

# DAILY TRUST

Trust Is A Burden

VOL. 2 NO. 17

TUESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2001

JIMADA-ULA 18, 1422 A.H.

N50



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## TUESDAY COLUMN

Aminu Iyawa on:

### OBJ, IBB and 2003

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## SPORTS

### Sports ministry seeks Eagles World Cup programme

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## Support National IT Policy

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## Only Oputa panel can compel former leaders to appear -Anyim

As controversy continues to trail the refusal of former military heads of state to appear before the Human Rights Violations Investigation Commission (HRVIC), Senate President, Anyim Pius Anyim, has said that it is neither the duty of the Presidency nor the Senate to compel them to appear.

Anyim, speaking with newsmen yesterday in Ikeja shortly after his arrival from North Korea, said that the

panel, set up to handle various human rights violation cases, "knows how to go about it."

"It is neither the business of the President nor that of the National Assembly or Senate President. Oputa panel knows how to go about their business in their own way; they have a mandate and they will go about it according to their mandate," he said.

On the creation of local governments by states, Anyim explained that the proper thing for any of them which wished to do so was to get the state assembly to conduct a referendum.

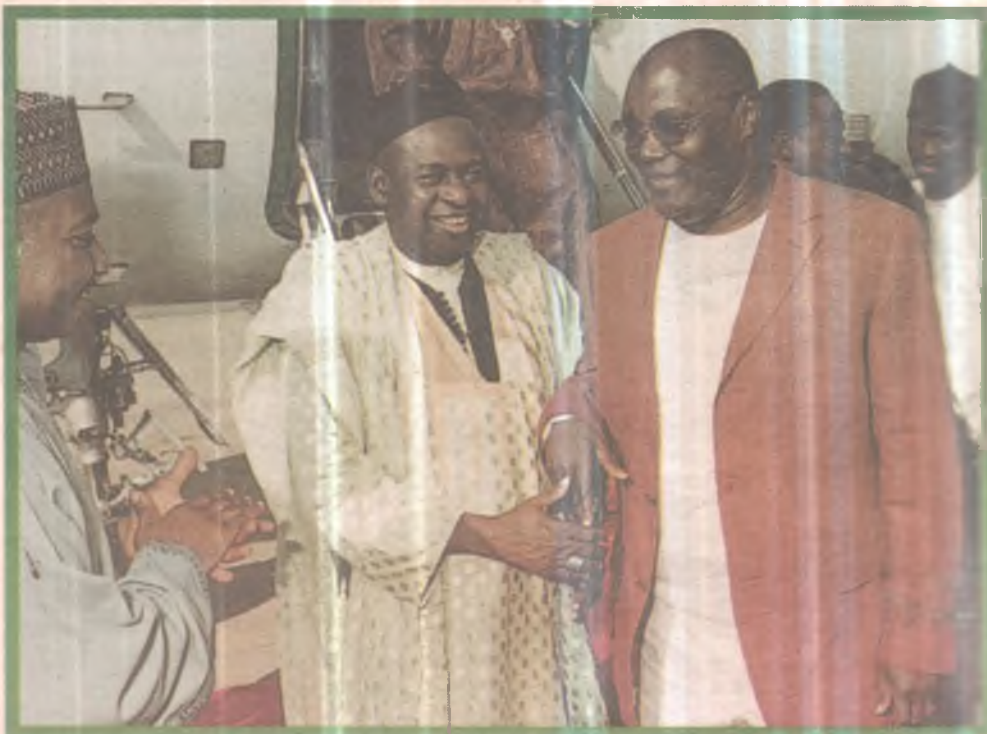
He stressed that such state governments should do

all that needed to be done before forwarding their demands to the National Assembly for consideration.

"We insist on doing the right thing. Of course, you know local government is a constitutional issue, it must be listed in the constitution to become a local government," Anyim said.

According to him, however, the Senate's focus will be on the electoral bill when it resumes sitting, including that on the road maintenance agency.

The Senate president said that his visit to North Korea, was at the invitation of that country's parliament.



The Vice-President, Atiku Abubakar, (r) being received by FCT Minister, Engineer Mohammed Abba Gana (l), on arrival at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja from his three weeks annual leave in US... Sunday. Pix: Kennedy Egbomovie



Senate President Anyim Pius Anyim

**2003: UK PDP endorses Obasanjo, Atiku**

The PDP in the United Kingdom has expressed its staunch support for President Olusegun Obasanjo and Vice-President Atiku Abubakar to seek re-election on the party's ticket in 2003.

The UK branch chairman, Rev. John Longhor, told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in London yesterday that the party was fully satisfied with the development programmes of the duo and their efforts at ensuring a lasting democracy in the country.

"We are totally in support of the candidature of the president and vice-president for the 2003 elections," Longhor said, calling on all patriotic members of the party to give them the opportunity to continue with their reform programme.

He criticised the "Patri

contd. on pg 2

## PEACE COMMITTEE

# Makarfi queries six LG bosses

The Kaduna State government has queried six local government council chairmen in the state for their failure to constitute internal peace committees in their respective areas almost a year after issuing a directive to that effect.

Governor Ahmed Makarfi, disclosed this at the closing ceremony of a four-day management retreat for Kaduna State Emirs and Chiefs held in Kaduna.

Earlier in May, the

House of Assembly had suspended 10 council chairmen in the state over allegations of financial improprieties.

Their offences ranged from corrupt enrichment, poor execution of projects and spending far above budgetary allocations.

Governor Makarfi, however, over-ruled the House and lifted the suspension order. The aftermath of the governor's action was the constitution of a committee

From Ibrahim Dan Halilu, in Kaduna and Henry Omuonu

to look into the finances of the affected councils.

The council chairmen were later pardoned by the governor, even though the committee which investi-

gated the allegations against the chairmen had found some of them guilty of wrongdoing.

Makarfi said then, that his decision to forgive the council chairmen was based on "political expediency."

## Sharia takes off in Kaduna

The Kaduna State Government has put finishing touches to the take off of Sharia in the State, Governor Ahmed Mohammed Makarfi has said.

Opening a 5-day workshop for Magistrates of 1-5 years experience from the 19 Northern states and Abuja, yesterday in Kaduna, Governor Makarfi said the Sharia and customary courts would take off before the end of the year.

According to the Governor, the Area Courts which will cease to exist as from the date the Sharia courts take off would have some of their jurisdictions transferred to magistrate courts.

He said that a main committee and sub-committees

have been established to work out modalities for the composition of the new Sharia and customary courts, adding that the new judicial

## Nigerians to consume 1.8m cubic feet of gas daily

The domestic demand and consumption of gas will hit 1,800 million standard cubic feet (scf) daily by the end of this decade, President Olusegun Obasanjo, said yesterday in Abuja.

The nation presently consumes 500 million scf of gas per day, out of which 225 million was being utilised for power generation.

Speaking at an annual conference of Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE),

The councils affected include; Lere, Kaduna South, Makarfi, Sanga, Chikum, Birnin Gwari, Igabi, Kachia and Sabon-Gari.

In the latest incidence involving council chairmen

contd. on pg 2

reforms would give Muslims and Christians in the state the option to choose a court of their own choice in accordance with their religious beliefs.

contd. on pg 2

Obasanjo said the demand and consumption rate would increase to 4,800 million scf of gas per day by 2020.

The demand and the consumption rate, for instance in the early 90's was under 100 million scf daily, but the rate went up to about 200 million after a decade and 255 million in 2001.

At the present crude oil production of 2 million barrels per day, about 3.8 million scf of gas is being produced. The country's

contd. on pg 2

# NEWS

## Makarfi *contd. from pg 1*

from Kagarko, Jaba, Kachia, Jema'a, Kaura and Kaduna north, the governor said the state government decided to query the council chairmen because they had failed to heed repeated appeals to constitute internal peace committees in their respective council areas.

"We are taking measures after many appeals and reminders to the affected local government councils to do so," he stated.

The governor used the opportunity of the retreat to clear the misconception by some councils that the peace committee is synonymous with the already existent committee.

"Let me say categorically that the peace committee is different from the security committee in many respects. The peace committee can identify potential areas of conflicts and inform or advise relevant authorities, while the security committee is mainly concerned with the maintenance of law and order. The two are playing complementary roles," he emphasised.

In apparent reference to the retreat and other peace initiatives being facilitated by some NGOs in the state, Governor Ahmed Makarfi said that government was prepared to offer the necessary support to other NGOs to facilitate peace and conflict resolution in the state, positing that it was more ex-

pedient and rewarding for government to support non-governmental organisations to conduct such programmes than to do it by itself.

"We believe people listen to outsiders more, who will tell them the impression of the larger society of what they are doing and are amenable to accept their advice than when government handles such projects. So we shall continue to support the NGOs," he noted.

In appreciation of the

dance with the constitutional guarantees for the freedom of worship.

To facilitate quick dispensation of justice, the governor said that his administration will employ new and old judges to be assigned to the office of the Attorney-General of the state.

"About 50 new judges would be recruited soon to ensure quick dispensation of justice in the state," he explained.

Governor Makarfi added that a rapid response unit has been established to track down criminals at strategic locations in the state and provide security to citizens.

He said that the Kafanchan mobile court would soon be completed to boost security in the state just as legal aid programmes have been constituted by his administration to provide free legal services to low-in-

come earners. conduct of traditional rulers in the state, Governor Makarfi pledged his government's commitment to building a befitting chamber for the state council of chiefs, where they can hold their regular meetings and other activities.

He explained that the government was looking for a suitable site to erect the edifice, adding that the project would be ready before the end of next year.

## Sharia *contd. from pg 1*

come earners.

While noting the financial burden placed on the state government in the maintenance of the judicial system, Governor Makarfi emphasised the need for sufficient funding of that arm of government to enable it discharge its constitutional responsibility of dispensing justice.

He assured legal officers in the state of government's support by way of training and infra-structural development.

The governor described the workshop as a very important one in view of the court adjudication reforms introduced in Kaduna State, the importance of the rule of law under a democratic dispensation and the need to prepare the magistrate for greater challenges in future.

duced, out of which 1.8 billion scf is being utilised, while the remaining 2.0 billion scf is flared away.

The president, who was represented by his adviser on petroleum and energy, Dr. Rilwanu Lukman, noted that Nigeria's oil reserves would hit 40 billion barrels mark by 2010 with a production capacity of 4 million barrels per day, while gas production would increase to 7.1 billion scf per day.

"Nigeria is determined to

He urged the participants to utilise the opportunities provided by the workshop to share knowledge, exchange ideas and use the skill acquired in practical term when they returned to their workplaces.

## PDP *contd. from pg 1*

otic PDP," for reportedly withdrawing its support for the vice-president and describing the move as "divisive, diversionary and unpatriotic."

The party chairman described Atiku as "a man of integrity and a stabiliser who is totally loyal to President Obasanjo." He appealed to all party members to give the two leaders their maximum support.

Longhor also hailed Atiku as "a performer and an achiever," and said that his handling of the country's economic affairs has resulted in "fair economic growth,"

## Nigerians *contd. from pg 1*

make use of its huge gas reserves estimated at 159 trillion scf with an effective national energy policy underway, designed to enhance investment partnership in the gas sector," he said.

He said that government is planning to jack-up domestic gas utilisation through the expansion of the national grid, exploring and encouraging additional Domestic Gas Projects and market development as well as joint venture with multinationals for the establishment of independent power plants.

He explained that in or-

der to achieve zero-gas flaring by 2004, government was formulating a deliberate policy that would target the development of the downstream gas-driven feedstock and gas-powered industries.

Crude oil and gas production accounts for about 85 per cent of the national revenue and over 90 per cent of the nation's foreign earnings.

The conference on challenges on the Nigerian petroleum industry was organised by the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) with participants drawn from the oil industry.

## Delegates *contd. from pg 1*

He said that the issue of designation of membership of the CPA has topped the agenda of the executive

meeting, observing that while the 19-member African countries of the CPA were regarded as one region, Canada was being viewed by the association as a region.

"This is the provision of the CPA constitution and this is not fair," he said, adding: "we believe the representation should be based on population." Lawan, who is also the Chairman of the House of Representatives Committee on Inter-Parliamentary Relations, however, expressed satisfaction at the turn-out for the conference.

"The turn-out is impressive and unprecedented. This shows the confidence the CPA has for the Nigerian branch," he said.

The meeting is expected to deliberate on the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Africa, the general poverty in the region and the economic stagnation in Africa among others.

and smooth conduct of economic policies such as the Global System of Mobile telecommunications.

He stressed that the two leaders should be allowed to carry on with the PDP's anti-corruption crusade, transparency agenda, rejuvenation of NEPA and overall development of the country.

The party leader advised those wishing to seek nomination for either of the positions to wait until the seats were vacant, "blackmail or the pull-him-down syndrome is not the best option," he added.

## 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 Oputa 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:

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# NEWS

## Don decries low education standard in the North

The continuing falling standard of education in the North has been described as an alarming danger that could portend grave consequences to the position of the North in the nation's scheme of things politically and economically.

This assertion was made by Dr. Musa Maitafsiri of the Department of Psychology, Usmanu Danfodio University, Sokoto, in an exclusive interview with *Daily Trust* in Katsina last week.

He said that the educational standard of the North needs to be drastically addressed for the benefit of future generations.

He urged state governors to as a matter of priority place education first in their agenda.

### 3 firms emerge winners in national stadium bidding

Three companies have scaled through the technical bidding process of the new national stadium still under construction in Abuja, even as the Federal Ministry of Sports and Social Development scheduled August 8, for the financial bidding.

The Press Secretary to the Minister of Sports, Mr. Victor Iroele, told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Abuja last weekend, that the financial bidding would be conducted among the three companies which were successful in the technical bidding process. Iroele explained that the reason why the ministry conducted the technical bidding process first, was to enable it select the most qualified private company to handle the commercialization of the stadium.

The press secretary said that the company which eventually won the bidding would have the responsibility of marketing, managing and maintenance of the N38 billion new stadium still under construction in Abuja.

He said that the winner of the contest would also be expected to design activities that would keep the stadium in constant and positive use. Said he: "In as much as we want to commercialise the stadium for proper accountability, it is our ultimate desire to select the most competent firm to handle the running of the new stadium."

From Hassan A. Karofi, in Katsina

Dr. Maitafsiri argued that the future of the North, especially in the nation's political arena, lies upon the quality of its educated citizens.

He described the seeming non-challant attitude of various governments as capable of drifting the North towards self-annihilation.

On girl-child education, Dr. Maitafsiri enjoined parents to place importance on girl education as a step needed to propel the North into reckoning, especially now that women in the North are ready to acquire western education.

He called on states in the North to embrace the UBE programme and described it as a step in the right direction towards raising the country's educational standard.

## Rep sheds light on Taraba skirmishes

By Austine Odo

The member representing Donga, Takum and Ussa Constituency of Taraba State in the National Assembly, Hon. Abdulazeez Tonku, has shed more light on the recent skirmishes in some parts of Donga and Wukari Local Government Areas of Taraba State.

The member explained that the conflict was not between the Jukuns and the Tiv, but between the Tiv and Fulani herdsmen.

In an exclusive interview with *Daily Trust* in Abuja yesterday, Hon. Abdulazeez Tonku, said contrary to a newspaper publication (not *Daily Trust*), and a letter purportedly written to President Olusegun Obasanjo by one David Mtuem, the Jukuns had no hand in the conflict. Hon. Tonku, who is the Chairman, House of Representatives Sub-committee on the FCT, said his reaction arose out of the conviction that the publication and the letter were not only misleading, but also tended to project a



Gov Jolly Nyame

negative image of the Jukun race.

According to him, there has been no conflict or tension between the Jukuns and any other tribe in Donga and Wukari in recent times, except for the one that took place in 1992. He recalled that even when seven Fulani herdsmen were killed in Tsokundi, and later, the reprisal destruction of Tiv farm settlements in Ikenu, Tsokundi, Guruza, Tor-Damba, Tyo-Nenge and Afogba, the Jukuns had no hand in it.

"The police in Taraba State are aware, when the herdsmen were killed, they were deposited at the police station before burial, it was the governor and police commissioner that prevented a retaliation, but the Fulanis still came back to destroy the farm settlements a month later," he said. Hon. Tonku maintained that despite the fact that the Jukuns were warriors and one of the strongest kingdoms in the old Northern Nigeria, they today live peacefully with their neighbours.

"The last time the Jukuns were involved in any crisis with the Tiv was in 1992. Since then, we have been living with the Hausas, the Fulanis and the Kanuris without any crisis," he said.

He, therefore, urged President Olusegun Obasanjo to disregard Mr. David Mtuem's letter, which he said, could mislead the government if care was not taken, adding that the state government and security agencies and not Mr. Mtuem,

## FG plans full-fledged post-graduate varsity - Borisade

Determined to give a leverage to academics and researchers and to create a conducive learning environment for them, the Federal Government is to establish a full-fledged post-graduate university in the country.

Already, some multi-national concerns are collaborating with the government on the project,

Education Minister, Prof. Babalola Borisade has disclosed.

Borisade, who made the disclosure last Saturday at his Usi Ekiti, countryhome, told newsmen shortly after presiding over a fund-raising event for the development of the town, that some experts had been commissioned by government to put together documents for the setting up of the university.

He called on the Federal Government to redesign the UBE programme to focus on areas where the children will be found. Said he: "If government build classrooms in a village while almost all the children have migrated to urban centres for Islamic education, who will then go to those school?"

"I believe these schools would be centred where these children are, so that they would be able to access them and benefit," he advised.

## TAC gulps \$22.5m since 1987

The Federal Government has so far spent \$22.5 million on the execution of the Technical Aid Corps (TAC) programme, according to statistics made available to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Abuja yesterday.

A statistics showed that the amount was spent on 1,295 volunteers, who have participated in the programme since its inception in 1987.

A breakdown showed that the largest sum of \$4.79 million was spent on 278 volunteers during the 1994-1996 service period, when 18 countries benefited from the programme.

The second largest sum of \$4.036 million was spent on 199 volunteers during the 1992/93 and 1995 service period.

The Gambia, with 96 volunteers in the 1997-1999 service period when the largest sum of \$1.646 million was spent on a single recipient country, has been the largest beneficiary of the programme.

The statistics also showed that while the number of recipient countries had dropped from 20 in 1995 to 15 last year, the requests for volunteers had increased from 102 in 1987 when the programme took-off to 233 last year.

In the current batch of volunteers, who are due back



Alhaji Sule Lamido

home in December, the Gambia has the largest number of 76 volunteers, followed by Equatorial Guinea, while Shelier Afrique (Kenya) has one. The statistics showed that 28 African, Caribbean and Pacific region countries have so far benefited from the programme.

While the Federal Government pays the volunteers tax-free allowances in naira and dollars per month, the recipient countries provide them with accommodation, medical services and transportation.

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- iv. Nationality
- v. Permanent Home Address
- vi. Current Postal Address
- vii. Marital status
- viii. Number of Children with names and ages
- ix. Institutions Attended with dates
- x. Academic and Professional qualifications with dates
- xi. Working experience with dates
- xii. Present employer, employment, status and salary
- xiii. Extra curricular activities
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Signed  
**ALHAJI AMINU BELLO SOKOTO**  
Director of Administration  
For: Chief Medical Director.

# NEWS

## PDP stalwart advises LG agitators

New local government agitators in Kano State have been advised to advocate for the creation of more states from the present Kano State instead of asking for creation of new local government areas.

From Musa Umar Kazaure, in Kano

for creation of new states out of its present structure," he stated.

Alhaji Iliyasu was reacting to requests for new local governments presented



Chief Barnabas Gemade

A PDP stalwart and member, Board of Directors of the state Rural Urban Water Supply and Sanitation (RUWASA), Alhaji Iliyasu Mohammed Gamoji, who gave the suggestion in an interview, said the creation of a new state out of the present Kano State was long overdue.

"Kano has one of the largest landmass and harbours the highest number of local government areas, which makes it more suitable

before the state House of Assembly.

The requests include that of Kode from the present Dawakin Kudu; Gogel from Warawa, Babawa from Gezawa, Gwarmai from Kiru/ Bebeji, Gobirawa from Dala and Goron-Dutse from Municipal.

Workers of the Nsukka Local Government Area have appealed to the Federal Government to rescue them from "untold hardship and untimely deaths," saying "we are being owed 20 months salary arrears." In a peaceful demonstration to express their grievances, about

## Nsukka LG workers protest zero allocation to councils

1,000 workers carrying placards chanted protest songs to send their message across to the public.

In their seven-point demand to the federal government, the workers led by the NULGE Chairman, Mr. Mamah John,

requested that further deductions from teachers' salaries should be stopped, while local government councils should be given a 30 percent share of the federation account.

The demonstrating workers enjoined the Federal Government to give the Nsukka Local Government Council a grant of N100 million to enable it to pay salary arrears and allowances.

The NULGE chairman noted in his address that the local government had experienced zero allocation for 10 months, starting from September 2000, "thereby leaving workers with 16 months' unpaid salaries between 1996 and 1998 and four months in 2001." Leave grants for 2000, 2001 and part of 1996 yet to be unpaid, he said.

## Court orders destruction of beer, gin in Funtua

Funtua Chief Magistrate Court, presided over by Mr. Akkas Abdullahi, at the weekend ordered the destruction of 35 cartons of assorted beer confiscated by law enforcement agencies for contravening the Islamic legal code.

Similarly, the court ordered that about 150 litres of illicit gin, popularly known as

Ogogoro, seized from one Patricia Amusu, be destroyed for the same offence. Abdullahi, in handing out the verdicts on the two accused persons. Gbenga Anonuwe, owner of the 35 cartons of beer and Amusu, said that, being found with quantities of alcohol or engaging in selling it was an illegal act under the Sharia law. He, therefore,

ordered the immediate destruction of the illegal substances and sentenced the two to a year's imprisonment or pay a N5,000 fine each.

The convicts were arrested in an exclusive area of Funtua, largely inhabited by non-indigenes by a team of Da'awa group on patrol in the area. The destruction was supervised by a team of state security service officials, the police and the Da'awa committee led by Chief Imam, Aminu Liman.

## Emir of Zazzau named UNN new chancellor

The Emir of Zazzau in Kaduna State, Alhaji Shehu Idris, has been appointed the new chancellor of the University of Nigeria (UNN), Nsukka, reports the News Agency of Nigeria.

A letter of appointment signed by the Minister of Education, Prof. Babalola Borisade, said it was the conviction of the federal government that, with him in such an important position, the lost glory of the university would be regained.

The appointment, which

is for four years in the first instance, was in recognition of the emir's meritorious service to the nation.

Meanwhile, the vice-chancellor has directed that the establishment of business activities within the university's buildings and grounds should stop, adding that the authorities would take disciplinary action against any individual or group that fails to adhere to the warning.

The authorities, while noting with concern the rate

at which business activities were sprouting on both



Prof. Borisade

campuses of the institution, said they defaced the aesthetics of the premises.

Anyone seeking space for business should go through the right channel, and permission to establish business activities must be granted by the vice-chancellor after the physical planning and environmental consequences of the proposed business had been evaluated, the authorities said.

## Nigerian customs loses public relations officer

The Assistant Public Relations Officer (PRO) of the Nigeria Customs Service, Idiroko in Ogun State, Mr. Mike Ajumole, 35, is dead.

A statement by the Idiroko Customs PRO, Mr. Olaiya Bamidele, said that Ajumole, who held a degree in French language and has been ill for sometime, died on July 30 in a hospital in Abeokuta where he was receiving treatment.

According to the

statement, Ajumole would be missed for his contributions in bridging communication gaps between the Nigerian Customs officials at Idiroko and those of the neighbouring Francophone countries.

Arrangements for his burial in his home town in Imo State at the weekend are on. Meanwhile, his body has been deposited at the Ilaro General Hospital mortuary, the statement added.



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3 | 7 | 11 | 20 | 33 | 36

### WEEK 4 GAME 1 WINNING NUMBERS:

4 | 19 | 20 | 29 | 44 | 50

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DAILY TRUST

EDITORIAL

President Clinton's move to Harlem

Last week, former president of the United States, Mr. Bill Clinton moved into his library offices in Harlem, New York, a predominantly African-American community. Democrat Clinton and his staff will settle down in a penthouse suite on the 14<sup>th</sup> floor of the Adam Clayton Powell Building, from where the former president will co-ordinate the activities of his law firm.

Clinton whose wife Hillary is NY Senator, received a rousing welcome to his new office, and the entire event took on the quality of a carnival with balloons and wild costumes adorning the entire area. There was a large crowd to cheer the former president who said he felt at home among them and recalled that their votes brought him to office twice.

This event is significant in many ways. First, it is symbolic that a 'white' former U.S. president humbled himself to open offices in Harlem. This event is bound to narrow the social and cultural divide in the U.S. while having significance for parts of the world where numerous 'white' and 'African' communities coexist.

Some groups such as the Black Panthers are however apprehensive of their new neighbour. They believe such a high profile resident would jerk up property rates in Harlem, opening it up for grabs by rich and presumably 'white' owners. This they are convinced would lead to the exodus of black residents to the slums.

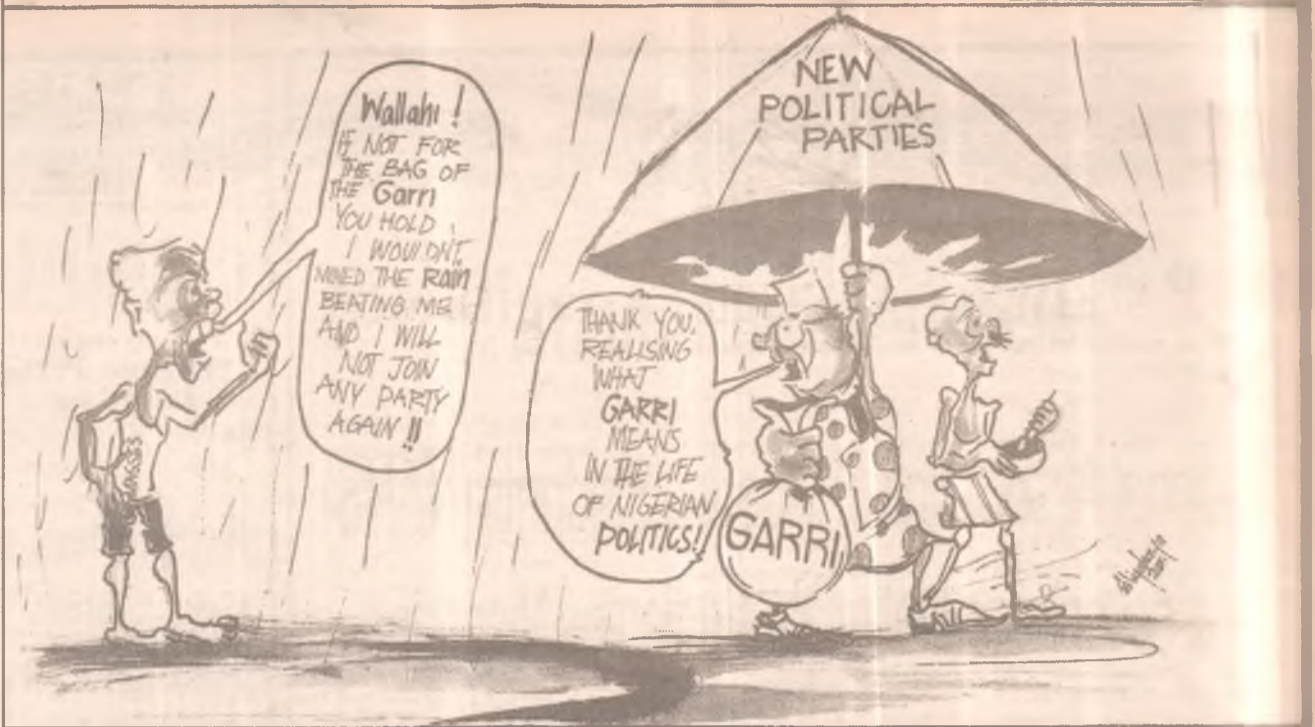
Perhaps this is the first time a former American president has voluntarily set up shop in a predominantly African-American community. It is therefore a very handsome precedent. The event is a lesson in humility and the transient nature of leadership. Former leaders should be conscious of the fact that they are still watched by the society, and looked up to with reverence if they live an exemplary life after office. President Clinton seems to be conscious of the continuing role society expects of him.

Former presidents and leaders on the African continent, when they relinquish office at all, have behaved in less than honourable ways. Many of them speak with reckless abandon, and are fond of making unguarded statements on matters of great national significance. Many prefer a high-profile and live in expensive and posh neighbourhoods. For many of them, the further they are from their people, and the peculiar circumstances of their lives, the better.

Many are obsessed with power and an attendant ego-consciousness while in power and tend to behave as if they are an alternate leadership or in the extreme, scheme their return to power.

It is only the example of late President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania which stands as a glowing example of how a former leader should conduct himself. Here was the personification of humility. He was close to the people, and shared in the triumphs and tribulations of their daily life. As President of Tanzania, Julius Nyerere bridged the gap between his office and the citizenry. The period of his rule can easily be regarded as one of the best and most progressive epochs in the history of Tanzania.

Daily Trust salutes the action of President Clinton, and calls on our leadership to learn from this golden example from Harlem.



TUESDAY COLUMN

OBJ, IBB and 2003

By Aminu Iyawa

Quite contrary to the widely held view by many, the January 15, 1966 coup has had less telling effect on the people than the one staged against the Shehu Shagari-led Second Republic. This is because while the former was more or less ethnically and religiously motivated, which the rest of the country refused to accept and for three years fought to preserve the unity of the country, the latter was purely staged by a greedy, power-hungry bunch of military elite, supported by a few disgruntled politicians who failed to make it at the polls.

It is therefore, not just a mere coincidence that the entire group of officers that masterminded the December 31, 1983 coup plot variously went on to become heads of state, service chiefs, GOCs, governors and ministers, milking the country dry throughout the 15 years that it lasted.

Had President Olusegun Obasanjo not taken the decision to sack all military officers that held political office, including aides de camp that many see as an exaggerated phobia, the mountain of criticisms heaped on the government for lack of impact, half way into its tenure would have been more than enough excuse for the boys to have staged a comeback. Fortunately, the politicians are now wider in settling political scores. They would rather do it on the pages of newspapers or cultivate alliances within the system, than run to the big bullies in the barracks.

It is therefore an irony that, despite our knowledge, and indeed the overwhelming revelations from the Oputa panel, indications are that we may, come 2003, still have to choose between two retired generals: incumbent President Olusegun Obasanjo, or former military president Ibrahim Babangida. It is most likely that Ibrahim Babangida may emerge victorious at the polls, notwithstanding the advantages of incumbency held by Chief Obasanjo.

Two things stand out as factors that will contribute to the realisation of the great Maradona's dream. One, virtually all political commentators in the country agree that IBB has the best political network that crossed the petty boundaries of ethnic, religious and regional politics that seem to have found its way back in recent times. He is also as ever, generous to a fault and does not hold grudge on people who stepped on his toes. A complete opposite of the character of the incumbent president.

Second and most important, is the fact that those who campaign against him tend to attack him for not what he had done as Ibrahim Babangida, an individual and a former general in the Nigerian army whose constituency wreaked havoc on the nation, but as a northerner and a Muslim "who had worked for the advancement of the oligarchs and Jihadists north". Never mind the fact that he did more for Christians and minorities than even General Yakubu Gowon who ruled for nine years. He broke the jinx for having sent non-Muslim administrators to govern the core-north states.

Such unfair, unwise blanket comment on the north and its people that benefited little from the imperious years of the military has always backfired. The Lagos press that promotes such campaign of calumny had in the past denied Chief Obafemi Awolowo and Chief M. K. O. Abiola from realising their dream of leading this country. The blatant and flagrant lies, the abuse, the degradation and all kinds of unimaginable obscenities meted on northerners for the fault of just one of their own, always had them ready to vent their anger that Chief Babangida will make a big fig in 2003, unless such attitude changes.

Take for instance, what Olutade Makinde, writing in the *Saturday Tribune* of August 4, 2001, said of the north: "what do you expect from the people of a race whose low intellectual ability, compared with that of the South, precludes them from fitting mostly into intellectual jobs? It is only politics and its windfall that offers them such plump jobs like ministers, chairmen of board of parastatals and other political appointments, as averse to the incapability to fit into professional appointments where academic requirements are the basic conditions for appointment".

Without reacting to the above "intellectual" assessment from a "Yoruba intellectual", I can however guarantee him that these are the kinds of testimonials that the IBB camp are looking forward to, to boost their campaign. Any northerner that reads this, is as good as one vote for Babangida and one less vote for Obasanjo. And you will be surprised with how fast and wide, such sentiments cover. They will consider your intellectual commentary as golf-score, where negative is equal to positive.

Until some few weeks ago, I was tempted to believe that the next president of this country will be an Ibo man. But not anymore, thanks to the *Ohaneze*, the new *Ndigo* spokes group which, unfortunately adopted the Yoruba style of campaign of calumny against the north, blaming it for all the country's woes.

When Chief Obafemi Awolowo failed to reach out to other parts of the country and could not therefore win the 1979 and 1983 elections, the north was to blame; when Olu Falae introduced the structural adjustment programme, SAP, and the special foreign exchange market, SFEM that both failed to do the magic, the north was to blame; when the north overwhelmingly voted for Abiola and the military annulled it, the north gets the blames; when we again overwhelmingly voted for Chief Obasanjo to become president in 1999, the credit goes to somewhere else. That is the kind of politics the *Ndigo* are now trying to play.

It is absolutely ridiculous for the *Ohaneze* to rush to the Oputa panel to demand for justice in a war that they started by the cold-blooded murder of the best of the best in the north including Sir Ahmadu Bello, the Sardauna of Sokoto and premier of the Northern Region; Alhaji Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, prime minister of the Federal Republic; Brigadier Abubakar Maimalari, the highest ranking northern in the post-colonial military and a host of others.

I am utterly disappointed by Comrade Chukwumerije who filed the petition on behalf of *Ohaneze Ndigo*, claiming among other things, of marginalisation when he himself was a beneficiary of a plump ministerial appointment at one time. The Ibos had also at various times between 1979 and 1999 served as number two citizens. Alex Ekwueme and Cmdr. Ebitu Ukiwe will attest to that fact.

I have also always believed that, but for the 1983 coup, Alex Ekwueme could have been president and must have completed his second term in 1991. A Yoruba president might have also finished his two terms by 1999, while any of the minorities could have been at the top by now. A prospect that was tragically shattered by a few selfish Nigerians whose actions we still continue to suffer, while the north has been unfairly shouldered the brunt.

Unless the people of the south begin to appreciate the genuine effort by northerners in forging unity through consensus, compromise and respect for one another, we will continue to use our numerical strength of cows and goats to perpetuate, to drive home the point that democracy is a game of numbers. Until then, Babangida is it.



## SENATE SECRETARIATE

National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS)  
L'association Nationale etudiantes Nigerian

### PRESS RELEASE

#### NANS POSITION ON THE NATIONAL EXAMINATION COUNCIL (NECO)

The National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS), the only representative of all Nigerian Students from Kindergarten to tertiary institutions after intensive, careful and sincere discussions on the controversy surrounding the National Examination Council (NECO) as the National Examination Body and the acceptance of the Senior School Certificate Examination (SSCE) by tertiary institutions in Nigeria resolve as follows:

- That NECO remains the only National Examination Body in Nigerian as obtains in other countries of the world.
- The NANS recognizing the fact that members countries of the West African Examinations Council (WAEC) also have their own examination bodies, even Ghana which today is housing the secretariat of WAEC, declares that NECO has come to stay and any attempt to act otherwise shall be resisted vehemently.
- The quality of NECO SSCE questions and the various approaches in marking, processing and releasing of results are not only reliable, but in conformity with all known and tested procedures and practices and therefore acceptable universally.
- The NANS therefore urgently call on the National Assembly to facilitate the immediate passage of the NECO Bill, which should be signed into law by the President before the beginning of the next academic session.
- The NANS on its part shall embark on all aggressive mobilization and enlightenment drive through her members (Union) on the acceptability of NECO SSCE results.  
Also the NANS shall organize a workshop in the four cardinal zones A,B,C and D and some at Abuja.
- That all hands must be on deck to move the Nigerian educational standardship to reach the acceptable universal requirement.
- Finally NANS strongly uphold the decision of the House of Representative Committee on education that NECO should conduct the May/June SSCE Examination on the ground that:
  1. The students should not be over bordered by the rigorous and long period of Examination, where they will have to write both WAEC and NECO Examination the same period.
  2. That the Federal Government should further facilitate the establishment of other National Examination bodies to compete with the NECO for the May/June SSCE Examination in no distant future.
  3. That the SSCE Result from NECO and SSCE Result from WAEC be combined for purposes of admissions and employment since only one common curriculum is in use throughout Nigeria.

*Signed:*

**Comrade Abdullahi Ali Kano**  
NANS Senate President.

## ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF COLLEGE OF NIGERIA (ASCON) TOPO-BADAGRY



### TENDER NOTICE

A. Tenders are invited from suitably qualified Contractors for the Supply and Installation of 1000KVA, 415V speed Diesel Generator.

B. Tender documents are obtainable from the College in Topo-Badagry and its Liaison Office situated on 3rd Floor, Federal Secretariate, Phase I, Shehu Shagari Way, Abuja, on payment to the College of a non-refundable tender fee of N20,00.00 in Bankdraft, payable to the Director-General ASCON.

C. Completed Tender Forms should be returned in sealed and duly marked envelope to:

**“The Director General,  
Administrative Staff College of Nigeria (ASCON)  
Topo Badagry”**

Not later than 12.00 noon, Tuesday 19th September, 2001.

D. All tender submissions must be accompanied with the following:

- i) Certificate of Company registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC)
- ii) Evidence of registration with the Federal Ministry of Works & Housing
- iii) Current Tax Clearance Certificate
- iv) Tender Processing fee receipt
- v) Evidence of similar past jobs performed; including equipment and staff profile.

E. Failure to comply with the above stated requirements invalidates the tender submission.

F. Tenders should note that the Administrative Staff College of Nigeria, Topo Badagry, is not bound to accept the lowest or any of the tenders.

G. Tenders will be opened publicly at ASCON Complex, Topo - Badagry on Tuesday 19th September, 2001 by 2.00 p.m.

**DIRECTOR GENERAL**

Opinion

Plight of Nigerian pensioners

By Ibrahim Ja'e Fulani

I wish to express the problem of pensioners in Nigeria to the National Assembly.

A pensioner is a Nigerian who spent the greater part of his life serving the nation but is presently left at the mercy of very powerful insurance companies, to pay his meagre pension at their own discretion. In other parts of the world, the case is completely different, especially in Western Europe and the United State of America.

In these western nations, pensioners are most respected citizens and held with honour, often considered as, and equal to even presidents or prime minister, they are given preferential treatment in all aspects of life; free public buses and trains, health services and special food coupons in stores, because they are older and weak. Special consideration is given to them in many places. In this country, the case is completely the opposite, they are the last to be paid their monthly pension, if they are paid at all.

During the Abacha/Abdulsalami military administration in this country, government issued instructions for the formation of pension boards of trustees for each and every government ministry, parastatal, research institute and so on. The aim in establishing these trustee boards was to make payments of gratuity and monthly pensions easier for retirees. Unfortunately, some very powerful insurance companies (some, with even retired generals as their chairmen) went round and convinced the present government that pension payments should be channelled through insurance companies, and this is now causing very serious problems for pensioners across the country. Recently some retired people talked on the Voice of America (VOA) (Hausa Service) telling the world that up till now the increase in pension rate by 150 percent, effective from January 1, 1999 and 30 percent increase effective from January 1, 2000 are yet to be paid to them. The most recent increase in pension rate (142 percent effective May 1, 2000) is yet to see the light of day in so many places across the country. So far the pension boards do not know how much the federal government is releasing to the insurance companies, when and for what period.

Our plight in this respect is we want the National Assembly to pass a bill, forcing the executive arm of government to as from now on, pay pension funds directly to the pension boards of trustees across the nation. This will go a long way in alleviating the suffering of pensioners. The National Assembly should please remember that pensioners constitute a very big percentage of the electorate and are also entitled to whatever is good for other citizens of Nigeria.

Unless something very positive is done by the National Assembly, pensioners in Nigeria will tend to believe that the Assembly has vested interests in what these insurance companies are doing.

Ibrahim is of No. 390, Ja'e Road, Shika, Giwa LG, Box 1096, Zaria.

Oputa and the human rights saga

By Mustapha Babagana

When the Obasanjo administration established the Oputa panel to investigate human rights abuses and make recommendations, a lot of people in the North knew and believed that it is another form of finding fault in Northerners and further painting them as terrible people, especially the late General Sani Abacha. Our leaders of the past, mostly of northern origin, and particularly military men, had to be checked through intimidation such that they may find it difficult to further participate in the affairs of the nation.

Channels of intimidation were created on a daily basis by this administration. For those Northerners that are at the top, they cannot see anything wrong, instead they say people make noise because they are sidelined in the affairs of the nation. Should they look properly, they will realise they command very little respect in the eyes of the majority of Nigerians in the northern part. This is as a result of the fact that they abandoned the pursuit of the interest of the people that elected them. They used all the money they had to get into the offices they occupy today. In essence, they bought all the votes. That is why they command little or no respect, as everybody knows the secret of their success. Surrounded by hypocrites who tell them only what they want to hear, they do not even know the interest of their village men talk less of Nigerians, except for a few who are largely members of the House of Representatives.

Anyway, back to basics. The Oputa panel which tried so hard to depict Abacha and Al-Mustapha as the villains is gradually succumbing to the power of truth. It is almost impossible now to shut Oputa up or else it would have been done, just like Victor Malu was shut up and removed from office for appearing in the panel and telling the truth.

To disgrace the Northerners, the Southern press did all it could to wage war against the North by ensuring it covers up any truth that may depict the Northerner as good and

humane. The question is, for how long can they keep covering up and preventing the truth from coming out? Ask yourself why do they cover up the truth? The answer is simple, they have always lied and if the truth is let loose, their blocks of lies will be exposed not only nationally but they will lack credibility even internationally.

Unfortunately for those involved, only the truth keeps coming out, and it does not favour them. We in the North stand by the truth and no amount tale telling will voice the North down. In the first place, the image of Al-Mustapha and his boss was meant to be dented and by the time he talked they could not shut him out. The whole world has listened and heard the truth. Remember some papers tried so hard to shut him up and in fact make people believe that he is deceitful. Today even the hall of the Oputa panel is obnoxiously empty if Al-Mustapha is not in attendance. The number of people crying out for his release have increased. He is now a celebrity if I may borrow the words of Honourable Justice Chukwudifu Oputa himself.

To depict a clearer image therefore, we all ask who are the people that end up being ashamed of their actions. First of all, Dr. Tunji Braithwaite was publicly disgraced despite his almighty law PhD., by a person who has only gone through the walls of military academy where lawyers are not even produced. Behold this is the power of truth. Al-Mustapha stood by the truth and it stood by him.

Alright, the hypocrites said, "he only got lucky" and they brought in his boss more experienced, more positioned and well respected within and outside Nigeria. He too got floored. Here again General Oladipo Diya shamelessly walked out of the panel disgraced. After tottering that God forbid him to beg for mercy from Abacha. We all saw

him on television.

Still these people felt they brought in the wrong person, they took their time did their home work and brought a cunning man but highly placed, one time gubernatorial candidate of Lagos State and a civilian who ordinarily would have invoked public sentiments. The chief got booted out and a reverend father made a remark that you cannot have an open toilet and do away with flies at least not in Africa. No wonder General Abacha asked that Chief Yomi Tokoyin should never be allowed anywhere near Aso Rock. They refuse to acknowledge that Abacha has a human face. Why? They still want to keep on fighting to cover up their lies and legacy.

By now the Oputa panel has become more focused and knows what story to accept or listen attentively to. Just because a part of this country has no respect for the North, they do not want to admit that our leaders were better options for Nigeria and can even do better. History has revealed this as a fact today.

But let me say that if we as an entity do not respect our leaders, no one will and that is a setback for us around the world. Al-Madame Tasauds in London our leaders' dummies were removed partly because we refuse to reckon their roles in our country. In any case *Alhamdulillah* for it is forbidden in Islam to have human dummies or practice such immortalisation.

For now, I will advise that those that want to keep up this fight against the North should use this medium of Oputa panel to seek the truth and be part of the team. As for our Southern press their destructive tendencies will get back at them, as they will only succeed in destroying their once respected images. The Oputa panel cannot be used to fight the North at least not any more, it is a neutral truth seeking ground.

Mustapha is with International Trust Bank plc, Maiduguri.

YOUR LETTERS

Re: Alternatives to Obasanjo

I read with disappointment the above titled article which appeared in the *Daily Trust* (23/7/2001). I have no objection to the writer's opinion that there are many credible alternatives to Obasanjo among Nigerians.

What I find so distasteful is the expression of petty tribal

sentiments by the author in the course of his article. I'm very much ashamed that this came from someone like Abubakar Jika who is a well educated and, I assume, intelligent Nigerian. I think when an individual has achieved a high level of education and even holds the

exalted position of a lecturer in one of our universities, he should be able to rise above the expression of such extremely petty sentiments. I believe tribal animosity thrives in Nigeria because people we regard as intelligent and knowledgeable continue to peddle such sentiments openly during public discourse.

In his article, Abubakar Jika was criticising the presidential liaison officer to the Senate, Alhaji Kashim Ibrahim Imam for saying publicly that there is no alternative to President Obasanjo. He also objected to the fact that Alhaji Kashim wore a Yoruba cap when he made those statements.

Mr. Jika wrote that Kashim Imam "wore a Yoruba cap which is now the symbol of the final political marginalisation of the Hausa-Fulani". He also objected to the fact that the Vice-President, Atiku Abubakar wore a similar Yoruba cap when he addressed a recent PDP rally in Damaturu.

He wrote of Atiku, that "he should have worn a Hausa-Fulani cap and not a Yoruba cap. It was our show and to flaunt a Yoruba cap is to remind us that we are playing second fiddle for now". The event was shown on TV and Jika wrote that "many of those who watched the event with me, my Fulani compatriots, were aghast".

I honestly cannot believe that

these were written by someone as educated as Jika is. It is certainly not enough to flaunt higher academic qualifications like Jika has done in his article without speaking or writing like someone who has them.

I'm of the same ethnic stock and from the same state as Jika but I certainly don't share his petty ethnic sentiments. I believe that Nigerians, especially young people, should move away from such ways if this country is to make any headway.

Dr. Muhammad Raji Bello, University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital, Maiduguri, Borno State.

Jigawa State's needs

Good leaders are like diamonds, hard to shape, hard to find and hard to polish. Every one dreams of being the best, of being labelled number one and of being recognised as top in his field. But it takes a special kind of individual to turn that dream into reality.

The society never forgets or forgives bad services but always remembers and praises high-class services.

What Jigawa State is yearning for is not new. The State requires good roads, sound education, good infrastructures, good hospitals equipped with drugs at affordable prices, water, electricity, industries and a host of others.

Y. A. Hassan Kila vahkila@yahoo.co.uk

Mind your errors!

It is very unfortunate that I have to publicly bring to your notice my displeasure and that of many other people on two of your conducts at least professionally. One is the recurring error and the other your slow drift to sensationalism.

I and many of my compatriots here in Port Harcourt who are making *Daily Trust* our daily menu are tired of depending almost everyday for one avoidable error or the other in your publication before those who are envious of your towering profile in the media industry.

The most recent glaring error of yours that I found no tangible point to prove your sceptics wrong was in your Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2001 issue where you pose the picture of Nepal's new prime minister as that of ousted Indonesian president Abdul-Rahman Wahid.

By this letter I join many of your esteem readers like Mallam Sani Yassanta from Funtua who have at one time or the other drawn your attention to this ugly menace and the need for positive improvement.

Secondly, the Arewa Consultative forum (ACF) director of publicity Mallam Aliyu Hayatu proved my suspicion of mischief right, when I saw his rejoinder on behalf of the ACF carried in the 25<sup>th</sup> July issue of *Daily Trust* refuting your lead story of Monday July 9<sup>th</sup> 2001 as sensational and a clear act of mischief against its respected members.

I, personally hold the belief that the Obasanjo *Tazarce* issue would be the last thing to be incorporated into the ACF's official meeting agenda at least for now. I therefore could not comprehend your motive for publishing that news item, worse still as a lead story.

Mohammed Nasiru Chamo, No 49, Bende Street, Port Harcourt, Rivers State. E-mail: Chamonian1@hamsarvices.com

# TRUST INTERNATIONAL

AFRICA &amp; THE MIDDLE EAST

## Fighting escalates in Middle East

Four people have died and at least 15 others were injured Sunday in a string of violent incidents between Israelis and Palestinians.

A Palestinian man was shot dead by the Israeli army in Ramin, near Tulkarem, on the West Bank, the Palestine Red Crescent said Sunday. The Palestinian organization identified the man as Mahdi Muhammed Mazyad, 25. The Israeli army said it is checking the report.

Israeli radio said he was one of two Palestinians who were shot at while they were trying to plant a bomb. The other Palestinian escaped, the report said.

There was no immediate comment from the Israeli army.

At the same time, one woman was killed and three other people were wounded — two of them seriously — when their car was fired at in the West Bank, the Israeli Army said.

The Israeli army described it as a drive-by shooting, and said the shots came from a car bearing Palestinian plates near the village of Zaoun east of Qalqilya near Alfei Menashe.

Earlier Sunday, an Israeli missile strike killed an activist member of the militant wing of the Muslim group Hamas in the West Bank, Palestinian security sources said.

The Palestinian sources identified the Hamas member as Amer Mansour Alhuzeri and said he was in a car when it was hit

by a missile from an Israeli helicopter in Tulkarem.

The Palestine Red Crescent Society said three Palestinian bystanders were wounded by shrapnel.

Israeli radio said three missiles hit the car, which contained explosives.

The Israel Defense Forces said Alhuzeri had been preparing for suicide bombings planned for the coming days in Israel. They said he had "executed many shooting attacks" and set explosives in recent months in the northern West Bank.

They described the victim as a 26-year-old Islamic student from Tulkarem who had been arrested by Israel in 1995 and 1998, when he admitted to taking part in Hamas military activities.

The IDF said the man recruited and trained suicide bombers in his role as assistant to Fawaz Badran, a senior leader in the Tulkarem command area.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told Israeli television the man "was about to bring suicide bombers to attack in the heart of the country."

Sharon described the assassinations as defensive tactics. He told Fox News Sunday he had sent Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat the names of about 100 people who Israeli forces believe were planning acts of violence against Israelis.

"I asked him to arrest them; no steps were taken by him," Sharon said. "I made it very clear we have to defend our citizens, we have to defend our lives. Therefore, we had to take counterterrorist steps."

Shortly after the helicopter attack, the Israeli defense ministry faxed to members of the news media the names of seven wanted "Palestinian terrorists," the first time it had published such a list.



Palestinians examine the remains of the car in which Hamas activist Amer Mansour Habiri, 23, was travelling when it was hit with missiles fired from an Israeli helicopter, in the northern West bank town of Tulkarem, Sunday, August 5, 2001

## Iran: Emergency council meets to resolve presidential stalemate

A fresh attempt is being made in Iran to resolve a constitutional dispute that has caused the

postponement of the swearing-in of President Mohammad Khatami for a second term in office.

The Expediency Council, the most senior body charged with resolving constitutional issues, held an emergency meeting yesterday to try to resolve the dispute between the reformist parliament and conservative led judiciary.

The Expediency Council meeting was called by Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Reformists see the intervention by Ayatollah Khamenei as a move orchestrated by the conservatives to undermine President Khatami, correspondents say.

It was the Ayatollah's second intervention in less than 24 hours.

It came after the head of judiciary on Sunday rejected a compromise put forward by the parliamentary speaker, Mehdi Karubi.

On Saturday Ayatollah Ali Khamenei asked for the postponement of the swearing-in ceremony of President Khatami, scheduled for Sunday.

He has now alarmed the reformists by asking one of their arch-enemies, former President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, as chairman of the Expediency Council, to find a solution for this constitutional crisis.

The Council, whose

members are appointed by Ayatollah Khamenei, is said to be dominated by conservatives.

The crisis developed when parliament - led by the reformists - refused to approve two new candidates put forward by the conservative-dominated judiciary for the Council of Guardians, a powerful body which vets all legislation.

Early on Sunday, the speaker of the Iranian parliament, Mehdi Karubi, proposed a compromise by asking for a joint committee to find a solution.

But he was rebuffed by the head of the judiciary, Ayatollah Shahrudi, who told the parliament that the only way forward was for parliament to approve the candidates nominated by the judiciary.

The intervention of Ayatollah Khamenei - in asking Mr Rafsanjani to find a solution - may work against the reformists in parliament.

Mr Rafsanjani has been an ally of the conservatives in trying to control the reform movement and to divert it away from uncomfortable political demands on economic and social issues such as unemployment and corruption.

Even if the current crisis is resolved in favour of the conservatives - as seems likely - the reformists will probably continue to challenge their power until the current constitutional ambiguities are clarified.



An Israeli soldier who was injured when a Palestinian opened fire at a group of soldiers in a drive-by shooting near the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv is carried to an ambulance, August 5, 2001. It was the first such shooting at soldiers inside Israel in a 10-month-old Palestinian uprising and was the latest escalation in a week of spiraling bloodshed.

## Israel publishes list of most wanted Palestinians

Israel has taken the unusual step of publishing the names of seven Palestinians it accuses of carrying out or planning attacks against Israeli civilians.

Israeli analysts say that if the men are not arrested by the Palestinian authority they could become targets for the Israeli army in its attempt to foil attacks.

Some hours earlier, a Palestinian gunman sprayed soldiers with automatic fire near the Israel Defence Ministry in the centre of Tel Aviv.

The Israeli Defence Ministry said the seven men on the list of "main terrorists", from several Palestinian factions, "continue to carry out attacks" despite Israel's appeals to the Palestinian Authority to arrest them.

A commentator for Israel Radio said: "If the Palestinian authority does not round them up, it's clear what their fate will be - although it doesn't say so in the statement."

Palestinian officials say Israel has killed more than 60 Palestinian activists in targeted attacks since the start of the intifada, or uprising, more than 10 months ago.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon defended the policy - which has drawn international criticism even from Israel's ally, the US - as a "defensive counter-terrorism measure".

He told American Fox TV that Israel had sent the Palestinians a list of "about 100 terrorists" it wants arrested. "What (Arafat) has to do is just to stop them," he said.

After the Tulkarem attack on Sunday, Mr Sharon said: "A few minutes ago, an attack was launched against a terrorist who was about to send Palestinian kamikazes in an attack at the heart of Israel."

The dead militant, 23-year-old Amer Hudeiri, was hit by two missiles fired at his car from an Israeli helicopter.

The gunman in Tel Aviv injured at least 10 people, including eight soldiers, before the car in which he was travelling crashed into a lamp-

post.

The attack - unprecedented in the history of Israeli-Palestinian violence - took place in the middle of the day, on one of Tel Aviv's busiest streets, as soldiers were leaving the Defence Ministry for lunch.

BBC correspondent Paul Wood says the Tel Aviv gunman left his car to fire at his victims with an M-16 automatic rifle.

## 15 Chinese Doctors docked for alleged smuggling

Fifteen Chinese doctors who had been working in West Africa have been charged with smuggling ivory after police at Brussels airport detained them.

Customs officials intercepted a shipment of elephant tusks in a consignment disguised as personal effects.

The 15 doctors are expected to appear in court today.

Police stopped the doctors as they landed at

Brussels airport to change flights.

The authorities had been waiting for them for five weeks ever since a cargo shipment bound for an address in China was discovered to contain a 150 kilogrammes of ivory.

Prosecutors in Brussels say the smuggled consignment was made up of more than 70 tusks with a market value of almost \$1m.

The doctors, who had been working in Mali - could face up to two years in

prison.

An international ban on trade in ivory was agreed 12 years ago but there's still a strong demand for it in China, Japan and some Arab countries.

The shipment seized by the Belgian authorities also included animal skins from endangered species.

Before the trade in ivory was declared illegal, about 2,000 African elephants were being killed each week.

The 15 Chinese doctors have been charged with smuggling and criminal association

## Zimbabwe declares US restriction bill racist

The Zimbabwean Information Minister has described as racist a United States Senate bill that could usher in visa restrictions for people responsible for violence in Zimbabwe.

In an interview with the pro-government Mail on Sunday newspaper, the minister, Mr Jonathan Moyo, said the bill targeted African people who, in his words, wanted to restore their fundamental rights.

Mr Moyo added that the United States should promote democracy at home instead of meddling in Zimbabwe affairs.

The bill, known as the Zimbabwe Democracy and Recovery Act, was passed on Wednesday.

It requires the US administration to liaise with other countries about applying visa sanctions to people involved in violence during the process of bringing land reform to Zimbabwe.

The country has been the scene of violence connected with the government's controversial policy of land re-distribution from white-owned farms to black

TRUST INTERNATIONAL

Foreign & Diplomatic



President Megawati Sukarnoputri, right, meets with U.S. Ambassador Robert Gelbard at the presidential palace in Jakarta, Indonesia yesterday.

Megawati enters palace, at last

Indonesia's new leader, Megawati Sukarnoputri, has finally moved into the presidential palace in Jakarta yesterday, exactly two weeks after being sworn in.

The lack of urgency with which she has acted since her predecessor, Abdurrahman Wahid, was impeached last month is already attracting criticism.

Megawati was brought up in the palace in Jakarta - her father was Indonesia's founding President Sukarno.

But since taking power last month, she has been in no hurry to return to the place of her childhood.

Instead she has waited for a new office to be set up in a quieter area of the palace grounds where she is to work as the country's president.

But she will not be living at the accommodation provided within the palace complex.

It is expected that in the evenings, she will return to her own home in the capital, unlike her predecessor, Mr Wahid.

And it is not just in these more superficial ways that Megawati is likely to differ from the previous president.

Her whole approach to leading a nation is expected to be radically different.

She is said to be by nature elusive, conservative and cautious.

Her over-riding priority is preserving national integrity, for which the military is expected to play a key role in crushing separatist movements in the provinces of Aceh and Irian Jaya.

As president, Mr Wahid was said to be outspoken, free thinking and instinctively more democratic - at least until he was

threatened with impeachment.

Megawati also seems keen to ensure that she builds a government of national unity, by including most of the main political parties in parliament.

But this has led to a long delay in the appointment of her cabinet, as the parties haggle over positions.

Officials say that it will be the end of this week before Indonesia finally has a new government.

The long delay has already raised concerns about her ability to lead the country at such a critical time.

Australia's most wanted fugitive dies

Australia's most notorious fugitive, Christopher Skase, has died on the Spanish island of Majorca.

He was suffering from lung and stomach cancer.

Spanish authorities recently suspended deportation proceedings following an independent review of his medical condition.

Skase fled Australia 10

years ago facing 60 criminal charges involving hundreds of millions of dollars over the collapse of his business empire and allegations that he siphoned millions from shareholders.

Skase made a new home in Majorca and claimed repeatedly he was too ill to be deported.

The Australian Government refused to be put off by these reports of illness

British, Irish governments await Parties' backing for peace

The British and Irish governments are waiting to hear whether the main political parties in Northern Ireland will back their latest proposals for breaking the deadlock in the peace process.

So far, there have been few signs that politicians will meet the deadline for responding to their document - or that the IRA is ready to make a gesture on disarmament.

The proposals - published on 1 August - cover all four outstanding issues in the peace process: Policing, normalisation, the stability of the institutions and disarmament.

If the plan were rejected, it would plunge the future of the Good Friday Agreement into uncertainty, and would entail either suspending the Northern Ireland Assembly or calling new elections.

The package has been described by both the British and Irish governments as "the only way forward". But Sinn Fein has rejected the deadline and the Ulster Unionists say they will not accept the plan unless the IRA gives up its weapons.

It is therefore unlikely that all parties will deliver their decision on the set date. The Ulster Unionists were due to meet on evening to

discuss the proposals.

Party leader David Trimble said there would only be room for moving forward if the document produced "decommissioning on the part of republicans and a clear acceptance of the police and support for proper policing by nationalists".

Anti-Agreement MP Jeffrey Donaldson said the package offered "nothing to unionists' and concessions to republicans contained in it created "enormous difficulties" for unionists.

But Northern Ireland Secretary Dr John Reid has again appealed for the parties to accept the proposals to break the political stalemate.

Dr Reid said the parties had a responsibility to deliver the Good Friday Agreement to the people of Northern Ireland.

He said: "We have to show politics works. It has worked in Northern Ireland. It is a much better place than it was, but there is a long, long way to go yet."

Sinn Fein have said they will need more time before making a decision on the package.

Assembly member Aislinn Maskey said the package was a "statement of intent" which was short on detail, containing "nothing in terms of the how and the when these things will actually happen".

It is unlikely the IRA will make a significant move on arms if Sinn Fein reject the package.

The nationalist SDLP said they had worked through a number of difficulties in relation to policing with the government and that the party would approach the issues in the package as "positively as we can".

The current crisis in the process was brought to a head by the resignation of David Trimble as first minister on 1 July because the IRA had not begun to disarm.

If the parties have not found a resolution by 12 August, the British Government will have to either suspend the assembly or call an election.

Bolivia's Banzer hands over power to VP

Bolivian President Hugo Banzer, who is to resign to undergo further cancer treatment, is back home preparing to hand over power to his vice-president, Jorge Quiroga.

Today, the Congress is expected to officially appoint Mr Quiroga as his successor until the end of the five year presidential term in August 2002.

On the same day, Mr Banzer will be given an official farewell by the Bolivian armed forces, and tomorrow he is due to return to Washington for further treatment for lung and liver cancer in the US Army's Walter Reed Hospital.

On his return to Bolivia on Saturday, President Banzer said: "I want the Bolivians to remember me simply as the sower of realities, not illusions."

Mr Banzer first came to power in 1971 when he headed a military regime that ruled for seven years.

Human rights groups say Mr Banzer was responsible as head of state for more than 200 "disappearances", some 3,000

political arrests, and forcing several thousand political and trade union activists into exile.

In 1978 Mr Banzer formed his own political party, the Nationalist Democratic Action party (ADN). He stood several times as the ADN presidential candidate, before finally triumphing in 1997.

In July, he left Bolivia for the United States for what was described as a routine health check, but was discovered to have lung cancer and metastases in the liver.

Last week he decided to resign in favour of vice-president Jaime Quiroga, a 41-year-old US-educated engineer who is a member of the ADN party.

Mr Quiroga is keen to continue with Bolivia's efforts to eradicate the production of coca, which Mr Banzer made one of the priorities of his government.

But this and other policies aimed at promoting privatisation and opening up the Bolivian economy have caused widespread unrest in recent months, and correspondents say Mr Quiroga may have a difficult time holding together the governing coalition.

Odd world

Killer Dogs progeny for sale

How much is that doggie in the window? If it's a descendant of the San Francisco attack dog that went wild and mauled a young woman to death in her own apartment building, it will cost \$1,200 [about N135,670].

So-called "Dog-O-War" puppies, described as the grandchildren of the Canary Island fighting dog which killed San Francisco lacrosse coach Diane Whipple in a horrific January attack, were advertised in Sunday's Los Angeles Times, described as "bad to the bone, protective and stable."

The San Francisco Chronicle, which reported the advertisement Friday, said the seven puppies were being sold for \$1,200 apiece.

"It's a shame the dogs got such a bad reputation," Carolyn Murphy told the Chronicle, describing the puppies as "loving and caring." "It's a horrible thing that happened."

The puppies' grandfather, a 120-pound (55 kg) bruiser named Bane, broke free from its owner and savaged Whipple in the hallway of her own apartment building on Jan. 26. Whipple died shortly after the attack, which grabbed national headlines and shocked San Francisco's large population of animal lovers.

Bane was put to death shortly after the attack when animal control officers determined he was too dangerous to be kept alive.

Bane and another dog, Isis, had a daughter, Roka, who was bred with Menace, a dog imported from the Canary Islands, producing the litter now for sale, the Chronicle said.

A San Francisco prosecutor handling the criminal case against Bane's owners was outraged by the advertisement.

"I find it disturbing that someone would try to profit on a tragic death - this is terrible," Assistant District Attorney Kimberly Guilfoyle said.

Murphy said the puppies currently for sale are, like Bane, a cross between a Canary Island fighting dog and English mastiff - a potentially dangerous mixture of power and aggression.

India asylum blaze 'kill 25'

Police in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu say at least 25 patients have died in a fire at a mental asylum.

Many of those killed had been chained up, leaving them no means of escape when flames engulfed the thatched structure early yesterday.

The fire happened in a privately-run institution in Ramanathapuram, some 500km south of the state capital, Madras (Chennai).

Another five of the building's 53 residents are believed to have been seriously injured in the blaze, which has now been put out.

Its cause has yet to be established.

BBC correspondent in Delhi says early reports suggest the home, which was run by a religious charity, may not have been registered by the local authorities.



Bolivian President Hugo Banzer (R) is congratulated by Education Minister Tito O. De Vila while Vice President Jorge Quiroga (L) looks on in Santa Cruz, August 5, 2001.

# BUSINESS DAY

## CBN sells N42b treasury bills

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) last week sold N42.4 billion worth of treasury bills in furtherance of its efforts to stabilise the liquidity situation in the country.

The turn of events in the money market however showed that the secondary market securities accounted for about N30.4 billion of the bills sold.

This performance, many experts argued, is quite impressive as the primary market securities has in the last one month or more been outperforming the secondary market which have shorter maturity duration of 35 days compared to the primary market's 91 days maturity duration.

In the period under review, the primary market produced a total sum of about N11 billion in sales despite the fact that the apex bank had bills to the tune of N21 billion on offer.

The above records showed that the performance was on the whole better than previous week's achievement of N21.3 billion, although the primary market's N18.9 billion last week is better than its present position.

However, the paltry sum of about N2.3 billion achieved by the secondary market in the preceding week is a far cry from the N30.4 billion recorded currently.

Given the lower interest rates of about 24 to 26 percent in bank to bank loans as displayed by recent releases from the Nigeria money market association, the liquidity situation is becoming reduced.

However, some Nigerians like the executive vice chairman of Centre-Point Merchant Bank Plc, Chief Dennis Odife are of the opinion that since CBN

From Bright Ewulu, in Lagos

initiated the treasury bills instruments in 1976, the economy of the nation does not seem better for it.

According to Odife, it is high time the CBN look into directions in order to solve our perennial economic problems.

The time yield of primary and secondary bills are 18.8 and 17.7 percent respectively. The minimum discount rate remains 18.5 percent.



Joseph Sanusi, CBN Governor

## ...says directive to banks not against states

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) governor, Chief Joseph Sanusi has disclosed that the recent directive to banks to provide at end of their accounting year, 50 and 100 percent respectively for performing and classified credits to all tiers of government is not to stop loans to states.

Sanusi made this clarification in a lecture at the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS), Kuru, near Jos.

According to him, the directive was only a prudential measure meant to forestall distress situation from the banking system as was the case in the 1990's.

He said the "measure meant to forestall the distress situation we experienced in the early 1990's which was partly triggered by non-performing high government sector indebtedness to the banking system."

He hinted that the CBN is not in any way seeking to stop loans to other tiers of government since it also extends limited credit to the federal government as its banker, saying however that the federal government is required by law to liquidate the credit before the end of each fiscal year.

It would be recalled that the 36 state governors recently met and condemned the CBN for trying to stop banks from extending loans to state governments.

But financial experts have consistently warned that the states are taking too much loans from the banks inspite the fact that federal allocation to the states has increased by about 113 percent over the last two years.

Chief Sanusi in his lecture also stated CBN's commitment to improving the payments and settlement system in the financial sector.

To this effect, he declared that the Nigerian Automated Clearing System (NACS) will start operation before the year runs out.

Also, he stressed that efforts to adopt a "real time gross settlement system" for settlement and clearing are ongoing to ensure that the financial sector is viable.

The CBN governor was certain that liberalisation and reform of the financial sector has proved successful as the shift from direct monetary control regime to market-based system have engendered increased competition and dynamism in the sector.

Union Bank of Nigeria (UBN) Plc. has posted a profit before tax of N7.05 billion for the 18 months ended March 31, 2001, while its profit after tax stands at N5.035 billion.

A statement signed by Kabir Dangogo, Assistant General Manager, Corporate Affairs of the bank said this shows a remarkable improvement compared with the N3.890 billion and N3.127 billion profit before and after tax respectively the bank recorded as at September 30, 1999.

The performance was achieved on gross earnings of N35.394 billion, which represents an increase of 93 percent over the 1999 figure of N18.250 billion, the statement further disclosed.

The bank's total assets and deposits have also increased to N214.885 billion and N170.977 billion 2001 from the N126.234 billion and 93.035 billion respectively recorded in 1999.

In the light of what the bank's spokesman described as an impressive financial performance, the bank's directors have recommended a dividend of 150 kobo per share and a bonus issue of one for three shares which will be presented to the shareholders at the next

## Union Bank posts N7b profit

Annual General Meeting scheduled for August 8, this year in Enugu.

This figure shows an increase of 45 kobo over what the bank paid as

dividend in 1999, and it is the highest ever to be paid by any quoted bank in the history of the Nigerian banking industry the statement claimed.

## Revenue Formula: Lagos presses for review

From Samson Ojo, in Lagos

The Lagos State government has reiterated its demand for the review of the revenue sharing formula and administration of the Value Added Tax (VAT) to recognise and reflect the contribution of each state revenue generation in the

federation. The State's Commissioner for Works, Engineers Rauf Aregbesola hinted this at the forum on Property and Environment Writers Association of Nigeria (PEWAN).

He said that the present administration and disbursement of VAT proceeds was not in favour of some states.

Engineer Aregbesola made particular reference to Lagos State, which according to him, contributes the highest percentage of VAT, but whose proceeds rank among the lowest, saying that the current sharing formula was relatively skewed against the state.

It would be recalled that Lagos State has been in the vanguard of calls for the review of the sharing formula to recognise the consumption patterns of the items on which VAT are charged, instead of using the general revenue allocation formula which was based on the number of local government in a state, and states' land mass.

The Commissioner deplored the situation whereby Lagos would contribute to VAT more than any other state, but would get lower than most other states whose contributions and human population are considerably lower than that of Lagos.

Specifically, Engineer Aregbesola cited the example of states like Kano and Osun with over 40 and 30 local government councils respectively, which get more than Lagos with only 20 local governments. In terms of local government councils, Kano gets more than double of Lagos share of VAT proceeds.

According to him, in the laws which established the value added tax, consumers are to pay five percent of the sale value of many items and services which were listed in the list of items on which VAT could be allocated.

The commissioner lamented that because of the high consumption rate of most items in Lagos, the state was generating a lot of wastes which were difficult to manage, hence the need to give a proportionate percentage of VAT proceeds to the state.



Governor Bola Tinubu of Lagos State

## Liberty Bank backs credit rating campaign

The Managing Director and Chief Executive of Liberty Bank Plc., Chief Ode Obla has joined the campaign for the credit rating of Nigeria saying it is in the interest of the nation.

According to Obla, "a country's rating, high or low determines its level of credit worthiness, not only for the sovereign entity but for its corporate entities and banks."

He said an unaudited country gives a sordid picture of "an unknown distant land with unfathomable risks for foreign investors."

Obla who was represented by Mr. Ekanem Edem, Executive Director Liberty Bank Plc, however stated that credit rating requires commitment to the maintenance of adequate credit records in order to

attract cheaper funds and investments from international capital markets.

The chairman of the occasion, Chief Yomi Ogunbiyi in his remark stated that the Finance Correspondents Association (FICAN) awards which is now in its sixth year was a commendable effort of Liberty Bank Plc to support the Nigerian media and the practitioners.

According to him, the awards should gear up Nigerian journalists for the challenges ahead, saying that the awards will certainly go a long way to creating a better relationship between the banking industry and the media.

He urged financial correspondents to keep afloat the strive for excellence, adding that the media has since the inception of the Nigerian nation been contributing eloquently toward progress of the nation.

Mr. Olatunde Kazim of Comet Newspapers was declared winner of the News Story Award while the duo of Malachy Ezema of Guardian and Mr. Lawrence Ndukwe, formerly of the Vanguard top in the features category.

According to one of the judges, Mr. Chigbo Ekwealor of University of Lagos, the above winners were chosen after due consideration of their entry stories.



Jibril Martins-Kuye, Minister of State for Finance

## Pension Fund NAICOM, SEC may resolve differences soon

The battle between National Insurance Commission (NAICOM) and Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) over pension fund administration may soon be over, going by a call for truce by SEC's Assistant Director, Mr. C. A. Udora.

Udora who spoke to *Business Day* exclusively maintained that his commission was shocked by NAICOM's antagonistic posture over the pension matter without seeking to put forward its views to SEC through the normal channels.

He therefore advised NAICOM to take its case to the committee recently set up by SEC to look into pension funds administration in Nigeria to enable them package an effective recommendation.

The SEC Assistant Director declared that SEC's

Director-General, Malam Suleyman Ndanusa and its management are not interested in any power tussle, saying their efforts so far are guided by the commitment to obey and maintain the rules and regulations guiding the financial sector.

Specifically, Udora said what may have been responsible for the face-off between the two commissions owes to the fact that the law did not categorise pension funds, adding so "we are not grabbing for power."

However, he was emphatic that "at any time the National Assembly changes the law we will abide with it but so long as the law remains as it is we are bound to ensure that the laws are obeyed in the financial sector."

He stated that SEC's

recent restructuring owed to the reengineering phase of the commission to keep it in good shape to handle the enormous responsibilities bestowed on it by the law, saying that it has gone online to keep pace by developments in the financial sector.

It would be recalled that NAICOM has been contesting the rights of SEC to administer pension funds in the country, saying that pension funds should be within the ambit of the insurance sub-sector which it oversees.

At a recent seminar in Lagos, NAICOM's Director (Technical), Dr. Prince Mike Ikupolati posited that SEC could only regulate private pension funds administration and should have nothing to do with corporate and government pension funds administration.

# BUSINESS DAY

## MWUN kicks against N5.8b reposition credit for Nigerdock

The Maritime Workers Union of Nigeria (MWUN) has kicked against the N5.8 billion reposition loan being sought ahead of privatisation by the management of Nigerdock Nigeria Limited.

The loan, *Business Day* learnt, has already attracted the attention of the Presidency, the National Assembly and the Council of State.

According to a statement by the union made available to *Business Day*, the loan is outrageous and suspicious.

The statement further condemned the management's request as

From Samson Ojo, in Lagos

"senseless," arguing that the company has already been pencilled down for privatisation.

The workers also queried the need for such a whopping sum especially when the same organisation was run for year by its former managing director, Engineer Dr. Nnamdi Ozobia, without subvention from government.

The association led by its president, Comrade Thomas Osilame, disclosed that the MWUN had petitioned the Presidency and the National Assembly and that they had been

raising alarm over the grievous implications of such an action on the future of the company.

The statement signed by Comrade Thomas Osilame reiterated the workers' opposition to the government's proposed plan to privatise the company.

Comrade Osilame alleged that already, Nigerdock led by Mr. Okon Nkpubre, has held a meeting with the interested core investors and officials of the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE).

When contacted for comments on the workers' grievances against the management, Mr. Samuel

Ita, Press Secretary to Nigerdock explained that the N58 billion loan was essentially required to re-equip and reposition the company ahead of its planned privatisation.



Ojo Maduekwe, Transport Minister

## Port clears over 3,000 containers

From Tokunbo Oloke, in Lagos

No fewer than 33,279 containers were cleared by the Container Terminal Port out of the 52,081 containers imported in the second quarter of this year.

Speaking against the backdrop of information that more containers are still block stacking in the port, the Port Manager of Container Terminal, Engineer Ayorinde Makuolu said they usually deliver about 3,300 containers per week and about 3,000 containers discharged per week as against 1,200 containers a week and 4,400 per week at the beginning of 100 percent examination exercise of container.

In his analysis, the port manager disclosed that on April 9,879 containers were delivered out of 14,717 discharged, on May 5. Also, 733 were delivered out of 13,944 debt charged on June 8, while 694 was delivered and 13,036 discharged, on July 8,973 also was delivered and 10,364 discharged.

At the peak of the congestion, according to him, there were more than 15,000 containers in the block stacking but the number has gone down below five thousand containers.

The port manager who said they were yet to wriggle out of the problems caused by the 100 percent examination, also attributed their hitherto achievement to what he described as combined efforts of increasing delivery rate and provision of storage areas at Kirikiri and bonded warehouses.

Makanjuola however urged importers to be wary of clearing agents who are banking on the prevailing situation at the port to demand for money for clearance of their goods.

## Aboki charges NMA pension board on disbursement

The Permanent Secretary, Establishment and Pensions Office, in the Office of the Head of Service, Dr. Aboki Zhawa has warned the new pension board of trustees of the National Maritime Authority (NMA) not to use pension funds for any other purposes than payment of pension liabilities.

According to him: "I wish to sound a note of warning that it is a criminal offence for which all members will be collectively held responsible if pension funds are misapplied for purposes other than the payment of pension."

Dr. Zhawa who said the government is worried about the non-payment of retirees from parastatals and government-owned companies, urged the new board of trustees to always exercise utmost care and probity, transparency and diligence in discharging their duties.

He asked them to acquaint themselves to the provisions of circular, "PEN. 63983/S.7/T/3 of September, 1998 with a view to maintaining a constant communication link between the board and the retirees.

In his speech, the Director General of the NMF, Arch. Ferdinand Agu disclosed that an attempt to establish the pension scheme was made in 1995 without much effort to seek for approval and inaugurate a board of trustees.

According to him, "when I assumed office last year, I considered the pension scheme as one of my priorities for the staff."

The scheme, which he described as a non-contributory one to the authority is paying 100 percent of the annual premium without any form of deductions from the staff wages, would benefit the workers in the area of gratuity, pension and death in service.

Agu however commended the head of the establishment management services department for facilitating the arrangement and making it possible for NMA to join the league of other federal agencies/parastatals that had the pension scheme inaugurated.

The eight members of the board included Y. A. Suleiman, Chairman, C. Ezeala, O. O. Ojiji and F. A. O. Agbabiaka others are P. N. Nanshap, Hajia L. Tumaka.

## Idiroko Customs rake in N111m

The Customs Area Comptroller of Idiroko command, Alhaji Hassan Kila has disclosed that his command in the last six months had has in well over N111.8 million as revenue.

Speaking with newsmen at Idiroko, Alhaji Kila said his command has already overshot its revenue target of N100 million for the year 2001 by N11.8 million.

Alhaji Kila disclosed further that a total of 286 seizures were made of 276 assorted brands of vehicles and 10 general goods were made at combating smuggling. The general goods include carpets, textile materials, cigarettes, fruit juicy, wine, frozen turkey and apples.

According to Kila, "the impounded contraband worth N88 million. Explaining the expected reduction of the revenue generated by the area, he said it was due to the ban on the importation of vehicles through the land ports,

From Olumide Bajulaiye, in Abeokuta

stressing tht it was adequately taken up by revenue from the importation of cement from the Nigeria-Benin Cement Factory in Republic of Benin, through Idiroko.



Ahmed Mustapha, Customs C-G

"During the period under review, 12 suspected smugglers were arrested and charged to court. Six out of them have been convicted by the court while the cases against the remaining six are pending.

He further disclosed that

nine of his officers have been hospitalised due to injuries sustained in blood confrontations with smugglers in the last six months, "while three patrol vehicles were badly damaged by the economic saboteurs."

The Comptroller was however grateful that none of his officers was killed in the confrontations this year, unlike last year when five officers were brutally murdered by smugglers.

## Nigeria's oil production fluctuates

Nigeria's total crude oil production and export from the country continues to fluctuate with the recent figure standing at over 15 million and over 12 million net barrels respectively.

A comparative analysis of crude oil production figures for three consecutive periods revealed that during the first week in July (July 1-7), it stood at 12,427,203, it increased by 30.9 percent to 16,267,716 barrels during the second week (July 09-22), while the third week (July 16-22) recorded a total crude oil production of 15,214,005, a drop of about 6.48 percent.



Rilwanu Lukmn, Adviser on Energy

From Rakiya A. Muhammad, in Lagos

For the export, 13,138,546 barrels were recorded in the first week in July. It declined by 22.09 percent to give a figure of 10,235,802 barrels during the second week and rose by 24.6 percent to 12,753,983 barrels during the third week.

A breakdown of the recent figure in a statement made available to *Business Day* by the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) showed that for the period under review, July 16-22, 2001, crude oil production from the Eastern zone was 8,799,343, and the Western zone 6,414,622, giving a total of 15,214,005.

While the export figure indicated that 7,334,519 barrels and 5,419,464 barrels were from Eastern and Western zones respectively.

The Pipeines and Products Marketing Company (PPMC) lifted 182,291 net barrels from the Escravos. LPG production from the western division as 4,658.424 metric tones, while condensate production and export from the east were 624,225 and 949,978 net barrels respectively.

## CMB, Gaslink sign gas agreement

Carnaud Metal Box (CMB) Nigeria Plc, has signed gas sales purchase agreement (SPA) with Gaslink Niger Limited.

This makes CMB the 18th company in the Ikeja Industrial Area of Lagos State to sign the GSPA with Gaslink Nigeria Limited.

Under the agreement, Gaslink is to deliver an annual contract quantity (ACQ) of 34 million standard cubic feet (mmscf) of natural gas to Carnaud at its Ogba plant by hooking them up to its existing gas

pipeline system for an initial period of twenty years.

According to a statement made available to *Business Day*, the natural gas would be utilized as fuel for power generation and to fire their ovens.

The Managing Director and Chief Executive of Galslink, Engr. Charles A. Osezua signed the agreement on behalf of Galslink while the General Manager and acting Managing Director of CMB, Plc, Mr. Tommy Telford signed for his company.

## GSM centre strategises ahead of Thursday's kick-off

The Private Networks Nigeria Limited (PNN), one of the operators of the various GSM centers in the country, has held an interactive session with its franchisees in Lagos last week.

Speaking during the session, Mr. Sanyo Olagoke of PNN stated that the idea behind the meeting was to map out their organisational modalities and to rub minds with the franchisees in order to kickoff operations by August 9, 2001.

Said: "We have invited you here today in order to clear the green areas and discuss the nitty-gritty of the GSM mobile phone business."

"Infact, we are the only service provider which has embarked on this kind of

From Bright Ewulu, in Lagos

rapport between franchisees and their company. This is to show that apart from establishing a partnership with you, we shall go all the way.

PNN's marketing helmsman, Mr. Abdulrahman Abiola-Odunowo urged the participants to ensure that they participate fully in the on-going GSM phone revolution, saying that it would provide the greatest investment opportunity in Nigeria in the next three years. Abiola-Odunowo urged them to tap into this opportunity explaining that PNN stands to provide them a portrait into the GSM phone business as well as the tele-centre business.



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# FIRST BANK OF NIGERIA PLC

Shareholders and dignitaries gathered on Wednesday, July 25, 2001 to honour First Bank of Nigeria Plc at its Pre-AGM Cocktail which held at the Nicon Hilton, Abuja. The memorable occasion was captured in photographs, some of which are shown below.



Alhaji (Dr.) U.A. Mutallab, CON (Chairman FBN) and Mr. Bernard Longe (MD/Chief Executive FBN), pondering over an issue



Mr. Longe exchanging pleasantries with Chief Sunday Afolabi, Hon. Minister, Internal Affairs, while Gen. Abba Kyari (Rtd) and the Chairman, FBN look on



Alhaji Sarki Mahmoud, Mr. Oye Hassan-Odukale, Alhaji Ado Wanka and Mr. Uzor Nwankwo, all Directors of First Bank



L-R- Alhaji U.A. Mutallab, Alhaji Shehu Malami, Mr. Longe, Alhaji Mahmoud Atta and Mr. Oba Otudeko



Mr. Oba Otudeko, Alhaji Mutallab and Alhaji Shehu Malami in a convivial mood.



Mr. Bernard Longe welcoming the CBN Governor, Chief J. O. Sanusi



Dr. Mrs. Okereke-Onyuike, Mr. & Mrs. Longe, Mrs. Daisy Danjuma and another guest



Mallam Umar Yahaya, Mr. John Aboh and Mr. Moyo Ajekigbe, FBN Executive Directors



Dr. Umar Farouk and Mr. B. O. Longe



Mrs. Stella Okoli, MDN and Mr. Moyo Ajekigbe



Alhaji Mbude and Chief Akintunde Asalu



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# FIRST BANK OF NIGERIA PLC

Nigeria's pioneer banking institution, First Bank of Nigeria Plc, held its 32nd Annual General Meeting recently. Venue was the Congress Hall of the Nicon Hilton, Abuja. Below are some highlights of the event.



• Alhaji (Dr.) U.A. Mutallab, CON (Chairman FBN), introducing the MD/Chief Executive FBN, Mr. Bernard Longe



• Mr. Bernard Longe welcoming the Auditors



• Alhaji Mutallab welcoming High Chief Latinwo to the meeting



• A representative of the Auditors, Akintola Williams, Deloitte & Touche and KPMG Audit, reading the auditors report



• A cross-section of shareholders voting at the meeting



• Khalifa (Sheikh) Isyaku Rabi'u (left) and other shareholders exchange pleasantries



• Chief Nwosu speaking at the occasion



• A cross-section of shareholders

# FEATURES

## Plateau State at 25: Going down memory lane

By Ahmed Shekarau

The government and people of Plateau recently organised various functions to mark 25 years of its creation as a state. The celebrations were, however, done with mixed feelings. While some of the people felt there was every cause to jubilate, having come a long way since 1976 when it was created as Benue-Plateau State, majority marked the Silver Jubilee with feelings of nostalgia.

The nostalgia of majority of the state's indigenes stemmed from the fact that the pioneering efforts of the Late Joseph Dechi Gomwalk's administration at developing the richly endowed state were mostly squandered by its successive administrators. From 1976 to date, Plateau State has had eleven different administrators (military and civilian) most of whom were non-natives.

Undoubtedly, Plateau has been one of the robust states in the North in particular and the nation at large. It is benevolently endowed with huge mineral and human resources, which have great potentials for growth.

From Bassa to Barkin Ladi; Mangu to Kanam; Wase down to Shendam; stretching up to Quan Pan Local Government Area, Plateau State is blessed with resources like Tin, Columbite, bauxite and a vast expanse of arable land suitable for the cultivation of numerous crops, as well as an army of skilled and unskilled labour.

Regrettably, however, most of these potentials, which would have been properly utilised to catapult Plateau into the corpus of the fastest growing states in the country were mostly wasted.

Gomwalk had, between 1967 and 1975 when he governed the state, set a catalytic standard for the development of the area. Some of the numerous achievements of the Late Gomwalk, then Commissioner of Police, were recently summed up by some eminent sons of the state in a recently work which they wrote, titled: *Plateau State: Understanding the problems*.

These include the construction of the Liberty Dam, currently supplying water to Jos and Bukuru metropolis within the state capital; the conception and establishment of the *Nigeria Standard* newspaper and building (Gomwalk House); the Plateau Investment Corporation (PIC) Building; the Jos-Pankshin - Shendam - Yelwa -Ibi road project (over 300 Kilometres); the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) Jos; the Plateau State Government Secretariat and the Tudun-Wada Government Lodge.

Other remarkable achievements of the Late Gomwalk include establishment of the Plateau State Transport Corporation; the Jos Wildlife Park; extension of the Plateau

Hotel, Jos; Pankshin and Shendam Hotels; construction of low cost houses in Jos, Pankshin, Shendam and Langtang; the Jos main market and the Jos Abattoir.

The Late Gomwalk's administration also electrified many rural areas of the State through the state's National Electricity Supply Company (NESCO) and it established the State Agricultural Project at Longkat in Pankshin Local Government Area to assist the state's farmers, and in collaboration with the Federal Government, it established the University of Jos.

Along with these developments, the Late Police Commissioner's administration also cultivated a core of local entrepreneurs in the state, particularly in the building industry, and it encouraged the setting-up of small-scale industries like stone-cutting and crushing, and block-making industries through its small-scale industrial loan scheme.

The immediate consequences of these policies of the then Gomwalk administration in Plateau State were the provision of employment to many of the state's indigenes and huge funds at their disposal through the involvement of most of the small-scale industries in implementing almost all the infrastructural projects listed above.

The vision of Gomwalk of making Plateau one of the developed states in the country was to be truncated. J.D. Gomwalk was executed in 1975 alongside other sons of the state for alleged involvement in the foiled coup that claimed the life of General Murtala Mohammed.

Unfortunately, the dreams of the people of the state, who were full of hopes and expectations, were not enlivened by the subsequent administrators of Plateau.

Group Captain Dan Suleiman who succeeded Gomwalk led the state from 1975 to 1979. Though not a native of the state, he tried to complete some of the unfinished projects initiated by Gomwalk. For instance, his administration completed the Jos International Breweries Plc, which is one of the state's major revenue earners today.

The turn of events after the inception of the civilian administration in the state under the leadership of Chief Solomon Daushep Lar, were, however, dramatic.

While Lar's administration was credited for a number of projects like the Pankshin, Shendam and Langtang dams, and the Mangu, Wase, Bokkos, Dyerok and Kwalla cottage hospitals as well as



Mr. J.D. Gomwalk, Governor Benue-Plateau State, 1967-1975

some secondary schools, the administration borrowed a loan, which was to bedevil the whole state.

The Midland Bank loan, which the Lar administration took, was partly used for executing some of these projects stated above and other sundry ones. A significant portion of the funds borrowed by the administration were not properly utilised for the benefit of the state's populace.

For instance, part of the funds were used to sponsor political activities in states like Niger, Kano, Borno and Sokoto in pursuit of a programme of emancipation. This, in addition to carting away most of the resources, apparently diverted the administration's attention from the needs of the State's populace. Shortly after the Midland Bank loan was drawn, the Federal Government's revenue allocation to the state drastically reduced, thereby denying the state of substantial funds required for development in the succeeding years.

Indeed as rightly stressed by Mr. Timothy Kumtong, Alhaji Dalhatu Aliyu and Barrister Miskom Peupet in their book - *Plateau State: Understanding the Problems* - "The strangulating effect of this loan now put at about N55 billion will continue to

be felt in the state if nothing is done to rid the state of its burden."

Further developments in the state after Lar's tenure could only be said to have worsened the people's deplorable conditions. Though some of the succeeding administrations were constrained by certain factors such as short tenures that gave them little time to understand the state, most of them did virtually nothing to deserve a mention.

There were administrators like Navy Captain (then) Samuel Bitrus Atukum; Lt. Col (then) Mohammed Chris Ali; Col. (then) Lawrence Onoja, Col. Aliyu Umar Kama, Col. Mohammed Mana, Col. Habibu Idris Shuaibu and Col. Musa Sheik Shehu.

Again, in fairness to some of them, there were lots of interferences in their governance of the state from top military officers who hailed from the state, who, from 1984 to 1998, held strategic posts (military and political positions) at the federal level of government.

Rather than utilise their strategic positions, partly, for the benefit of their home state, as many other sons and daughters of other states have done, these military officials would rather exploit such postings for the benefit of their various communities and its environs. They were too parochial.

Thus, they ensured that projects meant for any part of Plateau were executed in their respective villages. Of course, this informed the siting of an airstrip for their exclusive use at one of their communities, and not surprisingly, there is a Digital Telephone Exchange at one such community even before Jos, the state capital got linked to it.

Indeed, it was even shocking to many that after influencing the construction of a road which stretched from Kabwir to Langtang and which goes as far as Shendam and Ibi in Taraba State, the

part of the road from Langtang to Shendam and Ibi was not done and therefore, the full benefit of the project did not get to other areas served by the road. The evidences are still there for any person who cares to cross-check.

More so, these former military officers have used their influence at the federal level to institutionalise some kind of disparities in the provision of political structures in Plateau State.

For instance, while ensuring that their own tribal group has two local governments in the state, they made sure that the distribution of electoral wards and federal and state constituencies were skewed in their favour, in disproportion to all proper and constitutional considerations for their establishment.

A simple example could be seen from the distribution of seats in federal and state legislatures. While Jos North/Bassa LGAs with a population of 652,003, Shendam/Quan Pan/Mikang LGAs with a population of 438,036 and Pankshin/Kanke/Kanam LGAs with a population of 358,339 as they are grouped respectively have one representative each in the House of Representatives, the so-called powerful group ensured that two local governments also have one member representing them at the lower legislative House of the National Assembly.

With respect to the State House of Assembly, the disparity is even more glaring. For example, Jos North, which has a population of 503,769 people, has two seats; Jos South with a population of 241,826 has one seat; Shendam with its population of 217,653 people has one seat; but significantly one local government area has two seats.

The logic of choice that informed these delineation exercises, including those of

the wards at local level is extremely bewildering. Indeed, these disparities constitute an abuse of the rights of the people frowned upon by section 42(1) (a) of the 1999 Constitution. The disparity in the federal and state constituencies particularly, also offend sections 72,91 and 113 of the same constitution, which require that constituencies be divided in a way to reflect, as near as possible, nearly equal population.

The polarisation and division of the entire populace in Plateau State along ethnic, political and religious lines through institutionalised form of disparities have tampered with the initial pace of development of the state begun by the Late J.D. Gomwalk administration.

It is note worthy, however, that while most of the past military administrators of the state who were used by some members of various influential groups to achieve their parochial interests were non-indigenes, some of the indigenes who administered the state did not help matters.

For instance, while not much achievement can be said to have been recorded by the second civilian administration of Plateau State under Mr. Fidelis Tapgun (January 1992 to November 1993), the administration will always be remembered for the reckless manner in which it sold out some hard-earned investments of the state like the Breweries Agro and Research Company (BARC) Farms Limited, in Zallaki, Jos.

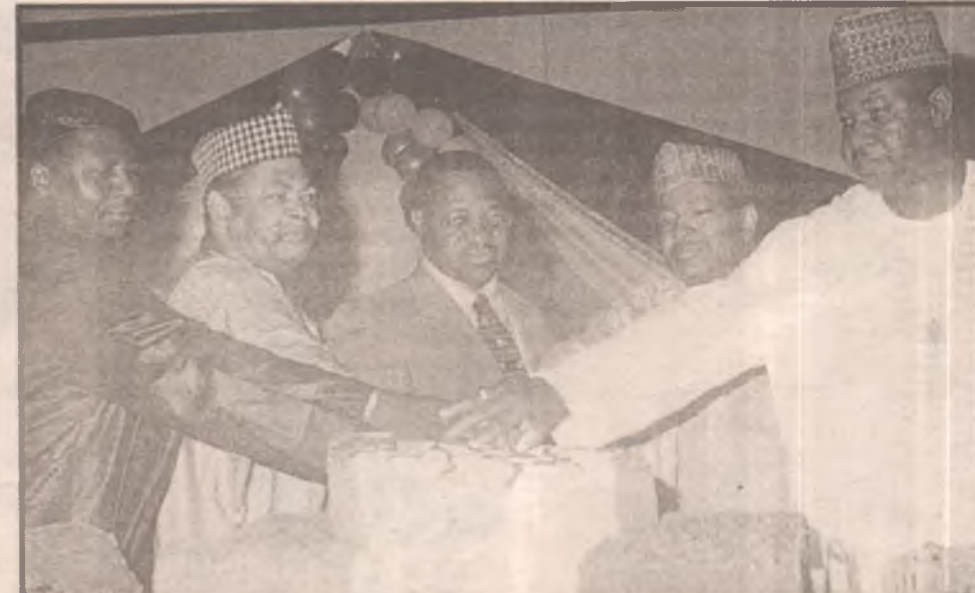
Incidentally, the present civilian administration under Chief Joshua Chibi Dariye has not within the past two years, performed very well. The present administration may, however, be excused for a number of reasons. These include the systematic plundering of the resources of the state over the past 15 years which may not make it possible for Chief Dariye, who is not a miracle worker, to bring the state back to its glorious past.

As at May 1999 when Dariye took over the leadership of Plateau, the state had already been brought to its knees. Though not ranked among the poorest states in the country, it was evident that it had an increasingly impoverished populace, even amidst its endowments.

It is, however, not an excuse for the present leadership of the state to adopt a sluggish pace of developing the state.

As for the entire people of Plateau State, it is up to all of us to wake-up to the contemporary challenges posed by our circumstances of underdevelopment to usher our state out of its present predicament, so that a better future would unfold.

Shekarau is on the staff of Daily Trust



From left: Col Joshua Madaki (rtd.) Air Commodore Dan Suleiman, Chief Joshua Dariye, Brigadier-General Mohammed Mana (rtd) and Col. Musa Sheikh Shehu (rtd)

NEWS

# Deputy Governor charges LG personnel

Local government personnel in Benue State have been charged to be honest and public-spirited in the discharge of their duties.

The Benue State Deputy Governor, Prince Ogiri Ajene, gave the charge during the opening ceremony the workshop on effective local government resources control.

He disclosed that most local government chairmen in the country fail because of the negative advice given to them by the career officers, "who instead of facilitating good governance at the local government level, are busy militating against it."

The deputy governor, who was represented by the Special Adviser to the governor on local government and chieftaincy affairs, Prince Simon Aoudana, warned that the concept of separation of powers in the presidential system as practised at the local government level should not be used to divide

From Mike Eiaigwu, in Makurdi

the local government, but to strengthen the various arms through the principle of checks and balances.

He charged the local government personnel to obtain the requisite knowledge of the functions of their various offices and the scope of limitations of such offices.

Prince Aoudana further urged the participants to reciprocate government's gesture of aiding the growth and development of the local government administration in the state by being productive and committed to government programmes.

In her remarks; the Permanent Secretary in the Deputy Governor's office, Mrs. F.T. Hwande, said "problems such as role conflict, suspicion, control of resources and the confusion arising from overlapping jurisdiction are rather of general nature affecting all the local government areas in the state."

The workshop, which was organised for local government secretaries, directors, general services and administration, HODs and local government inspectors, was aimed at exposing participants to the challenges of the new dispensation.



Mr. Joseph Makoju, NEPA MD

## Senate to float medium to check one-sided publicity

The Senate is planning to float its own medium to ensure a balance in reports emanating from the National Assembly, it was reported in Abuja.

Sen. Nnamdi Eriobuna, chairman of the Senate committee on power, told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) last week that a broadcasting house was already being considered to always "present the other side as journalists only look for negative issues."

He alleged that positive actions taken by the Senate to better the lives of Nigerians were never made known to the public, stressing that journalists were more interested in publishing stories that would "ridicule politicians and bring them to disrepute."

Eriobuna said in floating its own medium, the National Assembly would only be emulating older democracies the world over, claiming that the U.S. Senate had its own medium through which it reached out to the public.

He said the media, in reporting the furniture allowance saga in 1999, "deliberately refused" to tell Nigerians that government officials had originally planned to furnish the houses for N12 million, noting that the lawmakers saved funds by accepting the much smaller amounts of N3.5 million each.

Another positive decision which, he said, went unreported was the approval of N500 million by the National Assembly for the execution of projects in each senatorial district this year.

"We observed that many in the rural areas had never tasted the dividends of democracy and we voted that money for the execution of roads, water and electricity projects in each of the senatorial districts to mark out the difference between military and democratic governance. But the press never found that commendable," he said.

The Senator also chided the press for turning the blind eye to the vast improvement in the fuel supply situation since the inception of democracy,

adding that positive moves by state governors to make life easier for every Nigerian had gone unreported.

Eriobuna decried the situation where journalists who did a good job in fighting the military and enthroning democracy, still had "the hang-over of that confrontation long after the exit of the military."

He observed that it was only when the right picture was presented to Nigerians that they could make meaningful inputs into governance and seek correction from those in authority.

## Nigeria's electricity generation to reach 10,000 megawatts - minister

Nigeria's electricity generation will reach 10,000 megawatts by the year 2007.

The Minister of State for Power and Steel, Alhaji Murtala Aliyu, disclosed this at a dinner party organised in his honour by the governing council of the Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University of which he was a member before his ministerial appointment.

Aliyu disclosed that the Federal Government is not leaving any stone unturned in its bid to revive the country's ailing steel rolling mills situated in Jos, Osogbo and Aladja.

He confirmed that the Katsina Rolling Mill has already been revived and is now fully operational.

The minister said when the present administration came into power in 1999, out of the 79 generating units inherited only 19 were functional.

According to him, "there are presently 26 generating units that are operational,

From Abdullahi Hazzad, in Sokoto

supplying over 1000 megawatts of electricity.

Alhaji Aliyu reiterated the ministry's promise of stabilising power supply to the nation by the end of this year, saying "what the nation requires is 3,500 megawatts and when work on the remaining 53 generating units now under repairs is completed, about 4,000 megawatts of electricity will be generated."

## Traditional ruler advises Alaafin

From Yinka Oladeyinba, in Ibadan

As the implementation of the report of Oloko Chieftaincy Commission of Inquiry continue to generate controversy in Oyo State, one of the vice-chairmen of the state traditional council, Oba Samuel Adegboyega Osunbade, the Olugbon of Orile-Igbon, has advised the Alaafin of Oyo and the Sou of Ogbomosho to accept the recommendation of the report in good faith.

Oba Osunbade, who was reacting to media reports that some of them were against the government's decision to implement the report, said the two affected first class chiefs should take the findings of the commission as presented in its report or lose the respect that people and other Obas have for them.

The Oyo State government last week decided to implement the report of the Oloko Panel of Inquiry of 1996 which withdrew the consenting authority from the Alaafin of Oyo, Oba Lamidi Adeyemi III and the Sou of Ogbomosho, Oba Jimoh Oyewumi.

The Olugbon, while briefing the press in Ibadan recently, noted that the government has been fair to Alaafin as it was his (Olugbon's) submission during the inquiry that Alaafin be made the permanent chairman of the Oyo State Council of Chiefs.

By this, Olugbon considers himself and indeed any Oba in Oyo State to be under Alaafin.

"It is, therefore, unnecessary for Alaafin to seek to retain any sectional power beyond the local governments he presently controls," he said.

Oba Osunbade, however, said the suspension order placed on the report by the regime of Col. Ahmed Usman was borne out of the fact that "Usman was fed with half truths about the inquiry."

## Workshop participants recommend telecoms experts for security agencies

Participants at a workshop on 'Advanced Telecommunications Equipment Maintenance and Management,' have called for the recruitment of telecommunications experts for the nation's security agencies.

They said the measure was necessary in the fight against the increasing cases of violent crimes in the country.

The participants made this suggestion in their course abstracts read during the closing ceremony of the course held at Nigeria Institute of Transport Technology (NITT), Zaria, last Friday.

They identified lack of training, poor funding and non-involvement of personnel in procurement and installation of equipment, as factors militating against effective maintenance and management of telecommunications equipment at the Nigeria Police Force, military establishments and the

Nigeria Ports Authority (NPA).

They called for preventive and corrective maintenance culture in the nation's security agencies in order to enable them to derive the benefits of the modern telecommunication equipment.

Speaking earlier, the Director-General of NITT, Dr. Mahe Dange, observed that equipment maintenance in transport operations determined the standard, level and effectiveness of the various means of transportation, adding that "maintenance in any field of human endeavour is a critical factor for success."

Dange noted that since safety was a pre-requisite for growth in the global transport system, maintenance and management of all transport equipment, including telecommunications equipment would continue to be relevant.

## FG to re-introduce weighbridges on federal roads

The Federal Government will re-introduce weighbridges on all busy federal roads throughout the country. The Minister of State for Works and Housing, Mr. Garba Madaki Ali, has said.

While speaking in Dikwa, Maiduguri, the capital of Borno State during an inspection tour of Maiduguri-Dikwa-Gamboru road awarded to Messrs Stirling Civil Engineering Nigeria Limited at the cost of N2.1b, Mr. Ali said the re-introduction became necessary to check overloading of trucks in order to retain the quality and durability of our roads.

On maintenance of these roads, the minister said a bill for the establishment of a Road Maintenance Agency (RMA) has been forwarded to the National Assembly for approval.

Mr. Ali used the occasion to warn those putting up illegal structures on federal highways within 50m from the middle of the roads on both sides to stop doing so as their structures would be demolished without any compensation even with the certificate of occupancy because of the rule on right of way.

On the progress of work done so far, the minister declared it "encouraging" based on what the contractor has done within few months.

Mr. Ali inspected the 23.8km Maiduguri-Monguno-Kukawa road awarded to Alhaji M.M. Sherif Gamboru and Sons Limited at the cost of over N654 million.

This contract was awarded in November 1999 to be completed March, 2001. The contractor, however, could not complete the job due to logistics problems.

The minister was happy with the quality of job done by the contractors, and urged them to increase their pace of work. Speaking earlier, the Governor of Borno State, Alhaji Mala Kachalla, praised federal government's efforts at providing democratic dividends to all the states of the federation through the provision of good roads for free movement of goods and services.



Chief Tony Anenih, Works Minister

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### PUBLIC NOTICE

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The general public is hereby notified that the above named Society (NGO) has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990.

The Trustees are:

- 1. Mr. G. O. OLANIYAN
- 2. Mr. J. ALIYU
- 3. Dr. O. O. FASHOLA
- 4. Dr. F. ISHIDA

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Area 11, P. B. M. 198 Garki, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

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Application for registration in respect of Community Development Initiative has been submitted to the Corporate Affairs Commission for consideration. COMEIN is a non Governmental and non profit oriented organisation engaged in the Empowerment of Rural Communities for sustainable Development.

Any objection by the general public should be sent to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Area 11, Garki Abuja.

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# INSIDE POLITICS

## 2003: Nigeria must not vote unwilling leaders - Ali

*The National Chairman of All People's Party (APP), Alhaji Yusuf Ali was in Benin City recently to inaugurate the newly elected executive committee of the All Peoples Party in the state. Daily Trust reporter in Benin City, Shehu Abubakar had an exclusive interview with the National Chairman who spoke on the registration of new political parties, the performance of state governors, the cross carpeting of political appointees and many other serious national issues. Excerpts:-*

**S**ir, after two years of the enthronement of democracy in the nation, Nigerians are still not satisfied with the performance of the present administration so far. Others are of the opinion that the lives of the people are only growing from bad to worse. If you subscribe to this, what do you think is the cause?

First of all, it is unfortunate that we Nigerians were eager for democracy. We got democracy but we are worst off for it. It's unfortunate that we have a party in power that has no programme at all. Everything the government of today is doing in my opinion is an ad-hoc arrangement. They have never studied...I think they were forced by the military to come to power. They are reluctant leaders hence they are without any concrete policy. The APP has given them the benefit of doubt knowing fully well that most of the big men in government are military officers and because we believe in democracy, we allowed them and gave them a period of grace to see if they can be converted to become democrats and that they will come out with a programme for the people. But unfortunately, up till today, they have nothing to offer. We have suggested several times, through the media that the economic situation of this country has worsened and is worsening by the day. They don't listen. We have discussed agriculture, we told them what to do, yet they ignored it until this rainy season before the government decided to subsidise fertiliser when it was too late. The rainy season, has already started. I do not know when they will bring the fertiliser to enable out farmers use them. May be the fertiliser will be for next year. We have talked about this privatisation, they don't listen. So when you say what we suggest, the only thing we can suggest to the electorate is for them to wait and be determined that next dispensation, they will reject these reluctant leaders at the polls. This is the only thing we can say.

**Some political associations are springing up demanding for registration as political parties, because they feel the political parties have failed to deliver the goods. What is your view on the registration of those associations?**

APP has said it several times...democracy is choice given to the electorate the freedom to choose what they want. Political associations

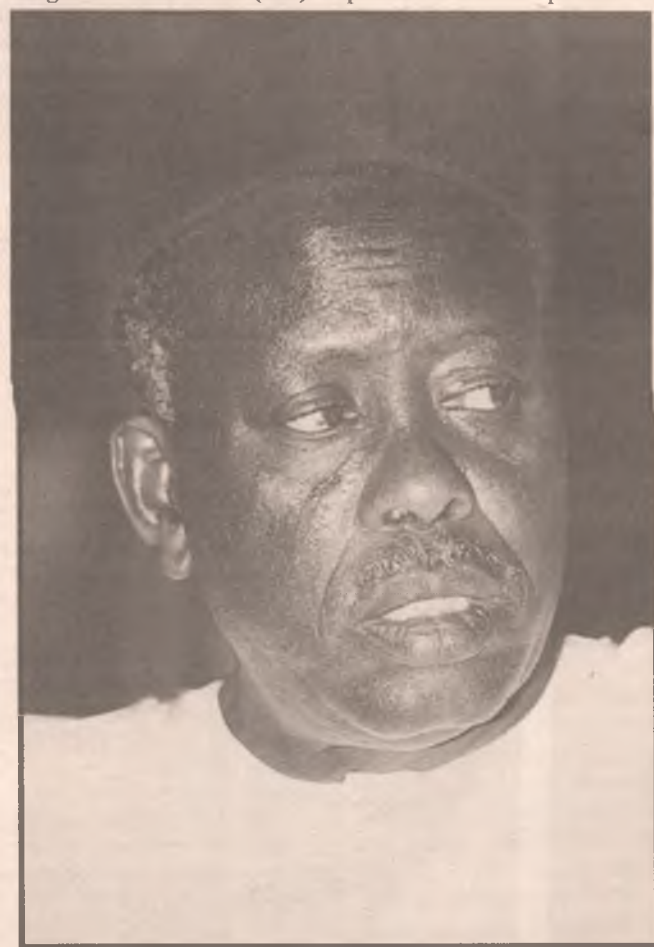
were given the opportunity to seek registration in 1999. There were guidelines and two associations passed the test while the third was awarded recognition, because the military were too sympathetic towards AD and they gave them registration. Today any associations that passes the test like we did should be registered. But there must be guidelines and a test like what was done to other previous associations.

**What is your assessment of APP governors compared to their colleagues in the PDP?**

We are in the process of showing to Nigerians, through AIT what our governors have achieved. Also last week, I said what the minister of information and national orientation is doing should be done all over the country. That is, should not be limited only to the PDP states. I think when that is done, Nigerians will be able to see what our governors have achieved. We have also asked the media if they can on their own go out and see and compare, what our governors have done in relations to other governors in this country. I think everybody will know that APP is a serious party and they are serious in governance. Take for example even in Edo State today, the best local government area is being run by the APP. So that is Edo only, and just one local government area. And if you go to other states, you will see what we have done. We are not afraid. We want people to go and see. We have a state that has never borrowed one dollar or naira. And go and compare them with the states that have borrowed billions and see what they have done. So we are not afraid, we would like people to go and see what we are doing, and compare it with other states. I am sure Nigerians will know that APP is much, much better and a serious political party than the rest.

**Sir, thuggery was one of the reasons for the failure of the Second Republic. This bad omen is repeating itself**

**in states like Edo, following the recent attack on former Vice President, Admiral Augustus Aikhomu (rtd).**



Alh. Yusuf Ali

**Don't you perceive danger if such things are allowed to continue?**

It is the most unfortunate thing that can happen. I think people should have to understand and respect our past leaders. Admiral Aikhomu was a vice president in this country. I think for that alone, people should respect

***"The Nigerian Constitution forbids cross carpeting and this is because of the experiences of the First Republic. That was one of the reasons that made the republic collapse. And that was why it was put in the constitution. But the most unfortunate thing is that the defenders of the constitution are the people encouraging this sort of thing."***

him. It is for that reason that I went to sympathise with him but unfortunately, he was not in town. It is the most unfortunate thing that can happen and is what we have warned against. And if you look at it, the danger that is being forced on people of the lack of seriousness of the federal government, is that states mostly in the south, are having their own army or police, simply because they want to attack opponents and

the Nigeria Police is powerless. You do not necessarily condemn the police because the police are

not equipped. The police are not paid salaries on time and as at when due. The police have no quarters; they have no transportation system; no equipment and the police lack any form of communication equipment. Every blessed day, you hear of robbery attacks in this country and you hear that men of the force

being killed and nothing happens to their family. Even if you condemn the police for certain actions, you have to sympathise with them on the way they are being treated in this country. Now the danger of this sort of thing is that the local government elections that are going to be held under state governments may spell doom for Nigeria. Unless the federal government is determined to maintain law and order in the country

otherwise, it is going to be very, very dangerous.

**How do you envisage the ability of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to successfully organise and conduct free and fair elections.**

I don't think INEC is incapable of conducting election. I believe that they were intimidated and were so confused or one-sided in the case of the last by-election in Kebbi state. I was in Kebbi and I saw what happened and the only think I can say is I hope they have learnt a lesson. But let us not think for one day that INEC is going to be honest and independent. What we told them was that the only time they can be independent is when they are able to get their subvention directly from the parliament or from the accountant-general like the judiciary, so that they are not under the umbrella of the government of the day. As long as the funds will have to come from the president and the president has a party, they will try and use INEC in one way or the other. So we told INEC that unless they are independent, and unless they are bold, they will mar this democratic experiment. APP has warned INEC that unless they are impartial, we are determined to protect the votes of the electorate and that is a duty we owe to Nigerians and we intend to carry our that duty.

**INEC said they would like to update the voter's register. Do you support that and how ready is the APP for the exercise?**

We are ready. We will mobilise Nigerians to go and register. We will appeal to every Nigerian, 18 years and above to go and register. We will make that appeal not only to our supporters, but to all Nigerians because you never can tell who is going to be your supporter. So we will urge all Nigerians through the media and through local campaigns to register. If a man today doesn't support any political party or even if he has sympathy towards PDP before the elections, you may

be able to convince him to come and vote for you before the next elections instead of voting for PDP or AD. So we are going all our to work, assist INEC to make sure that we have people who have registered.

**What is the position of the APP on the cross-carpeting of elected politicians from one party to the other as is happening today in all tiers of government?**

It is not APP's position. It is the Nigerian constitution. The Nigerian Constitution forbids cross carpeting and this is because of the experiences of the First Republic. That was one of the reasons that made the republic collapse. And that was why it was put in the constitution. But the most unfortunate thing is that the defenders of the constitution are the people encouraging this sort of thing. It is very unfortunate and I think they forget that they are the defenders of the constitution. They are supposed to be, but they are the people breaking the constitution at will. There are so many things that this government has done which are contrary to the constitution of this country. They have broken it with impunity and they don't seem to know that they have done a disservice to the country. They are only thinking of what will be their gains now. But they forget that that constitution is supreme, yet they break it at will. There are so many things that PDP is doing which are against the constitution of Nigeria and because APP has kept quiet...we kept quiet simply because we want to ensure that democracy survives in this country. I can tell you there are so many things that PDP has done so many. The President himself has contravened the constitution several times.

**So, what next?**

As I said earlier, we are giving him a long rope to see if he can learn what is called democracy and what is called constitution. It is not the army rules and regulations. It is the constitution of the people. But unfortunately, I think he is still thinking about the military more than civilians. But I am glad that the minister of information and national orientation has started orientating the president because they have removed the word 'general' from his titles now. They are now calling him chief. So that is part of the orientation. I hope they will do that for him to learn the constitution of Nigeria and to respect it.



# INSIDE POLITICS

## Group opposes party registration by INEC

By Henry Omuu

As opposition to the registration of new political parties continue to mount, the Electoral Reform Network (ERN), an advocacy group of thirty-two (32) civil organisations has canvassed for the non-registration of any party seeking to contest election by INEC.

Rather, the group in a statement made available to *Daily Trust*, said INEC should be limited principally to the registration of voters and the conduct of elections in Nigeria.

According to the statement signed by Mr. Olawale Fapohunda of Legal Research Consortium; Mr. Edetaen Ojo of Media Rights Agenda and Tom Adanbara of the Law Group, equally kicked against the conditions set by INEC for the registration of political parties.

The body said the conditions were "too stringent and in excess of the peoples' right to freely assemble and associate."

Similarly, the Network opposed the passage of the electoral bill now before the National Assembly, stressing that the bill if passed into law in its original form will stultify the democratic process, while the powers INEC is seeking to be conferred on it in the bill are too excessive.

Furthermore, the group stated that the payment of registration or merger fees as stipulated by INEC in the bill, including the payment of nomination fees by candidates will lead to the monetisation of the political process.

"Provisions of the Bill which declare that decisions of INEC on the qualification of candidates and on the registration of parties cannot be challenged in any court of law, are unconstitutional and undemocratic," the ERN added.

## LG chairman urged to abide by three years tenure

Local government chairmen have been advised to solve their clamour for a four-year tenure and abide by the three-year tenure 1999 constitution under which were elected.

A chairmanship aspirant in Ogun State under the umbrella of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Alhaji Ali Adelani, gave the advice.

In an interview with the *Daily Trust*, the aspirant said, "three years is enough for any on the lives of people of his area."

His words; "What is in the constitution is three years. Until that constitution is amended for the chairmen of four years, which is yet to be approved. The constitution is yet to be amended to pave way for a four-year term."

The former Sole Administrator of the former Remo Local Government, which comprises, Sagamu, Ikenne and

It equally asked the National Assembly, not to empower INEC to approve or disapprove the merger of political parties, saying that the electoral law must make provisions for public officials on election duty to vote on election day.

The group further canvassed for the reservation of 30 percent of all elective positions for women and the formulation of guidelines to enable convicted



Dr. Guobadia

## Odili gives recipe for survival of democracy

Governor Peter Odili of Rivers State has said that the survival of democracy in the country depended on harmony between the constituents and their elected representatives at all levels of government.

Odili made this statement in Port Harcourt when he received the Special Adviser to the Presi-

From Olumide Bajulaiye, in Abeokuta

Remo North, disclosed that he has spent a year and a half in office with laudable achievements, adding that, "on my last day in office, I commissioned thirteen (13) projects in a day." Three years are therefore enough for a serious person. He should be able to show something tangible."

He opined that for any council boss to really perform at the grassroot level, he must make agriculture his priority.

Commenting on the need to have state electoral commissions, Alhaji Adelani said it was a good development, but added that members of such commissions should be "men of integrity and people who are completely aloof from politics."

prisoners, including those awaiting trial to vote in all elections.

In justifying the need for a total overhaul of the electoral process, the ERN said past guidelines, which regulated the electoral process in the country as being imposed.

"The guidelines which regulated elections into various levels of government in the present dispensation, has been widely criticized as being too restrictive, thereby inhibiting popular participation, which is the hallmark of democracy," the group observed.

## We will make party registration simple - Senator Girei

From Ibrahim Dan Halilu, in Kaduna

The National Assembly is disposed to making the registration of new political parties as simple as possible, the Vice Chairman of the Senate Committee on Environment, Alhaji Abubakar Girei has said.

The Senator who gave the hint in an interview with *Daily Trust* in Kaduna over the weekend said although the upper House in principle believes that it is more advantageous to have few parties, they would not deny or prevent people from exercising their constitutional rights to

The Odenigbo Forum, a Pan-Igbo Cultural Association, has vowed to begin a nationwide campaign towards ensuring a second term for President Olusegun Obasanjo.

Chief Martin Okeke, the association's President-General, who led members of the Forum on a visit to the Minister of State for Communications, Alhaji Adegunde Haruna-Elewi, said every effort would be made to ensure the return of President Obasanjo to complete "the good work" he has started.

"As it was in 1999, we have again declared our support for Mr. President and we are speaking loud and clear that he should go for a second term," Chief Okeke said.

## 2003: Igbo Forum roots for Obasanjo

By Hassan Idris

He said President Obasanjo's return in 2003 would ensure "steady infrastructural development, the complete rehabilitation of roads and industries, the stabilisation of power supply throughout the country, and putting the country on the road of steady growth and development."

To achieve its aim, Chief Okeke said the association has raised zonal offices across the country and would soon begin house to house mobilization of

Igbos.

Alhaji Haruna-Elewi, while praising the courage of the association in supporting good leadership, urged all well-meaning Nigerians to sustain the goodwill extended to the Obasanjo government for enduring democracy and rapid development of the nation.

The minister scored the government high on improvement of telephone density, eradication of poverty, road rehabilitation, water supply, rural electrification and improvement in international confidence.

strongly believe it is only through the registration of new political parties that we will be able to have stability, peace and even sanity because all those who are disgruntled within PDP



Senator Girei

will be able to find a safe exit where they could go and carry out their business without being an obstacle to our party's progress," he affirmed.

He described the recent statement attributed to President Obasanjo's Senior Special Adviser on Inter-Party Relations, Senator Mahmud Waziri, to the effect that new parties will not be registered as a personal opinion of the former SDP presidential aspirant.

"I don't believe Mahmud Waziri is speaking the mind of the government. He must be speaking his own personal opinion and he is entitled to his opinion," Senator Girei stressed.

On the issue of self-success-

free association if they wish to form political parties.

He said that Nigerians are expressing fears over proliferation of parties, simply because democracy is in its formative stage in the country, pointing out that even in advanced democracies like the United Kingdom, they have many political parties though only few of them get to be popular.

It is because we are at the formative stage of our democracy that we are experiencing this fear. Otherwise if we have over 100 parties, it will not be a problem," he said.

Senator Girei who noted that the electoral process may be extremely difficult to handle at the initial state however, emphasized that it is in the nation's best interest to allow people to exercise their constitutional rights, adding "with time some of the political parties will sieve through electoral process. In the end only two or three will come to stay. Then we will be able to stabilize and nurture our democracy because they have been able to come through the normal and natural process."

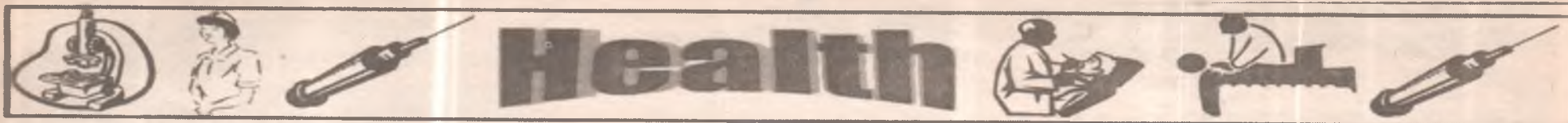
The senator, who said that he was hoping to see new parties registered before the next local government election, explained that the PDP stands to gain more with the registration of new parties than with the three existing parties.

"As a member of the PDP, I



Speaker House of Representatives, Alh. Ghali Na'Abba and his deputy, Prince Chibwom Nwuche sharing a point at a function organised by the House before it went on recess recently.

Pix By Felix Omuu



# FG decries unavailability of insecticide-treated bednets

The Minister of Health, Prof. Alphonsus Nwosu has registered the displeasure of the Federal Government at the low reaction of manufacturers and importers of net and insecticide to the demands for increased supply of Insecticide Treated Bednets (ITNs).

Addressing a workshop on Malaria Control in Abuja last week, the minister said President Obasanjo is committed to ensuring that the scourge of malaria is reduced in our communities and has vowed to provide free insecticide treated nets (ITNs) to under-five children and pregnant women.

"He has further directed that by July 2002, these target groups should be sleeping under the insecticide treated nets. Considering that the total population of children under five years old are (24 million) and pregnant women (3 million) will need 15-16 million ITNs over the next one year, that is an estimated one million ITNs will be needed every month. The challenge is for partners and stakeholders to comply with the above directive," Prof. Nwosu said.

According to him, manufacturers and importers of nets and insecticides despite the agreement reached with the ministry last October, have not been able to make available the

Stories by Ikenna Emeka Okpani

required number of ITNs. Prof. Nwosu said current data from recently completed Roll-Back-Malaria Monitoring & Evaluation exercise showed a very low level of usage of ITNs. "About 11.4% of under five slept under bednets the night preceding the survey while 0.9%



Prof. A.B.C. Nwosu

slept under insecticide treated bednets. 29.5% of above five years population slept under bednet the night preceding survey while only 0.7% used insecticide treated nets. 20.4% of pregnant women slept under bednet the preceding night of interview," he said.

To improve the situation, the

health minister said, in line with government Poverty Alleviation Programme, it has encouraged manufacturers to produce and make nets and insecticides available to communities through incentives.

Such incentives include reduced tariffs and waived taxes aimed at reducing the price of the nets. However, he said, with the assistance of partners, the federal government will soon

commence the promotion of generic ITNs to further prime the market and stimulate demands.

Prof. Nwosu expressed optimism that Nigeria shall celebrate the reduction of the scourge of malaria in Nigeria by the year 2010 in line with Abuja Declaration and keeping the mid-term goals in mind for now.

"We have an enormous task ahead of us and all efforts must be harnessed to enlighten the populace on the cause, treatment and prevention of malaria it is our joint responsibility to see that our children no longer suffer or die from malaria," Prof. Nwosu said.

## Experts identify set-back to roll-back-malaria

The National Training for Trainers Workshop on Roll-Back-Malaria (RBM) organised by the federal ministry of health in collaboration with the World Health Organisation (WHO) aimed at improving case management of malaria in Nigeria has ended in Abuja with participants noting that lack of awareness of the national policy on malaria case management due to poor access to the policy was responsible for inadequate information in the system.

The experts observed that non-uniformity and often

inappropriate case management with reference to the national policy and preponderate of advertisement in the media that are in potential conflict with prompt treatment of malaria as advocated by the RBM was unacceptable.

Furthermore, low level of knowledge among care givers of the appropriate initial action in the home management of malaria and poor access and low level of utilization of insecticides treated nets were also observed.

Other problems the experts identified include unsatisfactory documentation and follow-up of malaria cases by health workers and low funding of researches related to malaria.

The participants advocated increased dissemination of information on the malaria control policy and other issues to all healthcare providers and stakeholders including the establishment of a Website, review of training curriculum of all cadres of health workers to reflect the current protocols in Roll-Back-Malaria RBM control strategies and periodic scientific conferences and workshops to update the working knowledge of health workers on appropriate case management of malaria.

Monitoring and control of commercial adverts that affect prompt management of malaria and empowerment of care givers on prompt, effective and safe home management of malaria were also advocated.

The experts sought improved distribution of ITNs to increase availability and access in all communities; continuous effective monitoring and evaluation of the RBM implementation and specific budgetary allocation and timely release of funds for malaria research.

The goal of the workshop according to a communiqué at the end of the four days training is to orientate and equip health professionals with current protocols for RBM/IMCI malaria case management and control strategies and to enable them extend the trainings at zonal, state and LGA levels.

Twenty-four participants among whom were consultant physicians and senior physicians from tertiary and secondary health institutions from all the geo-political zones and facilitators who were also the national consultants from the geo-political zones.

## South Africa: 23 percent of pregnant women test positive to AIDS

Reports from South Africa say 23 percent of pregnant women in that country have tested positive for the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

South Africa and its neighbouring countries according to statistics account for more than sixteen (16) most affected African countries. The list in order of number of infected people include Botswana, Swaziland, Zimbabwe and Lesotho.

Others are Zambia, South Africa, Namibia, Malawi, Kenya, Central Arab

Republic and Mozambique.

Others include Jibouti, Burundi, Rwanda, Cote d'Ivoire and Ethiopia.

New facts from UNAID indicate that over 30 million people are infested with HIV all over the world, 7,000 people contact the disease everyday while 2.6 million people contact it every year. Out Of these number, Africa accounts for 1.7 million infections every year.

However, it is hoped that with the legal battle won by South Africa over patent to produce low cost antiretroviral drugs, following the withdrawal of

pharmaceutical companies involved, the country will now move to manage the pandemic.

But experts say the best control for HIV/AIDS will be education of the masses about the disease. In a recent survey, United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) found that 51 percent of girls aged between 15 to 19 in South Africa did not know that someone who looks healthy can be infected with HIV and transmit it to them.

## UNICEF evolves new strategy for reducing infant mortality

The UNICEF representative in Nigeria, Dr. Christian Voumard has rolled out a new strategy by his fund known as Women and Children - Friendly Health Services (WCFHS) which he said was a new collaborative partnership to reduce maternal, neonatal, infant, and child morbidity/mortality in Nigeria.

"To make for this close integration of approaches, UNICEF has already begun the collaboration with the federal ministry of health and other partners. "Only two weeks ago, we supported an advocacy event, initiated by the First Lady of Nigeria, Chief (Mrs.) Stella Obasanjo at which the

working document on WCFHS was accepted as an appropriate conceptual framework, towards achieving reduction of maternal, neonatal and child mortality in Nigeria," the representative who was speaking in Abuja recently said.

He called on all stakeholders to participate in and eventually own the initiative because as he said, donor-driven initiatives have only fixed term values, adding that it was necessary to ensure that "WCFHS takes root, grows steadily and produces multiplier effects in Nigeria.

According to him, to ensure maintenance of standards for long-term sustainability and credibility, UNICEF will

encourage and support periodic re-assessment of the services in the Women and Children-Friendly health services.

"To this end we need to have in place, quickly, genuine tools for monitoring the impact and progress of WCFHS, and for providing feedback from the grassroots for further fine-tuning of implementation strategies," Dr. Voumard said.

On what he called justified concern about HIV/AIDS, the representative advocated urgent need to evolve sustainable strategies for preventing mother-to-child transmission of the virus.

Dr. Voumard said the world health assembly has urged



Kofi Annan, UN Sec. Gen.

member states to access the scientific evidence on the balanced risk of HIV transmission through breastfeeding compared with the risk of not breastfeeding, adding that increased accessibility to voluntary and confidential counselling and testing was needed to facilitate provision of information and informed decision making.

"Feeding the baby exclusively with colostrums at birth, followed by constant and unrestricted breastfeeding that excludes all other foods and drinks, ensure optimal development of the organs and tissues, blood, brain and bones of the child," he said.

## INTERVIEW

### We need a model hospital - Ganye LG boss

Last week the year 2001 World Breastfeeding Week started with a press conference and presentation of awards and certificates to baby-friendly hospitals and local governments. Ganye local government in Adamawa State was one of the local governments that got a prize for promoting breastfeeding. Our health reporter IKENNA EMEKA OKPANI spoke with the local government chairman, Alhaji Musa Salami who was there to receive the prize. Excerpts.

What is the level of health facilities in your local government?

Infact, health is my Priority. In my local government and as much as possible, I in my budget, both the previous and the present budget estimates allocate almost the lion-share of the budget to health programmes. So, in fact, the health facilities in my local government when I came into office were almost down at the lowest ebb, then I

felt I should reactivate them. So, in that light I tried as much as possible in conjunction with the state ministry of health and other donor agencies to see that some of the health facilities are provided in our health posts and clinics.

We would like to know what your local government is doing in the area of VVF and CSM which we understand has often been rampant over there due to the intensity of heat sometimes in the year?

Yes, most especially with regard to the meningitis affair. When the season comes, that is, during the hot season, we enlighten the people on the ways to have enough ventilation. While sleeping there should be no overcrowding. There should be cross-ventilation and that

most of the times our structures, where we live are in mud houses, so we encourage them to have windows as cross ventilations so as to avoid the spread of meningitis. With regard to the VVF, normally in this part of the country, young girls get married early enough so in the process they have such types of disease. So in that line, we have been trying as much as possible to appeal to our parents to allow their children to "mature" before getting married because some people claim that it is a religious obligation while it is not true. They are misunderstanding the religious point of view.

It is when a child is ready and is mature to marry that you get them into marriage so we try to encourage and enlighten the

people on a later part of marriage rather than early part of marriage.

You are a recipient of this award, what are the problems facing your local government in the area of healthcare?

Being a recipient is not a surprise to me because in this part of our country we are used to breastfeeding. So I am not surprised, I am a recipient however with the coming of western education some people try to borrow some behaviour that are foreign to ours. Like they think if they breastfeed, they are going to grow old in time. That it is an old method, all this and that we try as much as possible to enlighten them on the use and advantage of breastfeeding. So we have little problem with

people in the metropolis and the big towns in the local government but for the villages the enlightenment has gone straight forward and is simple.

How would you describe the level of immunization against polio by the National Programme on Immunization in your local government and what kind of support do you give them to reach the remotest part of the area?

The National Programme on Immunization in my local government has been so effective that if you go to every nook and cranny of the local government, ask a small boy what is NPI or EPI, he would quickly tell you it is immunization against the killer diseases.

My local government has tried as much as possible to

purchase some materials such as motorcycles, bicycles to enable personnel go into the farthest part of the local government to get children immunized against the killer diseases.

Is there anything you would want the federal ministry of health to do to improve the level of healthcare delivery in your local government?

Yes, I would like to call on the federal government to try as much as possible and introduce what I will call a mobile inspectorate division in order to make sure that some of the facilities for safe-delivery and effective delivery are produced so that the ministry of health should in conjunction with any other donor agency, like UNICEF, have a model hospital for the local government so as to have it as a model, a centre of excellence.

NEWS

# Baby-friendly community initiative for launch today

The Federal Ministry of Health will launch its Baby-Friendly Community initiative component at Old Karu village Abuja today. This programme is aimed at boosting breast feeding habits of nursing mothers through sensitisation on the importance of breastfeeding.

Urging stakeholders to start off this initiative in their communities, the Minister of Health, Prof. Alphonsus Nwosu, who was speaking at the beginning of year 2001 World Breastfeeding week said master trainees and other health workers were making enormous contributions in moving the programme at the health facility level.

"I urge you therefore to join hands with us to make our households and communities, baby-friendly. This posture will ensure ownership, sustainability, and effectiveness of intervention strategies," the minister said.

Prof. Nwosu pointed out that it was time to focus on family/household level action for the survival, care and optimal development of our future leaders, adding that our communities must be empowered to strengthen their participation in programmes that will improve their well being.

Stories by Ikenna Emeka Okpani

"I wish to assure all Nigerians of this present administration's commitment to improving the health and nutrition of Nigerian children through the promotion, protection and support of breastfeeding in particular," the health minister said.

To this end the minister announced that infant food manufacturers and importers who fail

to comply with the Nigeria code of marketing of breast milk substitute will incur the full wrath of the law.

At the occasion a set of one hundred and ninety-two (192) hospitals and maternity have distinguished themselves in the area of child survival and development were recognized and designated Baby-Friendly Hospitals.

According to the Minister who was represented at the oc-

casation by the Minister of State, Dr. Amina Ndalolo, "Breast milk provides optimal nourishment, reduces the risks of diseases such as diarrhoea, respiratory tract infection (including pneumonia), ear and urinary tract infection."

For the mother, breastfeeding brings about reduced risk of ovarian and breast cancer, anaemia and lip fracture.

The theme for this year's World Breastfeeding week celebration is, "Breastfeeding in the Information Age" this the Minister said was chosen so that such technologies can be exploited to negatively impact on the life styles and consumption patterns undermining breastfeeding.

## Spate of strikes in health sector worries minister

The spate of strike actions in the health sector is causing the Minister of Health, Prof. Alphonsus Nwosu great concern.

Speaking during the signing of agreement between the Federal Government and the Senior Staff Association of Universities, Teaching Hospitals, Research Institutes and Associated Institutions (SSAUTHRIAI), the Minister decried the constant strikes which have greeted him since he assumed office.

He said he does not want all the health Professional bodies to go on strike one after the other, adding that strike should not be seen as the only way to reach agreement with government on welfare of health professionals.

In the agreement signed by Mr. Ralph Adebode Adeniyi, President General, SSAUTHRIAI, and Sectoral Chairman Teaching/Specialist Hospitals Sector, Mr. Kingsley Agina Nwangwu for the union and Prof. Nwosu

for the Ministry, the union suspended its planned strike action.

This brings to three the number of strike actions, the Minister has witnessed since he assumed office six months



President Obasanjo

ago.

The first was that of the Nigeria Medical Association (NMA) which ended due to the intervention of concerned health leaders and President Obasanjo. Just last week, the National Association of Nigerian Nurses and Midwives (NANNM) called off its three-week strike action after signing an agreement with the association.

However negotiations between the government and these unions are not ended. The Nigeria Medical Association who are already threatening to embark on another strike on the accusation of government's unseriousness with implementation of their agreement were billed to meet with the health ministry last Monday while the Nurses and Midwives will continue their negotiations on Thursday this week.

Prof. Nwosu had emphasized that he wished to solve all the problems in the health sector so that Nigerians would benefit from the health policies of government.

Part of the solution would be what he called "constructive engagement" of all the professional bodies in the health sector which began yesterday with the meeting with NMA.

## Population is our priority - Nwosu

The Minister of Health, Prof. Alphonsus Nwosu, yesterday said population issue is a priority in Nigeria as uncontrolled population growth will prevent Nigerians from enjoying all the necessary infrastructure put in place by government.

Speaking at the National Stakeholders workshop on the review of the national population policy held at Sheraton Hotel and Towers, Abuja, Prof. Nwosu said Nigeria is ranked the most populous country in Africa and is among the ten most populous countries in the world.

"The 1991 census enumerated the Nigerian population at 89 million persons. The estimated population in the year 2001 is about 118 million. Nigeria adds three million people to its population annually," he said.

At that rate, the minister said the population of Nigeria would double in 24 years adding that Nigeria will have 118 million people more by 2024.

"This trend suggests that Nigeria would have to double its entire infrastructure for food production, health services, education, water supply, housing and energy in 24 years just to maintain today's low standards of living," Prof Nwosu said.

According to Nwosu for there to be a meaningful socio-economic development, economic growth rate must be at least three times that of the population growth rate. This, he said was a daunting task for a country where the Gross Domestic Product per capita is low.

Prof. Nwosu said the main objective of the workshop is to consider the feedback from earlier zonal workshops and incorporate them into the draft before presenting it to the National Consultative Group on Population for Development (NCGPD) for endorsement and subsequently to the National Assembly for consideration and approval.

This process, the Minister

said will finally produce a new population policy to be signed by President Obasanjo before the end of the year.

Promising that his ministry will renew its commitment to the implementation of the National Population policy and programmes, Prof. Nwosu pledged more political support and committed more resources to the implementation of the national programme.

Earlier in her welcome address, the Minister of State for Health, Dr. Amina Ndalolo, said the Department of Community Development and Population Activities (DCDPA) was created in the ministry to pursue population issues.

According to her, the department has created more awareness and knowledge about family planning and population control.

She said the workshop represented the eighth process in the pursuit of a suitable population policy.



The Director, Hospital Services, Dr. Suileiman Sani (l) representing the Ministry of Health, puts a word to the Programme Officer, UNFPA, Mr. Tom Odemoringe, in a news conference to mark this year's World Population Day in Abuja. Pix: Felix Onigbinde

## HEALTH BITS

### DO YOU KNOW?

1. That 1 - 2 million preventable deaths due to malaria are reported in sub-Saharan Africa annually.
2. That more than 80% of health workers at all levels are yet to undergo any recent training on malaria management update.
3. That 24 million Nigerians are under five years old.
4. That 3 million women are pregnant in Nigeria.
5. That the number of health personnel per 100,000 population in Nigeria is 18.5 for physicians; 66.1 for nurses; 10.4 for midwives and 0.7 for dentist.
6. That "say yes for children" was launched in London 20<sup>th</sup> April 2001.
7. That 2.6 million Nigerians are HIV/AIDS positive with additional 6 persons contacting the disease every hour.
8. That the population of Nigeria will hit 236 million in the next 24 years at 2.9 percent per annum growth rate.
9. That, worldwide more than 33 million people had HIV/AIDS by April 1999 while another 14 million people had died.
10. That 16,000 new infections occur every day.
11. That 6 to 9 billion condoms are used every year.
12. That the average lifespan of a Nigerian is currently 49 - 51 years compared to about 71 years in Japan and Western Europe.
13. That Nigeria has the highest number of deaths from road accidents in the world.

## WHO to relocate office

The World Health Organisation (WHO) will soon relocate its regional office for Africa to the original base in Brazzaville, capital of the Republic of Congo, *The Herald* newspaper reported yesterday.

The report said that the first batch of not more than 20 members of staff is expected to leave Harare for Brazzaville on October 1.

The WHO regional office for Africa was relocated to Harare after the outbreak of a civil war in the Republic of Congo in 1997.

Since then, the WHO regional office has been temporarily based in Harare with the headquarters at Parirenyatwa Hospital.

In an interview with *The Herald* newspaper on Sunday, WHO Regional Director for Africa,



Prof. A.B.C. Nwosu

Ebrahim Samba dismissed speculation that the relocations was as a result of pressure from some western countries interested in isolating Zimbabwe.

Samba, who was in Brazzaville more than three weeks ago, said the security situation in the Central African country had greatly improved and the recent reports of fighting were a bit exaggerated.



# Crime & Punishment



## Court halts Ozobia's trial

Lagos High Court has ordered that the N338 million theft charge against former Managing Director of Niger Dock Plc. Dr. Victor Nnamdi Ozobia be dropped.

The trial judge, Mr. Justice Kassim Alagba made the order after listening to Chief G.O.K. Ajayi who on Thursday, August 2, 2001 moved an ex-parte motion seeking to enforce the fundamental rights of Ozobia.

Named as defendants in the ex-parte motion are the Chief Magistrate in charge of court one at Igbogere chief magistrate Court, the commissioner of Police.

Lagos State, the Attorney-General of Lagos State and the Attorney-General of the Federation.

Having listened to Chief G.O.K. Ajayi, Justice Alagba granted leave to Ozobia to apply for "Judicial review" by way of prohibiting the Chief Magistrate Court one, at Igbosese from further proceeding with trial of the applicant.

Justice Alagba also ordered that the order shall serve as a stay of all proceeding, in the magistrate court pending hearing and final determination of the motion on notice.

Ozobia was on June 13 dragged before the magistrate court along with six others Nkoli Imwanya, Nnoli Vincent, Rhoda Ajibola, Isaac O. aninunwu, Alex Abayomi Williams and Justina E. Ebuniwe.

They were alleged to have June 1, 1999 at Niger Dock Plc Apapa Lagos conspired to steal the sum of N173,956,629.93 property of Niger Dock Plc.

Specifically, Dr. Victor Nname Ozobia and Isaac Anionwu were accused of stealing \$940,000 property of Niger Dock Plc. They all pleaded not guilty.

At the resumed hearing on Friday, Chief Ajayi



Justice Muhammad Uwais CJN tendered the order and the trial Chief (Mrs.) Ayo Odungbason adjourned the case sine dies (indefinitely).

In a similar development, one Deflis Okocha described as a former cashier of the Niger Dock Plc was immediately arraigned for allegedly stealing N173,956,629.95 from Nigeria Dock.

## Robbers shift operation to Oshodi bus stop

Some gangs of notorious armed robbers have turned the popular Oshodi bus stop into an arena of deadly operation.

They now dispossess innocent people of their personal belongings at will.

Investigations relieved that the robbers often position themselves at strategic areas at bus terminals pretending to be travel-bound merchants waiting to board long-distance buses.

Preparatory to robbing unsuspecting people, they often round up potential targets with the aim of dispossessing them of their belongings.

Heaven help any persons

From Adelanwa Bamgboye, in Lagos

who raises an alarm for matches, broken bottles and other dangerous weapons are often used to make the person see the futility of protesting or raising alarm.

Those who had fallen victims of those evil men, narrated their experiences to Daily Trust.

Those who spoke to Daily Trust and pleaded anonymity include a serving youth corpsier in Lagos State.

He said he was at Oshodi around 6:00 pm., waiting for a bus going to Agege when suddenly unknown persons splashed mud on his dress.

As he made to inspect his soiled clothes, some men pounced on him and dispossessed him of his money, identity card and other valuables.

A Lagos based journalists, Jim Taiwo said he was coming from Isolo and was about boarding a vehicle to Ketu at about 7:00 p.m. when he was accosted by a group of men numbering more than five.

"In fact, my escape from them was a miracle because there was no body to help me. the other people at the scene of the robbery fled for their dear lives," he recounted.

### Robbers snatch N3m from Bureau de change

Barely three weeks after snatching N36 million from Diamond Bank, Marina, Lagos, Island Branch, the hoodlums over the weekend paid a surprise visits to All-Purpose Bureau De change at No. 3, Walter Carrington Street, Victoria Island and snatched N3 million.

Daily Trust gathered that one Alhaji Yusuf, identified as the proprietor of the financial house was shot and seriously wounded. Doctors are now battling to save his life in a private hospital.

Within the same period, another group of armed hoodlums attacked three Nigerians who were returning from the United States of America (USA) at the Murtala Mohammed International airport and snatched N3,000 dollars from them.

One of the victims of the robbery Mr. Moses Aowiyemi, told the police at Oshodi that they lost other valuable items to the bandits who posed as policemen.

Daly Trust further gathered that within the same period, armed bandits attacked one Mr. Mike at Isolo and shot him several times after he had ran into their trap.

He is now responding to treatment in a private hospital.



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## Abuja News

# 438 FG retirees receive pension

A total of 438 cheques were presented to retired Federal Civil Servants or their representatives from 36 ministries and extra-ministerial departments in Abuja on Thursday by the office of the Head of Service of the Federation.

According to the Permanent Secretary, office of establishment and pensions, Dr. Aboki Zhawa, who held brief for the Head of Service, arrangements are in top gear to make the exercise a part and parcel of the civil service, with a view to making payment of pension and gratuity as painless as possible.

"We intend to set a pace for our successors, there is a lot of work to be done. We want to make it in such a way that once you retire, you go home and from there to the bank for your money," he optimised.

Dr. Aboki Zhawa advised the recipients to utilise their money judiciously, warning them to avoid falling prey to 419 tricksters. "Some of you are going to receive calls from anonymous callers. Be satisfied with what God has given to you. It is only God that can double your money for you, use it for your benefit," he advised.

Dr. Zhawa pointed out that the office of the Head of Service had gone extra length to ensure the payment of the pensions and gratuities, despite noticeable problems in many cases.

By Austine Odo

This according to him, was done with the hope of making things less difficult and ensuring improved welfare for retirees.

"We've waived a lot of



Alhaji Mahmud Yayale Ahmed

things, we went out of our way to make sure that nobody continues to suffer, we even set up a task force, and I personally supervised the task force every day. There was a lot of problems, yet we tried to solve them, we even used photocopies where there were supposed to be three files for processing," he said.

The permanent secretary pointed out that in doing all this, he was guided by the belief that it is better to raise cheques for a ghost worker than not raising any for a genuine retiree, hoping that if one is raised for a ghost worker, it would be detected at the point of collection. The

current zeal of the Head of Service on pension matters is a manifestation of his rejection of the practice whereby some government agencies and parastatals display lukewarm attitude in their treatment of pensioners.

Alhaji Yayale had told

## Safeguard democracy, Minister advises Abuja NBA

By Emmanuel Ande

The Minister, Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Engr. Muhammad Abba-Gana, has charged members of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) to place the interest of the country and her nascent democracy above every other consideration in the discharge of their duties.

Speaking in his office last week when members of the National Executive Committee of the (NBA) paid him a courtesy visit, the minister stressed that all genuine and legal pursuits must first be weighed against the overall well being of the country.

Engr. Abba-Gana who emphasised the importance of the association, noted that justice and the rule of law were indispensable elements to the survival of any society. He said it was against this backdrop that the contributions of members of the NBA could be appreciated as people who are saddled with the task of ensuring an equitable society.

The minister said the NBA must at all times, champion the course of democracy and exercise patriotic discretion in

Chief Executives of Federal Parastatals early last month that the Federal Government was becoming increasingly worried and frightened by the spate of complaints by pensioners over non-payment or delay in payment of pensions and gratuities.

He restated government's resolve to improve the lot of retired public officers, stressing that more still needed to be done in spite of recent public acknowledgement of keen official interest in its pension administration system.

accepting briefs as some cases which though may be logical on the surface, may not be healthy for the polity.

He warned against advocacy devoid of conscience and good intention which he said would only tamper with our bond of unity as a nation adding that justice which does not stand the test of time serves the society no good.

The FCT minister further stressed that government was on course of sustainably entrenching democracy in the country, pointing out that at all levels, government would continue to enlist the support of members of the NBA.

He also announced the approval for the association's request for a plot of land for the construction of its national headquarters in Abuja.

Earlier in his address, the President of NBA, Okocha, O.C.J. Esq. explained that the NBA is the umbrella organisation for all legal practitioners in Nigeria and that its goals were geared towards the promotion and preservation of the interest of the legal profession.

## Dissatisfaction increases over Nyanya-Keffi road project

Disturbed by the slow pace of work on the Nyanya-Keffi road, residents of Abuja are now calling on government to revoke the contract and re-award it to a more competent construction company.

Some of the residents who spoke to *Daily Trust* maintained that the company (Setraco) is yet to start serious work on the accident-prone road, which was the main reason why government decided to award the contract for the dualisation of the road.

The residents maintained that Setraco Construction Company lacks the technology and manpower to handle such a sensitive project. They added that all the machines and other equipment used by the company are outdated.

Mr. Peter Pan told *Daily Trust* that the only way government could address the Nyanya-Keffi road accidents and persistent traffic jams was to retrieve the contract from Setraco and re-award it to a competent company for quick and effective work.

He said the dualisation of Nyanya/Keffi road is too important to allow an incompetent firm to play with, at the expense of people's lives.

Malam Musa Mustapha, a trader in Nyanya market maintained that awarding Nyanya/Keffi road to a firm that lacks modern technology is a coup against Nigerians by this government.

He said that it is a political way of sealing hopes of Nigerians on tentative issues that affect their lives on daily basis.

"How can Obasanjo be playing politics with the lives of Nigerians? He should use other means to win support from profitable organisations but should not use human lives for his political gains," he said.

A female employee of the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing (names withheld) noted that the award of the dualisation of Nyanya/Keffi road is not to alleviate the sufferings of Abuja residents patronising the road, but is more of compensating the firm's owner who is from the same area with the minister of Works and Housing.

She said Nigerians would continue to die in poverty until the outdated tradition of regional and tribal considerations for executing public projects is dropped by our leaders.



Chief Tony Anenih, Minister of Works

## Nigerien women to shop for skills in Abuja

By Habiba Adamu

The National Centre for Women Development (NCWD) would train a delegation of 80 women from Niger Republic on a skill acquisition programme, a knowledge when acquired, will be taught at a similar centre when established in Niger.

The acting director-general of the centre, Mrs. Florence Itheme was informed of this decision in Abuja last week by the Minister of Social Development, population and women affairs of Niger Republic, Hajiya Aisha Nana Faumakoye after inspecting the types of training undertaken by (NCWD).

Hajiya Nana said that through the Ministry of Women Affairs in Nigeria, she would request for a team to go over to help give ideas on how a similar centre like NCWD would be established.

After being taken round the centre, the Minister stated that they would send a

delegation of about 80 women from Niger to undertake a "train the trainer" course in batic making, soap making, catering and fashion designing.

"My delegation is in Abuja to exchange ideas, and learn from NCWD on how we can build such a center of excellence," she stated.

The chairman of the board of directors of the centre, Hajiya Laila Dogonyaro, told the minister that 50 percent of the money used in building the centre was contributed by Nigerian Women, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), and Corporate Organisations.

"NCWD was completed by the government of General Ibrahim Babangida. It was as a result of such contributions by the Nigerian Women that gave them a say in the day to day running of

## Jiwa chief calls for assistance

The Chief of Jiwa in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Alhaji Idris Musa, has called on the government to provide his town with social amenities.

Speaking with *Daily Trust* at the weekend in his palace, the traditional ruler said his town had been neglected by the authorities charged with the responsibility of providing such social amenities to the inhabitants of the area.

He said his major problem was the persistent shortage of water which is causing untold hardships to the residents of Jiwa and its environs.

"The water pipe that runs from Usuman Dam to the airport, passes through Jiwa town, yet it did not occur to the authorities to give my subjects good water" he said.

He expressed dissatisfaction with the on going resettlement programme, noting that the same exercise took place in 1979 during the

administration of Gen. Olusegun Obasanjo, but that at the end of the day, nothing came out of it.



From left, Head of Civil Service of the Federation, Alhaji Mahmud Yayale Ahmed, Minister of State for Justice, Hon. Musa Elayo and Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Chief Ufot Ekaette, at a recent Federal Executive Council Meeting held at the State House, Abuja.



# SPORTS



## Aku may cancel associations' elections

The Sports Minister, Ishaya Mark Aku, may cancel the elections conducted into the boards of some associations.

The minister, who is currently attending the International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF) Conference in Edmonton, Canada, was said to have expressed disgust with the manner some associations conducted their elections last week.

Trustsports learnt that several procedural errors were observed in the conduct of the

**By Patrick Andrew**  
elections particularly in the gymnastics, boxing and athletics federations, which led to open fisticuffs and the arrest and detention of two ministry staff.

Consequently, the minister has instructed that the results be withheld pending the confirmation or cancellation of any found to have been marred by procedural errors.

The Chief Press Officer to the minister, Victor Iroele, said the ratification of the results are therefore, to be put on hold

until the authorities have verified the details and procedures adopted in the conduct of the elections.

"The ministry has received the reports on the conduct of the elections. It also observed from preliminary reports several procedural errors, which could mar the elections. Consequently, the ministry would stay action on the confirmation of cancellation or some results based on the reports submitted," he said, stressing that it would be undermining the principles of democracy if such complaints were swept under the carpet.

Trustsports recalls that the conduct of the elections was almost marred by lack of transparency in the elections into the boards of gymnastics, boxing and the athletics federations.

## Gov. didn't contest for NABA chairmanship -Edo DOS

The Edo State Director of Sports, Mr. Brown Ebewele, has refuted claimed that the executive governor of Edo State, Chief Lucky Igbinedion, has contested and failed elections as chairman of the Nigerian Boxing Association recently held at Abuja.

Describing the claims as false, Mr. Ebewele said Governor Igbinedion was only appointed chairman of the Boxing Committee prior to the elections and was not told that there will be elections at Abuja for the position he was appointed to.

"My governor was not even in Abuja because he was not aware that there will be elections to the position he was earlier appointed to. So, the issue of Governor Igbinedion failing an election he neither contested nor aware of, is false and does not even arise."

Mr. Ebewele said the initial appointment of Governor Igbinedion as the chairman of the Boxing Association was as a result of his immense contribution towards sports development in the country. He wondered why the governor wouldn't have won the elections if he had contested.

Mr. Ebewele, who was answering questions from newsmen at the Government House in Benin, said since Edo State will be hosting the 2002 National Sports Festival, it would have been proper to allow the Edo State Governor retain the chairmanship of the Nigeria Boxing

**From Shehu Abubakar, in Benin City**  
Association for proper co-ordination.

Meanwhile, the government has commenced the renovation of some of its hotels in the state capital to meet the standard of accommodating players and officials during the national sports fiesta

## Golden Greene breaks pain barrier

Maurice Greene has added a gold medal for the 100m in the World Athletics Championships to the one he won in the Olympics last year.

The American world record holder lea from the start and crossed the line in 9.82 seconds, the fastest time in the world this year and the second fastest run of all time.

His world record is 9.79. The win completes a fantastic treble for the sprinter, who also won the world title in 1997 and 1999.

His achievement was made all the greater by a long-standing knee injury and a problem with his left quad that hindered him during the race.

He was grimacing as early as 60m, and limped his way to a standstill after crossing the line.

Tim Montgomery, the fastest man in the world this year

## Ogbe, Tornados coach, resigns over team funding

The Chief Coach of Niger Tornados, Mr. Bernard Ogbe, has resigned his appointment over non-funding of



Dr. Peter Odili, the Rivers State Governor (left) with President Olusegun Obasanjo during the Nigeria/Ghana World Cup qualifier at the Liberation Stadium, Port Harcourt.

the team. A letter dated July 27, 2001, which was signed by Ogbe and made available to NAN in Kano this weekend, gave reason for his resignation as the lack of prompt release of funds by the management to the team to settle players and coaches contract fees at the beginning of the new football season.

The letter stated that the lack of release of funds to the techni-

cal crew had led to protest and strike action by players which has affected the team, adding that it contributed to his failure to take the team to division one at the end of the 2001 league season.

Ogbe gave other reasons for his resignation as: - the replacement of two of his assistants, Valentine Nnadi and Ahmed Mohammed who had toiled with him and had been part of the suc-

cess story of the team.

He said that the action of the management could be described as "inviting others to reap where they did not sow."

"My resignation will allow the new set of coaches to apply their technical knowledge unimpeded and to improve the fortunes of the club beyond what was attained under my leadership," he said.

## Athletics

until Sunday, closed in as they approached the line, but Greene managed to hold him off.

Greene said: "I knew it was going to be tough. I knew they weren't going to let me win with ease. I felt very good today."

But he made light of the injury.

"I felt something in my hamstring, but will go and get it checked out and hope I'm ready for the relay."

"No one is going to give you the gold medal. You have to come out here and fight for it. You have to be willing to die for it."

"I'm just thankful I was able to finish the race the way I did."

His arch-rival Donovan Bailey, who did not qualify for the final, said Greene's performance was "very impressive considering his injury".

Montgomery was second, with Bernard Williams third to make it a clean sweep of the medals for the USA.

Montgomery believed he was hampered by being one of three people to make a false start.

"I was very satisfied with my performance considering I did a false start. A 9.85 losing to a 9.82 - you can't be disappointed with that."

"I knew I could beat him (Greene), but the false start really messed my race up."

Ato Boldon, one of the pre-race favourites, again failed to deliver, finishing in fourth. Britain's Dwain Chambers was fifth in 9.99.

He said: "That was all right considering I was in lane eight. It was always going to be hard. You need to be in the mix in the 100m, but I'm pleased with the time."

The other Briton in the final, Christian Malcolm, was seventh

He said: "I made the final and I ran a personal best. All I can do is relax and prepare for the 200m. I enjoyed it. If I ran a PB, I was always going to be happy."

The other false starts were by Ken Collins and Boldon.

## Bailey bows out with tears

Former Olympic and world 100m champion Donovan Bailey has announced his retirement after failing to qualify for the final in Edmonton.

The Canadian, 33, did a lap of honour in front of his home crowd before revealing his intentions.

He said: "That's it. No more races, no more relays."

Bailey said he had achieved his aim of returning the dignity lost to Canadian athletics when Ben Johnson tested positive for steroids after winning the 100m Olympic gold in Seoul in 1988.

His lap of honour was an emotional experience. He shed some tears, and was even applauded by his former bitter ri-

val Maurice Greene.

Bailey said: "It was a victory lap. I think that the decision I made after injury and illness to return was one of my greatest."

"I really wanted to finish my career in Edmonton regardless of what happened."

"As a competitor I obviously wanted to win the gold medal but as a man I just wanted to end it in front of my compatriots and end the process that started in 1995 when I won the world title."

"That was to restore dignity and respect to Canadian athletics which I believe I achieved and now that crusade is finished and I can hand over the baton to someone else," he added.

Bailey's golden period came

in 1995-6. He won the world title in Gothenburg in 1995 and then the Olympic gold medal in Atlanta in 1996 in a world record time of 9.84 seconds.

He also anchored the Canadian 4x100 relay team to victory over the United States in Atlanta.

Bailey, who was born in Jamaica, has never been the same since he ruptured his left Achilles tendon in 1998.

Bailey added: "I had been planning to retire for a long time, even three years ago."

"But after I ruptured my Achilles tendon in 1998 it sort of rejuvenated my juices and I was quite happy to come back and compete and show people I was not a quitter."

## Enyimba players set to receive car gift

All the 22 Enyimba players would be officially handed their brand new Peugeot 504 cars this month, the Chief Coach of the club, Godwin Uwua, has said.

Uwua told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Kano Sunday during the closing of the Kano zone of the National Chal-

lenge Cup competition that the delay in the handing over of the cars to the players was a deliberate act by him.

Uwua said that the keys to the cars were handed over to him to enable him prepare for the officials handing over ceremony of the cars to the players but he delayed the ceremony for some

technical reasons.

"I delayed the ceremony which was supposed to have taken place immediately after the championship to allow my boys chase the Challenge Cup," he said.

"Now that we have qualified for the national Challenge Cup preliminaries, when we get back to base, I will ensure that my boys are given what is due to them," he added.

"We have won many trophies except the Challenge Cup and that is why I delayed the handing over ceremony for the cars to enable my boys contest for the cup so that they are not carried away by the joy of the gifts," he said.

The chief coach said that he was happy that Enyimba was leading in the Kano zone of the national Challenge Cup competition with six points, adding "my team will now stay back in Kano to wait for the runner-up of the Benin zone."

He said that the cars were part of the goodies promised by the state government to the players following the team's excellent performance during the Super Four competition.

## Seles no match for Venus

Venus Williams outplayed Monica Seles to take a comfortable win in the Acura Classic in San Diego on Sunday.

Williams won 6-2 6-3, thwarting Seles' bid to beat the world's top three players in succession.

Seles had defeated Jennifer Capriati and Martina Hingis on her way to the final but Williams was too strong in the final.

"I feel great. I love to play in Southern California," said Williams, who grew up in Los Angeles.

"The first couple times I played here in 1994 and 1995, I had a lot of problems. But the last two years have been really exciting."

Against Capriati and Hingis, Seles could attack a weak second serve, a luxury she did not

have against Williams.

The second seed fired down 13 aces and hit 37 winners in the match.

Seles failed to convert three break points in the opening game, a crucial lapse.

The six feet two inches (1.88 m) Williams broke Seles to seize a 4-2 lead with two volleys on the run and a forehand down the line.

Williams won the set with another service break on a thumping back-hand cross-court winner, and raced into a 4-0 lead in the second set.

Seles immediately broke back but Williams held for 5-2 with a 113 mph ace, and in the final game, served three successive aces to capture the title.



Maurice Greene, of the United States, runs his way to a gold medal in the men's 100 meter final on Sunday at the World Track & Field Championships at Commonwealth Stadium in Edmonton, Alberta.

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## Sports Ministry seeks Eagles World Cup programme

The Sports Ministry has directed the NFA to furnish it with the details of the technical programmes designed for the Super Eagles build up to the 2002 World Cup.

The ministry said it sought to know the technical details of the programme in order to make necessary input and to assist the NFA where there are obvious needs.

The Director of Sports Development, Mr. Patrick Ekeji, said while projecting into the Super Eagles qualification for the mundial against all odds. "The objective of going to the World Cup is not just to participate," he said, noting that the task was beyond the NFA alone.

"The objective, therefore, would be to know the long, medium, and short term plans towards a worthy representation at the World Cup, which have to be anchored on early preparation," he said stressing that the usual fire brigade approach to preparation for international championship would have to be discarded this time around.

The ministry, he observed, would insist on being furnished in order to keep tabs on the technical and other necessary programmes lined up for the Eagles and to ensure that such programmes are religiously adhered to.

Ekeji said the ministry will continue to put pressure on the leadership of the NFA to work assiduously to meet the expectations of Nigerians by ensuring the Eagles are technically, materially and psychologically geared up for next summers World Cup finals in Korea/ Japan.

Meanwhile, the director has expressed faith in the ability of indigenous coaches to deliver, noting that instead of imposing for-

**By Patrick Andrew**  
eign coaches on them, training programmes should be fashioned out for them.

"Nigerian coaches must be given the opportunity to show their responsiveness to the action, and the World

Cup qualifiers have given them the challenge and they have proved themselves capable," he said, adding that any imposition of foreign technical advisers on them would be retrogressive and short sighted.



Bernard Williams (1207) of the United States, Matthew Shirvington (35) of Australia and Christian Malcolm of Great Britain sprint during the 100 meter men's quarterfinal qualifier at the World Championships in Athletics, in Edmonton on Saturday.



Stacy Dragila of the USA clears the bar as she competes in the women's qualifying pole vault event at the 8th IAAF World Championships in Athletics, in Edmonton on Saturday. Dragila qualified after clearing a height of 4.35 meters.



Runners Donovan Bailey (L) of Canada, Ato Boldon of Trinidad and Tobago and Maurice Greene of the United States (R) stand in the start box as they get ready for the men's 100 meter quarterfinal qualifier event at the 8th IAAF World Championships in Athletics, in Edmonton on Saturday.

**Strands of Fate:** written & illustrated by Bulama Mustapha



To be continued (14)