

DAILY TRUST

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Nigeria Airways not for sale now

—Idris Kuta

By Reuben Yunana

Chairman, Senate Committee on Aviation, Senator Idris Kuta said yesterday in Abuja that the Nigeria Airways will not be privatised now, at least not in the next 18 months.

Speaking exclusively to *Daily Trust*, Kuta said his committee had convinced President Olusegun Obasanjo to delay privatising the sick national carrier until it has been resuscitated.

"We pressurised the president and he agreed with us that nobody is going to sell the Nigeria Airways the way it is today. So, in the next 18 months, Nigeria Airways will not be privatised. Instead, it will be revived and brought to a condition where it will sell properly. After it has been revived, all interested buyers can now come and buy," Kuta explained.

According to Kuta, the Senate is disturbed by the fact that certain people want to rush the privatisation of the airline so that they can pay "peanuts" for it.

"I don't think they should be given the opportunity to do that. The commercial price of the Nigeria Airways must be paid. Anybody who feels he is going to get a bargain is wasting his time," he asserted.

Kuta explained that his stand on the issue was informed by his experience as a polo player.

Said he: "I am a polo player and I keep horses. When one of them dies I pay money to have it buried. When we came in May 1999, Nigeria Airways was a dead horse, so we put our heads together in order to give it a kiss of life. It is now reviving but not well enough to be sold.

"So you see, you cannot sell a dead horse. People would only buy a healthy horse. The more healthy, the costlier. The airline should be revived before anyone dreams of selling it."

contd. on pg 2

Obasanjo plans national conference

•IBB, Ojukwu, Ekwueme, Maitama Sule,
Adesanya, others tipped as planning committee

President Olusegun Obasanjo has succumbed to agitations for a national conference as an ad-hoc committee to prepare

By Ibrahim Modibbo,
Political Editor

Two sources, one from the presidency and the other

from the legislature have confirmed this development with the premise that the president has already intimated the Federal Executive Council on his intention to con-

vene the conference.

The sources told *Daily Trust* that already, President Obasanjo has started contacting some prominent Nigerians among whom are former military president, Ibrahim Babangida, Nigeria's former Ambassador to the United Nations, Yusuf Maitama Sule, Second Republic Vice President Dr. Alex Ekwueme, former Biafran leader, Chief Emeka Ojukwu,

Dr. Sammuel Ogbemudia and the NADECO leader, Chief Abraham Adesanya to organise the national conference.

Commenting on the matter, the chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriation, Alhaji Idris Abubakar urged the president to have a rethink on the matter, as according to him, there is no constitutional backing to such a contraption.

contd. on pg 2

FG to probe 2001 hajj operation

The Federal Government is to probe the last hajj operation, the Secretary-General, Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs, Dr. Abdul-

Lateef Adegbite, said at the weekend in Ilorin.

Adegbite told newsmen at the venue of the conference on Islam in Nigeria that

the presidency would soon come out with the details and names of those to serve in the probe panel.

contd. on pg 2

ASUU: Normal activities in some Varsities

By Our Reporters

Normal academic activities in some of the nation's universities went on undisturbed yesterday, inspite of the expiration of the ultimatum given to the Federal Government by the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU).

The failure of the local branches of ASUU in the affected universities may not be unconnected with the meeting of the union's leadership scheduled for Owerri, Imo State, where a definite statement on the state of the planned strike action was expected to be pronounced.

Although the Federal Government has already taken the matter to the Industrial Arbitration Panel (IAP), the result of the meeting will determine ASUU's position on the matter.

At the Universities of Maiduguri, Abuja and Kano, our correspondents report

contd. on pg 2



The new American ambassador to Nigeria, Howard F. Jeter talking with the Chief Justice of the Federation, Justice Muhammadu Lawal Uwais, in Abuja... recently.

3 cops to hang for murder

•It is a good judgement -Police

The three mobile policemen with Kogi State Police Command arrested for robbery and killing five traders in February this year were yesterday sentenced to death by hanging.

The police yesterday

From Mamman Akpena,
Lokoja

described the judgement as "good and reliable."

Delivering judgement in Lokoja amidst tight security, the Chief Judge of Kogi State, Mr. Justice Umaru Eri, said the three officers' con-

duct throughout the trial period proved that "they have no respect for human sanctity," and are thus to die by hanging.

According to the judge, the conduct of the three - Benjamin Oyakhire, Jimoh

contd. on pg 2

ETF N40bn probe goes public

By Henry Omunu

The management of the Education Tax fund (ETF) will today, come under scrutiny as the House of Representatives commences investigations into an alleged disappearance of N40 billion from the coffers of the Fund.

Consequently, the House has invited the finance minister, Malam Adamu Ciroma, Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) governor, Chief Joseph Sanusi, the Accountant-General of the Federation, Mr. J.K. Nayeju and Alhaji Zukogi, chairman of the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) to testify at a public hearing to be conducted by the House committee on education, which begins today.

Others slated to testify on the missing N40 billion during the three-day public hearing include the ETF chairperson, Mrs. O.O. Olakunri and members of the board of trustees, the Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and

contd. on pg 2

NEWS

Obasanjo, Atiku speak at Yar'Adua memorial lecture

President Olusegun Obasanjo and Vice President Atiku Abubakar are expected as special guests to the 3rd National Yar'Adua memorial lecture scheduled for Saturday in Abuja.

The event, billed to hold at the Nicon Noga Hotel, will also feature the president, Islamic Development Bank (IDB), Saudi Arabia Dr. Ahmed Mohammed Ali, Special guest Speaker on the topic, "South-South Cooperation."

A statement by the Director, Shehu Musa Yar'Adua Foundation, Ms Jamilah W. Farris, issued at the state house, Abuja, said the National Troupe of Nigeria

By Suleiman Mohammed

would also present a play entitled: "Tafida," commissioned by the foundation and written by Dr. Ahmed Yerima.

The play captures the life and times of the Tafidan Katsina, examines his vision for a united and democratic Nigeria and his commitment to building a free and just society for all.

Similarly, a versatile actor and lecturer at the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Salihu Baffa and another actor, Albert Akaeze are expected to perform on the roles of "Tafida and Mutawalli" respectively.

The Shehu Yar'Adua

Foundation, which was established in 1998 shortly after his death, aims at encouraging present and future generations of Nigerians to embrace the leadership qualities of a man whose "courage and



Obasanjo

compassion, patriotism and commitment to democracy" was an inspiration to many.

President Olusegun Obasanjo and Vice President Atiku Abubakar are chairman and vice-chairman respectively, of the Shehu Musa Yar'Adua Foundation Board of Trustees. Already, the National Headquarters of the Foundation is under construction at the Central District, Abuja.

not for sale *contd. from pg 1*

He described as disgraceful, a situation where Nigeria has been forced by the dwindling fortunes of its national career to sign bilateral agreements with British Airways and South African Airways. "If small countries like Ghana, Cameroon, even Sudan, Kenya and a large country like South Africa have more planes than Nige-

ria it is disgraceful.

"Nigeria Airways has only two 737 one DC 10 that are flying, South African Airways has well over 44 aircraft, from 747s to 737s that are flying. Ghana Airways has more than seven. It is bad that a country like Nigeria, the giant of Africa has not got a single plane that can fly to Europe and America," the Senator lamented.

ETF *contd. from pg 1*

Fiscal Commission, Oil and Gas Service Companies and representatives of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN).

The House had passed a resolution on September 14, 2000, mandating its education committee to investigate the alleged missing N40 billion, following series of petitions it received alleging large-scale at the ETF.

According to Rep. Shehu Matazu, the chairman, House committee on education who briefed National Assembly correspondents yesterday, the committee which has five-point terms of reference is expected to expend N16 million on the public hearing.

The committee during the public hearing is to establish to what extent the Education Tax Fund Board of Trustees and the management of ETF observed the principles of transparency, accountability and probity in the management of the funds placed at their disposal for the benefit of the nation's educational sector.

Similarly, the committee is

to evaluate the role of the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) in the assessment, collection and accounting of the ETF since January 1, 1993, as well as establish the level of compliance by all registered companies in the country with the provisions of Decree 7, establishing the ETF.

Moreover, the role of the CBN in the pooling, warehousing and accounting for the accrued funds is to be evaluated by the committee, just as it is mandated to establish cases, if any of corruption, mismanagement, abuse of office, staff victimisation and misappropriation of funds by the board of ETF.

The house education committee chairman, Rep. Matazu explained that the public hearing was not meant to with-hunt, adding "we are

not witch-hunting or indicting anybody.

"Nothing will influence the final report of the public hearing, no matter the blackmail and intimidation," he assured.

Meanwhile, the final report submitted by the consultant to the committee (Standard Cybernetics Limited) showed that over \$200 million (N2.5 billion) withholding tax collected by ETF from foreign shipping lines may have been lost to fraud.

Furthermore, the consultants, apart from revealing that the ETF can recover another N15 billion from oil companies, hitherto not collected, further indicted the Federal Inland Revenue Service, the CBN and the office of the Accountant General for aiding and abetting the perpetuation of fraud in the ETF.

Cops *contd. from pg 1*

Micheal and Harshon Saba, in the circumstances, was barbaric and reminiscent of the stone-age when civilisation of whatever form was unknown.

Mr. Justice Eri said further that from a careful observation of the three men throughout the trial, it was apparent they had no remorse for their action and were, therefore, unfit for a decent society.

Reviewing the entire case, the Chief Judge noted that while the three were supposed to be on peace-keeping operation at Okene on February 17, 2001, they conspired to rob their victims and set them ablaze.

Additionally he said, they forcefully removed from their victims, the sum of N1.4 million.

Passing the judgement, Justice Eri said the Justice of the case demands that the said total sum of N586,850.00 recovered from the policemen be given to one Jimoh Saka, who escaped from the point of operation.

It would be recalled that in mid-February this year, the five policemen, Benjamin Oyahire, Jimoh Micheal and Garshon Saba all attached to the Kogi State police command were arrested, dismissed and charged to court for robbery.

In their reaction, the Nigeria police has described the death sentence pronounced on the three policemen who robbed some traders in Lokoja in February and set them ablaze as a good and reliable judgement.

Speaking with the News

Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Abuja, the force Public Relations Officer (FPRO), Mr. Haz Iwendi, said the judgement would serve as a lesson to other members of the force.

Iwendi further said that the Nigeria Police was happy with the dismissal, arrest and prosecution of the three policemen, as it was part of the cleansing exercise of the force, adding that "they deserve what they got".

"The policemen were not sent on that assignment," he said and queried: "If a man does something illegal, how can we back him?"

"With this judgement, we have learnt our lessons and others have also learnt theirs", he said, noting "this will surely serve as a lesson to officers and men of the force."

FG *contd. from pg 1*

"President Olusegun Obasanjo is desirous of finding a lasting solution to difficulties and sufferings of Muslims to the hajj in Saudi Arabia," he said.

The Secretary-General said that the high-powered committee would look into all aspects of the holy pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia with a

view to eliminating all factors militating against its smooth operation.

He disclosed that the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs would organise a national conference on moon sighting to put a stop to the lack of uniformity in observing Islamic festivities.

He said that the confer-

ence would examine the merits and demerits of using calendar and physical sighting of the lunar moon in determining the actual dates for Islamic festivities.

He said that an acceptable compromise would be worked out to achieve uniformity in dates.

President Obasanjo had

Obasanjo *contd. from pg 1*

He disclosed that for the president to accept and start implementing the recommendation of the 1999 constitution by convening a national conference, is synonymous with passing a vote of no confidence on the entire political process.

He said "the contemplation of the constitution is for the president to operate with an elected national assembly, so for him to create any parallel body to the national assembly would mean forfeiting the protection of the constitution that legitimises both himself and the legislative arm of government."

"I believe that our problems could better be interpreted as failure of the government, not of the system. We don't need a national conference to know that the economy is in comatose, to also know that the government has failed to rehabilitate our infrastructure, to know of its failure to provide adequate and consistent power supply, to know that it has failed dissimally in the supply and distribution of petrol and also its failure to improve our educational sector and employment of our youths," he said.

Convening a national conference according to Senator Idris Abubakar is an escape route for the government's failure in all its ramifications, as it would lead to a possible break up of the country.

He said "the break up of the country is of course an agenda of those who do not relish the idea of one Nigeria, so that they would use the conference if convened, to achieve their agenda. This I suspect, is in complete harmony with the agenda of the of the local minority in the Nigerian politics."

at a recent meeting with the Airline Operators of Nigeria, condemned the poor performance of airlines involved in airlifting pilgrims for this year's hajj, saying it was callous for the airlines to abandon pilgrims in Saudi Arabia.

The president regretted the patronage of the airlines while dismissing their agitation to operate international routes on the ground that they lacked the aircraft, facilities and personnel to fly such routes.

Over 7000 Nigerian pilgrims were reported to have been abandoned in the holy land by the airlines at the end of the pilgrimage, even as the Federal Government subsidised the operation to the tune of N715 million, in addition to other measures to ensure a hitch-free operation this year.

that lectures and examinations were held but there is general understanding among the local branches of ASUU to respect whatever the outcome of the Owerri meeting was. Dr. Hilary Nwazozu, former head of department of Mass Communication at the University of Maiduguri and staunch member of ASUU told *Daily Trust* that the decisions from Owerri would radiate from all local branches and whatever was decided would take immediate effect.

Although, he was optimistic that the strike may not linger for long, as he said everything depend on how the government plays it park.

Said he, "we have always been at the receiving end and we want an end to all this shenanigan by the Federal Government."

Dr. Nwazozu view was however supported lecturers at the university of Abuja and Kano explaining that the issue of the industrial action is too premature to discuss as the ultimatum elapse yesterday.

However, at the University of Abuja, the lecturers may not go on strike even if

the Owerri parley opted for it as *Daily Trust* gathered that both the Academic Union and National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS) were said to have entered into an agreement allowing the students to end their semester examination on Thursday.

Daily Trust was told by an official of ASUU, University of Abuja chapter that, both the students union and the Vice Chancellor of the university, Dr. Gambo Laraba Abdullahi have made spirited appeals to them to halt the strike, as students have just four days to end their examinations.

The branch he said, had accepted the dispassionate appeal, "but we have told them, that we are going to embark on the industrial action if the Owerri meeting opted for the strike immediately after the examinations.

ASUU, University of Abuja chapter he said, is fully participating in the activities of ASUU at national levels as both the president Dr. Saint Gbilekaa and Dr. Hamza Na-Uzo, the secretary have gone to Owerri for the union's national meeting.

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ENTRY INTO POLYTECHNICS AND COLLEGES OF EDUCATION FOR THE 2001/2002 ACADEMIC SESSION

1.0 Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for admissions into programmes in Polytechnics and courses in Colleges of Education as listed in the JAMB Brochure for the 2001/2002 session.

THE BOARD SERVICES ALL FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT OWNED INSTITUTIONS AND AS WELL AS THE FOLLOWING PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS

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- (c) Lagos City Polytechnic, Ikeja, Lagos
- (d) National Institute of Moral and Religious Studies, Akoka, Lagos
- (e) Other Private Polytechnics as listed in the JAMB brochure.

2.0 SELLING DATES

Forms will be available at the distribution centres listed 5.1 below from Monday 12th March 2001 to Friday 29th June 2001. Candidates are advised to note that there will be no extension of the date of sales.

3.0 CONDITIONS FOR ADMISSION

3.1 Admission will be by the Polytechnic and Colleges of Education Matriculation Examination (PCE), conducted by the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board.

3.2 POLYTECHNICS

Applicants to the Polytechnics must possess the following minimum entry qualifications: -

- 3.2.1 General Certificate/GCE with credit passes in four (4) subjects relevant to the programme. The qualification must have been obtained at not more than two sittings.
- 3.2.2 WAEC Technical Certificate in Civil, Mechanical, Electrical trades with at least four credit passes in academic subject.

3.3 COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

3.3.1 Applicants to the Colleges of Education listed in the Brochure must possess any of the following minimum entry qualifications:

- (a) G.C.E. "O" Level or SSCE Passes in at least five (5) subjects at one sitting three (3) of which must be at credit level OR four (4) Credits at two sittings.
- (b) Grade II Teachers' Certificate (TC II) with Credit or Merit passes in at least three (3) subjects. For the Technical Colleges, the subjects must include Mathematics/Arithmetic and Science Subjects
- (c) City and Guides/WAEC Technical/Craft, Intermediate Part II Course B Certificate in Civil, Mechanical or the Federal Credit Certificate (FCC) with at least four Credit Passes in Four (4) Academic Subjects.
- (d) WASC (Commercial) or RSA Stage II Group Certificate with passes in five subjects at not more than two sittings. The passes should include English Language and two subjects relevant to the course of study. Candidates should note that: -
 - (i) At least two (2) of the Credit MUST be relevant to the proposed course of study;
 - (ii) A Pass in English Language is required for all courses.
 - (iii) A Pass in Mathematics is required for all Science-Based courses, Social Science and Business Education.

3.4 Candidates awaiting the results of any relevant examination may also apply

3.5 Candidates currently in SS III or equivalent may also apply.

3.6 Full details and other requirements are available in the guidelines for Admissions into Polytechnics and Colleges of Education (Brochure) for 2001/2002 session.

4.0 DATE AND VENUE OF THE EXAMINATION

(a) The Examination date will be announced later in all the towns listed in the Brochure for Polytechnics and Colleges of Education Matriculation Examination.

CANDIDATES MUST WRITE THE EXAMINATION IN THE TOWNS INDICATED ON THEIR APPLICATION FORMS.

(b) Where all the centres available in a particular examination town have been filled with candidate, any extra candidate, for that town will be posted to the nearest examination town.

4.1 STRUCTURE OF THE EXAMINATION

This Examination consists of two parts both made up of multiple-choice questions (a) Parts I consists of 100 Questions on the Test of English and is compulsory for all candidates. (b) Parts II consist of questions in the twenty-four (24) subjects listed below, from which candidates should select any two subjects relevant to the proposed course of study as set out in the Brochure.

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| 1. Agriculture | 13. Hausa |
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| 10. Geography | 22. Soc. Drawing |
| 11. Gen. Sc | 23. Tech Drawing |
| 12. Government | 24. Yoruba |

5.0 METHOD OF APPLICATION

5.1 Selling Centres:
 Applicant can obtain application forms from any of the following:

- (i) The Offices of the Board located at **NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS ABUJA**
 Suleja Road, Bwari, P.M.B. 189, Garki, Abuja, FCT.
- (a) **ADO-EKITI**
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- (b) **AKURE**
 Quarter 92, Alagbaka Estate IBB Avenue, (Near CBN Office), Akure, Ondo State
- (c) **BAUCHI**
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- (d) **BENIN**
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- (m) **KANO**
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- (n) **LAGOS**
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 C/o Ministry of Education Makurdi, Benue State
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- (r) **NASSARAWA**
 C/o Ministry of Education Lafia
- (s) **OWERRI**
 Ministry of Establishment Complex, Okigwe Road Secretariat Okigwe Road, P.M.B. 1020, Owerri, Imo State
- (t) **POTISKUM**
 Off Muhammed Idrissa Way Opp. Low Cost Housing Estate, P.O. Box 1038, Potiskum Yobe State
- (u) **SOKOTO**
 Third Floor, Block 19, Shchu Kangiwa Secretariat, Sokoto, Sokoto State
- (v) **UMUAHIA**
 38, Mission Hill Road, Umuahia, Abia State
- (w) **UYO**
 Babangida Avenue, PMB 1095, Uyo, Akwa Ibom State
- (x) **YOLA**
 C/o Adamawa State, Ministry of Education Headquarters, Yola
- (y) **PORT HARCOURT**
 Dline, Port Harcourt

NEWS

Oil workers threaten nationwide strike

The National Executive Council (NEC) of the Independent Marketers branch of NUPENG rose from its meeting over the weekend in Jos with a decision to embark on a nationwide strike if Independent Petroleum Marketers Association of Nigeria (IPMAN) fails to implement the Abuja agreement on their (marketers) conditions of service.

Addressing newsmen on Saturday after the meeting held at the Tudun Wada Government Lodge, the National President of the association, Comrade wale Adenuga, said when their strike commenced, the independent marketers will stop the lifting of IPMAN products at all the nation's depots until the latter signed the employee's conditions of service.

According to the national president, the union had agreed on 30 out of the 34 conditions of service tabled by the marketers which included minimum wage of N8000.00 per month including medical bills and housing allowances.

Others are maternity leave for female workers, 15 working days annual leave and 10 days compassionate leave.

From Buhari Bello, Jos

The point yet to be resolved is that of industrial accident, for the members.

He observed that with the present understanding between the marketers and members of IPMAN, there would be fewer cases of friction "as we have made them to realise that we are not coming to take over their

new jobs, we are partners in progress."

Continuing he said, "being recognised by IPMAN fully, we shall now assure them of our loyalty and dedication to service."

The union president also said his union was not in support of the deregulation of the oil sector and called on the Federal Government to reverse its decision immediately.

Supreme court declares Nasarawa traditional seat vacant

The Supreme Court, has finally declared the traditional stool of Andoma of Doma in Nasarawa State vacant after dismissing the appeal filed by Alhaji Yahaya Ari Doma against the judgement of a Jos High Court and Court of Appeal which separately declared his selection null and void.

In a unanimous decision, the apex court in a judgement delivered by Justice M.E. Ogundare on behalf of the four other judges, held that Alhaji Yahaya Ari Doma's appeal "is completely devoid of any merit" and accordingly upheld the decision of the lower court on the matter.

With this development, the first-class stool of the Andoma of Doma, in Nasarawa State would now

remain vacant, ending the nine-year bloody and legal tussle.

The court in its judgement delivered on March 12, 2001 also awarded the sum of N10,000.00 as cost to be paid by Alhaji Yahaya Ari Doma to the respondents in the case which included Alhaji Muhammadu Rajab Ogiri, Alhaji Abdulrahman Idris and Alhaji Hussaini Ogwu.

The struggle for the Andoma stool started in 1992, when the three kingmakers went to Jos High Court to challenge their removal from office by then the Plateau State government from the traditional council so as to facilitate Alhaji Ari Doma's selection as Andoma of Doma.

From Buhari Bello, Jos

ii) Branch of Afribank of Nigeria Plc. Located in the following states: -

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iii) The Branch Manager of UNION BANK of Nigeria PLC, SOGEMO BANK (NIG) LTD., AFRICAN INTERNATIONAL BANK LTD., STANDARD TRUST BANK, INTERCITY BANK. In underlisted States and the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.

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| (e) Delta | (n) Kogi | (w) Taraba |
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| (g) Ekiti | (p) Nassarawa | (y) Zamfara |
| (h) Gombe | (q) Niger | (z) Ogun |
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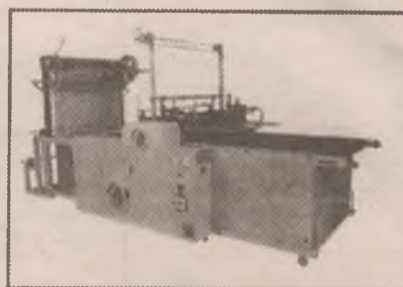
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EDITORIAL

Adamu B. Augie (1940-2001)

The death last Tuesday of Senator Adamu Baba Augie, journalist, broadcaster, commentator, publisher and media consultant was as shocking as it is tragic. At 61, the APP Senator from Kebbi North died in a ghastly motor accident on his way to Argungu, his hometown, after a condolence visit to Funtua in Katsina State.

By his death, journalism has lost one of its very visible members, whose career came to its peak, in public eye, with the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) broadcast of the VERDICT '79. The programme, gave a blow-by-blow account of the 1979 elections. Arguably, the programme became the most authentic medium for getting accurate results in spite of the poor communications then. His impeccable diction and microphone voice combined to become a magnet that pulled viewers, young and old, male and female. By the time the elections were through, Adamu Augie as MR VERDICT '79 became a household name.

Although Adamu Augie stumbled into journalism at the defunct Broadcasting Company of Northern Nigeria (BCNN) in 1961, he lived it all his life. He made the profession respectable and proved that journalism could do well with decent and fair-minded professionals. As a war correspondent for the Radio Television, Kaduna between 1967 and 1970, Adamu Augie gave succinct and factual reports about the progress of the war. And, although he reported from the Federal side, his reports were devoid of the morbid war propaganda. Though in war, truth is usually the first casualty, Adamu Augie reported the truth as much as his patriotism and sense of fairness would allow.

It was, therefore, not surprising that his rise from reporter to producer was rapid because it was not easy to combine the painstaking search for the truth, a captivating diction and a microphone voice that came so naturally. It was not long before he became the Head, News and Current Affairs at the BCNN from where he was appointed the first Managing Director of the Northwest Television, which became NTV Sokoto and later, NTA Sokoto.

As Managing Director of NTA Sokoto, the station became the best in Nigeria, producing such continental award-winning movies as Moment of Truth, Cockcrow at Dawn, Abuja: The Making of a New Capital City and our Neighbours. Under his tutelage, the station produced the crop of producers that held or are holding key management positions at the NTA national headquarters. They include: Kere Ahmed, Peter Igho, Matt Dadzie, Sadiq Daba, Ade Ayeni and Danladi Bako to mention a few.

Adamu Augie was better known as a broadcaster and one of his strongest points was his love for journalism and journalists. As Managing Director of NTA, Sokoto, the station lost state government favours because he would rather let the truth be told than curry favours from the powers that were. On several occasions, he would incur the wrath of the state government because of certain reports aired by the channel. But Adamu Augie was never one to make a scapegoat of any of his reporters. Rather, he would stand by his reporter, even if he would caution him later. Today, experience has shown that this attitude is rare. Indeed, some chief executives are the first to fish out and disown a reporter whose report attracted the ire, justifiably or otherwise, of the powers that be.

More than that he was one of the detribalized Nigerians of his time. He was at home in Lagos as he was in Maiduguri, Enugu or Argungu. His calling brought him into close contact with Nigerians from every corner and he was always at home with them. Socially, even though he lived in close quarters with the royalty, the rich and the mighty, Adamu Augie remained a simple and amiable man of the people. He could have used his high connections to get into more lucrative callings, but since wealth was not his obsession, Adamu Augie preferred the simple life of a journalist.

He rose to become the acting Director-General of the NTA from where he retired in 1986. He veered into politics in 1990, joining the National Republican Convention (NRC) on which platform he was elected into the ill-fated Senate in 1992. He was one of the foundation members of the All People's Party (APP) in 1998, and was elected Senator from Kebbi-North. In the Senate, he was Chairman, Senate Committee on Navy.

His contributions in the Senate since 1993 were very thought-provoking, detailed and cogent. In announcing the shocking death, the Senate President, Pius Ayim, said Adamu was a "man of integrity, who believed in politics without bitterness, sportsmanship and respect for the general good of the people"

Weekly Trust wishes his gentle soul good repose and the family he left behind the fortitude to bear the irreplaceable loss.

TUESDAY COLUMN

Incumbents and Elongated Tenure

By Attahiru M. Jega

The Abacha-era added an interesting concept to our political lexicon: *Ta Zarce*. In its ordinary, Hausa, meaning, it simply means to continue straight on. But, in the political context in which the concept has been popularized, it means to continue to cling to power, and hold onto an office, by whatever means necessary. It implies use of power, to keep power, and it suggests a glorification of abuse of power.

Now, the ideology of *Ta Zarce* is becoming a blooming, albeit dangerous, legacy bequeathed to our nation through our recent history of reckless misrule. It has many manifestations: the feverish preparations for 2003 elections by incumbent office-holders; the contentious elongation of the term of office of local government Chairpersons by the Senate; the clamor for an elongated single-term for the president and governors; and the more recent struggle at the PDP Convention for the extension of the term of office of Gemade and his fellow Executive Council Members.

Ta Zarce is also big business, with big budgets and big payoffs. There are many spin-doctors packaging and peddling it. There are foot-soldiers as well as generals of *Ta Zarce*. Then, it is highly infectious, and does not discriminate against ethnicity, religion or region. The phenomenon of *Ta Zarce* has spanned all nooks and crannies of Nigeria

Thus, it seems as if virtually every elected politician and his coterie of hangers-on, are ready to wage struggles and do battles for an elongated tenure. Our politicians are getting used to power and the rewards that accompany it. They are reaping immense material gains associated with the control of the office, at the same time that many of us are suffering and smiling. Now that they are in power, they cannot imagine life out of power. They are so preoccupied with remaining in power that they spend all the time planning how to ensure this, rather than doing what they have been elected to do in the first place.

LETTER OF THE DAY

Is this Sharia?

Since the implementation of the Sharia legal system in Kano state, very little or nothing has changed. This could be attributed to the government's attitude toward the success of Sharia.

The cinemas and the likes that were shut down are currently in full operation. Consumption of alcohol as well as gambling continue to flourish.

No effort have been put in place, regarding the public commuter system to separate males from females. The number of buses provided by the government is so small that it cannot service a single local government area.

The *Hisba* groups that are expected to ensure the smooth running and implementation of Sharia have for so long been waiting for the identity cards to be issued to them.

Sir, since we the people of Kano state have been agitating for full implementation of Sharia, why the foot-dragging? We will all answer the final call. Remember our lone dwellings in our individual graves, and remember the day we shall all be brought before God and only the truth will release you - that day is inevitable, the day of reckoning.

Alhassan Saidu Gwagwarwa, Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria, Box 21607, Ikeja, Lagos

From the trend of things, the craving for an elongated tenure may be the Achilles' heel of our nascent democracy. It seems that, increasingly, more time, energy and public resources are spent on self-perpetuation agenda than on the actual business of socio-economic provisioning for the Nigerian masses.

The critical question is: how much time is enough for an elected person to discharge the responsibilities of his/her office honorably and responsibly? Our politicians, especially the self-serving types, would tell you that they need all the time in the world. But, since they cannot get all the time in the world, then they would pull as much as they can get. Hence, the recent clamour for the review.

To my mind, for those constitutionally defined offices, the 1999 Constitution has provided sufficient time for any person who is serious to do good, solid work in the office to which he/she has been elected. Two years is good enough at the local level. Any person who has done very well can, and should be, re-elected for another term. Besides, this time-frame ensures that bad leaders are thrown out before they do a lot more damage, while the good ones can be returned through re-election. Similarly, four years is good enough for state and federal elective offices.

Fears about the use of incumbency to win re-election are legitimate, but they constitute insufficient grounds for the demands for a mid-stream change to elongated single-tenures. We need to uphold, practice and make perfect, the democratic tradition of electing people for a first term, after which if they have done so well, they can then be eligible for re-election for a second and final term. Violations of the rule of law, electoral rigging and so on, using incumbency need to be stopped; but they cannot be stopped by a single tenure as many tend to think. I doubt whether they can be minimized by this. Thus, we should look for more enduring solutions to these, such as an effective electoral process, piloted by incorruptible public officers and well-mobilized and conscientious electorate.

I do not, therefore, believe that there is a real need for a review of the tenure of our office-holders at this point in time. I believe that, even in the long-term, a review is neither here nor there, and we should not waste too much time on that. There are more important things to focus on in the review of the 1999 constitution than the tenure of elected officers.

What is significant for me is the record of achievement of a politician. This should determine whether the people should allow him/her a second chance. Those who have done well deserve another chance to consolidate the good work, while those who have done poorly and still want to cling on, deserve to be thrown out with ignominy. Equally significant, of course, is an enlightened electorate, alive to its civic duties and responsibilities. This is the best safe-guard to the machinations of crooked incumbents bent on imposing themselves in spite of their poor records of public service.

Instead of spending a lot of energy, time and resources on elongation of tenure, let us pay more attention to having good electoral laws, a good electoral process and conscientious and incorruptible electorate. To my mind, these are some of the big challenges before us, before 2003.

Attahiru Jega is a Professor of Political Science at the Bayero University, Kano and Member, Daily Trust Editorial Board.

Opinion

Why this crave to enslave Nigerians?

By Gausu Ahmad

I read with great shock and total dismay the decision by the Bureau for Public Enterprises (BPE) to borrow the whopping sum of \$76 million, about N8.89 billion from the World Bank to finance the privatization programme. *Daily Trust* 8/3/2001.

The amount is also said to be for the strengthening of the activities of the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), the Nigerian Telecommunications Limited (NITEL) and the Lagos State Water Corporation. This revelation by Malam Nasir El-Rufa'i was shocking for a number of reasons.

First, the privatization programme was, in the first place, started at the instance of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, which in their own wisdom, decided that our national wealth be passed onto a few select individuals.

For most Nigerians, the whole programme of privatization is like a grand robbery, organised against them and sanctioned by the Nigerian State. The masses look helplessly as the very wealth, which they have worked so hard to create, is being passed into the hands of a few predators. This is just because it pleases the *Bretton Wood* institutions that only a few agents of theirs should own our na-

tional wealth. Such is the logic of capitalism, it comes in the name of efficiency and globalization. The argument has been that government-owned institutions tend to be corrupted and inefficient. They must, therefore, be sold to private individuals.

But as one scholar once posed the question: "how many people will want to commit suicide to cure a sore? How many people will want to sell their father's house, just because it is leaking, to a carpenter so that they become labourers of the carpenter toiling to mend the house for the new owner? How many intelligent people will not seek a way of having the house mended while they retain ownership?"

Secondly, the BPE's decision to go aborrowing at this material time is all the more shocking because by the admission of its Director-General, Malam El-Rufa'i, there is in fact no real need for the loan, at least, for now given the colossal sum of N190 billion realized from the first phase of the programme. Surely Nigerians need to be told how such a huge amount of money has been expanded in the Bureau's Privatization Programme.

Thirdly, the whole idea of taking foreign loans sounds ridiculous at this material

time when President Obasanjo and his entire team are globe-trotting, begging the international community and creditor agencies to FORGIVE and CANCEL Nigeria's debts. How can one morally justify debt-forgiveness when we keep on asking for more and more loans? Do we really want to be believed by the international community or are we just deceiving ourselves?

We all know that these are the same kinds of dubious debts whose real needs, utilization and prudent management are at best questionable. Yet we want to take more and more only for us to turn around to start shading crocodile tears that the burden is too much on us, that we cannot pay, that we should be forgiven. Which is why the World Bank, the IMF and other happy creditors are never for a second amused by our pretentious plea for cancellation. They know, more than any other body, that we are neither sincere nor serious.

Fourthly, laymen like me, need to be educated on why the IMF and the World Bank should force the privatization programme down our throats and then lure us into taking a loan with which to execute the same programme. It appears to me a double robbery: Nigerians forced to part with their collectively-created wealth; and yet even that pro-

cess of parting has to be financed not only by them (the masses), but also by their offsprings -vicariously through inherited debt. This is immoral.

When the West asked us to do immunization against Polio, they (understandably) heavily subsidized the vaccines. I believe whatever the hidden benefit of this immunization programme to the West, it at least has a more human face compared to the privatization.

Finally, Nigerians have been given the impressions that since the oil boom of the Gowon-era, no government has got so much money in Nigeria as the Obasanjo civilian administration. So even if we must borrow, why not borrow internally? Why the crave to further enslave Nigerians by all means?

Malam El-Rufa'i, please do remember that you, Obasanjo and Babangida (who started it all) and everybody that has a hand in this massive wealth appropriation (or misappropriation) shall definitely one day stand before Allah (Sub-hanahu Wa ta'ala) to give account.

May our accounting before Him be taken very highly. Ameen.

Gausu Ahmad lectures in the Department of Mass Communications, Bayero University, Kano.

Re: Rediscovering the North

By Mohammed Kabir Garba

The article entitled: "Rediscovering the North" by Ibrahim Ibrahim, which appeared in the *Daily Trust* in series came at no better time than now. In fact, the article should have been entitled: "Northern Nigeria in perspective" to sensitize the readers viewpoint of reference in understanding the true identity of a northerner.

I would like to commend the writer for finding time to research and write a historical piece that relates to current happenings in Nigeria. I will team up with him to condemn the cowardice of some old southerners for keeping quiet in the face of anarchy as witnessed during the Lagos crises of ethnic cleansing. It is quite unfortunate that old men, who should be morally upright, mature in thinking, organised as individuals, contented in wealth and dignified in knowledge kept silent in a situation of total anarchy only to raise their voices to condemn the introduction of Sharia legal system in the north. What do they wish to attain in old age that is more dignifying than to gain respect after their demise? I know one thing as a sojourner in Lagos for nearly 20 years now. Yorubas are afraid of being rejected and taunted by their tribesmen. It is no fallacy among the Yorubas that if you oppose what was a pre-planned agenda of coercion and intimidation of other tribes, your own tribes will rise against you. This was what we read and know of the 'Wild, Wild West Crisis of 1966.' The legendary Chief Akintola opposed the so-called sage of the Yoruba race, Chief Obafemi Awolowo. Such a thing is a great sin to their people. It would mean the enemy and the punishment is death. Chief Akintola died in such circumstances.

The writer also wrote convincingly on the mode of integration championed by the northerners in transforming the entire northern region into one united and indivisible entity. He wrote "The leaders from the northern region led purely for the upliftment of their diverse people. Northern leaders set examples of leadership buoyed by the role of the elite in their society, which more often than not formed the yardstick for measuring public conduct and character." This is a statement of fact, not fallacy. I grew up in the Middle-belt region as the son of a Hausa-Fulani settler and a native of the present-day Kogi State. I saw the god-conscious manner of leadership my grand-father who, migrated freely sometime around 1900 with his herds of cattle from Shira town in the present-day Bauchi state and, settled in the Middle-Belt region.

My grandfather, who was a learned Islamic preacher, left Shira with the sole aim of propagating Islam. My grandfather died there in 1932 according to family history. However, most of his children took to other trades and professions. One of his children became an influential figure, having been made a treasurer within the region in an area dominated by the inhabitants who are of the Igala tribe. He was so powerful that he was feared among the people owing to his solid and standard leadership quality. There has been a growing Hausa community in the locality since 1900's with many of them being descendants of Hausas from Kano, Garko in the present Hadejia State, Zaria, Bauchi, and Borno states. This explains why I see this eloquent statement as true to reality in reference to Nigeria's existence as a nation. "Tribalism is a destructive force and its most evil form is the drive to band together, people of the former South-Western region against the rest of the country". "Ethnic hatred has taken control of those who have been clamouring for the disintegration of this country....". The North would remain as one no matter what detractors in the South-West feel as a people or some self-centered, half-baked Northerners agitating for Middle-Belt region really have in mind. It is my prayer, it is our prayer.

One serious anathema I sensed among the South West-erners and their avowed detestation Northerners is the notion that an average northerner is viewed as uneducated, chauvinistic and unserious. The most amazing thing about this sadistic belief is that their wards or descendants have been brainwashed into thinking that, that is how the Northerner is. This is an unhealthy development for a country that is the pride of black peoples. It is not surprising that when mayhem enveloped Lagos during the OPC crises, a Hausa man could be slaughtered without blinking an eye for he was viewed as a lower animal. A Hausa man, who trades in cows, goats and sheep, is often referred to as "Nama" meaning meat but contemptuously as an animal.

The bottom line is we can only accept to live as Nigerians if we never take ourselves for granted. Despite our differences, religious orientations and cultural backgrounds, we should learn to respect one another, reason as one Nigerians in times of peace or war; only then can we be proud as Nigerians.

Mohammed Kabir Garba lives at No. 7, Eli Sabotti Street, Alasia, Ijanikin, Lagos.

The many benefits of Takaful

By Rakiya Ibrahim Sanusi

At some point in our lives, we are faced with loss, disaster, and demise of a dear one, especially the breadwinner, which can affect our lives significantly. As Muslims, what support do we have? It is important to plan our lives to ensure that we provide added security and protection for ourselves and our families. Within the Muslim world and developing countries, wars, disease and famine are rife; the traditional family structure and ties are no longer as strong as they used to be. Families are now scattered all over the world, hence that security which was granted is strained and is at breaking point.

This is where *Takaful* comes in. It offers protection for risks against property, health etc. *Takaful* products are developed on the concept of brotherhood and solidarity among participants. Participants not only save for their own future requirements, but participants save also in creating a fund to pay for the losses of fellow participants. It is based on a system of cooperation and mutuality; it is the pooling of common resources to help the needy.

Objections have been raised that taking out a

Takaful policy is against *Tawakkul* (relying totally on the will of Allah) hence unIslamic. Taking precautions in planning one's life is not against the will of Allah. In *Hadith*, when an Arab Bedouin asked the Holy Prophet, "Shall I leave my camel untied and seek Allah's protection on it, or should I tie it? The Holy Prophet replied "Tie your camel and then depend on Allah".

From this *Hadith*, it is clear that taking precautions is not against *Tawakkul*. In fact, it is a pre-requisite to *Tawakkul*. *Takaful* provides essential security and safeguards against loss and disaster. In so doing, one is able to save and plan for the future. Is saving for the education of our children, haram? Is investing for the future, haram? Is taking up a family *Takaful* policy, which encourages savings, haram? Is *Takaful* health plan policy for the family, haram. Surely not? A *Hadith* of the Holy Prophet says: "The one who looks after and works for a widow and for a poor person is like a warrior fighting for Allah's cause...." Another *Hadith* says: "It is a sin for someone to neglect and not to provide for those who de-

pend on him".

It is a concept that is falsely blamed as being unIslamic. *Takaful* provides us with a unique opportunity to galvanise the savings of the individual for the good of the community. It institutes financial discipline and encourages individuals to adopt suitable financial planning habits. *Takaful*, Islamic Insurance, is a concept that is yet to gain full acceptance by the Muslim community. There is still a lack of awareness about its tremendous benefits. It is still shrouded with suspicion.

One example is the *Takaful* life assurance. It is widely misunderstood. Islamic life assurance does not mean assuring one's life, but it is a financial transaction of undertaking a responsibility towards protecting widows, orphans and other dependants of the assured from future unexpected financial risks. It is a policy that relies on the principle of mutual cooperation, it does not involve interest but is based on *mudaraba* mode of financing.

The general public needs to be educated in order to correct this misconception that continues to prevail. According to Sheikh Nizam Yacubi, a Shariah Scholar, "It is our duty as practitioners

and Sharia scholars to educate the general public and bring this very important matter of planning and saving for future needs through *Takaful*, to their attention. They must understand that *Takaful* is becoming more important and that it is in accordance with the Shariah, if not an incumbent requirement of it. Did not the Prophet say "It is better to leave your heirs rich than to leave them poor and needy asking others for help?"

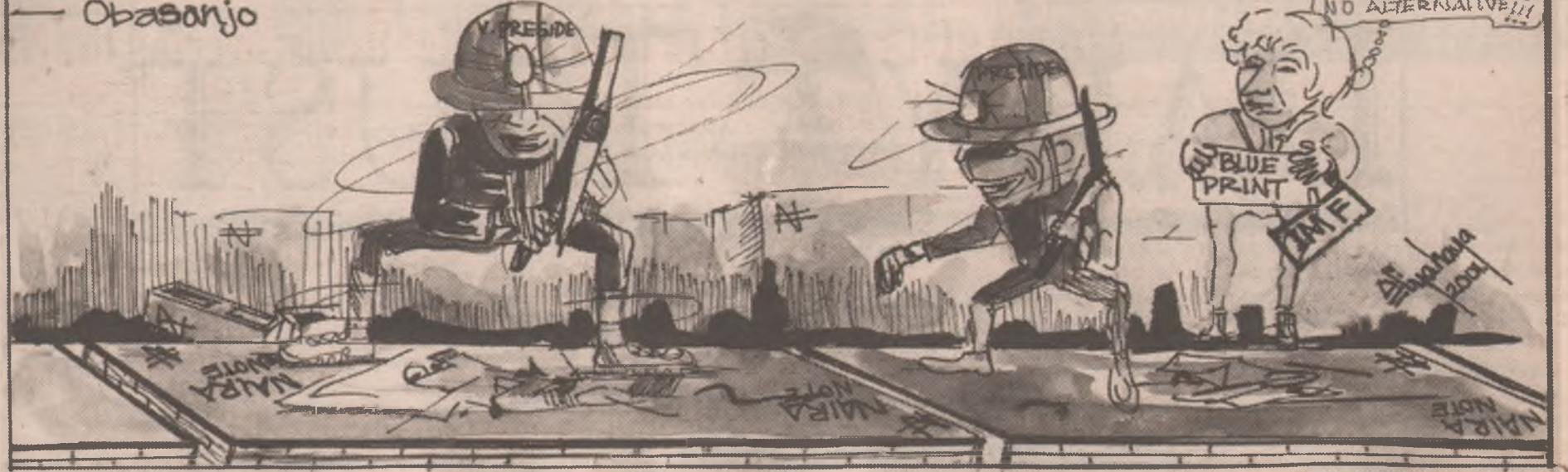
Takaful, being an integral part of the Islamic financial system, is an area that is not given enough attention as compared to Islamic banking. Hence it has not developed as much as Islamic banking. There is still not enough published information available on the subject, and a lot of research and development is required in order to develop this concept to realise its full potential.

Advertising and aggressive marketing with the aim of not just to sell products on offer but, also to educate the public as to what they are and to understand the basic concept of *Takaful*, is essential.

Rakiya Ibrahim Sanusi is of the Institute of Islamic Banking and Insurance, London.

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FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TAKES STEPS TO HALT THE SLIDE OF THE NAIRA
— Obasanjo



YOUR LETTERS

The joke is on Obasanjo CBN and the many banking licenses

The recent front page headline of Tribune newspaper dated 14th of January, 2001, entitled: "Presidency aide buys £20 million house" constitutes a big smear to President Obasanjo's hard line posture on corruption in Nigeria.

The many reported cases of corruption in the media indicting high-ranking members of the Obasanjo-led administration is messing up the President's avowed stand on accountability and transparency. The situation is even made worse by the very fact that those caught in corrupt practices are treated with kid gloves as no disciplinary action on them has been reported.

From most quarters, skepticism is mounting over Presi-

dent Obasanjo's willingness to conduct a thorough investigation concerning stinkingly corrupt individuals that are his close associates. Indeed, this has not surprised many because that was what happened when John Fashanu, an ex-international footballer and sports ambassador of UN, mentioned a former Head of State in a multi-billion dollar fraud. Till date no attempt has been made by government to probe the issue probably because it is rumoured that the said ex-head of State was instrumental to the enthronement of President Obasanjo.

The growing doubts concerning President Obasanjo's sincerity on anti-corruption will do the government no good as it can affect its good

intentions. However, in order to check the unpleasant conclusion by many that Obasanjo is partial and lacks guts, the government has to address these issues instead of directing all its anti-corruption arsenals on the Abacha family alone.

Until government becomes ready to respect the yearnings and aspirations of the people and make the issue of corruption an all-embracing exercise, the people of Nigeria will see the crusade as a selective programme of the Obasanjo administration; a mere vindictive tool at its disposal to punish its perceived enemies.

Rev. David Oboke, Faith Inter. Ministries, Akiode Gram. Sch. Road, Ogba-Lagos.

Every rational person knows that he does, not have to be another Pius Okigbo, the renowned economist, to understand the implications of the recent decision by Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to grant new licenses to Banks.

Not too long ago, former military ruler, Gen. Ibrahim Babangida (IBB), opened the floodgates to an unprecedented proliferation of banks in Nigeria. What came out of that policy will remain evergreen in the memory of Nigerians as most people are yet to stop telling the sad stories of the failed banks saga in relation to the hardship and pains inflicted on their per-

sons and businesses.

It will be recalled that in the IBB and Shonekan days of governance, most depositors and bank customers expressed great disappointment over most banks' inability to meet their demands. There was a crisis of confidence and apathy about the banking industry. But this stopped when late Gen. Sani Abacha's regime intervened. How Abacha went about the restoration of sanity in the banking sector during his regime and the criticisms that followed such measures are not the objective of this piece, but suffice it to state, that most banks that were not meeting their commitments

to their customers were sanctioned and subsequently liquidated.

One important thing the CBN must bear in mind is that without strengthening its measures for monitoring banks, the new licenses it is issuing banks will bring us back to the pre-Abacha days.

Those issuing new licenses should please spare us another round of failed banks because should the banking industry experience another crisis, it may be difficult to have another administration that can bring sanity to the sector like the late Abacha's did. That is the reality.

Nene Oboh, 5, Ibude street, Boji-Boji, Agbor, Delta State.

A Prophet and the gullible congregation

Time without number, I have read a catalogue of stories in the media about prophecies on Obasanjo's coming to the throne by some self-acclaimed men of God. No doubt prophecies do exist, but when such prophecies are laced with lies and half-truths, it makes nonsense of the efficacy of prophecies and casts aspersions on the integrity of the so-called men of God.

Bishop Okeke, General-Overseer of God's Pentecostal Mission's assertion that he prophesied Obasanjo coming to power as stated in the interview he granted the *Post Express* newspaper edition of February 28, 2001, is neither here or there. But it is extremely difficult to believe what he said about Abacha's death because death is a nec-

essary price that must be paid by all and sundry.

In spite of the euphoria that trailed Abacha's death, Bishop Okeke as a christian, should know that Abacha's death was an act of God. This is where a professed man of God should be faulted. It is against this backdrop that I see Bishop Obi Okeke's excitement over Abacha's death as ill-conceived and mischievous.

It may look improper to lampoon a man of God on the pages of a newspaper, but it has become necessary in order to correct some of the misgivings contained in the interview.

In as much as one may not have ready praises for the Abacha's government because conclusions have been reached, it is, however, glar-

ing that the Obasanjo administration is giving Nigerians stones instead of bread. So why should Bishop Okeke engage in praising the Obasanjo administration? It is sad enough that security of lives and property can no longer be guaranteed, while corruption is stinking to high heavens. So what really is worth celebrating about Obasanjo's regime?

The likes of Bishop Obi Okeke should desist from delving into areas that are not familiar to them. They should concentrate on evangelism and praying for the President to have the zeal and vision to lubricate the economy and improve the standard of living of Nigerians.

Zokoro Rinwan, 50, Rafisu Balogun, Old Bodija, Ibadan.

The many lies of IBB

Nigeria is a theatre of sorts where every character plays one role or the other. One such character is Gen. Ibrahim Babangida (IBB) who took us on a merry-go-round for the eight odd years that he presided over the affairs of Nigeria.

Gen. Babangida's recent interview "At home with Babangida" which was published in a Sunday edition of *THISDAY* newspaper has left me wondering over what has happened to his well-known charming disposition, which saw him through his reign. In that exclusive interview, Babangida came out ordinary, a man justifying most of his actions or outrightly passing the buck to another person to save his neck.

Most remarkable was the act of crediting every evil deed of his administration to late Gen. Sani Abacha who was apparently the number three man in hierarchy of the regime. Accord-

ing to Babangida, Abacha was going to rope him in the Diya coup of 1997 if not for Air Vice Marshal Aikhomu (rtd.) who intervened and persuaded Abacha for fifteen minutes before the intention was dropped. Lucky him!

Gen. Babangida's presentation of Gen. Abacha as a drag who rarely contributed in meetings because he usually came late is a gross contradiction of belief that Abacha was instrumental to the many evils of IBB regime. By omission or commission, General Babangida has by this statement exonerated Abacha from the shortcomings of his regime.

It is very amazing that in an attempt by Babangida to distance himself from the \$12 billion Gulf War Oil windfall scandal which gained currency during the Abacha era, he stated that the documents relating to the alleged fraud had four different editions which were labouriously doc-

tored by the Abacha regime in order to nail him. To boot, he said he has already intimidated President Obasanjo on this issue but refused to give the President the documents because they were stolen and obtained through abnormal channels. Very interesting indeed, as this will surely make a good analysis elsewhere for most Nigerians who cannot read between the lines.

It is high time the press realized that people who played inglorious roles in the past should not be given newsprint to distort history as a way of image-laundering.

Gen. Babangida has spoken again, but this time with many lies. The only consolation rests in the maxim "lie no matter how far it travels, truth will always catch up with it". And that is where IBB missed the point because the day of reckoning will surely come.

Abdulkareem Yakubu, CBN, Kaduna

The whopping amount that has been swindled under the guise of the National ID Card Project is as revealing as it is shocking.

It is disgusting that the present administration which pretends to wear the toga of incorruptibility should pump more money into a white elephant project such as the National ID scheme at such a time when most Nigerians don't know when their next meal will be.

One would have thought that the government will institute a probe with a view to throwing more light on the fraud. But it has become glaring that the President is always in the habit of keeping mum in situations that he is supposed to speak out

Wipples over national ID card project

and clear the air. All we know now is that the Senate has started to investigate the National ID scam.

However, the way the investigation is being carried out and the lack of interest of the Executive in the matter, is an indication that the probe would likely turn out to be a fluke and would not achieve its objectives.

When Mohammed Abacha was accused of financial impropriety, the government did not send his case to the Senate but sent Mohammed to court for trial.

One has started to cast aspersions on the fairness and in-

fallibility of the present administration that is fraught with many socio-economic and political problems.

The shoddy handling of the National ID Card issue may not be unconnected with the implication of Gen. Babangida in the deal, a situation where the outcome of the probe would not meet the expectations of Nigerians.

It is a pointer to the fact that some Nigerians are more equal than others thereby throwing, justice, equity and egalitarianism to the dust.

Idemudia Samson, HALTEC Engineering, 45, Urubi Street, Benin City.

Mbang-cleric or politician?

The comments attributed to the Primate of the Methodist Church of Nigeria, Sunday Mbang, in the February 12, 2001, edition of *The Guardian* newspapers entitled: "Mbang backs Obasanjo"; if true, suggest that sycophancy has started rearing its ugly head even in the spiritual circles.

It is difficult to believe that Primate Mbang who, hitherto was at the vanguard of those bent on vilifying the late General Abacha would suddenly cease offering constructive criticisms and solutions to the nation's

daunting problems by canvassing for a fresh tenure for President Obasanjo when it is obvious that this administration is yet to accomplish any landmark achievement despite the fact that almost half of its tenure is already gone.

From the interview, it could be inferred that Primate Mbang feels that majority of the populace are now enjoying what can be generally regarded as a blissful life expected from the transition from military to democracy. Wise thinking you may say.

...is it difficult to appreciate why the President of the

Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) would make such an assertion in the face of worsening fuel crisis, wholesome corruption, galloping inflation and above all, continued devaluation of the naira worse than it was during the Abacha reign.

Mbang's display can be likened to a man who is inconsistent where objectivity is required. It is unfortunate that the indefatigable bug, that blindfolds sycophants to the extent of not calling a spade, a spade has bitten Primate Sunday Mbang.

Banjo Olakunle, First Bank Plc, Lagos.

DAILY TRUST

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TRUST



INTERNATIONAL

FOREIGN & DIPLOMATIC

Some of us from this part of the continent are fascinated by your Movement System, your unique no party system. What is it about and why is it so popular in Uganda?

The Movement System came to Uganda in 1986. This was the time when Museveni came to power taking over from Milton Obote and it is a system that became popular because it did away with the old parties. There was a tendency to blame all the problems in Uganda on the parties because the parties were sectarian. For example if you are from a certain tribe or you belong to a certain religion, automatically someone will know the party you belonged to and so they promoted a kind of a winner takes all kind of situation and brought such bitter rivalries which eventually led to military juntas. As you know the problems of Uganda you must know. So the Movement was seen as bringing together the people of Uganda after the aborted regime to work together under a kind of umbrella on a common or minimal program. In other words let us suppress our freedoms of association in order to work for the development of this country on a minimal program. But the key thing is that it was supposed to be a transitory form of government. In other words, most of us understood that after sometimes, the parties would be allowed to work after we have gained some kind of political maturity because the movement embarked on serious political education for the population and we hoped that new parties would come up that will not be based on sectarianism and there will be political space to compete.

Now over time what happened to the movement? I will tell you the principles of the movement type of government. First of all, it is broad-based meaning that it brings people with different political beliefs, different social beliefs and they all work together with this minimal program. It is all inclusive. In other words, by the constitution of Uganda, every single Ugandan is in the movement. Then another important principle is that when you compete for one of the offices in that movement system of government, you do so on individual merit. Of course there is no party backing you. It is me Anne. I've come here. I give you my CV (Curriculum Vitae) and I tell you my abilities... It is on the basis of individual merit that you will stand, even if you are going to the Parliament, to the Local Council and according to law even to become president.

Recently, there seems to be political parties in Uganda, how do they exist side by side with the Movement System?

It was essentially Sule Lamido's day on the occasion of the foundation stone laying ceremony of the Headquarters Building of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Abuja last week. But it was Vice President Atiku Abubakar who really stole the show. When it was the Vice President's turn to speak, he started with the disclosure that, for once, he would observe the protocols in recognizing presence. *This is not his style, he said. What he does is to cut that aspect of public speaking to the barest, going straight into the business at hand after, like Clinton, saying nothing more than, Gentlemen, good morning or something that brief.*

Today, the Vice-President said he would not be doing so because he found himself in Protocol minded Ministry of Foreign Affairs and would not want to hurt their tradition. Everyone laughed and listened to hear how the Vee-Pee would fumble but he got the sequence right.

When he came to Sule Lamido, the Vee-Pee said that unfortunately, the Foreign Affairs Minister had no title but only to say that "He is a Comrade, I hear." Another round of laughter. That was the second time the two top men in the Villa would dress the Foreign Affairs Minister in socialist robes. The President is known to have introduced Lamido as the only socialist still around.

Done with the jokes, the Vice-President went on to expound the doctrine of constructive engagement, the foreign policy dogma of the present administration. This, he said, underlies the various trips of the President and himself to various parts of the continent. The regime

"Museveni is a thunderbolt" (1)

Savouring victory in this year's Ugandan presidential election may not be in President Yoweri Museveni's menu as the emissaries of the leading contestant, Dr. Kizza Besigye, are traversing the continent, campaigning to get the results nullified. Anne Mugisha, his publicity secretary, spoke with the Foreign Desk Editor, Kevin Ebele Adinnu, in Abuja.

The political parties are expression of different tendencies. So even if we are in the movement, we are leaning towards political parties especially since they understood the movement to be a transitory period. That is why when we drew up the constitution in 1995 there is an article 269, which is the most draconian article.

Now the movement stopped being a transitory kind of government. It became an alternative because the constitution says we can either have a movement kind of government or we can have a political party type of government. The constitution went on to say we shall have a referendum and every time the referendum in itself decides that we should have the movement type of government, the other type of multi party cannot operate. So we had a referendum and the referendum decided the movement. Buy that time, Museveni was very very popular.

Now the contradiction in the movement came to light with the candidacy

of Dr. Kizza Besigye. When Besigye decided to run with Museveni under the Movement System as an individual candidate, the Movement locked

"Museveni is the chairman of the High Command. Museveni is the minister of defence. Museveni is a one-man thunderbolt in the Ministry of Defence. He is the one who decides who is going to buy ammunitions from where."

him out. They said he did not consult anybody; that he should have consulted. Is the movement a party? Because he said on individual merit I'm presenting my credentials and there are people who

support me in Uganda. So we started seeing the contradictions in the movement at the point.

President Museveni appeared to be very

popular in Uganda until this recent election in which Col. Besigye a former comrade in arms set to say decided to provide this formidable challenge. Why the disenchantment

with Museveni?

I think the main reason, there are several reasons, but the main reason is management. If I'm going to put it quite simply, President Museveni has created a situation where he is a law unto himself. He has created a situation where he is operating with cliques usually, family members. You may have heard of Major General Salim Salim, his brother, then his in-laws... People who are clearly marked as tainted by corruption are the people who surround him but most of all he is an institution. The biggest point of departure between Dr. Besigye and President Museveni is that Dr. Besigye wants to build strong institutions. Museveni's supporters behave as if they belong to a personality cult. Museveni is the chairman of the High Command. Museveni is the minister of defence. Museveni is a one-man thunderbolt in the Ministry of Defence. He is the one who decides who is going to buy ammunitions from where. The control he has over the ministry (has made) it a personal institution. He even declared at the beginning of the election that if my candidate, Dr. Besigye, talked about the army, he would put him six feet under. He said this at the National Conference of the Movement. So he created a situation where only he can be King.

He completely believes that he himself alone has all the solutions to Uganda's problems. He has stifled political competition and as you know that brings disenchantment and disgruntlement. People who have their own other ideas about good governance do not have a chance. If you disagree with him, you are finished.

Then, he weakens institutions by creating parallel institutions. There is the regular army. Then you have the PPU (Presidential Protection Unit). Then you create the Customs Police. Then you create a new Anti-smuggling Unit. You have about three parallel institutions doing the same thing some of whom are directly under his office and all these things tend to weaken institutions. Then you create something like Inspector General of Government who is an ombudsman and you appoint a minister in charge of integrity and ethics and you say that the Vice President is in charge of corruption.

All these institutions cannot work simply because one does not know what the other is doing and if this one gets towards what you don't want, you squeeze it. Management style, I think, in a nutshell.

To be cont'd tomorrow.



Pix Felix Onigbinde.

Foreign Office of our dream

By Adagbo Onoja



Vice President Atiku Abubakar (second left) laying the foundation stone of the Foreign Affairs Ministry last week.

Pix Kennedy Eghonodje.

sends clear messages to her partners on the fears, hopes and expectations of the Nation as well as express the desire to play a key role in world affairs, the Vee-Pee said. The process of constructive engagement, he also said, has meant the visit of various leaders, special envoys and delegations to the country in recent times. It is indicative that we have resumed our rightful place in the comity of nations, said the Vee-Pee who requested all diplomatic Missions still located outside Abuja to move in urgently as a matter of

priority. The desire of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is that this Foreign Office would be more than another public building. Hence the elaborate and involving paper works that fore-grounded the project. As it stands now, the design of the building is based on a study of many models across the world. The expectation is that the Foreign Office, apart from combining beauty, elegance and dignity, would be a very functional work place for those who chose or were chosen to serve the

Nation as diplomats. This is what is suggested by this portrait of the project by Foreign Affairs publicists:

"The building is located on Plots 736 & 737 in the Ministry Zone of the Central Area of Abuja, measuring about 3.66 hectares, and faces the National Mall and the Eagle Square. It is bordered on three sides by Ibrahim Babangida Drive, Ahmadu Bello Way and Hospital Avenue South. Along the fourth (South-eastern) border of the rectangular site is the proposed future mass-transit way.

The main office consists of four Rectangular blocks. The central block is 9-storey high and flanked on either side and rear facade by smaller blocks. At the front of the central block, is an elliptical unit, which provides a dramatic and prominent focal point at the main entrance. This unit houses the conference facilities of the complex. Other components of the project include a multi-floor parking deck, a Generator House, Gate Houses, Back-up water provisions, Fencing, Hard and Soft Landscaping, etc.

The main entrance is from a giant "porte cochere" below the elevated conference facility. This connects via a security lobby to the central foyer, which forms the circulation hub of the complex. Staff entrances are entirely separate on the floor below. Provision has been made for disable access to the complex at key points. Each of the four office blocks has a central naturally lit atria surrounded by offices along "Single bank" corridors. The plan is based on primary structural grid of 5.4 x 5.4m and a space-planning module of 1.35m squares.

Onoja is Media Assistant to Foreign Affairs Minister.

TRUST INTERNATIONAL

AFRICA & THE MIDDLE EAST

Israel arrests Arafat's guards

Israel has seized at least five members of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's elite Force 17 bodyguard unit.

In a special operation near the West Bank town of Ramallah, Israeli security men took the men while they were manning a checkpoint near a Palestinian village.

And in fresh violence, French news agency AFP reports that an Israeli soldier has been killed by Palestinian gunfire near the village of Salem outside the West Bank town of Nablus.

The violence capped a day of continuing tension as both sides buried children killed in confrontations earlier this week.

The Force 17 members were picked up by undercover Israeli special forces camouflaged with foliage, according to witnesses.

Army helicopters hovered overhead during the operation and nearby tanks provided cover, according to reports.

Palestinian Minister Saeb Erakat denounced the operation as an act of "piracy" and further proof of Israel's "organised terrorism".

But Israeli army chief, General Shaul Mofaz defended the seizure.

"We will strike where is necessary at those who commit terrorism and kill civilians or Israeli soldiers," he said on Israeli television.

The Israelis have accused Force 17 of colluding with extremist groups such as Hamas in carrying out attacks inside Israel.

The Israeli press is full of speculation that a prolonged campaign against the Palestinians is in the offing.

The Israeli newspaper *Haaretz* quoted security officials as saying that more air and ground attacks were imminent, as well as more arrests of Palestinian activists.

Last Wednesday, Israeli helicopters attacked the Force 17 headquarters and offices in Ramallah and the Gaza Strip.

The special unit is considered to be the best-trained force among Mr Arafat's Palestinian police and is responsible for his personal safety.

Amidst the tension, both sides buried the victims of a week of violence.

Palestinians buried seven people killed in confrontation with Israeli soldiers.

They included an 11-year-old boy who died on Sunday of wounds suffered during a clash with Israeli forces two weeks ago.

In the West Bank town of

Hebron, emotional Jewish settlers buried a 10-month-old baby girl killed by a Palestinian sniper amidst heavy security.

Thousands of Jewish settlers wept and chanted psalms in the town of Hebron as they buried Shalhevet Pass, who was shot in the head last Monday.

Her parents had refused to bury her until Israeli forces recaptured the hill overlooking the Jewish enclave, from where the sniper had shot

her.

The burial finally went ahead after personal appeals from the Israeli chief rabbi, Israel Meir Lau.

The burials came after a week of suicide bombings, shootings and rocket attacks that caused the deaths of three Israelis and at least 12 Palestinians.

Our correspondent says the burials of both children have served to harden attitudes on both sides, and there is a widespread feeling that the conflict may be entering a new, more intense phase.



Jewish youths clash with soldiers at the funeral of Shalhevet Pass.

Museveni seeks funds for army

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni has said he needs an additional \$700m over the next one to three years to upgrade the security forces.

He said this was necessary to wipe out inefficiencies and corruption in the army, which he said were partly to blame for a recent spate of rebel attacks in the north and west of the country.

The money will be in addition to the annual defence budget, which last year came to a \$110m.

The recent rebel and terrorist attacks have followed last month's presidential elections.

Mr Museveni won with 69% per cent of the vote, but



Museveni

the results are being challenged in court by his principal opponent, Dr Kizza Besigye.

In the past three weeks there have been a number of rebel raids, including an attack on the western Ugandan town of Kasese which left 11 people dead.

...blames army for slow reaction to rebels

As 10 people were killed in an ambush in a northern national park, Mr Museveni blamed the military for reacting slowly, going so far as to accuse soldiers of poaching hippopotamus while the rebels attacked.

Uganda is a poor coun-

try and the president has in the past promised donors he would cut back on defence spending after first modernising the army.

But he told journalists he was now unsure about cut-backs, given that Uganda was in the process of upgrading the infantry and building an air force.

He did not make reference to Uganda's unpopular involvement in the three-year war in neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo.

It was not clear if the president would get what he wants.

Any increase will need to be approved by the donor community, whose grants and loans account for 50% of the Ugandan budget.

South African woman hanged for murder

A white South African woman sentenced to death in Botswana for a love-triangle murder was hanged on Saturday, a prison official said yesterday.

Mariette Bosch, 50, was sentenced in February last year to hang for the June 1996 murder of her best friend, Maria Wolmarans, whose husband she later married.

"The Commissioner of Prisons and Rehabilitation, Joseph Orebotse, announces the execution of the death penalty upon Mrs. Mariette Sonjaleen Bosch," the prison service said in a statement.

Bosch was hanged at Gaborone's Central Maximum Prison on Saturday. No other details were given.

Botswana President Festus Mogae, who was expected to make a statement on the matter, had refused to grant Bosch clemency.

In January, a panel of Commonwealth judges dismissed an appeal by Bosch, saying there was a massive body of evidence that she

had committed the crime.

The judges rejected Bosch's claim that she had been framed by a former boss who she said had billed Wolmarans to stop her exposing theft and fraud in the company they worked for.

Bosch admitted to the court that she brought into Botswana the gun with which Wolmarans was shot, but said she did it for her boss.

Bosch is the first person to be hanged in Botswana in three years. There have been 33 hangings in the country since independence from Britain in 1966.

Botswana retains the death penalty for murder, treason, an attempt on the life of the head of state and for the military offences of mutiny and desertion in the face of the enemy.



The Ugandan military which Museveni seeks to improve.

Egyptian clerics ban surrogate motherhood

Muslim clerics in Egypt have banned women from acting as surrogate mothers — bearing children for other women who are themselves unable to conceive.

They say the practice violates the bonds of marriage.

The decree — issued by the highest religious authority for Sunni Muslims in Egypt — also said widows should not become pregnant

using sperm saved from their dead husbands.

It ruled that, since death ends marriage, such insemination would mean the woman was being impregnated by someone who was no longer her husband. Medical advances such as surrogacy and organ transplants have produced a number of ethical dilemmas for Muslim scholars in recent years.

Rwanda mourns genocide victims

Rwanda has begun a week of mourning for the victims of the 1994 genocide in which hundreds of thousands of Tutsis and moderate Hutus were killed.

Flags will fly at half-mast throughout the week, places of entertainment will be shut, and state-run radio will play solemn music.

The genocide followed the death of the President, Juvenal Habyarimana, a Hutu, in a plane crash in 1994.

About five hundred people suspected of taking part in the genocide have been sentenced to death but more than a thousand are still in prison, many of whom have been awaiting trial for nearly seven years.

TRUST INTERNATIONAL

WORLD REPORT



The US spy plane on a routine mission.

US rejects jet crash blame

The commander of the US Pacific military forces has rejected Beijing's claim that an American plane rammed a Chinese military jet causing it to crash.

Admiral Dennis Blair said that in fact the Chinese planes were at fault and sharply criticised China for more "aggressive" tactics in intercepting US planes.

"It's not a normal practice to play bumper cars in the air," he said.

The Chinese plane apparently collided with a US Navy EP-3 surveillance aircraft, which was forced to make an emergency landing on Chinese soil at Lingshui, on the southern tip of Hainan.

None of the American crew were hurt, but rescue parties are searching for the Chinese pilot whose whereabouts is not known.

American diplomats are travelling to Hainan to see the crew, said US Ambassador Joseph Prueher.

The US Pacific Command has asked for the return of the crew and aircraft.

But Admiral Blair said that US officials had had no contact with the crew since its initial report that it landed with no injuries.

"We just don't know what has happened to them," Admiral Blair said.

"We are waiting right now for the Chinese government to give us the kind of co-operation that is expected of countries in situations like this," he said. "But as time goes on, it's increasingly worse and it's been 18 hours that we don't have a phone call yet from our crew."

China's Foreign Ministry said earlier that "proper arrangements" had been made for the crew, but did not say where they were.

The ministry has put all the blame on the US aircraft for causing the collision.

Zapatistas return home

Mexico's Zapatista rebels have made a triumphant return to their home state of Chiapas after marching on the capital to campaign for Indian rights.

Hundreds of people gathered in the centre of San Cristobal de las Casas to greet leader Subcomandante Marcos and 23 rebel commanders.

"Today we end our march, but the fight continues," Zapatista commander Zededeo told the crowds.

"We have to continue together, with you, on this path, confronting obstacles and walking among the thorns to achieve what Mexico wants."

Four days ago the rebels appeared before the Mexican Congress to press for greater rights for the country's 10 million indigenous Indians.

The rebel march began on 25 February and they arrived in Mexico City on 11 March.

Along the way to the capital, they were given exuberant welcome in 12 states.

They remained in Mexico City for 18 days during which President Vicente Fox offered general goodwill gestures expressing

support for the bill.

Cattlemen and landowners back in Chiapas threatened last month to block their return, demanding that the government order the rebels to give back land and cattle seized during spates of violence in 1994 and 1995.

Castro opens parliamentary summit

Cuban President Fidel Castro has welcomed delegates to the 105th meeting of the Interparliamentary Union - the world organisation of parliaments - which has opened in the capital Havana.

Mr Castro used his speech to criticise the US for not sending a delegation, saying American politicians were missing a good chance to find out what the rest of the world was thinking.

The week-long meeting aims to cover a whole range of subjects, including women's issues, human rights and the situation in the Middle East.

Away from the main conference hall, delegates are also expected to be discussing bilateral relations between North and South Korea

and the situation in Angola.

1,400 parliamentarians from more than 120 countries are at the conference, the one notable absence being the United States.

The Interparliamentary Union, or IPU, is the world organisation of parliaments of sovereign States.

Its aim, according to its news release, is to work for peace and co-operation among peoples and for the firm establishment of representative democracy - and it always has plenty of work.

At this conference in Havana, the delegates will try to bring North and South Korea closer together and get all those involved in the conflict in Angola to talk to one another.

27 die at Pakistani festival

Pakistani officials said at least 27 people have been crushed to death and 100 were injured in a stampede outside the shrine of an Islamic saint in Paktattan, 180km south of Lahore.

A police inspector said 20 of the victims died of suffocation when a crowd of thousands of men, who were crammed in a narrow street, rushed forward to the shrine's main door when it opened. The rest died of their injuries in hospital.

The stampede occurred at the start of a religious festival in Punjab province.

Every year, an estimated 500,000 people attend religious rituals marking the anniversary of the death of the Muslim saint Baba Farid Ganj Shakar, who died in 1265.

Many devotees believe that entry to heaven is ensured if they pass through the shrine's Behashti Darwaza (Paradise Door).

Milosevic fights arrest

As former Yugoslav leader Slobodan Milosevic starts his second day in Belgrade's central jail, his lawyer is seeking to overturn a 30-day detention order against him.

At the same time, the US is preparing to deliver its verdict on whether the Yugoslav authorities have done enough for it to release about \$50m in aid for the country.

Mr Milosevic's incarceration comes after a dramatic stand-off at his villa ended peacefully with him being bundled into an official car early on Sunday morning.

Police have seized a huge cache of arms from the villa, in the exclusive suburb of Dedinje, including two armoured personnel carriers, 30 automatic weapons, three heavy machine guns, a rocket-propelled grenade launcher and two cases of hand grenades.

In the end the former strongman gave himself up, but government sources are quoted as saying any attempt to storm the building would have ended in a blood-bath.

In the early hours of Saturday, police special units had tried to enter the compound but were driven back by bodyguards defending Mr Milosevic, who later threatened to kill himself and his family rather than surrender.

The Yugoslav authorities intend to try Mr Milosevic for bringing the nation to its knees during more than a decade of misrule.

ODD WORLD

April: Media fools the world

A healthy pinch of salt was on the menu this weekend as reporters around the world entered into the spirit of All Fools' Day.

Tanzania's *Sunday Observer* reported alarm at its scoop - a sighting of Ugandan ex-dictator Idi Amin, dressed in a kilt, parading down the main street of the central Tanzanian town of Tabora.

He was accompanied, it said, by an entourage of armed warriors and 37 of his own children, in a procession led by a member of the Saudi Arabian royal family.

This gave the paper an explanation for its lack of photographic evidence:

"Unfortunately, because of the presence of the Saudi prince, nobody was allowed to photograph this unique whistle-stop visit."

In neighbouring Kenya, a mobile phone advertisement that seemed too good to be true turned out to be precisely that.

"Top military personnel, politicians and businessmen" were among more than 5,000 people who fell for a press advert purporting to come from a new mobile service provider, offering free handsets with built-in

scratch cards, the Internet, a videocam and a TV screen, KTN TV reported.

The internet featured in a tall story in *The Times* of India.

The Mehtas, a family of keen Internet surfers in Delhi, have been acting strangely after admitting "a tiny being" into their home, it said.

The creature - known as an inter-terrestrial, or IT - speaks a language which only the 12-year-old daughter of the house has mastered.

"All that he says when the Mehtas shake his hand is: 'Sneziten. loof lirpa'," the paper said.

"When Raheena tried to decipher 'Sneziten, loof lirpa' by writing it down, she accidentally read it backwards. Now, she smiles whenever she sees her Netaholic parents."

From Germany came a report of a scheme to raise money for the Berlin city coffers by selling off the names of railway stations to the highest bidder.

The daily *Der Tagesspiegel* claimed an exclusive for its report that the city fathers were hoping to raise up to DM5m per station by allowing prominent individuals and companies to sponsor them.

Taiwan welcomes Dalai Lama

Large crowds have turned out to hear Tibet's exiled spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, speak on the first full day of his visit to Taiwan.

About 30,000 people - Taiwanese citizens and Tibetans in exile - bought tickets to attend the event at the Linkou stadium in the capital, Taipei.

The Dalai Lama insists he was visiting the island only for religious reasons, although he will meet some government leaders.

China, which has protested against the Dalai Lama's presence in Taiwan, will be further angered to see him greeted like a head of

state. Taiwan's vice-president, Annette Lu, shared a stage with the Dalai Lama and appealed for peace and understanding from Beijing.

Ms Lu, whom China has condemned for describing Taiwan and China as "close neighbours but distant relatives", thanked the Dalai Lama for braving China's disapproval and showing concern for Taiwan.

"Tibetan compatriots have faced all kinds of oppression from the Chinese Communist Party, but he still has the heart and compassion to come to Taiwan, because he knows we have many difficulties as well," she said.



Taiwan's Vice President Annette Lu (r) greeting the visiting Dalai Lama at a ceremony in Taoyuan stadium, April 2, 2001. (Reuters)

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NIGERIA-CONGO DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The above named chamber of commerce in Abuja is applying for registration under Part C of the companies and Allied Matters Decree No. 1 of 1990.

The trustees are as follows:-

1. Amb. Deinde Fernandez (Patron)
2. Adetunji Adeleke (Chairman)
3. Adebola Orolugbagbe (President)
4. Okechukwu Okereke (Legal)
5. Akinola 'Seyi Orolugbagbe
6. Bolangembe Iyongo
7. Medard Nguvu Milano
8. Dele Momodu
9. S. Abubakar Umar

Any objection(s) to the Registration should be forwarded within 28 days of this publication to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, P.M.B. 198, Area 11, Garki, Abuja.
Signed: **Adebola O. Orolugbagbe**

PUBLIC NOTICE

GLOBAL NETWORK AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN

This is to notify the general Public that the above named association has applied for registration under Part C, of CAMA, 1990

The trustees are as follows:-

1. Dr. Patrick Egbase
2. Barr. (Mrs.) Lola Egbase
3. Mrs. Bilana Negbenebor
4. Dr. (Mrs) Bridget Eighophan
5. Dr. Peter Omiyi

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

Signed: **Secretary**

PUBLIC NOTICE

LIVING FAITH CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY

Notice is hereby given to the general public that LIVING FAITH CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission Abuja for registration under Part C of he Companies and Allied Matters Act Cap 59 of 1990

The trustees are as follows:-

1. Rev. Joseph Akazue
2. Deacon Andrew Obarki
3. Mr. David Ioaghan
4. Deaconess Patience C. Akazue
5. Deaconess Harriet Nakireru

Any objection(s) to the Registration should be forwarded within 28 days of this publication to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, P.M.B. 198, Area 11, Garki, Abuja.
Signed: **Azubuikwe Ikenna Jahius, Solicitor.**

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BUSINESS DAY

IFEM Scam:

FG moves to clean up Forex market

The federal government has concluded plans to clean up the three tier foreign exchange market (Forex) in the country following the scam involving 25 banks in the Interbank Foreign Exchange Market (IFEM).

Dependable sources close to the government revealed to *Business Day* that government had been worried over the independence of rates between the official market and other currency markets as was expressed by President Olusegun Obasanjo last week. But the recent IFEM scam made a radical change in the operations of the market impera-

From Bright Ewulu, in Lagos

tive, because the President observed that some banks are taking advantage of this disparity to deepen the already wide gap.



Adamu Ciroma, Finance Minister

Obasanjo maintained that what shocked the government was the calibre and number of banks that were involved in the notorious and illegal activity, saying that almost all the big banks in the country were involved.

This situation, according to him, is capable of denting the image of the country, as well as question the accountability and transparency policy of government.

It will be recalled that members of the Nigeria-America Chamber of Commerce who paid him a visit recently urged the federal government to take steps to halt further slide of the

Naira to bridge the widening gap between the official and parallel market exchange rates.

However, before now, operators have been crying loud that the continued fall in the exchange rate was being induced by the illegal activities of some banks who buy dollars at the rate of N110 at IFEM and sell it at black market or Bureau De Change rate of N120 - N135.

In other words, it has become beneficial to them for the Naira to continually lose its value.

An analyst, Mr. Abiola Sapper had told *Business Day* earlier in the month that

some government officials, the multi-nationals and banks were involved in the black market scam, stressing that the nation's economic woes could be blamed on the powers that be.

Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) spokesman, Tony Ede last week disclosed that the recent scandal started upon discovery by the bank that banks' accounts were not funded with Naira equity values of their dollar bids. Said he: "We discovered that the banks accounts were in the red".

The scenario, according to analysts suggests that the banks collect dollars from IFEM without paying for it

and trade it off at the black market rate with a profit and then return to the IFEM for another bidding session.

Ede, however, disclosed that the banks' suspension for 10 IFEM days may just be the punishment the CBN will hand out in order not to cause systemic failure since many banks are involved in the scam, given the fact that an average of 30 banks participate in each IFEM bidding.

This he said is to avoid a situation where more distress is generated in the already distrusted economy, warning, however, that the CBN would be more affirmative should such a show of shame be repeated.

Marketers defy NPA Chairman's quit notice

About four weeks after the Chairman, Board of Directors of the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA), Chief Olabode George ordered some marketers to remove iron-rods that litter the port, causing an eyesore, these marketers are yet to heed the warning.

Investigations by *Business Day* revealed that a hill of packed iron-rods are still noticeable at sheds six, seven and eight. It was gathered from a reliable source that owners may not remove them, because it is safe to keep them in the port and it costs less while pieces of land to keep them are very

From Tokunbo Oloke, in Lagos

scarce and expensive.

The owners would prefer to keep them at the port where they are safe and pay just small amounts of money and sell right at the port.

The source noted that since these items have occupied vast areas in the port, it becomes difficult to move vehicles freely thereby resulting in heavy traffic most of the times.

Before, items like general goods and personal effects were packed outside the warehouse but now they are lumped into the warehouse directly from the vessels which makes operations difficult.

American firms to invest in solid minerals

The Managing Director of the Nigerian Mining Corporation (NMC), Engr. Biodun Olorunfemi has disclosed the readiness of some American companies to invest in the nation's solid minerals sector by exploring the abandoned deposits scattered in some parts of the country.

Speaking during a familiarisation visit to the Correspondents Chapel of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) in Plateau State, Olorunfemi said already, some American investors including a team of engineers and geologists are on their way to the country.

From Buhari Bello, in Jos

According to him, the decision of these companies to invest in the country followed publications on Nigerian solid mineral deposits in international media.

Some of the mineral deposits, he said, include Tantalite used in microchip and computer production, stressing that the U.S., Japan and China are the highest consumers of such deposits because they are the major producers of computer accessories.

He repeated that over two million dollars of these materials now come into Nigeria annually from

small and local investors at the detriment of the nation's potential.

The managing director also disclosed that the corporation has embarked on strategic planning to ensure that the country benefits directly from such abundant deposits.

He lamented that Nigerians "are busy talking about oil and nobody computes the amount of revenue accruing to the nation through industries.

Commenting on the gold deposits recently discovered in Kebbi State, he said that already, some foreigners have already indicated interest in investing in the sec-

tor, through a joint venture with the government in the exploitation and exploration of the mineral.



Kanu Agabi, Solid Minerals Development Minister

Emir offers land to foreign investors

The Emir of Zazzau, Alhaji Shehu Idris, has expressed the readiness of the Zazzau Emirate Council to provide free land to prospective foreign investors wishing to set up industries in Zaria.

The Emir made this known while receiving the deputy managing director of



Shehu Idris, Emir of Zazzau

West African Seasoning Company Limited and representative of Aji-No-Moto Inc. Tokyo, Japan, Chief Maurice Pagnon, who paid him an official visit in Zaria.

He stated that the gesture of the emirate council was meant to promote rapid industrialisation of the area and address the problem of youth unemployment in Kaduna State and the nation in general.

He further explained that Zaria which was well known as an "educational city due to the presence of many educational institutions in the city, lacked industries," and called on the management of Aji-No-Moto to avail itself of this opportunity of acquiring land to enable it establish a branch of any of its subsidiaries in Zaria.

He assured that the emirate council would continue

to support and encourage investors whose intention was to promote viable economic activities in the country.

Earlier, Pagnon told the Emir that Aji-No-Moto had been in existence since 1909 while the Nigerian affiliate, West African Seasoning Company Limited, was established in 1992.

"Ever since, the company has built a solid reputation in the food and beverage sub-sector and its product, Aji-No-Moto is a market leading brand having a sizeable market share in the seasoning sector," he said.

Pagnon further explained that Aji-No-Moto which was being sold all over the world was now being made through the fermentation of sugarcane, "the same process used in making Akamu and Kunnu".

NITEL to digitalise Lafia exchange in June

The Minister of Communications, Alhaji Mohammed Arzika has said that the digitalisation and expansion of Lafia exchange in Nasarawa State will be completed in June.

Speaking when he paid a courtesy visit to Governor Abdullahi Adamu, the minister, who had earlier inspected the digitalisation project, said that work on the project was going on in earnest.

Arzika, accompanied by NITEL's executive director in charge of domestic network, Dr. Suleiman Sani and deputy general manager, Mr. I. A. Sebanjo, said that the exchange would be expanded from the 500 'epilep-

tic' analogue lines to 2,500 efficient digital lines.

He told the governor that work on the digitalisation of



Abdullahi Adamu, Nasarawa State Governor.

Keffi exchange would commence as soon as the Lafia exchange was inaugurated.

On post offices, Arzika said that E-mail facility would be provided in every post office in the country, adding that NIPOST now carried mails daily and delivered them within 72 hours.

Responding, the governor assured the minister that he would use the facilities of information centres in the state to enlighten the people on the need for them to patronise NITEL and NIPOST.

He said he was desirous that the state be linked to the new fibre optic transmission wiring, which he pointed out, passed through the state from the eastern zone.

BUSINESS DAY

CBN sells N49b securities

Government securities worth N49.084 billion were sold by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) last week, up from the N26.436 billion worth traded the previous week.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that investment in the new CBN certificates constituted the bulk of transactions at the market.

A total of N20.293 billion was invested in the new CBN certificates, while N5.947 billion was invested in 180-day tenured certificates, N4.346 billion was invested in the 360-day tenured certificates.

Interest rates payable on the certificates range between 19 and 20 percent.

NAN reports further that

transactions at the open market operations (OMO) and primary market auction



Joseph Sanusi, CBN Governor

(PMA) ends of the market during the week were mixed. While trading increased at OMO, it fell considerably at the PMA.

About N14 billion worth of bills were traded

at OMO, an increase from the N2.863 billion worth sold previous week.

The range of bids hovered between 14.25 and 16 percent while the true yield rate for the 35-day tenured bills is 116.2493 percent.

At the PMA, N14.691 billion worth of

bills were traded against the N23.573 billion worth traded previous week.

Bid rates offered at the market range from 14 to 16.5 percent while the true yield rate is 17.2073 percent.

NLNG awards contract for Finima expansion

The Nigeria Liquefied Natural Gas (NLNG) has awarded a project specification contract to the consortium of Technip/Snamprogetti/Kellogg Bown & Root/JGC (TSKJ) for the engineering design and specification of the "NLNG plus project".

The general manager, external relations of the company, Ms. Siene Allwell-Brown, said in a statement in Lagos that "the project is a two train expansion of NLNG's liquefied natural gas (LNG) complex at Finima on Bonny Island in Rivers State."

The project, which will be completed before the end of the year was awarded, following highly competitive bidding and would provide documentation for tender engineering, procurement and construction (EPC).

The EPC contract is to be awarded in the first quar-

ter of 2002 with start-up of NLNG plus in mid-2005.

On completion of the NLNG plus project, the NLNG plant will have an overall production capacity of 16.7 million tonnes per annum of LNG and two million tonnes per annum of LPG, it said, adding that it will also utilise about 2,000 million standard cubic feet per day of gas.

The managing director of NLNG, Mr. Andrew Jamieson, who signed on behalf of the company, said "the award of the project specification contract for the NLNG plus is a further demonstration of the confidence of NLNG's shareholders in the NLNG project and the success of the Nigerian government in encouraging the

development of the Nigerian gas industry".

According to Jamieson, the continued growth of the NLNG project will enable the export of larger amounts of gas associated with oil productions, which would otherwise have to be flared.



Rilwanu Lukman, Presidential Adviser on Petroleum & Energy

Insurer bemoans Naira depreciation

The federal government has been advised to curb the increasing depreciation of the Naira against other foreign currencies to energise the national economy by halting inflation.

The managing director of Oasis Insurance Limited, Lagos, Mr. Kayode Durojaiye, who gave the advice, wondered why the Naira keeps depreciating despite the turnouts of revenue accruals to Nigeria through the sale of crude oil in the international market.

The insurance expert said "it is better imagined than experienced, the way

From Olumide Bajulaiye, in Abeokuta

depreciation leads to hyperinflation. Notwithstanding CBN's attempt to mop up the excess liquidity, the effect has not been positive, and this does not augur well for the business and insurance sectors".

Speaking on the role of insurance in a deregulated economy, the chartered insurer said that more than ever before, the role of insurance is "most-needed now that there are lots of risks to cover as occasioned by the volume of investment.

"Insurance companies are up to the challenge to

cover risk of Nigerian investors with qualified professionals manning all levels of services and security portfolios.

Reacting on why private insurance companies are scrambling to cover government investments with NICON, Durojaiye explained that the fact that government, especially at the federal level is the largest owner of properties, makes it the target of insurance companies to benefit from insuring them, "hence the movement of most insurance companies to Abuja to have a share in insuring government properties".

Chevron to establish petrol stations

Chevron Nigeria limited, one of the multi-nationals in-



Ray Wilcox, Chevron MD

is to set up filling stations across the country. managing director, Fairwinds Oil Limited, the office distributor of the newly introduced Chevron lubricants, Dr.

From Rakiya A. Mohammed, in Lagos

(Mrs.) Josephine Akhigbe disclosed this at the official launch of the Chevron lubricants in Lagos.

She noted that Chevron filling stations to be set up in conjunction with Fairwinds Oil Limited, will facilitate the marketing of the lubricants and the development of its network in Nigeria.

Akhigbe, who added that her company will ensure that the products get to all nooks and crannies of the country, said her company also wants to engage the services of agents who are supposed to have filling stations.

She disclosed that the Chevron lubricants are the only oil to exceed the limit of the recently released world oil specification.

Also speaking at the

launch, Chevron's Nick Pages maintained that the company was genuinely interested in rendering qualitative service to its consumers, adding that the lubricants offer vehicle and truck protection and performance not previously available in Nigeria.

According to Pages, the lubricants have a full range of diesel engine oils suitable for a wide variety of applications and operating conditions.

The different range of products launched include Chevron Delo 400 multigrade SAE 15w-40, Chevron RPM Super Diesel multigrade SAE 152-40 and Chevron Delo XLD multigrade SAE 10w-40. Others are Chevron Heavy Duty motor oil CD and Chevron Heavy Duty oil CF-2.

Societe Generale Bank issues free ATM cards

Societe Generale Bank Nigeria Limited (SGBN) has kicked off its free cash point cards of-



Jubril Martins-Kuye, Finance Minister of State

fer bonanza and 1,000 customers of it's Automated Teller Machine (ATM) are

From Bright Ewulu, in Lagos

expected to benefit from it before the offer ends April 30. The offer which started last week will enable beneficiaries access their cash in any designated SGBN branches and outlets 24 hours a day and seven days a week.

SGBN senior manager, card products, Mr. Adeyinka Adeyemi stated that the gesture is a practical demonstration of the bank's commitment to the satisfaction of the cash needs of Nigerians after bank hours and during holidays. Adeyemi posits that the offer was at tender with the surging support accorded the product since its relaunch recently.

According to a statement signed by the bank's head of Corporate Affairs, Mr.

Onyekdachi Nwosu, business activities at all the branches of the bank have increased, showing that the ATM card offer is going to succeed nationwide.

On the benefits of the product, it stated that customers do not need to carry huge amounts of cash since they can readily collect cash any time of the day and that customers can request for cheque books through the ATM and pay their bills by the same process.

It maintained that with the eventual incorporation of the automated teller machine (ATM) cards with those of value cards, cardholders of the product will have the opportunity of accessing their cash on the ATM's anytime of the day with their cards.

Atiku commends Cadbury for gas utilization

Vice-President Atiku Abubakar has commended Cadbury Nigeria Plc for its pioneering effort in the area of utilising natural gas and excellent hygiene standard at the Ikeja factory of the company.

The vice-president made the commendation during the recent commissioning of a gas installation in Cadbury. Atiku said that he was impressed by the layout and cleanliness of the premises.

"I was impressed by the layout and cleanliness of the premises. I congratulate the

company for being one of the pioneers in gas utilization," the vice-president stated.



Vice-President Atiku Abubakar

From Yinka Oladoyinbo, in Ibadan

Cadbury Nigeria Plc had on December 16, 2000 become the first of 23 companies in Ikeja business district to benefit from the \$10m (N1 billion) Ikeja Gas Project, managed by Gaslink Nigeria Limited.

Meanwhile, the Managing Director and Chief Executive of Cadbury Nigeria Plc, Mr. Bunmi Oni has been elected the President and Chairman of the Council of the Institute of Personnel Management of Nigeria (IPMN). Mr. Oni was elected upposposed during the 32nd Annual General Meeting of the institute held at the IPMN House, Alausa.

BUSINESS DAY

NITEL to connect 120 LGs with telephones

The federal government has approved a rural telecommunication programme to ensure that all local government areas in the country are provided with communication

facilities within the next four years.

The Minister of Communications, Alhaji Mohammed Arzika who said this in Makurdi when he paid a visit to the Benue

State governor, Mr. George Akume, noted that under the programme, 120 local government areas would be made accessible to telecommunications this year while 400 local govern-

ment areas would be provided with the communication facilities next year.

He expressed optimism that before the year 2005, all parts of the country would benefit

from the telecommunication programme.

The minister also said that under the deregulation of the telecommunication sector, the federal, state and local government areas would contribute to subsidy of the rural telecommunication project.

Arzika promised Nigerians improved telecommunication services, adding that a contract would soon be awarded for the digitalisation of the telephone exchange in Gboko town of Benue.

Receiving the minister, the Benue governor, Mr. George Akume urged the federal government to give priority to the state in telecommunication development since it is 75 per-



Emmanuel Ojeba, NITEL MD

cent rural.

Akume also called for the provision of new telephone lines in Makurdi, Gboko and Vandeikya, to enhance communication in the state.

NAN reports that the minister inspected NITEL and NIPOST facilities in Makurdi during the visit.



R-L: Geaneral Mohammed Shuwa (Rtd), Chairman, IMB International Merchant Bank Plc, Mr. Ediwon Chinye, MD and Otunba Amos Adegoke, Director of the Bank putting heads together during a courtesy visit to President Obasanjo by Directors of the Bank, recently in Abuja. Pix: Kennedy Egbonodje.

Soares tasks NICON management on Universal Banking

The Managing Director of National Insurance Corporation, Prisca Soares has urged senior management staff of the organisation to work out ways of coping with the challenges posed by the introduction of Universal Banking by the federal government.

Soares gave the advice while addressing the senior management staff of NICON at the opening of the 2001 management conference of the corporation in Enugu.

She told the 159 senior managers at the conference that the main purpose of the meeting was to ad-

dress the challenges posed by the increased competition in the company following the introduction of universal banking.

"As a new chapter is about to be opened in our corporate existence, one key factor is that of the management buy-out proposal, with regard to the impending privatisation of NICON.

"This will receive some attention, as the chairman of the management buy-out committee will present an update on the proposal so that the participants will be better informed on the subject and they in turn will dis-

seminate the information to their subordinates after the conference," Soares said.

Declaring the conference open, the Governor of Enugu State, Dr. Chimaroke Nnamani commended NICON for taking the lead in insurance matters.

The Governor, represented by the Commissioner for Special Duties, Mr. Okey Ogbonna, praised the role played by NICON over the years in educating and enlightening the populace about the importance of insurance and urged them not to relent in their efforts.

NNPC/CNL provides water to Orodo community

From Samson Ojo, in Lagos

and support during the joint venture's exploration activities in the area recently". Wilcox however, disclosed



Gaius-Obaseki, NNPC GMD

that though the search for oil in the area did not yield positive results, the NNPC/

Chevron joint venture cherished the opportunity of meeting, interacting and building partnership with the people.

Said he, "we decided to provide this potable water project for the benefit of the people as our way of showing our appreciation for their spirit of hospitality and friendship and to encourage them to continue this way".

Commending NNPC/Chevron community development initiatives in Imo State, Chief Achike Udenwa, Governor of Imo state, expressed his administration's appreciation for the water project. Said he: "We commend the NNPC/Chevron joint venture for masterfully conceiving this project for the benefit of mankind".

NACFA operates through ASYCUDA

The Managing Director of the National Association of Clearing and Forwarding Agencies (NACFA), Mr. Andy Isichie has said that operations of the agency will soon be linked with the Automated System of Customs Data (ASYCUDA) to further ease their clearing operations.

Speaking shortly after a visit to various Customs commands in the maritime industry, he said the clearing business was in a comatose state before he assumed office at the agency, stressing that he had no option than to animate the place by

From Tokunbo Oloke, in Lagos

visiting stakeholders in the industry.

Isichie disclosed that the mode of operations of both



Bello Gwandu, NPA MD

NACFA and Customs as government agencies were interrelated.

Responding, the Area Comptroller of Customs, Apapa Command, Comptroller, Ardo Hamidu reiterated the readiness of his service to work together with NACFA.

To this end, he stressed, NACFA would be enlisted into the meetings of other clearing agents with the Customs on weekly basis.

On the ASYCUDA, the Area Comptroller hinted that its introduction had gone a long way in simplifying the hitherto cumbersome clearing procedures.

ADB lends Ghana \$50m for economic reform

The African Development Bank (ADB), said its soft loan arm



John Kuffour, Ghanaian President

was lending Ghana \$50.4 million to support its economic reform programme.

The main aim of the 2000-2001 programme are faster growth and poverty reduction.

Ghana expects growth in gross domestic product (GDP) of 4.5 percent in 2001 and 5.5 percent in 2002, the ADB said, up from around 3.7 percent in 2000.

The government aims to cut inflation to 17 percent in 2001 and five percent in 2002, it said. Inflation is currently running at an annual

rate of about 40 percent.

The bank said the loan from its African Development Fund (ADF) was equivalent to just over five percent of Ghana's total financing requirements for 2001, estimated at \$945 million.

Ghana's economy has over the years been in the doldrums. The Present administration of John Kuffour has in fulfilment of its campaign promise, introduced some economic reform measures to revamp the nation's economy

Resource control is a national

Upon the eve of last weekend's PDP Convention, Ibrahim Modibbo, our Political Editor engaged the National Chairman of People's Democratic Party (PDP) in an interview which ranged over a variety of issues including the performance of the PDP government, the under-50 phenomenon, the second term debate, rapport with the legislature, agitations for a Middle Belt region, new parties, the deregulation debate

How do you assess the PDP administration under President Olusegun Obasanjo?

The question you have asked is very important. I would say that as a party, we are generally satisfied, because the President has performed well. We know the depth from which we had to start, the effort at bringing Nigeria back to limelight, to a position where one could have confidence. So, one would see that in the context of the depth where we are coming, the President has done well.

The People's Democratic Party seems to be embroiled in one problem or the other. For now can you say with any degree of authority that you have overcome them?

The dynamics of politics is such that you don't expect a big political party to be like a church sermon, where every person present is sitting quietly listening to one preacher. Politics is democracy where everybody likes his own ideas to be brought forward, and there is always a struggle for supremacy or superior argument. You see the sort of agitation constantly going on in a political situation. On the basis of that, the size of PDP as compared with other political parties, the amount of internal agitations that we have, certainly shows that we are a virile party. I want to assure you that other smaller parties do have problems much more than we have. This is the bane of politics and you can't run away from it.

Immediately after the last convention, some influential members of your party, especially the Chief Sunday Awoniyi group were not happy. What is the position of things now, have you mended fences?

We have to a degree, but there still remain a few individuals who feel a personal loss of opportunity and have still not given up and I don't know if this dissatisfaction on their part would be demonstrated in any further action.

But as far as we are concerned, most of the reconciliation has been done and today, many who belong to that camp that wanted to wrestle for leadership of the party and did not succeed are working with us in the party. So, I don't see any reason why one should not say that most of the problems of disagreements have been settled.

How do you look at the issue of second term that is currently creating confusion in your party?

I don't think you are right. This is not an issue about my second term. I am still in my first term of two years as national Chairman. The question is that, we sought to amend the constitution that the tenure of the national Executive of our party should be four years, so that there would be less frequent elections that lead to these long problems of reconciliation that we have had to do, because in election year like 2003, we would rather be concerned with public elections and general elections where we have our candidates fighting against other political parties. We have little or no time to talk about disagreements between one group and the other, inside our party. So, that was the wisdom of our party leadership in asking for the amendment. There is no opposition to a four year term and what is happening is that some people, out of mischief, have brought about an interpretation of the motion, saying that it is meant to extend the

tenure of the present Executive from two to four years, that is not the issue. And if you read their counter motion, you would see the futility of the exercise because of the argument that when the motion was passed no date was given, therefore they presumed the originators of the motion wanted to cover those who are there. Why do you presume something and go ahead to take an action. It is highly irresponsible really, because their interpretation is wrong. There is no motion

extending my present tenure to four years. There is a motion that extends the tenure inside the constitution of the National Executive from two to four years. People are moving a counter motion when there is no motion to that effect. I want to say that it is all boiling down to the sentiments of some greedy people who are so concerned about leadership, who must fight to become leaders by all means, and who have found hands that they can use. And once they take their money, they move to justify such collections. You have counter-motions against motions that are in existence not those on pre-summptions. We do not have a motion extending my tenure.

Based on what you are saying now, it seems as if external forces are at hand to work against you in the party?

It may not be out of place to say that, because in any organisation there are always bad eggs. Jesus had 12 apostles but there was only one Judas among them. That is to tell you that even if you have just a dozen people you can have some evil in it. Therefore it is not surprising to me that out of 137 members of the National Executive you can have two or three that are behaving the way these ones are doing. The issue is that this is a democracy, and as such when any issue is discussed, you have to mobilise your supporters to see reason with your action. We have 3,200 (three thousand two hundred) delegates coming to this convention, so they should go there and convince those delegates to come and vote in the particular way they want, not to go and start misinforming the public by buying pages in the newspapers, and saying things which do not happen. But in any case, these individuals who are pioneering these problems, I mean the national publicity secretary and his deputy are losers, who lost all their constituencies in the last elections to the All Peoples- Party (APP). Therefore, they have no reason to come and talk to us about anything. If people who continue to cause trouble in the party are those who contribute little or nothing to the party, how are we going to take them seriously?

In our midst we have people who have produced overwhelming results for PDP and they are not making trouble. So, how can people who have produced nothing continue to make trouble.

Recently, some members of this group you are talking about accused you of marginalizing them in the scheme of things, how far is this true?

There is no such thing as marginalisation of any individual. You see, there is always this strong element of greed in some people and whenever any problem crops up, it is the same people that are fielding it. It is their character, as there is nothing wrong with the party. Why is it that when there is marginalisation, it is the same set of people that are marginalized? Why are they raising eyebrows, when in reality these are the same set of people that are clamouring for the extension of the tenure. I must say that the national publicity secretary was at the centre of those who spearheaded the motion for the extension of tenure. Because he himself repeatedly said that when the next elections come, he would not win because his states party machinery does not support him.

"Everybody's viewpoint must be translated into getting the National Assembly to look at how the constitution is written. At the end of the day every interest and aspiration would be satisfied, if the constitution were fashioned the way that satisfies everyone. Now, the issue of resource control should not be left for any single individual to decide on. The issue is a national one where all those concerned must be allowed to play a part."

What gimmick is this? I know his problem is that he wanted to use his closeness to me to give him the control of the party in the state, and I cannot do that. You have to have a political base before you control anything. You just don't come from the blues only to ask the national Chairman to create a political base, which you don't have. I challenge him to continue fighting me so that we go to the national convention and see if he can vote me out.

Are these dissenting



voices likely to distract the attention of the National Chairman in moving the party forward?

I have worked very hard to hold the party in unity. Even after the National Convention in December 1999, we had quite a number of people who were disgruntled. We wooed them into the party for a very long time depending on their relevance. There are certain classes of people you don't have to lose sleep about. Especially this group of Ibeshi and Olawepo. I don't think I would waste time because at the end of the day, they would add nothing to the victory of the party. If I waste my time pursuing Ibeshi and Gbenga, did they produce results before? Or are they likely to produce any in the future? The answer is no.

So, why should I bother myself if I am going to lose two people out of 137, what is the concern? Why do you misbehave only to come back and apologise. How many times has Gbenga done this? On countless occasions, he would come back and misbehave again and again. Just because somebody has a soft heart. The Constitution would take its normal course.

At the initial take off of the Obasanjo administration, there was this disagreement between the Executive and the legislature. How did you achieve peace between the two arms of government?

Well, it was mainly based on the disposition of the individuals who were involved, and also the background of their relationships based on the way the party established the government. My duty is to ensure that I return things to the basics, first by ensuring that the disposition of the leaders of both sides is that of cooperation and secondly, to ensure that the relationships go with mutual respect and understanding. We held numerous caucus meetings to bridge the gap between the Executive and the legislature and I am happy that since we got Anyim Pius Anyim as Senate President and Ibrahim Mantu as his deputy, things began to work positively such that today, the harmony between the two arms of government has been fully realised, even to the extent that the House of Representatives has been affected.

Just within a year or two, your party had three Senate presidents. Do you think that such developments are healthy for democracy?

It is indeed, and there is no problem with that at all, because nobody was elected Senate President from his constituency. Every one was elected as a Senator and the Primary role of such individual in the National Assembly is their position and function as senator. The selection of leadership in the National Assembly is just a process

Interview

National issue — Gemade

Chief Barnabas Gemade, National Chairman of PDP. These included the relationship between the executive and legislature, and much more! Excerpts:



Pix by Ibrahim Modibbo

viewpoint must be translated into getting the National Assembly to look at how the constitution is written. At the end of the day every interest and aspiration would be satisfied, if the constitution were fashioned the way that satisfies everyone. Now, the issue of resource control should not be left for any single individual to decide on. The issue is a national one where all those concerned must be allowed to play a part.

How justified is the agitation for the Middle Belt region.
Nobody is agitating for a Middle Belt region. We have passed the stage of creating regions in Nigeria as we are now in the era of federating units moving closer as a strong, indivisible Nigerian federation. These federating units are states, but due to certain geo-political issues in our nation, we are now defining in terms of Zones. People can have aspirations, working as zones and this is what is happening in Nigeria today, but I don't think anybody is right in saying that someone is agitating for a Middle Belt region. There are no such agitations, but the aspiration as a people who belong to this part of Nigeria, to do things together for their common good is not out of place.

The under-50 group who are mainly from the PDP are planning some political strategies towards 2003. What is your reaction to this issue?

Well, this is happening generally throughout the world where younger politicians are looking at their older counterparts with mutual suspicions by saying that you guys have been around for too long. The problem in Nigeria is that both the old and the young politicians have not had the chance because of Military intervention. My appeal is that they should be fair to one another. The fact that Bill Clinton and Tony Blair became leaders of big democracies at 40/42 does not mean that we cannot do with over 50 years olds. Nobody is denying anybody any position, after all majority of those who are occupying key government positions in the country today are the under 50s. I don't think anybody in the class of the president is really thinking of coming back again but if there is, I would say it is going to be very tough but just below 50 alone will not be good enough. Even those who are above 50 and are active should be part of the game. Age is of the mind, as some young people feel very old while old ones feel very young, and as such we should be prepared to work together in a way that Nigeria receives the maximum benefit of the talents available.

How do you react to calls for new political parties to challenge the PDP in the next round of elections?

That is not the purpose of anybody wanting the formation of any political party. People who are asking for a chance to form new political parties today, are only asking for privileges and I don't think in politics we should entertain such people. When the rules of the game were laid down, people were given the freedom to form political associations and then go to elections so that they could convince Nigerians to vote for them and Nigerians refused to vote for them. Today they say allow new political parties or register us. Register you... why? When you have failed to get the votes. Those that were registered because they succeeded in getting the Nigerian votes. There should be no back door to move into those places. If somebody wants to be a presidential candidate of his own

party, he must be told that he has to go through Nigerians to secure their votes. If you want to form a political party you must go to the polls and win 10 percent of the votes before you call yourself a political party. Nobody should bulldoze the Independent Electoral Commission INEC to come and register a new party without going through elections.

Some people are having misgivings on the performance of your party and they are afraid that 2003 might be different. How true is this assumption?

Some of these people who told you this must be the

wrong Nigerians. A party that won over 64 percent of the votes cast, and the election positions in Nigeria and which has not lost a single bye-election before today. We have won many Houses of Assembly in Niger State, Katsina and Taraba. We won the federal House of Representatives in Kaduna State and Local Government Chairman in Delta State. How could somebody who sat in the comfort of his armchair at home say this of the PDP. I think they are just speculating about what is not going to happen.

Deregulation has been a contentious issue within the Nigerian polity. Do you support deregulation?

Well, I have stated that people in labour and those who are challenging deregulation should come up with alternative suggestions. What is the point of telling somebody "don't do that" without telling him what next to do. PDP as a party told the government to educate people on the virtues of deregulation and also allow public opinion for and against it. We want healthy dialogue and debate so that when decisions are taken it would get the maximum support of the people. The party's position is that we do not want to jeopardise the chances of anybody in the debate on deregulation. We see a lot of sense in what the pro-deregulation group are saying by providing a lot of data and information on the matter and most people today are convinced that there is some sense in deregulation. We are yet to see the other side, and when we see it, then a final decision would be taken on the matter.

If for any reason, Nigerians come to reject it. What would your party do?

I don't know what you mean... How would you come to conclusion that Nigerians have rejected it?

Like labour, civil servants, market women and the rest kicking against it!

By my estimate, labour and the civil servants are only 6 percent of the Nigerian population. I am not saying they are irrelevant, they are very important to us as a government. The civil servants are also very important to Nigeria as a country because one cannot do without the two. The workers of the nation are fundamental to the movement of any economy. So both groups are important but that does not mean that they are speaking for Nigerians. Just because the two groups have rejected a government policy does not mean that Nigerians have rejected it. All of them together are not more than 6-10 percent of the Nigerian population.

We heard recently that government shunned labour over talks on deregulation. Are you comfortable with governments' explanation on the matter?

You heard it wrong. What happened is that the President of Labour tried to hold a meeting with the President of the country. I don't think it is right for us to simplify issues and just say in matters of this nature, it is the President of Labour Versus the President of Nigeria. I think it is very unfair. The government has a full complement of a Labour Ministry which is very well suited in dealing with a situation of this magnitude. Labour should discuss with the group in the ministry and iron out issues. They have been working hand in hand. Adams Oshiomhole, the President of Labour has been meeting government officials, here and there, and just because he did not have a meeting with the president does not mean that Labour was shunned. We have seen certain countries where the President leads the delegation, while another country leads its delegation with a minister. They still talk as equals, so I don't think we should over magnify those issues by equating the President of Nigeria and that of labour.

bringing first among equals and they would want to change so as to be another first among equals. There isn't any problem.

Of course if this is done under a healthy atmosphere of rivalry, it is fine. That is the spirit in which we handled things, but today we also want to have a healthy rivalry, and once the system is working we want to maintain that.

Some of your party members are accusing you of meddling in the affairs of the National Assembly. They opine that you are always in the Senate when Senate Presidents are removed and installed.

Well, to be a National Chairman means you have to be on top of things in your party and of course, I would not say that we are not aware of what is happening at the National Assembly. The reasons for challenging the leadership have always been an internally motivated matter, as far as the National Assembly is concerned. I told you that the selection of leadership through the process of bringing out one among equals—and once your colleagues are no longer able to work with you or have no confidence in your leadership, there must be a change.

We recently heard that the federal government had gone to court to challenge the South-South Governors on the issue of resource control since most of the Governors in these states are of the PDP, what is the government doing to resolve the problem?

We have been involved in this matter, and I want to say that nobody has gone to court against anyone. We have handled this thing at the highest level of our party and at the national caucus where all parties are represented, we found out that the federal government merely went to the Supreme Court for the interpretation of the constitution and that is what the constitution says. If there is any disagreement in the way the constitution is interpreted, only the Supreme Court can give that interpretation. I have no use to disbelieve this. My idea is that when the Supreme Court has given that interpretation, we would always sit down and have political dialogue on whatever contentious matter. I don't think it is going to be a matter that would polarise the party, but it is a matter, which our party should handle internally.

Does your party support resource control?

Resource control is defined in the constitution of the federation, once that definition is given, its management is under the law governing the country. I believe that it becomes a delicate and complicated matter. You cannot say those who are agitating to have a say on how resources are controlled that emanated from their land are wrong. You also cannot say that the federal government is wrong in saying that the constitution gives us the authority to oversee those resources. So, it is an issue, which must be handled on the basis of how the constitution is written. Everybody's



NEWS

Northern Yorubas warn on 2003 elections

The Yoruba Community in the Northern States of the Federation has called on elected public officers to concentrate on implementing positive programmes rather than dissipating energy on the 2003 elections.

While reviewing the present administration's stand to deregulate the downstream petroleum sector, the

By Suleiman Mohammed

Yoruba community warned against any plan to further compound the already harsh economic reality in Nigeria.

The community which met in Maiduguri, Borno State, noted in a communiqué signed by its President-General, Alhaji Ganiyu Oguntoyimbo and issued in Abuja, that Nigerians are se-

riously apprehensive on the adverse effect of the exercise on their lives.

"Government should be cautious in handling the matter (deregulation) in view of its sensitivity," they declared, adding that in order to speed up the process of national integration, unity and peaceful co-existence, the clause on non-indigenship be expunged from the constitution.

FG approves rural telecommunication programme

The Federal Government has approved a rural telecommunication programme to ensure that all local government areas in the country are provided with communication facilities within the next four years.

The Minister of Communication, Alhaji Mohammed Arzika, said this in Makurdi when he paid a courtesy visit to the Benue State Governor, Mr. George Akume.

Arzika said that under the programme, 120 local government areas would be made accessible to telecommunication this year while 400 local government areas would be provided with communication facilities next year.

He expressed optimism that before the year 2005, all parts of the country would benefit from the telecommunication programme.

The minister also said that under the deregulation of the telecommunication sector, the federal, state and local government areas would contribute to subsidise the rural telecommunication project.

Arzika promised Nigerians improved telecommunication services, adding that contracts would soon be awarded for the digitalisation of the telephone exchange in Gboko town of Benue State.

Receiving the minister, governor Akume urged the Federal Government to give priority to the state in telecommunication development since the state is 75 per cent rural.

Akume also called for the provision of new telephone lines in Makurdi, Gboko and Vandeikya to enhance communication in the state.

Jigawa legislators dissolve pilgrims board

Jigawa State legislators have passed a motion directing the executive arm of the state government to dissolve the state's Pilgrims Welfare Board.

This directive is contained in a motion jointly sponsored by Hon. Rabi'u Dangabi Kwalam (Taura) and Alhaji Isa Alhasan Korayal (Gwiwa). They demanded that the board as well as the management be dissolved and suspended pending the outcome of an investigation into their affairs.

Supporting the motion, Hon. Umar Anas Adamu (Malamadori), said that any committee set up to investigate the matter must have a free hand to go to any extent so as not to cripple the outcome of the investigation in order for truth to take its rightful position.

The house finally appointed a committee

From Bala Mohammed Nasir, Dutse

to investigate the activities of the board at their own level. Those appointed in the committee are Hon. Ibrahim Babura (Babura) chairman, Hon. Adamu Ahmed Atamos (Kafin-Hausa) member, Hon. Ilu Ma'azu Dansure (Roni) member. Others, are Hon. Umar Anas Adamu member, Hon. Rabi'u Dangabi Kwalam (Taura) member and Hon. Isa Alhasan Korayal (Gwiwa) member, while Hon. Abdullahi Mohammed will be the secretary to the committee.

It will be recalled that pilgrims from Jigawa State suffered untold hardships before, during and after this year's hajj due to the alleged misconduct of the members of the state's pilgrims welfare board.

CSM claims 12 lives in Zamfara

Cerebrospinal Meningitis has claimed 12 lives in Zamfara state in a fresh outbreak of the disease in different parts of the state within the past two weeks.

Twelve people are reported to have died in Talata

Mafara and Tsafe local government areas, with more casualties being expected.

Though *Daily Trust* could not reach the Talata Mafara local government chairman, Alhaji Ikra Aliyu for comments, it was gathered that the council had already spent over

N1 million to control the spread of the disease.

A reliable source at the state ministry of health said medical personnel had been dispatched to all parts of the state to ensure effective control and avoid further spread of the disease.

Issuance of National ID card starts next year

The Federal Government is set to commence the issuance of the national identity cards by the first quarter of 2002, the Minister of State for Internal Affairs, Alhaji Mohammed Shata, said in Abuja at the weekend.

"Contracts for the supply of the equipment for the project will be awarded in June this year while the registration of Nigerians, under a collaborative arrangement with the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and the National Population Commission (NPC), for the issuance of the national identity cards, would commence in October, this year," he said.

The Minister said that about 600,000 *ad hoc* workers would be involved in registering eligible Nigerians for the 120,000 identified polling units nationwide, noting that "each polling unit will be manned by five or six officials".

Shata disclosed that although the federal government had already approved 18.4 billion naira for the entire project, only 7.4 billion naira of the amount had been approved by the National Assembly in the current financial year.

The Minister said that a detailed work-plan had been produced to serve as a guide for the execution of the project.

1st Annual BUK/Daily Trust/New Nigerian/FRCN Kaduna/Triumph National Conference on the State of the Nigerian Media

The Giant is Stirring

No Genuine National Dialogue Can Take Place If Only One Side Monopolises the Microphone.

APPRECIATION: We appreciate the tremendous response to our proposed National Conference on the state of the Nigerian Media being promoted by the Bayero University, Kano, Media Trust, Abuja, New Nigerian Newspapers Kaduna, FRCN Kaduna and Triumph Newspapers, Kano. It shows we are all concerned about the state of the Media in Nigeria and its implications for the media disadvantaged North. It signals our determination to confront the problem. Organisers of this conference are impressed with favourable reactions to it and appreciate your support.

POSTPONEMENT: However, due to the on-going face-off between the Academic Staff Union of Universities and the Federal Government, and the fact that Bayero University, Kano is to host this historic meeting of the academia and practitioners, we regret to announce POSTPONEMENT of this conference. This is to respect the predicament of the organisers. As soon as the problem between ASUU and the Federal Government is resolved and normalcy returns to the campuses, we will announce a new date for this historic conference.

CONTRIBUTIONS: We call on you to continue sending your contributions, in whatever manner you can to BAYERO UNIVERSITY, KANO,

Attention: Conference Secretariat: Room C56, Department of Mass Communication, Bayero University, Kano, New Site.

PROMOTERS:

1. Department of Mass Communication, Bayero University, Kano.
2. New Nigerian Newspapers, Kaduna
3. Media Trust, Abuja
4. FRCN, Kaduna
5. Triumph Newspapers, Kano.

NEWS



Vice President Atiku Abubakar listening to a technical briefing by Labaran Abubakar casthouse supervisor, during his working visit to the Aluminium Smelter Company of Nigeria, ALSCON, ... last Thursday.

Governor Sani decries begging amongst Muslims

The Zamfara State Governor, Alhaji Ahmed Sani (Yariman Bakura) has stated that Muslim communities, especially from Northern Nigeria, produce the bulk of beggars in our society.

Presenting a paper titled "The role of Muslim youth in the defence of Sharia" at the orientation programme organised by the Muslim Students Society (MSS) Usman Dan Fodiyo University, Sokoto last week, he said it was almost certain that elsewhere in the country virtually any beggar one came

From Abdulfatad Abdulsami, Sokoto

across would be a Muslim from the North.

Alhaji Ahmed observed that there was abundant food which he described as the greatest economic asset of any society could have and sufficient water and other resources, with great potential for trading and commercial activities.

He said it was unfortunate that these were underutilised, when the Muslim youths are among the most redundant today, with no visible means of self-reliance through gainful employment.

The governor advised

the youths to stop begging and find jobs or undertake business transactions to create wealth.



Gov. Ahmed

Obasanjo seeks e-business help for industries

President Olusegun Obasanjo has called on the private sector and technology consultants to provide necessary training and assistance for Nigerian small scale industries seeking to benefit from electronic communication.

The president who was speaking at the opening ceremony of NIGERSTALG Trade Fair in Abuja, assured Nigerians that government was "genuinely sincere in its pursuit of economic programmes and policies that would create the required capacities for a people-centred technological development".

He said the development of the internet as a way of faster business communication can no longer be ignored.

Represented at the fair by the Minister of Federal Capital Territory, Engr. Muhammed Abba-Gana, President Obasanjo said the NIGERSTALG fair was aimed at facilitating the participation of micro, small and medium scale enterprises in the trade and tourism sectors.

He assured Nigerians that government will continue to pursue its role of formulating national objectives for good governance and development by establishing sound economic policies and favourable investment regimes.

However, he said, the private sector and other stakeholders in the industry must join hands to support and sustain government efforts.

President Obasanjo described tourism as a key economic engine, saying that the fair would boost development and continued growth of Nigeria's tourism industry.

He assured foreign inves-

By Ikenna Emeka Okpani

tors that government would provide needed infrastructure to sustain their businesses.

NIGERSTALG Trade Fair is organised by states and local governments throughout the federation and

targeted at micro, small and medium scale enterprises in the country. The closing ceremony of the fair is expected to take place on the April 14.

April 8 is a special day at the fair for Zamfara State and the Ministry of Communications when the Zamfara

State governor, Alhaji Ahmed Sani Yarima and all the local governments in the state are expected to feature as well as Minister of Communications, Alhaji Mohammed Arzika and the parastatals in his ministry including NCC, NITEL, M-Tel and NIPOST.

Kano govt. signs trade agreement with Malaysia chamber of commerce

A 13-member trade delegation to Malaysia under the leadership of the Kano State Deputy Governor, Dr. Abdullahi Umar Ganduje, has entered into discussions with the Malay Chamber of Commerce and Industry on exportation of commodities such as spices, gum arabic, cotton and leather from Kano to Malaysia.

The deputy governor also met with the Selingo business community and urged them to look into the possibility of establishing industries in Kano.

He added that Kano State in return will also look into

From Habiba Adamu, Kano



Dr. Ganduje

the possibility of importing consumer goods, ranging

from food items to building materials, office equipment, stationery and textile materials from Kuala-Lumpur in Malaysia.

Dr. Ganduje further explained that his delegation was in Selingo to further consolidate the existing trade relation between the two states especially in export sector.

For those willing to establish industries in Kano, he said there was a lot of prospects in food processing, leather works, plastics manufacturing, motor vehicle assembling and solid mineral mining.

Responding, the representative of the chairman of Selingo business community, Mrs. Sirat M. Hayat, said that the visit of the delegation will afford them the opportunity to see practically how Malaysia is trying to develop, and the delegates can discuss with various industrialists.

Dr. Ganduje and the delegates while in Selingo visited the Diversified Resources Board (DRB) motor assembly plant, and the famous Selingo Central Mosque and also paid a courtesy call on the Governor East-Java, Mr. Imam Octomo.

Kwara awards N1.8b water contract

The Kwara State government has awarded 1.8 billion naira contracts to improve water supply in Ilorin, the state capital, the state governor, Alhaji Muhammed Lawal, disclosed at the weekend.

Speaking at the opening of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), national executive council meeting at Kwara Hotels, Ilorin, the governor said 800 million naira has been secured already for the execution of the contract, adding that the perennial problem of water supply in the state capital would soon be a thing of the

From Abdul Laro, Ilorin

past. Governor Lawal who used the occasion as a stewardship forum enumerated several socio-economic people-oriented programmes which he said were executed to put smiles on the faces of the good people of the state.

Commending the NUJ national president, Prince Smart Adeyemi for his dynamic leadership, Alhaji Lawal described the NEC meeting as a celebration of the collective willingness to brainstorm on "the way forward" for the effective

utilisation of the media under the nation's present democratic dispensation.

Governor Lawal charged journalists to report accurately all their findings either about the society or the government of the day, adding "we will welcome constructive criticisms that will guide our thoughts, steps, actions, policies and programmes for the success of the administration".

In his speech, the state's Commissioner for Information, Mr. Wale Oladepo, urged journalists to excel by employing at all times, the potent weapon in the hands to influence the

implementation of the objective policies of state.

The national president of the NUJ had in his keynote address commended the governor for awarding contract to repairs of the broken down mast of Radio Kwara and his assistance to the *Herald* newspapers.

In his welcome address, the state chairman of NUJ, Alhaji Mohammed Tunia Akanbi, appealed to the governor to assist the state council in the completion of the union's 12-bedroom guest chalet under construction and at 70 percent completion stage.

From Rakiya A. Muhammed, Lagos

NEPA manager laments customers' indebtedness

A district manager of the National Electric Power Authority (NEPA), in Lagos, Mr. P.A. Okoro, has lamented consumers' huge debt to the

authority, stressing that it was a big constraint to the improvement of services.

Mr. Okoro, who is the manager, Ijora district in Lagos state, stated this at the customers consultative council meeting where he disclosed that the district was owed 1.542 billion naira as at February this year by government and private consumers.

The district manager, however, said that NEPA has set up a special task force to disconnect all debtor-customers in order to recover the huge debt.

He also observed that vandalism of cables, illegal connections among others were becoming more worrisome, noting that these activities adversely affect the equipment and cause instability in supply to customers.

Mr. Okoro said the district had 700 transformers, but requires 200 more to solve the present low-level supply being witnessed by customers.

According to him, 82 transformers of the transformers in the district were overloaded which necessitated local load-shedding to save them from packing-up completely.



Dr. Segun Agagu, Min of Power & Steel

NEWS

Guobadia and Chief Afolabi are threats to democracy — Gani

The Gani Fawehinmi-led National Conscience Party (NCP) has called for an immediate removal of Chief Sunday Afolabi, the Internal Affairs Minister and Dr. Abel Guobadia, the National Electoral Commission (INEC) chairman for allegedly constituting themselves as a clog in the wheel of the nation's nascent democracy.

In a statement released by the party at the weekend and signed by its national chairman, Chief Fawehinmi, the party rebuked Chief Afolabi for allegedly saying that the 2003 polls would be open to only registered political parties and that new parties would not be registered.

These parties are the ruling People's Democratic Party (PDP) and, its closest rival, the All People's Party (APP). Chief Afolabi was last Friday reported (not by *Daily Trust*) to have told the new United States Ambassador to Nigeria, Mr. Howard Jefer, that the AD was too factionalised and would soon go into extinction, leaving the polls open to only APP and PDP.

The NCP press statement also condemned the leadership of the Independent Electoral National Commission (INEC) for shirking its responsibilities as an unbiased umpire. It also called for the removal of the electoral body's chairman, Dr. Abel Guobadia, for "constituting a threat to the survival of our nascent democratic experiment."

According to Chief Fawehinmi, Guobadia's revelation shows that INEC,

From Samson Ojo, in Lagos

under the chairmanship of Dr. Guobadia, was just an extension of the presidency.

This, Fawehinmi explained, was against the spirit and letter of section 158 of the 1990 constitution which provides that INEC and some other specified Federal commissions shall not be subject to the direction or control of any other authority or person.

The NCP chairman argued that the commission did not have to consult the Federal Government or any other body before registering associations as parties provided such associations satisfy sections 222-224 of the constitution.

Said he, "for Dr. Abel Guobadia to publicly reveal that INEC seeks presidency's interpretation of the constitution on party registration tells us that he

cannot deliver. He has demonstrated gross incompetence and spinelessness. He lacks the initiative and capacity to fully appreciate the constitutional duties required of the head of an unbiased electoral empire, which INEC should be, in a highly sensitive, valuable and complex country like Nigeria," Fawehinmi said.

Commenting on Chief Afolabi, the NCP chairman,

said Chief Afolabi's statement was not only "undemocratic" and in conflict with the provision of the 1999 constitution, but also amounted to an abuse of office "as INEC is the only body that is constitutionally empowered to administratively regulate electoral matters."

The NCP chief called on the National Assembly to pass a resolution calling President Obasanjo to remove Dr. Guobadia and Chief Afolabi.



Chief Gani

Conference on Islamic festivals underway

A national conference on the harmonization of Islamic festival dates and their observance is on the day.

It would, among other things, iron out uniform dates for the celebration of Muslim festivals throughout the country.

The *Seriki* and *Baba Adini* of Egbaland, Dr. Abdulateef Adegbite, disclosed this to newsmen in an interview after the opening of the Conference on Islam-in-Nigeria (COIN) organised by the Islamic Welfare Foundation, in Ilorin, Kwara state at the weekend.

Mr. Adegbite had earlier in his keynote address at the

From Abdul Lari, in Ilorin

opening of the conference said no society could survive for long if its governance was founded on injustice, because "justice is the bedrock of good governance".

Speaking on the theme: Islam, Democracy and Good Governance in Nigeria - Past, Present and Future; he urged Muslims to uphold non-negotiable principles which, he said included the supremacy of Allah,

absolute justice, government by consent, welfare state and anti-corruption stance.

Dr. Adegbite charged Muslims to affirm their commitment to a united Nigeria, and be prepared to meet the new challenges under

a democratic set-up.

Dr. Adegbite said as Muslims, they "should adhere strictly to democracy and not condone measures or practices which could render them politically ineffective such as vote rigging or bare-faced vote-buying."

Igbo councillor in Sokoto makes case for traffic decongestion

The dualization of major roads in Sokoto, the Sokoto state capital by the government, will help decongest traffic and add to the beauty of the metropolis.

This observation was made by the councillor representing Sarkin Zamfara "B" ward in Sokoto-South local government, Hon.

From Abdul-Fatal Abdulsalami, in Sokoto

Emmanuel Okekere, while speaking to newsmen.

Hon. Okereke also said the state governor deserved praise for the rehabilitation of schools and hospitals in the state and for ensuring peaceful co-existence of all

ethnic groups.

The councillor commended the council chairman for inculcating sanity and understanding in Sokoto-South local government and praised the people's hospitality. The councillor who was elected on the platform of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) described the people of his ward as "wonderful, loving and accommodating".

He said by favouring him over their son and voting him as their choice despite his religious, cultural and ethnic differences, Sokoto people

have proved that "ours is, indeed, one nation, one destiny".



Gov. Bafarawa

Kwankwaso lauds Radio Nigeria

The Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN), has been described as the most veritable tool of communication between the government and the governed in Nigeria.

Governor Rabi'u Musa Kwankwaso of Kano State who made the assessment in a goodwill message on the 50th

From Musa Umar Kazaure, in Kano

anniversary of the radio station, extolled the contributions of FRCN in bridging the gap between all segments in the society.

He also praised the station for its objective reporting of events in the country, citing its recent coverage of the government/



Gov. Kwankwaso

NLC stand-off as an example of giving a fair hearing to both sides in a conflict.

Governor Kwankwaso urged the management to strive hard and maintain the good work, calling on other information media to emulate the FRCN.

Meanwhile, the Emir of Kano, Alhaji Ado Bayero, has called for more funding of the FRCN to enable it to perform better and also replace its obsolete equipment.

The Emir, who was commenting in Kano on the 50th anniversary of FRCN, said the commercialization of the station was a welcome development and further called for patronage of the corporation to enable it to succeed.

Old boys to set up education trust fund

Determined to improve the standard of education and student enrolment in schools, the Old Students Association of Government Secondary School, Gashu'a, Yobe State (GASOSA), may establish a trust fund to assist indigent or underprivileged children in the area to go to (or continue in) school.

In a keynote address at an occasion to honour two old boys of the school who have been appointed commissioner and an accountant-general in the Yobe and Borno states, a prominent member of the association, Alhaji Tijjani Abubakar, said unlike before when everything was provided to people at government's expense, education was an incontrovertibly expensive venture that neither

From Abdullahi Bego, in Maiduguri

government nor parents could handle alone.

"Taxpayers' money was used to give us education. We should be able to pay back," Tijjani Abubakar intoned, calling on the old boys' of the school, prominent individuals and non-governmental organizations to provide the sort of materials that could re-enact the good old days of yesterday.

The keynote speaker particularly emphasized the need for a goal-directed support of training youths in specialist areas such as engineering, geology and medicine. "If we have home-based geologists etc, doubts as to the presence of oil in Borno would not have arisen or would have been cleared," he said.



The foundation-laying ceremony of the Skills Acquisition Centre in honour of Prof. Kalu Ezera by the Vice President Atiku Abubakar. Here the VP is laying the foundation, while the Minister of Transport, Ojo Maduekwe is assisting him. Abia state governor, Orji Uzor Kalu, looks on. Pix. Felix Onigbinde.



INSIDE POLITICS

We've no reason to import food - ACF Chieftain

Alhaji Saleh Bade, Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of Salba Nigeria Limited, was a former senatorial candidate for Yobe-North Senatorial District under the defunct National Republican Convention (NRC). According to him, he left banking industry to answer the calls of his people to represent them in the 3rd Republic's Senate.

Now a big time farmer in Kaduna and a politician, he bares his mind on burning national issues in a chat with DARE OYEWOLE in Kaduna. Saleh, who serves on the Agriculture Committee of the Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF), laments the neglect of agriculture and advocates that legislators at all levels be made to have farms.

Excerpts:
Lets start from agriculture. The country was said to have spent N900 million to import food, and farmers are criticising this as they argue that it ought to have gone into investment in agriculture rather than importation. What is your view on this?

You see, in this country we have a problem. One, we talk of policies and their implementation. There are policies that are laudable, very good, in their context; the problem is that when you come to implement these policies, so many things do go wrong.

You have a country like Nigeria; we are not Saudi Arabia, we are the country that is blessed. There is no part in this country that when you plant things they will not grow. There is no reason whatsoever why we should now be importing food. Agriculture has been neglected. You can see from the Obasanjo's budget this year they are talking of N7 billion. If there is anything that can take a lion's share, agriculture is supposed to be one of them. Because when you produce, you now reduce the suffering of the masses. All these problems of street begging, even the insecurity you are talking about. People are insecure because they cannot afford to feed themselves. They cannot. Today, with their N5,000 even if you are earning the minimum wage they are talking about. A bag of maize is over two thousand Naira. And they are thinking that somebody should now feed his family with the N5,000. I think we have a problem. Our problem is that there are people who don't advise the government in the right direction. But rather, they advise the government for their own interest because if somebody is going to import things, an interest is there. That's it.

Look, there was a time I was wondering why the lawmakers cannot legislate a law making it compulsory for every elected member at all levels to have a farm. If from councillor to chairman, legislature and the executive, if each and every one of these

people would have a farm, you can imagine how many people you are going to engage in farming. That will reduce the problem of unemployment and boost the issue of food production. So, I would advise that all our legislators at all levels should legislate, from local government councillors even to the president himself, they should have farms. You see, once there is food security, there is security. That is why you hear cases of armed robbery increasing on daily basis. What are they after; they are just after money to go and eat. So, the issue of importing food. ...As I mentioned earlier, Saudi Arabia is a dry land, they only have rainfall may be twice or thrice in a season. But a country like Nigeria still has to import food. What are we importing? Why do we even invest that money on importation when we budgeted only N7 billion for agriculture, why can't we add the money we used on importation with the budget for the sector to encourage Nigerian farmers. So, for me, I am against importation of food into the country.

What do you think should be the approach of government in checking possible famine?

Yes, you see, if we are talking about famine; I think government said last year that they bought a lot of grains. I think the purpose of buying these grains is to intervene when there is famine. So, we expect that what they purchased last year will be enough to, at least, augment what the farmers may produce at the end of the season. Secondly, we have to pray to Allah to let it (famine) come with very little impact if at all it does come. Because, I remember when we experienced famine in 1993. Not only human beings even the animals were also dying because there was no grass to feed them. So, I believe government should use what they have in store. But definitely I am not going to vote for importation of food into this country. We are not serious in this country. If we are serious, even the Chinese don't import food despite the fact that they are 1.2b. And yet they are feeding themselves. So, government should always consider that agriculture is very important. They should also encourage people, everybody even you (journalist) to have small farms.

You are a member of the Committee on Agriculture of the Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF), what is the focus of that Committee?

That Committee is just as I said. In fact, I am not talking on behalf of the committee. But what I just want to tell you is that the Committee was set up to look into the problems facing agriculture in the Northern states. It may be applicable to any other part of the country. But I believe whatever ACF would be coming out with can be spread to other parts of the country. So, the main thing we are

going to look into is how do we get out of this dependency on petroleum. The Committee is going to look at ways of encouraging people to come back to agriculture. You need to sensitise the people and let them be agriculture-friendly. So, that is what that committee is trying to come out with. But am not speaking on behalf of the Committee.

President Olusegun Obasanjo is a member of the farming family. Does it bother you that he is not doing much for that family?

In fact, I have been hear-

ties.

What is your view on the one term of office recommended by the Constitutional Review Committee?

Yes, you see, it is not too bad when they are recommending one term of five years. But the problem is that this democracy is a nascent democracy. We are just crawling like a child. To my mind, it is not going to be too bad if we can allow this one term of five years to continue for a minimum period of time. The reason being that there are a lot of people who are not politi-



Alhaji Saleh Bade

ing about Otta Farm, but I have never been there. But definitely, what I know is that whether you are a retired general or an ex-Head of State, if you are into farming, whatever it is does not bother anybody. We are happy with Obasanjo having that kind of project (Otta Farm). Because he is setting a kind of precedent for those people that have retired. If General Ibrahim Babangida would do the same thing in the North, you can imagine how many people he would engage in Minna. If Shagari is going to do the same. Gowon and the rest of these people.

Look, we are not serious. Our people have the money. All these military guys have the money, but they don't want to go to farm. That's our problem. They don't want to go to farm. I can assure you that most of them can employ two to three hundred people on their land. If we are serious why not. But they prefer to go and invest in foreign companies. In fact, this attitude is negatively affecting Nigeria because there is no benefit to us. When you take Nigerians money abroad, you are not helping Nigeria. Invest this money here. How many ex-governors do we have? We have all these people. So, if they are serious, let them come back to farming so that they can help their communi-

cians but were lucky because of their money and got elected into offices. Now, if you elect somebody because of his money and he is not doing well, the more you prolong his term, the more you cause problem for him and his people. I think four years is enough to serve and make positive impact. I am not in support of five years, let it be one term of four years.

Would you say there is a need for a National Conference?

When you have elected members at various levels that can take care of the problems of the people, what sort of conference are you talking about? Take your problems to the National Assembly. They are representing us.

I think those who are nurturing this constitutional conference at this point in time want to disintegrate the nation. If they are not after disintegration and they are after unity and reconciliation, it could have been better. There is no need for any National Conference either sovereign or in whatever guise because the representatives of the people at various levels can adequately take care of any problem.

What about the agitation for resource control?

There are people who think that because certain

resources, they are suppose to control it. Though there is issue of off-shore and on-shore resource control, some people forget that there is internationally accepted standard which you cannot change just like that. I think it is too early for Nigerians to start talking about resource control. Because it is like when you go hunting, all of you suffer your own suffering, you are thirsty, then one man happens to have water in a small container and after drinking small quantity claims he is the owner of the water. So, I can give you people since am controlling the water, what I feel, I will give out. For now, let us live collectively. I am 100 percent in support of developing those areas which, in fact, for years, have been neglected. But at the same time let us think about Nigeria first. Let us forget about claiming that this one is from my side, that one is from your side. Who told you that there is no oil in my state (Yobe) or in Bauchi? But today if we tap oil in Bauchi, Bauchi people cannot say it is for only Bauchi people. Don't forget that all these things are given by God. And God is wonderful, He can change anything entirely.

Even now, Chad Republic and Cameroon have discovered oil around Lake Chad and they will start exploration very soon. Look at the map of Nigeria, that Lake Chad is a kind of joint where Nigeria has its own share, Cameroon has its own and Republic of Chad also has its own. Now Cameroon said they have found it (fuel) but Nigeria says they haven't got it.

Is that politics?

Of course. Everything is political. Even the Bauchi issue. Now yesterday I read in one of the newspapers that government is going to look into the gas project in Bauchi. But the issue is that it is not our problem. Let these things be found anywhere in the country and let us develop. If you travel out you will be disappointed over what is happening in Nigeria as most of the countries that had nothing before have developed more than Nigeria that have everything you can think of. Just take for an example, oil was discovered in Nigeria; Nigeria is a member of OPEC, Saudi Arabia is a member of OPEC, when Nigeria started growing that time, Saudi had not found its feet. Despite the fact that we have the oil, Saudi has overtaken Nigeria.

The poorest man in Saudi must eat chicken and egg. Somebody who is sweeping can go to big time restaurant to eat. Can this happen here despite the fact that we have the resources? Our problem is that our leaders are not honest. We are not honest. Everybody when he comes to power will be telling you stories and promises but when it comes to implementation, they are going to write home about. At the end of the day it is the

these rich men will pack and go abroad. Some of them don't even have their families in Nigeria. In the face of small problem they pack and go. They have their houses there, their children are there. It is you and I that suffer. Go to my village, for weeks you will not see light, least of all, potable water.

Talking about poverty alleviation, how can you alleviate poverty with the necessary infrastructures not in place? The government is bent on deregulating the petroleum sector in spite of protests from the masses. Is it fair to further increase their burden?

Well, if deregulation...you see, it all depends on the goals and objectives of the programme. If the objective of deregulation is going to bring the present suffering facing us in Nigeria down, it is okay with us. But let me tell you, don't forget Nigerian characters. You can deregulate today, and at the same time people will inflate the prices of the product same day. And by the time the official price goes up to may be N50.00 per litre or N100 per litre, let me tell you, we bought all the Tokunbo cars when we bought them because we had the opportunity cost. You either go for this or that or you forget it. If your whole salary will fuel your car before you can go out, you either forget the car and start trekking. So, deregulation, if the objective is to better our lot, let it be.

You see, I am disappointed when I heard the Minister of Information on the Voice of America last week saying that they know those behind the perennial scarcity of fuel and that they are going to deal with them. I am disappointed, because I don't know why it should take them such a long time to deal with them since they know them. Now that they know those behind the problem, why do we need to deregulate again? If they are serious about dealing with those responsible, why do we need deregulation? You know the cause of your problem. If you know your problem why are you talking about another thing again? If you don't know the problem, you can now talk about deregulation so that we can solve the problem. But the issue is that they know these people that are causing this wahala. Arrr...at them, deal with them and let the fuel be available every where. They are not helping matters.

The government's arguing that workers salaries had been increased. Later the workers will find out that they are losing. At the end of the day, you may even prefer to be on your former salary system. What is the point if you cannot feed your family very well with your N20,000.00? You better be on N10,000.00 so that you can use N7,000.00 to feed your family and still have N3,000.00 left for other

INSIDE POLITICS



Delta state governor, Chief James Ibori (left), Deputy Speaker, House of Representatives, Hon. Chibudom Nwuche and Senator Stella Omu, at the Ibori Vanguard Lecture on Resource Control and True Federalism held at Sheraton hotels and towers, Abuja... recently

AD proposes bill on autonomy for INEC

By Tashikalmah Hallah

The Alliance for Democracy (AD) has concluded arrangements to send a bill seeking financial autonomy for the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

The bill, according to its sponsor, if passed by the National Assembly, will enable INEC to perform its obligations as a truly unbiased umpire.

Already, in the true spirit

of bipartisanship, the party has stretched out its arms to the other two registered political parties, All People's Party (APP) and the People's Democratic Party (PDP) for consultations in support of the bill.

Also, the proposed bill, according to Reverend Tony Mamzo Abubakar and Opeyemi Bamidele, Deputy National Publicity Secretary and Director of Research and Publicity respectively will, among other things, ensure the financial autonomy of the electoral body such that its expenditure will be charged directly on the consolidated revenue fund of the Federation.

In their words: "The purpose of the bill is to ensure

that the INEC has a free hand to conduct future elections independently of the whims and caprices of which ever political party is in power and concomitantly deepen the democratic content in the operationalization of INEC."

The sudden position of the party (AD) is precipitated by the fear of possible control of the INEC by the government as one of its parastatals which may also lead to a possible political manipulation (rigging) in the forthcoming national elections.

The party added that its position is consistent with the party's political philosophy of ensuring sustainable, truly federalist, multiparty democracy in the Nigerian polity.

2003: Dosumu set to challenge Tinubu

Senator Wahab Dosumu has declared his readiness to challenge Governor Bola Tinubu in the 2003 Lagos state governorship election.

The Senator, who disclosed this in a chat with *Daily Trust*, however, gave a condition that would make him go to the polls with the incumbent.

According to him, he would challenge Tinubu if the current clamour for his candidacy continues unabated.

"As I have said before, 2003 election is still far away and I'm working hard on be-

From Bright Ewulu, in Lagos

ing a good Senator. But if Lagosians want me I will not decline to serve," he said.

It would be recalled that there have been clamours of recent that the next governor of Lagos state should be an indigene as the present one is said to hail from Osun state.

This clamour, being sponsored by Lagos indigenes, maintains that Lagosians are being marginalized in all spheres of governance and that their demarginalization should commence with their producing the next governor of the state.

With Tinubu's certificate scandal, people are beginning to point at Dosumu as the next Alliance for Democracy (AD) governorship candidate since Funso Williams, who was formerly considered as a good replacement for Tinubu, has joined the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

Furthermore, it is felt that the *Afenifere*, who are presently at loggerheads with the Tinubu camp, may opt for Dosumu.

Dosumu, however, told us that this ambition to rule Lagos is not a do or die affair, because he is a democrat

to the core.

Besides, he maintained "it is too early for one to be pre-occupied with that (governorship campaign). It is too early right now to start jockeying for any position."

APP set to resolve Kwara crisis

From Abdul Laro, in Ilorin

All the warring parties in the intra-party crisis rocking the All People's Party (APP) in Kwara state would be carried along to ensure speedy reconciliation and genuine peace.

The chairman of the APP Caretaker Committee, Hon. Fidel Ayogu, appointed by the national headquarters of the party for Kwara State, made the pledge during a visit to the state governor, Alhaji Muhammed Lawal, in Ilorin.

He appealed to the warring parties to give the committee a chance to function in order to bring about a new lease of life in the party.

The committee was put in place following the dissolution of the state executive committee of the party by the national secretariat on March 19, 2001, after a protracted crisis which led to the removal of the former chairman of the party in the state, Profes-

sor Albert Ogunshola, by some aggrieved members of the party.

Hon. Ayogu said the committee has three months within which to oversee the affairs of the party in the state, restore peace and supervise the emergence of a new executive through a free and fair election.

He said the committee had already visited the INEC, the state police commissioner and the former party chairman, Professor Ogunshola, who made positive comments about the performance of the state government in its efforts aimed at improving the socio-economic life of the people.

Responding, the governor assured the committee of his readiness to assist it in the successful execution of its assignment, and commended the initiative of the committee in contacting the leadership of the party on ways of resolving the intra-party crisis in the state.

He particularly commended the committee for contacting Dr. Olusola Saraki through his personal assistant, noting that Dr. Saraki was the only leader of the party in the state and the country at large.

Governor Lawal who expressed satisfaction with the steps taken so far by the committee opined that they would go a long way in ensuring a lasting solution to the crisis in the party.

Shari'a Katsina assembly to probe petition

From Hassan A. Karaaji, in Katsina

The Katsina State House of Assembly has directed its committee on religious affairs to investigate a petition indicting the state government of being reluctant to implement the signed Shari'a legal system in the state.

Sponsoring the motion, Barrister Abdulkadir Lawal, representing Musawa Constituency, said that the initial zeal as a result of the Shari'a introduction resulted in high decline in criminal activities in the state, but the continued delay in the proper implementation of the Shari'a legal system by government had given people with criminal minds the liberty to unleash havoc in the state unchecked.

He said this lukewarm attitude by the government has negated the principle of law-abiding, as expected with a Shari'a introduction. He urged the house to

ensure that government is adhering to all laws passed and assented to by the state government.

He told the assembly that even prosecutions in most of the courts around the state are not in accordance with the Shari'a legal system.

He added that the Shari'a court judges assigned by the state government are not qualified to head the Shari'a courts.

Another legislator, Sani Inusa, representing Jibia constituency, stated that enough evidence abounded to show serious sabotage in the application of the law since passage.

He, therefore, urged the house to allow the relevant committees investigate the matter for proper measures to be taken for the peace and tranquility of the state.

The house thereafter unanimously adopted the motion and directed the

relevant committees to investigate the matter and report back in two weeks time for deliberations.

LG boss condemns two-year tenure

From Wisdom Patrick, in Lagos

The chairman, Lagos Mainland Local Government, Lagos State, Alhaji Boshri Bolarinwa, has described the constitutional provision of a two-year tenure for council chairmen in the country a belated military agenda.

Speaking to *Daily Trust* in his office at the weekend, Alhaji Bolarinwa urged the Federal Government and the National Assembly to stop implementing belated ideas of the military and "look for something new to give our young democracy."

Bolarinwa, who challenged the Federal Government to tell the entire country why local government chairmen should not serve for four years, just like other tiers of government, reminded both the Federal and state governments that "those who voted for them also did the same to the local government chairmen."

He said the idea of the two-year tenure for local council chairmen was a trick because they would not be handing

over government to the civilians. "So, to be on the safe side, they used local government election as a face-saving strategy," he alleged.

Bolarinwa, who said local government chairmen were elected for the same purpose the state governors, National Assemblies, State Assemblies and the President were elected, asked why they should be treated differently?

On the crisis rocking the Alliance for Democracy (AD) in Lagos State, Bolarinwa, who was elected on the party's platform said that, "Alliance for Democracy in Lagos Mainland Local Government Area and, indeed, Lagos state is intact."

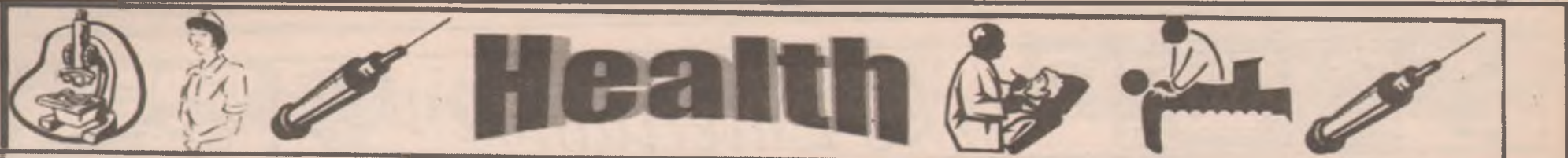
He told *Daily Trust* that the current monthly AD unification meetings were an indication of unity in the party. Bolarinwa revealed that the meetings would foster a good relationship among party members.

"The monthly AD unification meetings are basically

to confirm and give indication that AD is and will continue to wax stronger in the leadership of present and future politics in the Lagos Mainland Local Government Area, Lagos State and beyond," he said.

Commenting on the stress in getting certificates of origin, Bolarinwa said all they do at the local council level was to request from the applicant his/her clearance certificate or a letter from the Bale or Oba of his area of residence. "Once that is presented and we find out that it is not forged, of course we issue the person with the certificate of origin of the local government."

Asked if there has been any recorded incident of forgery of documents by any applicant for certificate of origin in the local government, he answered in the negative and added "I'm not even the person that signs such documents. There are officers around me that do that but to the best of my knowledge no such incident has occurred," he noted.



Abdullahi seeks new image for AIDS patients

The Medical Director of Winners Diagnostic Hospital, Abuja and one of the claimants to AIDS vaccine, Dr. Jacob Abdullahi, has charged Nigerians not to look down on AIDS patients as promiscuous people.

"Aids is not only contracted through sex," the doctor said. He explained that one can contact AIDS from

Stories by Ikenna Emeka Okpani

an attempt to help a wounded person whose blood might come in contact with one's through any open part of the skin.

"People also get AIDS from blood transfusion, when such blood is not properly screened," Dr. Abdullahi said.

He called on patients to come out for cure as there was nothing to hide about HIV.

The director who was speaking at the National Youth Association, Governors, Award at Sheraton Hotels and Towers, said his hospital has treated over 9,000 HIV/AIDS patients.

He also announced that the hospital attends to an av-

erage of a hundred cases of HIV/AIDS on daily basis.

According to him, although HIV/AIDS is mainly contracted through sexual intercourse, a great number of people get infested through other means, "such people need a cure for the ailment," he said.

Furthermore, the doctor said those who claim there was no cure for AIDS are those who do not want to

recognise those who have the cure.

He argued that while pharmaceutical companies in Europe have been able to get AIDS management drugs, which only lead one slowly to eventual death, his own drug can completely cure the killer disease.

He launched a sticker with the words "AIDS KILLS. PASS THE MESSAGE. DON'T PASS THE VI-

RUSES" made by the National Youth Association with the sum of One hundred thousand naira.

He praised the members of the association for being on the vanguard of the campaign against the spread of the HIV/AIDS infection.

Dr. Abdullahi is one of the claimants to possessing a vaccine for the cure of HIV/AIDS.



Mrs. Ariz C. Madukwe Health Task Force Chairman (left) and Mrs. Patricia C. Manwuba Chief Regulatory Officer during the briefing on Hawking of fake drugs by NAFDAC in Abuja recently. Pix Felix Onigbinde

Rep decries lull at Birnin-Kudu

Federal Medical Centre

The Deputy Chairman of the House of Representatives Committee on Health, Hon. Shehu Usman Aliyu, has expressed concern over the reluctance of the Jigawa State government to relinquish the former Birnin-Kudu general hospital, now Birnin-Kudu Federal Medical Centre to the Federal Government, a situation which he said has made the centre dormant.

The Birnin-Kudu centre is one of the general hospitals recently converted into federal medical centres by the Federal Government to ensure the provision of adequate funding and medical facilities, in order to meet the FG's target of achieving health for all Nigerians by the year 2010.

Speaking exclusively to *Daily Trust* at the end of the Senate and House Committees' public hearing on NAFDAC and fake drugs, Shehu noted with concern, the state of activities in the Birnin-Kudu medical centre which he said is "virtually dormant," while some of the recently converted federal medical centres like that of Keffi in Nasarawa State are "fastly developing."

The health committee deputy chairman said he was reliably informed "by some senior staff of the Birnin-

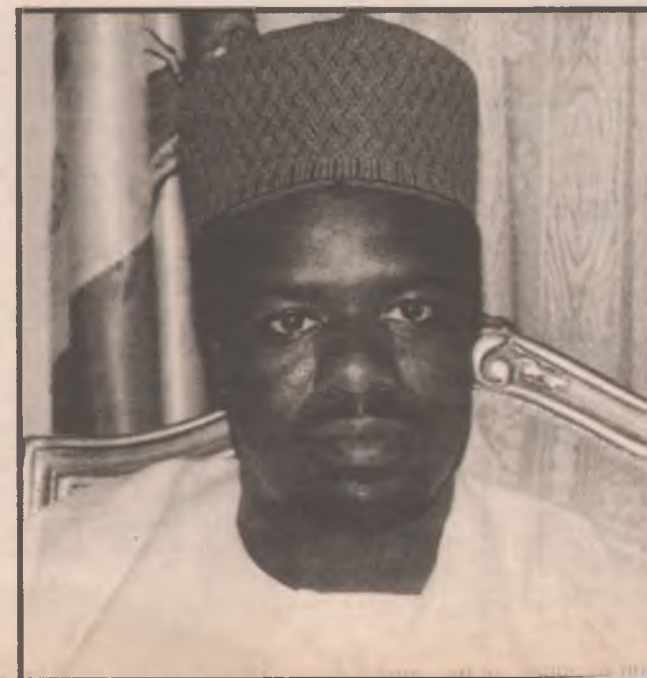
By Ahmed Shekarau

Kudu Federal Medical Centre," who would not want their names in print for obvious reasons, that "virtually nothing happens at the centre in view of the Jigawa State government's recalcitrant stand over the conversion of the hospital to a federal medical centre."

Shehu, who represents Karaye/Rogo Federal Constituency of Kano State wondered what informed the Jigawa State government's decision not to relinquish the hospital, "even when it can-

not adequately fund and maintain the hospital." He regretted that while several communities were lobbying for their hospitals to be taken over by the Federal Government, the Jigawa government was depriving its people of good medical care, stressing that "this is detrimental to not only the entire people of the state, but the North at large."

He urged the Jigawa State government to reconsider its position and pave way for the development of the medical centre, stressing that as a legislator, "I know what it takes to convince the executive arm of the government to commit resources towards funding of the medical centres."



Saminu Turah

Herbalist blames orthodox doctors for neglect

A herbal practitioner with Prince Tradomedical Clinic, Idu, Abuja, Dr. Bayo Etete, has blamed the neglect of traditional medicine practitioners on orthodox doctors at the Ministry of Health.

Such doctors at the health ministry, Dr. Etete said were afraid that giving recognition to natural medicine would affect their own profession.

"But this is not true. It is good they begin to recognise our herbs as is being done in some developed countries," he said.

He said herbs were preferred by people because they "contain vitamins, min-

erals and other nutrients that nourish and build the body systems."

He also said that herbs "cleanse and purify the body system without side effects."

Speaking on the precautions taken by their clinic to provide herbal drugs free from contamination, Dr. Etete said Prince Tradomedical Clinic has a department specially carved out for the preparation of herbal drugs.

"The section is up to standard as far as herbal medicine is concerned. But believe it or not, Orthodox medical doctors may want to set their own standards," he said.

He revealed that the clinic

uses quality herbs. "These herbs have names. We therefore direct our accredited suppliers to look for this or that herb that we need them," he said.

He also revealed that some states already had traditional medicine boards which regulate activities of natural medicine practitioners in their states and berated the Ministry of Health for paying lip service to the issue of a regulatory body.

"Though quackery is widespread. It is found in every profession, not only in the area of traditional medicine but we believe that an agency would help regulate who is who," he said.

He called for a means of testing people who claim to have the cure for certain diseases by allowing their traditional herbal mixtures to be administered on patients. He claimed that traditional medicine is acquired by apprenticeship or inherited from parents as gift of nature.

Explaining the issue of expiry dates for herbal mixtures, Dr. Etete said because the herbs were natural and not chemically treated they tend to last for a very long time.

"Once they are preserved either by drying, boiling, etc they tend to last for a very long time. We all grew up from homes where our mothers store roots for use for treating minor ailments in the family, you don't hear that such roots expire unless something goes wrong," he said.

He dismissed the noise about expiry dates of herbs, saying because they are preserved naturally some of them are just as effective as they were the day they were plucked from the shrubs.

He called on people to discard the use of herbs with alcohol saying it was not advisable.

The Prince Tradomedical Clinic specializes in treating sexually transmitted diseases

New malaria drug out soon - WHO

An agreement to produce LAPDAP, a new treatment for malaria, has been signed between the World Health Organisation (WHO) and Glaxosmithkline, one of the world's leading pharmaceutical companies.

The WHO said in a press release made available to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), in Lagos at the weekend that "LAPDAP, a product that combines two existing anti-malaria compounds, *Chlorproguanil* and *Dapsone*, is a Potential life-saving medicine."

According to the release, the aim of the agreement is to develop LAPDAP as an effective oral treatment for uncomplicated malaria, primarily for use in sub-Saharan Africa, but also in other regions of the world where it may be appropriate.

"To date, clinical trials in sub-Saharan Africa have demonstrated that LAPDAP is effective in the treatment of uncomplicated malaria resistant to other standard first line therapies such as chloroquine and sulphadoxine/pyrimethamine (SP)"

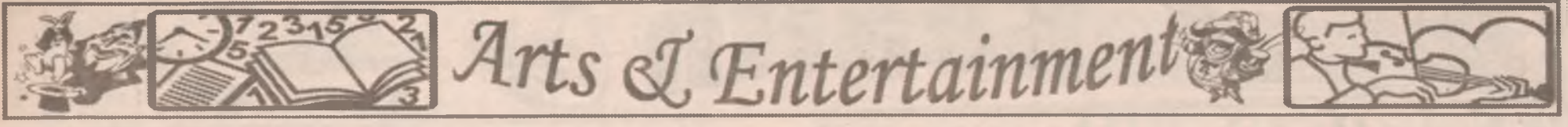
It said that LAPDAP would be made available at a preferential price for public health programmes, adding that the medicine was already entering its final phase of development and could be available in some African countries by early next year.

Malaria is a serious, sometimes fatal, disease. At least 300 million malaria clinical cases occur worldwide every year, 90 percent of which are in Africa.

It is believed that close to 3,000 people, mostly children under five, die as a result of the disease every day. (NAN)

Computerised medical care

The largest restructuring of hospitals ever carried out in Europe has just been completed in Paris. The new European Georges-Pompidou hospital, in the South-west of the capital, has been accommodating the activities of three Paris hospitals, Broussais, Laennec and Boucicault, over the second half of the year 2000. The patients were the last to join this "high tech" structure characterised by the widespread



Tourism

Arroyo opens palace to the people

Hundreds of Philippine presidential palace complex into a picnic ground on Sunday as President Gloria Macapagal

Arroyo opened her residence under a scheme to make it more accessible.

wares.

Teams of doctors and dentists treated some 400 people with various complaints free of charge.

"The weekly event is meant to turn Malacanang into a true palace of the people." A palace statement said.

The palace complex is normally off-limits to ordinary people unless they have official business to transact.

Entire families carrying picnic baskets unrolled mats on the tree-shaded lawns and children romped on the ground while a band played music to mark the launching of Arroyo's project, dubbed "Sundays in Malacanang (palace) Gardens." "It looks like they're having a birthday party," Arroyo said after mingling with the crowds, Groups and danced on a makeshift stage to entertain the visitors.

In the late 1980s, then President Corazon Aquino also opened the palace to the people, including foreign tourists, to display more than 1,200 pairs of shoes collected by ex-first lady Imelda Marcos during the rule of her late husband, Ferdinand Marcos.

Aquino said the shoes, abandoned at the palace when the Marcoses fled the country during a popular revolt, which toppled them from power in 1986, symbolised government excesses during the Marcos regime.

Reuters

No signs of recovery for

Zimbabwe's tourist industry

Zimbabwe's tourism industry has not recovered from the bad publicity that started affecting the country in the run-up to the parliament elections last June, according to the Zimbabwe Council for Tourism (ZCT).

Also worried by the fact that Air Zimbabwe had been making amendments to its flight schedule.

the elections last June.

Tourist arrivals, which grew by eight percent from 2.09 million in 1995 to 2.25 million in 1999, declined by more than 60 percent last year, Nyakunu said.

According to Nyakunu, more than 100 tourism operators face closure before the second half of the year and more than 60 are said to have closed down last year.

Last July, President Robert Mugabe launched the tourism recovery plan aimed at boosting the country's tourism industry by restoring international confidence in Zimbabwe as a safe destination.

The number of those purported to have closed down could be more than as many small tour operators were not registered with the Zimbabwe tourism Authority, he said.

An environment and tourism task force was set up through the National Economic Consultative Forum to come up with a recovery plan. However, the plan has not yielded fruits.

Reuters

ZCT Chief Executive Elias Nyakunu told Zimbabwe News Agency (ZIANA) on Saturday that the situation, which was expected to recover this year, was not showing any signs of doing so.

"The situation is still as bad I don't see any silver lining in the sky. There is nothing positive at the moment," he said, adding that he was

Zimbabwe's image as a Prime tourist destination suffered a major blow with the start of violence, which accompanied the run-up to

Echoes of sweet

Music stems from sounds

grows and becomes alive in every one-if only he can draw it. Everything in creation, including music has harmony and rhythm. As long as it flows from above, it surely flows in harmony.

It is sad that today in our society, true music has died away. It is not what it used to be before.

Men can no longer draw from above, as did Mozart, Beethoven, Handel.

Today what we hear is very disturbing noise which affects the air in a negative way and makes a place heavy.

If one enters a room where a piece of music like Handel or Mozart is on, one would find that room tends to swing in lightness and harmony unlike a room were what our youths call disco or any other form of music related to disco is on.

We find that what is called music today is non-other than distorted pieces and deformed tunes brought together. Even those who intend to compose so-called gospels only pick from mostly the psalms and other areas. Nothing is new.

Let music be a part of our lives on earth, let each and every one enjoy the gift of rhythm given to us.

Listen to the swaying of trees in the middle of a storm, the whistling of birds, and the rustling of moving stream which all have rhythm, all swing in harmony. Even the laws in creation swing in harmony.

Creation itself swings in rhythm and total harmony to the creators will. The universe goes around, the earth rotates and revolves. It does so around the sun in harmony, which is perfect, not bending, not slow or fast, but in absolute perfection.

In its harmony, contains that rhythm which came into being.

We as human beings should for once awaken, think for once. Why and how did music come into being?

How did Mozart, Handel, Beethoven, and the like draw their songs from; and where from?

If one really sits down to think seriously about this, then one day an answer will surely come.

Everything has its purpose,

He who does not appreciate music in its little sense and is not ready to do so could be termed as dead. Appreciate it, because it flows from God, appreciate it because it is part and parcel of creation, which issues from the most high.

Music

Remember the body's metabolism flows in harmony, it has a rhythm. Even the heart beats in rhythm and harmony, which is beyond human technology. Our body formation, how we walk and how we talk also flows in rhythm and harmony.

Offiong Effiwatt



Music makers at a recent event.

Exclamation Mark

3 LETTERS

BAH
UGH
WHY
WOW
YEA

EGADS

NEVER
PSHAW
SHOOT
YAHOO

8 LETTERS

CRIMINEY
LAND SAKE
NONSENSE
NOT AGAIN
POLLYROT

4 LETTERS

ALAS
AMEN
BUNK
DRAT
HELP
HUSH
NICE
PHEW
POOH
RATS
SCAT
WELL
WHEE
WHOA

6 LETTERS

CHEERS
CRUMBS
ENCORE
INDEED
LOCK IT
OH DARN
SHUCKS
YIPPEE

9 LETTERS

ATTENTION
DASH IT ALL
FAT CHANCE
POPPY COCK
STRIKE ONE

5 LETTERS

BRAVO
CRIPE

7 LETTERS

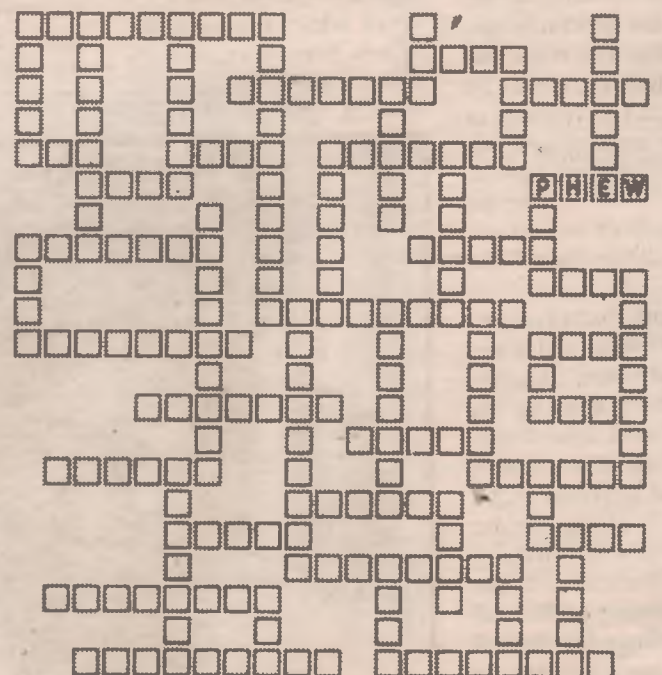
HEAVENS
HI THERE
HOG WASH
LOOK OUT
RUBBISH
WATCH IT
WHOOPEE

10 LETTERS

KNOCK IT OFF

PUZZLE

4



Arts & Entertainment

The Story of the New Nigerian Part VIII Storms in the wake of a birth.

Today, the Sardauna provides more advice to the New Nigerian Newspapers. His noble vision is as impressive as it is inspiring.

I hope the *New Nigerian* will rely at all times on this reliable weapon: tell the truth about the North to the world and in return tell us the truth about the rest of the world. I do not think that the role of this paper should be that of answering accusations and making counter-charges; I think the real justification for this newspaper is simply that a Northern Nigerian newspaper can tell the story of Northern Nigeria best.

I would like to take this opportunity to say 'well done' to the large number of people who have contributed in different ways to the successful launching of this newspaper. I would also like to put in a gentle reminder that the time for hard work on the part of the staff has not ended; it has, in fact, just begun. 'The need is there for this newspaper; the time is ripe and the people are eager for something new and fresh, sincere and interesting. But there is no magic formula for creating a newspaper to fill these specifications; nothing but hard work and imagination, skill and determination will make the newspaper live up to expectations.'

I hope that with the help of God and the support of this country's well-intending millions, the *New Nigerian* will achieve the success it so much deserves. May Allah be its guide and protector from all expected onslaught. Amin.

In its brief existence before the Military take-over on 15th January 1966 the *New Nigerian* did show concern about the North and its backwardness in education, economic and social development and the unhealthy political environment in the country. But more importantly it showed concern about the violence in the Western Region. In the space of two weeks it wrote three editorials on the subject. It drew the attention of the Prime Minister, Alhaji Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, and Premier of the North for the need to take action to put an end to the violence.

In its editorial of 10th January it warned Alhaji Abubakar that the next seven days could prove among the most decisive to this country since we gained independence, Prophetic! Alhaji Abubakar had convened a meeting of the Heads of Government of Commonwealth Countries in Lagos for the following week to discuss the Rhodesian rebellion by Ian Smith, But in his own backyard of Western Nigeria - including suburbs of Lagos - the violence by mobs protesting the reelection of Chief Akintola and his supporters threatened, according to the *New Nigerian* to do "irreparable damage" to the impression of po-

Books



Late Sardauna of Sokoto, Alhaji Ahmadu Bello

litical stability which Nigeria up till then had presented to the world, It warned, the Prime Minister:

"In any event if the conference itself is allowed to be pushed into the background by deliberately formed violence in the West, then Nigeria's prestige and good name will suffer in such a way that it will take a long time to recover the ground lost."

When this editorial was written the Sardauna was out of the country, It was the month of Ramadan and the Sardauna had travelled to Saudi Arabia to perform Umrah, the lesser Hajj, Umrah is an important religious event which many Muslims perform especially in the month of Ramadan, the month of the compulsory fast for Muslims, The Sardauna returned to Nigeria on the day after the aforesaid editorial. On the day of his return the paper came out with another editorial.

In a direct appeal to the Sardauna the said:

"No one condones violence, No one should bow before it. But facts have to be faced and the fact is that force is having to be used to prevent the violence in the West from spreading, But this cannot possibly be the final solution,

"This must spring from the heart of men, From humility and magna-

nimity, For this reason we think that Sir Ahmadu and Chief Akintola should lead a concerted move to talk the whole thing over, for in the North we cannot sit back doing nothing while our kinsmen are being killed in other parts of the Federation,"

The Sardauna did not like this editorial. He landed in Kano with his retinue from Jeddah with an international flight. He then took a local flight to Kaduna. He must have been shown the editorial before he landed in Kaduna. At Kaduna airport he commented sarcastically to reporters on the *New Nigerian* being the "so called Northern paper."

"The Sardauna felt hurt", according to Alhaji Ahmed Joda. In the night, on the day of his return to Nigeria, "he asked me in a one to one discussion in his house if I believe that he alone is responsible for the bloodshed in the West. He asked other questions which I could not answer."

Unfortunately, the Premier had little or no time to respond to the editorial. He was assassinated four days later by Major Chukwuma Kaduna Nzeogwu. The Federal and Regional Governments were overthrown after considerable bloodshed in Kaduna, Lagos and Ibadan and physical destruction in Kaduna

in a coup d'etat.

The coup gave the *New Nigerian* the test to demonstrate its adherence to the principles of being a good newspaper which it enunciated at its inception. Although it never published the full list of those killed or the names of those who did the killing, -it may not have been in possession of full information -it carried stories of the coup and fresh pictures of the destruction in Kaduna. These stories catapulted it into national and international prominence immediately. Other newspapers published outside Kaduna including the *Daily Times*, which was then regarded as the leading newspaper in the country, copied the pictures. The Management of the *New Nigerian* complained that the *Daily Times* did not have the courtesy to acknowledge the source of the pictures, but felt contented: "imitation being the sincerest form of flattery". The *New Nigerian* pictures of the raid on Sardauna's house became "world exclusive" and were, -transmitted all over the world from Accra, Ghana. The late Maaji Masaya, staff photographer of the *New Nigerian* who took the pictures became something of a hero.

In the 1000th edition of the *New Nigerian* Mr. Sharp explained the newspaper's coverage of the violent change of government as follows:

"The question is often asked: How did you manage to publish your famous 17 January, 1966 edition of the *New Nigerian*?"

On the morning immediately following the coup we were advised by government to suspend publication until further notice, machines were switched off, staff sent home and doors locked.

But early on the following Sunday morning I could stand it no longer. Here we were with a world scoop in our possession and not able to do a thing about it. So I went and saw Major Chukwuma Nzeogwu. He was having a wound on the side of his neck dressed. I asked him:

"What happened to you?"

He replied: *"Like Jack Demsey said, I forgot to Duck"*. I told him we wanted to carry on printing our newspaper. "Why, not", he said. *"Everything must carry on as normal"* "What can we put in it. What are we allowed to publish", I asked. *"Anything you like"*, he replied.

It was as simple as that. Later we sought and got permission for Pan African Airlines to fly in from Lagos a twin engine aircraft. At just after 4 o'clock it left for Lagos, crammed with newspapers.

The *New Nigerian* had arrived, as you might say. The following day it was being sold at anything up to

three shillings a copy".

In addition to publishing the stories and the pictures, the *New Nigerian*, two days after the coup courageously went forward to interview Major Chukwuma Nzeogwu on why he staged the coup, his plans for the country and his relationship with Major-General Aguiyi Ironsi. General Ironsi, the General Officer Commanding the Army had broadcast from Lagos to the Nation the night before, that he had taken over the government of Nigeria as the country's Head of State and Supreme Commander of the Nigerian Armed Forces with effect from 16th January, The *New Nigerian* produced an afternoon edition on 18th January carrying stories of the interview with Nzeogwu including the terms of agreement between Ironsi and Nzeogwu. In return for pledging allegiance to Ironsi and the federal forces, Ironsi agreed to Nzeogwu's five terms:

1. Safe conduct for himself, his officers and all the men who "carried out the coup on the night of January 15."

2. A guarantee of freedom from legal proceedings, now, or at any time in the future, for officers and men who took part.

3. An assurance that the "people we fought to remove will not be returned to office."

4. Compensation to be paid to the families of all the officers and men who lost their lives in Kaduna, or other parts of Nigeria.

5. All officers and men arrested in the West to be released.

Copies of the afternoon edition of the *New Nigerian* were flown to Lagos and distributed widely in the South as well as in the North. The stories were quoted extensively by Reuters and the name of the newspaper was quoted as the source of the stories all over the world by World Broadcasting Stations. The sale of the newspaper in 'Nigeria zoomed and readers all over the country paid more money to obtain copies than the official cover price. Since then the *New Nigerian* has been established in the Nigerian psyche as a good newspaper.

Meanwhile, it transpired that General Ironsi had got the rump of the outgoing Federal Government in Lagos to hand over power to him. In his broadcast on the night of 16th January he informed Nigerians that a provisional National Military Government had been established.

The constitution had been suspended and the Army would suppress the on-going disorders in the country.



Consumer Guide



Today's Flights

Albarka Air Services

Abuja—Lagos:
8.30am; 10.00am;

1.00pm; 4.30pm

Lagos—Abuja
7.00am; 9.45am;

1.00pm; 3.00pm.

Abuja—Maid (1.30pm)

Abuja—Maid (4.30pm)

Maid—Abuja (7.30pm)

Chanchangi Airlines

Abuja—Lagos:

8.00am; 11.45am;

1.40pm; 3.00pm; 5.30pm

Kaduna—Lagos (8.30am)

Kaduna—Abuja—Lagos

(12.40pm)

Lagos—Abuja;

7.15pm; 10.00am;

1.10pm; 3.30pm; 4.45pm.

Lagos—Abuja—Kaduna

(10.00am)

Lagos—Kaduna (5.00pm)

Nigeria Airways

Abj—Lagos: 8.30am

Abj—Lagos: 2.00pm;

3.30pm; 5.30pm.

Lag—Abj: 7.00am;

12.30pm

Lagos—Phc: 9.00am

Lagos—Enu—Phc:

4.00pm

Abuja—Yola: 3.30pm.

Yola—Abuja: 4.45pm

Eas Airlines

Abj—Jos 11.00am

Abj—Jos—Lagos—

11.00am

Abj—Lag: 10.30am;

4.30pm

Lag—Abj: 7.15am;

9.30am; 2.45pm.

Bus Schedules

Ifesinachi Nig Ltd

at Berger Junction by

Sassandra Street and

Nyanya Unipetrol Filling

Station

Abuja to Lagos

Departure 8pm

ABC Transport

at Banex Plaza,

Abj—Lagos

Departure: 7.00 am,

8.00am

Chisco

at Utako District

Abuja—Lagos N1,810.00

Departure: 7.30am, 7.30pm

C.N. Okoli at Berger Junc-

tion,

Abj—Lagos

The patronage of second-hand clothes better known as *okrika* in Nigeria has been on the increase lately. A visit to major commercial spots within the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) like Zuba, Karmo, Berger Junction will confirm the popularity of these hitherto despised clothes. In these places traders of *okrika* are seen displaying their second-hand wares.

As if in response to the seeming endless ringing of bells and use of verbal gimmicks by the traders, people are often seen in clusters, bending down at intervals to select or sample these second-hand articles.

Timothy, a self-employed young man at Wuse New Market, was haggling for second-hand trousers when *Daily Trust* accosted him. He said that with the rising cost of things in the country, coupled with the high rate of unemployment "certain things one needs desperately can't be got at the usual price. Therefore one has to settle for second-hand ones."

Another *okrika* patron, Duke Ekpo, told *Daily Trust* that for as long as prices of essential things soar so will second-hand clothes be fashionable among Nigerians. "If

you buy a second-hand car, for instance, which is almost 70 percent lower than the original value cost, you will still derive the desired satisfaction since the essence of buying the car is to move you around," he said.

Surprisingly, even the seemingly affluent ones are not left out in the patronage of *okrika*. *Daily Trust* spotted an expatriate in New Wuse Market sweating profusely in the mid-day sun, haggling over a second-hand clothe.

Eke Robinson, an environmentalist, affirmed that in

By Victor Akobundu

an ailing economic situation, the only succour for the less financially buoyant ones to procure products not usually within the reach of the poor is the second-hand value of such a product.

"Since we lack the resources and expertise to produce some certain products, which are imported from abroad at the expense of the poor who can't afford to buy it at fixed price, it is then appreciated as an *okrika*," he said.

A trader at Area 1 disclosed to *Daily Trust* that

some of these second-hand clothes are, in fact, comparable to those sold in boutiques in terms of quality. "Boutique clothes tend to be more expensive because they pay for rents of their shops and therefore inflate prices of their articles," he said. The traders said that they buy their clothes from either Onitsha or Lagos which he claimed are manufactured in countries like China, Indonesia and Hong-Kong. "Our clothes can be as cheap as N150 or N700 depending on the quality of the cloth," he

added.

Nevertheless some people fear that there may be health hazards associated with using these *Okrika* clothes since they are said to have been used by some other persons before being imported to Nigeria.

Daily Trust spoke with National Agency for Food and Drug Control NAFDAC officials on this, but they declined making any comment, saying that the agency does not deal with matters relating to *Okrika*.

But an official with the Public Health Department of the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA) told *Daily Trust*, that there are indeed health risks associated with patronising *Okrika*.

"There are certain diseases like eczema, scabies, skin rashes and even leprosy that people who wear *Okrika* clothes can contact. Diseases like athletes feet can also be contacted by second-hand shoes," he said.

The health official advised that those who buy *Okrika* should ensure that they wash these materials with antibiotics and detergents once purchased before wearing.

Mr. Akobundu is an intern with *Daily Trust*



Second-hand clothes on display at Berger Junction, Abuja.

Pix: Kennedy Egbonodje.

Guidelines for purchasing goods and services

When we go to do our shopping, we are usually faced with the problem of what to choose or select from among the numerous products available.

Now, this may not really be easy because these products are all trying to undo each other in claiming to be either the most suitable, best, cheapest etc.

To crown matters, most of the products are usually accompanied with concentrated promotion campaigns with invented exhibition methods, sales, clearance etc. All these make it all the more difficult to detect the substandard or imitated ones to avoid being cheated.

This situation has prompted us to ask ourselves the question:-

What can we do to obtain suitable goods that will suit our needs, preserve our health and safety, and at the same time be of good quality within the limits of our budget?

Rules of purchase

-Goods should be free of defects.

-Prices should tally with descriptions.

and good for use. That is, not subject to damage or fragile.

-Goods should conform with the description written on its cover or as portrayed by the seller. For example, a shirt labelled "made of pure cotton material" must not be with nylon or

-Don't purchase items without descriptions (specifications).

-Items should suit the purpose of use and should be made known to consumers. For example: if the seller says 'this tablet cures headache', it should be so.

How to carry out shopping

-Compile a list of your purchase and this will save time and money. Organised shopping is better than random shopping as it minimises efforts.

-Discuss your purchase decision with others and this will increase your knowledge.

-Haggle if and where necessary.

-Don't purchase quantities more than you need.

-Visit more than one shop to compare prices before purchase.

-Inspect items properly to make sure that they are without defects.

external label of the container, expiry date, contents, price, etc.

-Select the best quality item with the cheapest price.

-Obtain and read through the receipt after payment to be sure of its contents.

-Don't allow kids to purchase your items.

Purchase of services

Purchase of services is subject to a group of principles as in the purchase of goods. These services include dry cleaning of clothes, renting of cars, tourism and travel, construction, contracting, banking and insurance etc.

a. The party providing the service should carry out its work professionally as the selection of qualified persons guarantee good services.

b. Make sure duration for provision of service is clearly specified.

c. Make sure you obtain a receipt after making payment for a service.

d. Read the receipt carefully to make sure that the conditions of sales are not unfair.

e. Make sure that the party providing the service is providing it as required and before leaving his

premises.

f. Pay the agreed price for the service provided.

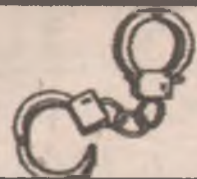
These tips are condensed from the Consumer Protection Council.

Current prices of food items in Wuse market

-Basket of fresh tomatoes	N1,200.00
-Basket of <i>tatase</i>	N2,000.00
-Basket of <i>atarugu</i>	N800.00
-Basket of Irish potato	N300.00
-A crate of egg	N300.00
-One <i>mudu</i> of <i>egusi</i>	N170.00
-One <i>mudu</i> of <i>ogbono</i>	N650.00
-One <i>mudu</i> of crayfish	N400.00
-One <i>mudu</i> of groundnut	N50.00
-One <i>mudu</i> of soya beans	N50.00
-One <i>mudu</i> of small pepper	N140.00
-One <i>mudu</i> of rice	N90.00
-One <i>mudu</i> of wheat flour	N100.00
-One <i>mudu</i> of sobo flower	N90.00
-One <i>mudu</i> of sugar	N100.00
-One <i>mudu</i> of flour	N70.00
-One <i>mudu</i> of millet	N60.00
-One <i>mudu</i> of corn	N55.00
-One <i>mudu</i> of guinea corn	N50.00
-One <i>mudu</i> of beans	N60.00
<i>Mudu</i> of garri	N55.00

Current prices of men's wears

Shadda parker excelsior	N12,000.00
Luxury quality excelsior	N8,500.00
40 stars	N8,800.00
Super fine shadda	N14,000.00
Swiss voile	N9,500.00
Biro jackquard voile	N13,000.00
Somat shadda	N1,250.00
Sudania caftan for men	N500.00



Crime & Punishment



Police indict LG Chairmen

The Lagos State Police Command has indicted local government chairmen in the state for purportedly issuing non-indigenes with documents with which they used in securing placement in the ongoing recruitment exercise into the Nigeria Police Force.

In a press statement, the state police spokesman, Mr. Victor Chilaka, an Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP), said the command frowned at the development and urged those concerned to desist from such act.

The statement made available to newsmen over the weekend, read: "This is to inform the general public that the Lagos State Police Command has observed the rate at which non-indigenes of Lagos State are recruited into the Nigeria Police Force thereby filling the Lagos State quota."

It added that, "in view of this, the Commissioner of Police, Lagos State Command, has directed that non-indigenes should not be recruited into the force, The

From Wisdom Patrick, in Lagos

statement went further to remind the local government



Mike Okiro, Lagos State Police Commissioner. chairmen in the state of the need to screen prospective candidates before signing certificates of origin for them.

However, investigations by *Daily Trust* revealed that Lagos State indigenes were

now at the receiving end of their state governor's miscalculation of putting the cart before the horse.

It was learnt that Governor Bola Tinubu had prepared their mind for a regional police, which the Inspector General of Police and some public affairs analysts have kicked against.

Daily Trust gathered that when it became obvious that

creation of a state police was still a dream, majority of the candidates still interested in a carrier in the Nigeria Police Force fell back on the ongoing police recruitment exercise which has been infiltrated by non-indigenes who made use of the state's quota.

The aggrieved Lagosians, *Daily Trust* learnt, had already peti-

tioned the Inspector General of Police, Mr. Musiliu Smith to come to their rescue. The IG was said to have directed the Lagos State Police Commissioner to investigate the matter.

Daily Trust learnt that the blame on chairmen of local government in the state

was a face saving exercise. Meanwhile, the chairman, Mainland Local Government of Lagos State, Alhaji Bashir Bolarinwa, who spoke with *Daily Trust* on the issue said that the allegation by the police was unfounded and lacks merit.

Detectives nab wharf thieves

Police detectives following a tip-off have arrested no fewer than six members of the notorious gang who have been unleashing havoc on the Apapa Port, Lagos.

The suspects were alleged to have stolen a broken down Fiat Lorry Truck with registration No. BB 698 KJA with 40ft container containing PVC Raw material valued at N2.5 million before the driver could call

From Adelanwa Bamgboye, in Lagos

mechanics. Following a tip-off, police detectives posed as buyers and got the accused persons arrested in their bid to dispose of the chemicals.

The accused persons are Alabi Shoreheun (48), Adebayo Egunjobi (43), Chukwuemeka Ibehanna (29), Oluseyi Seton (48), Kester (40), Owuemene (60)

and Elijah John (40). All the accused persons were charged to court even as they were alleged to have conspired together with others still at large on September 9 at about 4 pm at Apapa Port, Lagos, to commit felony to wit stealing.

It was also alleged that they stole the fiat lorry truck with the 40ft container containing PVC raw materials valued at N2.5 million property of GEE PEE Industries

Nigeria Ltd. Specifically, Chukwuemeka Ibehanna was charged with receiving stolen 40ft container from Alabi Shoreheun. All the accused pleaded not guilty. They were however granted bail while Chief Magistrate A.O. Odugbesen has fixed further hearing till May 2001.



Police Patrol Team round up suspected miscreants in Abuja recently.

... as Judge orders accused for check-up

Meanwhile, a 25 year-old lady, charged with



CJN Mohammed Uwais

murder has been ordered by a Lagos Chief Magistrate Court to be taken to the hospital for medical check-up. Prosecuting Police Officer, Ahmed Yusuf, had earlier alleged that the accused, Tope Oge, on February 25, 2001 at about 11.00 hours at Coker Village, Alausa, Ikeja in the Ikeja magistrate district. She was charged with one Hussama Mokaila Jubrul (female) and thereby committed an offence contrary to code cap 32 vol. 2 laws of

Lagos state 1994. But when the matter was called and the charge read out to the accused person, she appeared insane as she could not give intelligible answers to questions put to her by the court. Consequently, Chief Magistrate Musiban Kaff ordered that she be remanded at the hospital for medical check-up.

Armed robbers kill 2 policemen

Incessant robbery attacks in Nasarawa Local Government Council of Nasarawa State has led to the death of two policemen in one of the incidents along Nasarawa-Loko road.

The armed robbers who mostly operate in groups of 30 had a fortnight ago launched an attack along Nasarawa-Mararaba-Loko road and carted away about N600,000 cash and property worth millions of naira from traders.

The Nasarawa Local Government Divisional Police Command, which sent its patrol team, however, lost two policemen and three others, left seriously wounded while exchanging fire with the robbers.

Already, the Emir of Nasarawa, Alhaji Remalan Abubakar, has sent a save

By Sulaiman Mohammed

our soul (S.O.S.) appeal to the Nasarawa State Police Command while various vigilante groups were formed to assist the police in checking the menace of armed robbers in the local government council.

Investigations revealed that the robbers were mostly Chadian gendarmes who allegedly colluded with their Nigerian counterparts to carry out the attack.

Though the Nasarawa police command declined comment on the incident, *Daily Trust* further learnt that a formal report had been filed to the state police command for necessary action, while the affected policemen whose names were not disclosed are still recuperating in hospital as at the time of

filing this report. Early last month, similar robbery incident occurred on the same road, and with the efforts of vigilante



Steve Ibn Akiga, Minister of Police Affairs

groups, five robbery suspects were apprehended and jungle justice meted on them, leading to their death before police intervention

Patrol team smash robbery gang

The Jigawa State police have smashed a gang of armed robbers killing one of them along Kwanam Huguma - Birnin-Kudu Road.

The robbers, who were fond of blocking the road at night on many occasions, had made the road very dangerous at night. *Daily Trust* learnt that the criminals had boarded a commercial bus from Kwanam Hguma posing as commuters. On reaching their area of operation, they ordered the driver to stop. As they alighted from the vehicle, one of them pointed a gun at the driver and ordered the passengers to disembark and lie face down. When the passengers had obeyed they ransacked the vehicle, frisked the passengers and robbed

From Bola Mohammed Nasir, in Dutse

them of all their money. However, they ran out of luck as a police patrol team that was coming from Dutse sighted them and when the robbers realised it was a police patrol team, they took to their heels, but the police pursued them, a shot one of them and arrested the other.



IGP Smith.

SPORTS

Aimar on course for return against Arsenal

Valencia's Argentine playmaker Pablo Aimar is on course for a return to first-team action in Wednesday's Champions League quarter-final first leg against Arsenal.

Aimar has not played since suffering a leg injury in a 2-1 win over Panathinaikos on March 13 and Valencia have struggled in his absence, losing their last two league games to slip 10 points off the league title pace in Spain.

The talented midfielder was back in training on Sunday, though, and the club's medical staff will make a final decision on his fitness on Monday.

"If Aimar trains at a 100 percent like he did today then he will be available for selection," club doctor Jorge Candel said.

The injury news for Wednesday's game at

Highbury is less good for Romanian forward Adrian Ilie, who arrived back from

international duty this week with a thigh muscle tear. Ilie underwent a scan on

the injury on Sunday and Dr. Candel said he will be out for around three weeks.



Manchester United's Teddy Sheringham gets in front of Real Madrid's Camerounian defender Njitap Geremi during a Champions League quarter-final clash last year.

Revenge the real goal in Bavaria

The smiles have returned in Munich - after two years of grimacing through clenched teeth, of pretending that the Champions League Final defeat by Manchester United didn't hurt, of waiting for the pain to go away.

At last the moment of retribution is at hand. There is an iron determination that this time, there will be no mistake.

Everything in Bavaria has been swept aside for the confrontation that matters. Even the cross-city derby against TSV Munich 1860, played out in front of 63,000 screaming fans in the Olympic Stadium, was but a sideshow for the Bayern players - an unwanted

inconvenience blocking the route to Old Trafford in a fortnight's time.

"It was hard to concentrate out there," admitted Bayern captain Stefan Effenberg after the 2-0 victory. "Everyone at the club is thinking about Manchester United. We really wanted them in the draw. Now we've got them, it's difficult to turn our thoughts to the Bundesliga."

"At least this was a derby match so it kept some of our focus. The message we want to send out to Manchester United is that they should know we can concentrate not just for 90 minutes in a match but for 92, 95 or 96 if necessary." There is not one Bayern Munich player who

does not believe the better team lost on a balmy May night in Barcelona two years ago.

Leading 1-0 until the cusp of injury-time, Bayern succumbed to a killer double blow when Teddy Sheringham and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer pounced within 90 seconds of each other to snatch the trophy from the Germans' grasp. Revenge has been an all-consuming passion ever since.

Mehmet Scholl, whose second-half chip over United goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel with the score at 1.0 that night rebounded off the woodwork, said: "I've dreamed of getting a second chance to beat Manchester United. Now it doesn't seem real that the

dream is going to come true."

To a man they say that this time it will be different. The only player to keep his counsel so far is goalkeeper Oliver Kahn, whose agility against Munich 1860 ensured that second-half goals by Giovane Elber and Paulo Sergio took Bayern three points clear of their German League rivals.

Bayern managing director Uli Hoeness said: "We may not have won anything by tonight's result but it was a very important one for the Champions League."

"It means we can afford to lose a match and still be top. That makes it so much easier to concentrate on beating United."

Rockets beat Wizards 96-86

The Houston Rockets shook off their slumber in the fourth quarter, reeling off 15 consecutive points, on their way to a 96-86 victory over the Washington Wizards on Saturday.

The victory put the Rockets into a tie with the Seattle SuperSonics behind the Minnesota Timberwolves by 2 1/2 games in the race for the fine spot in the Western Conference playoffs.

Houston trailed after each of the first three quarters and was down 70-69, when Walt Williams nailed a 3-pointer with 9:16 remaining to spark the decisive run.

Hakeem Olajuwon had 15 points and 11 rebounds and Kenny Thomas added 10 points for the Rockets.

Wizards guard Laron Profit had 18 points, eight

Basketball

In Atlanta, the Atlanta Hawks rolled past the Denver Nuggets 99-86 behind Tony Kukoo's 23 points and 11 assists.

Nazr Mohammed had 16 points and 10 rebounds and Nick Van Exel scored 10



points for Denver.

In San Antonio, Sam Cassel's 24 points led the Milwaukee Bucks past the San Antonio Spurs 86-77.

Milwaukee had a six-game lead over second-place Charlotte in the Central Division with 10 games to play. The Bucks allowed only 27 points in the second half.

Tim Duncan had 20 points and Robinson 19 for the Spurs.

In Chicago, the Miami Heat defeated the Chicago Bulls 97-90.

Heat with 21 points. Alonzo Mourning had 12 points in his third game back after he had been expected to miss the entire season with kidney disease.

Miami outscored the Bulls, 28-12 in the third quarter, hitting 11-of-18 shots from the field while Chicago missed 12-of-17.

Heat one game ahead of New York in the battle for the third seed in the Eastern Conference.

In Los Angeles, the Clippers beat the Cleveland Cavaliers 104-97 behind Lamar Odom's third triple-double in the last five games.

Andre Miller led five Cavaliers in double figures with 10 points, Lamond Murray scored 18 off the bench for Cleveland.

Final Four Coaches ... Krzyzewski, Olson on list

Adrian Dantley, Moses Malone and James Worthy are among 17 finalists for enshrinement into the Basketball Hall of Fame.

Seven players, seven coaches and three contributors were named by four separate screening committees. The induction ceremony will be October 5.

The North American

Top golfers prepare for Augusta, as Woods, Singh rest

Golf

Tiger Woods and Vijay Singh are resting for their Augusta showdown. Ernie Els is still at work.

The Big Easy, one of the favorites in this week's Masters, is among the big names scheduled to tee off Thursday at Augusta National, the year's first major.

Els hasn't been happy with the state of his game, so he decided to play a tournament the week before Augusta for only the second time in seven years.

"I've done it both ways," he said. "I've played going into majors. I've taken weeks off. It's just the way your game is."

Els missed the cut in two of his last four events, including The Players Championship, and hasn't finished higher than 25th in that span. He traces his problems to a faulty grip, so he's been spending extra time on the range to get his hands back where they should be.

"My form of late suggests to me to play this week," Els said. "I'm working on a couple of things in my game, and I feel that playing and working on it is better than staying on the range and practicing and thinking about Augusta too much."

Not so for Woods, winner of the last three majors, and Singh, the defending Masters champion. David Duval also decided to stay away, taking away some of the lustre from the BellSouth field.

"When I'm sitting around and not playing and not doing anything, then I might as well be at home where it's more comfortable," Els said, bundled up after a frigid pro-ammie round Wednesday morning. "That will be a bit of a problem, a bit of a distraction, before this week starts."

Love decided to play in the BellSouth while he was in the middle of his second round at The Players Championship last Friday.

"It was funny," he said. "I missed the cut, but I didn't feel bad about it because I was excited about coming here, and obviously leading into Augusta and Hilton Head. I knew I had three good weeks to play."

Love also looks forward to a brief respite in all the talk about a Tiger Slam. With a victory at Augusta, Woods can become the first player to hold all four major professional titles at the same time.

"You get two questions about how your game is shaping up and

five for what do you think about Tiger, because he can't answer them all," Love said. "But the guy lives for that kind of pressure. He wants to be the man and prove that he is the man. And if he keeps making putts like he has the last two weeks and keeps getting the right bounces, he's obviously going to be the favorite."

The 7,259-yard course provided Phil Mickelson with a chance to make some of the creative shots he'll need to have in the Augusta repertoire.

"It's important to drive the ball well here," Mickelson said. "But also feel if you miss a shot here, it gives you the opportunity to recover. It's not one-dimensional like we've had some weeks, where the rough is so thick you can only wedge out."

Mickelson has never won a major, an admitted shortcoming in an otherwise fine career, but he is playing well this year. He won the Buick Invitational, was runner-up to Woods at Bay Hill and finished third at Pebble Beach.

The left-hander believes that playing the week before gives him the best chance to break through in a major.

"I know that after being out here nine years, it's disappointing not to have won a major," Mickelson said. "I try not to think about how bad I would dearly love to win one, and really try to focus on the fact that I've improved over the last year and that I have been playing well. I want to carry that playing over into Augusta."



Andy Garcia... one of the top golfers expected to give Woods and Singh a tough time in Augusta.



SPORTS



No hope for Africa - Keshi

Africa may not be effectively represented in the 11th World Youth Championship in Argentina, later in the year, going by the quality of play by teams that participated in the African Youth Championship in Ethiopia.

Stephen Keshi, the Flying Eagles chief sweat merchant made the assertion while appraising the overall performances of teams which featured in the African Youth Championship that ended last weekend with

By Patrick Andrew

Angola emerging champions.

Keshi who regretted the Flying Eagles dismal outing and failure to berth at the Argentina 2001 fiesta, observed that the quality of talents paraded in the championship was below par. He expressed serious doubt that African continent, which hitherto had always produced quality teams, may not



Keshi have such honour in the Argentina 2001.

"From what Ethiopia, Egypt and others played, I don't know whether we will have good representation in the Argentina 2001 championship. I am not really certain the quality of play at the Ethiopia 2001 championship was enough signal for good representation," Keshi said.

Albeit, he thumped down the Flying Eagles for the poor outing, Keshi could not, however, fault the individual talents that abound in the team. "We had quite a crop of individual players, but it was unfortunate we could not just click. Quite inexplicably, we fared badly. Yes, preparation and all that combined to weaken the Flying Eagles".

Keshi, though, insisted the problem was basically not because the Flying Eagles were largely composed of home-based. "No, they are good and I must confess that I was impressed except the bunch did not click as expected".

The former assistant coach of the Super Eagles said in future, he would still work with a team comprising largely of home-based. He, however, would expect the authority to provide the means necessary for adequate preparation for any championship.



Niger Potters and Customs basketball teams slugging it out during the Best of Six Basketball competition last season. Pix. Omo Oba.

Coker Secondary School wins Malta Guinness Cup

Coker Secondary School, Orile, on Friday emerged winner of this year's Malta Guinness Principal's Cup by beating Sango Secondary School, Agege, 4-1 on penalties.

The keenly contested final match played at the main bowl of the National Stadium, Lagos, was watched by dignitaries including D. Matt Murphy, the managing director of Guinness Nigeria plc and ended 1-1 during regulation time.

Akito Ayodeji scored the first goal in the 65 minute to put the Agege lads ahead but shortly after, in the 72nd minute, Muritala Isiaka equalized for Coker Secondary School.

Isiaka's beautiful goal came through a direct free kick after he was brought down by one of his opponents. The match ended on level ground resulting into penalty to decide the winner.

The Orile lads triumphed through by converting four, while their opponents converted only one of the penalty shoot-outs.

They won a cash prize of 200,000 naira, a giant trophy and gold medal.

Their coach, Ephraim Ohiri, said "I had anticipated a penalty shootout at the end. That was why I trained them well on how to take penalty kicks accurately".

Sango Secondary School coach, Muyideen Oladiti said his team's failure was a shock, adding that he had not been able to figure out what went wrong.

United Christian Secondary School, Apapa, had earlier defeated Yewa High School Agege 4-0 to win the female trophy.

Visa problem delays Nigerian judokas

Plan by Nigerian judokas to feature in the British Open Championships scheduled for between April 20 and April 21 in London is

being threatened by the refusal of the British High Commission to give them visas.

Oluwole Akoja, the secretary of the Nigeria Judo Federation (NJF), told the News Agency of Nigeria

(NAN) yesterday in Lagos that the embassy had last week turned down the visa applications filled in Abuja.

Akoja said officials of the Embassy said the applications should have been filed at least, one month before the departure date.

He said the late arrival of the invitation and the inability of the federation to secure sponsorship on time were responsible for the delay in filing the visa applications, adding that the High Commission did not accept the explanation.

Akoja said, however, that following the intervention of the Federal Ministry of Sports and Social Development and the Rivers State government - the sponsor of the judokas - the Britons had relented and agreed to conduct interviews for the judokas this week in Lagos.

He said the situation was still dicey as the Britons claimed they did not have enough hands to do the job.

The judokas - five males and five females - are expected to represent the country at the championships.

Kano govt. to separate male and female spectators

Men and women will henceforth be separated in sitting arrangements in all sporting arenas in Kano state.

This is part of the state governments effort to ensure compliance with Shariah Laws in all aspects of sporting activities.

Alhaji Nura Mohammed Dankade, the state's Commissioner for Information Culture, Youths and Sports,

From Jamilah Musa, in Kano

revealed that government intends to sanitise sports in the states because of the domineering effect of western style of sports culture which does not put Shariah norms

into consideration.

The Commissioner also disclosed that a mini sports festival would soon be organized by the ministry which would take Shariah legal system into considera-

tion. Speaking with *Trustsports* in his office, the Commissioner said that women instructors would be trained to teach and train school girls in line with Shariah tenets.

Iloro Grammar School captures Principal Cup

Iloro Grammar School, Agege, Saturday in Lagos emerged the junior boys

champions of the annual Malta Guinness Principals' Cup soccer competition among secondary schools in Lagos State.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the Iloro defeated Archbishop Aggrey Memorial Secondary School, Mushin, 3-1 to win the encounter watched by a capacity crowd at the national stadium, Lagos.

Idowu Oyetokun scored a hat trick for Iloro, netting the first in the 10 minute, the second four minutes later and the third in the 30 minute.

Archbishop Aggrey, however, redeemed their image with a consolation goal by Olumide Odusanya in the 35 minute.

The game was almost marred by violence as the students spectators threw

missiles at one another. Security men responded promptly, chasing most of them out of the stadium.

The students destroyed plastic chairs at the stadium and the table at the press stand which they used as missiles to hurl at one another.

Ikorodu High School beat Ajangbadi High School, Ojoo, 3-1 to clinch the bronze medal in the junior boys category.

Earlier, the bronze medal in the female category was won by Queen's College, Yaba, who beat Aladura Comprehensive High School, Bariga, 4-1.

The senior boys bronze medal was won by Ode Obara High School, Epe, who walked over United Christian Secondary School,



Kaduna Kakuri polo team lining up for action during the Lagos Polo tournament. . .last February Pix. Joe Oroye.

Libya shuns Eagles

Apparently unimpressed with the Super Eagles last match against the Black Stars of Ghana, the Libyan Football Federation has rejected a friendly match with the Eagles.

NFA head of International, Bolaji Ojo-Oba said yesterday that the Libyan

is in a proposal for a duel with either the U-17 or U-20

This space is for sale



This space is for sale

SHAP SHOTS

Knicks

Twenty points from Marcus Camby helped the New York Knicks to a stunning away victory against the reigning NBA champions, the Los Angeles Lakers on Sunday.

The victory capped off a five-match away run for the inconsistent Knicks.

Knicks guard Latrell Sprewell said: "the bottom line is that we've been in three close games on this road trip and we were able to pull out two of them. I will take that."

Although Shaquille O'Neil scored 31 points in the game, the Knicks managed to effectively close out the Lakers' star centre.

Venus

Venus Williams victory in the Ericsson Open on Saturday has been with career-high second place in the world rankings.

Her 4-6, 6-1, 7-6 win over Australian Open Champion Jennifer Capriati in Miami has propelled her above fellow American Lindsay Davenport.

But Swiss star Martina Hingis retained her position as world number one with 5763 points.

The American dominate the top 10, with five players in the top six positions.



Capriati... lost to Venus in Miami

Man. United

Manchester United have announced a 13 per cent increase in 6-month turnover to 72 million pounds.

These figures confirm that United, the world's richest club, are in a position to maintain their domination of the English Premier League.

The increase is due to a surge in gate receipts and sponsorship income. Old Trafford's capacity has risen from 55,000 to 67,000 bringing in an extra 7 million pounds per annum, while sponsorship deals with Vodafone and Platinum have added a further 2.3 million pounds.



Ferguson... Man Utd's boss

N1m corporate take-over of sports associations jettisoned

The proposal by the Sports Minister, Mr. Ishaya Mark Aku, that individuals vying for executive positions within sports associations pay a deposit of 1 million naira has been jettisoned.

Also jettisoned during the meeting of sports association chairmen, was the proposal that corporate organisations take over associations should provide such bodies with the key officials.

Official sources pleading anonymity told NAN that the minister was reminded that individuals who pay the proposed 1 million naira may hijack the association to the detriment of the sports concerned.

On the corporate take-over of associations, the chairmen informed the minister that in view of the rivalry in the corporate world, no organisation would be interested in sponsoring a sports competition which is being run by another company.

The minister was told that corporate organisations' have their objectives and running sports is not one of them, the best they could do is to assist sports bodies by sponsoring their tournaments.

Aku was told that corporate take-over of particular sports have legal implications as international sports bodies not only frown at such actions at national

level but could lead to severance of assistance from the world body.

NAN learnt that Dr. Kalada Irunabere, Chairman of the Nigeria Cricket Association (NCA) called for government legislation which would provide tax relief for companies which sponsor sports.

He said that several individuals and corporate organisations have withdrawn from sponsorship and holding positions after "their fingers had been burnt," and urged the associations to devise strategies for attracting them back.

Aku admitted that the ministry had not monitored the activities of the associations in the past, especially as regards those who could not obtain a

sponsor during their four-year-term. He directed that henceforth quarterly reports of associations be submitted to the ministry. On the guidelines for elections, he said the ministry would continue to provide the association secretaries, although, he added that the board could recommend their removal if they were found wanting.

The minister said that government was not going to nominate any candidate for the associations forthcoming elections in order to allow democracy to thrive.

NAN reports that the associations secretaries also sent in their inputs for the one-day meeting, recommending government funds the associations prior to its proposed final withdrawal billed for 2002.



Heading to Abraka... Kaduna El-Amin forward Aminu Abubakar Alhaji is expected to thrill polo enthusiasts at Abraka Turf Club this Easter.



Bayern Munich's midfield general, Steffan Effenberg showing his team-mates the way as the Bavarians attempt to revenge their 1999 Champions League final defeat by Manchester United tonight at Old Trafford.

Professor Nomau's travails, written & illustrated by Bulama Mustapha

