products in Borno and Yobe States largely attributed to smuggling and "black marketing activities," fuel supply situation has now remarkably improved in the two states.

**Business Day** fundings in Maiduguri and Damaturu revealed that most filling stations receive regular fuel supply while motorists purchase the products at government approved prices.

Sources told **Business Day** that the improvement in the fuel supply regime was underpinned by the deployment of a new depot chief at the Maiduguri depot who has vowed to maintain standards and ensure effective petroleum products supply and distribution.

Speculations also had it that petroleum marketers in the two states who engage in smuggling of the products to neighbouring Cameroon and Tchad republics may have abandoned the practice due to the rainy season which makes the smuggling routes inmotorable, hence the availability of the products in filling stations.

In interviews with **Business Day** however, a number of people have expressed satisfaction with the improvements in the situation regardless of the factors that actually brought the above.

"What matters is that fuel is available now and we can get it without the hustle that used to characterise filling stations in the past," said Musa Baba, a taxi driver plying Bama road, in Maiduguri.

However, while people generally celebrate the end of long queues in filling stations, youths who engage in the sale of petroleum products in surface tanks and jerry cans (or black markets) have been literally put out of business.

In a chat with our correspondent in Damaturu, a group of young black marketers of petroleum products said business has significantly nose-dived for them "and we are going back to the labour market again."

Most of these youths, **Business Day** checks showed, were largely jobless before the "black market" offered opportunities for them.

Now with the black market over, the government, many advised, should pay more attention to addressing the problem of youth unemployment to

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has enlarged the scope of persons who cannot be bank directors.

The apex bank's new directive was disclosed in a circular released by the bank and made available to **Business Day**.



Joseph Sanusi, CBN Governor

## CBN bars government officials from banks' boards

In the circular, the apex bank insisted that apart from civil servants, all elected and un-elected appointees into government or its agencies whether on full time or part time basis, cannot remain in their government jobs and also continue to sit on the board of banks.

According to the circular, those banned from holding the post of bank directors include legislators, private persons appointed into boards of government department and parastatals as well as members of commissions and other similar public organisations.

From Samson Ojo, in Lagos

**Business Day** investigation shows that the circular has caused despair in the financial sector, with banks seeking further clarification from the apex bank on the categories of those affected.

Despite the pressure from the financial sector, a

source told **Business Day**, that the "apex bank appears unwilling to shift grounds."

The source told **Business Day** that the restriction was intended to ensure that bank directors holding government appointment do not use their influence in government to secure undue advantage for their banks.

According to the source, "this is not a punitive measure. It is meant to ensure that there is a level playing ground for every player. There is nothing unique about the regulation and we believe that in due course, Nigerians will see that we act in the best interest of the larger nation."

## BONL plans interest-free banking

Bank of the North (BONL) Limited, is making plans to introduce interest-free banking to satisfy the needs of its potential and existing customers who would want to transact business with the bank on an interest-free basis.

The Managing Director of the Bank, Shettima Mohammed Bulama gave this indication in Maiduguri during the bank's 41st Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Shettima Bulama was responding to a request made by one of Bank of the North's shareholders that the bank introduce the facility to attract customers who do not want interest.

The managing director said that a "non-interest banking window" has been set-up at the bank while a consultant was enlisted to study and advise the bank on the logistics required to bring non-interest banking in Bank of the North.

A number of the bank's staff, he added, are also undertaking a tour of the United Kingdom, Sudan, Malaysia, Indonesia and turkey - where interest-free banking is practised to understudy its modus

From Abdullahi Bego, in Maiduguri

operandi with a view to introducing it in the Bank of the North.

"We don't want to make the mistakes others have made," the managing director emphasised, adding however that introducing the facility will not affect the bank's conventional banking practice.

Shettima Bulama also added that BON will continue to support industrial, agricultural and commercial growth by providing credit facilities especially to small and medium-scale enterprises.

The managing director said that the bank will also give credit facilities to individuals and groups who would want to purchase shares in companies to be privatised. Such individuals, he said, can get as much as N50,000 to N500,000 as loans while the bank keeps their share certificates as collateral.

BON, he added, is also ready to give loans to states and local governments to enable their citizens purchase shares. Such loans could be recovered through monthly deductions from the workers' salaries.

## DPR director calls for review of oil law

The director, Department of Petroleum Resources, (DPR), Mr. Macaulay Oferhie has called for a review of the existing legislation on petroleum.

He made the call in an address at the Data Management Workshop held in Lagos.

Mr. Oferhie observed that the current petroleum legislation was silent on the unit of the commercial interest of the operator, adding that "arising from the spirit of the statutes, operator's confidentiality with respect to public access to data, is indefinite."

The DPR helmsman maintained that the situation required redress "if our data policy is to favour a vibrant exploration and production environment, and a commitment to research and development."

While suggesting that the existing legislation

should be reviewed with the aim of declassifying data after a specified time period, the director noted that such action would bring the legislation in line with the exploration and production practices world-wide.

Mr. Oferhie who added that it would provide a means to support modern requirements for effective exploration and production (E and P) data management as well as current local content initiatives, tasked players in the field to take another look at the nation's petroleum legislation and recommend other charges that would straighten the proposed new environment for (E and P) business.

He also made case for the establishment of a national geo-database, saying it would assist in the development of a virile financial system needed for equity, cost computation and monitoring.

According to him, effective and efficient planning and accounting of E and P would be enhanced by the establishment of such database.

"This is imperative and will be the basis for the development of a financial system for the ascertainment of equity cost of joint venture operations," he asserted.



Rilwanu Lukman, Adviser on Petroleum

## Obasanjo to inaugurate Insurance Security Fund Sept. 3

Barring any hitches, President Olusegun Obasanjo will inaugurate the Security Insurance Development Fund on September 3.

On that day, the President is expected to personally hand over funds to the pioneer beneficiaries of the fund. According to sources close to the National Insurance Commission (NAICOM), the committee

From Bright Ewulu, in Lagos

it set up to oversee that the organisation of the event is putting finishing touches to ensure its success.

He said from now onwards the commission will start paying out benefits courtesy of the security fund to applicants, saying however that individuals and corporate bodies who did not apply for the funds do not stand any chance of benefiting.

Section 17 of the NAICOM decree empowers it to set up a number of funds one of which is the security and insurance Development Fund.

This provision is in tandem with section 79 of the Insurance Decree of 1997 which stipulates that the fund

shall be used for payment of any admitted claim backed by a registered insurer where such claim admitted is unpaid as a result of insolvency or the revocation of the registration of the insurer.

Besides, the fund can also be used to pay compensations to victims of uninsured or hit-and-run motor accidents.

Experts in the industry have expressed happiness with the development, as NAICOM since inception has been collecting one percent of the gross income of insurance companies nationwide.

Already, some of the companies have been complaining about the non-activation of the security fund for long.

## Shell saves N1.1b in well drill

Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) has recorded the fastest surface hole drilled to depth of 6,200ft within 24 hours just as \$1.192 million was saved by delivering the well within such a short time.

The new record was achieved in the 63.6 well in the Nembe Creek Field.

According to George Efo, Senior Drilling Engineer in-charge of

the hole, "the well was one of the five planned for 2001 as part of a major campaign activities within the Nembe field."

The development well which was padded with an expected potential of 10,000 barrels per day, according to SPDC, was completed on June 28 and is being prepared for hook-up to one of the four flow stations in



International Trust Bank (ITB) Plc chief executive, Alhaji Abdulkadir Idris (left), and Money Market Association

# BUSINESS \$ DAY

## Nigerian Stock Dealings (NSE) Price List as at 10/08/2001

COMPANY	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE	DEALS	VOLUME	VALUE
7UP	5.59	5.86	0.27	15	66,550	380,449.50
ACCESSBANK	1.24	1.25	0.01	8	165,500	207,470.00
ADSWITCH	1.07	1.12	0.05	3	108,000	120,960.00
AFPRINT	0.97	0.96	0.01	6	60,202	57,793.92
AFRIBANK	8.41	8.82	0.41	74	1,005,498	8,494,568.23
AGIP	30.00	30.00	0.00	48	251,052	7,538,433.82
AIICO	1.75	2.75	0.00	10	56,400	155,100.00
AP	19.34	19.34	0.00	18	57,115	1,104,604,604.10
ASHAKACEM	18.50	18.50	0.00	28	5,297,990	135,000,522.00
BATA	0.26	0.26	0.00	1	10,000	2,600.00
BCC	4.79	4.79	0.00	1	625	2,993.75
BERGER	2.50	2.40	0.10	1	32,077	76,984.80
C&ILEASING	1.35	1.34	0.01	1	30,000	40,200.00
CADBURY	23.01	23.25	0.24	68	96,159	2,220,378.53
CAP	2.30	2.30	0.00	5	5,000	11,500.00
CCNN	3.07	3.07	0.00	1	893,368	2,42,639.76
CFAO	2.69	2.59	0.10	2	1,500	3,965.00
CHARTERED	6.36	6.50	0.14	21	110,200	705,100.00
CMB	0.61	0.61	0.00	1	520	317.20
COOPBANK	2.14	2.14	0.00	1	5,000	10,700.00
CORNERST	1.47	1.54	0.07	1	9,500	14,630.00
COSTAIN	1.14	1.19	0.05	5	14,247	16,791.58
CRUSADER	2.46	2.58	0.12	4	25,700	63,822.00
DELTGLAS	5.69	5.41	0.28	3	20,350	110,935.50
DNMEYER	5.28	5.28	0.00	11	20,500	104,510.00
DUNLOP	3.47	3.30	0.17	36	253,200	847,023.00
EKOBANK	1.53	1.53	0.00	3	268,978	427,375.02
ETERNAOIL	1.41	1.42	0.01	7	50,000	70,390.00
EVANSMED	1.21	1.21	0.00	1	2,846	3,443.66
FIRSTALUM	1.83	1.83	0.00	7	28,380	51,935.40
FIRSTBANK	22.04	21.01	1.03	414	3,943,094	88,068,574.39
FLOURMILL	13.75	14.00	0.25	64	2,174,886	28,583,435.75
FSB	8.17	8.56	0.39	78	21,753,142	185,241,973.81
GCAPPA	6.40	6.09	0.31	1	8,500	51,765.00
GOLDEREW	0.70	0.73	0.03	1	20,000	14,600.00
GUARANTY	5.70	5.70	0.00	63	1,200,950	6,845,415.00
GUINNESS	37.03	38.00	0.97	27	37,321	1,392,981.02
HALLBANK	4.00	4.18	0.18	8	32,000	128,900.00
IGL	5.25	5.11	0.14	18	53,889	278,085.59
IMB	1.47	1.40	0.07	10	1,337,300	1,952,258.00
INCAR	0.97	0.97	0.00	1	800	776.00
INLANDBANK	1.30	1.36	0.06	4	15,000	20,400.00
INTBREW	1.13	1.13	0.00	1	1,000	1,130.00
IPWA	1.20	1.20	0.00	9	10,060	11,984.50
JBERGER	63.19	63.19	0.00	2	4,082	257,941.58
JOHNHOLT	1.63	1.60	0.03	4	9,135	14,616.00
LASACO	0.97	1.01	0.04	6	2,506,677	2,506,607.00
LAWUNION	1.64	1.64	0.00	1	500	820.00
LENNARDS	0.26	0.26	0.00	2	51,000	13,260.00
LEVBROS	23.82	24.49	0.67	75	303,538	7,348,028.49
LIONBANK	1.92	1.83	0.09	9	125,000	237,030.00
LONGMAN	5.00	5.00	0.00	1	2,750	13,750.00
MANNYBANK	1.84	1.84	0.00	7	159,200	286,600.00
MAY&BAKER	2.60	2.60	0.00	7	47,457	123,388.20
MOBIL	62.50	60.50	2.00	43	92,130	5,695,468.72
NAL	5.20	4.95	0.25	85	119,050,978	608,445,459.86
NB	27.01	27.03	0.02	53	142,363	3,847,179.87
NBC	20.20	20.50	0.30	37	85,352	1,730,351.85
NCR	1.87	1.95	0.08	5	10,830	20,375.40
NESTLE	63.80	65.00	1.20	63	560,433	35,740,491.90
NIG-GERMAN	2.86	2.76	0.00	1	670	1,849.20
NIGERINS	5.78	6.06	0.28	3	9,956	60,333.36
NIWICABLE	2.17	2.17	0.00	1	52,900	114,793.00
NOLCHEM	26.25	26.25	0.00	46	3,144,276	86,597,539.25
OKOMUOIL	9.45	9.45	0.00	4	10,608	100,245.60
OWENABANK	2.27	2.27	0.00	13	42,594	96,693.38
PHARMDEKO	2.64	2.64	0.00	1	860	2,270.40
PRESTIGE	2.40	2.50	0.10	4	67,845	168,276.00
PZ	13.00	12.55	0.45	24	813,968	10,259,127.30
ROYALEX	6.56	6.50	0.06	8	12,126	76,207.00
RTBRISCOE	1.35	1.36	0.01	2	7,834	10,576.92
SAVANNA	1.20	1.25	0.05	4	36,437	45,533.75
SCOA	2.86	2.90	0.04	8	12,045	35,507.50
SKBEECHAM	2.10	2.20	0.10	18	164,100	358,580.80
TEXACO	63.00	62.99	0.01	17	47,860	3,005,771.0
TIB	2.95	2.95	0.00	11	668,922	1,935,077.83
TOTAL	67.10	67.10	0.00	19	24,903	1,670,991.30
TRADEBANK	1.04	1.04	0.00	1	2,159	2,245.36
TRIPPLEG	1.09	1.09	0.00	6	27,766	30,264.94
UAC-PROP	2.83	2.97	0.14	28	223,691	648,407.82
UACN	3.55	3.53	0.02	60	267,146	948,882.98
UBA	12.21	12.31	0.10	61	270,810	3,347,714.07
UBN	22.20	22.40	0.20	138	3,778,823	84,946,401.52
UNIC	2.04	1.94	0.10	2	50,000	97,000.00
UNIONDICON	15.30	15.99	0.69	5	102,150	1,601,964.00
UNIPETROL	4.00	39.50	0.50	48	294,692	11,601,627.86
UNTL	4.00	4.00	0.00	11	16,348	65,392.00
UTB	4.01	4.01	0.00	3	2,600	10,426.00
UTC	0.99	0.99	0.00	10	105,850	104,791.50
VITAFOAM	4.18	4.00	0.18	27	376,200	1,521,512.52
WAPCO	21.01	21.50	0.49	40	2,072,889	44,345,940.80
WEMABANK	2.70	2.60	0.10	31	1,296,630	3,495,717.18
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>2,145</b>	<b>178,691,482</b>	<b>1,396,798,603.84</b>

## Nigerian Stock Dealings (NSE) Gainers/Losers as at 10/08/2001

Gainers			
COMPANY	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE
NESTLE	63.80	65.00	1.20
GUINNESS	37.03	38.00	0.97
UNIONDICON	15.30	15.99	0.69
LEVBROS	23.82	24.49	0.67
WAPCO	21.01	21.50	0.49
AFRIBANK	8.41	8.82	0.41
FSB	8.17	8.56	0.39
NBC	20.20	20.50	0.30
NIGERINS	5.78	6.06	0.28
7UP	5.59	5.86	0.27
FLOURMILL	13.75	14.00	0.25
HALLBANK	4.00	4.18	0.18
CHARTERED	6.36	6.50	0.14
UAC-PROP	2.83	2.97	0.14
CRUSADER	2.46	2.58	0.12
PRESTIGE	2.40	2.50	0.10
SKBEECHAM	2.10	2.20	0.10
NCR	1.87	1.95	0.08
CORNERST	1.47	1.54	0.07
INLANDBANK	1.30	1.36	0.06
SAVANNA	1.20	1.25	0.05
ADSWITCH	1.07	1.12	0.05
COSTAIN	1.14	1.19	0.05
LASACO	0.97	1.01	0.04
GOLDBREW	0.70	0.73	0.03

Losers			
COMPANY	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE
MOBIL	62.50	60.50	2.00
FIRSTBANK	22.04	21.01	1.03
UNIPETROL	40.00	39.50	0.50
PZ	13.00	12.55	0.45
GCAPPA	6.40	6.09	0.31
DELTGLAS	5.69	5.41	2.8
NAL	5.20	4.95	0.25
VITAFOAM	4.18	4.00	0.18
DUNLOP	3.47	3.30	0.17
IGL	5.25	5.11	0.14
BERGER	2.50	2.40	0.10
UNIC	2.04	1.94	0.10
CFAO	2.69	2.59	0.10
WEMABANK	2.70	2.60	0.10
LIONBANK	1.92	1.83	0.09
IMB	1.47	1.40	0.07
ROYALEX	6.56	6.50	0.06
JOHNHOLT	1.63	1.60	0.03
UACN	3.55	3.53	0.02
C&ILEASING	1.35	1.34	0.01
TEXACO	63.00	62.99	0.01
AFPRINT	0.97	0.96	0.01

### Summary of Transactions

	OPENING	CLOSING	% AGE CHANGE
MKT. CAP.	600,879,308,150.14	605,265,576,558.29	0.73
INDEX	10,163.42	10,237.61	0.73
DEALS	VOLUME	VALUE	No. of COMPANIES
2,145	178,691,482	1,396,798,603.84	92

# Privatisation UPDATE

## NBA commends NCP for engaging lawyers in privatisation

The National President of the Nigeria Bar Association (NBA), Chief O. C. J. Okocha (SAN) has commended the National Council on Privatisation (NCP) and its Secretariat Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) for the involvement of lawyers in the on-going privatisation programme.

Chief Okocha, made the commendation at the head of a ten-man NBA delegation on a courtesy visit to the "Privatisation House."

Chief Okocha said that they came to seek and receive clarifications from the bureau on a number of issues which include; the role of lawyers in the privatisation process; reasons for engaging foreign lawyers for privatisation advisory services; and the BPE requirement of compulsory registration fees by consultants.

Receiving the delegation, Malam Nasir Ahmed el-Rufai, Director General of BPE and Secretary of NCP, thanked the NBA delegation for sparing time to seek first hand clarifications on the implementation of the privatisation programme.

el-Rufai told the delegation that lawyers play important roles in ensuring

the effective implementation of the privatisation programme hence, BPE engaged the services of lawyers.

The Director-General, said that the privatisation programme faces international challenges posed by the trend for globalisation, which requires adherence to international treaties on World Bank/International assistance, such as the one enjoyed by



Vice President Atiku Abubakar, NCP Chairman Nigeria under the privatisation exercise.

This, he noted, created the need for advertisement in international media to attract competent expertise from across the globe, and local expertise where available.

el-Rufai, explained that

the involvement of international lawyers in the privatisation exercise is not meant to spite their local counterparts, but is aimed at forging partnerships and building capacity especially in executing assignments in areas where the requisite experience is not available locally.

According to The Director-General, NCP guideline requires that foreign lawyers cannot get privatisation assignments without Nigerian partners.

On payment of compulsory fees before registration, el-Rufai told the NBA delegation that fees are requested across the board from all applicants for professional services, but noted that the decision may be revisited when necessary.

He however stated that payment of fees check frivolous submissions; helps the bureau to avoid discretionary awards of offer, as well as to cover cost of reviewing proposals.

Earlier, the NBA President revealed that the association has set up a privatisation committee headed by Malam A. B. Mahmud with a mandate to collaborate with agencies involved in the privatisation programme.

## BPE denies allegation of impartiality in shares allotment

The Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) has denied allegations of partiality in the allocation of shares of government owned parastatals that were recently privatised.

The bureau's Deputy-Director of Transactions, Mr. Emeka Obi, explained that contrary to insinuations, especially by the Nigerian Shareholders Solidarity Association that allocations of shares in the sold companies were not fairly handled, the bureau did the

By Osborne Adi JNR  
Business Editor

best it could in the circumstance that followed the allotment.

"There is no bias involved in the process and no discrimination too. It is essentially governed by law of supply and demand."

According to him, allocations were made on equal basis to all the 360 constituencies in the country, adding that no individual or institution was favoured.

Said he: "As far as we

are concerned, we gave to states the number of allocations requested. It is however one thing to apply for allocations and it is another thing for such states to pay up."

He maintained that once offers close and there were left-overs, the states were offered the leftovers for their indigenes who would in turn buy them at a later date.

The shareholders had accused BPE of wrongful rejection of applications and indiscriminate allotment of shares.

## BONL to provide share purchase funds to investors

Bank of the North Limited (BONL) has declared its intention to provide three categories of credit facilities to state and local governments and individuals wishing to buy shares in companies slated for privatisation.

The Managing Director of the bank, Shettima Mohammed Bulama gave the hint while responding to a plea by one of the bank's shareholders at its Annual General Meeting (AGM) held last week in Maiduguri.

Bulama disclosed that BON is ready to extend credit facilities "to people who want to purchase shares in the ongoing privatisation programme."

Though the BON MD

By Ahmed Shekarau  
Just back from Maiduguri

did not specify the total amount set aside for disbursement as share purchase loan to potential investors by the bank, he disclosed that "between N50,000 to N500,000 will be given to some of the investors without any strong collateral, but BON will accept certificates of share purchase from the companies."

In addition, other potential investors, will get between N500,00 to N50 million to acquire shares, "but in this case, we may require a little bit of higher securities (collateral)," Bulama emphasised.

The third category of loan, the BON MD said, will

be given to state and local governments to distribute to their workers (civil servants) wishing to buy shares under the ongoing privatisation programme.

In this case, Bulama noted that Bank of the North will make it open to the respective governments to come up with appropriate strategies of repayment of such loans by the beneficiaries.

"How they (state and local governments) recover it (the loan) is something we'll leave to them," the Shettima Kuwama of Borno stressed.

He noted that the bank is planning to participate in corporate joint ventures with some firms to engage in leasing businesses.

The government's three phase reform efforts in the telecom sector entails:-

1. The introduction of a new National Policy on Telecommunications;
2. The design of a new legal and regulatory framework that will govern the activities of the sector; and
3. The privatisation of NITEL.

In September 2000, the Federal Executive Council approved a new National Policy on Telecommunications with the cardinal aim of promoting competition, creating an independent regulator, greater local participation in the sector, and provision of universal access telephony services in Nigeria. In October 2000, in recognition of the changes arising from the introduction of the new policy, the Telecoms Sector Reform Implementation Committee (TSRIC), which comprises all the stakeholders in the sector under the chairmanship of the Honourable Minister of Communications, approved the engagement of consultants to design a new legal and regulatory framework for the sector.

Based upon input from the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) and the Nigeria Communications Commission (NCC), TSRIC and the National Council on Privatisation (NCP) finalised and approved the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the consultancy for the purpose of advising and assisting the Federal Government in:

"The successful development and implementation of new telecommunications legislation, including preparation of a new regulatory framework (including subsidiary legislation and regulatory instruments) in accordance with the new law."

The consultancy assignment, which was financed by a World Bank

## Update on Telecom reforms

credit, clearly stipulated the following deliverables:

- i. Draft Telecommunications Bill
- ii. Draft Telecommunications Regulations;
- iii. Draft Operator Licenses for NITEL and M-TEL;
- iv. New forms of generic license for other telecommunications services;
- v. Review and comments on the Digital Mobile licences;
- vi. Regulator options report;
- vii. Proposals for strengthening the interconnection regime;
- viii. Report on National numbering and frequency management plan;
- ix. Report on internet related issues;
- x. New subsidiary regulations and legislation.

These have since been delivered. An elaborate procedure entailing the following salient steps, was adopted in the process of engaging the consultants and reviewing their work:

In collaboration with the World Bank, an advertisement was published in the local and international media for expressions of interest from potential consultants.

A total of 140 applications were harvested (from array of the best consultants in the world) and the relevant World Bank 'No Objection' report obtained for the selection process which resulted in the appointment of a world class consortium led by Booz Aleen & Hamilton Inc of USA (BAH), in October, 2000 having been recommended for NCP approval by TSRIC. Other members of this consortium were Clifford Chance of the United Kingdom and two reputable Nigerian firms, Udo Udoma & Belo-Osagie

and Afri-Projects Consortium.

A National Seminar on the deliverables, was held for three days in March 2001, and the resulting comments and observations were used by the consultants in updating their reports, which were subsequently submitted to the TSRIC reports, which were subsequently submitted to the TSRIC for consideration and approval.

The TSRIC enlarged its Sub-committee on Legal and Regulatory matters to include the chairmen of all its sub-committees, and representatives of BPE, NITEL, M-TEL, MOC and NCC with the mandate to review and finalise the draft documents received from the consultants.

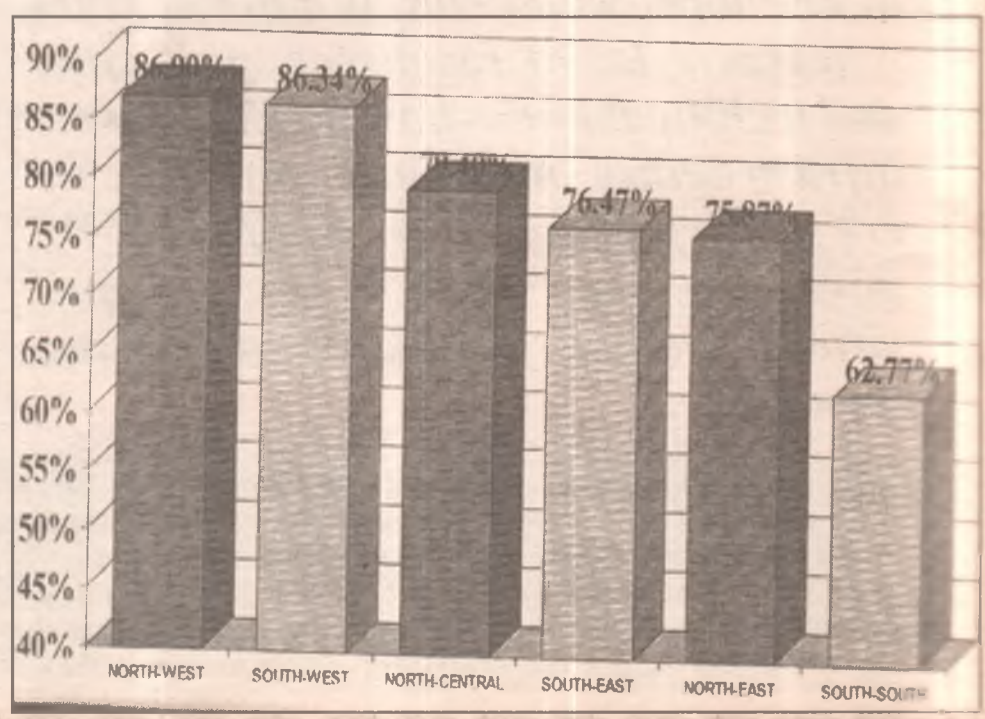
At the 17th meeting of the TSRIC in May 2001, the draft bill and regulations were approved and forwarded to the Federal Executive Council for approval prior to debate and passage by the National Assembly.

On behalf of TSRIC, the HMOC in his capacity as chairman directed the enlarged sub-committee to reconcile the draft licence from the consultants with the NCC draft licence and develop a final draft copy for a privatised NITEL for issuance by NCC.

Following a series of meetings of the sub-committee, the draft licence received from the consultants was reconciled with the NCC draft licence, culminating in the final draft copy.

The draft licence and regulations produced by TSRIC under the auspices of NCP have now been approved by Mr. President. Mr. President has also approved that the licence conditions applicable to NITEL will be similarly applicable in all materials particulars to that to be issued to the Second National Operator (SNO) and any other carriers licensed in the future.

### RELATIVE PERFORMANCE OF ZONES IN THE PRIVATISATION OF COMPANIES IN THE FIRST PHASE OF THE ON GOING PRIVATISATION PROGRAMME (% OF PROVISIONAL ALLOCATION ALLOTTED-ALL OFFERS)



# We'll begin kidney

**Professor Abba Waziri Hassan is the Chief Medical Director (CMD) University of Maiduguri. In this interview with Abdullahi Bego, our Maiduguri Bureau Chief, Professor Hassan speaks about improving health care delivery in the northeast sub region, crisis in the health sector and kidney transplant, among other issues. Excerpts:**

**You have been presiding over the affairs of the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital (UMTH) for about eight years now. What challenges have you faced so far?**

When I started as CMD I had a mission. My mission was to see that, I improve on what I found and with all humility, I think I would have achieved what my mission is by the time I end my tenure. I am grateful to God and to many of the people I am working with to bring the UMTH to its present standing.

The challenges I faced were daunting and many. One is regarding that in relation to personnel and because the teaching hospital has a tripartite role that is to provide service, training to professional staff and to offer research efforts.

But we can only do these things satisfactorily if we have enough funds. So the bedrock of the problem at that time (when we started) was under funding and there were a lot of equipment, which were over a decade old. Some of them

concern was the quality of training professionals. You have to keep standards to enable them pass exams. Similarly in terms of service, you have to relate to the community in order to provide adequate services and to see that patronage is improved at the time we came in, and there were a lot of speculations regarding the services we are providing.

The interaction between the hospital and the community was at its lowest ebb. So all these were challenges, which we had to face, and I think gradually we have been able to neutralise a lot of these by trying to carry everybody aboard. I believe in a system where you have people working together as a team. Staff morale is of paramount importance. You have to carry the professional and non-professionals along, and you have to trust them, and have them trust you also.

Without going into specifics, I think we have been able to do these and I hope with adequate government funding and support, we

number of years now, it is still at the stage of providing dialysis therapy for kidney patients. What efforts are you making to begin transplant for patients with chronic renal failure?

You know kidney transplantation even in developed countries, is a project that requires a lot of resources, personnel and technical know-how. We have some infrastructure on ground now. But we are still deficient in some equipment. We have one theatre which is now equipped virtually but for transplant you need two theatres.

Secondly we have at least two surgeons undergoing training in Germany in transplant procedures. We also have a nephrologist in Germany undergoing an attachment with one of the largest dialysis centres in Europe.

The other aspects that we need are immunologists, laboratory people who would be doing tissue typing. Then you now have to prepare your mind on how to get donors because every patient for



Professor Abba Waziri Hassan, Chief Medical Director, University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital (UMTH)

**You know kidney transplantation even in developed countries, is a project that requires a lot of resources, personnel and technical know-how. We have some infrastructure on ground now. But we are still deficient in some equipment. We have one theatre which is now equipped virtually but for transplant you need two theatres.**

not serviceable at all. Some are just working below optimum and are aged and cannot be improved upon.

The other state of

will improve further.

Recently President Obasanjo commissioned the UMTH kidney centre. After setting up the centre for a

transplant must have an appropriate donor and the donor has to be tested in a way so as to ensure that he matches the recipient of the kid-

ney. So the next line is to train these people.

And we also have to acquire the equipment for tissue typing. Once all these are on ground, then you have the resources to begin kidney transplant. What is important again is the funding.

We have the largest kidney centre not just in Nigeria but also in the West African sub-region. But in terms of funding we are equally funded with those who are just taking off. So unless we have additional support, it will

take us a bit longer to achieve our target of transplant. We have people who are showing sympathy to the kidney centre but unfortunately in this part of the world, not many philanthropists are coming forward to support this kind of project. So I would not be able to tell you categorically when we would be able to start transplants. Our target was to start it by the end of this year but as I told you aspects of training and personnel are still going and these will probably take us another

year.

We have a technical cooperation with the Germans, specifically APEIRON (Medical Equipment Supply Company) and we have linkage with three centres of transplant in Europe. So, with these, God willing, we will be able to begin transplant by next year in sha Allah.

Reports are indicating proliferation in the distribution of fake drugs across the country with adverse effects on people's health. How can this problem be addressed in your view?

Before drugs come into the country, there are some agencies, which are responsible for monitoring and evaluating them. NAFDAC is one of those agen-



Interview

# Why transplant soon

**Uri Teaching Hospital (UMTH). Speaks on the efforts of the UMTH and plans by the hospital to begin**

## CMD UMTH

cies. Our role as a hospital is to have facilities for detecting fake drugs.

We have the capability and the staff and getting such facilities is one of our plans in this year's budget not only for drugs that we are buying, but even the in-house drugs that we produce like syrups.

*There were a lot of efforts at eradicating poliomyelitis by the year 2000. It does appear now that Nigeria may have to contend with the disease for a little longer. You have a centre in the UMTH dedicated to doing research on and eradicating the disease. How is this centre faring in the fight against polio?*

The centre is a World Health Organisation (WHO) supported centre and it has got facilities to isolate these polio viruses and it regularly sends reports to the WHO regional headquarters in Harare, Zimbabwe.

I think the centre is doing very well and the polio prevalence has now reduced drastically. I think only six cases were reported in this year unlike what it used to be in the past where we had twenty,

thirty cases.

I think this reduction is an indication of the success that is made by the centre.

*Sir, the health sector was recently dogged by industrial disharmony with adverse consequences on the Nigerian people. What suggestions do you have for reducing the crisis that bedevils the sector?*

I think the atmosphere of democracy might have provided people with the opportunity to express themselves more freely, unlike during the era of military rule. What is important is to create inter-professional cooperation. That is people from all the professions need to be told that they are all important. Nobody should feel that he can run the health sector alone. And others in the other professionals

should feel safe... Government should be consistent in its policies and people in the health sector should understand that sacrifice is important. Nobody can claim that whatever level of education he attained was entirely funded by him or his parents alone. So people should consider service together with living. Also, it is not only the health sector that needs funding. The health sector cannot function in isolation, we need water...

*The HIV/AIDS pandemic is a global problem. In Nigeria, both orthodox and unorthodox medical practitioners who attempted to develop a cure have had controversies trailing their efforts, but government on the other hand is reportedly spending billions of naira to import drugs from abroad for HIV patients. Sir, don't you think the government can halt capital flight finding a cure rather than spending billions of naira to purchase drugs from outside?*

I don't want to be part of that controversy for two reasons. One, that's not my field of specialisation. I am a surgeon and secondly I am involved in probably administration also. The way it is being portrayed by others I think it is politicised and whether rightly or wrongly people are raising a lot of dust. I don't want to be part of it.

*Coming back to the UMTH, there appears to be so much effort at physical (exterior) development. Can you say this is replicated inside vis-à-vis the conditions of patients?*

Well, you need to ask the patients. Patients come, receive treatment and go. As a manager I



should not be the one to judge. For the landscaping and improvement in the hospital's physical conditions our objectives is to provide a clean environment, which is a very funda-

services currently provided by the UMTH? We intend to continue to improve. The room for improvement is the biggest space in the world. We have a monitoring machinery.

necks in terms of patient care either from diagnosis or treatment. It is the collection of all these that we always use to analyse and improve. And our plan is always to improve.

*So unless we have additional support, it will take us a bit longer to achieve our target of transplant. We have people who are showing sympathy to the kidney centre but unfortunately in this part of the world, not many philanthropists are coming forward to support this kind of project. So I would not be able to tell you categorically when we would be able to start transplants. Our target was to start it by the end of this year but as I told you aspects of training and personnel are still going and these will probably take us another year.*

mental issue. It is meant to be an example to the people who are coming in that cleanliness contributes to good health.

*What plans do you have to improve on*

We have suggestion boxes available. We have feedback from people directly. We discuss at staff and management levels to see where there are bottle-

We improve by enabling the quality of staff. First of all the morale of the staff must be raised. You also improve their level of training too.



# Interview

# Why transplant soon

## Surgeon speaks on the efforts of the UMTH and plans by the hospital to begin

## —CMD UMTH

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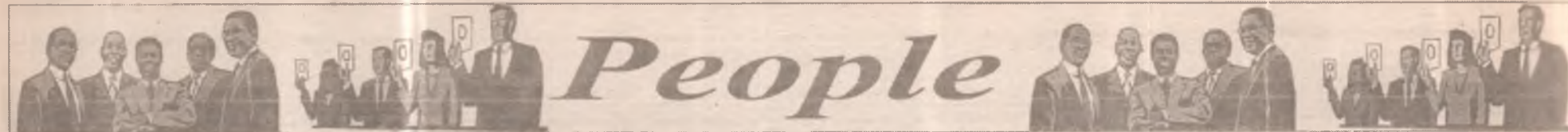
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We improve by ennobling the quality of staff. First of all the morale of the staff must be raised. You also improve their level of training too.





# People

Ya'u and Atabo are friends. Coincidentally the surnames of these men are the same—Muhammed. While the former is Ya'u

## Weathering the challenges of living outside the barracks

By Yakubu Ozohu-Suleiman

to them was as a result of

said: "Walahi, e don tay fa; I don pass 80 years old." One unfortunate thing

any family. I have only two brothers who are in Kaduna."

a newspaper. Said he: "I saw a lot of problems and I encountered a lot of

educated. We were disregarded and their ranks were higher than ours. In short I left the army as a sergeant."

Ya'u said that he is managing his life in Abuja as a petty trader. He informed *Daily Trust* that his army kits excluding guns are in "Adaka" in his house in Katsina.

Atabo who joined the Nigerian Army on March 13, 1967, told *Daily Trust* that he was among the team of Nigerian soldiers who constituted the first marine command of Susan Patrick in Lagos.

After one year of fighting the Nigerian Civil War, Atabo was given the rank of a sergeant. He remained so till 1977 when he was discharged from the Army for medical reasons.

Unfortunately, today Atabo is not receiving pension like his friend Ya'u. In his words: "I received pensions only for three years. One day, I was beaten and my documents were rendered useless. I submitted it so that I could get new ones. Unfortunately, the officer I gave them to was

dismissed from the Army for certain offences. So, he left with my documents. I went to Lokoja to trace it but was requested by some people to give a

huge amount of money as a bribe, a sum of money that I never could have. So since 1980, I have not been receiving my pension.

"Now I am suffering. I am a security guard in an uncompleted building. As soon as the building is completed, I will be dismissed, then I have to look around for another job again."

Commenting on his war experiences Atabo said, "only he who had never experienced war would wish for it. If you have ever seen the horrors of war, you will keep quiet and be a lover of peace. War! A situation in which men, women, children, in short an entire family can be wiped out!"



Ya'u Muhammed



Atabo Muhammed

Pix: Yakubu Ozohu-Suleiman

Muhammed, the latter is Atabo Muhammed.

Ya'u hails from Birnin Kaura in Katsina State while Atabo is Igala from Dekina in Kogi State. Although these men did not know each other during the time they were in service as soldiers, they are both retiree sergeants, who fought the Nigerian Civil War and who are coincidentally living and working in the same neighbourhood in Abuja.

The parents of Ya'u and Atabo are not alive and both men do not have any formal education but can speak English language, which according

to their prolonged stay in the barracks where they were compelled to learn English language so as to be able to interact with others.

The manner of responses of these men to interrogations clearly reflected their military orientation. Their voices were hard and commanding. Even in a relaxed mood, the faces of these men would still appear hostile. The firmness of their body structure could deceive one into believing that they are just in their 50s. But Atabo could only recall that he was about 70 years old, but Ya'u simply

as lamented by Ya'u is the fact that he never had a child in his life. In his words: "I don't have any wife now. Before I had three wives. The first two were Hausa. I married them while I was a civilian still under my parents. I married early. I could not have a child from any of them. The third one was from Agbor in Delta State. I married her when I was a soldier. Unfortunately she died while we were still together as husband and wife. But even then I didn't have a child from her too. My first two wives left me as a result of that. So, right now I don't have

As for Atabo, one of his two wives is here in Abuja with him. The other one is at home in Ayangba. He has seven children, four boys and three girls.

Ya'u told *Daily Trust* that he joined the Nigerian Army in 1964 in Zaria where he had his first training. From there he was transferred to Kano, and further to Kachia in Kaduna for training. He speaks further: "I left Kachia back to Kano and from there to Makurdi and Oturkpo in Benue State. From Oturkpo, I went to Obolo that was in 1966. Shortly after that I went to Enugu sometime in 1967. I was there when the Nigerian Civil War broke out. So, I joined the fight on the Nigerian side."

Although, Ya'u stated that he had many horrible experiences during the war, he did not want his statements to be carried in

wahala. I fought all the way from Enugu to Port Harcourt, to Abba, Nnewi,

**"only he who had never experienced war would wish for it. If you have ever seen the horrors of war, you will keep quiet and be a lover of peace. War! A situation in which men, women, children, in short an entire family can be wiped out!"**

Nsukka, Abagana Abakaliki and Okigwe. It was in Okigwe that I was shot on the leg and belly." He showed *Daily Trust* his injury but did not allow photographs to be taken of them. He continued: "I was then taken by my colleagues to the barracks hospital where I was treated."

"I resigned from the army in 1979 during the time Shagari was just coming in, because by then, some educated small boys got enrolled in the army and they were challenging us. I mean those of us who are experienced and who suffered during the war just because we were not

**"The manner of responses of these men to interrogations clearly reflected their military orientation. Their voices were hard and commanding. Even in a relaxed mood, the faces of these men would still appear hostile. The firmness of their body structure could deceive one into believing that they are just in their 50s."**

NEWS

**FG bans tobacco advertisements on TV**

The Advertising Practitioners Council of Nigeria (APCON), the body charged with the regulation and control of advertising in Nigeria, has banned the advertisement or promotion of tobacco products on television, home videos and bill boards with effect from January 1, 2002.

The Chairman of the council, Chief Olu Falomo, who announced this last weekend at a news conference in Abuja, said with effect from January, no pitch panel display of tobacco product (brand or pack) would be allowed in sporting arenas or stadia.

"Advertising and promotion of tobacco products in print (newspapers and magazines) is restricted to inside covers and run-off press inside pages. No tobacco advertisement shall be carried on the outside covers of magazines or newspapers," the chairman said.

Chief Falomo also announced that no colour advertisement would be

**By Ikenna Emeka Okpani**  
allowed in the print media while no tobacco advertisement would be carried in publications targeted at sporting events by brands of alcoholic beverages.

The council, according to the chairman, would continue to liaise with government agencies and ministries to secure their co-operation in enforcing the council's act.

Such agencies, he said, include the Nigeria Customs Service, whom he charged to show greater vigilance at country's border entry points to contain illegal entry of



Prof. Jerry Gana

tobacco products.

The Advertising Practitioners Council of Nigeria (APCON) was established by Decree (now Act) 55 of 1988 (Cap 7, Laws of the Federation 1990) as amended by Act 93 of 1992. The council is supervised by the Federal Ministry of Information and National Orientation.

**NIEMA boss urges principals to obey laws**

The Director and Chief Executive of National Institute for Educational Management in Nigeria (NIEMA), Prof. Taiwo Ajayi, has urged principals of secondary schools in the country to fully understand the legal framework of educational administration and follow it strictly.

Prof. Taiwo made this known in Makurdi while declaring open a two-day workshop with the theme: "Legal basis of educational management in Nigeria," organised by NIEMA in collaboration with Benue State Ministry of Education

The Kano State Governor, Alhaji Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso, has pledged to provide a piece of land for the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) in Kano for the construction of a wholesale drug market. This is to rid the state of the menace of

**Kano to provide land for NAFDAC drug market**

**By Halima Yakubu**  
fake, expired and substandard drugs.

Governor Kwankwaso, who made the pledge during a visit by the Director-General, NAFDAC, Dr. (Mrs) Dora

Akunyili, in his office recently, said apart from establishing a drug market, NAFDAC would also construct a befitting quality control laboratory to carry out analysis of drugs, processed foods and other products.

He said government was aware of the hazards caused by water-borne diseases and would take practical steps to provide good drinking water for the people. The governor expressed concern about contaminated water being packaged as "Pure water" across the state, and commended NAFDAC for organising a workshop on packaged water to educate and assist prospective producers.

The governor pointed out that his government would leave no stone unturned in its efforts to improve health care delivery in his state.

Earlier, the Director-General, NAFDAC, Dr. (Mrs) Akunyili, urged the governor to provide waste bins in strategic locations in the state for disposal of nylon sachets used by consumers of pure water.

She said the proposed wholesale drug market would provide a viable and standard alternative to the existing open drug market at Sabon Gari which has been declared illegal by the Federal Government.

days of 12 strokes of the cane are over," and warned principals to always operate within the legal provisions of educational management for administration.

Also speaking through his Permanent Secretary, Benue State Education Commissioner, Mr. Paul Uyoo, noted that the workshop was timely because "our principals still behave in the military manner with everything taking 'immediate effect' without due regards to the legal or constitutional aspect of what is being done."

He urged participants to always be guided by the appropriate laws in their administration of schools, having known their rights and privileges.

The education commissioner further assured them of government's support in building a viable educational sector, adding that the Benue State government has already completed arrangements to launch the computer literacy programme in all the post-primary schools in the state.

**NGO begins poverty alleviation programme**

**By Emmanuel Ande**  
In its determination to assist government in improving the lives of the masses, a non-governmental organisation (NGO), Henry Ikoh Foundation, has begun a new poverty alleviation programme.

The Chairman of the Foundation, Chief Henry Ikoh, told *Daily Trust* in a chat in Abuja recently that the aim of his Foundation was to complement government's effort in alleviating poverty in the country.

He said that for the people of Nigeria to enjoy democracy, everybody has to contribute his quota to complement government's efforts, since government alone cannot tackle poverty within the short term of this administration.

Chief Ikoh told *Daily Trust* that the Foundation hopes, among other things, to build cottage industries in rural areas, train and employ youths and award scholarships to youths.

He stated that since the take-off of the Foundation, it has disbursed over N1 million to different trade unions in the South-Eastern states to enable them establish profitable ventures.

Chief Ikoh, who is also the Chairman of Harmony Foam (Nigeria) Limited, disclosed further that Ikoh Foundation is to engage strictly in rural development by constructing feeder roads, provision of potable water, electricity and other skills acquisition programmes to enhance the lives of rural dwellers.

He pointed out that to demonstrate the Foundation's interest in rural development, the large foam manufacturing industry (Harmony Foam Nigeria Limited) has been established in Oboro village in Ikwana Local Government Area of Abia State and has employed over 700 youths.

**PDP chieftain advises former leaders to appear before Oputa**

As the controversy over the non-appearance of the former military heads of state before the Human Rights Violations Investigation Commission (HRVIC) rages on, a Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) chieftain, Alhaji Isiaku Ibrahim, has advised Nigeria's former leaders to appear before the panel in order to maintain their dignity.

According to a British Broadcasting Corporation

**By Mustapha Isah Kwaru**  
(BBC) Hausa service report, monitored in Abuja, Alhaji Isiaku who is a member of PDP board of trustees, maintained that their appearance before the Oputa panel would enable Nigerians to know the facts or otherwise of all the alleged violations of human rights against them.

His words: "If they are free from such claims, I think

there is no excuse for the former leaders to be afraid of appearing before the HRVIC."

He further refuted the allegations that the Oputa panel summoned the former leaders because they are Northerners, "this is not true, Shagari and Gowon are from the same region, why shouldn't they have the same charges," he argued.

Speaking specifically on the alleged human rights violation against the former Minister of Transport, Alhaji Umaru Dikko by the Buhari administration, the PDP stalwart expressed surprise over why Buhari refused to be fair concerning the case of Umaru Dikko despite the fact that both of them are muslims from the Northern part of Nigeria.

the governor, Mallam Ibrahim Abdullahi, said that the youths were at the same time chanting pro-government slogans, urging Governor Yar'Adua to re-contest the 2003 elections.

The governor, however, told the crowd that his government would do everything possible to uplift their socio-economic well-being, adding that the bridge under construction in the area would be completed by March next year.



Gov Musa Yar'Adua

**Protest threatens LG chairman's seat**

A protest staged by thousands of youths in Faskari Local Government Area during a familiarisation tour by the Katsina State Governor, Alhaji Umar Yar'Adua is presently threatening the seat of the local government chairman, Alhaji Saidu Mohammed Umar.

The youths chanting

**From Hassan A. Karofi, in Katsina**  
anti-local government chairman slogans told the governor that as a result of non-performance and breach of public confidence, people of the area are clamouring for a leadership change.

In a statement made available to *Daily Trust* at the Government House, Katsina, the Chief Press Secretary to



Chief Barnabas Gemade

**Young politicians elect new leaders**

The Next Generation Politicians (NGP) have elected officers to run the affairs of its association. This took place last week in Abuja.

Officers elected are; Shehu Sale Hassan as Chairman, Sani Ismail, National Coordinator, Steve

**By Victor Akobundu**  
Fasoranti, Deputy National Chairman, Dauda O. Remang, National Secretary and Miss Ebere Okonkwo as Assistant National Secretary.

Others include: Thomas Brown, National Publicity Secretary, Alhaji N. Hassan Ahmed Rabo, Treasurer,

Yakubu Adamu, Organising Secretary and Barrister Ikoro A.N.C., Legal Adviser.

In his post-election remark, the newly elected Chairman of the NGP, Mr. Shehu Hassan, advised youths in the country to participate actively in the national democratic processes.

NEWS

## Judges should work within the law – Hashidu

Governor Abubakar Habu Hashidu of Gombe State, has enjoined judges and khadis in the state to operate within the ambit of the law and all codes of professional conduct in order to restore the hope of the masses through the judiciary.

Speaking at the swearing-in ceremony of the newly appointed high court judges and khadis at the Jewel Hall in Gombe last week, the governor said while his administration was committed to the autonomy of the judiciary, judges and khadis must exhibit honesty and courage in the discharge of their responsibilities.

From Abdullahi Dutse, in Gombe

He said being the third arm of government, the appointment of the judicial officers was highly desirable at this crucial period of the rebirth of democracy and hence the state



Gov Abubakar Hashidu

government's prioritisation of their welfare to facilitate the dispensation of justice.

The governor observed that it was in this regard that vehicles were purchased for high court judges and khadis to ease their transportation problems in the state.

No fewer than five people were reportedly burnt to death even as more than 10 houses were razed in an inferno, sequel to an explosion of a fuel tanker at Tube market, adjacent to Ifo in Ogun State over the weekend.

Confirming the incident, the Public Relations Officer, Zone II Police Command, Mr. Ajayi, said the incident

## Tanker explosion kills 5 in Ogun

From Adelanwa Bamgboye, in Abeokuta

took place at about 10.30 p.m. when the tanker lost control and rammmed into the market before it tumbled and bursted into flames.

The inferno according to an eye-witness, spread to several market stalls and residential houses at Ijofin area of Ifo, before the arrival

of men of the fire service.

Daily Trust gathered that after the incident, a team of policemen, fire fighters and sympathisers began a search and rescue operation through the rubble from which some charred bodies were



Gov Segun Osoba recovered.

Properties which estimated is yet to be known were destroyed including a company, which was completely burnt down.

## 25% of pilgrims sponsored by government - NGO

Over 25 percent of pilgrims that attended last year's muslim pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia were sponsored from public purse by various tiers of government in the country.

A non-governmental organisation which monitored the activities of the National

From Ibrahim Dan Halilu, in Kaduna

Pilgrims Agency and the Hajj 2001 committee, stated this in a report presented at a one-day seminar in Kaduna, that over 1,500 of these category of pilgrims were sponsored by the Federal Government, while state, and local

governments had also sponsored some 600 and 10,000 respectively in addition to other delegations.

A breakdown of the Federal Government figures indicated that 351 were sponsored by the office of the Vice-President, 50 by his Special Assistant (Political), 500 by the National Assembly and 225 by the foreign affairs ministry.

The hajj monitors of Nigeria (HAMON) said in the report that in some states, the entire senior government officials abandoned their responsibilities and travelled enmasse for hajj.

"We believe this is a sabotage to the social well-being of citizens and a guise to earn foreign exchange through collection of estacodes."

In addition to the hajj jamboree, the (HAMON's) report also disclosed that the Pilgrims Agency and some parastatals handling the operations had perpetrated various rackets ranging from inflation of pilgrims' travel allowances, selection of airlines for the airlift of pilgrims, passport and accommodation reservation.

According to the report, the \$1,000 BTA per pilgrims were not exhausted as not all the 55,000 pilgrims demanded for the \$1,000 BTA, which was already provided for by the Central Bank of Nigeria.

"An explanation is therefore, needed on what happened to the difference," the report said.

## LG chairman arraigned for breach of contract

The Chairman of Batagarawa Local Government Area in Katsina State, Alhaji Tukur Iliya Shagumba, has been arraigned before the Katsina Sharia Court I for alleged breach of contract and refusal to pay for a work done.

The complainant, Mallam Nasiru Umar, told the court that early this year, the chairman asked him to produce campaign posters to promote Governor Yar'Adua's government on the agreement that the money would be paid the following day.

He said when they met, the chairman was not happy about the refusal of the contractor to carry out the work as he accused the complainant of sabotaging his political career for not producing the campaign posters.

He told the court that it

From Hassan A. Karofi, in Katsina

was the consideration given to his relationship with the chairman as a classmate which compelled him to produce the posters with the agreement that money would be paid immediately.

Since January, he told the court, the chairman refused to pay, later he directed him to the local council to process the payment.

He, therefore, pleaded with the court to assist him get back his money from the chairman as his business

partners have already threatened to take him to court.

The chairman, who was represented by his lawyer, Alhaji Musa Dalhatu Batagarawa, promised to do everything to see that the money is paid to the contractor this week.

## Bafarawa warns LG chairmen against laxity

The Sokoto State Governor, Alhaji Attahiru Dalhatu Bafarawa, has vowed to descend heavily on any local government council chairman found wanting in the execution of meaningful projects.

Governor Bafarawa dropped the warning last week while in a crucial meeting with all the 23 local government council chairmen in the state, tagged: "Hard talks."

The governor, who was

visibly angry with the council chairmen, said he has been hearing reports from the media, contractors and individuals that he delayed files sent to him, especially on the projects the chairmen want to execute.

He added that, "henceforth, I will no longer tolerate such abuses, insubordination indiscipline from any one of you.

"I have been trying my best to see that I meet with the yearnings and aspirations of our electorate but you are

sabotaging my efforts," he said.

Bafarawa, however, lamented that most of the projects executed by his administration were based at the PDP-dominated local governments of the state.



Gov Attahiru Bafarawa

## Udenwa commends Odili's love for Imo indigenes

The Governor of Imo State, Chief Achike Udenwa, has commended his Rivers State counterpart, Dr. Peter Odili, for his protection and hospitality towards the Imo

From Aisha Momoh, in Port Harcourt

indigenes that reside in Rivers State.

Achike Udenwa said this when he paid a courtesy call on Governor Odili at the

home.

Governor Udenwa said he was in the state on the invitation of the Igbo community in Rivers State, and appealed to them to abide by the laws of the state and also support Governor Peter Odili.

He described his visit to Port Harcourt as a home coming, because to him, Port Harcourt was where he spent most of his working life.

Earlier, the Rivers State Governor, Dr. Peter Odili, said "we are happy with Imo State indigenes resident in the state," as they have displayed loyalty, and demonstrated zeal for legitimate business.

He said the civic reception being organised by the Igbos in honour of Governor Udenwa was a symbol of appreciation by both the people of the state and the

Government House, Port Harcourt last week.

He stated that he was impressed with the level of love that is existing between the people of the state and the Imo indigenes who have chosen to make



## Etsu Nupe appointed UNIBEN chancellor

The Etsu Nupe, Alhaji Umar Sanda Ndayako, has been appointed by President Olusegun Obasanjo as the new Chancellor of the University of Benin (UNIBEN) to replace His Royal Highness, the Emir of Katsina, Alhaji Mohammed Kabir Usman, whose four-year tenure expired as the institution's chancellor.

In a statement issued in Benin by the university's Public Relations Officer, Mr. Charles Omonaide, and

From Shehu Abubakar, in Benin City

Trust, the university's Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Abhulimen Anan, described the appointment of the Etsu Nupe as a blessing to the university and promised to explore the wisdom and wealth of experience of the royal father to promote the institution.

In another development, the authorities of the university have cried out on the resurgence of cultism on its campus and blamed the act on some students of the university who were said to have earlier



"We dare anybody wishing to come out to contest against Capt. Ibrahim Abdullahi in the next election to come out instead of peddling rumours and misinforming the public," the statement reiterated.

# INSIDE POLITICS

## Mantu condemns INEC over exercise, says it is secretly done

The Deputy Senate President, Senator Ibrahim Mantu, has condemned the delineation of wards and polling units carried out by the Independent Electoral Commission (INEC) describing the exercise as "a secret affair."

Speaking while on a constituency tour, Senator Mantu explained that it was unfortunate that INEC consulted with no one before embarking on the delineation exercises.

He said, "I don't know why the INEC officials did not publicise this exercise because they should have done so sufficiently. They were just doing it like a kind of a cult thing. I don't know why."

"By the time I checked, I discovered that they had gone to Abuja and finished

From Buhari Bello, in Jos

everything and nobody seem to know about it," he added.

According to the Senator, most National Assembly members are vehemently opposed to the exercise conducted by the INEC because "INEC recommendations may not reflect the aspirations of their constituents."

"So some of us are kicking against it because it was not publicly done. What they may want to come out with may not reflect the collective interest we represent." He added.

He, therefore, urged Nigerians to reject whatever recommendations that INEC might make regarding the

creation of additional wards and polling units in the country. Stressing that they must do another open exercise "so that people can make useful suggestions."



Abel Guobadia, INEC chairman

The Niger House of Assembly has criticised the state government for ignoring its inputs in the yearly planning implementation of appropriation bills.

The chairman house committee on Finance and Appropriation, Alhaji Usman Ndako, expressed the views while discussing a paper, titled "budget planning and implementation in a democratic set up" at a seminar held in Minna.

Ndako said that the executive had not been observing the basic rules of appropriation bills before passing them to the house.

He also said that members were supposed to have gone to their respective constituencies and collate the

## Niger Assembly angry over budget process

basic demands of their people so that provisions for capital projects could reflect their needs.

Ndako also alleged that the state government had not been cooperating with the house in the submission of quarterly financial reports.

The chairman, whose views received big ovation from other participants at the seminar, appealed for closer ties between the executive and the legislative arms of the government for the speedy development of the state.

In a quick reaction, representatives of the executive arm led by the secretary to the state government, Alhaji Dahiru

Awaisu, dismissed Ndako's views as untrue.

The secretary to the state government said that the executive had been working in concert with the legislative arm and challenged any member of the house whose principles did not agree with the state's system of administration to resign.

Earlier in an address at the opening of the seminar, the Acting Governor of the state, Dr. Shem Nuhu, said that the government would soon send a bill which will compel local governments to allow members of the public to observe councils' proceeding.

## Kwara House suspends Kaiama LG boss

From Abdul Laro, in Ilorin

Embattled chairman of Kaiama Local Government Council in Kwara State, Alhaji Mohammed Madugu Haliru, has been suspended from office and his party, the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

The speaker of the legislative council, Hon. Adamu Sabi, who announced the suspension at a press conference in Ilorin, asked the chairman to be prepared to appear before a three-man committee set up by the council to investigate several allegations levelled against him.

He alleged among others that he chairman refused to render to the legislative council monthly statements of income and expenditure of the council since inauguration in May, 2000.

The speaker said the chairman lied against the council in the *Herald* newspaper of July 18, 2001, in which the chairman was quoted as saying "the Kaiama local government legislative council has approved the sum of N82 million for construction of a new secretariat complex, whereas the council only approved N37 million."

Furthermore, he alleged that while insecurity of life and properties was high in the area, provision of basic amenities was inadequate, and directed the chairman to hand over all local government properties in his possession to the vice-chairman, including a clearly written hand over note.

The speaker noted that the chairman was given three weeks within which to defend himself, though the ultimatum did not expire before the suspension order was slammed on him.

He apologised on behalf of the Kaiama community for the injury inflicted on the divisional police officer saying "we are very sorry."



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# I.T. WORLD



## NITEL assures PTOs on GSM interconnectivity

The Nigerian Telecommunications Limited (NITEL) has given assurance of a superb new Global System of Mobile Communication (GSM) interconnectivity for the Private Telecommunications Operators (PTOs) which would be in favour of the operators when fully operational.

Daily Trust gathered from a reliable NITEL source, last week, in Abuja that the decision was taken to support the GSM operators that are expected to pay N21 for airtime.

According to the source, Econet Wireless Ltd, MTN (Nigeria) Communications Ltd have signed new interconnectivity agreement after Multilinks Communications and two other PTOs the Nigeria Communications Commission (NCC) has put in place.

The bold attempt was taken by NITEL to address interconnectivity problems envisaged by the PTOs on connectivity agreements, NITEL source said.

NITEL source explained that the first element liberalises the point of interconnection between NITEL and the operators could now interconnect at local exchanges and International Telecommunications Switching

**Stories by Hassan Idris**  
Centres (ITSC).

The NITEL source added that there would be improvement over the previous situation whereby point of interconnection was limited to the primary centres across the country.

This however places additional responsibilities on NITEL as that would require system upgrading, which NITEL is working on, the source said.

The second element in the

agreement is the new rates categorised into four segments that includes local, transit, national and international which were all in favour of the PTOs, the source said.

The third element is the establishment of a maintenance team at every point of interconnection to ensure that all facilities are well maintained and a quick response to any fault.

The source added that the new agreement also stipulates that any capital contribution

made by any PTO to achieve interconnectivity would be considered as credit in favour of the operator.

Again, the agreement also vests the power of arbitration of disputes between NITEL and PTOs with the NCC, particularly, coming into operation of the new agreement has now resolved complaints by the PTOs, the source said.

Hopefully, the concessions obtained by the PTOs will promptly reflect in cost of service enjoyed by the customers, the source said.



The Minister of Communications, Dr. Bello Haliru Mohammed (right) and SIEMENS Nig. Ltd's Managing Director, Mr. Edward Seidel signing the contract agreements. In the middle is the Minister of State for Communications, Alhaji Haruna Adekunle Elewi.

## Jigawa State sets up IT institutions

The Jigawa State government has set up the biggest Information Technology (IT) institutions to improve the quality of life for the citizens.

The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Special Adviser on Assembly matters, Alhaji Ibrahim Garba Hanungiwa, informed, Daily Trust last week, in Abuja that the state government established the institute of Technology at Kazaure.

He said, it is the biggest in Northern Nigeria or even it is the second largest Computer Centre after the similar centre in South Africa.

He added that the state government has established about 10 computer centres in secondary schools and that it was trying to install computers in all the primary schools for IT development through the training of the young ones.

Other institutions that were earmarked for computer and IT education were the Jigawa State Polytechnic and the proposed Quranic Research Institute which he said only the state Governor, Alhaji Samina Turaki could explain better.

Initially, the old school of Islamic Legal Studies in Ringim was to be converted to the Quranic Research Institute and the governor had contacted the

Malaysian and Saudi Arabian governments for assistance.

He stressed that the government established the Institute of Information Technology and has transferred its ownership to private individuals who will provide the funding over the period of five years through the Savings and Loans Bank.

The government on its parts, solely funded all the secondary schools and Polytechnic.

He expressed delight that his daughter attends the Roni Secondary School where computer science was taught as a subject.

He said the governor

himself was in a better position to explain further on the target and vision of the state in IT development, he said.



Gov. Saminu Turaki of Jigawa State.

The Minister of Communications, Dr. Bello Mohammed has predicted that the GSM operators would suffer tariff crash and it would become clearer that it is after all, for all Nigerians regardless of status.

Dr. Mohammed made the remark at the signing of interconnectivity agreement between Nigerian Telecommunications Limited (NITEL) and the two other operators, Econet Wireless Ltd and MTN (Nigeria) Communications Ltd., last week, in Abuja.

The Minister gave assurance that appreciable steps would be taken to reduce the GSM phones tariff nationwide and other terms of telecommunication services.

He added that government was aware of the worries expressed by Nigerians that the tariff announced by GSM operators was costly and could

## GSM operators to suffer tariff crash - Minister

be unaffordable by the average Nigerian.

Dr. Mohammed said, "I want to assure that government is committed to ensuring that access to telecommunication Services is easily available and affordable to Nigerians."

However, he noted the competition that would emanate between GSM operators would be piling pressure on the industry and would certainly bring prices down.

Earlier, ECONET announced that connection fee is N15,000, while N35 would be charged as airtime per minute for peak period and N24 off peak, Econet sources said.

Again, MTN charges N20,000 connection fee but N30 per minute for peak periods and N20 off peak time respectively, MTN sources said.

However, both GSM operators would charge N4,000 monthly fees, in a nutshell you

require between N40,000 and N45,000 to get connected, according to reports.

Similarly, NITEL was expected to announce its charges in Lagos over the weekend that it would charge N10,000 as connection fee and N22.50 per minute at peak period and N11.25 at off peak period, according to news report price of the hole NITEL package is N35,000.

## NAMA earmarks \$2m for IT development

The Nigerian Airspace Management Agency (NAMA) has earmarked \$2m about (N280m) for Information Technology (IT) development and for the automation of its Aeronautical Information Services (AIS).

The Director of Air Traffic Services, Alhaji Yusuf

Mohammed made the remark in his office in Lagos recently.

Alhaji Yusuf disclosed that the amount has been set aside to handle both the training of relevant personnel and the automation project.

He explained that the sum of \$186,000 was voted for the training of staff only and the

balance was to go for IT equipment procurement and installation.

He stressed that the automation should definitely bring about the agency's AIS to function properly, noting that without air traffic information, distribution would remain limited.

## YOU AND YOUR COMPUTER

By Hassan Idris

### Understand working with disks and drives

Disks are the computer information storage areas and the drives are known as the complete device that holds the disks.

In other words, the hard 'disk' is the spinning platter of the magnetic information material holding the stored data inside the drive. A 'disk' and drive is not the same thing on computer.

However, the real collection of mechanisms that spins the disks to write information on the disk, and read information from the disk is the disk drive component. The hard disk drive in your computer has a sealed case that holds both the drive plus the stack of so many disks.

#### Know computer drives names

Watch your computer, if it has a single floppy disk drive, it is called drive 'A'.

But if it has two floppy disk drives, the one on the left is called 'drive A' and the right side is known as drive 'B'. Sometimes computer will have one floppy disk drive on top, it is the drive 'A' and the bottom type is the drive 'B'.

Already the general hard drive or hard disk inside the computer is drive 'C'. Generally your CD Rom drive, if you have any is known as the drive 'D'.

#### How to write to a disk

Normally, as you enter data while working with your computer, the computer will hold the data in the RAM chips.

When you issue a file save command, click the drive (A, B, C or D) where you want to save the information.

As soon as the command starts spinning the disk and the drive indicator light will show.

The computer read/write head will move over the disk you selected looking for the tracks or sectors to write or read the data. Then it magnetises the appropriate bits to form a combination of at least eight bits to form a character or byte on the disk.

The read/write head continues to move over the disk drives selected to either read or write data needed.

If you choose open command, a dialogue box will appear and request the disk drive you want to open. You can select any drive and get the data, which usually reads the combination of the bits and transmits it to RAM. The RAM now interprets and displays it on the computer monitor.

## Legal and ethical issues on information communication technology convergence (2)

By Paul Ojeogwu

Licensing of telecommunications operators and facilitating private sector participation and investment in the telecommunications sector of the Nigerian economy.

Establishing and supervising technical and operational standards and practices as well as type approval of equipment for operators, overseeing the quality of service provided by operators and setting terms for interconnection of different networks.

Ensuring that the interest of the consumer of telecommunications services is protected by promoting competitive pricing of such services and combating the abuse of market power.

Mediating between operators, carriers and consumers.

Reporting and giving assistance to the Minister of Communications in respect of its Regulatory functions and the telecommunications industry, and to make input into Telecommunications Policy. With the promulgation of this decree many private companies have entered into the industry. They participate in the areas of:

- Sales and installation of terminal or other equipment e.g. telephones, telex fax.
- Provision and operation of public pay - phone.
- Provision and operation of private network links employing cable, radio communication or satellite within Nigeria.
- Provision and operation of public mobile communication e.g. cellular, paging, trucking radio.
- Provision and operation of community telephone e.g. for rural areas and estates.
- Repair and maintenance of telecommunication facilities etc.

Before the NCC decree, other auxiliary infrastructures/establishments put in place to promote and facilitate information technology include:

- News Agency of Nigeria Cap. 290 law of the federation to obtain news from all sources both within and outside Nigeria and to supply same to the subscribers of the agency.
- Newspaper Act Cap. 291 laws of the federation to make provision for the registration of newspapers and for other purposes in connection with newspapers.
- Nigerian Media Council Cap. 316 laws of the federation 1990 to promote high professional standards for the Nigerian media and to deal with complaints from member of the public.
- Nigeria Television Authority Cap. 329 which established the Nigeria Television Authority with responsibility for the provision of television broadcasting in Nigeria etc.

To be continued next week.



# I.T. WORLD



## Unreleased virus targets acrobat files

Hacker writes Outlook.pdf to prove PDF files are vulnerable, researchers said.

A worm that infects PDF (Portable Document Format) files, generated by Adobe Acrobat, has been created in a lab. While it is not "in the wild," its birth shows PDF files are not immune from infection.

The worm appeared last week and was analyzed by Bernardo Quinteros, head of the Madrid-based security firm HispaSec Sistemas, and Richard Smith, chief technical officer of the Privacy Foundation.

"Even considering that it is a just-created laboratory virus, this is like a seed of an upcoming deluge of viruses of the same kind in PDF files, a format considered safe up to now," Quinteros said.

The virus is called Outlook.pdf, and it is

**By Umaru Mu'azu and Agency Reports**

considered "experimental," with a small capacity to infect, Quinteros add.

To travel, Outlook.pdf uses Acrobat and Microsoft Outlook functions differently than previous worms. Both researchers said the worm uses Outlook to send itself hidden in a PDF file. When opened using Acrobat, the file launches a game that prompts the user to click on the image of a peach. That prompts a Visual Basic script that activates the virus, they said.

The virus spread by using all the addresses from e-mail messages in any Outlook folder, not just the programme's Address Book. It embeds itself into a PDF file, disguising itself by changing the e-mail's subject, body, and attachment lines everytime, they said. The researchers

have posted an image from the game.

The worm has been developed by "Zulu," an Argentine hacker well known in the virus underground as a prolific innovator, according to Quinteros.

Zulu created it as a "proof of concept," to prove that Adobe Acrobat files can be virus carriers. It requires

the presence of both Outlook and the full Acrobat programme, not just the Reader, the free utility that most users have installed.

It is unclear whether Zulu is targeting Adobe's software with his newest invention because of recent hacker community animosity towards Adobe. The company initially sought, then withdrew, a

complaint against Russian programmer Dmitry Sklyarov. The programmer demonstrated at the recent Def Con security conference a utility that breaks copy-protection of electronic books produced by Adobe Acrobat.

"There has been very little public discussion of Adobe Acrobat security issues as far as I can tell. Since PDF files are considered safe by Internet Explorer, it means that Acrobat security holes are

easy to exploit from web pages and HTML e-mail messages," the Privacy Foundation's Smith said.

Zulu told Quinteros he creates worms just for fun, because he finds it an educational experience. He does not feel guilty about doing it, and the actions are not considered a crime under Argentine law yet. The worms Zulu has written do not usually carry a dangerous payload by themselves, although they can be adapted to malicious wrongdoing by others, according to Quinteros.

## Internet cafes sell more than food

Restaurants with Web access wet appetites for online services as well as edibles.

Americans may be divided on a lot of things, but many share a ritual of sorts: watching television at dinnertime—a habit with implications for how goods and services will be sold over the Internet.

Meals in front of the tube are commonplace. Meals-

for-one come in prepackaged "TV" dinners and families often dine within sight and sound of TVs.

Seemingly, newscasters, game-show hosts, and tabloid-TV barkers are held to be more compelling company than kin.

Indeed, the activity of eating in the presence of a TV is not exclusive to households. TVs also are

common in restaurants. What would a garden-variety U.S. restaurant be without the muffled sounds of a televised ballgame emanating from the bar area?

Now some restaurant retailers are taking the food-and-TV nexus to a new level, directing attention to another glowing monitor, the kind featuring Web pages.

The expectation among some restaurants is that diners will eat and surf the Web in one sitting.

McDonald's, hamburger-stand to the world, for instance, is experimenting with Internet-linked PCs in its restaurants, though not yet in the United States.

While demographics spurring the test hint that a U.S. experiment cannot be

far off, a test is presently underway in Ra'anana in suburban Tel Aviv

The Ra'anana restaurant has more than 20 PC terminals for its young clientele. Customers buy tokens worth 20 minutes of Internet time, small children can play computer games for free and Microsoft software is offered for sale.

"It reflects the lifestyle of youngsters in Israel and in the world—to eat fast food and use the Internet at the same time," Omri Padan, chief executive officer of McDonald's Israel, told Israel Radio.

McDonald's Israel claimed the Ra'anana restaurant is the first McDonald's anywhere to offer commercial Internet access, a project developed with the MSN Israel portal.

## Microsoft dominates the world wide web

It was once thought that the Internet was too vast to be conquered. Now one-quarter of all minutes spent online in the United States go to just three firms: America Online, Microsoft, and Yahoo. While Microsoft's portal, MSN.com, ranks third among the three in the U.S., and second worldwide, Microsoft's broad range of properties could make it a global Internet powerhouse.

Microsoft's dominance is becoming apparent as Web ratings firms begin measuring traffic in other countries around the world. According to an analysis of Nielsen NetRatings data, 45 percent of the top five Web sites in 26 countries are affiliated with Microsoft. Only one percent are AOL sites.

Microsoft has a considerable advantage when it comes to gathering Web traffic. When it famously tied its Internet Explorer browser to its operating system, it also set that browser by default to a Microsoft home page. Some 86 percent of Web browsers in use today are from Microsoft, according to traffic-analysis firm WebSideStory. And 59 percent of U.S. adults surveyed by Cyber Dialogue said they've never changed their browser's default home page; Microsoft's numbers increase every time those users go online.

But it gets better: If an

Microsoft search page pops up offering help. That "auto-search" traffic accounted for four percent of Microsoft's pageviews in June, according to data from Compete, a traffic analysis firm.

Globally, Microsoft's surfing utility Passport.com shows up frequently in rankings of top sites. But rather than being a destination, the electronic verification tool loads a Microsoft page every time a surfer logs into a Passport-affiliated site, further boosting Microsoft's numbers.

Data from Compete shows that 80 percent of Microsoft's U.S. page views go to its free e-mail service, Hotmail. Another traffic researcher, ComScore, finds that only one percent of the time spent on Microsoft sites is at MSNBC, and 15 percent goes to the MSN homepage. By comparison, Yahoo's traffic is far less concentrated in any one area.



And Microsoft still trails Yahoo in unique visitors worldwide.

Traffic long has been the key metric for determining the value of a Web site. But because surfers aren't actively loading many Microsoft pages, the value of

its page views is questionable. With all the auto-search and home page shenanigans,

Microsoft's ranking atop the global site list may be less important than meets the eye.

## Sharp puts a billion colours on display

Sharp is adding even more colours to liquid crystal displays. The company has developed software that allows LCDs to display more than one billion colours, Sharp announced last Thursday.

Developers researched how human eyes perceive brightness and color, then applied their findings to one of the characteristics of an LCD—the fact that it can control the brightness and colour of each pixel.

Current LCD hardware can hold up to eight bits per RGB (red, green, and blue) colour level, which is the equivalent of 16.77 million colours, according to Heihachiro Ochiai, a spokesperson for Sharp. The new technology makes these eight-bit RGB colours look like 10-bit RGB colours, he said.

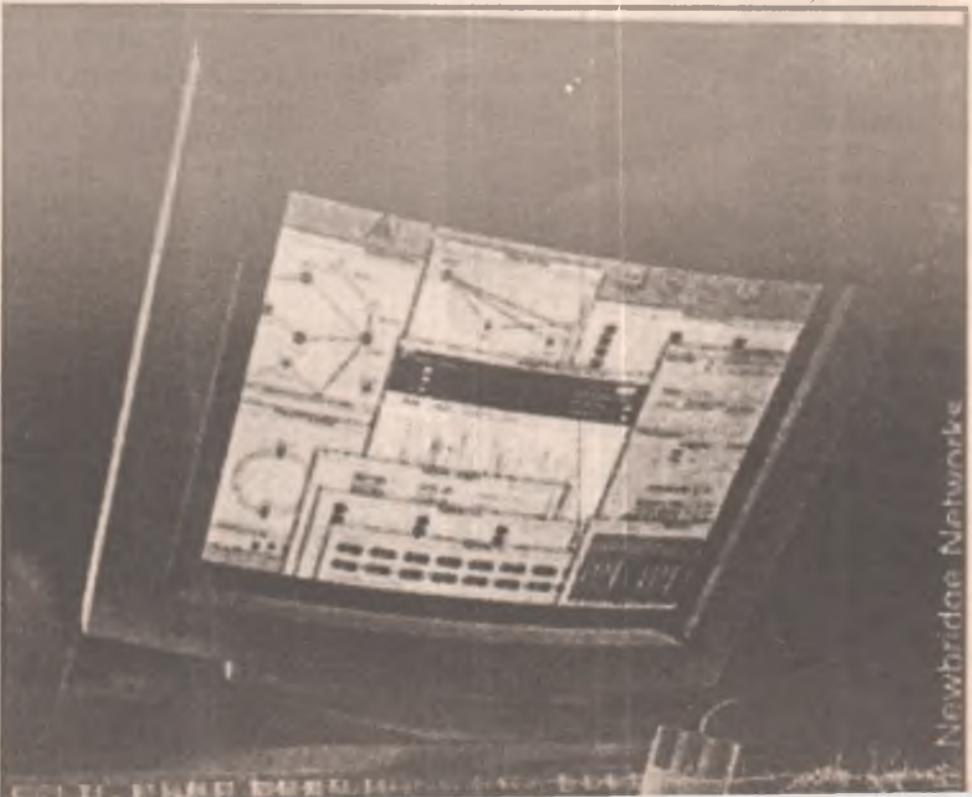
The company, one of Japan's leading LCD manufacturers, plans to install its software in LCDs within the next two to three years—hoping that it will be adopted on large scale integrated circuit chips—or

Recently, computer software developers such as Microsoft have been developing software with 10 to 12 bits per RGB level; but this level of colour cannot be displayed on current LCDs. With Sharp's new development, users will be able to see displays in full colour.

Software can also be used in fields that LCDs have not been able to enter before. For example, X-ray pictures, which are reproduced on film to show smooth and detailed gray-scale gradations, will be able to be displayed on LCDs.

With current

technologies, digital data can hold 13 to 15 bits of colour at most. Sharp's software will allow these colors to be displayed so that moving images such as movies distributed via broadband (which is expected to be more available in Japan in the near future) can have richer colour, Ochiai said.





# Interview

## Democracy is meaningless at the grassroots – NULGE President

*Deji Akinwalere is the national president of the National Union of Local Government Employees (NULGE). A man experienced in the local government administration, Comrade Deji Akinwalere, as he insists to be called, was once a member of the NULGE Board of Trustees, before he was elected national president.*

*He fielded questions from our Senior Reporter, Reuben Yunana. Excerpts:*

**Mr. President, you assumed office in March this year. Has the handing over been completed between you and your predecessor?**

Yes, we have completed all the handing over arrangements. Our union is a very peaceful union. That is why all the crises that you notice in other unions are non-existent here. We are law abiding, we are democratic, and we accept the will of the workers. There is no friction at all in the union.

**What is your comment on the present level of local government funding? Is it adequate?**

The funding simply is inadequate but it goes beyond that. It is a strategy to destroy the local government service and blackmail and discredit the practitioners at that level. We are running a system whereby the federal government has imposed on the local government for example, the payment of teachers' salaries. And at the end of the day when that is removed at source from the allocation due to councils, they are in a comatose state, going back home with zero allocation or something that is close to zero. We are saying that it is a deliberate policy to destroy the councils because first, council chairmen have challenged the legality of this deduction at source in the sense that the decree that establishes the National Primary Education Commission makes it clear that deduction of teachers' salaries shall be done from the Federation Account and not from the local government account. But the Federal Government has continued to behave like the military dictatorship of the past by taking the money from the accounts of the councils and putting them in a very helpless situation where they have little or nothing.

And when you look at the provision of the constitution which holds that states should remit 10 percent of their allocation to councils and states have defaulted, that further impoverishes the councils. But worse still, is the recent development whereby state governments are hijacking the internally generated revenue of the councils. States have taken over areas where they discovered local governments can make money and they simply go there and hijack them.

A case in point is Lagos State where we used to have very viable local governments. Just recently I think the state governor has arm-twisted them and intimidated all the chairmen to sign an agreement ceding the power of tenement collection to the state government even when it is obviously against the provisions of the 1999 constitution, or all constitutions that we have had in this country. These are things that have put local governments in a very unfortunate condition. Sadly, these same governors, presidents and ministers would turn around to blame local government chairmen and functionaries of non-performance, corruption and all what not. So this is what is making local governments more unattractive and in fact making democracy meaningless to the people at the grassroots because the government that is closer to them is not now positioned to make positive transformations at the local government level.

**Are you now absolving council chairmen in the country of corruption?**

that. But let me put it to you for the purpose of record and education that the issue of corruption in Nigeria is not peculiar to any sector or tier of government. But it goes to show the extent of the expectation of our people from the local government chairmen. That is the government that they see, is the one they have access to.

So the song is that council chairmen are corrupt. But we are saying that we should even look at the resources at their disposal which they have access to before we randomly condemn this group of corruption.

Apparently, they are Nigerians. The same Nigerians that are corrupt or stealing in the Police, in the Federal Civil Service or the National Assembly. So we have our own demons and monsters at the local government level, but it is unfair to now generalise and say all local government chairmen are not performing, or that all of them are corrupt. But because we don't have access to what an average governor is doing with resources at his level we don't talk about the magnitude of fraud that is going on at that level.

**What is NULGE's position on zero allocation bearing in mind that the problem was created by council chairmen who inflated teachers' number in their councils during audit exercises in order to attract funds but are now left high and dry because such funds are being deducted at source?**

Which council chairman? When was the audit? Let me educate you. According to them, this was something that happened in 1991-1996. But between 1996 and the year 2001 we have had more than six audit exercises in the primary schools and till tomorrow, nobody has been able to normalise the situation. So we keep making reference to that as if it is a sacred thing that cannot be changed. We have had six audit exercises between 1994 and now, and the figure just keeps jumping up.

This is because we are talking of a cabal of people at very high places in NPEEC, among the state governments in states, where people deliberately inflate figures of teachers, number of primary schools, number of pupils nationwide, so that the extra deduction that comes from that is shared. That is why today, the unofficial deputy governor of many states is the chairman of SPEEC because of the money at his disposal which he and the governors, tangle with at the end of the month. So you are talking about something that happened in 1991 but we are saying that 10 years later NPEEC



Mr. Deji Akinwalere

possible to set the correct figures – if you go to any public school you have different registers for the local school, different registers for the SPEB and for NPEEC. And this thing kept going up and we kept telling the whole world that this is the drama that is going on and up till now the Federal Government has not done anything.

**Now what is the solution?**

The solution is this. The deduction of teachers' salaries should be made from the Federation Account. It's a simple problem if the will is there and if there is no conspiracy to defraud Nigerians. This is something that can be solved in just a month. The total amount, which they say, is meant for teachers' salaries, let them take it from the Federation Account and not from the local government allocation because there is no law that says that should be done. The moment that is done, it is now left for the Federal Government to either continue to allow excess deductions to be made on the

Federation Account and remitted to NPEEC.

**What is the effect of all these on the payment of salaries of local government staff?**

Apparently, I want to tell you that in many local governments in Nigeria, our members are owed salaries up to six months.

In some places five, in some, six months- and in a situation where you work and you are not paid, productivity would reduce, there would be absenteeism. But much more than that, it breeds a lot of crisis and violence because it gets to a point where workers have to fight for their rights. And the money that ought ordinarily to go for developmental projects is not available. So there is no development at the grassroots and we are struggling on how to pay salaries of workers and of councillors and other political functionaries. At the end of the day, where is the Democracy dividend that we are talking about?

Also, there is the situation where the Federal Government would impose the jumbo pay of councillors, of chairmen on the local government without taking into cognisance the limited financial resources available at the local government level to pay such approved emoluments.

The people are suffering for it. The workers are suffering. Democracy is equally suffering because it will get to a point that we will not have any reason to tell our people that democracy is better than military government. This is because under the military, contractors, the people in the community had one or two benefits from the local government in terms of contracts. But today, things are different. A lot of councils cannot award any meaningful project to the local people and when you don't

get any benefits at the local government level your thinking starts changing.

**What is the union's position on the issue of jumbo pay for political appointees at the council level?**

The best comment on that is that it is unfair. And that is why we insisted that the Federal Government rolled out certain policies with the intention to discredit and destroy the local government system. They approved an emolument package without increasing even the allocation to take care of that. So apparently there is a crisis. Because you have had a situation where some local government chairmen were impeached by their councillors not because they refused to execute rural roads or water or electricity projects but for his inability to pay the jumbo package. But the issue of jumbo pay is something that all of us must be very very objective about. NULGE is not a sensational union. That is a package for politicians. In an average state a state legislator takes about N500,000 per month. We don't call that a jumbo pay. A member of the House of Representative takes about N1 million while a Senator takes about N1.2 million a month. Since we don't regard these ones as jumbo pay, I don't know if we are giving the word jumbo pay because of the councillors. I am sure that was why the Senate President himself asked what the big deal was over the jumbo pay issue. He knows how much his colleagues at the National Assembly are collecting.

Whether we like it or not we should not create an impression that legislation at the state level is a more arduous task than legislation at the rural level. They are there to make laws: about 10 to 15 of them, so personally I don't see anything extra-

ordinary about their salary. However, the cash backing must be there.

**It is two years since the return of democracy. Have the benefits been commensurate with our expectations?**

We must be correct about our use of words. We have a civilian administration in place not a democratic government. It is a transition era. We are yet to get to a stage of practising what people regard as real democracy. This is a country that claims to be democratic now, but there are still a lot of dictatorial tendencies on the part of government, which are traces of the past autocratic military regimes. State governors are unilaterally and illegally dissolving councils. Is that democracy? Federal government is deliberately starving local governments of their due rights without any qualms, is that democracy? The courts have ruled that it is illegal for the federal government to deduct salary at source from local government. The Attorney-General has advised Mr. President that it is illegal yet such decisions have been thrown overboard and disregarded: no rule of law. Is that democracy? So we must be cautious when we use words so that we don't get carried away. We have in place a civil rule working towards a democratic system. May be in the next dispensation the system would be better and be described as democratic. For now there are too many dictatorial and military tendencies on the part of Mr. President, and on the part of the government.

**What is the position of NULGE on the stand-off between the Senate and State Assemblies over local governments autonomy?**

NULGE is in full support of the recommendations of the Senator Ogbeha committee. But state governments want to see local governments as appendages. They don't believe that the local government system exists. But the Ogbeha committee recommended local governments as the autonomous financially viable third tier of government. But our state governors who say they are democrats don't want that. They prefer a system whereby they colonise local governments and run it as administrative unit where the chairman is a glorified messenger. That is why they sponsored State Assemblies to oppose the Senate.

Unfortunately these speakers of State Assemblies do not know that they are in chains. How many governors regard the speakers in their states as number three citizens? They put their own wives over and above the speakers. It is the bidding of the state governors they are doing not that of the electorate. We cannot rely on the selfish ambition of state governors and the elite.

**What have been your achievements so far?**

We came on board in March this year and we are duty bound to ensure that the system does not collapse. And to alert the whole nation that some cabal have ganged themselves to destroy local governments and create fiefs and empires for themselves. These are the people asking for two-year tenure for councils and saying they have power to dissolve councils. We want the people to know the truth. We must all rise before they destroy democracy and truncate the wishes of the



# Features

## Happy days ahead for dock workers

The Joint Dock Labour Industrial Council (JODLIC), the umbrella body of the dock workers in the country had every reason to celebrate its first year of existence in a volatile maritime industry like ours. For decades, the dock sector had been piloted by very few individuals who only used their position in office to perpetrate vices causing the sector to retrogress in revenue generation.

But, since the introduction of JODLIC a year ago by the Honourable Minister of transport, Chief Ojo Maduekwe, the hitherto chaotic state of the nation's dock industry has now given way to sanity, and Industrial harmony. Similarly the initial mess that used to characterise the payment of

From Tokunbo Oloke, in Lagos

wages for dockworkers is now replaced with improved wages, better conditions of service, welfare and dignity.

Also, the condition in the past one year has been able to dismantle all illegal make shift offices/containers which had impeded smooth dock operations, and fully registered all dockworkers operating in the port.

The council also succeeded in establishing a modern dockworkers pool with Clinic, canteen, training School and recreational facilities both in Lagos, Port Harcourt, Warri and Calabar.

The enforcement of decree 37 of 1999 and the introduction of this decree that vociferously led



Min. of Transport Chief Ojo Maduekwe

to the enthronement and administration of the Dock Labour Industry into the hands of liberal people in the industry.

The council was however, inaugurated in June, 2000 and headed by Alhaji Tijani Ahmed Ramallan.

According to Ramallan, the mission statement of the council among others is to be a partner in promoting the welfare of dockworkers, protecting their interests as well as to enhance productivity, Sanitise the port by redeeming the chequered image of the country in the eyes of the maritime world since the port is said to be the gateway to the nation's economy that the dock Industry which serves as engine must be perfect and effective in its operation. In order to further strengthen the council the present government has rolled out some guidelines aimed at revamping the Dock industry, which had hitherto been dominated by charlatans. Since then, JODLIC has been saddled with the responsibility of registering dockworkers and dock Labour employers, maintain and keep a register of dockworkers and dock labour employers, regulate the conditions of service of dock workers, ensure direct payment of wages to each dockworker by the employer and set out guidelines, which will ensure that dockworkers are rotated evenly among dockworkers in the pool. Other functions include to conduct a census of Dockers in the pool every three years, to ensure that dock labour employers comply with the existing regulations and standards relating to wages, welfare and training of dockworkers in the ports, ensure that dock labour



Alhaji Ahmed Tijani Ramallan Executive Chairman/CEO joint Dock Labour Industrial Council (JODLIC)

employers provide adequate cargo handling gear, plant and equipment. From time to time, ensure that dock labour employers provide adequate protection gears for the safety of dockworkers and ensure that dock labour provides group insurance.

At the official commissioning of the Pool/Clinic in Lagos, the Minister was highly impressed by what the council had been able to garner just in one year. He however urged the JODLIC official to always keep the flag flying. On a lighter mood, he told them to maintain a high level of maintenance culture within and outside the pool.

The minister reiterated that the sins committed by the former Maritime workers leaders should not be traced to the present leaders which he described as the

true dividend of democracy. "Imagine the great risk we took only for you to do worse." "No amount of thanks or commendation from you will impress me to compromise the issue of transparency, because if I had intended to put sentiments into play, we would not be where we are today." The Minister stressed further that "if any of your relation is interested in contracts, tell him/her to try another place. You are gone if I get any negative report about you, we can not be preaching transparency up there and yet condone lawlessness and nepotism elsewhere. If your brother or relation did not die before you assume your present position, I believe he would not die again. When you leave there, as a public officer, you are just a mere custodian."

Before the end of conviviality, the Executive Chairman of JODLIC read guidelines to dockworkers on how to conduct themselves while at the pool and to Labour employers to always operate within the precepts of Decree 37 of 1999.

Henceforth, the JODLIC boss however promised to make the seaports more competitive and more users-friendly, than any seaport in the sub-region. In order to achieve this, he said "we intend to put in place a contented dock Labour force in order to have the much needed peace, security and Industrial harmony at the nation's seaport."



Minister of state for Transport Alhaji Isa Yuguda, Andrew Isichie MD, ACF A., Mallam Bello Gwandu, MD, NPA, Engr. Rabiu Abuba Kar, MD National Inland waterways Authority, B. A. Mohammed special assistant to minister of state

Two particular words kept recurring as participants at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting of First Bank of Nigeria (FBN) Plc described how the event went - peaceful and smooth.

Not even the election of Directors and members of the Audit Committee, which saw re-election of incumbent ones, created any room for frayed nerves.

The meeting, which was held at the congress Hall of the Abuja Nicon Noga Hilton, located in the central area of the Federal Capital City, attracted a cream of shareholders from across the country.

From the feelings of the shareholders expressed in their remarks and peaceful conduct, it was glaring that they were quite impressed with the performance of the bank.

The AGM had four issues as special business to consider and pass resolution on, of which all enjoyed unanimous approval.

The outcome was an increase in the company's share capital from two billion ordinary shares of 50 kobo each to six billion ordinary shares of 50 kobo each. A special resolution was agreed upon to make the memorandum of Association of the company read "authorised share capital of the company's N3 billion divided into 6 billion ordinary shares of 50 kobo each." Also approved was a bonus of one new share for every four already held by existing shareholders, while a right of issue 338,742,899 ordinary shares of 50 kobo each was offered to existing shareholders.

## First Bank: Towards a strategic re-direction

From Rakiya A. Muhammad in Lagos

Earlier the managing Director of FBN, Mr. Bernard Longe made a review of performance of the bank during the year ended March 2001.

From the review, the bank's total assets base stood at N212.9 billion which represents a growth of N32.4 billion or 17.9 percent from N80.55 record as at the same period the previous year. It's liabilities sum up to N195.8 billion leaving a positive figure of N17.1 billion, shareholders funds.

According to the Managing Director the growth was driven largely by increase in deposits.

Gross earnings as at March 2001 stood at N29.1b an increase of 8.4 percent compared with N26.85 the previous year. Though in terms of growth rate, this achievement is slow when viewed against the 51.9 percent in 1999/2000, the MD said it was due in part to general fall in the level of interest rate in the first half of the year. He added that the interest income accounted for N20.7 billion, 70.1 percent of gross earnings, down from 74.6%.

Interest expenses dropped by 8.5 percent from N4.2 billion in 1999/2000 to N3.81 billion. This was attributed to the bank's improved liabilities mix.

On provision for Bad and Doubtful Debts, there was an increase of only 18.2 percent compared with 123.0 percent for each of the two previous years, even as the growth rate of other overhead expenses also reduced



Mr. Bernard Longe, Managing Director/Chief Executive First Bank of Nigeria Plc

from 37.2% to 5.9%. FBN's profit before tax, up from N5.11 billion in 1999/2000 to N6.2 billion representing 21.3% while its profit after tax stood at N4.7b and increase of 19.8% from N4.2b.

Commending the management of the bank for this performance, a shareholder Dr. Farouk Umar expressed gratitude to the bank for giving them the "wonderful result." He however raised hope for further improvement on the performance. Collaborating this, Chairman, Shareholders Solidarity Association of Nigeria, Chief Akintunde Asalu said it was obvious when you say First Bank is the biggest bank to remain it, is no mean task while congratulating them for being a members of an extremely successful bank.

Chief Asalu advised the bank's management to watch closely the profit and loss account and ensure that not all profits come from the banking business.

He expressed Shareholders' Support for the bank's venturing into the ECONET business. Earlier Dr. Umar also supported this move, saying, "this year the bank invested in ECONET, the future is in technology, you have taken the future."

The issue of unclaimed dividends also came into fore at the AGM with many of the shareholders not in support of the unclaimed dividends funds being proposed by the Securities and Exchange Commission. The Management of the bank on its part made it clear that it had no reason to sit on unclaimed dividend. According to Mr. Longe, in an attempt to get the dividends to their rightful owners, the Bank's Registrar made a tour of parts of the country. Similar tours, he promised will be made in other parts.

By this, First Bank hopes to achieve Zero level of unclaimed dividends. If the 2000/2001 performance is seen as impressive, then the future even promises better results. Said the Chairman, Alhaji Umar Muttallab in his statement at the AGM "after a careful examination of the emerging Nigerian economy in the context of the increasing globalisation, the board and management of our bank have concluded that the

required response is not restructuring or repositioning but a comprehensive strategic redirection."

Alhaji Muttallab who described the 2000/2001 accounting year as the most challenging in recent times, said the bank has embarked on a new strategy that builds on its past while projecting into the future.

As the 'Elephant Bank' forges into its second century of banking to the nation, the Chairman, said the new initiative 'Century II: The New Frontier', "will enable us to optimise our strengths including a large customer base, experience and extensive branch network to tap current and emerging opportunities in and outside financial services."

However, the much-desired re-direction may not be achieved without required attention to the human capital management. The FBN MD, Mr. Longe, realising this, said "our people are the most critical and differentiating resource for achieving the future that we desire." He observed the need for the bank to attract and retain the best in terms of skill adding, "it is a critical success factor for not only future success but also for our reinvention agenda."

According to Mr. Longe, the bank is addressing this in four main ways: viz, effective aggressive new compensation policies and practices; Workforce Motivation and Rejuvenation; Constant Skill Audit and Update

as well as new work environment with three key elements, empowerment, entrepreneurship and Open communication.

The Chief Executive noted "the year gone past severely tested the mettle of interest-income dependent banks like ours but it also provided the spur for a fundamental strategic overhaul." He asserted "we learnt the right lessons from the development and designed the right responses; the result is a new strategy which will relaunch our Bank in the new global market place."

FBN no doubt has carved a niche for itself as a leading banking institution. It is one of the two banks selected to join the new Nigerian automated clearing system along with the Nigerian Inter-Bank settlement and Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN).

From a small operation in the office of Elder Dempster and Company in Lagos, way back in 1894, First Bank can now boast of 319 branches spread throughout the Federation, including one in the city of London. This makes the bank beats its chest as maintaining the largest branch network in the industry.

As part of its efforts towards development of the Nigerian economy, the bank has diversified into a wide range of banking activities and services. Among which are Corporate and Retail Banking, Registration, Trusteeship and Insurance Brokerage.

**WRIT OF SUMMONS  
IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY  
IN THE ABUJA JUDICIAL DIVISION  
HOLDEN AT ABUJA**

SUIT NO.FCT/HC/CV/385/2001

This writ is to be served outside the Jurisdiction of this court at Kaduna.

**BETWEEN**  
BANK OF THE NORTH LTD. .... PLAINTIFF  
AND  
INTERCONTINENTAL MARKETING DEV. CO. .... DEFENDANT

**TO INTERCONTINENTAL MARKETING DEV. CO. OF NO.10 UMARU  
AWANDU ROAD KADUNA**

You are hereby commanded that within Thirty (30) days after the service of this Writ on you inclusive of the day of such service, you do cause an appearance to be entered for you in an action in the suit of Bank of the North Limited and take notice that in default of your so doing, the Plaintiff may proceed therein and judgement may be given in your absence.

Dated this 22nd day of May 2001

By Order of the Court

REGISTRAR

**N.B.**

This Writ is to be served within Twelve (12) Calendar months from the date thereof, or, if renewed, within six calendar months from the date of the last renewal, including the day of such date and not afterwards.

The Defendant may enter appearance personally or by legal practitioner either by handing in the appropriate form, duly completed, at the Registry of the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja in which the action is brought or by sending them to the Registrar by registered post.

**INDORSEMENT**

The Plaintiff's claim is for the sum of N 1,207,868:65 being the money owed the plaintiff as a result of the over draft-facility granted to it sometimes in 1995 in which the defendant has failed to pay despite several demands.

10% Interest per annum from November 1995 till the date of judgement.

10% Interest per annum until the judgement debt is paid.

This writ was issued by Mamman, Maiyaki & Co. Whose address for service is Munatare .Chambers NUJ National Secretariat Area 11 Garki-Abuja, agent for the plaintiff of No.2 Zaria Road Kano legal practitioner for the said plaintiff who resides at No. 2 Zaria Road Kano.

This writ was served by me at.....  
On the defendant (describe mode of service).....  
On the .....of.....2001  
Endorsed the.....day of.....2001

Signed.....

Address.....

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY  
IN THE ABUJA JUDICIAL DIVISION  
HOLDEN AT ABUJA**

SUIT NO.....

**BETWEEN**  
BANK OF THE NORTH LTD. .... PLAINTIFF  
AND  
INTERCONTINENTAL MARKETING DEV. CO..... DEFENDANT

**AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF SUMMONS.**

I, Miss Rebecca Bawa, Female, Adult, Christian, Nigeria Citizen, residing at Karmo Abuja do hereby make oath and state as follows:-

- That I am the litigation secretary in the firm of Mamman, Maiyaki & Co.
- That by virtue of my position aforesaid, I am conversant with the facts of this case.
- That I have the authority of both my employers and the applicant to depose to this affidavit.
- That I was informed by Salisu. A. Zango ( Bank Official) of the Bank of the North, Abuja Branch, at about 3 p. m in chambers on the 3/5/2001 which I verily believe to be true as follows: -
  - That the defendant has an account No.501804 with the plaintiff and was granted overdraft facilities.
  - That the said account was overdrawn by the defendant to the sum of NI ,207,868:65 and was left dormant.
  - That the defendant owes the plaintiff the sum of NI,207,868:65 as at 30/3/2001. The statement of Account is hereby annexed and marked as Exhibit 'A' .
  - That several demand letters were written by the plaintiff to the defendant of which the defendant failed to reply or settle the outstanding balance owed the plaintiff. The demand letters are hereby annexed and marked as Exhibit 'B1' and 'B2.'
- That I was informed by W.Y. Mamman, Esq. counsel to the plaintiff about 4:30 p.m. in chambers on 3/5/2001 which I verily believe to be true and correct as follows:-
  - That the defendant has no defence to this claim.
  - That it is in the interest of justice to hear this suit on the undefended list.
- That I depose to this affidavit in good faith believing the content to be true and correct according to Oath Act, 1990.

DEPONENT

Sworn at the High Court  
Registry Abuja  
This 10th day of May 2001

BEFORE ME

COMMISSIONER FOR OATHS.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY  
IN THE FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY JUDICIAL DIV.  
HOLDEN AT ABUJA ON THE 22ND DAY OF MAY, 2001  
BEFORE HIS LORDSHIP HON. JUSTICE L.H. GUMMI.

**FCT/HC/CV/385/2001  
FCT/HC/M/749/2001**

**BETWEEN:**  
BANK OF THE NORTH LTD - PLAINTIFF/  
APPLICANT.  
AND  
INTERCONTINENTAL MARKETING  
DEVELOPMENT COMPANY - DEFENDANT.

**COURT ORDER**

Upon reading the Motion Ex-parte and the accompanying affidavit of Miss Rebecca Bawa and upon hearing Adida praying this Court for the following order(s):-

- An order to issue and serve Suit No. FCT/HC/CV/385/2001 under the undefended list.
- An order to issue and serve all court processes in this case on the defedant outside the jurisdiction.
- An order to serve all court processes in this case on the defendant at No.10 Umaru Gwandu Road, Kaduna.

And for such further order(s) as this Court may deem fit to make in the circumstance.

The application is granted as prayed. Leave is hereby given to the applicant to issue the writ of summons in this case and to serve same on the defendant at Kaduna a place outside the jurisdiction of this Court. It is also ordered that the matter be placed on the undefended list of this court. Matter adjourned to the 9th day of July, 2001 for mention.

Given under the hand of the presiding Judge and the SEAL of this Court this 22nd day of May, 2001.

HON. JUSTICE  
L.H. GUMMI

(REGISTRAR)

IN THE HIGH COURT OF FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY  
IN THE FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY JUDICIAL DIV.  
HOLDEN AT ABUJA ON THE 26TH DAY ON JULY, 2001  
BEFORE HIS LORDSHIP, HON. JUSTICE L.H.GUMMI.

SUIT NO.FCT/HC/CV/385/2001

**BETWEEN:**  
BANK OF THE NORTH LTD ..... PLAINTIFF/  
APPLICANT.  
AND  
INTERCONTINENTAL MARKETING  
DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LTD ..... DEFENDANT

**COURT ORDER**

Upon reading the Motion Ex-parte and accompanying affidavit of Miss Rebecca Bawa and upon hearing W.Y. Mamman praying this Court for the following order(s) :-

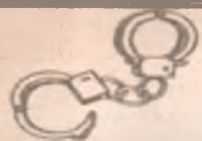
- Leave of Court to serve by substituted means that it by serving all Court processes in this suit on the Defendant by advertising it in the Daily Trust Newspaper.
- AND for such further order(s) as this Court may deem fit to make.

The application is hereby granted as prayed. Leave is hereby given the Plaintiff/ Applicant to serve all the processes in this matter on the defendant by publishing same in a single publication of the Daily Trust Newspaper and such publication is deemed as good and effective service on the defendant. Matter adjourned to the 15<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2001.

GIVEN under the hand of the Presiding Judge and the SEAL of this Court this 26th day of July, 2001.

(JUSTICE L.H. GUMMI)

(REGISTRAR)



# Crime & Punishment



## Gunmen murder Abuja Evangelist

Unknown gunmen in the early hours of Monday, August 6, 2001, violently broke into the one room apartment of one evangelist James Abdulkarim Yahaya at Kado village, Abuja, and shot him dead.

By Uwem Umo

four gunmen wore big turbans like Tuareg tribesmen while one of them was half naked.

Meanwhile, the police at Life Camp police station, Abuja, are handling the incident but there were indications that the case file will be taken over by the State Criminal Investigation Department (C.I.D.) since it is a case of murder and armed robbery.

The Area Commander of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Mr. Moses Shaba, an Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP), confirmed the incident and promised that the police will soon catch up with the miscreants.

However the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) members in Abuja who expressed shock and revulsion against such callous killing have removed the body of the evangelist to the Garki General Hospital.

Late evangelist James hailed from Katsina State.

He was not married yet.

According to Mr. Mohammed Abdulrahman, a witness and fellow occupant of the one room accommodation of the evangelist located on Abumet road, Kado village, about four gunmen broke into their room and shot the man of God on the bed.

Mr. Abdulrahman who said he shared the same bed with the late evangelist James recounted his ordeal to *Daily Trust* crime reporter.

Said he, "We normally do not close our room door at night because of the unbearable heat and poor ventilation, so the gunmen just swept into the room and shot dead the evangelist at very close range after which they ransacked the house and removed N8,000."

According to him, the



Late James Abdulkarim Yahaya

## Ritualists hit Onne town

Onne, the seat of the country's oil and gas free zone in Eleme Local Government Area of Rivers State was weekend thrown into a state of shock as persons suspected to be ritualists hit the town.

Following the ugly incidence, police authorities in Port Harcourt said members of the public should be wary of persons who preferred dark corners while perhaps waiting to catch a commercial vehicle.

Dr. Uche Chukwuma, an Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) and the PPRO said that the command will alert car

owners to desist from giving free ride to unknown persons.

*Daily Trust* learnt that the latest victim was a middle aged lady, Miss Beatrice Osaro whose body was recovered recently by the police dumped in the bush by unknown persons.

Sources revealed that Beatrice who was to get married next month had gone out on the morning of July 26, 2001, to hire daily paid labourers for her farm work where she met her untimely death after she had been raped and beheaded.

## Robbers kill Israeli, 5 others

A gang of armed bandits last weekend stormed the popular Gbaja market off Akerele in the Surulere Local Government Area of Lagos killing no fewer than six persons including an Israeli national.

According to police sources, one Usman Idris a trader at the Gbaja market reported that the hoodlums invaded the market and carted away goods and cash yet to be assessed.

The hoodlums who shot sporadically into the air reportedly held some of the black market operators hostage demanding foreign currencies.

*Daily Trust* source revealed that the armed men had earlier on the fateful day raided residents of Akerele street before proceeding to the Gbaja market.

According to an eye-witness account, some policemen on stop and search duty near-by reportedly took to their heels on sensing danger when they heard gun shots.

Mr. Emmanuel Adebayo in charge of operations (DCP OPs) confirmed the raid.

From Adelanwa Bamgboye, Lagos

He said some of the victims have been responding to treatment at different hospitals where they were admitted. The deceased Israeli's name was given as Sarrusi Eli.

Meanwhile, the police last Sunday night while on patrol arrested one Saïdi Sanni of 34 Adedoja Street, Mushin Olosha. When searched, two locally made single barrel short guns were found on him.

American Ambassador donates four vehicles, computers to police

The American Ambassador to Nigeria, Harwod Jeter at the Special Fraud Unit (SFU), Milverton Road, Ikoyi, Lagos, handed over four Toyota vehicles and computer accessories to the Nigerian Police in an effort to help control international crime.

Before making the donations, *Daily Trust* gathered that discussions at a higher level had taken place and it was agreed that the U.S. Government was ready to assist the Nigerian Police Force to fight crime.

According to the envoy, the four Toyota pick-up vans, four printers, four computer sets and the UPS along with two fax machines were a token contribution toward international crime control particularly financial crime with emphasis on Advanced Fee Fraud (419).

*Daily Trust* also gathered that the idea behind the US gesture is on the question of joint efforts at tackling the menace of international crimes of which the genesis is believed to be from Nigeria.

On the U.S. Ambassador's entourage were relevant officials and U.S. embassy personnel that have to do with law enforcement.

Receiving the items and vehicles on behalf of the Nigeria Police Force, the Commissioner of Police, International Police (INTERPOL) Alagbon Close Ikoyi, Mr. Hafeez Ringim and the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP; SFU) Christopher Dega thanked the U.S. government.



President George Bush of America

# BAYERO UNIVERSITY KANO

## PRE-QUALIFICATION AND INVITATION TO SUBMIT TENDER FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF 500-SEAT CAPACITY LECTURE THEATRE AT BAYERO UNIVERSITY KANO.

1. Bayero University Kano intends to construct a 500-Seat Capacity Lecture Theatre on the New Campus along Gwarzo Road, Kano State.
  2. Open competitive tenders are hereby invited from competent and capable building/civil engineering Contractors who are registered with the Federal Government or any State of the Federation of Nigeria or Bayero University in Category 'D' and above.
  3. Evidence of Category of Registration, Three (3) year tax clearance receipt/certificate of the company, list of plants/machinery and Equipment owned; list and type of personnel working for the Company, list of projects completed/at hand with their total cost will all have to be presented at the time of collecting the tender documents and ONLY Contractors adjudged serious and competent will be given the tender documents to quote for the works.
  4. Briefly, the work comprises the Construction of a 500-Seat Capacity Lecture Theatre of 2273 square metres gross floor area in concrete frame, block-work, steel trusses/purlins covered with aluminium roof sheets. Other facilities attached to the Lecture Theatre include toilets, dressing rooms, entrance lobby/porch, staircases and general circulation area as well as associated External Works.
  5. Contractors adjudged competent and capable to quote will collect the tender documents comprising architectural drawings and bills of quantities seven(7) days, from the date of this publication, hence all Contractors wishing to quote for the project must submit the documents listed above within the said seven(7) days. Documents received from the Contractor upon expiry of the seven(7) days WILL NOT be considered.
  6. Only successful Constructors considered competent and capable of executing the project will be allowed to tender for same upon payment of non-refundable tender processing fee of Fifty thousand Naira (N50,000.00) in certified cheque or bank draft in the name of Bayero University Kano.
  7. Upon collection of the tender documents as aforesaid, Contractors will be required to price and return bonafide tender bids within (2) weeks from the date stated in a separate letter of invitation to tender which will be issued by the Bayero University Kano Physical Planning Development and Management Services Unit. The priced tender documents are to be returned to the office of the Registrar Bayero University Kano not later than 12:00noon on the date stated for closing receipt of the completed tender documents.
  8. All the tendering Contractors and those submitting their pre-qualification documents are to note that Bayero University Kano reserves absolute right to reject all or some of the tenders that will be submitted without assigning any reason for the action of the University Authority.
- Similarly, the University Authority reserves absolute right to reject all or some of the pre-qualification documents submitted for the purposes of qualifying to tender for the works without assigning any reason for her action. In both cases, no claim shall be entertained by the University Authority for the action taken.
9. Tendering Contractors shall bear all costs and expenses that may be incurred in connection with the tender for this project

Signed: REGISTRAR  
Bayero University Kano.

# Abuja News

## Private sector to assist in development of Abuja

As arrangements to start development on phase II of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), reaches an advanced stage, the chairman, board of directors of the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA), Dr. Olu Alabi, has called for effective private sector participation in the territory's development projects.

Alabi made the call at the weekend when a delegation of the Nigerian Institute of Town Planners paid him a courtesy call in his office in Abuja.

Speaking on the disruptions in the first phase of FCT development, the

Stories by Austine Odo and Emmanuel Ande

board's chairman restated the commitment of the FCDA to articulate a first class shopping complex and amusement park in the territory's overall architectural outlay with a view to updating its tourist profile.

He challenged town planners whom he described as "inestimable assets in city development" to join hands with relevant FCDA authorities in translating the Abuja dream into reality.

He urged the institute to serve as a complementary think tank and "partners in progress" in the new board's

efforts to achieve a breakthrough in realistic development and maintenance of the territory.

Earlier, the President of the Nigerian Institute of Town Planners (NITP), Mr. Moses Olubumi Ajayi, lamented the seeming marginalisation of the institute in the territory's development.

He also pledged the body's determination to assist in correcting distortions in the Abuja master plan, after proffering suggestions on how to improve on the subsequent phases of the territory's development.

Farmers in the Gwagwalada area council in Abuja, are soon to enjoy the provision of farming implements by authorities in the council.

Daily Trust learnt at the weekend that arrangements have been concluded to provide farmers in the council with farm inputs such as tractors, fertilisers, insecticides and herbicides.

This is against the backdrop of the council's determination to produce sufficient food, being an agrarian habitation.

The council's head of

## Gwagwalada farmers get council's support

agriculture and natural resources development, Alhaji Muhammad Lamorde said the council had reduced the cost of hiring tractors to farmers in the area to gear them towards sufficient food production. He said the council took delivery of 275 metric tonnes of fertiliser this year, and had since delivered them to the wards through their councillors.

He also pointed out that the council had procured some water pumping

machines for hire to farmers. Alhaji Lamorde stressed the need for dry season farming and the encouragement of farmers through agricultural extension services to educate them on the application of inputs.

He disclosed that the council at present had three tractors that were in good condition and urged farmers to take advantage of the council's preparedness to produce abundant food for the masses.

## Igbo community dismisses suspension of Eze Igbo

The President-General of the Igbo Community Assembly (ICA) in Abuja, Chief S.U. Ukah, has described as illegal, the purported suspension of the Eze Igbo of Abuja, chief Eze Ibe Nwosu.

Speaking on behalf of the Igbo community in Abuja, Chief Ukah said the suspension was the handiwork of mischief makers who were bent on causing confusion among the Igbo community.

He said Chief Mark Okoye who was behind the suspension, is not the President-General of the Igbo, and therefore lacks the powers to suspend the Eze Igbo.

"In view of the fact that Mark Okoye, despite repeated court actions on the person of Chief Eze, has issued a statement to suspend

him, it has become necessary to put the records straight, in the interest of Igbo in Abuja, that Mark Okoye has never been the President-General of I.C.A. and has no powers to suspend Chief Ibe," he said.

The President-General said the power to suspend the Eze-Igbo of Abuja was not even under the jurisdiction of the authentic President-General of the community.

He reiterated the confidence of the community in Chief Eze Ibe Nwosu and urged all Igbo in Abuja to disregard the suspension.

Chief Mark Okoye, a former Federal Minister of State, had on July 29, announced the suspension of Chief Ibe as the Eze Igbo of Abuja for alleged constitutional violations.

## Owner - occupier housing scheme underway in FCT

Residents of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) will soon have the opportunity to own standard houses in approved locations within the territory.

This is sequel to assurances by the FCT Minister, Engr. Muhammad Abba-Gana on arrangements for improved housing within Abuja city.

The Minister disclosed last week that the owner-

occupier scheme had come to stay as part of dramatic dividends for Nigerians living in Abuja.

He said 240 hectares of land had been made available to CITEC International Limited of the United States for the building of 2000 one-bedroom flats, 1,222 two-bedroom flats, 1,448 three-bedroom flats, 800 four-bedroom semi-detached bungalows, 942 detached bungalows and 270 five-bedroom bungalows.

He added that another company, Hegel Engineering of Germany, would also build similar number of houses in Abuja.

Engr. Abba-Gana said the buildings would provide relief for the masses, assuring that no one would hijack the project. He added that the Federal Government had directed the building of

a new market in Abuja and appealed to private investors to get involved in the projects. Speaking on the new housing units, the Managing Director, Federal Housing Authority, Engr. Ibrahim Mustapha said residents interested in taking possession would be required to make a down payment of between 30 and 50 percent of the cost and get the balance spread overtime.

## Cattle rearers resist quit order

Cattle rearers in Dei-Dei community in the Bwari council of Abuja have appealed to the Chief of Dei-Dei, Mallam Muhammad Sani, to intervene in the quit order given to them by contractors handling the Jibi resettlement project.

The cattle rearers who took their protest to the chief's palace last week, pointed out that they had been living in the area for close to 25 years now, and would need an alternative

place to move to, if government wanted to use their place.

They warned that they would resort to open confrontation with the contractors if nothing concrete was done to look into their plight.

The rearers also called the chief's attention to threats by the contractors to destroy their farms.

Responding, Mallam Muhammad Sani advised them to remain calm as the Federal Capital

Development Authority would handle their case when he tables it before the authority.

The chief however flayed the attitude of some contractors who destroy crops in farms without notifying the farmers. He also expressed displeasure with FCDA's handling of the payment of compensation for land and crops or economic trees to natives, saying the community had not been fully compensated.

## Mpape residents grumble over rock blasting

The blasting of rocks by construction companies have become a major cause for concern to residents of Mpape, an Abuja suburb.

Daily Trust last week witnessed one of the the blastings which residents said they dreaded.

Fifteen minutes to the

time of the blast, a siren went wounding the small town informing people to leave their houses to a safer place. The whole community ran out to a safe location, some distance away from their homes.

Just then, the blast went off and slabs capable of crushing a man flew off in different directions and people ran helter skelter to dodge them.

One of the giant slabs sank into a house, ripping the zink open and landing directly in one of the bedrooms.

Some of the residents who were afraid to speak to newsmen, said it was a usual occurrence, especially with Crush Rock Company.

"When Berger people (Julius Berger) blast their own you won't even know. You may just feel the tremour which we are used to, but for Crush Rock the reverse is the case. Many people have sustained injuries from slabs of stones or flakes which hit them as a result of the blasting," a resident said.

According to the residents, blasting of rocks or stones has been a major business in the area as Mpape construction companies



Engr. Abba-Gana



FCT Minister, Engr. Muhammad Abba-Gana, during the registration exercise of C.I.E. of the L.E.A. Primary School, Garki I, Abuja recently.



**Sports**

**Jones claims second gold in relay**

Marion Jones won her second gold medal of the World Championships as the US women cruised to victory in the 4x100m relay at Edmonton.

Jones, who won the individual 200m and silver in the 100m, claimed another gold as the US quartet came home in 41.71 seconds.

Germany were second in 42.32 and France took the bronze medal in 42.39 to earn their first medal of the championships.

Jones's win means she joins compatriot Gail Devers as the most successful female athlete in World Championships history with five golds.

Devers finished second

in the 100m hurdles earlier on Saturday, missing out on her chance for a sixth gold.

The winning time of 41.71 was the fastest of the year.

Victory for the US team, which consisted of Kelli White, Chryste Gaines, Inger Miller and Jones never seemed in doubt.

After the win, Jones said: "It is nice to get another gold but people forget this is a team effort and it is not just about me."

"Nobody could get us today - we were in control throughout the race."

"I am extremely pleased for the girls to win and I am happy it is all done and out of the way. Now it is time to relax."

**Yegorova booed to 5,000m glory**

Controversial Russian Olga Yegorova was booed on her way to claiming the 5,000m title at the World Championships in Edmonton.

Yegorova, who was reinstated to the event after a drug-test technicality, took the title from Romanian athlete Gabi Szabo.

However, her win was tainted by the taunts of the Canadian crowd as she broke clear down the home straight.

Spanish athlete Morta Dominguez ran superbly to take the silver ahead of Ethiopia's Ayelech Worko who won the bronze.

The athletics' world had been waiting anxiously for the women's 5,000m with controversy surrounding the event.

World indoor 3,000m champion Yegorova was cleared to compete, despite having tested positive for the banned drug EPO.

Szabo, who finished back in eighth, had threatened to boycott the event.

Before Thursday's heats British team captain Paula Radcliffe and team-mate Hayley Tullett held up a sign in the stands reading "EPO cheats out".

And there was another British protest before the race when Kathy Butler and Hayley Yelling - who both missed out on a place in the final - were joined in the stands by team coaches Mark Rowland and Alan Storey.

They all wore Radcliffe masks and held up banners with mocking slogans.

One read: "Free Paula", in reference to the fact that Radcliffe was almost removed from the stadium because of her protest.

In sweltering heat, the athlete's made a pedestrian start to the final, completing the opening 800m in 1min 58 secs.

Even with 1,000m completed, the pace remained slow with the leaders crossing the line in 3mins 10 seconds - almost a minute slower than the women are capable of running.

The high altitude conditions were clearly affecting the athletes and, as they continued at a comfortable pace, a sprint finish seemed inevitable.

Szabo began to struggle with two laps left although Yegorova stayed close to the front of the pack, pushing her rivals all the way.

Everyone believed the Russians would dominate in

ensured an unpopular result with a strong finish.

British athlete Joanne Pavey, who finished eleventh in the race, admitted it was the result that everyone had been dreading.



Yegorova comes to terms with her victory in 5,000m title at the World Championships in Edmonton.

**Former boxing champ, Whitaker charged with cocaine possession**

Nothing is sweet right now for Pernel Whitaker.

The former boxing champion known as "Sweet Pea," the owner of six titles in four weight classes, was charged with possession of a controlled substance Friday while facing a pair of traffic convictions.

Ready to serve a four-day sentence for speeding and driving without a valid license, Whitaker was found with cocaine on a routine check of his possessions by the Virginia Beach sheriff's office.

Whitaker, 37, faces a \$2,500 bond for the drug charge and an arraignment on Monday afternoon. But he will remain jailed since no bond is possible for having his suspended license revoked, Sgt. John West said.

Once regarded as one of the best pound-for-pound boxers in the world, Whitaker made a comeback attempt in April but injured his shoulder in the second round against Carlos Bojorquez, leading to a stoppage of the bout in the fourth.

A day later, Whitaker was hospitalized in Virginia Beach for a reported cocaine overdose, although that was never confirmed as the hospital refused to release any information.

tained by WAVY-TV, had reported that Whitaker was rushed to the hospital. On the frantic 12-minute 911 tape, an unidentified female acquaintance said Whitaker had snorted cocaine.

Whitaker has a history of substance abuse problems. He entered a drug and alcohol rehabilitation facility in March 1998 after reportedly failing a drug test. Since then, he has had five traffic violations, including drunken driving.

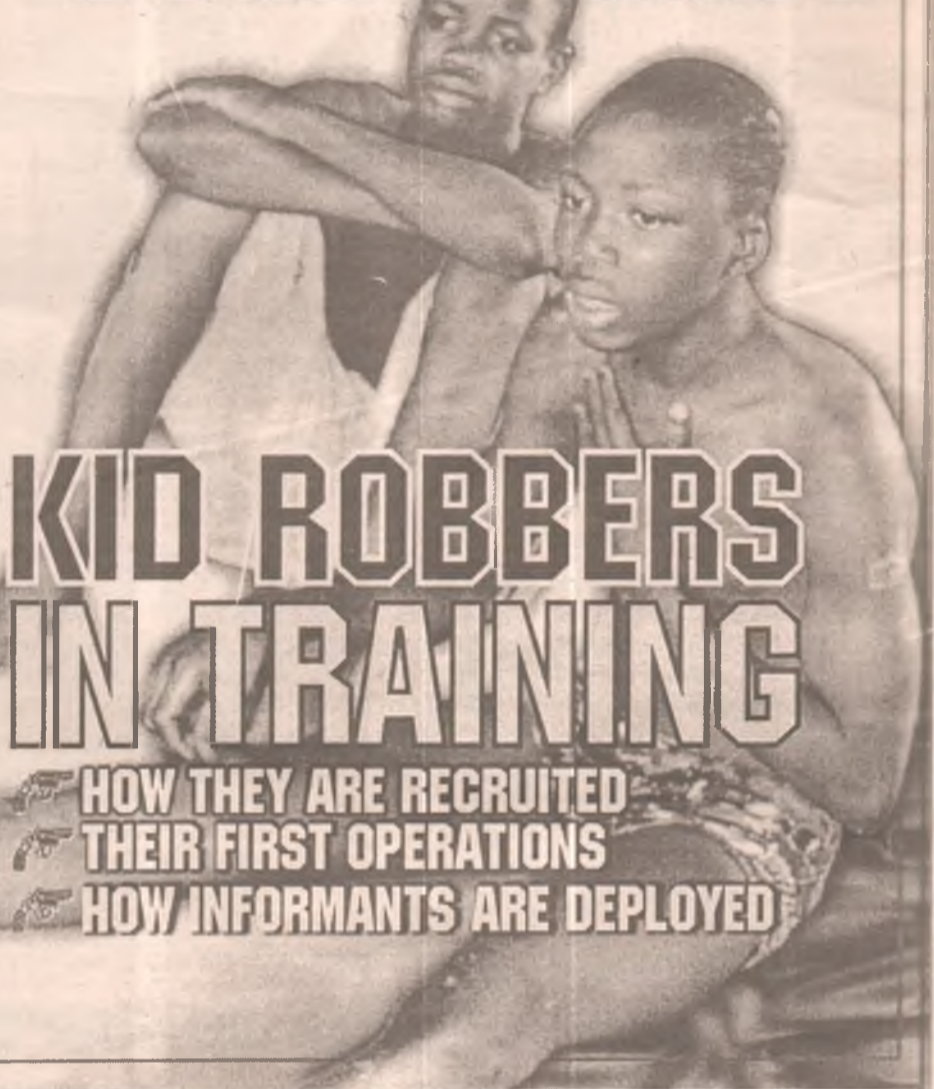
Whitaker captured a gold medal at the 1984 Olympics and went on to win professional titles as a lightweight, junior welterweight, welterweight and junior middleweight.

But he lost two of his last three bouts and, prior to April, had not fought since February 1999, when he was beaten by IBF champion Felix Trinidad despite fighting with a broken jaw.

Whitaker (41-4-1) lost his WBC welterweight crown to Oscar de la Hoya on a controversial decision in April 1997 but came back six months later to outpoint Andrei Pestriev. His other loss came to Jose Luis Ramirez for the WBC lightweight title in 1988.

In September 1993, Whitaker battled to a controversial draw with Julio Cesar

THE WEEKLY TREASURE AUGUST 20, 2001 VOL. 14 NO 21 N100  
**THE WEEK**



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Applicants should write clearly the position sought at the lower left hand corner of envelope.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted and invited for interview.



# SPORTS



## Babayaro signs new Chelsea contract

Nigerian international defender Celestine Babayaro has signed a four-year contract extension with Chelsea.

The new deal will keep the 25-year-old Babayaro at the English Premiership side until June 2005, according to the club's website.

The Kaduna-born international had just one year remaining on his contract and would have been available on a Bosman free transfer next summer.

"With Celestine Babayaro only having one year left on his current deal and six months away from a Bosman transfer, his situation had to be resolved.

"He has now signed up on a new deal taking him to 2005," said Chelsea Managing Director, Colin Hutchinson.

Babayaro, who joined Chelsea in a £2.25 million deal from Belgian side Anderlecht in 1997, has been a regular in the team either as a left back or midfielder.

Chelsea expects Babayaro to be one of the club's mainstays in the next few years.

However, much will depend on whether they can reach a compromise with the Nigerian FA over his international commitments.

The first test will come soon as the Super Eagles prepare for the African Cup of Nations finals to be held in

Mali next January. Barring injury, Babayaro should be in the Nigerian squad for the four-

week tournament at a time when the race for the English Premiership title enters a crucial period.

## Akide finds form in time

African Woman Footballer of the Year Mercy Akide's goalscoring form has helped her club San Diego Spirit to within shooting distance of a place in the play-offs in the inaugural season of the professional league in the United States.

The 25-year-old Nigerian striker has scored key goals as the Spirit have overcome a slow start to the season to move one off the top four place needed to guarantee a berth in the end-of-season play-offs.

Two match-winning goals in recent weeks from Akide, a veteran of both the women's World Cup and the Olympic Games last year, has the Spirit in fifth with two games to play.

If the California-based side win their last two matches, and the New York Power fail to win their game in Washington, then Akide's team will progress to the final four.

Their penultimate match is at Philadelphia on Thursday and their last game at home on Sunday to the Carolina Courage.

Last Sunday, they beat Boston Breakers 1-0 away - the team where the only other African in the WUSA plays, Akide's compatriot Florence Omagbemi.

Akide was named the first winner of the African Women's Footballer of the Year title earlier this year at the CAF awards in Johannesburg.



Chelsea's Nigerian defender, Celestine Babayaro evade a sweeping tackle from Manchester United's winger Ryan Giggs in a Premiership clash last season. Babayaro will stay at Stamford Bridge until 2005.

## Ikpeba rejects Saints for Betis

Victor Ikpeba is trying to revive his career at club and international level with a season-long loan at Spanish side Real Betis.

The Nigerian striker is on the verge of sealing his move from Germany's Borussia Dortmund, and will deal a blow to English Premiership

side Southampton. Ikpeba told BBC Sport Online: "I was aware of Southampton's interest, and I was supposed to go there for a few days next week."

"It would have been easier for me to go there because I already speak the language, but then Betis came in for me."

The deal will end a torrid time for Ikpeba in Germany. He only scored twice in his first season, and hardly played last year after falling out with hard-line coach Matthias Sammer.

No way back Ikpeba criticised his team-mates as selfish and money-grabbing, and Sammer's response was to drop him from the side.

With Dortmund having paid big money for Brazilian star Marcio Amoroso and giant Czech Jan Koller, there looked to be no way back for Ikpeba.

He said: "I need to play if I am going to have any chance of appearing at the World Cup finals next year."

"I have not had a fair chance of playing time at Dortmund, and I need to start afresh at Betis, who are willing to give me a chance."

The 28-year-old was a big hit at Liege in Belgium and then moved to Monaco, where he was a frequent scorer and was voted CAF Player of the Year in 1997 after his goals helped win the French title.

A £7m move to Dortmund followed but his career turned sour at club and international level.

Ikpeba missed a penalty in the 2000 Nations Cup final against Cameroon which cost his side the title.

His shot hit the bar and actually bounced behind the line, but the referee refused to count it.

Since then, Ikpeba has not featured for the Super Eagles because of his severely limited playing time in the Bundesliga.

At promoted Betis, he could link up with AC Milan's German striker Oliver Bierhoff, who is also set to reject Southampton because they cannot meet his wage demands.



## Iloh chides govt over Okwaraji

Iloh in his usual fire-breathing manner has descended on the government for reneging on the promise made to the family of late Samuel Okwaraji.

Rev. Iloh who was almost closed to tears while he was making his submission

From Babs Oyetoro, in Lagos

at the 5th lecture organised in memorial of the late footballer by Lagos chapter of Sports Writers Association said it was only journalists in the country that are still making Okwaraji's death mean-

ingful.

"The issue of Okwaraji's death would have been long forgotten in this country if not for journalists that have made it a point of duty to remember this national hero who died on the after national service," the man of God stressed.

Henceforth, government should let it yes be yes and its no be no, it is expect of a responsible government to

live up to its words," Rev. Iloh advised.

He asked sarcastically that the family members of Okwaraji are still alive if the government is ready to play its part let them meet with them.

Aside from the promises made to the late footballer's family, the with government of late Sani Abacha in 1994 had promised to give the Super Eagles' players that won the Nations Cup houses, in their areas of choice.

ment for one year, with an option of a further four years.

## African Champions League

### Mazembe sub sinks Berger

A superb goal from substitute Ilunga Kawanga earned TP Mazembe of the Democratic Republic of Congo a vital win over Julius Berger of Nigeria in Group A of the Champions League.

Kawanga had been on the hard, bumpy Martyrs Stadium pitch in Kinshasa just a few minutes when he volleyed a cross over goalkeeper Chijoke Ejiogu into the corner of the net.

Victory took the club from the southern city of Lubumbashi to the top of Group A after the opening round following a dull 0-0 draw between favourites Sundowns of South Africa and Esperance of Tunisia in Pretoria a few hours before.

Mazembe, shock conquerors of three-time African champions Raja Casablana of Morocco in the final qualifying round, took control in the second half to create several scoring chances and deserve maximum points.

After regularly looking dangerous during the first half of a match watched by about 40,000 spectators, the Nigerians retreated into a defensive shell and eventually cracked under pressure from midfield.

African champions in 1967 and 1968, Mazembe played under protest as TV requirements forced them to stage a home match hundreds of kilometres from their southern DR Congo base.

In an action-packed match filled with rough tackles and long-range shots, two early chances while

Abiodun Segun should have done better with a header for the visitors.

Dikily Bageta saved the crossbar for Mazembe on the half-hour, while shortly after the interval, Mon Mabika put in a poor shot with only the keeper to beat.

Felix Muana cleared a header by Berger's Okereke Uchechukwu of the line in the visitors' best chance.

As Mazembe took control, Mabika volleyed just past the far post, and Lakuya Mbala bent a free-kick inches

wide before Kawanga had the final say.

**Mazembe:** Lukoki Kalemba, Wa Mwangi, Felix Muana, Dikily Bageta, Tshinjama Tsholola, Mpeza Naweji, Kaniku Mulekelayi, Kangwana Bazilepo, Muya Mabika, Manguala Matumoo  
**Berger:** Chwoke Ejiogu Nwaneri Osinla, Ataiwo Ajibola, Chukwuma Aduru, Seyi Olajenber, Austin Iyangbe, Saibu Ishola, Segun Abiodun, Okereke Uchechukwu, Solomon Okakoya, Ameghi Nwanze.

## Favourites share drab draw

Hosts Mamelodi Sundowns of South Africa and pretournament favourites Esperance of Tunisia played out a drab goalless draw to launch this year's African Champions League on Saturday.

There were few chances for either side in a Group A game played before a sparse crowd of less than 2,000 at Pretoria's Loftus Versfeld stadium.

The Tunisian visitors, who have lost in the final of the last two Champions League competitions, came closest to scoring.

Mourad Melki dispossessed Sundowns defender Dan Semake in the 63rd minute before rattling a long-range shot off the crossbar.

Six minutes later, Sundowns substitute Daniel Mudau had a chance to steer home a square pass that was driven across the face of the goal but was unable to make proper contact.

downs also hit the crossbar as the South Africans tried to steal the three points at the end.

But there was little to enthuse over for the rest of the encounter as both sides showed signs of early season rustiness.

The game did not come close to its pre-match billing after the ferocious battle between the two clubs in last year's Champions League, when Sundowns beat Esperance 2-0 at home.

Esperance still edged the South Africans on goal difference to top the group and qualify for the final where they lost to Ghana's Hearts of Oak.

**Sundowns:** Tlale, Manzini, Semake, Booth, Mnguni, Shai, Kampamba, Motlohi, Mbele, Bapela (Mudau 63), Amougou (Ndlovu 79)

**Esperance:** Zouabi, Thabet, Shabani, Jaidi, Azaiez, Chibi, Mnari (Melliti 89), Riah, Reinaldo (Ali Hamed 89), Zitouni, Melki  
Referee: Lim Kee Chong  
Bennett, Murgins, Stuart, K. Mauritiuss, 90  
minute, free kick for South Africa. Attendance: 2,000.

## Greeks go for African pair

Two Greek teams have turned to African players to try and challenge the stranglehold of giants Olympiakos and Panathinaikos on the league.

Ionikos have taken Nigerian international defender Gbenga Okunowo on a year's loan from Barcelona.

The 22-year-old almost established himself in the Spanish giants' side three seasons ago, playing 14 games, but has

since been out of contention and gone on loan to Benfica in Portugal.

Aris Salonika, who have former Morocco coach Henri Michel in charge, have signed South African defender Nasief Morris from Santos.

Morris, 20, was voted most valuable player for his club last season as they took a shock fourth place in the league and won the cup.

He has signed an agree-



U.S. Walker Cup team member David Egen reacts to his shot to the sea on the green during Walker Cup play at Ocean Forest Golf Club on Sea Island, Ga., Saturday, Aug. 11, 2001.

This space is for sale



This space is for sale



Liverpool's Gary McAllister (L) and Michael Owen (R) hold the FA Charity Shield after beating Manchester United at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium, August 12, 2001. Liverpool defeated Manchester United 2-1.



Hasim Rahman(L) will defend his world heavyweight titles in a rematch with Britain's Lennox Lewis in November, Rahman's co-manager said August 7, 2001. 'Rock is excited that the deal is done and he is ready to repeat what he did the first time,' co-manager Steve Nelson said. The pair are seen during their April fight in South Africa where Rahman shocked Lewis with a fifth-round knock-out to claim the WBA and IBF crowns. The rematch will be on November 10 or 17, probably in Las Vegas.

# African Nations Cup NFA plans to parley with clubs

From Richard Abayomi, in Lagos

The Nigeria Football Association (NFA) has concluded plans to parley with foreign-based players and their respective clubs over constant fuse often generated by the request.

Speaking with Trustsports immediately after the Sam Okwaraji lecture held at the National Stadium in Lagos, NFA Chairman, Brig. Gen. Dominic Oneya (rtd), said that the NFA would establish a rapport with all these clubs in a bid to facilitate the Super Eagles players release for the African Nations Cup in January.

Oneya reiterated that the football authority would want to avoid a situation where these club officials would run into collision course with the football house or the players.

"This is a need for us to

intimate those clubs with our programmes so as to make things easier for our players and the NFA too," the chairman said.

Commenting on how Besiktas treated Ike Shorunmu, Oneya lamented that Nigerian players don't contact NFA whenever they want to enter negotiations with the clubs.



Super Eagles' defender, Gbenga Okunowo keeps an eye on Manchester United's Andy Cole in a Champions League tie. He has been loan out to Ionikos of Greece.

## Strands of Fate: written & illustrated by Bulama Mustapha



To be continued